

Downtown Austin Plan Implementation
City Council Briefing
Council Work Session October 21, 2014



PURPOSE OF TODAY'S PRESENTATION

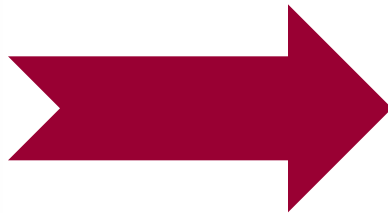
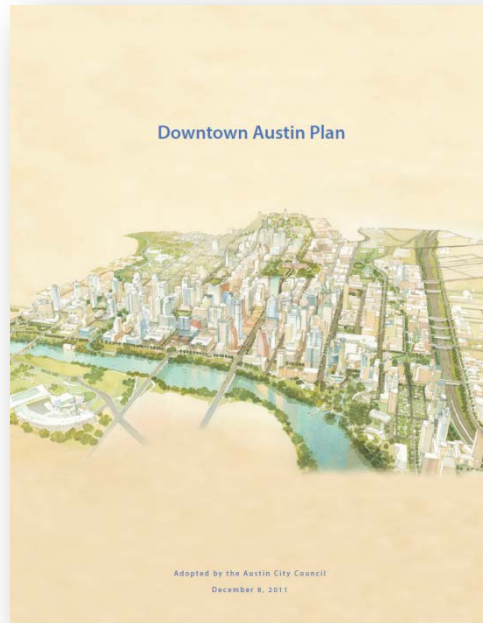
1. Background on the Downtown Austin Plan (DAP);
2. Update on DAP implementation items by *Plan Element* or specific plan recommendation;
3. Upcoming implementation items; and
4. Coordination with **CodeNEXT**



