

THE CITY OF AUSTIN TRANSPORTATION DEPARTMENT 2017 ANNUAL REPORT



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AustinTexas.gov/Transportation

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KEEPING AUSTIN ON THE MOVE

The Austin Transportation Department works to provide a safe, efficient, innovative, cost-effective and sustainable transportation system for our community. This system connects roadways, bikeways, walkways and transit systems to provide residents with improved access and mobility.

Working toward this mission, the department has a staff of approximately 270 full-time employees, with an annual budget of \$43 million.

This annual report will showcase the department's operations and achievements for 2017.

GETTING INTO GEAR

2017 was a year in which Austin built on previous gains, kicking [2016 Mobility Bond](#) implementation into high gear, making on-the-ground safety improvements through the ongoing [Vision Zero Program](#), and harnessing excitement from the previous year's Smart Mobility Challenge into a [Smart Mobility Roadmap](#) to guide our transportation future.

Austin Transportation also partnered up with Capital Metro to host the first "Traffic Jam" and gather community input on the City-led Austin Strategic Mobility Plan and Capital Metro's Project Connect, long-term plans that will shape Austin for decades to come.

WHAT WE DO

Ensuring Public Safety and Clean Air

As an integral part of urban life, transportation can widely affect public safety and health. Through specialized programs, the Austin Transportation Department strives to make transportation safer and more sustainable.

Vision Zero

[Vision Zero](#) is an international movement to eliminate all traffic-related deaths and injuries. In 2016, the City of Austin adopted the Vision Zero Action Plan to achieve this goal by year 2025. Austin Transportation works to improve roadway designs to enhance safety and reduce crashes, and collaborates with Austin Police across different strategic areas to increase public awareness and enforcement on measures to prevent traffic deaths and injuries.

➤ *Vision Zero Outreach and Awareness*

- 70 outreach events
- 22, 505 people reached
- 924 people who signed the Vision Zero pledge

➤ *Enforcement: Vision Zero in Action*

[Vision Zero in Action](#) encompasses targeted enforcement of traffic safety laws on Austin streets, followed



shortly by distribution of educational materials about transportation safety. Police officers target behaviors and locations that result in a disproportionate share of crashes in which people are injured or killed, as well as behaviors that contribute to congestion and air quality issues. Specific locations and enforcement efforts are informed by Austin Transportation and Austin Police data.

- 5,347 total citations and warnings for Vision Zero in Action enforcement

Top Citations and Warnings

- 1,626 speeding
- 1,231 driver inattention / hands-free violation, e.g., texting while operating a vehicle in motion
- 351 failure to stop

Austin Traffic Deaths, Year by Year

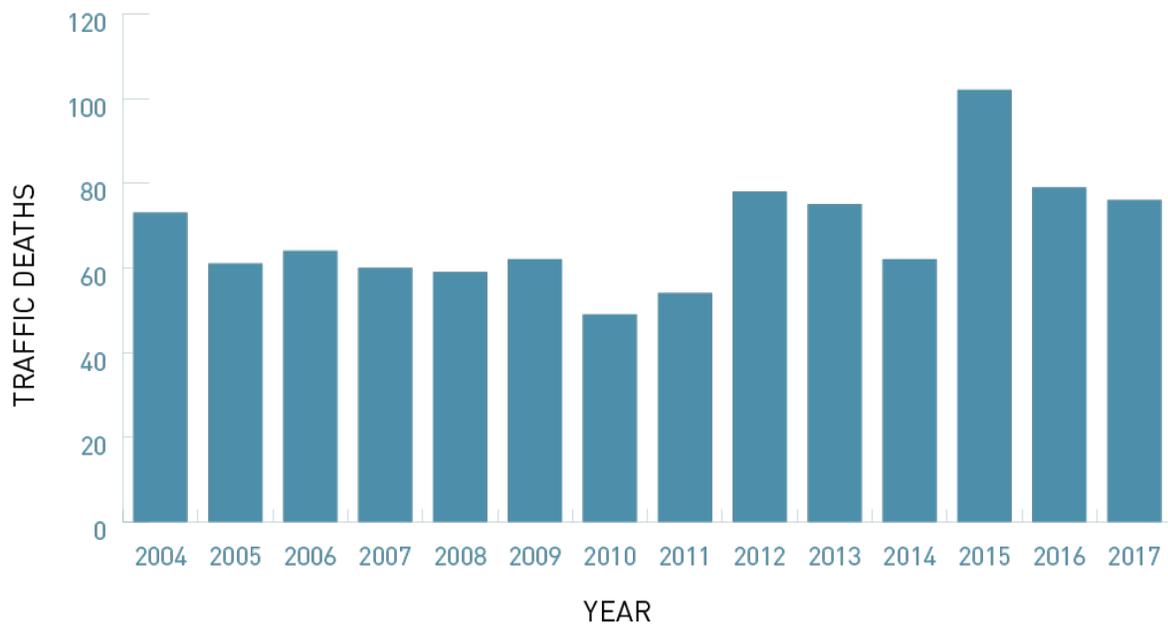


Figure 1 Traffic deaths in Austin, year by year, from 2004 to 2017.

