Future of Small Area Planning
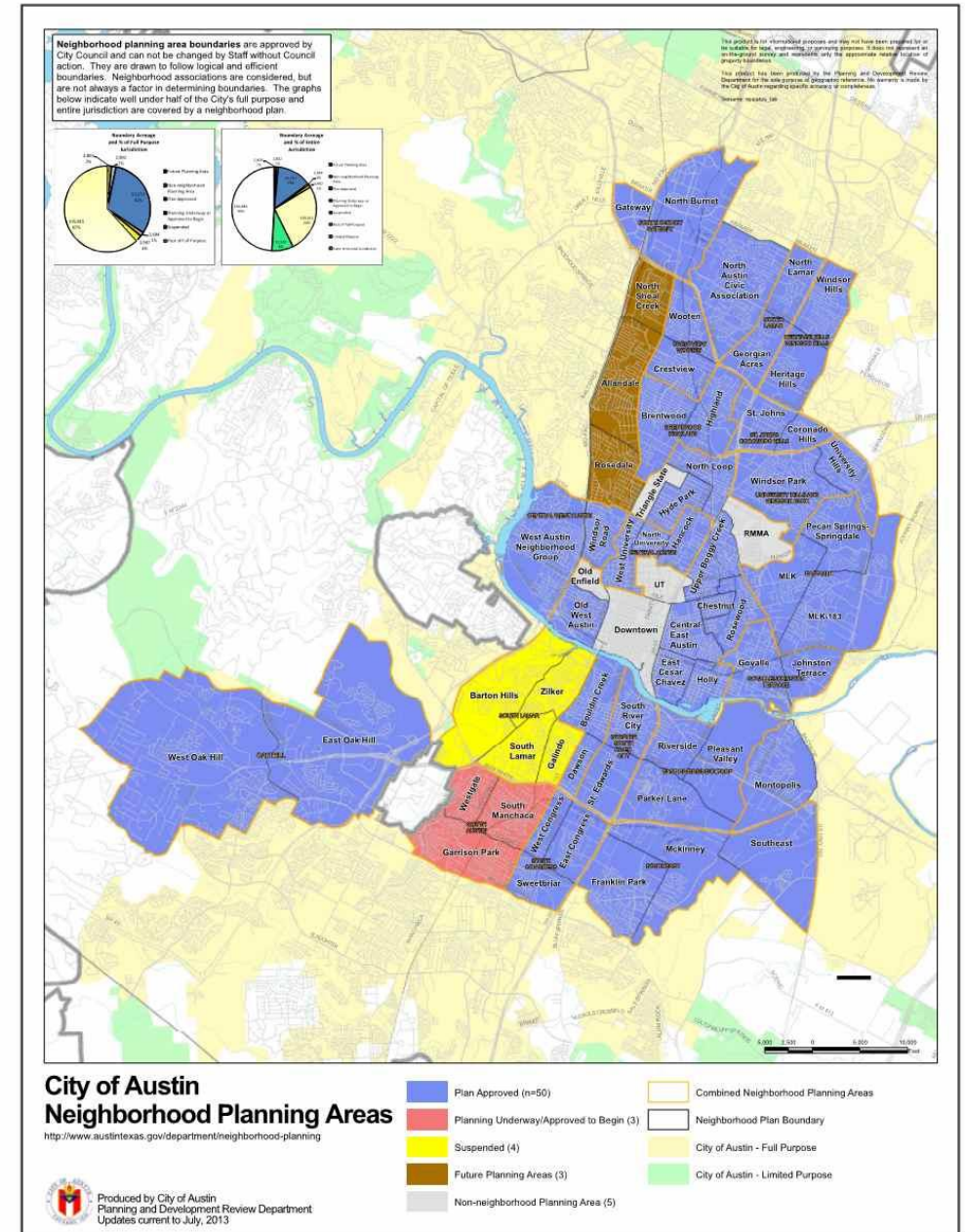
Planning and Zoning Department
Long Range Planning Division
September 27, 2017

Outline

- Why a new direction
- What we have learned
- Where we are going

The process we have today

- Started in 1999
- Cover 26% of city's land area, 38% of population
- Take 2-4 years per plan to complete

City of Austin Neighborhood Planning Areas

Findings on neighborhood planning

- Not equitable, feasible, or representative
- Most plans do not articulate *Imagine Austin* vision
- Older neighborhood plans lack timeline to complete recommendations
                    -Audit of Neighborhood Planning, November 2016

- Create new plans for corridors/centers for the development areas specified in Imagine Austin
                    -Zucker Report, April 2015

