



City of Austin

MEMO

Neighborhood Housing and Community Development

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Date: April 20, 2016

To: Mayor and Council Members

From: Betsy Spencer, Director
Neighborhood Housing and Community Development

Subject: Update on Departmental Engagement Initiatives

The purpose of this memorandum is to provide an update about outreach activities for the proposed Strategic Housing Plan as well as the draft Action Plan, which will identify proposed federal funding investments for Fiscal Year 2016-2017. Both initiatives were described in a [memo to Mayor and Council members dated March 8, 2016](#), regarding department engagement initiatives.

The engagement activities began in mid-March to seek public input for the draft Action Plan, which will be distributed for public review on May 23, 2016, and for the draft Strategic Housing Plan, which will be presented to the City Council Housing and Community Development Committee on June 6, 2016. We will include public input received on the Action Plan in the plan up until early August, as it is required to be submitted to the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development by August 15. Public input on the Strategic Housing Plan will be collected until it is submitted for potential adoption by City Council, which is currently expected to be this fall.

There are multiple opportunities for the public to learn about the Housing Plan and Annual Action Plan and provide input:

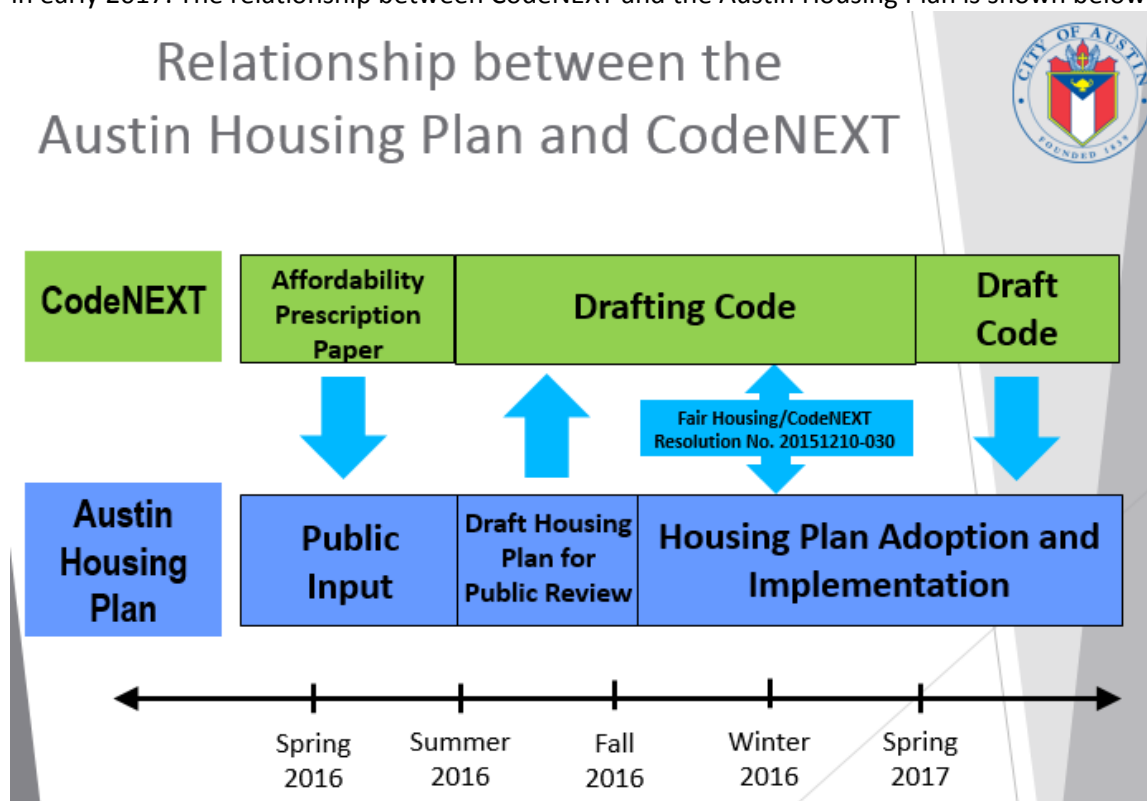
- Outreach events throughout the city;
- Targeted on-site outreach activities to connect with faith based organizations, renters, and other populations who are unlikely to participate in other ways;
- Collaboration with other entities to obtain feedback at their planned events;
- A “Meeting in a Box” activity designed for members of the community to share thoughts regarding potential implementation strategies;
- An online and paper survey (in English and Spanish) distributed through social media, community groups, social service providers, and non-profits; and
- Presentations about the Annual Action Plan and Housing Plan input opportunities at multiple City of Austin Boards and Commissions and City Council, including a hearing on community needs during the April 21, 2016, City Council meeting and a hearing on the draft Annual Action Plan during the June 23, 2016, City Council meeting.

Additional information about the Austin Housing Plan and the Annual Action Plan is available online at: www.austintexas.gov/housingplan.

We also wanted to highlight the coordination between the Strategic Housing Plan, CodeNEXT, and related City Council resolutions. The CodeNEXT Team, in collaboration with Neighborhood Housing and

Community Development staff, is currently in the process of drafting a Prescription Paper on Household Affordability, which identifies a set of code-related recommendations to improve affordability. This Prescription Paper will be presented to the Code Advisory Group (CAG) in early May, to be followed by two months of events and other tools designed to elicit public feedback. The input received from the Code Advisory Group and the public will inform the draft Strategic Housing Plan. In addition, City Council passed a [resolution](#) on April 7, 2016, directing the City Manager to convene a working group to develop recommendations for homeownership options throughout the city. Those recommendations will also inform the Strategic Housing Plan. Staff intends to recommend adoption of the Strategic Housing Plan as an amendment to the Imagine Austin Comprehensive Plan this fall.

City Council also adopted Resolution [20151210-030](#) on December 10, 2015, directing the City Manager to identify innovative affordable housing options within the proposed land development code revisions that can serve low- and moderate-income families in a range of sizes and to demonstrate how the code can affirmatively further fair housing. This analysis, as well as the Strategic Housing Plan, will inform the proposed land development code revisions, the first draft of which is currently expected to be available in early 2017. The relationship between CodeNEXT and the Austin Housing Plan is shown below.



If you have a list of specific groups, organizations, or stakeholders you would like staff to engage in conversations about these important topics, or if you have additional questions, please contact Neighborhood Housing and Community Development Planning and Policy Manager Erica Leak, 512-974-9375, or Erica.leak@austintexas.gov.

Cc: Marc A. Ott, City Manager
 Bert Lumbreras, Assistant City Manager
 Sue Edwards, Assistant City Manager
 Greg Guernsey, Director, Planning and Zoning Department