



**City Council Questions and Answers for
Thursday, March 21, 2013**

These questions and answers are related to the
Austin City Council meeting that will convene at 10:00 AM on
Thursday, March 21, 2013 at Austin City Hall
301 W. Second Street, Austin, TX



**Mayor Lee Leffingwell
Mayor Pro Tem Sheryl Cole
Council Member Chris Riley, Place 1
Council Member Mike Martinez, Place 2
Council Member Kathie Tovo, Place 3
Council Member Laura Morrison, Place 4
Council Member William Spelman, Place 5**

The City Council Questions and Answers Report was derived from a need to provide City Council Members an opportunity to solicit clarifying information from City Departments as it relates to requests for council action. After a City Council Regular Meeting agenda has been published, Council Members will have the opportunity to ask questions of departments via the City Manager's Agenda Office. This process continues until the final report is distributed at noon to City Council the Wednesday before the council meeting.

QUESTIONS FROM COUNCIL

1. Agenda Item # 2
 - a. QUESTION: Please provide additional information about the background of the two individuals who the Council might be appointing and details regarding the process for how staff ended up with these two potential appointments.
COUNCIL MEMBER MARTINEZ
 - b. ANSWER: Pending
2. Agenda Item # 10
 - a. QUESTION: Did the RFQ specify affordable housing experience?
COUNCIL MEMBER MARTINEZ
 - b. ANSWER: Yes. In the Land Development Code Revision RFQ, expertise in household affordability is listed as one of the eight subconsultant fields. In addition, the Anticipated Deliverables section states that one of the goals for the code revision process was to "Increase the supply of affordable market rate and subsidized housing" as a means to implement Imagine Austin. In addition, it described the City Charter mandate that Austin's land development regulations be consistent with the comprehensive plan and that the consultant teams needed to have familiarity with the plan. In order to emphasize the importance of affordability, the RFQ made several references to affordability in Imagine Austin. It listed the eight Priority Programs (Priority Program # 6- Develop and maintain household affordability throughout Austin.) In presenting Priority Program # 8, (Revise Austin's development regulations and processes to promote a compact and connected city,) it listed the program's goals; one of which is to "Promote affordability for Austinites at every stage of life and income level."
3. Agenda Item # 11
 - a. QUESTION: Please provide a detailed breakdown of what is being purchased under this item and the associated costs. COUNCIL MEMBER MARTINEZ
 - b. ANSWER: On November 8, 2012 City Council approved the Austin Downtown Public Improvement District (PID) Service Plan and Budget for 2013-2014. The total projected revenue is \$3,271,980. This estimate was based on the appraisal roll from Travis Central Appraisal District (TCAD) (as of October 10, 2012). Attached is the approved service plan. Page 5 provides

a detailed breakdown of costs associated with the service plan and budget.

4. Agenda Item # 18

- a. QUESTION: What outstanding legal issues still exist at this point? COUNCIL MEMBER MARTINEZ
- b. ANSWER: The outstanding and currently anticipated legal issues associated with the Seaholm transaction include: finalizing the parking garage management and financing structures; memorializing the management structure and financing structure in the closing documents; and amending the TIF if required by the financing structure for the parking garage. Closing the Seaholm transaction will require preparing final closing documents, the closing instruction letter and reviewing the title company closing documents (owner's affidavit, closing statement, etc.), and closing the takedown of each of the three parcels.

5. Agenda Item # 22

- a. QUESTION: a) How many projects in the Drinking Water Protection Zone and Barton Springs Zone would be considered "expired projects" under existing ordinances but if this ordinance change passes, would be allowed to continue as grandfathered? For each project described above, please note the total acreage, and the type of development, and the "date of first application" for each of these applications (and any relevant staff decisions related to such claims). b) How many "expired projects" have applied for grandfathering in the last 5 years and what has been the staff decision? c) How many applications are currently pending? d) Would the proposed change significantly affect development in the Desired Development Zone as well? If so, how? e) Please provide a copy of the City's brief and any other briefs that were filed with the Attorney General's office concerning the "expiration of projects" issues, along with information (if available) about how other cities or local jurisdictions plan to address these issues. f) What options has staff considered in addition to this proposed ordinance change? COUNCIL MEMBER TOVO
- b. ANSWER: Pending

