

Austin Police Department Highway Enforcement Command Tow Fee Study

Request for Increase

The Austin Towing Association has requested an increase for Non-Consent Tows performed in the City of Austin

- Current Rate \$150.00
- Requested Rate \$225.00
- An increase of 50%

History of Tow Fee Increases

Year	Increase	Non-Consent Tow rate
19-Jun-2006	58%	\$150.00
18-Mar-2001	46%	\$95.00
18-Jul-1996	18%	\$65.00
26-Jan-1989		\$55.00

* **13-6-141 TOWING FEE STUDY**

*

- * In this section, a “towing fee study” is a study to determine the fair market value of a non-consent tow originating in the City, including consideration of financial information provided to the City by the towing company requesting the study.

Consumer Price Index

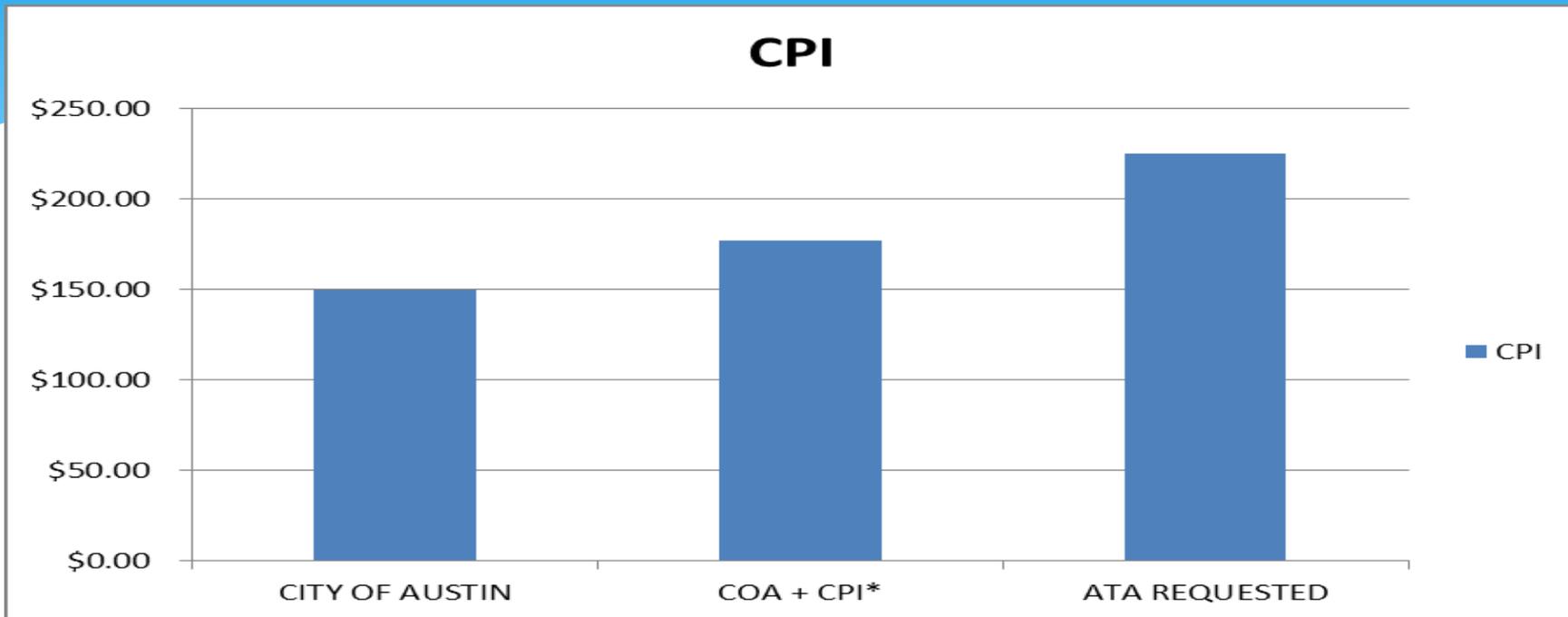
The Consumer Price Index (CPI) is a measure of the average change over time in the prices paid by urban consumers for a market basket of consumer goods and services.

Consumer Price Index plus tow rate

Consumer price index from January 2006 to January 2014 has increased 18.05% at a rate of 1.99% per year.

