

Briefing Resolution No. 20160128-067

Regarding Public Toilets

Health and Human Services Committee
Meeting

May 24, 2016

Stephanie Hayden, Deputy Director
Austin/Travis County Health and Human Services Department

David V. Magaña, City Engineer
City of Austin, Public Works



Overview

- Background
- Internal Stakeholders Meetings
- Research
- External Stakeholder Meetings
- Ideal Location Characteristics
- Recommendations



Roles & Responsibilities

- City Council:
 - Policy decision regarding the recommendations from City staff about Public Toilets.
- HHSD and Public Works:
 - To compile information about existing publicly accessible toilets located on City property in the Downtown area
 - Convene relevant stakeholders to make recommendations about options, locations, and funding for 24-hour free public toilets.
 - The City Manager was directed to report recommendations for moving forward with a pilot project for the Downtown area to the Council's Health and Human Services (HHS) Committee.



Background

- Austin City Council passed resolution 20160128-067 related to the potential provision of safe, durable, 24-hour free public toilets
- The resolution directed the City Manager to compile information about existing publicly accessible toilets located on City property in the Downtown area
- Convene relevant stakeholders to make recommendations about options, locations, and funding for 24-hour free public toilets.
- The City Manager was directed to report recommendations for moving forward with a pilot project for the Downtown area to the Council's Health and Human Services (HHS) Committee.



Background

- Strategically located 24- hour restroom public toilets benefit to:
 - Families with young children
 - Seniors
 - Bikers and runners
 - Homeless people
 - Late-night crowds that enter the streets after bars close and other businesses
- Public Health Benefit-Cleaner Water
 - Four Austin watersheds have elevated bacteria levels making them unsafe for swimming and wading.



Internal Stakeholders

- Austin Police
- Austin Resource Recovery
- Austin Water
- Development Services
- Health and Human Services
- Office of Real Estate
- Parks and Recreation
- Planning and Zoning
- Public Works
- Watershed



Research

Public Restrooms



San Francisco's Self Cleaning Toilet

- \$250,000 Purchase Price
- \$25,000 per year for cleaning *
- \$1,700 Permit Fees
- \$18,000 Impact Fee & Installation
- \$300 monthly water & wastewater
- \$150 monthly electricity

** 2 times day, 7 days per week for 52 weeks*



San Francisco's Self Cleaning Toilet

Advantages

- ✓ Privacy
- ✓ Durable construction
- ✓ Advertisement
- ✓ ADA compliant
- ✓ Automatic
- ✓ Self cleaning

Disadvantages

- ❖ Privacy
- ❖ Increased activity
- ❖ Attendant
- ❖ Mechanical failures
- ❖ High maintenance



San Francisco's Pit Stops

- \$6,000 Rental Price-Per Month
- \$64,000 per year for cleaning-includes dedicated attendant, cleaning supplies/equipment and uniforms
- No Utility Costs or Impact Fees



San Francisco's Pit Stops

Advantages

- ✓ Attendant (Monitor)
- ✓ Cleaned after each use
- ✓ Privacy
- ✓ Portable
- ✓ Time limit
- ✓ 2 per trailer
- ✓ Transport for Availability

Disadvantages

- ❖ Attendant (Cost)
- ❖ Non ADA Compliant
- ❖ Not a 24/7 operation



Comfort Station

- \$25,000 Purchase Price
- \$25,000 per year for cleaning
- Cleaned 2 times per day, 7 days per week for 52 weeks

Advantages

- ✓ Attendant
- ✓ Cleaned after each use
- ✓ Privacy
- ✓ Portable
- ✓ Time limit
- ✓ 2 per trailer
- ✓ Transport for availability

Disadvantages

- ❖ Attendant
- ❖ Non ADA Compliant
- ❖ Not available 24/7
- ❖ Maintenance



Standard Portable Toilet

- \$13,200 per year rental
- \$27,000 per year for cleaning
- Cleaned 2 times per day, 7 days per week for 52 weeks

Advantages

- ✓ Privacy
- ✓ Portable
- ✓ Transport for availability

Disadvantages

- ❖ Privacy
- ❖ Unsightly
- ❖ Bulky



Portland Loo

- \$90,000 - \$140,000 Purchase Price
- \$25,000 per year for cleaning *
- \$1,500 Permit Fees
- \$18,000 Impact Fee & Installation
- \$300 monthly water & wastewater
- \$150 monthly electricity

** 2 times per day, 7 days per week for 52 weeks*



Portland Loo

Advantages

- ✓ Privacy
- ✓ Stainless steel
- ✓ Graffiti proof
- ✓ Top & Bottom louvers
- ✓ Advertisement
- ✓ ADA Compliant
- ✓ 24/7 Availability

Disadvantages

- ❖ Cleaning
- ❖ Available locations
- ❖ Non-portable
- ❖ Permanent



City Hall

- Currently being serviced and used by:
 - Security Staff
 - Landscapers
 - Pressure washing crew
- \$4,000 for installing hand dries on a dedicated circuit
- \$5,050 per month for cleaning (nights and weekends)



