

## Appendix C

### Glossary

**accessibility** - The ability of people (including the elderly, disabled, those with young children, and those encumbered with luggage or shopping) to move around an area and reach destinations and facilities,.

**accessory dwelling unit** – These are residential buildings located on single-family lots; are smaller than the primary house; and are generally located toward the rear of the lot. Also known as garage apartments, mother-in-law apartments, or granny flats.

**Action** - Recommendations to implement Imagine Austin policies.

**activity center** – Areas identified on the Growth Concept Map where an increased concentration of people, jobs, businesses, and services will be located. There are three types of activity centers—regional, town, and neighborhood.

**activity corridor** – Similar to an activity center, it is an area identified on the Growth Concept Map where an increased density of people, jobs, businesses, and services will be located;. However, due to its linear nature the people, jobs, and services will be located along the length of the corridor. A corridor's character will depend on factors such as road width, traffic volume, the size and configuration of lots, and existing uses. Along different segments of these corridors, there may be multi-story mixed-use buildings, apartment buildings, shops, public uses, offices, as well as townhouses, rowhouses, duplexes, and single-family houses. For more detailed information on activity corridors, see p. XXX of the plan.

**adaptive reuse** – Modifying existing structures for uses other than what they were originally intended.

**affordable housing** - Dwelling units for sale or rent that are deemed affordable for lower or middle income households. It is also housing that does not create an economic burden for a household and allows residents to meet other basic needs on a sustainable basis.

**alternative energy** - Energy derived from sources that do not use up natural resources or harm the environment.

**alternative transportation** - Means of travel other than private cars and includes walking, bicycling, rollerblading, carpooling and transit.

**annexation (full purpose)** - The process by which cities extend full municipal services, full voting privileges, and full regulatory and taxing authority to new territory.

**annexation (limited purpose)** - Extends the City's ordinances and regulations, including building and zoning codes, and allows residents to vote in City Council and Charter elections but not bond referenda. The City collects no property taxes in limited purpose areas and is not required to provide full municipal services. In some limited purpose areas, a municipality will provide health and safety inspection and enforcement services. Services such as public safety, road maintenance, and parks are provided by other agencies such as the county.

**aquifer** – A geologic formation that stores, transmits, and yields significant quantities of water into wells and springs.

**aquifer contributing zone** – The area where runoff from precipitation flows to the recharge zone

of an aquifer. Streams in the contributing zone flow downstream into the recharge zone and "contribute" water to the aquifer.

**aquifer recharge zone** – The area or feature where water flows directly into an aquifer.

**arterial** – High-capacity road or thoroughfare with the primary function of delivering traffic from collector roads to freeways, and between activity centers.

**Austin-Round Rock Metropolitan Statistic Area (MSA)** - Bastrop, Caldwell, Hays, Travis, and Williamson Counties.

**biodiversity** – The degree of variation of life (plants and animals of different species) within a given area.

**blueway** - A water path or trail that contains launch points for canoes, kayaks, rafts, or tubes; provides camping locations; and points of interest. They are typically developed by state, county or local municipalities to encourage family recreation, ecological education and preservation of wildlife resources.

**brownfield** - Abandoned, idled, or under-utilized industrial and commercial facilities where expansion or redevelopment is complicated by environmental contamination.

**Building Block** – A set policies to implement Imagine Austin covering a range of subject areas.

**built environment** - The urban environment consisting of buildings, roads, fixtures, parks, and all other improvements that form the physical character of a city.

**bus rapid transit (BRT)** – A type of bus transit that provides faster, more efficient service than an ordinary bus line. This higher level of services is achieved by making improvements to existing infrastructure, vehicles, and scheduling. The goal of these systems is to approach the service levels of rail transit at lower costs and the flexibility of bus transit.

**car share** - A model of car rental where people rent cars for short periods of time, often by the hour. They are attractive to customers who make only occasional use of a vehicle, as well as others who would like occasional access to a vehicle of a different type than they use day-to-day.

**Capital Improvement Program (CIP)** - A community's plan for financing large-scale improvements—such as repairing or building roads, water and sewer mains.

