

Appendix E

Framework for Decision-Making

As potential capital improvement projects, budget priorities, bond packages, programs, regulatory changes, initiatives, plans, and even zoning cases are considered, it is important for the City of Austin to have a clear and objective framework for decision-making. The following checklist is intended to be used to extend and refine the Imagine Austin vision, making it easier to use for departmental decision-making. The checklist can also be used by other organizations seeking funding to guide the development of their projects and programs to increase the likelihood of funding. As part of the comprehensive plan's annual review, changes may be made to the checklist as conditions and priorities change.

Natural and Sustainable

- The proposal adds to or enhances the City of Austin's green infrastructure system.
- The proposal reduces water or energy demands, uses or generates alternative energy, or provides alternative transportation options.
- The proposal compact and walkable places, use of public transit, infill development, or reuse of previously developed sites.

Prosperous

- The proposal creates jobs or serves a need in an industry that is not currently represented in its neighborhood or in the city at large.
- The proposal develops new technologies or makes technology more widely available.
- The proposal provides job training or skills development.

Livable

- The proposal is designed to increase the perception of safety.
- The proposal includes affordable housing.
- The proposal is within a half mile of a neighborhood anchor, such as a school, library, train station, community center, park, or recreation center.
- The proposal is within a half mile of retail or services and connected by sidewalks and/or bicycle lanes.
- The proposal achieves the highest standard of design.
- The proposal preserves cultural resources.

Mobile and Interconnected

- The proposal increases transportation options.
- The proposal provides connections to multiple modes of transportation.
- The proposal provides connections to community/recreation centers.

Educated

- The proposal provides educational opportunities.
- The proposal is supported by a partnership with a neighborhood school.
- The proposal is supported by a partnership with a college or university.

Creative

- The proposal involves events or creates areas that cater to residents and visitors.
- The proposal provides arts or cultural activities supported by the community.

A Community that Values and Respects People

- The proposal increases access to park, library, public safety, or health and human services facilities.
- The proposal increases the variety of housing types available in its neighborhood.
- The proposal provides an opportunity engage grassroots stakeholders and community members.
- The proposal has a champion and is sponsored by a City agency.

Additional Criteria

- The proposal coincides with or enhances already funded proposals.
- The proposal reduces life cycle costs or facility maintenance and management.
- The applicant has site control, or commitments for control have been made.
- The proposal is attractive to other funders or has a credible, long-term funding plan to finance improvements.
- A realistic timeframe has been identified, and all significant obstacles to achieving that timeframe have been addressed.
- The proposal is highly visible or presents a unique set of opportunities.
- The proposal is planned to stimulate increased tourism or to enhance the tourist experience.