Going Forward

Neighborhood Plans

- No changes to adopted Neighborhood Plans

Future Small Area Plans

- New way to select planning areas
- New types of planning services
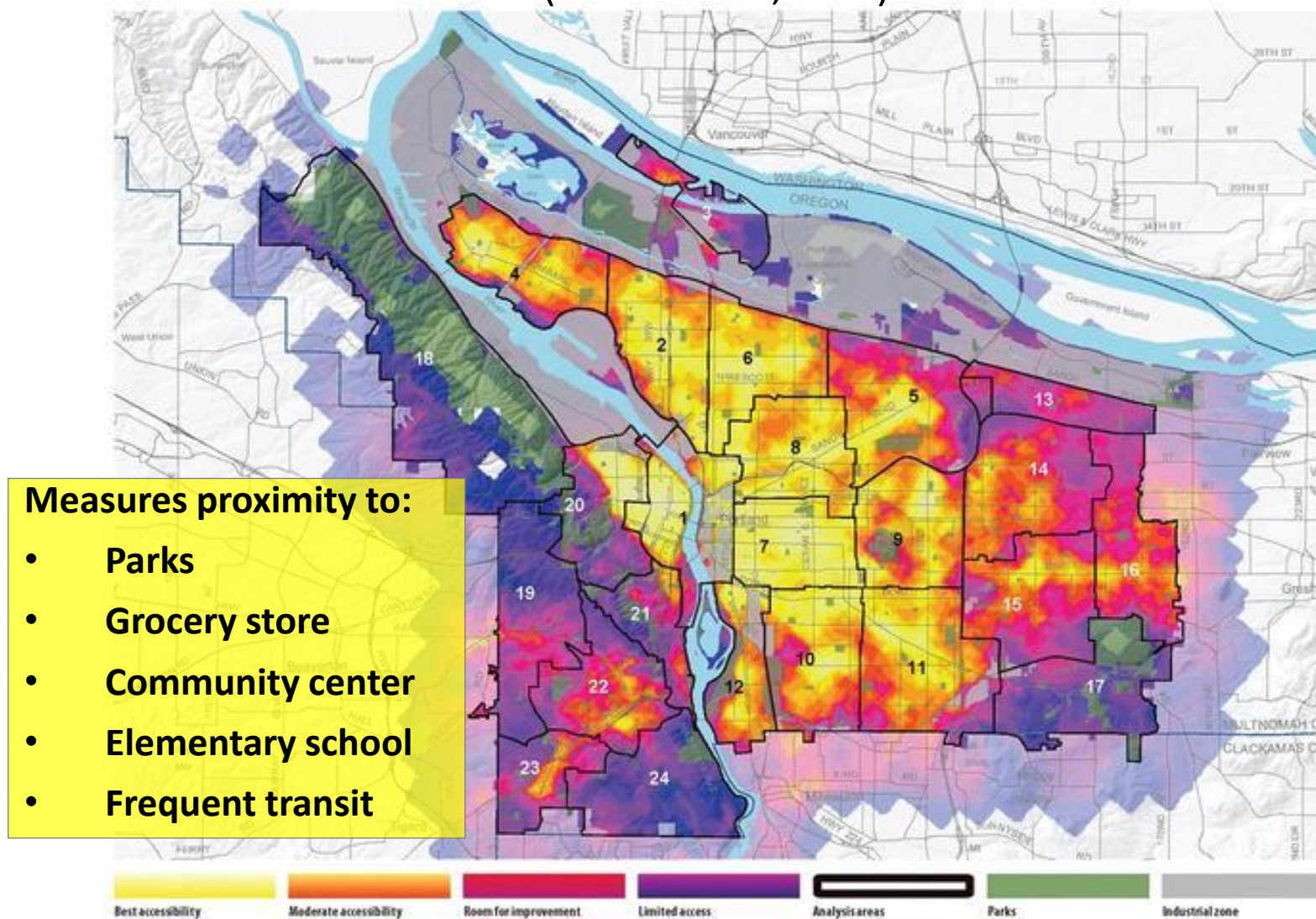
What is the Purpose of Small Area Planning?

- Create Complete Communities
- Plan for Growth
- Give Community a Voice
- Provide Predictability

Heat Map of 20-Minute Neighborhoods
(Portland, OR)

Measures proximity to:
- **Parks**
- **Grocery store**
- **Community center**
- **Elementary school**
- **Frequent transit**