**character** - The image and perception of a community as defined by its people, history, built environment, and natural features.

**child-friendly** – Those policies, amenities, and practices that support children at every stage of their development.

**clean energy** - The provision of energy that meets the needs of the present without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their needs. Clean energy sources include hydroelectricity, solar energy, wind energy, wave power, geothermal energy, and tidal power.

**commercial** – A land use designation characterized by activities associated with commerce.

**community garden** - Single piece of land gardened collectively by a group of people.

**commuter rail** – Trains that operate on railroad tracks and carry riders to and from work in a region; typically used to travel from suburbs to central cities.

**compact community** – In Imagine Austin the goal of this type of community is to promote healthier lifestyles by locating services, retail, jobs, housing, entertainment, schools, and parks and open space within a convenient, short walk, bicycle, transit, or car trip. It is also a built environment where public facilities, infrastructure, and services can be more efficiently provided due to its compact nature.

**complete community** - Areas that provide amenities, transportation, services, and opportunities that fulfill all residents material, social, and economic needs. For more detailed information on complete communities, see p. XXX of the plan.

**Complete streets** - Roadways designed and operated to enable safe, attractive, and comfortable access and travel for all users, including pedestrians, bicyclists, motorists and public transport users of all ages and abilities.

**comprehensive plan** – A document or series of documents for guiding the future development of a city or county and is based upon the stated long-term goals and objectives of that community. It provides guidance for making land use decisions, preparation for implementing ordinances, preparations for capital investments, and the location for future growth.

**connected** - Having the parts or elements of an area (city, county, subdivision, etc.) logically linked together by roads, transit, trails and paths, sidewalks, and bicycle routes and lanes.

**conservation** - The management of natural resources to prevent waste, depletion, destruction, or neglect.

**core principle for action** – The six underlying principles to realize the future posited by Imagine Austin. For more detailed information on core principles for action, see the p. XXX of the plan.

**corridor** – The area that includes an arterial or major roadway, the right-of-way such as a sidewalk, and the adjacent property.

**corridor plan** – A small area plan that addresses the area along and adjacent to a roadway that addresses land use, urban design, infrastructure, transportation, and, on occasion, the economic development issues associated with a corridor.

**cost burdened** – Those paying more than 30 percent of their income for housing are considered cost burdened and may have difficulty affording necessities such as food, clothing, transportation, utilities, and medical care.

**creative community** – People engaged in artistic and knowledge-based pursuits and those contributing to the creative economy.

**creative economy** - A range of economic activities which focus on the generation of knowledge and information and includes the fields of advertising, architecture, design, fashion, the visual arts, software and computer game development, electronic publishing, music and the performing arts, publishing, and television and radio.

**cultural heritage** - The legacy inherited from previous generations which people want to preserve in order to maintain a sense of history, community, and personal identity.

**demographics** – The measurement and study over time of a population and its subgroups.

**density** – The number of families, persons, or housing units per unit of land.

**developed parkland buffers** – The pedestrian shed surrounding urban parks, defined by a ¼ mile radius within the urban core and a ½ mile radius outside the urban core.

**diversity** – The character of a community where people of different ethnic groups, religions, ages, political beliefs, families, sexual orientations, and socio-economic status live and work along side each other.

**ethnicity** - Of or relating to large groups of people classed according to common racial, national, tribal, religious, linguistic, or cultural origins or backgrounds.

**extraterritorial jurisdiction (ETJ)** - The unincorporated land located within a given distance (dependant upon its population) of a city's municipal boundaries that is not within the city limits or the extraterritorial jurisdiction of another city and is the territory where a city is authorized to annex land.

**family** - Two or more people residing together who are related by birth, marriage, or adoption.

**family-friendly** - Considered welcoming to all kinds of families and includes housing and neighborhoods designed to meet family needs (safe, accessible, child friendly, adequate lighting, safe crosswalks, road maintenance, sidewalks, etc.).

**future land use map (FLUM)** - A land use plan that serves as a blueprint for future development.

**floodplain** - An area that is subject to natural flooding from an adjoining waterway.

**gentrification** - The process of neighborhood change that results in the replacement of lower income residents with higher income ones.