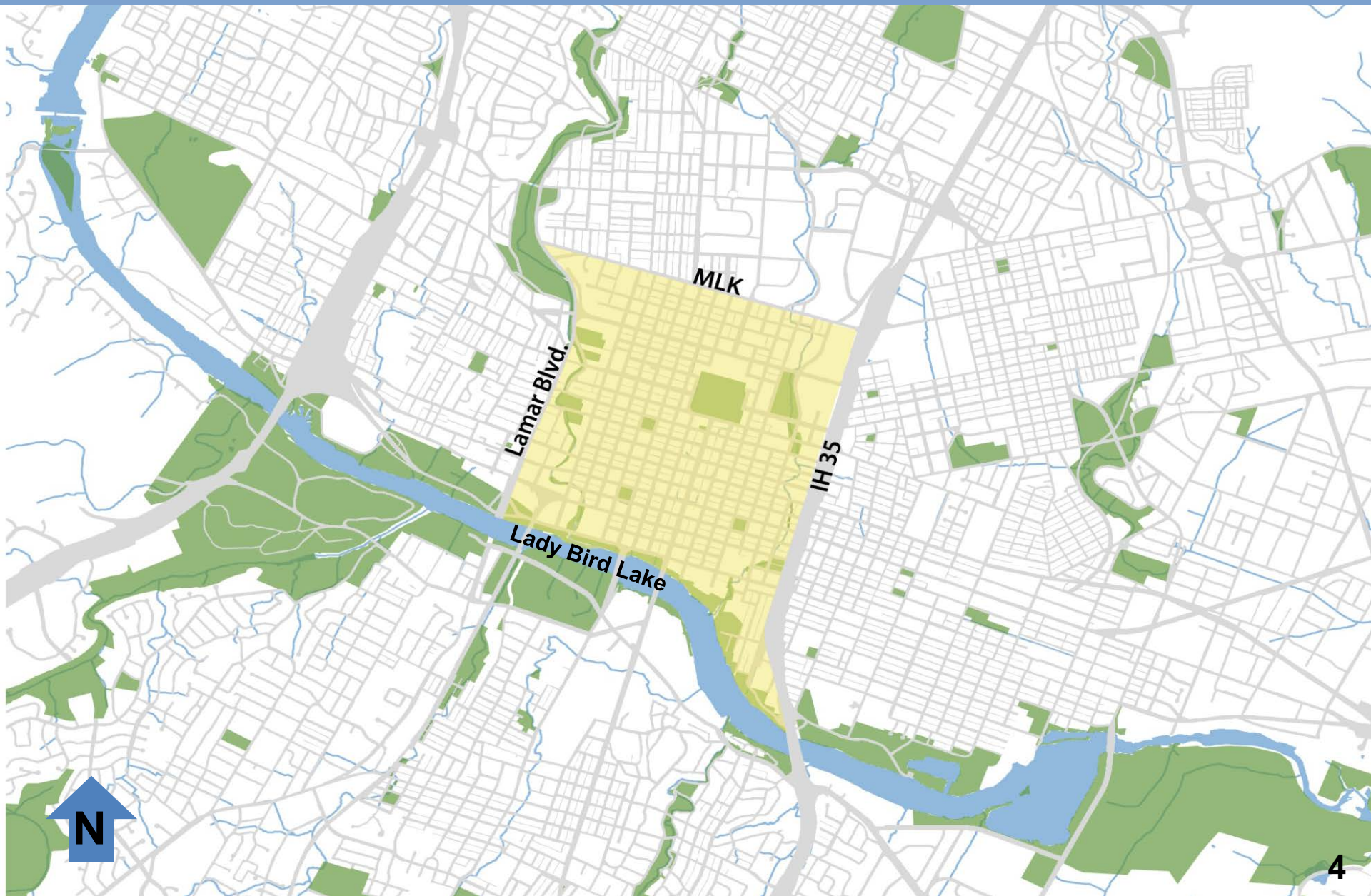
DOWNTOWN AUSTIN PLAN BACKGROUND

What is it?

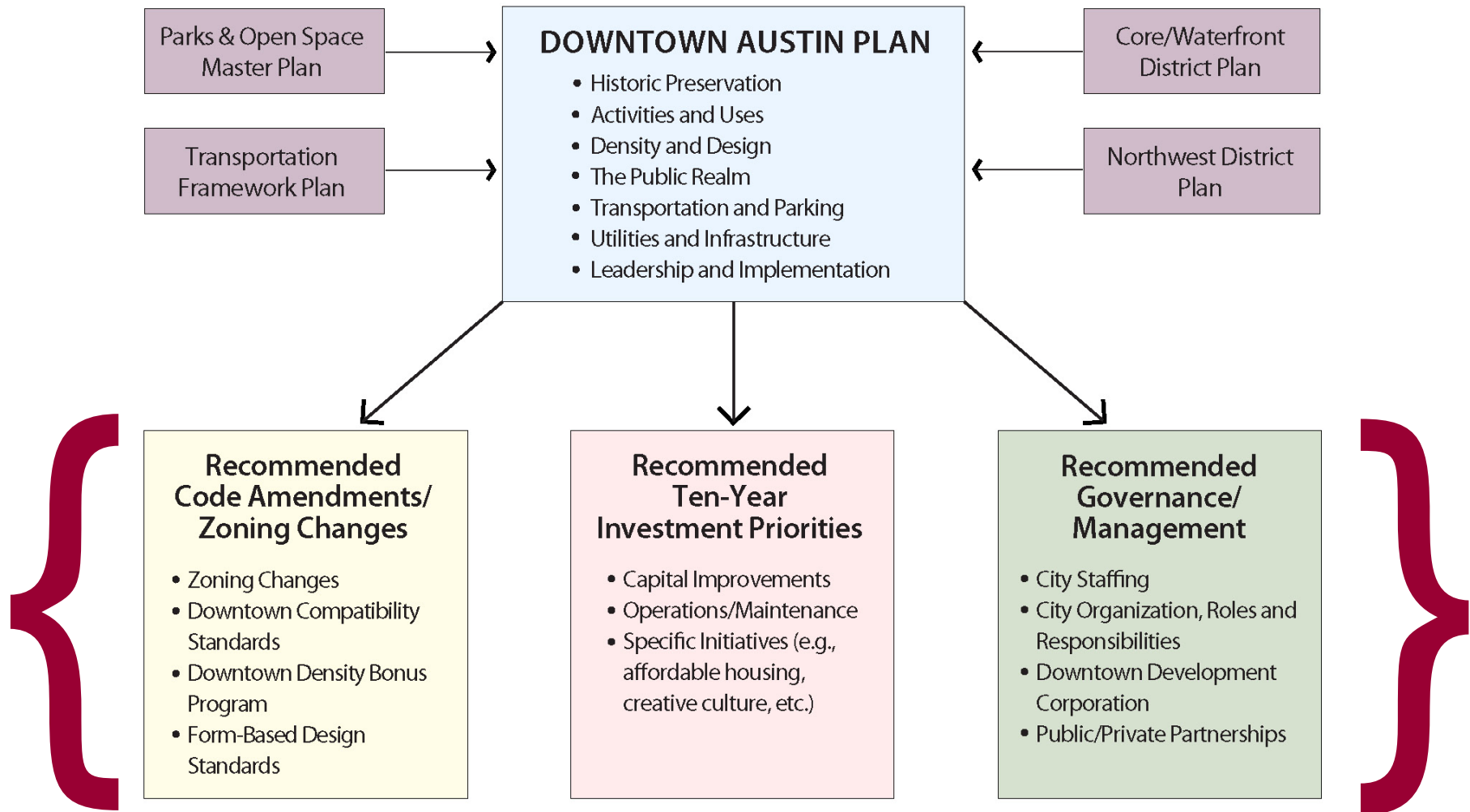
- A reflection of the community's vision, values, and priorities for Downtown;
- A 20-30 year action plan for Downtown;
- A 183 page action plan for Downtown containing over 100 implementation recommendations for improving Downtown;
- A key element in realizing the Imagine Austin (comprehensive plan) vision for the city.