6. Agenda Item # 27

- a. QUESTION: a) Has the City of Austin used SWCA Environmental Consultants for any past projects? If so, please describe those. b) Identify this group's recent experience in conducting research focused on endangered species in the Central Texas region. c) Describe the process through which this group was selected. d) Please provide additional info on contract awards via the TXMAS process. COUNCIL MEMBER TOVO
- b. ANSWER: See attachment

7. Agenda Item # 30

- a. QUESTION: Please provide the policy regarding when Spanish translation services are utilized for documentation, forms, mailers, and other correspondence for each of the following departments: Austin Energy, Fire, Police, Emergency Medical Services, Health & Human Services, and Aviation. COUNCIL MEMBER MARTINEZ
- b. ANSWER: See attachment.

8. Agenda Item # 36

- a. QUESTION: How many cities in our five county region are projected to reach 50,000 in population by the year 2020/2030/2040? COUNCIL MEMBER MORRISON
- b. ANSWER: Pending

9. Agenda Item # 40

- a. QUESTION: a) How many departments will be involved in this project? b) Which departments? c) How long would staff anticipate that this project will take? d) After the research is completed, how long will it take to bring the project to the three listed commissions (Downtown, UTC and Planning)? COUNCIL MEMBER SPELMAN
- b. ANSWER: Pending

10. Agenda Item # 44

- a. QUESTION: A table was prepared analyzing past CURE cases, the increased entitlements each received, and what affordable housing benefits would have been provided if those developers had sought increased entitlements through the Interim Downtown Density Bonus program rather than CURE zoning. The chart includes CURE rezonings that occurred before adoption of the interim density bonus program and does not take into account fee waivers that developers would have received, but it does provide extremely useful information. This chart is being made available through the Council Q&A process. It will also indicate which 2008 cases were approved subsequent to adoption of the Interim Downtown Density Bonus program. COUNCIL MEMBER TOVO
- b. ANSWER: Pending

11. Agenda Item # 65

- a. QUESTION: a) How long has the current policy been in place? b) Over the time frame of the current policy, how much has the city spent for the city's

portion of the Service Extension Requests? c) How much would the city have spent during that time if we were operating under the proposed policy?
COUNCIL MEMBER SPELMAN

b. ANSWER: Pending

12. Agenda Item # 66

a. QUESTION: How much water has the utility lost due to private laterals that did not get repaired in a timely manner? COUNCIL MEMBER SPELMAN


b. ANSWER: Pending


13. Agenda Item # 10

a. QUESTION: a) Does Clarion have a team partner tasked with focusing on issues related to affordability? b) Do more public comments exist than the handful provided in the backup materials? If so, please make those available. c) Did the staff develop an analysis that assesses the relative strengths and weaknesses of the two teams? d) Did the staff members who scored teams on the matrix provide written comments explaining their evaluation? e) Please explain or provide documentation that would offer more detail about the matrix terms "team's project approach," "team structure," and "Team's Experience with Austin Issues." COUNCIL MEMBER TOVO

b. ANSWER: Pending

END OF REPORT - ATTACHMENTS TO FOLLOW

 The City of Austin is committed to compliance with the Americans with Disabilities Act. Reasonable modifications and equal access to communications will be provided upon request.

 For assistance please call 974-2210 OR 974-2445 TDD.



Council Question and Answer

Related To	Agenda Item # 11	Meeting Date	March 21, 2013
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Additional Answer Information

Downtown Austin Alliance Preliminary Service Plan and Budget For May 1, 2013
☐ April 30, 2014



Introduction

The Downtown Austin Alliance's mission is to preserve and enhance the value and vitality of downtown Austin. To advance our collective vision for the future of downtown Austin, the DAA works with key downtown stakeholders:

- property owners
- residents
- business owners
- community organizations
- government officials

The DAA is engaged in dozens of projects and issues that increase the appeal of downtown Austin to residents, employees, and visitors. As a full-time advocate for downtown, the DAA is actively involved in planning decisions that impact the area. We also advance downtown's vision through direct services supporting safety and cleanliness.

DAA's Vision for Downtown

Downtown Austin is the heart and soul of Central Texas. It is a welcoming community and a vibrant neighborhood for all. Downtown is our area's cultural hub and a thriving business, government, and residential center. The area is easy to reach and enticing to explore – a place where nature's beauty beckons. It is a prosperous place that is both economically and environmentally sustainable.