**green building** - Refers to a structure and the process that is environmentally responsible and resource-efficient.

**green infrastructure** - Strategically planned and managed networks of natural lands, parks, working landscapes, other open spaces that conserve ecosystems and functions, and provide associated benefits to human populations.

**greenfield development** – New development on previously undeveloped land.

**greenhouse gas** - Any of the atmospheric gases that contribute to the greenhouse effect by absorbing infrared radiation produced by solar warming of the Earth's surface. They include carbon dioxide (CO<sub>2</sub>), methane (CH<sub>4</sub>), nitrous oxide (NO<sub>2</sub>), and water vapor.

**greenspace** - Wooded and grassy areas that provide sites for recreation and enjoyment of nature, often located in the midst of urban areas that are otherwise occupied by buildings and paved areas; or any natural area, landscaped area, yard, garden or park accessible to the public.

**greenway** - A corridor of undeveloped land preserved for recreational use or environmental protection.

**greywater** - Wastewater generated from domestic activities such as laundry, dishwashing, and bathing, which can be recycled on-site for uses such as landscape irrigation and constructed wetlands. Greywater differs from water from the toilets which is designated as sewage or blackwater to indicate it contains human waste.

**gross domestic product (GDP)** - Refers to the market value of all goods and services produced within a given geography in a given period.

**Growth Concept Map** – Applies the Vision Statement to the city’s physical development pattern. Generated through a public scenario building process, defines how we plan to accommodate new residents, jobs, mixed-use areas, open space, and transportation infrastructure in the next 30 years. For more detailed information on the growth concept map, see p. XXX of the plan and p. XXX, for the Growth Concept Map X.X.

**heritage tree** - In Austin, this refers a tree that has a diameter of 24 inches or more, when measured four and one-half feet above natural grade, and is listed as one of the following species: Texas Ash, Bald Cypress, American Elm, Cedar Elm, Texas Madrone, Bigtooth Maple, all Oaks, Pecan, Arizona Walnut, and Eastern Black Walnut. All these trees listed above, and that are 24 inches or more, as measured four and one-half feet above natural grade, need a permit to be removed.

**high capacity bus** – See bus rapid transit.

**high capacity transit** – A form of transit that has a greater level service and capacity than typical local bus service. It can be rail (regional, commuter and urban rail) or bus rapid transit. High-capacity transit has one or both of the following characteristics—dedicated lanes/right-of-way for at least a portion of its route and the ability to change traffic signals to facilitate faster travel times.

**household** - Consists of all the people who occupy a housing unit.

**housing affordability** – The ability of a household to afford its housing and associated costs, including rent or mortgage, transportation, and utilities.

**hydrology** – The movement, distribution, and quality of water.

**impact fee** - Charge imposed on land developers to cover the cost of infrastructure and related services that will have to be provided by the local government.

**impervious cover** – Surfaces or structures that prevents rainwater from soaking into the ground and includes roads, sidewalks, driveways, parking lots, swimming pools, and buildings.

**indicators** – Established measures to track change over time.

**industrial** - Anything related to the business of manufacturing products; excludes utility, transportation, and financial companies.

**infill development** - Development of vacant or underutilized land within areas that are already largely developed.

**infrastructure** - Facilities and services needed to sustain industry, residential, commercial, and all other land-use activities and include water, sewer lines, and other utilities, streets and roads, communications, transmission lines, and public facilities such as fire stations, parks, schools, etc.

**job centers** – Areas indicated on the Growth Concept Map that can accommodate those businesses not well-suited for residential or environmentally-sensitive areas. For more detailed information on job centers, see the p. XXX of the plan.

**land banking** - The practice of acquiring land and holding it for future use.

**land development code** – Set of regulations that govern how land is developed and include zoning regulations, criteria manuals, and subdivision regulations.

**land use** - The type of activity or development that occupies a parcel of land. Common land uses include residential, retail, industrial, recreation, and institutional.