THE DOWNTOWN AUSTIN PLAN BOUNDARIES



ORGANIZATIONAL STRUCTURE OF THE DAP

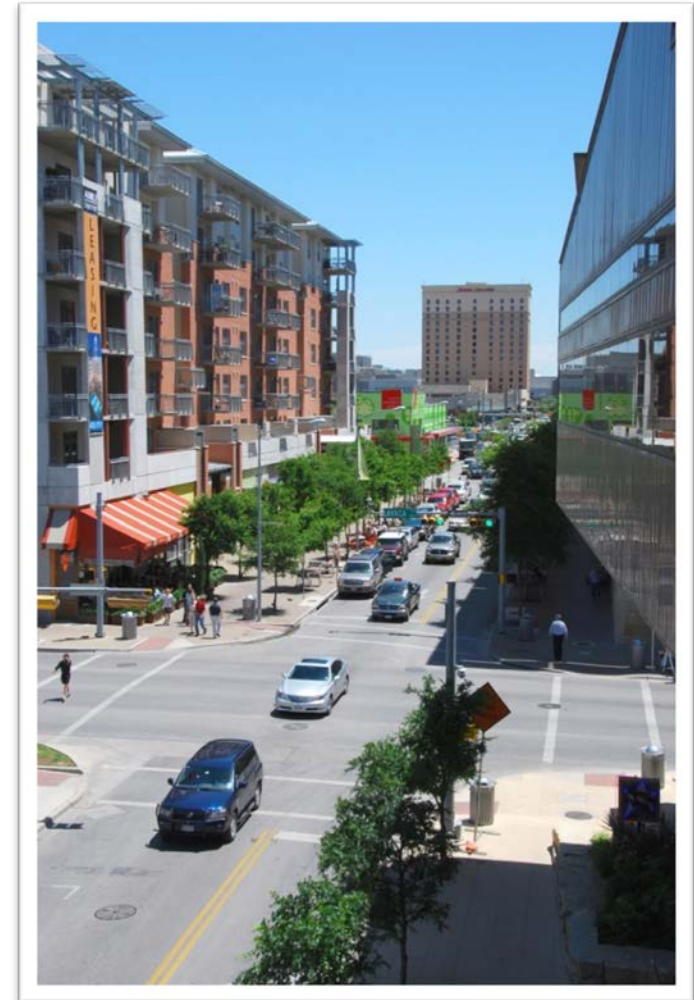


ADOPTION OF THE DOWNTOWN AUSTIN PLAN

Council Action

The City Council adopted the Downtown Austin Plan as an amendment to the Austin Tomorrow Plan on December 8, 2011 and directed the City Manager to undertake the following implementation actions including:

1. Various Code amendments;
2. Include the capital projects identified in the Plan in the City's capital planning processes; and
3. Develop a detailed plan for creating a Central City Economic Development Corporation.



