

Code Prescription: Natural and Built Environment

Code Advisory Group

March 21, 2016



The Next Austin: Manage our growth, keep our character

Natural and Built Environment Code Prescription

DRAFT



CODENEXT
SHAPING THE AUSTIN WE IMAGINE

The physical form of Austin not only shapes how the city functions, it also is an expression of our city's values and the experience people have living here. The Land Development Code reflects a grand balancing of our public values – livability, affordability, environmental protection, mobility, thriving economy, and preservation versus change.

Overview

This presentation will provide an:

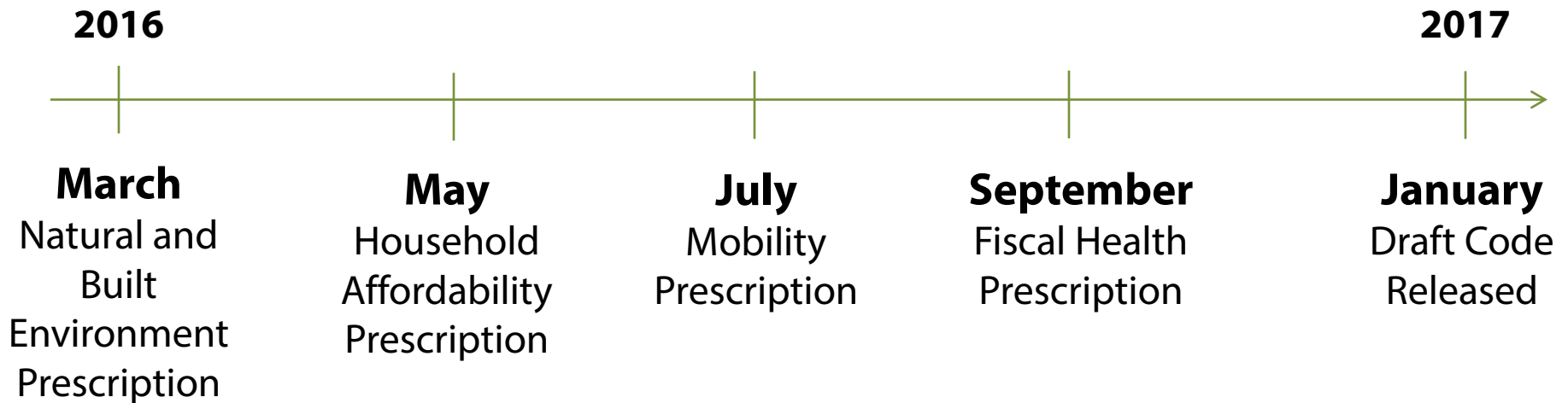
- Understanding of why we are doing Code Prescriptions
- Overview of how the Code Prescriptions fit with Code development
- Overview of roles and responsibilities, including how the CAG can contribute
- Understanding of the Code Prescription timeline
- Overview of Natural and Built Environment Prescription topics

Why a Code Prescription?

- **Frame discussion of complex topics and tradeoffs before Code draft debuts (January 2017)**
- **Prescription topics derived from Code Diagnosis and frequently cited questions and concerns from public**
- **Prioritize tradeoffs → align the code with community values:**
 - Are we achieving Imagine Austin goals?
 - Is the Prescription too strong? Too weak?
 - How do priorities change based on context?
- **Support from Mayor, City Manager, CAG leadership**

