

CITY OF AUSTIN

Enhancing Public Participation at City Council

Twitter Comments

1/22/2015

Expanding Public input

Proposed Strategies Include

- Expand the usage of technology through interface , expansion of data, the continued use of social media, email use and phone use
- Expand interaction between committees council members and community members.
- Continue to push for wide community participation in public input meetings
- Separate public input from committee decisions
- Stand alone zoning meetings
- A line item budget
- Organize more frequent/shorter meetings

Summary

- The twitter feed revealed overall positive reaction to the proposed and utilized means of public input and are advocating for the continuation of that.

CremaGrande	#myatxgov Technology needs to interface amongst all City departments, often the left hand has no idea what the right is doing
Ivy Le	Pretty much agree with everything @chpr said at #myatxgov council meeting. Opening up data never did hurt a democracy.
Heidi Gerbracht	It wld be mistake to cut city staff out of or limit staffs input to council. They have prof expertise separated from politics. #myatxgov
JD Gins	I support (love) the tele-townhall call in process for testimony. #myatxgov4
Jimmy Flannigan	Anyone else feel the irony that while #myatxgov debates expanding public input, 10 blocks away #txlege works to limit it
Joe Deshotel	Kudos to the new #atxcouncil for holding a town hall and taking questions via social media and by phone. #myatxgov
Julie Montgomery	The moment #myatxgov's public input is NOT dominated by the 50+ crowd will be the moment I'll consider downplaying social media for input.
Heidi Gerbracht	It wld be great to be able to opt in to getting email notice when certain mtg agendas are posted since there will be so many.

	#myatxgov
Andrei Lubomudrov	I am really so impressed with this new #ATXCouncil tonight. It really feels like change is in the air. #myatxgov
Austin Texas	Town Hall on proposed Council committees has concluded but you can give feedback at http://www.speakupaustin.org , call 3-1-1, or use #myatxgov.
Shellee O'Brien	#myatxgov could win support by showing flow of info between members, committees & communities; not just which direction a petition flows
Andrei Lubomudrov	Truth! MT @JaceDeloney: I'm all for better public input tools, but end of day what matters most is what is done with that input. #myatxgov
Saundra Ragona	@austintexasgov Consider having district meetings in the district w/ council member to carry back to council #myatxgov
Marie Acuna	#myatxgov For the committees listed, didn't see technology/technology innovations. How will this be covered?
Austin Texas	What do you think about the proposed Council committee plan? Watch at http://www.atxn.tv , listen on KAZI FM 88.7 FM or use #myatxgov
Rossana Barrios	Participating in #myatxgov interactive online opportunity!
Stonewall Austin	use #myatxgov to comment on line NEW COUNCIL at WORK #ATXCouncil
Ivy Le	A brand new @austintexasgov city council coming out of the gate strong tonight! Check out http://SpeakUpAustin.org to give input. #myatxgov
CAN	Austin considering new committee structure for receiving public input and making decisions #myatxgov
Sheppard John C	3 minutes goes quickly.... #myatxgov
Amos Stoltzfus	Happy to see many ways to give input to #ATXCouncil! #MyATXGov

Tim Bonnemann	Impressed w/ opportunities for remote participation offered at #myatxgov city council meeting: http://bit.ly/1GDTUNI /cc @LarrySchooler
Jackie Wang	People are already using the call-in comment option at the #ATXCouncil meeting. I want to see the tweets. #myatxgov
Amos Stoltzfus	Sprawl/congestion are obstacles to in person engagement. Maybe #ATXCouncil needs to approve a new land use code? #myatxgov
Regina Lawrence	Really impressive and inspiring to hear Austin citizens engaging--in person and remotely! #myatxgov
Amos Stoltzfus	#ATXCouncil needs to use tech not only to hear from citizens but also to make sense of what they're hearing #MyATXGov
Ivy Le	.@austintexasgov Physically packing city hall=activist tradition. What about written discourse, accessible to average moderates?
Ivy Le	@austintexasgov New committee proposal lacks explicit stage to review public discourse (news AND blogs, Twitter debates, etc.) #myatxgov
Bruce Lee III	How can we achieve this kind of participation at every meeting? It's great to see so many here! #myatxgov
Ivy Le	10-1 council efforts already working! Several #myatxgov tweets read aloud, then caller sans computer promised to listen to every meeting.
Madeline Krebs	...I'm the youngest in the room right now at the first #atxcouncil meeting of the new council, where my @UTAustin students at? #myatxgov
JD Gins	I like the idea of more committee hearings, I don't think that should circumvent public testimony in front of the entire council. #myatxgov
Kraft	I like the ideas to avoid regular marathon-length meetings. Okay to try, realize problems, and iterate. Better than current way. #myatxgov
JD Gins	If someone spoke to a committee they should not be denied the right to speak to the entire council. #myatxgov