DAA Strategic Plan

In 2008, the Downtown Austin Alliance created a strategic plan that articulates the organization's mission, vision, and core values. The plan specifies DAA's six strategic priorities for the next several years, and it sets the stage for the following ten years.

Each year the DAA sets goals in the context of the strategic plan and reports annually on the progress of accomplishments.

Strategic Priorities

Impact Areas

The plan's impact areas rally the downtown community around large, focused projects. These areas are based on downtown needs, momentum of stakeholders, and addressing challenges that are more important than ever to the success of downtown Austin.

Current Impact Areas:

1. Congress Avenue
2. Mobility
3. Northeast Quadrant

Ongoing Priorities

The plan's ongoing priorities are focused on areas to which the DAA has always applied focus. They call for the DAA to continue to focus its resources to achieve specific incremental advances in these areas. Ongoing priorities reflect the DAA's daily efforts to make downtown safe, vibrant, and prosperous. These are fundamental priorities essential to a healthy downtown.

Current Ongoing Priorities:

1. Promoting Economic Vitality
2. Improving Basics and the Public Realm
3. Developing Downtown Leadership Capacity

Current Impact Areas

1. Congress Avenue

- **Goal:** Develop Congress Avenue into an extraordinary place that is the heart and soul of Austin and "The Main Street of Texas."

2. Mobility

- **Goal:** Actively participate in transportation planning to monitor and influence transportation ingress, egress, and circulation in downtown Austin.

3. Northeast Quadrant

- **Goal:** Advocate for the transformation of the Northeast Quadrant into a safe, appealing, economically vital, and historically significant asset to downtown including the transformation of the East 6th Street. This is done in keeping with the vision of multiple community partners including, Sixth Street Austin, Waller Creek Conservancy, Texas Facilities Commission, and the potential new medical school and teaching hospital.

Ongoing Priorities

1. Promoting Economic Vitality

Economic Development

- **Goal:** Promote positive growth of downtown's retail, commercial, and residential markets.

Retail

- **Goal:** Provide leadership in the implementation of the Downtown Retail Redevelopment Strategy, an initiative to cultivate a mix of local, regional and national retailers downtown.

Music, Culture & Events

- **Goal:** Foster an environment that is supportive of cultural organizations, music, and events for the region that make downtown the premier destination for cultural events and entertainment.

Parks and Open Spaces

- **Goal:** Foster public-private partnerships to revitalize and activate downtown squares, plazas and public spaces.

2. Improving Basics and the Public Realm

Natural Environment

- **Goal:** Protect and enhance the natural environment through a Downtown Parks Master Plan, Waller Creek Corridor planning and implementation, increased usage and ownership of parks, and maintenance.

Infrastructure

- **Goal:** Provide leadership to facilitate appropriate aboveground and belowground infrastructure in downtown Austin and to identify funding sources.

Cleanliness

- **Goal:** Provide leadership and direct services to create an appealing, welcoming, and clean downtown.

Public Safety

- **Goal:** Facilitate collaborative efforts and engage elected officials, leadership of public and private agencies, and downtown stakeholders to improve public safety and public order and to reduce homelessness.

3. Developing Downtown Leadership Capacity

Research & Information

- **Goal:** Identify, collect, maintain, and distribute key data that helps to describe, analyze, and assess the progress of downtown Austin.

Education

- **Goal:** Provide educational events and communications to downtown property owners, downtown stakeholders, and the community in general.

Developing Funding Sources

- **Goal:** Explore the potential to fund the DAA's strategic priorities with new sources of revenues if appropriate.

Vision & Planning

- **Goal:** Clearly articulate the need, advocate for and participate in planning activities for downtown.

Strong Partnerships

- **Goal:** Identify and develop effective relationships with key stakeholders and create and sustain liaisons and partnerships that align with and support the DAA's mission and current and future strategic priorities.

Engaging Leaders

- **Goal:** Develop and engage downtown leadership.

Communications

- **Goal:** Increase knowledge of and interest in downtown Austin and the DAA.

Advocacy and Policy

- **Goal:** Monitor and advocate for policy that enhances downtown's economic prosperity and competitive advantage.