Using the CPI increase since 2006, the \$150 rate for Non-consent tows would now equal \$177.08

CPI



- COA + CPI ($150 \times 1.1805 = 177.08$)

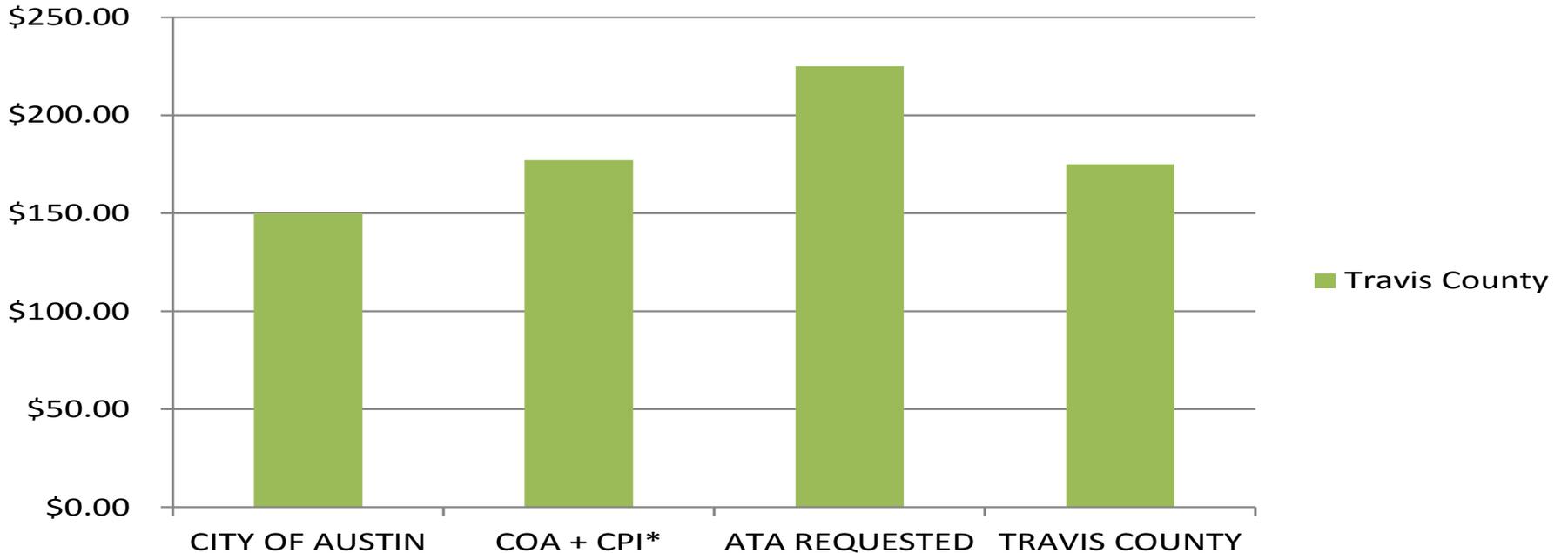
CITY OF AUSTIN CURRENT TOW RATE	\$150.00
COA TOW RATE + CPI	\$177.08
AUSTIN TOWING ASSOC. REQUESTED	\$225.00

Travis County

On August 13, 2012, the Travis County Commissioner's Court discussed and mutually agreed with the Austin Towing Association on a 35% increase in Non-Consent tow fees from the previous \$130 to a new rate of \$175 in Travis County.

TRAVIS COUNTY COMPARISON

Travis County



CITY OF AUSTIN CURRENT TOW RATE	\$150.00
COA TOW RATE + CPI	\$177.08
AUSTIN TOWING ASSOC. REQUESTED	\$225.00
TRAVIS COUNTY	\$175.00

Williamson County

In June of 2013, the Williamson County Commissioner's Court accepted a request from the Williamson County Towing Association to increase the Non-Consent tow rate from the previous rate of \$110 (Set in October of 2006) to a new rate of \$195 in Williamson County.

WILLIAMSON COUNTY COMPARISON

Williamson County



CITY OF AUSTIN CURRENT TOW RATE	\$150.00
COA TOW RATE + CPI	\$177.08
AUSTIN TOWING ASSOC. REQUESTED	\$225.00
WILLIAMSON COUNTY	\$195.00

City Comparisons

APD surveyed several areas in Texas. These were separated into two separate groups.

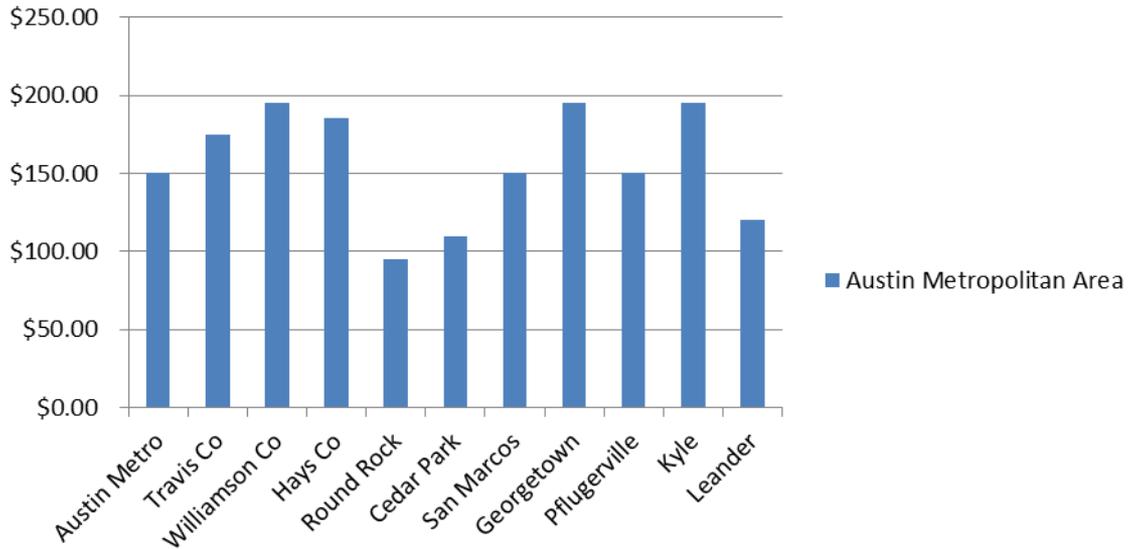
- One group in the Austin Metropolitan Area
- Second group of 10 large Texas Cities