JD Gins	I support the threshold being low (4) for council members being able to bring agenda items to the entire council. #myatxgov
JD Gins	This is important b/c key decisions that come before the council already go through the committees process. #myatxgov (However rarely is there media (or general public) attention until issues are going before the entire council. #myatxgov Most citizen tune into votes the council makes long after the committee process. #myatxgov (3/4)The ability to mobilize citizens post the committee process should be preserved and easy. #myatxgov
JD Gins	Swift passage through the committee process does not imply full public vetting or support. #myatxgov
JD Gins	I 100% support hold more meetings as a method to reducing the length of meetings. #myatxgov
JD Gins	I support stand alone zoning meetings. #myatxgov
GUMBULLY	In my opinion, goals of Mobility and Land Use are mutually reliant; hope to see these two committees forged together #myatxgov #ATXcouncil
JD Gins	support (love) the tele-townhall call in process for testimony. #myatxgov
JD Gins	I support more public input through many of the methods laid out here. Let's aim for quality and quantity. #myatxgov
Heidi Gerbracht	It wld be great to be able to opt in to getting email notice when certain mtg agendas are posted since there will be so many. #myatxgov
TakeBack AustinParks	Email input is more efficient than 3 minute speeches and gives council time to digest but often no response so we assume not read #myatxgov
Allison G. Heinrich	Suggestion made to have 1 min testimony at full #atxcouncil mtn. Cites changes/substitutes etc made in committee. #myatxgov
Andra Lim	each committee could have a page on http://speakupaustin.org to publicly accumulate citizen comments on upcoming agenda items #myatxgov

Jay Wiley	Caller at #atxcouncil mewing says public input should be separated from final decision by Council. Good idea. #myatxgov
CremaGrande	#myatxgov Budgets need to be line item budgets, so we can see where our tax dollars are going
JD Gins	Going to take a stab at offering my suggestion / thoughts on our civic engagement process! #myatxgov
JD Gins	Not sure I agree no good decisions are ever made in the middle of the night. Look to the legendary SOS ordinance. #myatxgov
JD Gins	After robust public input that went late into the night, the council caved 2 the will of public & passed this critical ordinance. #myatxgov
Allison G. Heinrich	Yall phone ins, recapping twitter, and a poll. What is this madness? Glad to see it! #myatxgov #atxcouncil
Pysops	Onwards Technocracy! <u>#myatxgov</u>
Jace Deloney	I'm all for better public input tools. They're great. At end of day, though, what matters most is what is done with that input. <u>#myatxgov</u>
Jace Deloney	Lest we forget that all of the tools on display at tonight's <u>#myatxgov</u> mtg were used during the Project Connect Central Corridor Process
Andrei Lubomudrov	Truth! MT <u>@JaceDeloney</u> : I'm all for better public input tools, but end of day what matters most is what is done with that input. <u>#myatxgov</u>
Jimmy Flannigan	Love neighborhood assoc. too, but most rent. Don't let NAs be the core of engagement. It's why @nwatx is a leadership group. #myatxgov
Ivy Le	2 comments re: investment in minority business tonight: perfect example of complex issue suited to written research and discourse. #myatxgov
Allison G. Heinrich	I'd really rather not die just to give that preference. - on lack of sidewalk network, buses, etc #myatxgov #atxcouncil

