

Downtown Commission Project Review Sheet

Project Name: Republic Square Park Phase II Planning & Design

Case Number(s), if available: NA

Project Location/Address: 400 Guadalupe Street, Austin, 78701

Applicant/Developer: Austin Parks and Recreation Department (PARC)

Mailing Address: 919 West 28 ½ Street, Austin, 78705

Phone Number: 512-974-9464

Property Owner: Austin Parks and Recreation

Please include a description of your proposed project:

This project will produce a master plan document for the future development of Republic Square and set of construction documents that details specific improvements to be implemented. The master plan and future construction are seen as an extension of work defined by previous studies including the Downtown Austin Plan and "Vision Plan" developed several years ago. This project maintains the site area as a park use and does not require any changes to entitlements or land uses. The applicant is seeking feedback on the master plan and the proposed improvements illustrated prior to finalization of the master plan document and commencement of the construction documents.

List or discuss the ways and to what extent your project furthers or conflicts with the goals and recommendations of the Downtown Austin Plan, including but not limited to:

- Preserve and enhance the unique historical and cultural heritage of Downtown; Planning includes several interpretive recommendations and preserves the prominence of the Auction Oaks. Visitors will have a better understanding of site history, relevance, and cultural history. The overall site will be preserved as a flexible space for diverse use.
- Support a vibrant, diverse and pedestrian-friendly urban district; In addition to Great Streets recommendations on all street edges, the plan adds lighting, seating, food options, area for event programming, area for local/daily use, and other attractive amenities to both locals and tourists.
- Promote Downtown's evolution into a compact, dense urban district; The park provides recreational and open space that serve the needs of residents in walking/biking distance.
- Improve access to mobility and public transportation within Downtown; The park anchors a major Cap METRO station and improves the quality of waiting experiences.

Please include a map and/or aerial that shows how your project relates to other developments and the urban context in the vicinity of the project.

Current Project Status: Master Planning (Concept Design)
(e.g., concept only, schematic design, final design)

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Project Start Date: 2/23/2012

Project End Date: TBD 2014

Type of Project: Downtown Park
(Residential, mixed use, office, commercial)

Total (Single Park Use) SF: 77,341

Stories, FAR, Height: NA

Parking spaces: NA Available for public use? YES

Type of parking: On-street

Specify type of bike parking being provided: Great streets will provide bike parking on all edges (except San Antonio due to closure/formation of Federal Courthouse Plaza). The master plan calls for additional bike corrals to be installed on the SW and NE corner of the park (10-12 parking spaces each). Modular/removable bike storage will be needed for large events.

Is the project located within 600 feet of any live music venue? NA
If so, are considerations being made regarding sound mitigation? No.

Are you seeking zoning changes or variances? No.

If yes, please describe and indicate anticipated dates of Planning Commission and City Council action. NA

Is your project seeking density bonuses and, if so, please specify any community benefits you are offering for the project? No.

Have other boards/commissions or city staff yet made recommendations on this project? If so, please describe. Certificate of Appropriateness, Parks Board, Austin Heritage Society, Art in Public Places, Forestry Board.

Attach available images, site plans, elevations and renderings for the project.

Deadline: This form and attachments should be submitted to the City Staff Liaison for the Commission at least five business days prior to the Commissioner's meeting where the project will be presented.

Project Context

Republic Square was established as one of four public squares, and embedded into the fabric of downtown Austin as part of its original grid. The other three parks include Brush Square, Woodridge Square, and x square (which is now developed).

Brush Square is located near the Austin Convention Center and current terminus of the METRO Red Line (commuter rail). It currently hosts a relocated historic home, fire station and open green space that is used for limited downtown events. The primary link to the site would be along 5th St due to improved pedestrian facilities and the planned Mexican American Cultural Trail. Woodridge Square is a short distance to the north of the site, and currently consists of a performance platform surrounded by grassy slopes and mature shade trees.

The Shoal Creek and Lady Bird Lake systems are near the park, and provide a range of recreational opportunities. Extensive trails, cultural features, and native vegetation areas line the edges of these systems, and make them crown jewels of Austin. Likely linkages to these systems would be 4th St, and Guadalupe St respectively.

Other key features around the park include City Hall, ACL Moody Theater, Congress Avenue (which includes many cultural and arts attractions), and the Lance Armstrong Bikeway.

