



**AUSTIN CITY COUNCIL  
MINUTES**

**SPECIAL CALLED MEETING  
WEDNESDAY, APRIL 5, 2017**

**The City Council of Austin, Texas convened in a Special Called meeting on Wednesday, April 5, 2017, Hilton Austin, 500 E. 4<sup>th</sup> Street, Austin, Texas.**

**Mayor Adler called the meeting to order at 9:15 a.m.**

1. Discuss policy priorities, goals, and the potential impacts on governance for the City of Austin.

**Discussion occurred on the Citywide Strategic Outcomes drafted during the retreats held in January.**

The strategic outcome was modified to incorporate, “at every stage of life” since this applies to all of the individual outcomes: “...Together we strive to create a community where every Austinite has choices at every stage of life that allow us to experience and contribute to all of the following outcomes:...”.

The following revisions were adopted by Council.

To revise the general outcome statement to read:

“In working towards the City’s long-term vision of being a beacon of sustainability, social equity and economic opportunity; where diversity and creativity are celebrated; where community needs and values are recognized; where leadership comes from its citizens and where the necessities of life are affordable and accessible to all. In order to achieve this vision, this City Council has chosen to pursue these strategic outcomes at this time.

Together we strive to create a community where every Austinite has choices at every stage of life that allow us to experience and contribute to all of the following outcomes.”

The bulletin points were revised to read as follows:

- Having economic opportunities and resources that allow us to thrive in our community.
- Getting us where we want to go, when we want to get there, safely, and cost-effectively.
- Being safe in our home, at work, and in our community.
- Benefiting from a sustainable environment and a health life both physically and mentally.
- Being enriched by Austin’s unique civic, cultural, ethnic, and learning opportunities.
- Believing that City Government effectively works for all of us; that it is equitable, ethical, and innovative.

**Discussion on the individual indicators occurred.**

Economic Opportunity and Affordability: Having economic opportunities and resources that allow us to thrive in our community.

Direction was given to staff to consider cost of government, food, childcare and small business development into discussion of proposed matrix.

**Mayor Adler recessed the meeting at 11:07 a.m.**

**Mayor Adler reconvened the meeting at 11:22 a.m.**

Mobility: Getting us where we want to go, when we want to get there, safely, and cost-effectively.

The following revisions to the indicators were adopted:

Direction was given to staff to revise the first bullet point to incorporate the new Department of Transportation terminology of “moving people”.

The third bullet point was revised to read: Accessibility to and equity of multimodal transportation choices. Note: innovative transportation is included in the multimodal transportation choices.

Safety: Being safe in our home, at work, and in our community.

The following revisions to the indicators were adopted:

To add a new bullet point to read: “Community prevention and preparedness”.

Direction was given to staff to incorporate “confidence or perception” of the public as either a new bullet or into an existing bullet.

Health: Benefiting from a sustainable environment and a health life both physically and mentally.

The following revisions to the indicators were adopted:

To revise the first bullet point to read: “Healthy conditions among individuals [unhealthy conditions].

To revise the second bullet point to read: “Accessibility to quality and innovative health care services, both physical and mental health”.

To revise the third bullet point to read: “Accessibility to quality and sustainable parks, trails, and recreational opportunities”.

To revise the fourth bullet point to read: “Environmental quality and resilience”.

Cultural and Learning Opportunities: Being enriched by Austin’s unique civic, cultural, ethnic, and learning opportunities.

The following revisions to the indicators were adopted:

To revise the fourth bullet point to read: “Appreciation, respect, and welcoming of diversity”.

Government that Works: Believing that City Government effectively works for all of us; that it is equitable, ethical, and innovative.

The following revisions to the indicators were adopted:

To revise the first bullet point to read: “Financial sustainability and costs of City government”.

To revise the six bullet point to read: “Equity of City programs and resource allocations”.

To revise the second bullet point to read: “Condition/quality of City facilities, infrastructure, and effective adoption of technology”.