Debmocracy	lol. love Jennifer McPhail. "rather not die to give that input...just a preference." more accessibility! #myatxgov
Allison G. Heinrich	Must use print, radio, tv. Use neighborhood newsletters, bulletins, etc. Also use new & social media and listservs. #myatxgov #atxcouncil
Joe Deshotel	Handicapable citizen asks #atxcouncil members to hold events at accessible venues, near public transportation options. #myatxgov
Allison G. Heinrich	Asking for for, against, and neutral, etc., as options. Ive seen this work fine in other venues & deliberative bodies. #atxcouncil #myatxgov
Debmocracy	good call on "for/against/neutral" being too black and white/develop a 4th choice: "just input". NO LIMITING INPUT to just CMTES! #myatxgov
Susan Lippman	good call on "for/against/neutral" being too black and white/develop a 4th choice: "just input". NO LIMITING INPUT to just CMTES! #myatxgov
GUMBULLY	Open Space is also a cross-cutting topic, germane to sustainability/resiliency, yes, but also to land use. Social & environmental #myatxgov
Allison G. Heinrich	Agree exec session on a different day is great. Thinking back to my first time(s) coming to meetings as a J student. #myatxgov #atxcouncil
Debmocracy	Go Ruby Roa! We need a new way forward with AustinEnergy...put it under public utilities! #myatxgov
Allison G. Heinrich	Current plea is for better customer service. City departments treating folks better when they need help. #atxcouncil #myatxgov
Allison G. Heinrich	There will always be a place to skeptics at #atxcouncil. - @AdlerForAustin #myatxgov
Allison G. Heinrich	@Debmocracy Im in @PedernalesCoop now. Only had @austinenergy for a year, never had to deal with customer service. #myatxgov #atxcouncil

Chip Rosenthal	@jdatx Agreed. @openaustin is advocating improved agendas and notification features. #myatxgov
Allison G. Heinrich	More ways we do outreach the more folks we reach and more backgrounds/ media, etc., consumption types we will cover. #myatxgov #atxcouncil
Brendan	@UrbanHaiku @austintexasgov I guess we'll just have to start a revolution #myatxgov
Allison G. Heinrich	Must partner with Round Rock, Leander, and AISD, etc., schools if we go that route. #myatxgov #atxcouncil
NewWayForward	Why does Austin Energy need two Chief Information Officers? Is this what is meant by Best Managed City? #myatxgov
JD Gins	It's not a myth #myatxgov

Youth Participation

Proposed strategies include

- *Incentivizing the younger generation to participate in the City Council and attend public input meetings.*
- *Holding public input meetings at local universities to allow accessibility to youth who desire to attend.*
- *Discuss engagement in schools to culminate public engagement from a young age*

Summary

- *Many noticed that there was an absence of youth at the community meeting as well as an overall lack of youth participation in the community.*

Brendan	I think the younger generation needs an incentive to participate in City Council. Civic duty and general interest isn't enough. #myatxgov
Ivy Le	@bemarsh Young Austinites <3 this city, but maybe don't know how to participate or don't realize how @austintexasgov affects QOL. #myatxgov

Debmocracy	Casar fist-bumps Troxclair for her shout out to them being youngest councilmembers ever/desire to engage youth of ATX #myatxgov
Ivy Le	.@impactnews_cta I'm "that tweeter." @EllenforAustin/@GregorioCasar hopefully just a start to significant young participation in #myatxgov.
Ivy Le	.@bemarsh We gotta recruit @juliamontgomery who @Oraatx1 just thanked for "representing the young people" at tonight's #myatxgov mtg. :)
Chip Rosenthal	@madelinekrebs several UT LBJ students came to support the @openaustin input #myatxgov
Allison G. Heinrich	I feel like there is a way via speaking engagement etc to do more in schools to engage kids early. #myatxgov #atxcouncil

Committees

Proposed strategies include

- *Maintain the technology committee*
- *Support the Community Engagement Task Force*
- *Support stand alone Social Justice committee or integrate social justice into standing committees.*

Summary

- *Community members are concerned about losing the Technology Committee and with being able to interact with all committee agendas. Furthermore wide discussion over the social justice committee occurred on the twitter feed.*