Best accessibility | Moderate accessibility | Room for improvement | Limited access | Analysis areas | Parks | Industrial zone
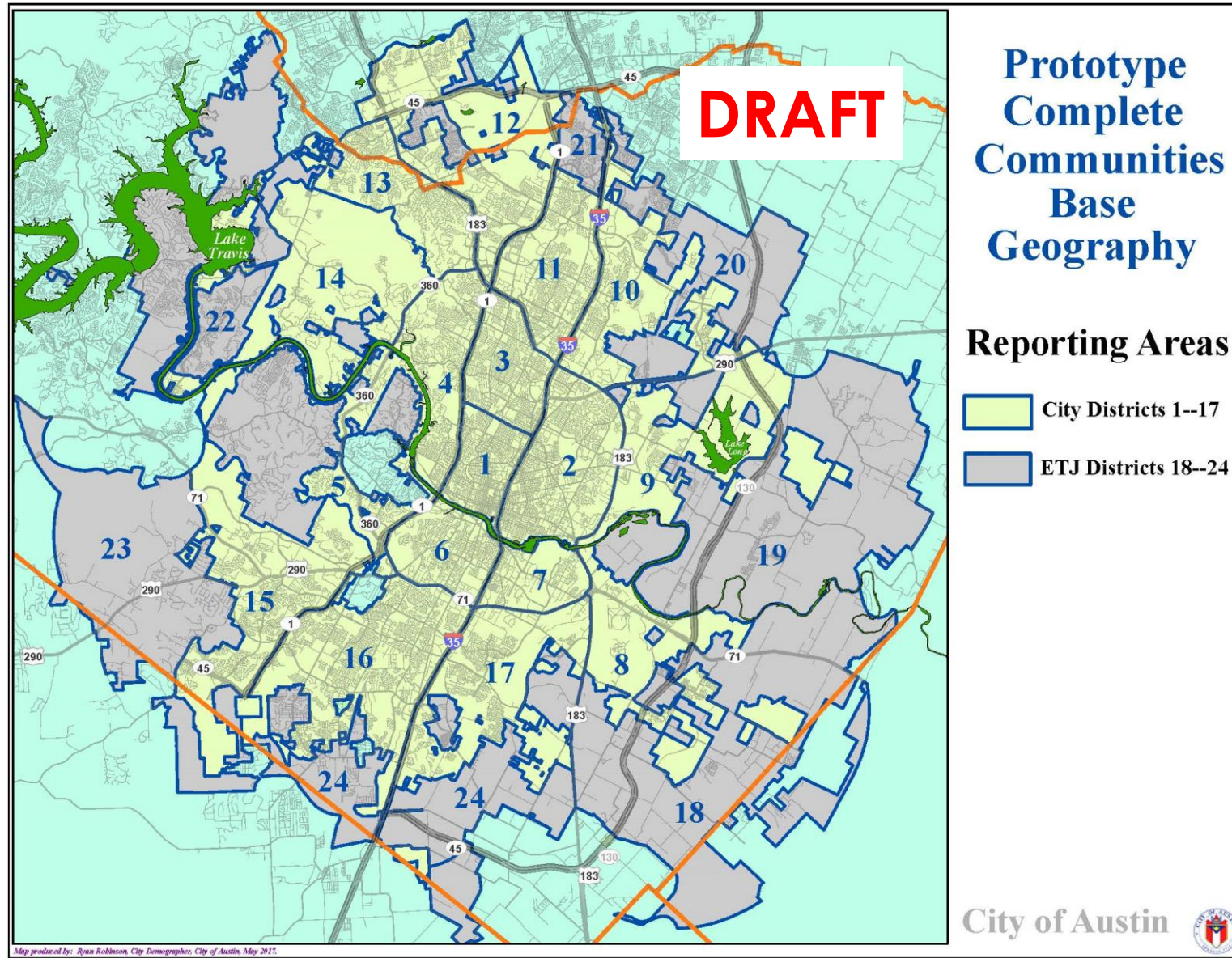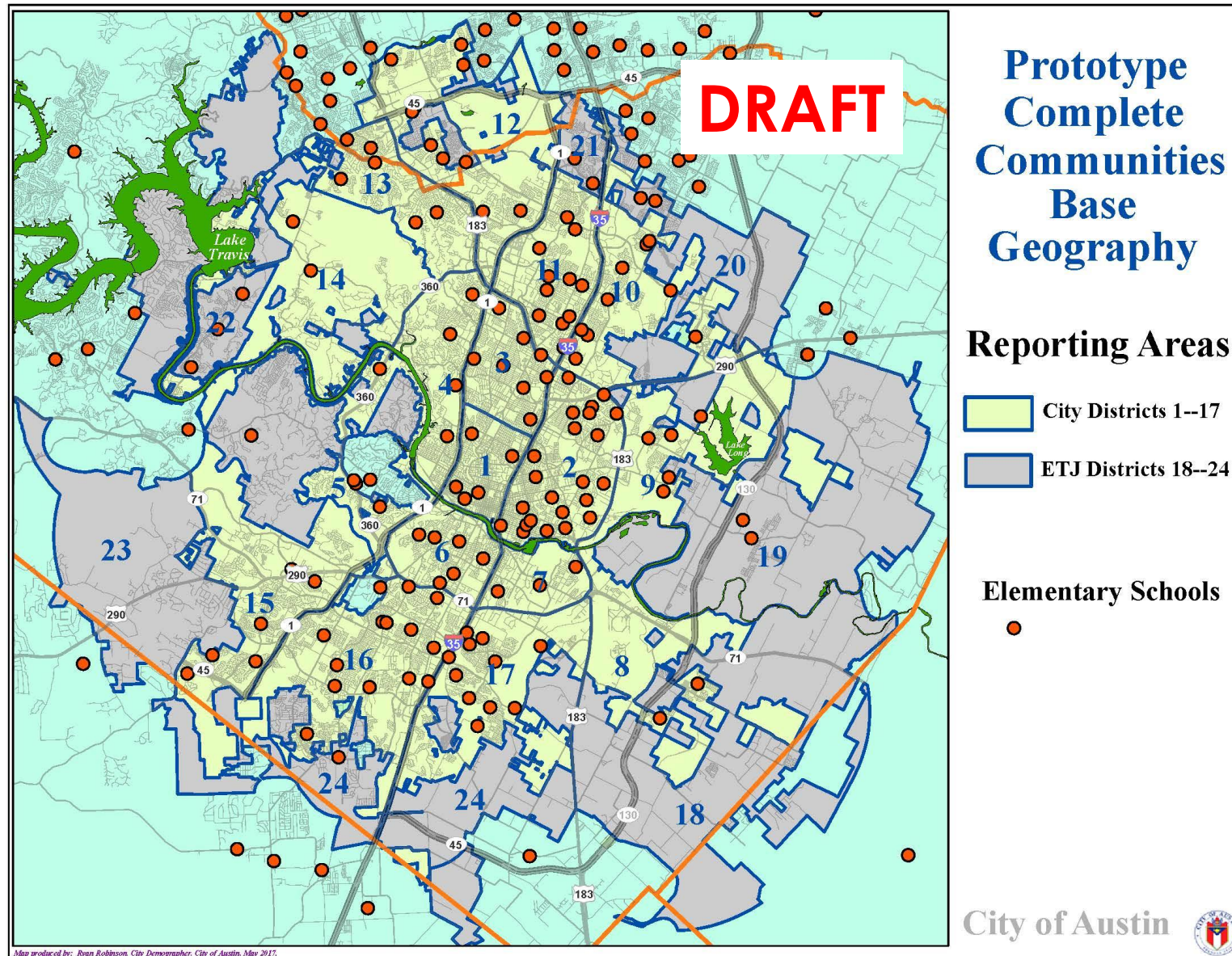
Complete Communities Assessment Tool

Prototype #1: Access Map
Which areas lack access to daily needs?

What base geography would be effective?

Illustrative map: elementary schools

Complete Communities (Prototype)