Prescription Schedule and Framework

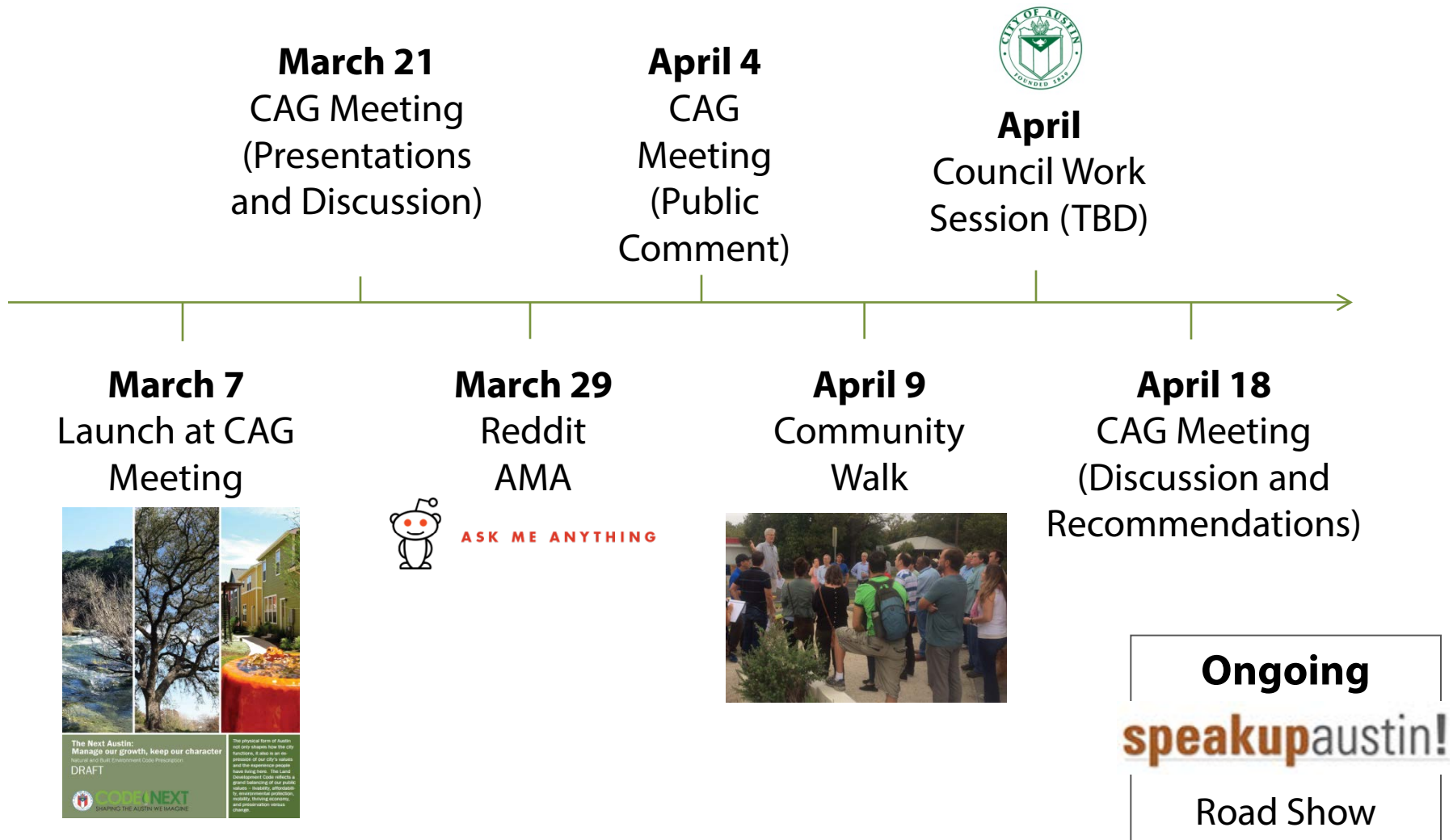
Schedule



Consistent Prescription Framework

- Where Are We Now?
- Where Do We Want to Be?
- What's the Prescription?

Natural and Built Environment Schedule



Roles and Responsibilities: We Need You!

- **Planning and Zoning Staff**

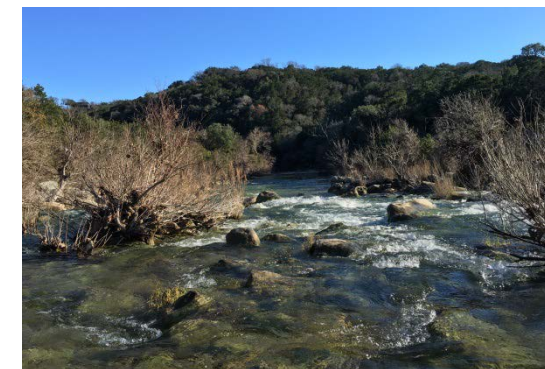
- Lead authors, coordinate with other writers, reviewers, and Opticos
- Coordinate outreach and engagement
 - CAG, Mayor, Council, public, city departments and organizations
- Review feedback and evaluate for influence on code

- **Code Advisory Group**

- Review Prescription
- Offer and collect feedback
 - Public and CAG
- Outreach
 - Meet with stakeholders
 - Attend public events (ex: Community Walk, Road Show)

What Can You Expect from a Prescription?

- **Professional recommendations**
- **Natural and Built Environment has more than 40 Prescriptions for:**
 - Water and Watersheds
 - Landscape and Trees
 - Compatibility and Transitions
 - Design for Mobility
 - Redevelopment
 - Greenfield Development
 - Parks and Open Space



Sample Prescriptions

- **Water and Watersheds**

- Maintain Austin's historic watershed regulations and add recent Watershed Protection Ordinance and Green Infrastructure improvements
- New: Redevelopment (like new development) will be required to mitigate for the site's share of existing downstream flooding

- **Landscape and Trees**

- Set impervious cover limits as a maximum, not a guarantee of buildable land

- **Redevelopment**

- Allow diverse and compact lot sizes

Feedback: How? What happens?

- **Frame the Conversation**
 - How does/can Code solve this issue?
 - Where does a solution work best?
 - Is something missing?
- **Prioritize tradeoffs → align the code with community values:**
 - Are we achieving Imagine Austin goals?
 - Is the Prescription too strong? Too weak? Too vague?
 - How do priorities change based on context?
- **Staff CodeNEXT team and Opticos review, use to refine Code**

Questions?

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