DOWNTOWN AUSTIN ALLIANCE**MAY 1, 2012 - APRIL 2013****Preliminary Budget**

PROGRAM	Prelim Budget FY 5/13-	Prelim Budget FY 5/12-	Change Increase(Dec)	Percentage Allocation
Internal Capabilities & System	327,198	284,976	42,222	10%
Public Safety & Security	916,154	797,932	118,222	28%
Cleanliness & Maintenance	556,237	484,459	71,778	17%
Infrastructure	65,440	56,995	8,444	2%
Education	98,159	85,493	12,667	3%
Marketing & Communication	229,039	199,483	29,556	7%
Music, Culture, & Events	327,198	284,976	42,222	10%
Parks & Open Space	130,879	113,990	16,889	4%
Residential, Hotel & Other Re/Dev	130,879	113,990	16,889	4%
Retail Development	163,599	142,488	21,111	5%
Current Impact Areas	327,198	284,976	42,222	10%
TOTAL EXPENDITURE	\$ 3,271,980	\$ 2,849,757	\$ 422,223	100%

Revenue:	2013-2014	2012-2013	Variance	% Change
City Revenue				
PID Assessments	3,039,296	2,695,967	343,329	12.73%
City of Austin Contribution	150,000	150,000	-	0.00%
Prior year revenue & interest	82,684	3,790	78,894	2081.64%
Total City Revenue	3,271,980	2,849,757	422,223	14.82%



Council Question and Answer

Related To	Agenda Item # 27	Meeting Date	March 21, 2013
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Additional Answer Information

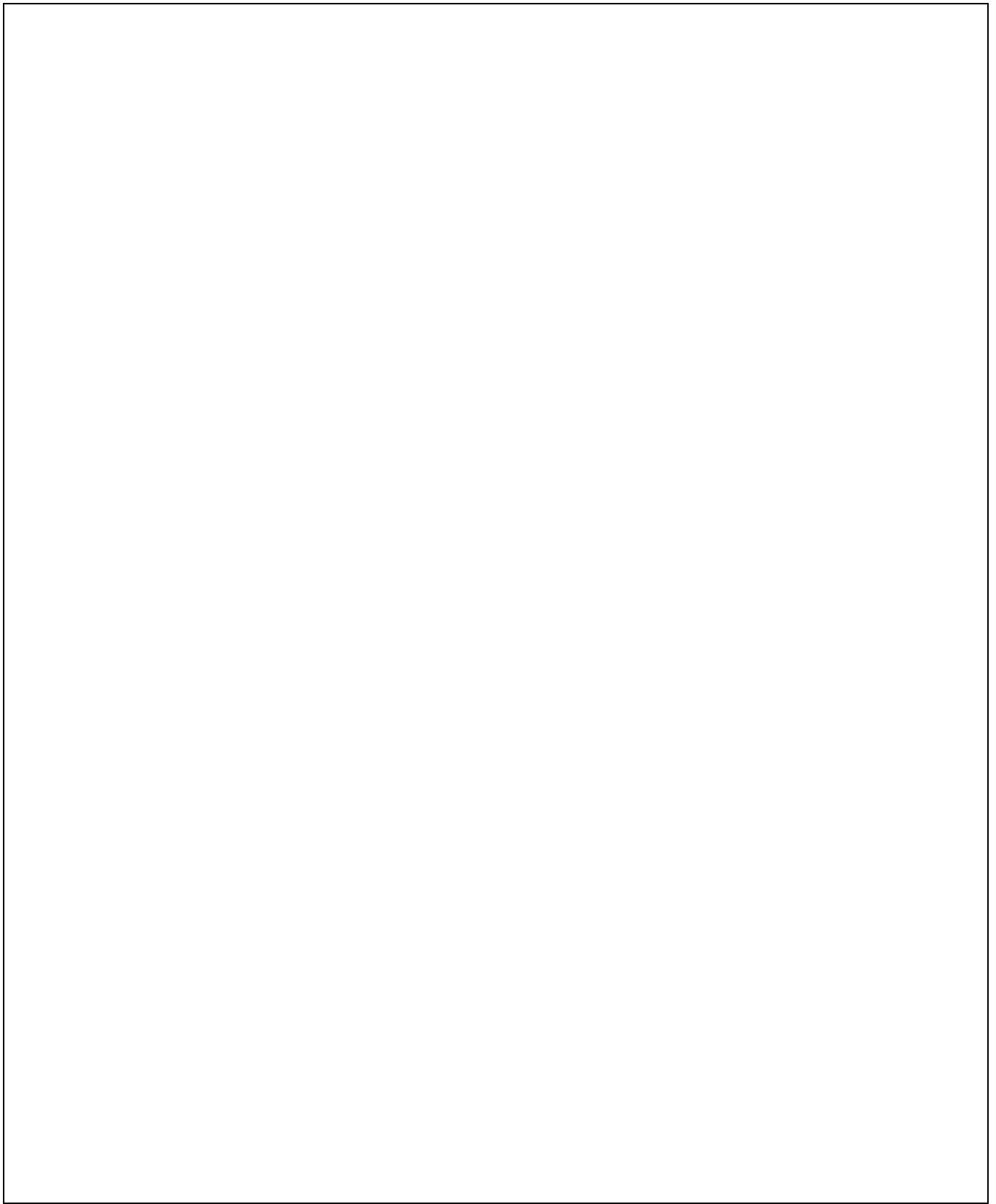
The City has used SWCA for a few projects. In 2003, they were contracted to perform bird survey services very similar to those currently needed. They have also been used for a few low dollar, pro card purchases for permitting and analysis for birds on a smaller piece of AWU land.