Data Inventory

City of Austin

Reporting District with Selected Neighborhoods	Census 2010 Population	Share of Total	Share of Population Under 18	Rank	Share of Population 65 Plus	Rank	Percent of Population within 1/2 mile of a Grocery Store	Rank	Percent of Population within 1/2 mile of a Park	Rank	Percent of Population within 1/2 mile of an Elementray School	Rank	Percent of Population within 1/4 mile of Frequent Transit	Rank	Average Percentage	Rank
1 Downtown, UT, central city core	56,090	6.0%	5.6%	24	9.3%	9	43.0%	16	57.0%	6	15.0%	23	85.0%	1	50.0%	11
2 Greater East Austin	78,005	8.3%	24.5%	14	13.1%	5	37.0%	17	63.0%	5	49.0%	11	54.0%	5	50.8%	10
3 North Central, Allandale, Crestview, Highland	44,441	4.7%	16.0%	22	11.5%	7	70.0%	5	83.0%	3	82.0%	2	78.0%	2	78.3%	1
4 West Austin, Tarrytown, Northwest Hills	40,800	4.3%	18.7%	21	15.7%	2	84.0%	1	90.0%	1	65.0%	8	4.0%	17	60.8%	3
5 West Lake Hills, Davenport, Lost Creek	13,804	1.5%	27.3%	9	14.4%	3	80.0%	2	20.0%	20	18.0%	22	0.0%	24	29.5%	17
6 South Austin, Barton Hills, Bouldin, Travis Heights	44,940	4.8%	14.7%	23	10.6%	8	44.0%	15	87.0%	2	75.0%	3	48.0%	6	63.5%	2
7 Southeast, East Riverside, Montopolis	44,849	4.8%	22.5%	16	5.2%	24	61.0%	10	39.0%	15	35.0%	17	65.0%	4	50.0%	11
8 Bergstrom, Del Valle, Moore's Crossing	10,847	1.2%	38.2%	1	8.1%	14	16.0%	22	5.0%	24	5.0%	24	5.0%	15	7.8%	24
9 Far East Austin, Colony Park	14,647	1.6%	33.4%	3	7.0%	19	21.0%	20	32.0%	17	33.0%	18	20.0%	10	26.5%	19
10 Northeast, Pioneer Crossing, Copperfield	40,580	4.3%	26.7%	11	6.5%	21	34.0%	18	42.0%	12	38.0%	16	18.0%	11	33.0%	16
11 North Austin, Domain, NACA, Gracy Farms	76,333	8.1%	25.3%	12	9.1%	11	54.0%	12	46.0%	10	57.0%	10	73.0%	3	57.5%	4
12 Far North, Balcones Woods, Avery Ranch	54,638	5.8%	20.6%	20	12.9%	6	63.0%	8	67.0%	4	75.0%	3	7.0%	14	53.0%	7
