

Departmental Review Working Group: Affordability Review Proposal

Late Backup

Goal: Conduct a cross-cutting review of approaches to address affordability, including identifying the factors that drive affordability in Austin, summarizing current initiatives related to affordability, evaluating current efforts, and identifying ways the City can maximize its impact on affordability.

Project Description Based on Working Group Discussions**Phase 1: Identify Affordability Factors and Inventory Current Initiatives**

- 1) What factors drive affordability for Austin residents? This would involve identifying household expenditures for a representative cross-section of residents capturing expenditures by category along with information such as residence location, income level, and household type.
- 2) What approaches is the City currently using to address affordability for the factors identified above?

Proposed approach: City Auditor could conduct special project(s) to answer questions above. Estimate 2500 staff hours and completion by the end of calendar year 2016 (Note: Estimate subject to change based on project planning). To accommodate estimated hours, the City Auditor would propose removing at least 2 projects from the fiscal year 2016 audit plan and adding approximately 1000 hours of temporary resources.

Phase 2: Evaluate and Identify New Approaches to Impact Affordability

- 3) How are current approaches impacting affordability? [Utilize information regarding factors and current approaches gathered in Phase 1]
- 4) Given existing efforts, what strategies should the City use to address affordability in identified areas? This should be based on impact of current approaches, consultant expertise, industry research, and/or effective practices in other jurisdictions.

Proposed Approach: City Auditor could manage a bidding process to identify an outside consultant and manage the work of the consultant to ensure expectations are met and deliverables received. This would take an estimated 1500 staff hours (to be proposed in FY 2017 audit plan, estimated hours would be updated after completion of phase 1 and receipt of consultant proposals) with consultant costs to be determined based on scope of work and/or proposals received.