**livability** - Refers to the suitability of a place (town, city, or neighborhood) to support a high quality of life that contributes to the health and happiness of its residents.

**live/work space** - Buildings or spaces within buildings that are used jointly for commercial and residential purposes where the residential use of the space is secondary or accessory to the primary use as a place of work.

**local business** - Locally-owned independent business, nonprofit, or farm.

**local economy** - The system of production, distribution and consumption of a community.

**master plan** - A plan giving comprehensive guidance or instruction. In the context of local government it can relate to services such as solid waste disposal and recycling; elements of infrastructure such as the roadway and bicycle networks; or guidance for the preservation or development of a given geographic area.

**metropolitan statistical area (MSA)** - A geographic entity defined by the U.S. Office of Management and Budget for use by Federal statistical agencies in collecting, tabulating, and publishing Federal statistics.

**mixed-use** - The use of a building, set of buildings, or areas for more than one type of land use such as a mix of commercial, civic, office, and residential uses.

**multicultural** - Of, relating to, reflecting, or adapted to diverse cultures.

**multigenerational** - Of or relating to several generations.

**multilingual** – the ability to speak more than one language.

**multi-modal** - Term applied to the movement of passengers and cargo by more than one method of transport.

**neighborhood** - A district or area with distinctive people and characteristics.

**neighborhood center** – The smallest and least intense of the three types of activity centers outlined in the Growth Concept Map. Of the three, these will have a more local focus. Businesses and services—doctors and dentists, shops, branch libraries, dry cleaners, hair salons, coffee shops, restaurants, and other small and local businesses—will generally serve the center and surrounding neighborhoods. For more detailed information on neighborhood centers, see p. XXX of the plan.

**neighborhood planning** – As a function of the City of Austin it is a process that

- Creates a plan that represents the views of all the stakeholders that make up a community
- Identifies neighborhood strengths and assets
- Identifies neighborhood needs and concerns
- Establishes goals and objectives for improving the neighborhood
- Proposes specific recommendations to reach those goals
- Guides future development and policy/financial decisions by elected and appointed officials.

For more detailed information on neighborhood plans, see p. XXX of the plan.

**open space** – A parcel of land in a predominantly open and undeveloped condition that is suitable for natural areas; wildlife and native plant habitat, wetlands or watershed lands; stream corridors; passive, low-impact activities; no land disturbance; and/or trails for non-motorized

activities.

**park** - An area of land set aside for public use, as

- A piece of land with few or no buildings within or adjoining a town, maintained for recreational and ornamental purposes
- A landscaped city square
- A large tract of rural land kept in its natural state and usually reserved for the enjoyment and recreation of visitors.

**pedestrian friendly** – A built environment that is safe and pleasant for foot traffic because of design features that increase comfort and accessibility such as visually interesting buildings, quality sidewalks, crosswalks, and landscaping.

**people with disabilities** - Any person who has a physical or mental impairment that substantially limits one or more major life activities; has a record of such impairment; or is regarded as having such an impairment.

**placemaking** -The process of creating squares, plazas, parks, streets and waterfronts that will attract people because these place are pleasurable or interesting.

**plan** - A detailed proposal for achieving something or solving problems.

**plan framework** - A set of “topical” building blocks (land use and transportation, housing and neighborhoods, economy, etc.) that identify strategic directions for action to achieve the Imagine Austin Vision.

**planning** - The process of setting development goals and policy, gathering and evaluating information, and developing alternatives for future actions based on the evaluation of the information.

**planning area** – The geographic area covered by Imagine Austin it is the city limits and extraterritorial jurisdiction combined. See map **X.X** on **p. XXX**.

**Policy** - A specific statement that guides decisions on a wide array of topics and are the foundation for actions, programs, goals or objectives. Imagine Austin’s Policies (listed in the Building Blocks section in Chapter 4) work in tandem with the Growth Concept Map to guide long-term department strategies to achieve the Vision and should be incorporated into departmental master plans and budgeting.

**potential woodlands** – Areas that have the potential to contain priority or other significant woodlands.

**preservation** - Restoration or protection from deterioration of features having environmental, cultural, historic, or other resource value.