CITY COUNCIL DIRECTION

Council Direction

1. Create a regulating plan that implements downtown-specific development standards;
2. Create new zoning districts;
3. Create a downtown density bonus program;
4. Create a downtown-specific compatibility framework;
5. Identify implementation projects as part of the City's comprehensive capital project needs assessment; and
6. Develop a detailed plan, identifying the necessary steps and recommending a schedule, for creating a Central City Economic Development Corporation.



IMPLEMENTATION UPDATES

1

Mobility



2

Public Realm



3

Activities and Uses



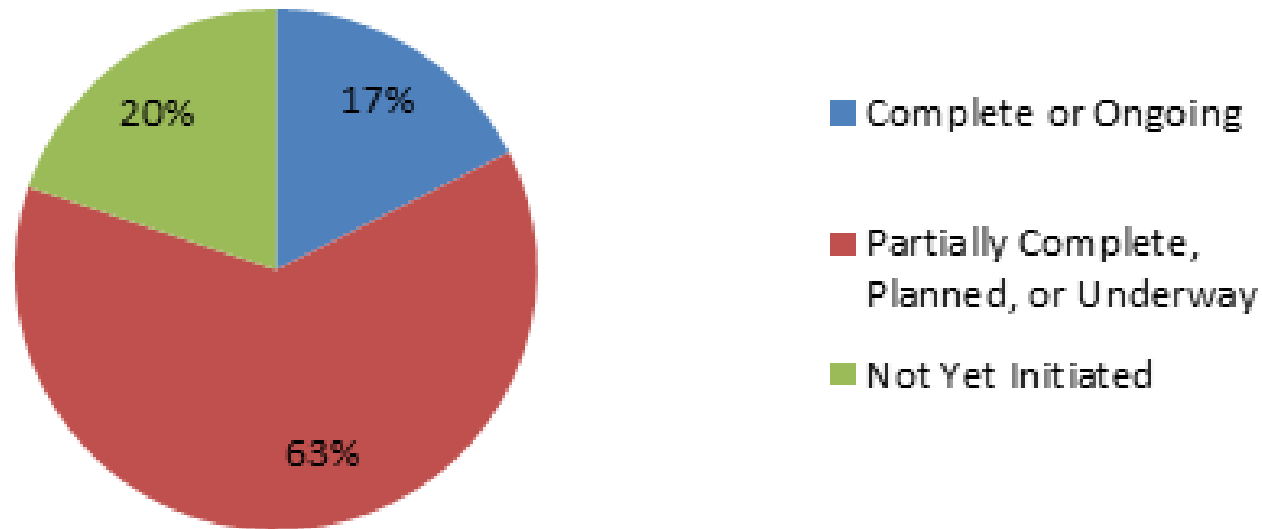
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Utilities and Infrastructure



IMPLEMENTATION UPDATES

Downtown Austin Plan Tasks Implementation Status



80% of the DAP recommendations are complete, ongoing, partially complete, or planned.

1

Mobility Highlights

Urban Rail

Urban Rail is now a on a bond referendum to be considered in November 2014.



IMPLEMENTATION UPDATES


1

Mobility Highlights

MetroRapid Bus Service

MetroRapid is a new type of service that brings together a set of unique features to result in quick, more convenient service for the community. MetroRapid travels two of Central Texas' busiest travel corridors: North Lamar/South Congress (Route 801) and Burnet/South Lamar (Route 803).

Percent reduction in travel time

| Faster Service | |  METRO <i>RAPID</i> | | |
|-------------------|--|---|--|--|
| Burnet / S. Lamar | Sample Trip #1 (Domain to 10 th St.) | Sample Trip #2 (Lamar/Manchaca to 24 th /Guadalupe) | Sample Trip #3 (Northcross to Lamar/Barton Springs) | |
| #3 | 49 | 31 | 49 | |
| #803 | 39 | 20 | 36 | |
| Difference | 21% | 35% | 27% | |

Source: [Capital Metro](#)



IMPLEMENTATION UPDATES

1

Mobility Highlights

Bike Sharing

Austin B-cycle has brought bike sharing to the Austin public by launching service on December 21, 2013 with 43 stations in the Downtown area yielding 290 active bikes and averaging 410 checkouts per day.