Daniel Reyes	#myatxgov How will people get selected to be on a standing committee?
Drew Arnold	@austintexasgov Will there be any Council related committee meeting that won't be open to the public? #myatxgov
JD Gins	The prioritization of the committee process could have the ill effect of empowering city hall insiders who track committees. #myatxgov
Drew Arnold	@austintexasgov Want to see the Emerging Tech committee remain. The backbone of enhanced #civicengagement is

	emerging tech. #myatxgov
Jackie Wang	#myatxgov Community Engagement Task Force! What's the plan with that and how will you encourage students to participate?
TakeBack AustinParks	each committee could have a page on http://speakupaustin.org to publicly accumulate citizen comments on upcoming agenda items #myatxgov
Julie Montgomery	@jdatx Social justice is really an issue that shd be woven throughout HHS, housing, planning, mobility, econ dev, pub safety, etc #myatxgov
Allison G. Heinrich	Speaker from @workersdefense on need for language access. Ppl can communicate w/ #atxcouncil but also be able to understand mtn. #myatxgov
Democracy	The tweets don't lie. Social justice stand-alone committee is what the ppl want Council! :-) #myatxgov
Allison G. Heinrich	Also concern brought up that committees can kill bills. I thought there was a bypass via x no of councilmembers. #myatxgov #atxcouncil
Allison G. Heinrich	CM Casar says social justice should be seen in every committee. #myatxgov #atxcouncil
Gumbully	Yes! "I would like to see social justice represented in every one of these committees" @GregorioCasar #myatxgov
Debmocracy	Roy Waley bringing it home:AE not a sep. 4 member cmte/replace it with SOCIAL JUSTICE cmte!!! Have I told u lately I love u Roy? #myatxgov
JD Gins	Not sure I think social justice should be linked to health and human service committee. It should stand alone. #myatxgov
Daniel Reyes	#myatxgov I agree, social justice should not fall under human services. Social justice/human rights should have their own committee.
NewWayForward	Ruby, Carol and Roy make great point about utilities in one committee. AE manages billing system for all the city utilities.#myatxgov
Andrei Lubomudrov	It's no easy task to give an important issue the focus its due without compartmentalizing it. #myatxgov
Daniel Reyes	#myatxgov Human Rights committee to work to defending the rights of people and upholding their dignity
JD Gins	The ability to track 13(?) committees agendas is difficult and not something a majority of citizens are able to do. #myatxgov

General Meeting Comments

Summary

- *The following tweets reflect positive comments made about the meeting overall as well as tweets informing community members about the public input meeting.*

Austin HSEM	#ATXCouncil wants to see more of YOU at City Hall...Find out more and voice your opinion now: http://ow.ly/HsTqL #MyATXGov
ATX Mobility Depts.	Hey, #Austin! Be heard! Tell #ATXCouncil what you think of its new proposal for Council Mtgs./Committees: http://ow.ly/HsUR9 #MyATXGov
Austin Texas	Your time matters... so tell us how #ATXCouncil 's new meeting structure fits into your schedule: http://ow.ly/HsL1a #MyATXGov
Change Austin	Your time matters... so tell us how #ATXCouncil 's new meeting structure fits into your schedule: #MyATXGov: Your... http://dlvr.it/87s0kw
Austin Texas	Your voice matters...so tell #ATXCouncil what you think of its new plan for Council Mtgs http://ow.ly/HsL6D Share/RT using #MyATXGov
Mike Dominguez	Your voice matters...so tell #ATXCouncil what you think of its new plan for Council Mtgs http://ow.ly/HsL6D via @austintexasgov #MyATXGov
Change Austin	Your voice matters...so tell #ATXCouncil what you think of its new plan for Council Mtgs Share/RT using #MyATXGov:... http://dlvr.it/88GBGX
ATX Mobility Depts.	#ATXGov belongs to YOU. Join in and tell #ATXCouncil what you think of its new plan for meeting structure: http://ow.ly/HsTmE #MyATXGov
Austin Texas	Do shorter, more frequent #ATXCouncil meetings better fit your schedule? Tell us!: http://ow.ly/HsLr3 #MyATXGov