**preserve** – An area of land set aside and protected from development.

**Priority Programs** - A systematic organization of Imagine Austin's key Policies and actions into related groups to facilitate the plan's implementation. For more detailed information on Priority Programs, see p. **XXX** of the plan.

**public health** - Science and art of preventing disease, prolonging life and promoting health through the organized efforts and informed choices of society, organizations, public and private, communities and individuals.

**quality of life** - The attributes or amenities that combine to make an area a good place to live and include the availability of political, educational, and social support systems; entertainment and cultural opportunities; good relations among constituent groups; a healthy physical environment; and economic opportunities for both individuals and businesses.

**race/ethnicity** - Of or relating to large groups of people classed according to common racial, national, tribal, religious, linguistic, or cultural origins or backgrounds.

**reclaimed water** - The restoration of wastewater to a state that will allow its beneficial reuse.

**redevelopment** – Development on a previously developed sites.

**region** - The area surrounding Austin, including neighboring municipalities and counties. Typically refers to the Austin-Round Rock Metropolitan Statistical Area, but may also be Central Texas or the Texas Triangle.

**regional center** - The most urban of the three activity centers outlined in the Growth Concept Map. These centers are and will be the retail, cultural, recreational, and entertainment destinations for Central Texas. These are the places where the greatest density of people and jobs and the tallest buildings in the region will be located. The densities, buildings heights, and overall character of a center will vary depending on location. For more detailed information on regional centers, see the discussion on p. XXX of the plan.

**regional planning** - The practice of coordinated, efficient land use activities, investments, and infrastructure for the sustainable growth of a region. It is a method to address issues that cross jurisdictional boundaries such as those related to the environment and economy.

**regional rail** – Rail service that connects different cities and regions, typically using existing railroad lines; typically used to travel longer distances between large cities.

**residential** - An area or structure dedicated to where people live or reside. Types of residential housing may include single family houses, duplexes, triplexes, four-plexes, townhouses, condominiums, apartment buildings and mobile homes.

**riparian zone** - Ecosystems located along the banks of rivers, streams, creeks, or any other water networks and serves as an interface between the stream and the land..

**small area plan** - A plan focusing on a sub-area within a municipality in a detailed way addressing its unique needs and include neighborhood, corridor, and station area plans. For more detailed information on small area plans, see p. XXX of the plan.

**small business** - A business that is privately owned and operated, with a small number of employees, has a relatively low volume of sales, and is not dominant in its field on a national basis. Small business size standards vary widely, and may be determined by revenue or number of employees, depending on industry.

**SMART Housing** - An initiative of the City of Austin promoting sustainable and equitable housing development for low to moderate-income households. **SMART** stands for:

- Safe
- Mixed-Income
- Accessible
- Reasonably-Priced
- Transit-Oriented Development.



**social equity** – The goal of all people within a specific society or group having the same status in a certain respect and includes equal rights under the law, such as security, voting rights, freedom of speech, and assembly, the extent of property rights, and equal access to social goods and services.

**sprawl** – A pattern of land use, transportation and economic development used to describe areas characterized by separated land uses, low-density development, car-centric road networks, and a lack of transit options.

**stakeholder** - A person, group, organization, or system who affects or can be affected by an organization's process and resulting actions.

**station area plan** - A small area plan that address areas around an existing or proposed high-capacity transit station. These plans address

- Building scale
- Public realm and open space
- Public art
- Bicycle, pedestrian, transit, and automobile movement.

**streetscape** - The visual elements of a street, including the road, the orientation, scale and design adjoining buildings, street furniture, trees, and open spaces that combine to form the street's character.

**sustainability** – Is a broad-based concept that is founded upon three overarching goals (1) prosperity and jobs; (2) conservation and the environment; and (3) community health, equity, and cultural vitality. In relation to urban planning it is development is development that meets the needs of the present without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their own needs.

**sustainable development** - Development that maintains or enhances economic opportunity and community well-being while protecting and restoring the natural environment upon which people and economies depend. Characteristics of sustainable communities include compact *mixed-use development*, *green building*, *transit-oriented development*, pedestrian-friendly and bicycle-friendly neighborhoods, common open space, and diversity in housing opportunities.