**Mayor Pro Tem Tovo recessed the meeting at 12:25 p.m.**

**Mayor Pro Tem Tovo reconvened the meeting at 1:01 p.m.**

Council participated in an exercise identifying potential critical issues, challenges, and opportunities. The following possible themes were identified and agreed upon:

**Mobility:**

- More reliable public transportation including mass transit options
- Transportation costs
- Balanced multimodal options
- Safety
- Development paying for growth
- New innovated transportation technology
- Other: land use, infrastructure, and connectivity
- Regional partnerships

**Economic Opportunity and Affordability**

- Affordable housing including accessibility and funding
- Homelessness
- Small business opportunities
- Employment for all different income levels/job classes/parts of population
- Permitting process
- Disparity and segregation
- Arts and tourism

**Safety**

- Implication of community policing
- Resources/funding
- Property crime
- Relationship between public safety and public health
- Flooding
- Disaster preparedness/wildfire prevention
- Invest in aging infrastructure (road, water)
- Mental health costs
- Economic independence to lower crime
- Prevent road deaths
- Education
- Respect for public servant and community

**Cultural and Learning Opportunities**

- Joint use of facilities

- Innovated use of parks and facilities
- Historic preservation
- Vibrancy of creative section (artist housing)
- Business development opportunities for artists and cultural arts organizations
- Educational attainment
- Diverse communities
- Public school funding
- Civic education
- Pre-school opportunities
- Accepting differing viewpoints

#### Health

- Invest in parks and green space including maintenance and funding
- Access to parks and green space
- Reducing impervious cover
- Protection of tree canopy
- Data sharing
- Environmental protection
- Renewable energy
- Limiting land fill use
- Equitable health – partnerships, funding, programs, access to services, food, housing, equitable outreach, insurance and health care facilities

#### Government that Works

- Council meeting procedures
- More action, less talking/planning
- High performing employees
- More public participation (engagement)
- Improving budget process
- Equity/anti-discrimination
- Review processes such as contracting
- Rising cost of services
- CodeNext
- 10-1 still in transition

Direction was given to staff to provide Council with the results of this exercise conducted by the executive team.

#### Existing Plans/Initiatives to Inform Strategic Planning

The following plans were identified as missing from the proposed list of plans/initiatives.

- Flood Mitigation
- Project Connect
- Age Friendly Austin Plan
- ABE Plan (Electric car)
- SMART Cities
- Hunden Report for Travis County Expo Center
- Walter E. Long Master Plan
- Downtown Austin Arts
- Urban Park Taskforce
- Affordable Housing

- Family and Children Taskforce
- CAMPO 2040 Plan

Additional missing plans or initiatives should be provided to Jill Goodman to incorporate into the final list.

**Mayor Pro Tem Tovo recessed the meeting at 2:40 p.m.**

**Mayor Pro Tem Tovo reconvened the meeting at 2:55 p.m.**

Proposed Roadmap to Complete the Strategic Plan

Staff provided the following proposed road map:

- Outcome Teams of 3-5 people each, selected by the City Manager
- Metrics and Targets for each indicator; resident-centric Challenge Statements; Strategies and Initiatives to address challenges and achieve outcomes
- To be completed by Fall 2017
- Preparation of starter kits which will be provided to the Outcome teams consisting of existing plans, prior engagement efforts, performance and survey data related to their outcome; additional discovery work such as connections with relevant boards and commissions; Imagine Austin priority programs; and community engagement opportunities.

Council suggested the following:

- Continue the discussions as part of a work session to provide opportunities for group discussions
- Outcome Teams could meet individually with interested Council Members
- Staff to provide input on how the strategic plan can start to be incorporated into the FY18 Budget Process such as aligning outcomes, metrics, etc. as a way to assist Council in analyzing where funding should be allocated.
- Mobility Committee would be available as a resource to discuss mobility outcome
- Schedule the “Prioritization” of indicators at a work session and have a draft completed for the FY18 Budget
- Align Council Committees with the strategic outcomes (could be phased in).
- Provide Council with examples of best of class strategic plans developed by other cities.
- Solicit input from Council on the methods and types of community engagement used by the Outcome Teams

Next Steps

1. A revised version of the strategic outcome proposal will be distributed based on edits adopted today.
2. A revised version of the indicators will be distributed based on edits adopted today.
3. All of the critical issues will be captured including those identified by staff and distributed to Council.
4. Submit any additional missing plans or initiatives to Jill Goodman.
5. Staff will refine the road map process and timeline based on Council feedback making it a staff driven/council informed process including identifying ways it can be folded into the FY18 Budget process.

**Mayor Adler adjourned the meeting at 4:35 p.m. without objection.**

**The minutes were approved on this the 20<sup>th</sup> day of April 2017 on Council Member Garza’s motion, Council Member Pool’s second on an 11-0 vote.**