Change Austin	Do shorter, more frequent #ATXCouncil meetings better fit your schedule? Tell us!: #MyATXGov: Do shorter, more... http://dlvr.it/88t3NV
Laurie Felker Jones	Looking forward to learning more about the #publicengagement task force proposed by #myatxgov
SRCC Austin	Share your ideas in person @ City Hall or tweet in using #myatxgov. Also join the #speakupaustin discussion here: http://tinyurl.com/o7amset
Austin Texas	No plans this Thursday night? Come tell #ATXCouncil your thoughts on its new proposal for mtgs. structure http://ow.ly/HI9GK #MyATXGov
Austin Texas	New #ATXCouncil may change how it makes decisions that affect you... Join the conversation: http://ow.ly/HITox #MyATXGov
ATX Mobility Depts.	Do shorter, more frequent #ATXCouncil meetings better fit your schedule? Tell us!: http://ow.ly/HsTgt #MyATXGov
TakeBack AustinParks	City staff would need to engage citizens for input as more than formality & not AFTER the decisions made #myatxgov
TakeBack AustinParks	Can we trust City staff to filter citizen input to Council after documented attempt to keep public in dark for @TownLakePark vote? #myatxgov
TakeBack AustinParks	Would like to see Council take leadership rather than just following staff lead. Make arrows go both ways eg Council <--> Staff #myatxgov
Austin Public Library	Hey, #Austin! Be heard! Tell #ATXCouncil what you think of its new proposal for Council Mtgs./Committees: http://ow.ly/HJnYQ #MyATXGov
Open Austin	We're concerned that the #atxcouncil public engagement proposal eliminates tech committee. http://www.austintexas.gov/myatxgov #myatxgov
KUT Austin	Those who've felt left out of city council's decision-making can now voice their views online or by phone: http://kutne.ws/1ySw6BW #myatxgov
Open Austin	We're going to #myatxgov public hearing to speak in favor of creating a Technology & Civic Data committee. http://www.austintexas.gov/myatxgov
A. Strauss Institute	Share your thoughts with new #ATXcouncil tonight at a Town Hall led by @AStraussInst fellow @LarrySchooler #myatxgov
Monica Loera Sanchez	if u can't make tonight's town hall, then provide ur feedback here! City council is listening! #myatxgov

Watershed Protection	Hey, #Austin! Be heard! Tell #ATXCouncil what you think of its new proposal for Council Mtgs./Committees: http://ow.ly/HEkY8 #MyATXGov
Joseph Caterine	More people filing in, slowly but surely #myatxgov
KUT Austin	Starting tonight there are new ways to communicate with the city council & mayor. Find out more here: http://kutne.ws/1BN5YZQ #myatxgov
Eric Hegwer	@austintexasgov @AustinWatershed #MyATXGov #meetingsaboutmeetings
Austin Texas	To participate in tonight's Council discussion, call 888-400-1932, en Espanol 888-400-9342, or use #myatxgov, http://speakupaustin.org , 3-1-1
Joseph Caterine	Discussion of Public Engagement plan about to start #myatxgov
Ann Eaton	#ATXCouncil #myatxgov
Shellee O'Brien	Current count of how many times the live feed has died on me: 3. Important to know shortcomings of these channels too #myatxgov
Joseph Caterine	People at home interested in participating in the discussion can call 8884401932 or can leave a message with 3-1-1 #myatxgov
Jeff Stensland TWCN	#atxcouncil discussion is underway. Follow along on Channel 6. Tweet #myatxgov
Ann Eaton	Live poll at the Council Town Hall! #MyATXGov My City rocks!
JD Gins	Good lucky yall. Yall look great on channel 6. And thank you for this transparent and engaging process process. #myatxgov
Jackie Wang	Tweet #myatxgov to participate in tonight's #ATXCouncil discussion!
Ivy Le	Not nearly enough young people at the @austintexasgov special called city council meeting tonight. Why is that? #myatxgov
JD Gins	Watching the ATX council planning meeting at home on channel 6. #myatxgov
CAN	Mayor Adler will appoint Council Members to new Council Subcommittees #myatxgov
Leticia Molina	#myatxgov
Tina Cannon	I just love my city tonight even more than I did yesterday! #atxcouncil #myatxgov
Regina Lawrence	nice shout out from a caller to @LarrySchooler and #myatxgov: "This is the best thing that ever happened to