**Texas triangle** – One of eleven mega-regions in the United States. A mega-region consists of a large network of metropolitan regions linked by environmental systems and geography, infrastructure systems, economic linkages, settlement patterns, and shared culture and history. The “triangle” describes the highway network (Interstate 45, Interstate 10, and Interstate 35) contacting the major cities of the mega-region (Houston, San Antonio, Dallas, Austin and Fort Worth). The Texas Triangle contains 5 of the 16 largest cities in the US, and is home to more than 70% of all Texans.

**town center** – The middle-sized of the three activity centers outlined in the Growth Concept Map. It is less urban than a regional center, but more dense than a neighborhood center. These centers will have a variety of housing types and a range of employers with regional customer and employee bases, and provide goods and services for the center as well as the surrounding areas. These centers will also be important hubs in the transit system. For more detailed information on town centers, see the discussion on p. XXX of the plan.

**transit** - a shared passenger transportation service which is available for use by the general public and includes buses, commuter trains, high-speed rail, subways, streetcars, urban rail, and ferries.

**transit-oriented development (TOD)** - A mixed-use residential or commercial area designed to

maximize access to public transport, increase economic activity, and often incorporates features to encourage transit ridership. A TOD typically has a center with a transit station or stop (train station, metro station, or bus stop), surrounded by relatively high-density development with progressively lower-density development spreading outward from the center.

**transfer of development rights (TDR)** - The exchange of zoning entitlements from areas with low population needs, such as farmland, to areas of high population needs, such as downtown areas; these transfers allow for the preservation of open spaces and historic landmarks, while allowing urban areas to expand and increase in density.

**tree canopy** -The layer of leaves, branches and stems of trees that cover the ground when viewed from above.

**urban design** - Concerns the arrangement, appearance and functionality of towns and cities, and in particular the shaping and uses of urban public space.

**urban forest** – The tree canopy of a city.

**urban rail** – An electrified service that can operate in mixed traffic, in its own lane, or in separate rights-of-way; typically used to travel in urban locations and can be used to link transit systems.

**urban trail** - A multi-use public path that creates an active transportation corridor through a built environment to provide mobility for active transportation and create greenways through developed areas and provide expanded travel choices.

**USDA Prime Farmland** – A designation of the U.S. Department of Agriculture defined as land most suitable for producing food, feed, forage, fiber and oilseed crops.

**Vision Statement**– An aspirational statement in Imagine Austin describing the type of place Austin should be in 2039. The Vision Statement begins on p. XX of the plan.

**walkable** – Areas conducive to walking.

**wastewater** – Liquid waste discharged by domestic residences, commercial properties, industry, and/or agriculture and can encompass a wide range of potential contaminants and concentrations. Its most common usage refers to the municipal wastewater that contains a broad spectrum of contaminants resulting from the mixing of wastewaters from different sources.

**watershed** - a large area of land that drains water into a river, creek or into an aquifer (an underground reservoir or lake). In Central Texas, water draining into an aquifer usually flows into recharge features such as caves or fractures in the ground.

**waterway** - A body of water, such as a river, channel, or canal.

**weird** - Strikingly odd or unusual; Austin.

**workforce development** - A wide range of policies and programs related to education and training for acquiring skills needed to enter, or re-enter, the labor force.

**working group** – Group of volunteers who convened regularly to formulate actions for each Building Block; groups were open to the public and drew a great deal of expertise in each topic area.

**zero waste** – An approach to waste management where all discarded materials are designed to become resources for others to use and designing and managing products and processes to

systematically avoid and eliminate the volume and toxicity of waste and materials, conserve and recover all resources, and not burn or bury them.

**zoning** – The process by which a local government legally controls the use of property and physical configuration of development upon tracts within its jurisdiction. In Texas, only municipalities have been granted the authority to implement zoning by the Legislature. The Austin City Charter mandates that zoning regulations be in alignment with the comprehensive plan.