More information can be found on the [City of Austin's Vision Zero program website](#), where you will find reports on crash statistics and program enforcement.

Air Quality

The City's air quality program aims to promote healthy outdoor air for all residents while also reducing traffic congestion. By encouraging people to take up sustainable alternatives to driving alone, we can positively impact our region's air quality.

- 248 "good" air quality days
- 110 "moderate" air quality days
- 7 "unhealthy for sensitive groups" air quality days



The design value of ozone for Austin in 2017 was 69 ppb, which was 99% of that of the National Ambient Air Quality Standards (NAAQS). A design value is a statistic that describes the air quality status of a given location relative to the level of the NAAQS.

Strengthening the Multimodal System

As Austin continues to grow, the Austin Transportation Department makes sure to monitor traffic and incidents in its connected system around the clock and bring improvements where needed.

Transportation Management Center

The Transportation Management Center (TMC) is the City of Austin's headquarters for monitoring and managing traffic throughout the Austin area. The center is staffed seven days a week through peak travel times, and may be staffed continuously through large events. Visit the [Transportation Management Center's Data and Performance Hub](#) to see more and follow [@austinmobility on Twitter](#) for real-time traffic updates.

- 11,126 customer service requests addressed over the year
- 3,360 field technician repair dispatches over the year
- More than 34,000 hours of citizen travel time saved over the year due to TMC intervention
- 216 signal timing adjustments over the year
- 1/3 of traffic signals retimed over the year
- \$1,716,700 or more total taxpayer dollars saved in travel time over the year
- 569 traffic update Twitter posts
- 20 special events managed across 56 days

Signs, Markings and Signals

- 2,482 miles of roadway, measured by centerline length, in the City's full purpose jurisdiction
- 7,725 miles of lanes (centerline roadway length multiplied by number of lanes) in the City's full purpose jurisdiction
- 785 miles of roadway markings maintained — almost 1/3 of all roadway length in the city
- 3,787 new road signs installed
- 29,085 road signs that were repaired or replaced
- 1,145 crosswalks maintained
- 18,364 raised pavement markers Installed
- 9 new traffic signals turned on
- 10 pedestrian hybrid beacons turned on
- 1,059 traffic signals and pedestrian hybrid beacons operated by ATD
 - 997 traffic signals
 - 62 PHBs



Promoting Active and Sustainable Modes

Our department works to improve city streets in the interest of safety and mobility for people of all ages and abilities as they drive, walk, bike and take transit.

Designing Safer Streets

Through extensive vetting, analysis, engineering and design, our safety improvement projects at major locations address safety on a large scale.

- 3 completed major intersection safety improvement projects
- 30 completed multimodal street safety projects
- 11.9 miles of on-street bicycle facilities added, bringing Austin to a total of 256 miles of bicycle facilities

Completed first Pedestrian Safety Action Plan

The [Austin Pedestrian Safety Action Plan](#) provides a comprehensive strategy for addressing pedestrian safety in service to a more walkable environment that contributes to Austin's vision for a sustainable, socially equitable, affordable and economically prosperous city.

Published pilot Austin Street Design Guide

The pilot [Austin Street Design Guide](#) is a modern guide for street design that considers street function, context and all transportation modes. The guide contains street cross-sections and serves as a precursor to updates to the City's Transportation Criteria Manual.

Smart Trips

[Smart Trips Austin](#) is an active transportation options program that aims to reduce single-occupant vehicle trips and increase trips taken by foot, bike, bus or shared car. The City of Austin and Capital Metro work together to encourage Austinites to consider more sustainable options for getting around town. Smart Trips activities in 2017 include...

- 12,349 households reached
- 1,005 toolkits delivered
- 22 hosted walks, bike rides and transit adventures
- 25 community events



Community Connections

We stay connected to the community through engagement and outreach in the form of completed service requests, weekly newsletter updates, press releases and more. In 2017, the department...

... responded to 24,442 customer service requests...

