



## MEMORANDUM

**TO:** The Urban Transportation Commission

**FROM:** Nadia Barrera, Project Manager, Neighborhood Connectivity Division

**DATE:** April 1, 2013

**SUBJECT:** Transportation Criteria Manual Revision Briefing

**CC:** Keri Juarez, Mike Curtis, Annick Beaudet, PWD

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The purpose of this memorandum is to inform the Urban Transportation Commission (UTC) about the revision of the Transportation Criteria Manual (TCM). Consistent with many of the core principles of Imagine Austin. Interdepartmental stakeholders have decided upon the following values to guide the revision process:

- Design/Functionality: Streets will be livable, walkable and attractive
- Connected/Complete: Streets will be accessible and interconnected providing access and convenience for all modes of transportation.
- Sustainable/Cost Efficient: Streets and adjoining right-of-way will be designed and built with nature to create quality, long-lasting, environmentally and fiscally responsible infrastructure systems.
- Health/Safety: Streets will protect and promote the public health and safety of all users of all ages, and will maintain access for emergency and utility services.

**Scope:** The TCM guides the design of Austin's network of roadways. It includes a classification system, street characteristics (including on-street parking), definitions, tabulation of design criteria, guidelines, and schematic details of proposed cross sections. While the TCM has been partially revised 26 times since its original passage in the 1980's, there has been no comprehensive revision to the manual.

The project seeks to:

- Revise the existing TCM to incorporate present-day best practices in street design and connectivity,
- Facilitate improvements to the built environment that remove barriers to active living, and
- Streamline and modernize this document for the digital age.

Currently, priority sections of the TCM to be revised include\*:

- Section 1 – Street Design Criteria
- Section 2 – Traffic Impact Analysis
- Section 4 – Sidewalks and Curb Ramps
- Section 5 – Driveways
- Section 7 – Bikeways
- Section 8 – Traffic Control
- Section 9 – Parking
- Section 10 – Transit Considerations

\*Sections 3 – Computerized Pavement Design will be processed by the Street and Bridge Division staff. Section 11 – Structures in the Right of Way has not received a request to be revised at this time.

**Schedule:** The TCM will be revised through the rules posting process. The rules posting process occurs on a quarterly basis. Currently staff is preparing to present an amendment to Section 1 of the TCM for the third quarter. This amendment will go through internal review in March, external review in April, and will undergo a final multi-departmental formal review period in May and June. The required notice of proposed rule will be released in July and the adoption period is finalized in October of 2013. Staff will be working concurrently to process amendments quarterly following the rules posting schedule. It is estimated that the TCM revision project will be complete by the spring 2016.

**Funding:** This project is funded by the Transportation Fund through contributions by the Austin Transportation (ATD) and the Public Works (PWD). ATD and PWD will contribute \$100,000 respectively for a total of \$200,000. The Transportation Fund provides funds for maintenance of the City's transportation system. The Transportation Fund revenue primarily comes from the Transportation User fee charged to utility customers.

**Coordination:** This project has also been actively coordinating with the Planning and Development Review Department (PDR) on their revision of the Subdivision Regulations of the Land Development Code and the Watershed Protection Department (WPD) on their amendment to the Land Development Code. Staff from the Public Works Department, PDR and WPD meet regularly to discuss the progress of these revisions and amendments as well as to coordinate stakeholder communication, outreach and to cross promote opportunities for feedback on the proposed changes. The process is also mindful of the upcoming Land Development Code rewrite, and coordinating as appropriate.

Should you have any questions please contact Nadia Barrera, 974-7142.