

THE NEIGHBORHOOD PLAN-IT

A QUARTERLY NEWSLETTER PRODUCED BY THE CITY OF AUSTIN, PLANNING & DEVELOPMENT REVIEW DEPARTMENT TO HIGHLIGHT NEIGHBORHOOD PLAN CONTACT TEAMS

Traffic Calming—New Application Process

Speeding through neighborhoods and cut-through traffic are two issues identified in many neighborhood plans. In January 2012, the City of Austin's Transportation Department initiated a new approach for traffic calming, unveiling its Local Area Traffic Management (LATM) program. The new program is conducted along individual street segments and works with residents to build support for a traffic calming solution.

The process is initiated when a resident submits a one page application for traffic calming along their street. If the requested street segment meets the eligibility criteria, a traffic count and speed study will be conducted to determine if the street qualifies for the program. Once the

street qualifies, a speed mitigation plan is developed and reviewed by various city departments.

After all departments have approved the plan, the applicant must obtain signatures from the property owner or renter at the addresses identified in the petition area, or provide an explanation for any missing signatures. The level of support documented by the petition is one of the 12 weighted criteria used to determine ranking for funding.



Center Island
used for
traffic calming

Applications that include private funding or cost share with the City (i.e. Neighborhood Partner Program) may expedite the implementation of the traffic calming devices. Applicants must reapply for projects that remain unfunded for two years.

The application and eligibility criteria are available from the Austin Transportation Department's LATM website at <http://www.austintexas.gov/department/local-area-traffic-management>

Imagine Austin Update



The Imagine Austin team is hard at work incorporating the thousands of comments received from the public, Boards & Commissions and the Citizen's Advisory Task Force into the Adoption Draft. The

Draft will be forwarded to Planning Commission for final review and then to City Council for adoption this spring (adoption schedule subject to change). The Adoption Draft will also include new maps, data, graphics, pho-

tographs and illustrations that will help bring the plan to life. To stay up-to-date with all the Imagine Austin news, visit the Imagine Austin website at www.imagineaustin.net, follow us on Twitter and "like" us on Facebook.



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Contact Team Training Dates:

- May 15th
Manage Your Message
- August 21st
Topic TBD
- November 6th
Annual Meet & Greet

For more information contact Margaret Valenti at Margaret.Valenti@austintexas.gov

2011 Implementation Highlights: Sidewalks and Bicycle Facilities

Sidewalk Talk

LOCATION OF SIDEWALK	LINEAR FEET	NEIGHBORHOOD PLAN (RECOMMENDATION #)
Manor Rd - south side (Creekwood to E M Franklin)	4,577	East MLK (85)
Manor Rd - north side (Berkman Dr to Anchor Ln)	950	
Manor Rd - south side (gaps west of Banton Rd)	198	Upper Boggy Creek (55)
Rundberg Ln - south side to (West Loop to Northgate Blvd)	219	NACA (24d)
Northgate Blvd - near intersection of Rundberg Ln	1,087	
W. Elizabeth St - north side (Newton St to Eva St)	115	Bouldin Creek (42b)
Nuckols Crossing Rd - east side (Escuelita Dr to Palo Blanco Ln)	576	Southeast (84)
E. Stassney Ln - south side (Hickory Dr. to George St. & gaps west of Walnut Grove Dr)	690	Southeast (87)
Teri Rd - south side (Friedrich Ln to Nuckols Crossing)	5,414	Southeast (85)



Sidewalk along Teri Road

In 2011, the City of Austin constructed **13,826 linear feet** of sidewalks specifically identified as neighborhood plan recommendations.

