



Annual Internal Review

This report covers the time period of 7/1/2015 to 6/30/2016

Urban Transportation Commission

The Board/Commission mission statement (per the City Code) is:

The purpose of the board is The Urban Transportation Commission shall serve as an advisory body to the city council, the city manager, and all other transportation-related departments concerning transportation-related matters including: transportation energy conservation matters grant applications; streets and highways; bus and rail service; pedestrian and bikeway programs and projects; safety related programs and projects; provision for the needs of the mobility impaired; transportation franchise requests, renewals, rate adjustments, and hours of operation. The commission shall review and make recommendations to the city council on all requests for taxicab permits, including annual permits and franchise permits. The commission shall annually review and report to the city council on the City's transportation system, including policies and programs. The commission shall review, study, and make recommendations to the Planning Commission on: transportation-related projects proposed for inclusion in the Capital Improvements Program; and plans and programs submitted by the Capital Area Metropolitan Planning Organization. The commission shall receive and study citizen comments and suggestions in all areas of transportation. In its deliberations, the commission shall: recognize the relationship between transportation and economics, energy, safety, land use, neighborhood integrity, and environmental quality; and consider transportation access to health care, employment, education, housing, and recreational facilities. The commission shall seek to promote close cooperation between the city council, other city boards and commissions, city departments, and individuals, institutions, and agencies concerned with transportation-related activities so that all similar activities in the City may be coordinated to secure the greatest public welfare.

1. Describe the board's actions supporting their mission during the previous calendar year. Address all elements of the board's mission statement as provided in the relevant sections of the City Code.

The UTC provided a number of recommendations related to the vehicle for hire industry; some of the discussion is ongoing and will be rolled into 2016-2017.

Other recommendations made by UTC include:

- *Vacation of portion(s) of streets and ROW as applicable*
- *Local area traffic management*
- *Expansion of University Area Partners (UAP) Parking Benefit District*
- *The UT – Center for Transportation Research Interlocal Agreement*
- *High-Capacity Transit Plan*
- *Mobility Talks*
- *Capital Metro Downtown Multimodal Station*
- *2016 Update to the Sidewalk Master Plan & ADA Transition Plan*
- *Vision Zero Action Plan*
- *Process to allow consideration of applications for additional taxicab franchises*
- *Consideration of Review and Update of City of Austin's Chapter 13-2 – Ground Transportation Passenger Services*

The commissioners participated in a number of committees, driving feedback on projects and within the commission. Committees include:

- *Downtown Commission*
- *Joint Sustainability*

2. Determine if the board's actions throughout the year comply with the mission statement.

The resolutions regarding special event street closures were technically outside of the scope of the commission's mission statement per Section 2-1-85 of the City Code. And these alone do not reflect the full deliberative caseload where resolutions were not made. In view of the growing caseload of special event street closures, we recommend that Section 2-1-85 be updated to reference the commission's additional responsibilities outlined in Section 14-8-4. This request was previously made in 2013, and we ask that it be considered for 2016. City Code has not yet been amended to reflect the amendments to the bylaws approved by the Commission, which more accurately reflect the responsibilities of the Commission.

3. List the board's goals and objectives for the new calendar year.

The goals and objectives captured below do not fully capture everything presented before the UTC and are provided on the understanding that the UTC still intends to fulfill the duties set forth in the city code.

UTC GOALS AND OBJECTIVES FOR 2016-2017:

- The commission will make recommendations for a review and possible rewrite of Chapter 13 relating to vehicles for hire, including:
 - Research of various regulatory models;
 - Consideration of means to promote an increase in percentage of accessible and environmentally friendly vehicles for hire;
 - Fairness of regulation; and
 - Driver working conditions and earnings.
- The commission will weigh in on all transportation plans impacting the City of Austin, including, but not limited to, the following:
 - High capacity transit, including rail
 - Capital Area Metropolitan Planning Organization 2040 Transportation Plan
 - Vision Zero Action Plan
 - Austin Strategic Mobility Plan
 - Potential November bond election
 - Corridor plans