- Traffic Signals, 45.52%
- Signs and Markings, 18.49%
- Traffic Engineering, 13.48%
- Right-of-Way Management, 11.53%
- Parking Meters, 6.69%
- Active Transportation, 1.73%
- Special Events, 1.38%
- Parking Enforcement, 1.19%

Austin Transportation Department Service Requests Completed in 2017

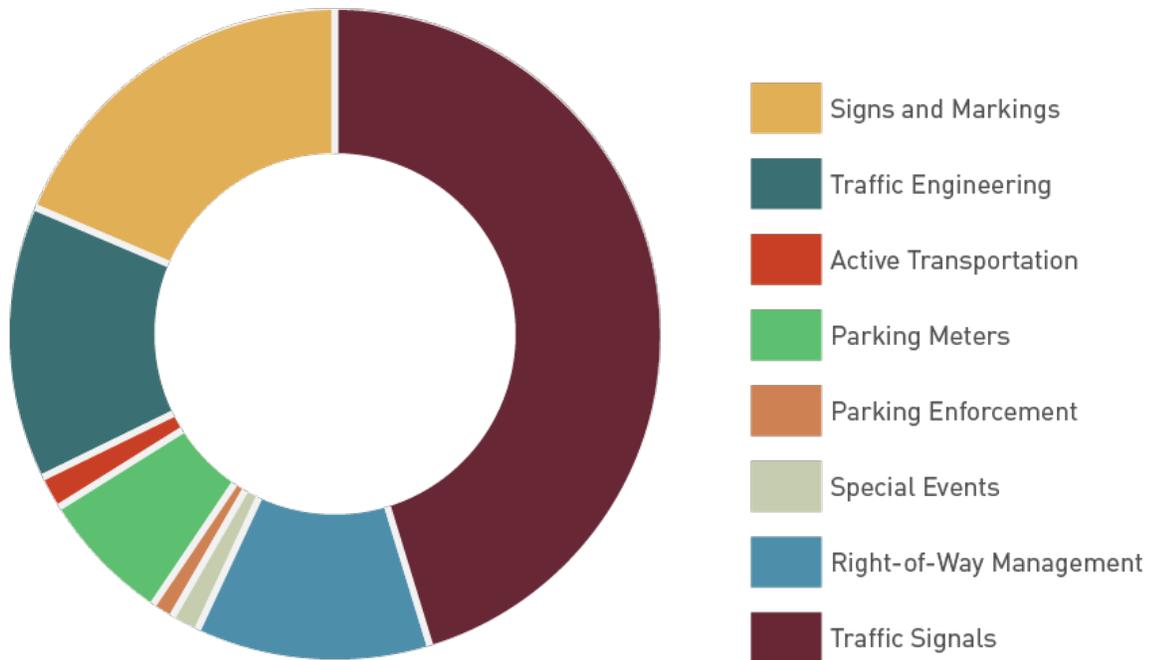


Figure 2 Completed customer service requests broken down by department divisions

... and sent out [51 mobility newsletters](#) to about 4,300 subscribers and [19 press releases](#).



Regulating and Permitting

To ensure safety and smooth operations for all road users, Austin Transportation staff oversee the regulation and permitting of the City's right of way for a variety of purposes and occasions.

Special Events

- 168 special events held that were permitted by Austin Transportation
- 293 special events days

Right-of-Way Management

- Number of permits issued
 - Excavation: **10,849**
 - Driveway/Sidewalk: **2,944**
 - Temporary Use of the Right of Way (usually construction): **1,653**
 - Parking (for using a City parking space for temporary loading and unloading): **1,393**
 - Valet (for operating customer vehicle drop-off and return zones, temporary or permanent): **314**
 - Film: **227**
 - Sidewalk Café: **15**
 - Vendor: **14**

Parking

- 220 new metered parking spaces
- 15% of all transactions were for metered parking made with the ParkX pay-by-phone app
- 200 parking spaces available in the Affordable Parking Program

Affordable Parking Program

Austin Transportation's [Affordable Parking Program](#) provides parking overnight at City-owned facilities in or near the downtown area for hospitality and service industry workers. The monthly charge is \$35, which is significantly lower than typical downtown parking garage prices. In 2017, the city offered 200 available spaces through the program and looks to expand as more facilities are made available.



