Direction in Response to City Manager’s March 15, 2019 Memo re:
Land Development Code Revision Policy Guidance

Each of the City Manager’s five questions is restated below and followed by specific direction.

Question 1. Scope of Code Revision. To what extent should the Land Development Code be revised?

Option A
Adopt a new Land Development Code, consisting of:

i. A new Land Development Code (text) and Zoning Map; to take effect concurrently; or

ii. A new Land Development Code (text) only, with the effective date deferred until Council adopts a new Zoning Map.

Option B
Adopt a limited set of amendments to the existing Land Development Code, targeting improvements in one or more policy areas.

In response to Question 1, the City Council selects Option A.i. and provides the following additional direction:

1. Overall Scope. The new code should prioritize all types of homes for all kinds of people in all parts of town (our Strategic Housing Blueprint goals) and a development pattern that supports 50/50 Transportation Mode Share by 2039 (our Austin Strategic Mobility Plan). The code revision process should use the staff-recommended Draft 3 (text and map) as a baseline, with revisions made to implement policy direction provided below and in response to Questions 2-5. Staff should also review recommendations previously made by boards and commissions on Draft 3 and incorporate those with which staff agrees (all or in part), using a process such as that used for the Austin Strategic Mobility Plan. The Manager should work to deliver a new code that is simplified, can be applied consistently, and furthers the goals of the City.

2. Timeline. The manager should have a revised Land Development Code (text) and Zoning Map ready for Council action on First Reading in October of this year (after Planning Commission issues their report on the text and map as part of the required process).

3. Communication. The Manager should establish and communicate clearly the public input process for Council’s adoption of the revised Land Development Code, including timelines and opportunities for public input. Include a transparent and educational public process under which stakeholders are informed on how their input has been received and is being evaluated.

4. Code Text. The revised Land Development Code should be sufficiently clear and unambiguous that administrative criteria manuals are not relied upon to establish policy, except in