13 Great Hills—Spicewood, Anderson Mill, Canyon Creek	48,348	5.1%	23.5%	15	8.3%	13	65.0%	7	54.0%	7	63.0%	9	23.0%	9	51.3%	9
14 Northwest, Jester, Long Canyon, Riverplace	19,630	2.1%	22.4%	17	6.5%	21	28.0%	19	46.0%	9	40.0%	13	2.0%	21	29.0%	18
15 Southwest, Circle C, Oak Hill, Travis Country	52,198	5.6%	27.1%	10	5.9%	23	72.0%	4	42.0%	12	84.0%	1	15.0%	12	53.3%	5
16 Far South, Westgate, Cherry Creek, Garrison	105,456	11.2%	21.8%	19	16.2%	1	67.0%	6	40.0%	14	69.0%	7	37.0%	8	53.3%	5
17 Southeast, Dove Spings, Onion Creek, Springfield	53,838	5.7%	31.7%	6	7.7%	16	18.0%	21	23.0%	18	45.0%	12	11.0%	13	24.3%	20
18 Southeast ETJ	12,820	1.4%	28.4%	7	8.1%	14	16.0%	22	8.0%	23	28.0%	19	2.0%	21	13.5%	22
19 East ETJ	17,520	1.9%	36.4%	2	7.4%	18	12.0%	24	12.0%	21	24.0%	21	3.0%	19	12.8%	23
20 Northeast ETJ	20,543	2.2%	32.4%	4	9.3%	9	47.0%	14	9.0%	22	39.0%	14	2.0%	21	24.3%	21
21 North Central ETJ	33,146	3.5%	22.1%	18	7.7%	16	58.0%	11	42.0%	11	70.0%	6	40.0%	7	52.5%	8
22 Northwest ETJ	21,389	2.3%	32.1%	5	14.2%	4	63.0%	8	37.0%	16	75.0%	3	3.0%	19	44.5%	13
23 Southwest ETJ	22,848	2.4%	27.4%	8	6.6%	20	77.0%	3	23.0%	19	39.0%	14	4.0%	18	35.8%	14
24 South Central ETJ	11,175	1.2%	24.9%	13	8.5%	12	52.0%	13	48.0%	8	28.0%	19	5.0%	15	33.3%	15

*Illustrative Example:

"Completeness" rankings in terms access to:
- 1/2 mile from grocery store
- 1/2 mile from park
- 1/2 mile from elementary school
- 1/4 mile from frequent transit

*Further discussion is needed on variables to include in an Austin Complete Communities Assessment Tool. Mapping these allowed us to test the mapping process and learn how to improve it.
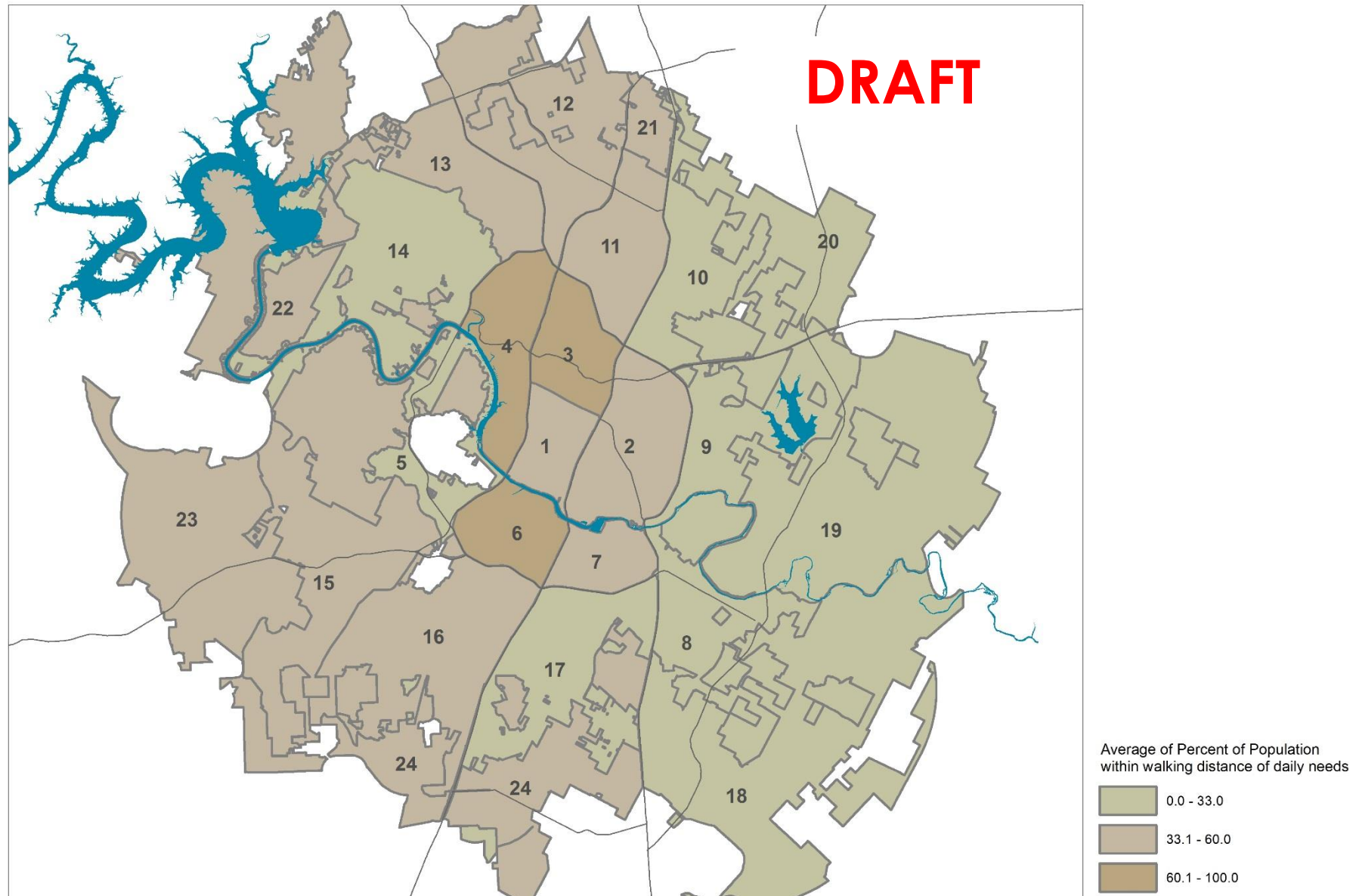
Complete Communities (Prototype)
Data Inventory
TABLE 3, Ranked, Descending
City of Austin

