

Austin Transportation Department Employer Strategies



The strategies outlined in this document have been identified by the City of Austin Transportation Department as new additions to the Austin Strategic Mobility Plan as an appendix, not yet adopted by City Council. This document is to be used as a tool for businesses participating in the Chapter 380 Business Expansion Incentive Program to adopt and strengthen their Mobility Solutions.

Action Item Name	Action Description
Transportation Information for New Employees	Develop new employee transportation information, which includes but is not limited to transportation options tailored to the specific office location in all employee handbooks and presented as part of new employee orientation, one-on-one commute route planning assistance for new employees, and information provided on company website, in the break rooms, and in internal newsletters.
Transportation Information - Continued Education	Provide continued education on transportation information with employees. This includes, but is not limited to, installing real-time transportation screens in building lobbies, providing information online and in company newsletters, providing one-on-one commute route planning assistance, participating in events like Bike to Work Day, hosting public transit outings, and gamifying sustainable commuting.
Membership in Local Transportation Management Association	Join a local transportation management association. Employers who actively participate in their local transportation management association have opportunities to develop strong commute programs, as well as connect to neighboring businesses to share knowledge and collaborate on strategies.
Transportation Coordinators on Staff	Dedicate a staff member on site to coordinate programming, encourage employees to utilize transportation options, and be a transportation resource.
Parking Cash-Out Programs	Create a parking cash-out program, which provides employees the option of receiving cash to give up their parking space.
Priced Parking	Price employee parking. Discuss with employers that free parking is one of the biggest motivators to drive to work and also hides the true cost of driving and parking. Requiring employees to pay for parking, coupled with education and incentives to try other modes may make a big positive impact in how employees commute.
Employer-Based Transit Benefits Program	Create a transit benefit programs (either pre-tax or partial to full subsidies) that will encourage employees to use public transportation.
Active Transportation Support	Support employees who walk and bike to work by providing subsidies on walking shoes or bicycling equipment. Provide education programs on how to bicycle and utilize shared mobility options.
Employer-Based Ride-share Programs	Implement ridesharing programs for employees who do not live close to work or near transit options, but can carpool or vanpool. Employers can follow the example of the City of Austin by providing incentives, assistance, and preferential parking for rideshare.
Employer-Based Telework Program	Create a telework program that allows employees to work from home, at a different office, or at a co-working space.
Flexible and compressed work schedules program	Allow for flexible and compressed work schedules (e.g. working four 10-hour days and having one day off) to encourage travel outside of the peak congested periods and/or to reduce car trips.
Working While Commuting	Allow employees to start their work day when they start their commute, e.g. if employees can use Wi-Fi on a bus, train, or vanpool to begin working during their commute.
Incentives/Gamification	Provide monetary or non-monetary (e.g. prizes, vacation time) incentives or organize a competition for sustainable commuting.
Emergency Ride Home Programs	Provide employees with information on the regional Emergency Ride Home programs, and also consider developing an internal emergency ride home program.
On-Site Amenities	Provide on-site amenities that allow employees to juggle priorities, as well as run mid-day errands, without needing to bring a vehicle to work. These amenities and services may include on-site daycare, food options, dry cleaning, gym, showers and lockers, bike mechanic, etc.
Employer-Based Shuttle	Offer an employee shuttle if office is not located in a transit-rich environment. The shuttle could be for the entire employee commute, or as a last-mile connection to a popular transit line or mobility hub.