	Austin..."
Stonewall Austin	Democracy at work #myatxgov
Denny for District 5	Citizen Engagement #myATXgov #ATXCouncil #NewWayForward http://fb.me/7o5s64lpK
Debmocracy	@chpr speaking truth at City Hall if the TX lege can have a working notification system, #myatxgov can!
Nik Hadjigeorge	@chpr speaking on behalf of @openaustin to the #ATXCouncil #myatxgov
Rossana Barrios	@HGerbracht : I'm watching #myatxgov #ATXCouncil live. Very interesting options for #citizen_engagement processes.
Sheppard John C	this format is informative & also entertaining...it's like old TWCch.6 meets the ch.10 publicaccess channel w/ a twist of @twitter #myatxgov
Sheppard John C	permuatations and combinations, math is fun #myatxgov #atxcouncil
Julie Montgomery	Is this the first time this #ATXCouncil has heard from Stuart Harry Hersh, who, like most in Austin, rents? #historic #myatxgov
Sheppard John C	flip a coin 99 times in a row & it comes up heads all 99 times, what are the odds it will be heads on flip 100? 50% #myatxgov #atxcouncil
Debmocracy	Mayor Adler gives atty Lou McCreary props for planting the seed 1 year ago for this public input on public input hearing #myatxgov
Change Austin	Mayor/Council taking public comments on council committee proposal. Join discussion:888-400-1932,#myatxgov, , 3-1-1 http://dlvr.it/8Bz2NZ
TakeBack AustinParks	Watching #myatxgov town hall on channel 6
JD Gins	Good luck y'all. You look great on channel 6. And thank you for this transparent and engaging process process. #myatxgov
Debmocracy	uber-left-brainer presents what looks to be a well-thought out plan. post that on speakup please Larry! #myatxgov
Larry Schooler	@Debmocracy thanks--please do that or have the author of the plan do so. We are moderators of the site not direct contributors #myatxgov
Ivy Le	Austin #Affordability Blogger not on Twitter, so here's @ATXyimby: Austin Area Year End 2014 Housing Stats. #myatxgov

Debmocracy	Bill Oakey...TRUTH!!! how many times the largest group of ppl waiting to speak is made to wait until last #myatxgov
Joe Deshotel	Kudos to the new #atxcouncil for holding a town hall and taking questions via social media and by phone. #myatxgov
Heidi Gerbracht	9 mins left of time posted for this public hearing. Wonder how swiftly they can wrap it up. #myatxgov
Ivy Le	Props to @LarrySchooler & @austintexasgov tech fr @GregorioCasar for coordinating tweets/phone/speakers tonight! Not easy. #myatxgov
Allison G. Heinrich	Poll shows overwhelming satisfaction w tonight #atxcouncil mtn. 21 very good, 13 good, 4 neutral, 2 not great & 2 needs maj impr. #myatxgov
Sheppard John C.	D/E daring & excellent @austintxgov #myatxgov a little is good, more is better first step 10-1, next step 20-1=more "opportunity" districts
Austin Texas	Town Hall on proposed Council committees has concluded but you can give feedback at http://www.speakupaustin.org , call 3-1-1, or use #myatxgov.
Daniel Reyes	Great job #ATXCouncil and thanks to fellow tweeters...it's been fun and looking forward to positive changes for #ATX! #Peace #myatxgov
Change Austin	Town Hall on proposed Council committees has concluded but you can give feedback at , call 3-1-1, or use #myatxgov. http://dlvr.it/8C2KnK
Shellee O'Brien	#myatxgov could win support by showing flow of info between members, committees & communities; not just which direction a petition flows
Eye over Austin	Pretty exciting stuff #myatxgov if you want to talk to city council #austin #txlege #citycouncil #atx #progressivegovernance #texas #tx #512
Pysops	@johnsheppard @austintxgov #myatxgov eventually each presinct and later on every voter until Democracy is truly achieved. But baby steps)
Chip Rosenthal	The @AustinTexasGov PIO team did a good job pulling together the #myatxgov meeting in less than a week.
Pysops	Blue eye in the red storm @JimmyFlannigan: #myatxgov vs #txlege