

AUSTIN MOBILITY

Comprehensive Air Quality Program Recommendations

03-21-2013





RESPONDING TO RESOLUTION NO. 20120524-077

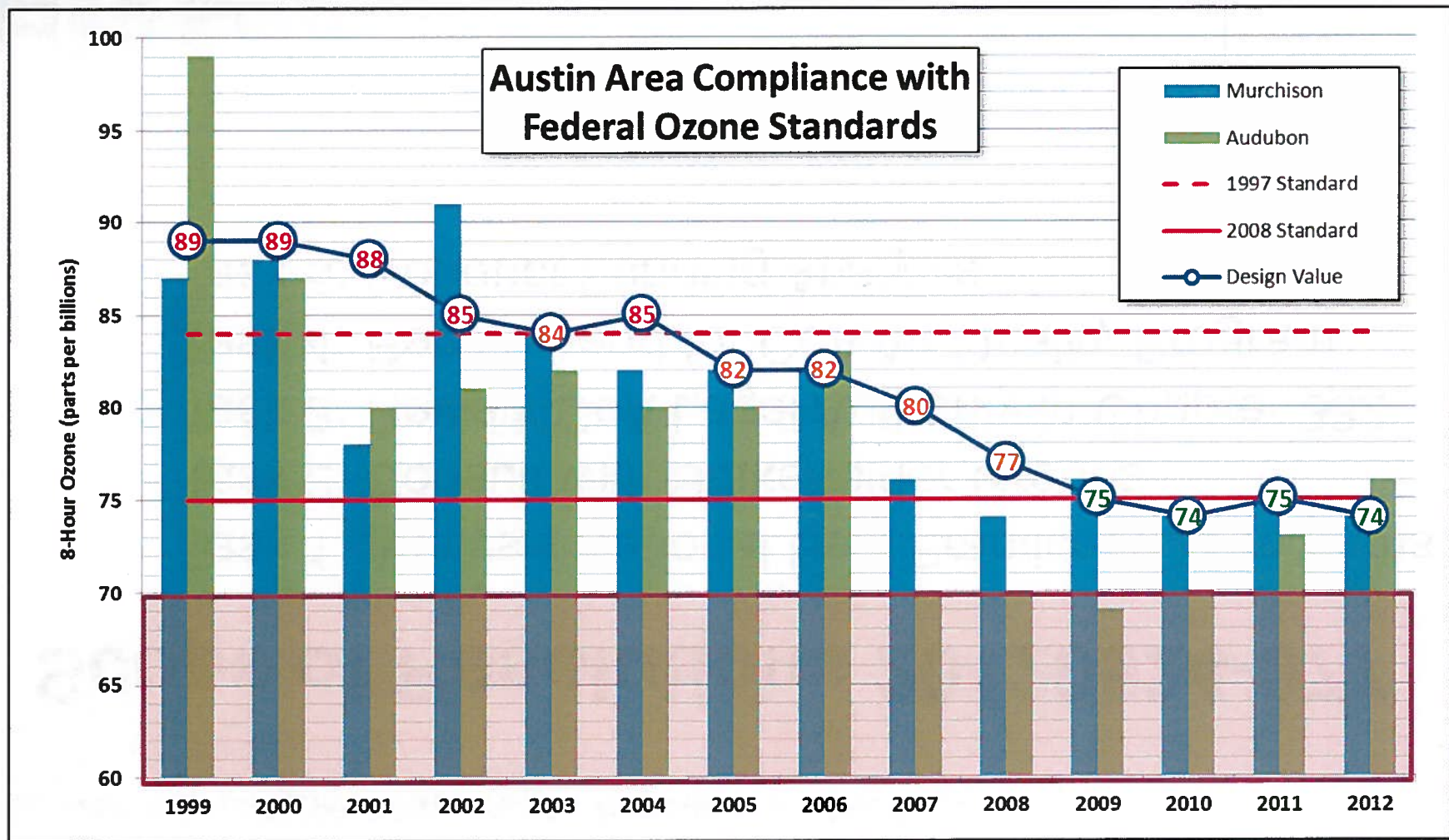
Responding to Council resolution no. 20120524-077

Staff was directed to work with stakeholder groups and analyze best practices for enforcement, education, planning, analysis and technical assistance in order to determine the costs of expanding the City's air quality program.





STATE OF AIR QUALITY IN CENTRAL TEXAS



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Scope of Resolutions 20120524-077

- Task 1: Analysis National Best Practice AQ Programs
- Task 2: Consult with Stakeholder Groups
- Task 3: Review CoA Legal Authority in Chapter 382
- Task 4: Recommend for CoA Air Quality Program
- Task 5: Conduct Funding Analysis





Recommendation overview

- Enforcement and Administration
- Technical Assistance
- Outreach and Education
- Planning and Analysis
- Data Collection





ENFORCEMENT AND ADMINISTRATION



Finding: A two or three day special event could push our regional monitors into non-compliance

Recommendation:

- Requiring large special events to have an air quality mitigation plan
- An ordinance requiring employee trip reduction plans from companies with more than 100 employees





TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE

Finding: Stakeholders from all groups overwhelmingly advocated for small business technical assistance

Recommendations:

- Assisting with the interpretation of environmental regulations
- Helping companies with required reporting requirements
- Providing resources to help with technical questions
- Sharing best practices for reducing air pollution

“The City should create a plan to reach out to small business and have a greater partnership to help them understand their impact on our air.”
-Richard L.





MARKETING AND OUTREACH

Finding: The public is largely unaware of the City's air quality outreach efforts.

Recommendation:

- Marketing of incentives to reduce air pollution
- Radio, TV and social media components
- Warning signs in high traffic areas
- Partnerships with schools
- Apps and interactive websites
- Local artists, musicians and sports heroes
- A focus on the health benefits of clean air

"People need to realize that sitting in a car, waiting on traffic, creates more pollution than any other source in our region."

-Rick via Speakupaustin





PLANNING AND ANALYSIS

Finding: Our Air Quality data is threatened by a lack of funding for our regional partners

Recommendation:

- Working with regional partners to establish a stable funding source for the Clean Air Coalition (CAC)
- Reemphasizing air quality as a focus of the Environmental Board
- Encouraging the legislature to distribute air quality funds back to local areas





REPORTING, DATA COLLECTION AND MONITORING

Finding: Budget shortfall could affect the quality of regional air quality data.

Recommendations:

- Providing financial support for the Capital Area Council of Governments (CAPCOG) air quality monitoring and modeling efforts.
- Conduct an analysis of off-road pollution created at construction sites

“Use heavy duty fleets to collect data, many of them already have tracking systems that report idling, speeds, etc. which can be useful to understand emissions.”

-Andrew H.





FEEDBACK AND QUESTIONS

We look forward to working with you to build a more comprehensive air quality program.

Rob Spillar, Director of Austin Transportation Department

Lucia Athens, Chief Sustainability Officer

Pharr Andrews, Air Quality Program Coordinator



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