

RANKING THE PRIORITY PROGRAMS

As part of the public review of the draft *Imagine Austin Comprehensive Plan*, the community was asked to rank the priority programs. Investing in our transportation system to create a compact and connected Austin received the most votes from the almost 2,500 responses.

PRIORITY PROGRAMS

The priority programs organize *Imagine Austin's* key policies and actions into related groups to make it easier to implement the plan. These programs build on existing policies and initiatives, as well as the community input provided during the process to create *Imagine Austin*. Each program cuts across and implements policies and actions from multiple building blocks. The structure they provide will allow the City of Austin to more efficiently coordinate its operations, investments, and the provision of core services.

The priority programs are:

1. Invest in a compact and connected Austin
2. Sustainably manage our water resources
3. Continue to grow Austin's economy by investing in our workforce, education systems, entrepreneurs, and local businesses
4. Use green infrastructure to protect environmentally sensitive areas and integrate nature into the city
5. Grow and invest in Austin's creative economy
6. Develop and maintain household affordability throughout Austin
7. Create a Healthy Austin Program
8. Revise Austin's development regulations and processes to promote a compact and connected city

The final program, to revise Austin's development regulations and processes, is an important step to promote each of the above priorities and to protect all that has been identified as valuable in the plan. The priority programs, policies, and actions in the plan all seek to achieve real functioning sustainability for Austin's future. As discussed in Chapters 1 and 4, a compact and connected city encapsulates household affordability, environmental protection, and complete communities, with easier, greener, healthier transportation options linking residents to jobs, arts and culture, parks, schools, health care, shopping, and other destinations. Each of these programs has important connections to the others that should be recognized throughout implementation.

The City of Austin is addressing many elements of the priority programs through current plans, initiatives, and partnerships. The priority programs will enable the City of Austin and its partners to pull together, break down silos, make connections, and leverage resources for more effective implementation. The following text provides an initial work program for each priority program, with short- and long-term steps (not necessarily indicating priority). Lead and partner departments and organizations who will be involved in each program are identified. Implementation should begin by confirming the lead partner responsible for overall coordination of the program, defining the roles of other involved partners inside and outside of city government, and determining how to engage the community in the process moving forward.