SWCA has a contract with the State of Texas (TXMAS) that was competitively awarded and we are cooperatively using that contract, meaning that the solicitation requirements are already met. Quote requests were sent to three TXMAS contractors. SWCA was the lowest and was therefore the recommended contractor.

SWCA's recent experience in Texas includes:

Spring 2012 – LCRA – Surveys for the golden-cheeked warbler and blackcapped vireo on 946.4 acres divided along a proposed transmission line alignment in Tom Green, Schleicher, Sutton, Kimble, Kerr, and Kendall counties, Texas.

Spring 2012 – Williamson County Conservation Foundation – Survey for the golden-cheeked warbler on the approximately 158-acre Twin Springs Preserve, in Georgetown, Texas.





Council Question and Answer

Related To	Agenda Item # 30	Meeting Date	March 21, 2013
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Additional Answer Information

There is currently no administrative policy relating to the use of language translation services used by various city departments. In the area of elections, the City is statutorily required to secure translation services for voting ballots and materials. Regarding other city departments, Austin Energy, Fire, Police, Emergency Medical Services, Health & Human Services, and Aviation the practice is used to on an as needed basis to communicate better with the city's customers.

Departments will use specifically the service as follows:

- AE – Austin Energy has traditionally translated materials to meet the needs of the widest possible audience for a specific offering or communication. We have a large and growing Spanish-speaking population in Austin and need to ensure we communicate effectively with them by making relevant information available in their language. Examples include;
 - ads in Spanish language community newspapers;
 - a Spanish version of the Customer Newsletter included in utility bills;
 - general information about Austin Energy such as helpful phone numbers and what to do in case of an outage;
 - billing-related needs and other communications from Customer Care, including materials at the Branch Walk-in Centers;
 - information about the Customer Assistance, Utility Discount and Free Weatherization programs;
 - winter and summer tips on how to save energy;
 - as well as web pages related to any of these offerings.
- AFD – Some examples of AFD initiatives that require these flyers include the AFD Smoke Alarm program, Wildfire Preparedness handouts, and other flyers to keep the public informed about Fire related initiatives
- APD – Some examples of APD's use of the contract include the translation of alarm permit brochure, alarm cancellation form, alarm permit order form and the application for permit form
- EMS – EMS uses this contract to translate billing and patient information forms, paper and online.
- Aviation – Aviation uses the contract for HR grievance hearings mostly
- HHS –
 - Public flyer on free sterilization services for pets.
 - Information letter to patients regarding changes in their medical benefits under the Medical Assistance Program.
 - Public flyer regarding immunizations available from CCSD's clinic sites.

In order to make the services more relative, the contracts requires the contractor to be capable of translating materials and information into a localized/regional dialect that will be understandable to a wide range of Spanish literate customers residing in the greater Austin area.