Data for March 2014 - August 2014

| Summary Report | | Program Cumulative |
|---------------------------------|--|--------------------|
| Total number of Trips | | 105,420 |
| Total Number of Miles | | 228,068 |
| Total Number of Calories Burned | | 9,122,737 |
| Total Carbon Offset (lbs.) | | 216,665 |
| Car Avoidance Trips | | 27,409 |



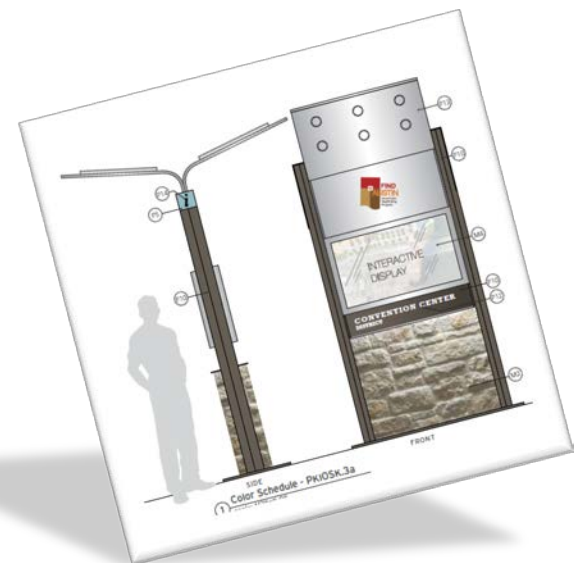
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Mobility Highlights

Downtown Wayfinding Program

The “wayfinding” improvement project, an action item outlined in the DAP, aims to integrate a range of navigation and communication tools for traversing the downtown area, such as signage, brochures, kiosks and smart-phone applications.

Master Plan and Design Book completed. Moved into Phase 3 (implementation).



2

Public Realm Highlights

Downtown Parks and Congress Avenue

Downtown Parks:

- Wooldridge Square improvements;
- Republic Square Phase II;
- \$3M for Waterloo and Palm (2012 bonds);
- As much as \$60 M in City expenditures related to Waller Creek District (not all park-related);

Congress Avenue Streetscape Project: After completion of a DAA hosted a community-wide charrette, project now moves into implementation utilizing 2012 bonds.



2

Public Realm Highlights

Great Streets

The transformation of downtown's public realm through the implementation of Great Streets has been greatly advanced by the incorporation of street improvements as part of recently completed, under construction or planned COA Street Reconstruction Projects.



Cesar Chavez Blvd- Before



Cesar Chavez Blvd- After

2

Public Realm Highlights

Great Streets

Street Reconstruction and Great Streets Capital Improvement Projects (CIPs):

Completed:

- *Cesar Chavez Esplanade* - between San Antonio and Congress Avenue;
- *2nd Street (in combination with private developers)*, between San Antonio and Trinity;
- *3rd Street Phase 1 (includes the extension of the LAB through downtown)*, between San Jacinto and Brazos;
- *Colorado Street Phase I* – between 3rd Street and 7th;
- *8th Street* – between Congress and San Antonio.

Under Construction:

- *3rd Street Phase II & III* – between Trinity and San Jacinto & Congress and San Antonio; expected completion end of 2015.

Planned:

- *Colorado Phase II* – 7th to 10th Street - expected completion Fall 2015.
- *Cesar Chavez Esplanade Phase II* – San Antonio to Pflugger Bridge (approx.) expected completion end 2016/2017.

2

Public Realm Highlights

Great Streets

Integration of Great Streets into the Complete Streets Policy

Private Developments implementing Great Streets:

Since the Program's inception in 2001, 28 private projects have built their street frontages to GS standards, 13 are under construction, and 10 are in the design/planning phase. (Total of 52 private projects).