Land uses around the park are diverse. In addition to State, County and City office uses, the area is at the heart of a rapidly emerging mixed use district. There are an estimated 1,500 residences within a quarter mile of the Park, not to mention projects in planning or design will easily double that figure in the next decade. The Park is near several very popular entertainment and retail districts: Ballet Austin, 2nd St Retail District, 4th St (Warehouse district), and West 5th and 6th Street.

Issues

- Conditions around the park are likely to change very quickly and may affect the Park in many ways.

Opportunities

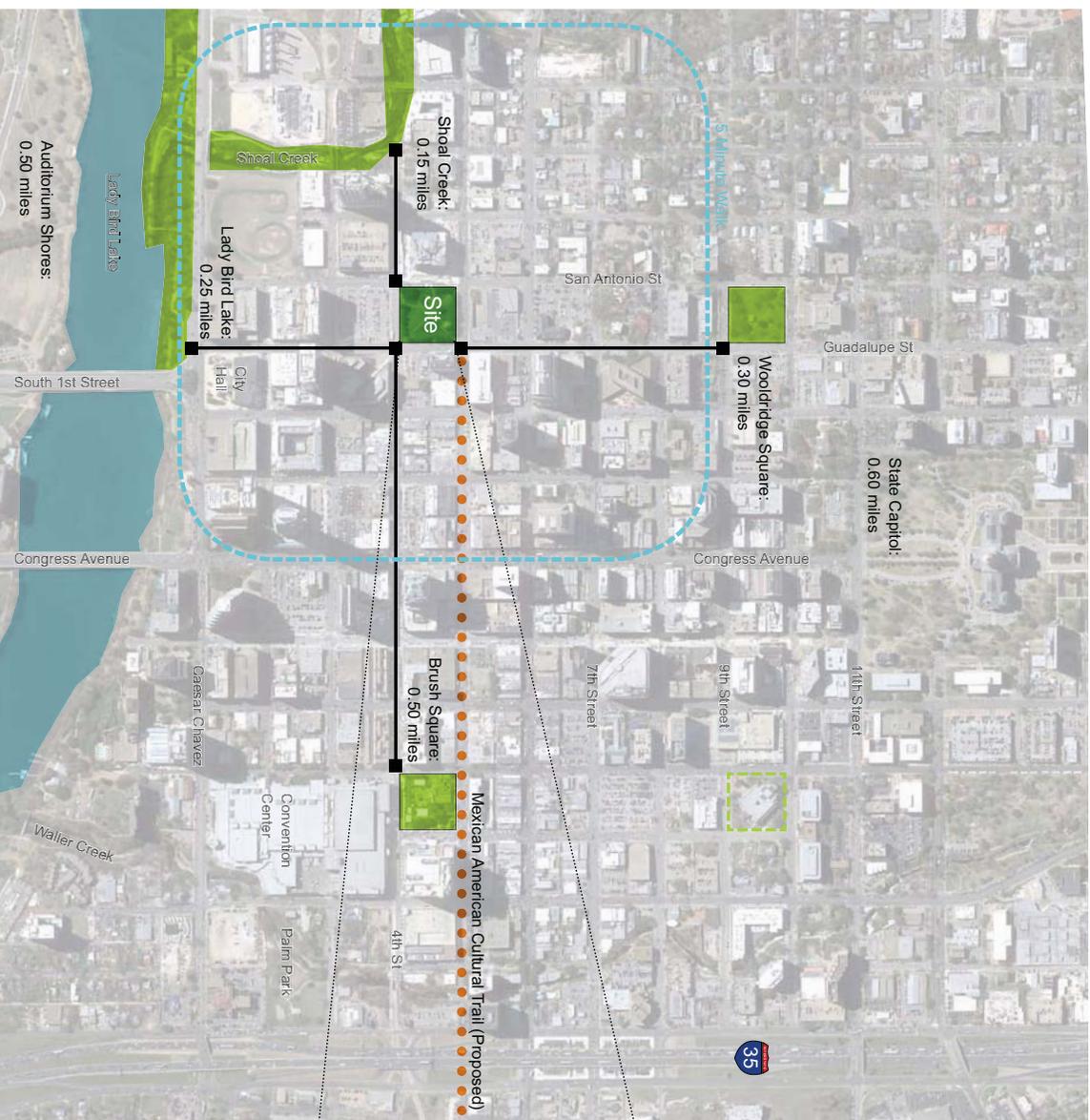
- The ongoing Downtown Wayfinding Project can help park users find other resources, and potential Park users to find the Park;
- Through a diverse land use context, the Park has the potential to be utilized by many different people over different times of day;
- The Park could be a platform for the expansion of cultural attractions already in downtown;
- The existing parks in the area are diverse, and serve a range of needs;
- The Park can provide a meaningful beginning or ending for people interested in the planned Mexican American Cultural Trail.