That is a total of **2.6 miles** of constructed sidewalk

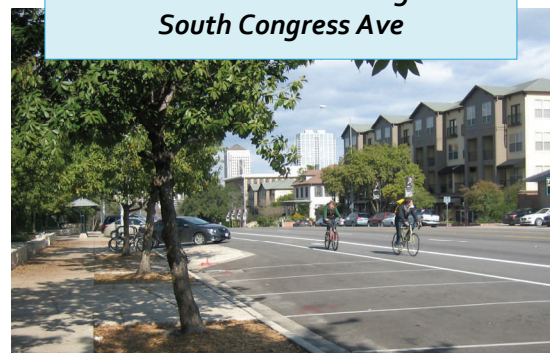
(5,280 feet = 1 mile)

Life In The Bike Lane

LOCATION OF BIKE LANE/ROUTE	LINEAR FEET	NEIGHBORHOOD PLAN (RECOMMENDATION #)
Burleson Rd (Montopolis Dr to US 183)	12,380	Southeast (98)
51st St (Berkman Ln to Springdale Rd)	7,895	University Hills/ Windsor Park (129-B2) E. MLK (110)
South Congress Ave (Riverside Dr to Oltorf St)	7,025	Bouldin Creek (46)
Airport Boulevard (45 th St to Koenig Ln)	5,657	North Loop (3.11)
Springdale Rd (MLK Blvd to 51 st St)	3,200	E. MLK (108)
Kramer Ln (Braker Ln to Burnet Rd)	2,653	N. Burnet /Gateway (4.19)
Gaston Place (Berkman Dr to N. Hampton Dr)	2,478	University Hills/ Windsor Park (129-B1)
7 th St (Navasota St to Chicon St)	2,005	Central East Austin (Objective 6.4)

8.2 miles of new bike lanes/routes identified in neighborhood plans were constructed in 2011.

New Bike Lane along South Congress Ave



*"If you worried about falling off the bike,
you'd never get on."
~ Lance Armstrong*

Updating Neighborhood Plans

Over the years many contact teams have requested updates to their neighborhood plans. While city staff recognizes the need for plan updates, **staff cannot accommodate the request at this time due to several reasons.**

Development and Implementation of *Imagine Austin*—In October 2009, City Council directed staff to begin work on a new Comprehensive Plan, *Imagine Austin*. Developing a new comprehensive plan has been a huge undertaking, and has required many staff hours which would have otherwise been directed to neighborhood planning efforts. Staff is in the final stages of the process and has been busy preparing the final draft plan for the adoption phase of the process, anticipated to begin in March.

Once *Imagine Austin* is adopted, a number of staff will be needed for implementation, including assisting with priority programs, tracking progress, and conducting the City's charter-required annual review.

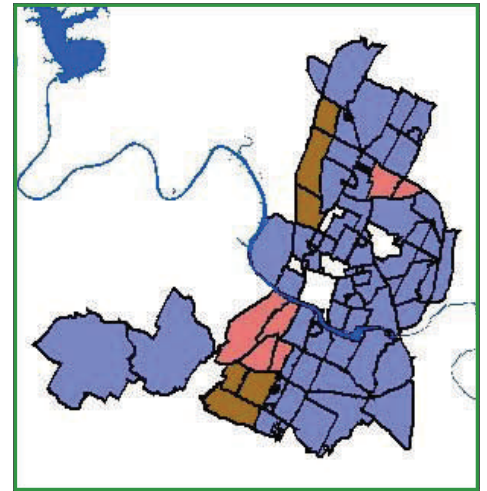
Planning for the remainder of the Urban Core—Staff has been directed to complete neighborhood plans for the core before beginning any major plan updates. Several planning staff will be needed to continue working on developing neighborhood plans for those areas.

When resources become available, planning staff will develop a process for updating neighborhood plans that incorporates the implementation aspects of *Imagine Austin*. While it is not known what the process will look like, there will be opportunities for neighborhoods to participate and help shape the process.

In the meantime, contact teams can request **minor** changes to their plans including the addition of design tools and infill options that were not available for plans adopted prior to April 2000. These types of amendments (subdistrict and area-wide) can be submitted by contact teams once every two years. As part of the application process, the City notifies all property owners and residents within

the subdistrict or planning area of the request and provides an opportunity for input. Contact teams that are interested in pursuing a plan amendment for their area should contact the plan amendment case manager.

Maureen Meredith, Senior Planner
Maureen.Meredith@austintexas.gov



Neighborhood Planning Area Map
The planning areas shown in blue have an adopted neighborhood plan.

DID YOU KNOW?

Did you know that neighborhood planning staff reviews all zoning cases located within planning areas that have an adopted neighborhood plan?