The total number of Great Street block faces completed, under construction or planned through CIP + private projects = 218.5 block faces = 12.7 linear miles of Great Streets.



IMPLEMENTATION UPDATES

3

Activities and Uses Highlights



SEAHOLM POWER PLANT REDEVELOPMENT

DEVELOPMENT PARTNER

Seaholm Power Development, LLC
John Rosato, Managing Member

PRODUCT

Total = 510,000 SF
280 Condominiums
137,000 SF Office
65,000 SF Retail/Restaurant
1.5 Acre Event Lawn
1.0 Acre Plaza
Nearly 1,000 Parking Spaces

UPCOMING MILESTONES

Q4 2014 – Generator Building
and Low-Rise
Occupancy
Q3 2015 – High-Rise Complete

IMPLEMENTATION UPDATES

3

Activities and Uses Highlights

Seaholm Development District Green WTP & ECC Redevelopment



IMPLEMENTATION UPDATES

3

Activities and Uses Highlights



AUSTIN ENERGY CONTROL CENTER REDEVELOPMENT

DEVELOPMENT PARTNER

Constructive Ventures, Inc.
Perry Lorenz & Larry Warshaw

PRODUCT

Total = 600,000 SF
425 Condominiums
15,000 SF Retail/Restaurant
Possible Office Space
Structured Parking
3rd Street ROW Improvements

UPCOMING MILESTONE

2015 Construction Start

IMPLEMENTATION UPDATES

3

Activities and Uses Highlights

Seaholm and Green Water Treatment Plant Redevelopment

City Public-Private Projects Producing:

- 3,675,000 SF Total New Product
- **2,280 Residential Units**
- 92+ Affordable Housing Units & AHTF Contributions
- 630,000 SF Office
- 193,000 SF Retail/Restaurant
- Boutique Hotel
- Multimodal Transportation Infrastructure
- Public Parking
- Open / Green Spaces
- Public Art

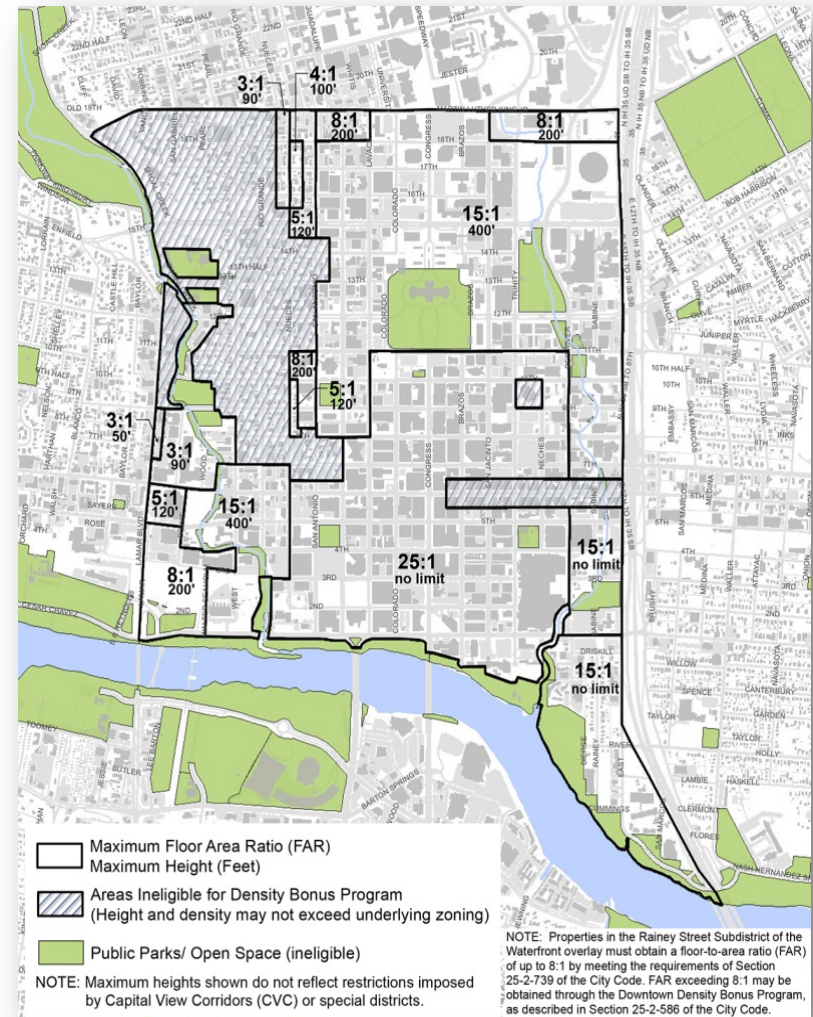


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Activities and Uses Highlights