ANNUAL HIGHLIGHTS

- **January:** The City of Austin is selected as one of 10 Big Jump Project cities to double bicycle ridership in the next three years from 2017 to 2020.
- **February:** Austin Transportation launches community conversation series called Walk + Bike Talks.
- **March**
 - Austin Transportation launches the #ATXOnTheRoad message contest, asking residents to submit their most clever safety messages to run on the city's dynamic message signs.
 - Austin Transportation releases the [Vision Zero online input map tool](#) to gather public feedback on traffic-related safety concerns.
 - Austin Transportation and Capital Metro host the Austin Traffic Jam, officially launching the Austin Strategic Mobility Plan and Project Connect.
- **April:** Austin Transportation invites stakeholders to lunch and a discussion about [street impact fees](#) at the Alamo Drafthouse in downtown Austin.
- **May:** Austin Transportation partners with the Central Texas Clean Air Coalition to host the Air Quality Awareness Week Breakfast.
- **June:** Austin Transportation initiates the start of a public discussion around the [Austin Street Design Guide](#).
- **July:** Austin Transportation installs and operates bicycle signals at 12 intersections in Central Austin.
- **August:** Austin Transportation dispatches crews to Victoria, Texas, to aid in post-Hurricane Harvey efforts to repair traffic signals and road signs.
- **September:** Austin Transportation encourages businesses and organizations to participate in PARK(ing) Day by transforming parking spaces into pocket parks for a day.
- **October**
 - Austin Transportation releases the latest version of the [Austin Bicycle Map](#).
 - Austin Transportation releases the [Smart Mobility Roadmap](#), which discusses the future and implications of electric and autonomous vehicles.
 - Austin Transportation launches [Smart Trips](#), a transportation demand management program, in Central South Austin.
- **November:** The City of Austin surpasses its 20% target of building the all-ages-and-abilities bicycle network as outlined in the 2014 Bicycle Plan. As of November 2017, the City of Austin has 256 miles of on-street bicycle facilities.
- **December**
 - Austin Transportation installs "Texas Sunset," a creative crosswalk on Guadalupe Street, by the University of Texas.
 - Austin Transportation reports [significant decreases in crashes at four intersections](#) after safety improvements, with decreases as much as 60 percent.
 - PeopleForBikes, a national organization for bicycling, names [two of Austin's bike lanes](#) among ten of the best in the nation: MoPac Mobility Bridges and Third Street.



FINANCIAL OVERVIEW: Fiscal Year 2016-2017

- Total operating budget: **\$43 million**
 - Mobility Fund: **70%**
 - Parking Management Fund: **30%**

Austin Transportation Operating Budget for FY 2016-2017

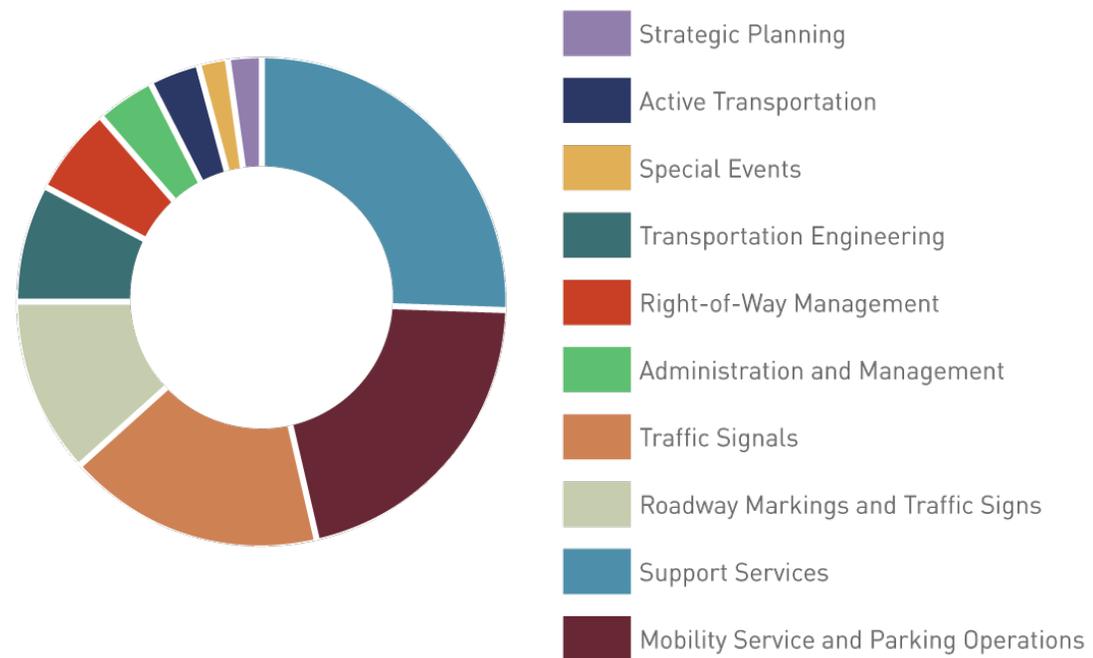


Figure 3 Department budget breakdown by department divisions and services

Funds go toward...

- Support Services: **25.76%**
(Services rendered to the entire department, including Finance, Administration and Human Resources.)
- Mobility Service and Parking Operations: **20.88%**
- Traffic Signals: **16.90%**
- Roadway Markings and Traffic Signs: **11.52%**
- Transportation Engineering: **7.75%**
- Right-of-Way Management: **5.90%**
- Administration and Management: **3.82%**
- Active Transportation: **3.34%**
- Special Events: **2.18%**
- Strategic Planning: **1.95%**