Stakeholder or Public Feedback

- Republic Square should work in concert with the other historic squares for both local and event needs;
- The Park should feel connected to cultural features around downtown including the Children's Museum;
- It is believed that Republic Square has a higher concentration of residents within a five block radius than any other park in the city;
- An Austin group is proposing a Mexican-American Cultural Trail connecting Republic Square and Sattilo Plaza in East Austin;
- The City's ongoing Downtown Wayfinding Project to create a common theme of signage in downtown should pay attention to "branding" of different areas and points of interest in downtown Austin.

1,508

Number of dwelling units within are 1/4 mile of the site in 2010. There were 372 in 2000.





Republic Square – Master Plan Update and Phase II Design



PROJECT SCOPE

- Master Plan Update - engage stakeholders and the public to assess and update the existing Republic Square Master Plan.
- Phase II Design and Construction - prepare construction documents, technical specifications, oversee construction of the Phase II improvements.
- Public-Private Partnership Report - create a strategy for sustainable public-private partnerships for Republic Square Park's enhancement, operations, and maintenance.

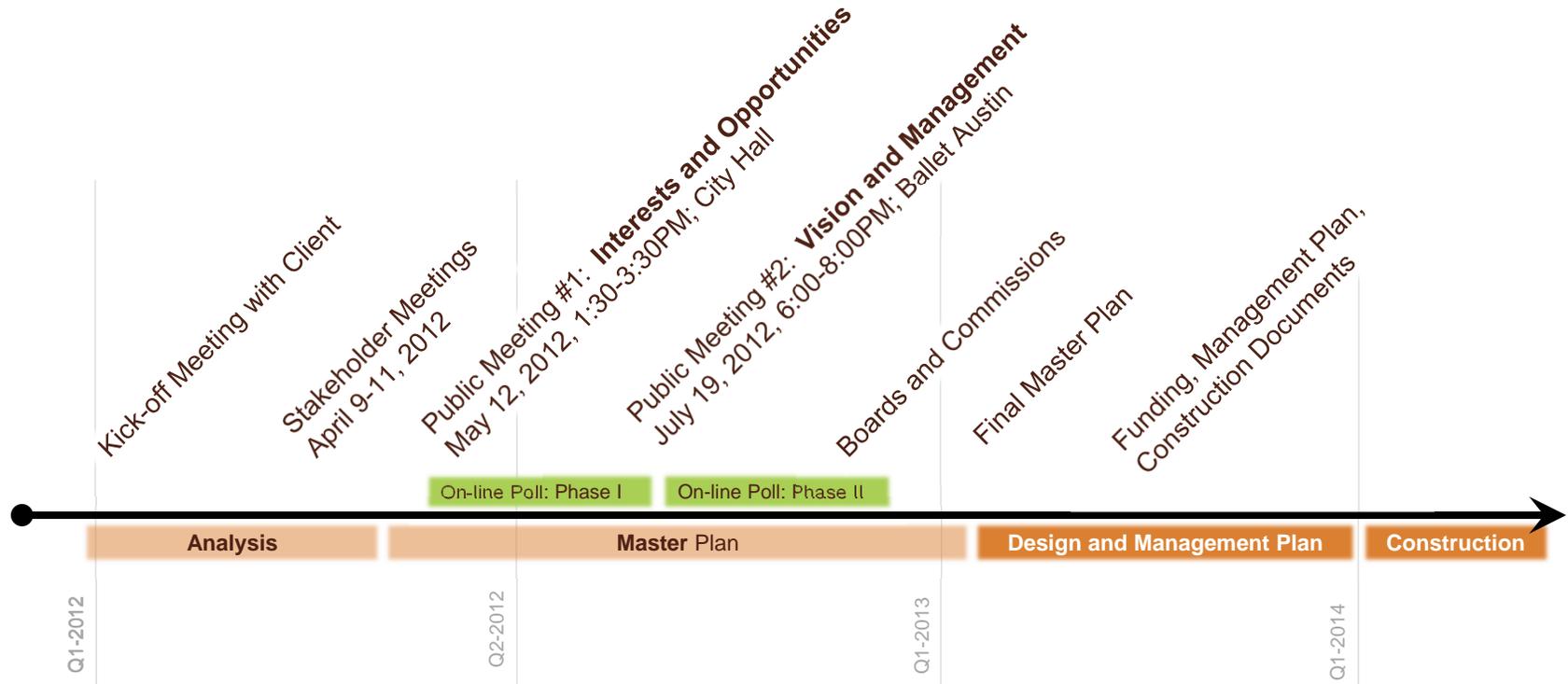
A strong vision.