Downtown Density Bonus Program

- Approved by City Council via Ordinance No. 20140227-054 which modifies LDC 25-2-586;
- Pathway to achieve community benefits;
- Three projects have received administrative approval through the Program and will contribute over **\$1.3 million** to affordable housing efforts. Downtown will benefit from participation and contributions to other community benefits.



3

Activities and Uses Highlights

Affordable Housing

- Capital Studios (Foundation Communities): 11th and San Jacinto; 135 housing units available to extremely and very low-income individuals, including 27 units of Permanent Supportive Housing.
- Integration into the Downtown Density Bonus Program.



UTILITIES AND INFRASTRUCTURE

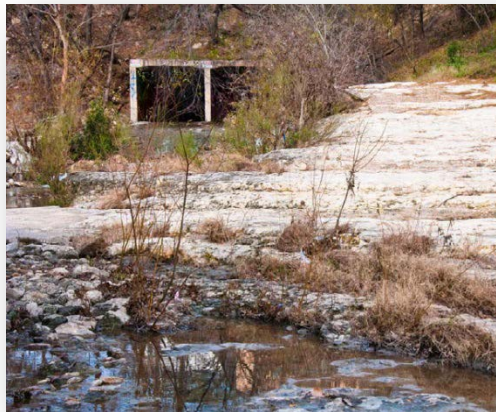
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Utilities and Infrastructure Highlights

- Waller Creek – both flood control tunnel and above-ground infrastructure improvements.
- Little Shoal Creek stormwater tunnel.
- Ongoing replacement of aging wastewater infrastructure – oftentimes in conjunction with streetscape projects.



Waller Creek Tunnel



Little Shoal Creek



Street Infrastructure

NEXT STEPS

Commence work on creation of an Economic Development Corporation (EDC)

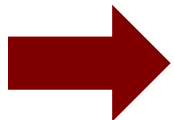
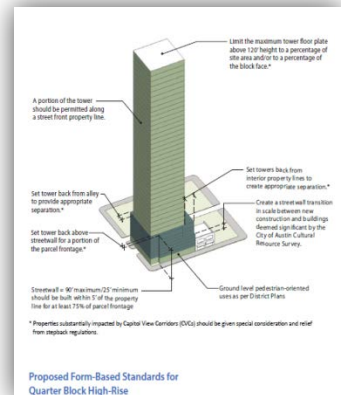
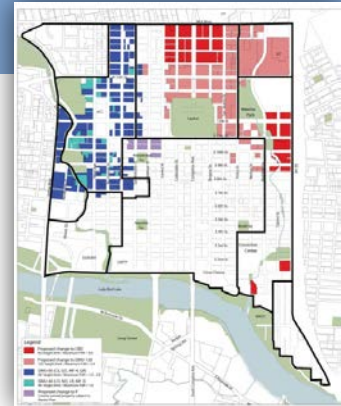
- Evaluation of an EDC has commenced with the work and recommendations done by HR&A.
- Other cities' EDCs have been studied as a potential model for Downtown.
- Commenced working with the DAA on economic development tools including an EDC.



NEXT STEPS

Coordination with *CodeNEXT*

1. Zoning-related changes that support the community's vision.
2. Downtown Compatibility Standards that are place-specific and promote density while supporting District character and protecting adjacent neighborhoods.
3. Creation of Form-Based standards for Downtown that consider Downtown's unique character and offer a predictable path towards project approval.



CODENEXT
SHAPING THE AUSTIN WE IMAGINE

Questions?



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www.austintexas.gov/departments/downtown-austin-plan