Austin Metropolitan Area

APD surveyed cities in our metropolitan area looking at their non-consent tow rates. Of the cities surveyed the City of Kyle, City of Georgetown and Williamson County were the highest at \$195.00. The City of Round Rock was the lowest at \$95.00.

The average non-consent tow rate for the Austin Metropolitan area is \$156.36

Austin Metropolitan Area



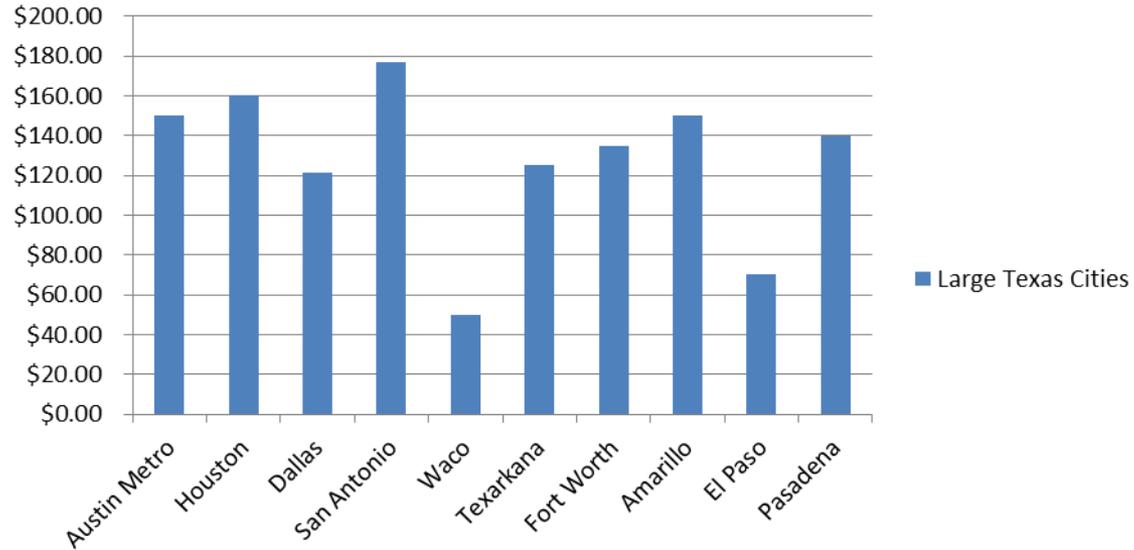
AUSTIN METRO	\$150.00
TRAVIS COUNTY	\$175.00
WILLIAMSON COUNTY	\$195.00
HAYS COUNTY	\$185.00
ROUND ROCK	\$95.00
CEDAR PARK	\$110.00
SAN MARCOS	\$150.00
GEORGETOWN	\$195.00
PFLUGERVILLE	\$150.00
KYLE	\$195.00
LEANDER	\$120.00

Large Texas Cities

APD surveyed 10 Large Texas cities looking at their non-consent tow rates. Of the cities surveyed the City of San Antonio was the highest at \$177.00. The city of Waco was the lowest at \$50.00.

The average non-consent tow rate for Texas large cities is \$125.33

Large Texas Cities



Austin Metro	\$150.00
Houston	\$160.00
Dallas	\$121.00
San Antonio	\$177.00
Waco	\$50.00
Texarkana	\$125.00
Fort Worth	\$135.00
Amarillo	\$150.00
El Paso	\$70.00
Pasadena	\$140.00

Traffic Incident Management program consideration

The TIMs program is unique to the City of Austin, used to rapidly clear disabled vehicles from high speed roadways during rush hour traffic.

The Austin Police Department Towing Rules State:

- A towing company must participate in the T.I.M program if it is on a Non-Consent Rotation List.
- This program requires tow truck companies to stage tow trucks in a zone and clear a high speed roadways at no charge.

On average, Austin Towing companies report removing approximately 3 to 4 vehicles off of Austin roadways, free of charge, during their required 6 hour shifts in the TIMs program.

Conclusion

Based on the market analysis, the information provided by the Austin Towing Association and the projected 2 year CPI increase, APD recommends that a fair market value for Non-Consent tows be set at \$185.