A supported vision.

Sustainable and balanced.



PROJECT TIMELINE



PREVIOUS STUDIES

- Downtown Austin Plan
- Downtown Parks Plan- Republic Square Vision Plan
- Downtown Wayfinding and Signage Plan
- Great Streets Program
- Cap Metro planning/projects
- City of Austin Parks and Recreation Department

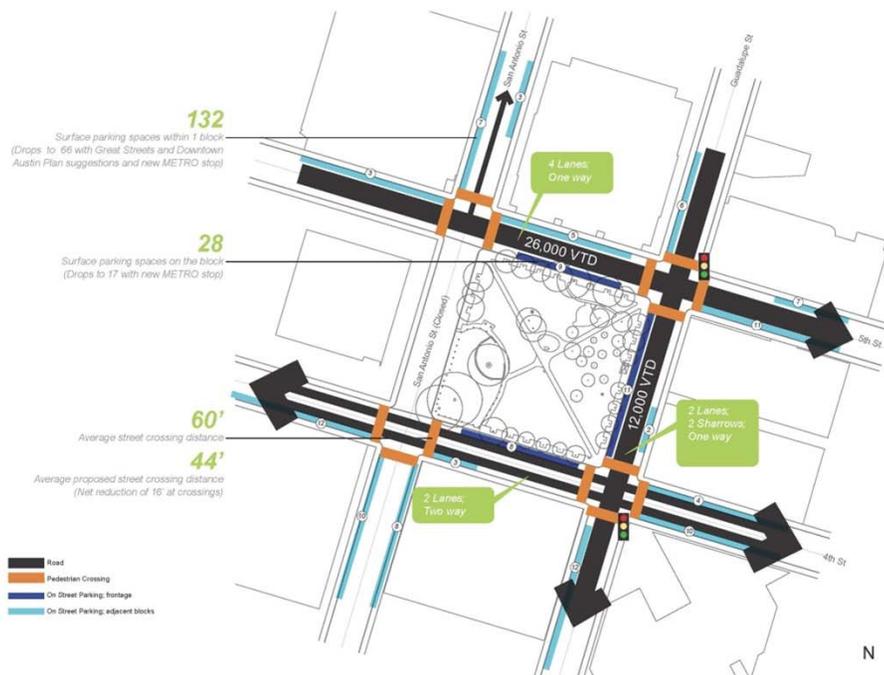
STAKEHOLDER OUTREACH

- General public
- State, county and federal (GSA) interests
- Downtown Austin Alliance and associated groups
- Austin Parks Foundation
- AIPP and other local arts/cultural groups
- COA Urban Design
- Adjacent land owners
- Sustainable Food Center (farmers market)



ANALYSIS, BASELINES AND BENCHMARKS

...understanding the effects to the park driven by previous planning work and how conditions have changed.



REPUBLIC SQUARE- PREFERRED CONCEPT



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PROJECT PLAN

Legend

- A: Public Transit Corridor
- B: 5th St Corridor
- C: 4th St Corridor
- D: Federal Courthouse Plaza
- E: Auction Oak Area
- F: Existing Deck
- G: Main Lawn
- H: Seat Walls
- I: Arc Promenade
- J: Seating Area
- K: Plaza
- L: Promenade
- M: Restaurant Kiosk
- N: Support Building