Reporting District with Selected Neighborhoods	Average Percentage	Rank
3 North Central, Allandale, Crestview, Highland	78.3%	1
6 South Austin, Barton Hills, Bouldin, Travis Heights	63.5%	2
4 West Austin, Tarrytown, Northwest Hills	60.8%	3
11 North Austin, Domain, NACA, Gracy Farms	57.5%	4
15 Southwest, Circle C, Oak Hill, Travis Country	53.3%	5
16 Far South, Westgate, Cherry Creek, Garrison	53.3%	5
12 Far North, Balcones Woods, Avery Ranch	53.0%	7
21 North Central ETJ	52.5%	8
13 Great Hills--Spicewood, Anderson Mill, Canyon Creek	51.3%	9
2 Greater East Austin	50.8%	10
1 Downtown, UT, central city core	50.0%	11
7 Southeast, East Riverside, Montopolis	50.0%	11
22 Northwest ETJ	44.5%	13
23 Southwest ETJ	35.8%	14
24 South Central ETJ	33.3%	15
10 Northeast, Pioneer Crossing, Copperfield	33.0%	16
5 West Lake Hills, Davenport, Lost Creek	29.5%	17
14 Northwest, Jester, Long Canyon, Riverplace	29.0%	18
9 Far East Austin, Colony Park	26.5%	19
17 Southeast, Dove Spings, Onion Creek, Springfield	24.3%	20
20 Northeast ETJ	24.3%	21
18 Southeast ETJ	13.5%	22
19 East ETJ	12.8%	23
8 Bergstrom, Del Valle, Moore's Crossing	7.8%	24

Preliminary results in terms of access to four criteria

DRAFT

Average of Percent of Population
within walking distance of daily needs

- 0.0 - 33.0
- 33.1 - 60.0
- 60.1 - 100.0

14

Prototype #2: Opportunities Map

How might we leverage planning services and investments?

Base geography

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LEGEND

Reporting Areas

16

Neighborhood Plan Area Boundary

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LEGEND

Reporting Areas

NPA boundary

17

Imagine Austin Centers and Corridors

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LEGEND

	Reporting Areas
	NPA boundary
	Activity Centers for in Sensitive Environmental Areas
	Job Center
	Neighborhood Center
	Regional Center
	Town Center
	PLANNINGCADASTRE.imagine_austin_corridors
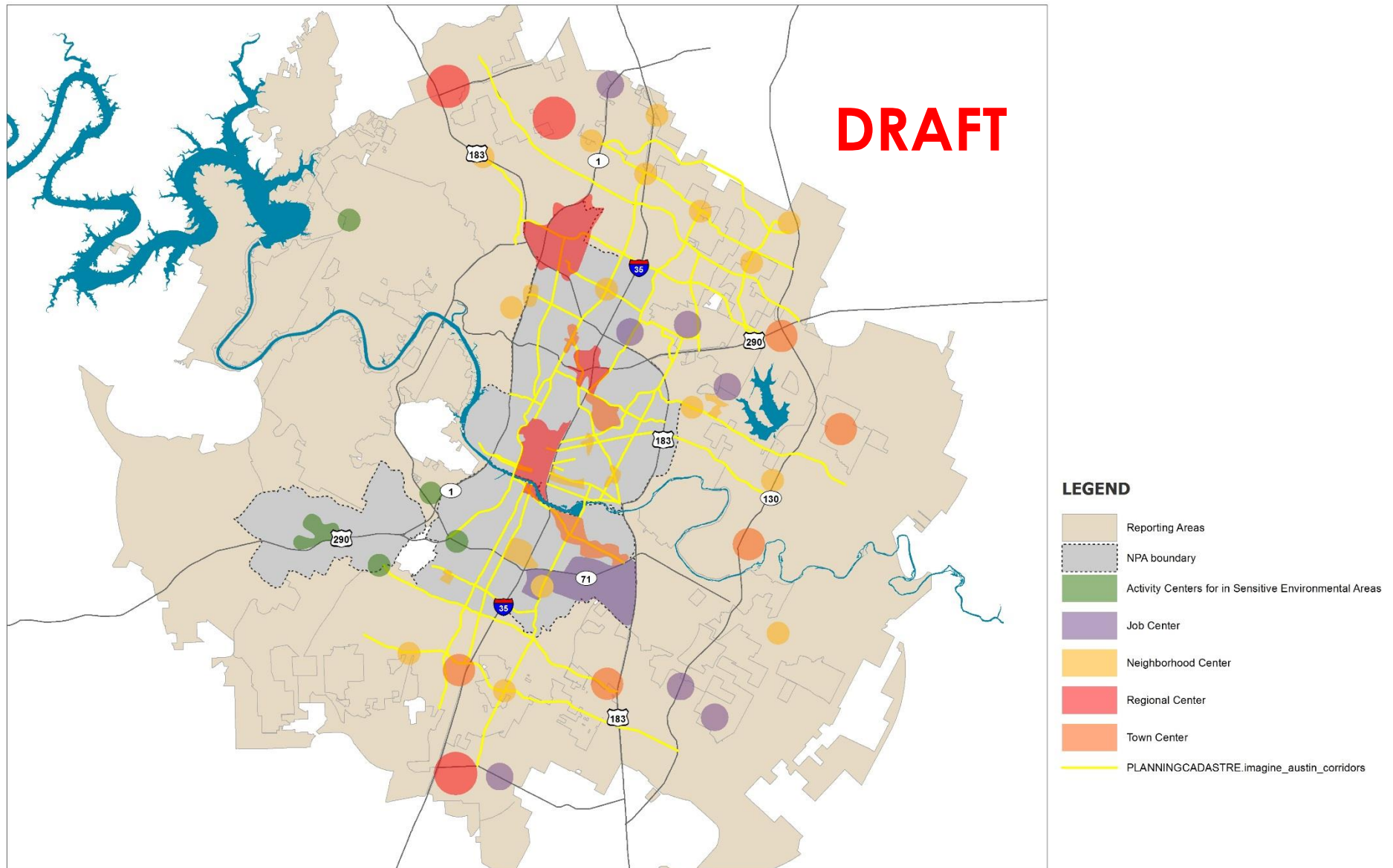
Imagine Austin / 2016 Mobility Bond