Staff reviews all approved neighborhood plans to determine if the proposed rezoning is consistent with the plan's goals, objectives and other supplemental text. This review is submitted to the zoning planners for consideration and inclusion in their staff reports for the Planning Commission and City Council.

For more information contact:
Justin Golbabai, Senior Planner
Justin.Golbabai@austintexas.gov

Sidewalk Fee-in-lieu Notification Requirements

The Land Development Code allows for developers to "pay-a-fee" in lieu of building sidewalks. When this occurs the monies paid are set aside in a fund for future sidewalk construction in that neighborhood. In the past, contact teams were not notified of fee in lieu payments.

However, Council Member Chris Riley recently spearheaded a resolution requiring notification to contact teams when an application for fee-in-lieu is approved as part of a new subdivision, site plan, or building permit.

"Neighborhoods play an important role in planning our city's sidewalks. The city looks to neighborhood plans for guidance on sidewalk networks; as development occurs, we need to make sure that neighbors are informed about

decisions that affect our progress toward those networks." —Council Member Riley.

Contact teams will now receive notification when the city approves a sidewalk fee-in-lieu so they are aware of funds that may be available to their neighborhood for sidewalk construction. The funds must be spent within ten years within the neighborhood planning area from which they are collected.

If you have any questions or require additional information regarding the sidewalk fee-in-lieu process, please do not hesitate to call Amber Mitchell, Planning and Development Review Department, Land Use Review Division at 974-3428.

City Unveils New Development Web Map Viewer

The City has recently released a new innovative development map viewer. It is an easy to use web application that allows anyone, regardless of experience, to view mapping information. The goal of the viewer is to provide simple access to City's GIS data and allow the user to research property information. In addition to providing general map viewing capabilities, custom queries and

neighborhood association queries have been developed for easy access to specific information. One enhanced feature of the new web map is the ability to search for all development activity within 250', 500', or 1000' of an address. To check out the new development web map go to:

<http://www.ci.austin.tx.us/GIS/DevelopmentWebMap/Viewer.aspx>

NEW WEBSITE!

www.austintexas.gov

Did you notice? We bet you did!

Last month the City of Austin launched a new website. We are aware of the broken links, missing content, and pages lost. We ask for your patience as the city works out these problems.

If you need assistance locating information on the web please contact Jody Zemel, one of the Neighborhood Advisors, and she will help you find what you are looking for.

jody.zemel@austintexas.gov

You can also call 311 and ask to be connected to Jody.

NEIGHBORHOOD PARKS GRANT OPPORTUNITY

Does your contact team want to implement a park project from your neighborhood plan? If so, an Austin Parks Foundation Neighborhood Parks Grant can help!

The grants range from \$300 to \$50,000 and grantees are required to match the grant fund with volunteer labor, community fund raising and in-kind donations.

A mandatory pre-application class will be conducted in late April, and applications are due on **May 30th**. For more information see http://www.austinparks.org/npg_how.html

Bond Development Process

In October 2011, the City of Austin began the process of planning for a future Bond election. A public improvement bond is a way for the city to fund certain projects by borrowing money to be paid back by using a portion of property taxes. During a bond election, Austin voters decide whether the city should borrow money to fund specified city infrastructure, facilities, or other capital improvements projects and programs.

The process started when City Council established a Bond Election Advisory Task Force. The Task Force is charged with identifying and prioritizing projects for bond funding that will advance the vision

of *Imagine Austin*. Over the next several months, the community will have an opportunity to provide input to the Task Force on which projects and programs should be selected for any future bond funding. In May 2012, the Task Force will provide their recommendations for a potential bond package to the City Council. Visit www.AustinTexas.gov/BondDevelopment for more information on opportunities to provide input, including at upcoming community meetings, SpeakUp Austin, by phone or email, and citizen's communication at Task Force and committee meetings.

CONTACTS

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BOND ELECTON **ADVISORY TASK FORCE** **MEETING SCHEDULE**

February 29th, 6 pm
City Hall—Boards and Commissions Room

Free parking with a validated parking ticket.

The Task Force has also established **4 committees**:

- ✓ Affordable Housing
- ✓ City Facilities
- ✓ Parks & Open space
- ✓ Transportation/Mobility

Visit www.AustinTexas.gov/BondDevelopment for the schedule of all Task Force and committee meetings.