

**AGENDA**



**Recommendation for Council Action**

Austin City Council	Item ID	37127	Agenda Number	74.
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Meeting Date:	11/20/2014	Department:	Telecommunications and Reg Affairs
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Subject

Approve a resolution adopting recommendations for access to digital technology as set forth in the Digital Inclusion Strategic Plan.

Amount and Source of Funding

Fiscal Note

There is no unanticipated fiscal impact. A fiscal note is not required.

<b>Purchasing Language:</b>	
<b>Prior Council Action:</b>	March 20, 2014, Digital Inclusion Strategic Plan Initiated by City Council (Resolution No. 20140320-056)
<b>For More Information:</b>	Rondella M. Hawkins, TARA Officer, 512-974-2422
<b>Boards and Commission Action:</b>	Recommended by Community Technology & Telecommunications Commission on October 10, 2014; To be presented to Emerging Technology & Telecommunications Council Committee on November 19, 2014.
<b>MBE / WBE:</b>	
<b>Related Items:</b>	

Additional Backup Information

On March 20, 2014, the City Council adopted Resolution No. 20140320-056 that calls for the development of a Digital Inclusion Strategic Plan that addresses access and adoption of digital technology within Austin. The resolution set forth a vision that all residents have access to the skills and devices necessary to engage in our digital society. City staff developed this plan by working with the Community Technology & Telecommunications Commission who appointed a Steering Committee represented by a diverse set of community sectors.

The plan first explores the Austin landscape to identify current trends in residential technology usage and highlights challenges related to digital inclusion. The data in the plan is from the 2014 Austin Digital Assessment, a citywide survey that assessed Austin residents' technology access, literacy and Internet usage. The survey was conducted by the City of Austin in partnership with the Department of Radio-Television-Film at The University of Texas at Austin.

The plan outlines key community assets that can be built upon to help overcome barriers and challenges that make it difficult for specific groups to fully engage in our digital society. The most direct benefit to the Austin community will come from the "Taking Action Initiatives" which calls for a set of 25 action items, with associated stakeholder groups and objectives, serving five action categories: Connect, Engage, Include, Integrate and Coordinate. This list of initiatives represents the top priorities from ongoing brainstorming and strategy development sessions by the

Steering Committee.

The plan calls for annual updates by the Telecommunications & Regulatory Affairs Office with reports to the Community Technology and Telecommunications Commission and the Emerging Technology and Telecommunications Council Committee that will inform the public on progress and ensure ongoing review of the strategic plan to ensure its effectiveness. Members of the Steering Committee will continue to play key roles in the digital inclusion effort.

City staff recommends Council adoption of the proposed strategic plan.