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LEGEND

- Reporting Areas
- NPA boundary
- Activity Centers for in Sensitive Environmental Areas
- Job Center
- Neighborhood Center
- Regional Center
- Town Center
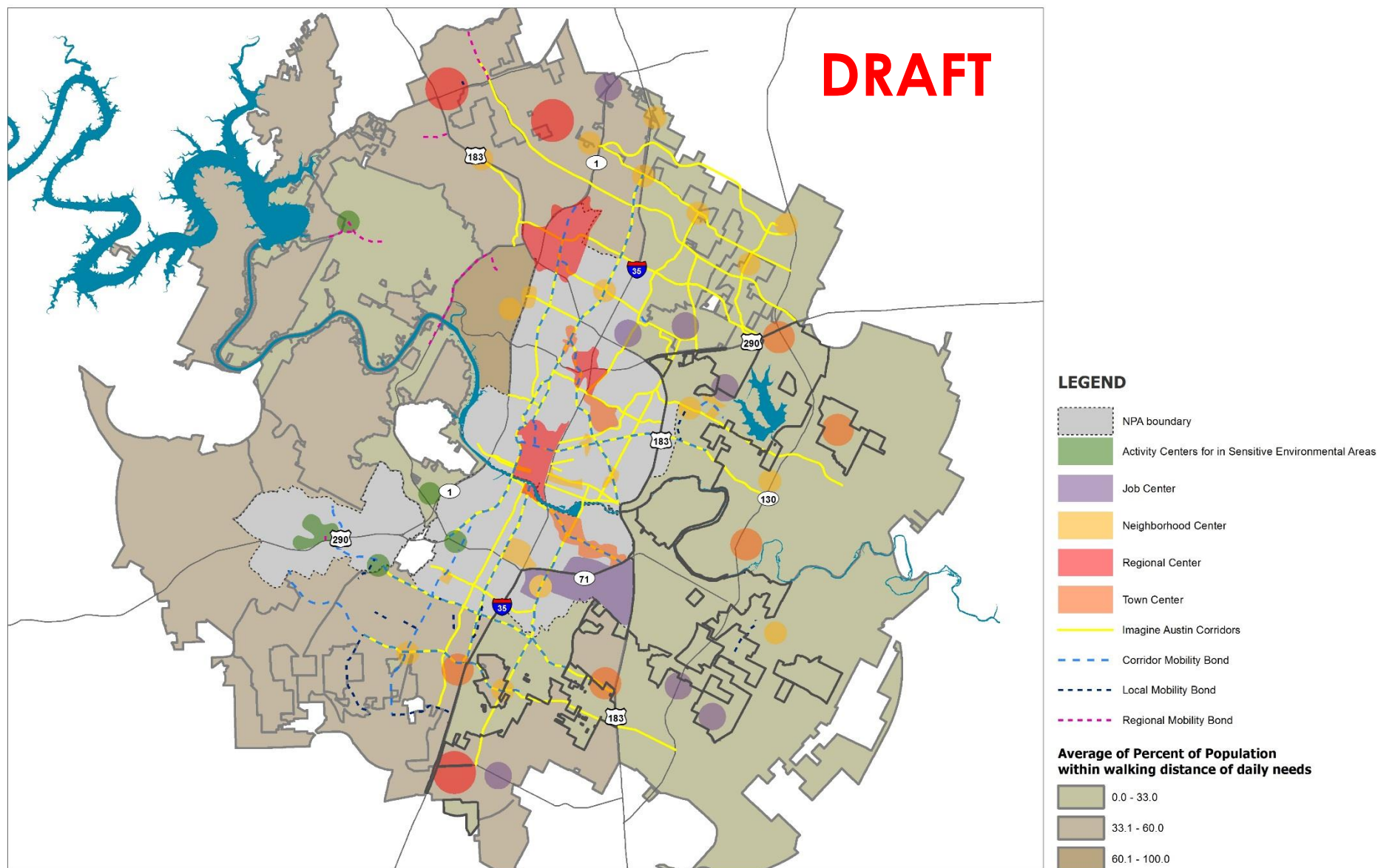- Imagine Austin Corridors
- Corridor Mobility Bond
- Local Mobility Bond
- Regional Mobility Bond
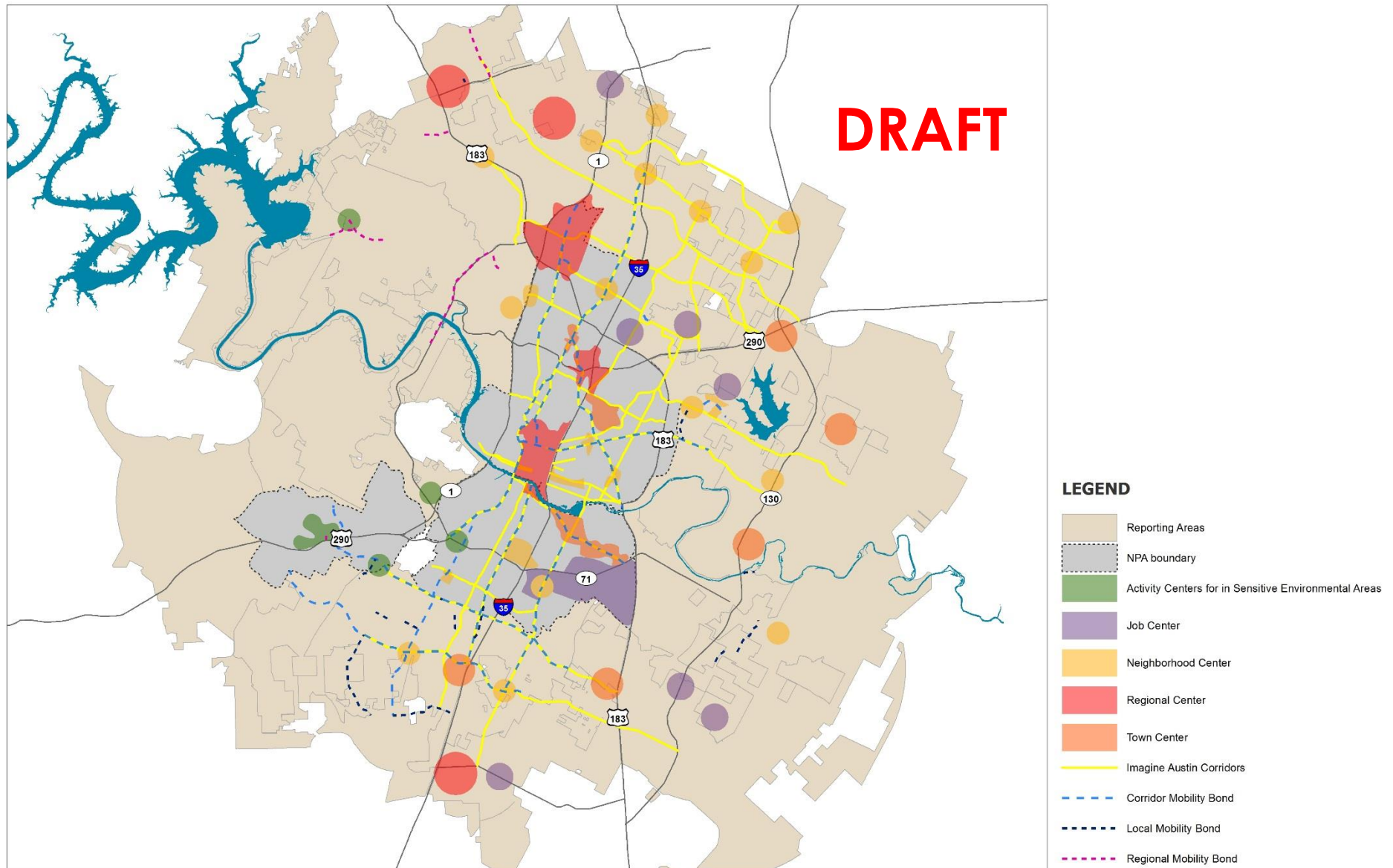
What We Have Learned So Far from the Prototypes:

