

RESOLUTION NO.

WHEREAS, on May 2nd, 2019, Council adopted “Direction in Response to City Manager’s March 15, 2019 Memo re: Land Development Code Revision Policy Guidance” which included District Level planning direction; and

WHEREAS, the City Manager was directed, “as soon as possible develop a proposed district level planning process for Imagine Austin Activity Centers and Corridors susceptible to change, and include specific objectives for each plan related to achieving the goals of the Austin Strategic Mobility Plan Austin Strategic Housing Blueprint, and other Council policy priorities”; and

WHEREAS, the Imagine Austin Comprehensive Plan adopted a Growth Concept Map that serves as our community’s vision statement and depicts how Austin should accommodate new residents, jobs, mixed-use developments, open space, and transportation infrastructure over the next thirty years; and

WHEREAS, aligning ~~the land development~~ City code and policies with Austin’s Imagine Austin Comprehensive Plan and its Growth Concept Map would provide all parts of Austin with the opportunity for more transportation options, walkable neighborhoods, housing choices, and jobs closer to home; and

WHEREAS, Ordinance No. 20050519-008 established planning processes for Transit Oriented Development (TOD) and Resolution No. 20210610-093 initiated creation of a citywide eTOD Policy Plan to update the City’s existing TOD ordinance and processes and coordinate with TOD planning for Project Connect Orange and Blue lines; and

WHEREAS, this work provides a corridor planning framework for immediate Capital Metro Project Connect initial investments and future corridor planning based on transit access; and

WHEREAS, Resolution No. 20201112-043 initiated a planning process for a Colony Park District Plan, located near an Imagine Austin job center, as “a five census tract area to serve as a guide for creating and maintaining great neighborhoods, economic development, stable jobs, improved connectivity and providing rich, high-quality public spaces”; and

WHEREAS, from time-to-time various resolutions have initiated planning for specified geographic areas in the city under the TOD ordinance or as one-time planning initiatives; and

WHEREAS, a district level planning process ~~incorporated into the Land Development Code~~established by ordinance, as described in the adopted May 2nd, 2019 policy direction, is necessary for planning implementation of Imagine Austin Centers and corridors susceptible to change and will:

1. Establish the process for implementing the vision of the city’s Imagine Austin Comprehensive Plan and the May 2nd, 2019 policy direction;
2. Enhance the ability of city departments and utilities to plan for service upgrades and capacity expansion needed to respond to growth by providing more detailed information about anticipated growth; and
3. Establish provisions ~~in the Land Development Code~~by ordinance to integrate and update existing plans, create new plans in areas that historically have not participated in community-based planning, and create a hierarchy to prioritize geographic areas for planning that aligns with the Imagine Austin Plan. These provisions will enable better coordination between new and existing plans and provide a process to plan for new construction and the impacts on the existing built environment; and

WHEREAS, the City's Land Development Code does not provide any criteria, standards, and/or guidelines for district level planning to implement the Imagine Austin Comprehensive Plan and Growth Concept Plan except for areas that may also be identified as Transit Oriented Developments (TODs) and/or along transit corridors under City Code Section 25-2-147; NOW, THEREFORE,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF AUSTIN:

The City Council ~~initiates amendments to City Code Title 25 (Land Development Code) that will~~ directs the City Manager to create an ordinance that establishes a district level planning process for as set forth by the Imagine Austin Plan to better define how Austin should accommodate new residents, jobs, mixed-use developments, open space, and transportation infrastructure. ~~These amendments~~ The ordinance should accomplish the following:

1. Require that each plan should identify specific objectives related to achieving the goals of the Austin Strategic Mobility Plan (ASMP), Austin Strategic Housing Blueprint, and other Council policy priorities;
2. Establish district level planning ~~in the Land Development Code by~~ ordinance, using parameters established in the May 2, 2019 Council policy document as a guide to the extent these are applicable;
3. Establish that district level planning does not supersede planning occurring under the Transit Oriented Development (TOD) Ordinance No. 20050519-008 (as codified in LDC, Chapter 25-2, Subchapter C, Article 3, Division 10 and Appendix D) and other planning initiatives established by Council resolutions such as the direction in the 2021 ETOD work, Colony Park Northeast Austin District Plan, Palm District, and the North Burnet/Gateway Plan; and

4. Create a process for prioritizing planning for Imagine Austin Centers identified in the Imagine Austin Comprehensive Plan and Growth Concept Map and other areas experiencing growth and include the Del Valle area as a prioritized area for planning;
5. Establish community engagement as a component of each planning process to include communities, businesses, and residents impacted by growth in the areas identified for planning; and
6. Establish equity and anti-displacement strategies as fundamental components of all planning processes; and

The City Council directs the City Manager to return with an ordinance for adoption at a Council meeting by ~~November 3, 2022~~October 13, 2022. The City Manager shall include departments with transportation and housing and planning responsibilities in the process of developing ordinance language and any related policies and/or guidance documents. These departments shall consult with the Planning Commission in developing ordinance language.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED:

The City Council also directs the City Manager to accomplish the following:

1. Guidelines for prioritizing planning areas throughout the city to include the Del Valle area, and with an emphasis on Project Connect commuter, light rail, and MetroRapid corridors in coordination with eTOD planning processes, to proactively address growth so that opportunities to plan for affordable housing, parks, transportation, and transit are not lost due to planning that occurs after areas are fully developed; and

2. Identify any other aspects or best practices for district level planning to include in the ~~Land Development Code amendment~~ordinance and/or as necessary to establish an effective process for planning Imagine Austin Activity Centers and corridors susceptible to change.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED:

The City Council also directs the City Manager to:

1. specify timeline, steps, and resources needed to implement district level planning;
2. designate a City department to ~~implement~~lead district level planning;
3. determine the appropriate department(s), including departments with transportation and housing responsibilities, to manage and/or coordinate the planning tasks; and
4. identify and include appropriate resources in the 2022-2023 City Budget to initiate the district level planning process.

ADOPTED: _____, 2022 **ATTEST:** _____
Myrna Rios
City Clerk