- **Data and maps provide macro visibility of Austin's largest gaps in equitable access to basic needs**
  - 4 variables is insufficient; additional work needed here
  - A *complete community* is different for everyone. Further in-depth engagement is needed to understand hopes and needs of the community in selected areas.
  - Defining items: parks, grocery stores
- **Technical Considerations**
  - Trends in "completeness" do not fall neatly in Council district boundaries. A more specific base unit is needed.
    - With 24 sub-areas, geography still may not be spatially specific enough. We need to be able to drill down to specific areas.

Access Map + Opportunities Map

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LEGEND

- NPA boundary
- Activity Centers for in Sensitive Environmental Areas
- Job Center
- Neighborhood Center
- Regional Center
- Town Center
- Imagine Austin Corridors
- Corridor Mobility Bond
- Local Mobility Bond
- Regional Mobility Bond

Average of Percent of Population within walking distance of daily needs

- 0.0 - 33.0
- 33.1 - 60.0
- 60.1 - 100.0

Potential Future Planning Areas
These need additional analysis

First Areas

William Cannon Drive

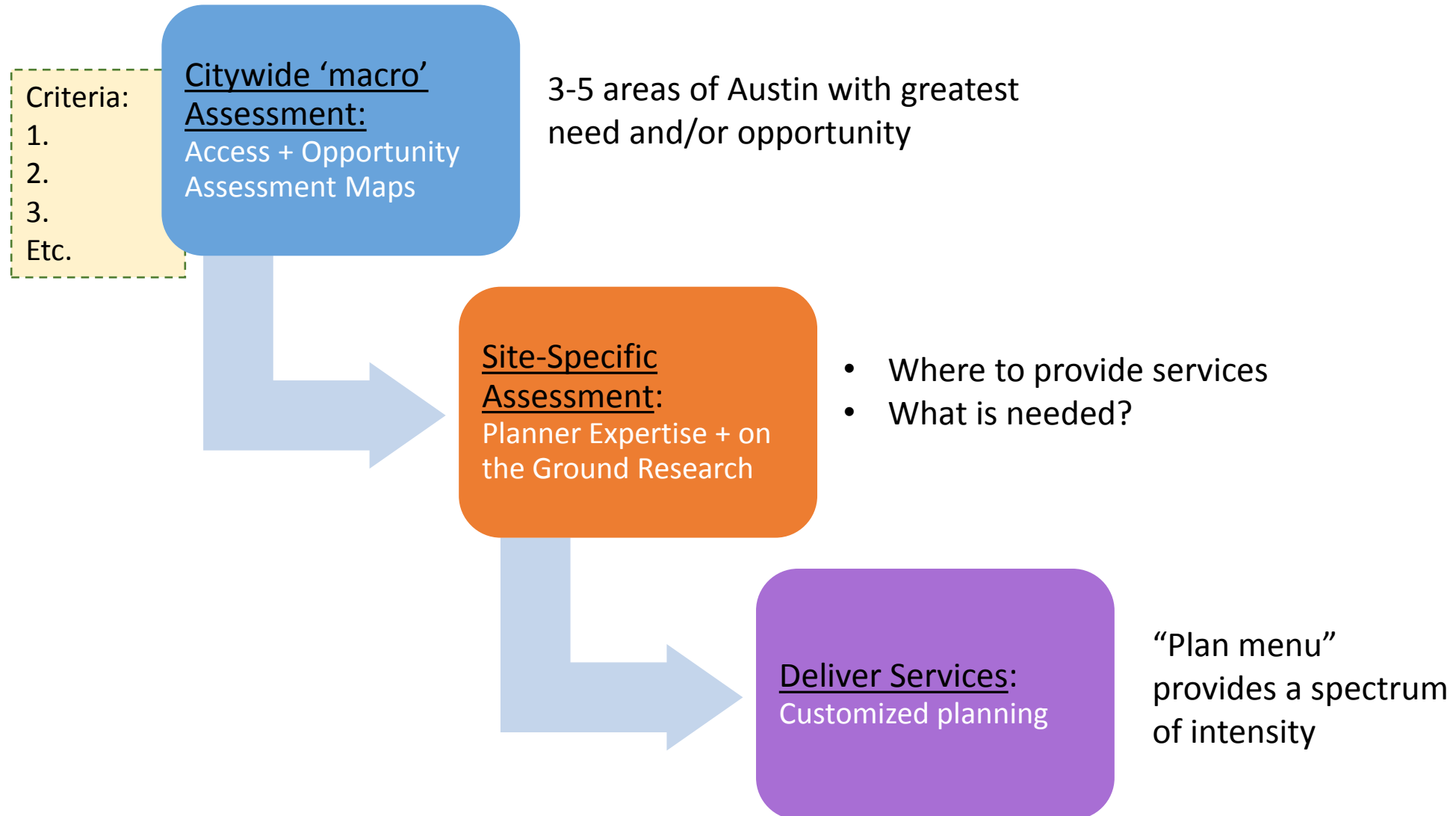Slaughter Lane

FM 969

Loyola Lane
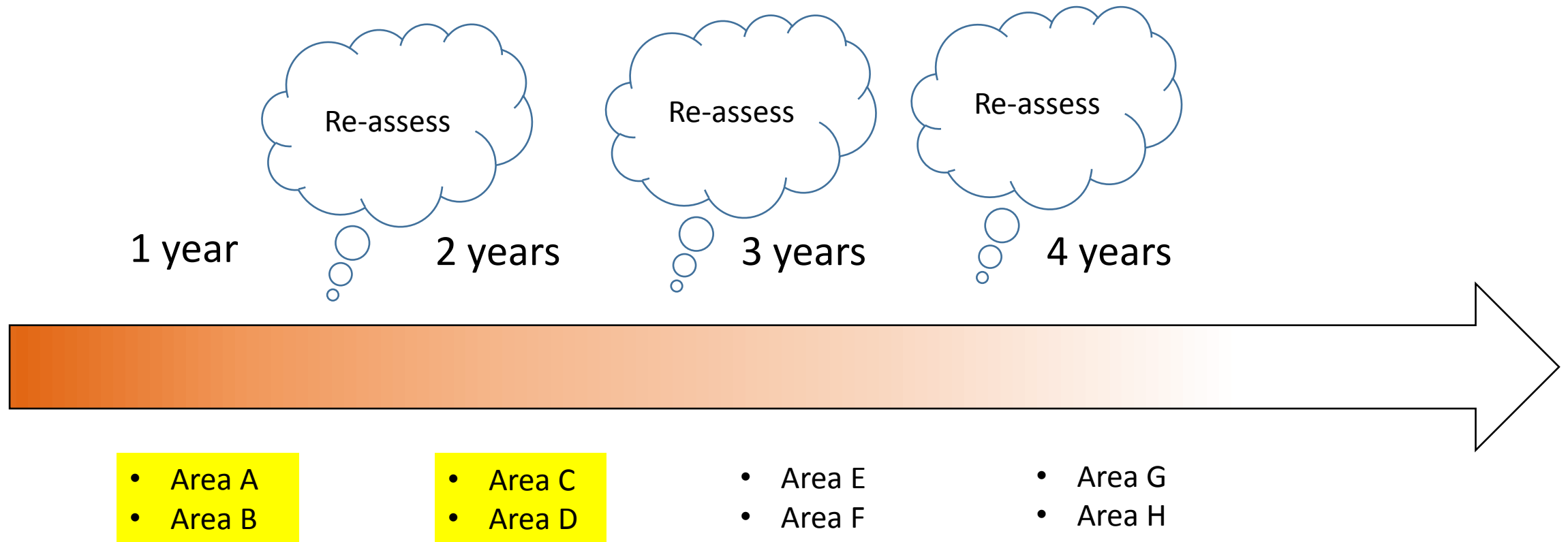
North Lamar Blvd

Second Areas

Parmer Lane

Braker Lane

Harris Branch Parkway

Springdale Road

Potential Selection Process

Criteria:
1.
2.
3.
Etc.

Citywide 'macro' Assessment:
Access + Opportunity Assessment Maps

3-5 areas of Austin with greatest need and/or opportunity

Site-Specific Assessment:
Planner Expertise + on the Ground Research

- Where to provide services
- What is needed?

Deliver Services:
Customized planning

"Plan menu" provides a spectrum of intensity

Potential work plan:

1 year   Re-assess   2 years   Re-assess   3 years   Re-assess   4 years

- Area A
- Area B

- Area C
- Area D

- Area E
- Area F

- Area G
- Area H

Questions or Feedback