City Hall

Advantages

- ✓ Privacy
- ✓ ADA Compliant
- ✓ 24/7 Availability
- ✓ Currently being serviced

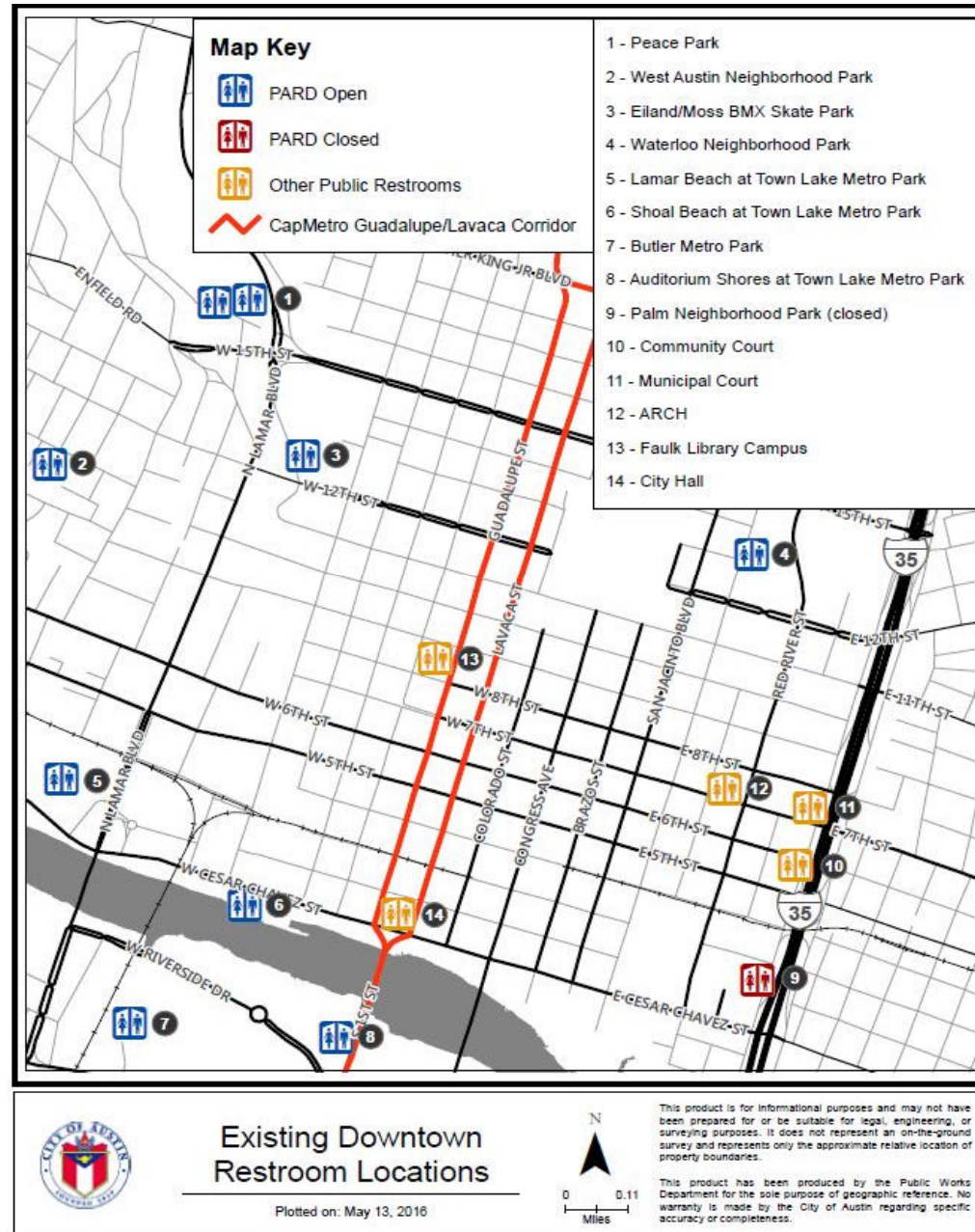
Disadvantages

- ❖ Privacy
- ❖ Potential for inappropriate activity at night
- ❖ Tucked away location



Existing Downtown Restroom Locations

**Existing Public Restrooms
and Cap Metro Routes
located within the
Downtown Corridor**



External Stakeholder Meetings

March 7th at the ARCH

- Downtown Austin Business Owners
- Homeless service providers
- Social services
- Faith-based/Clergy
- Waller Creek

April 12th at University Baptist

- Business owners
- Faith based/Clergy
- Homeless service providers
- Resident
- Social services providers
- U.T. staff



Looking for Public Input

- What are the advantages and disadvantages?
- Which location is the best?
- Is there any other information you think we should know?



[The Portland Loo](#)



Location

Ideal Location Characteristics

Possible Locations



Ideal Location Characteristics

- Safety
 - View within APD cameras
- Heavy Pedestrian Traffic
- Well Lit
- Wide Parkway Area for Installation
- Within Proximity to Required Utilities
- Information from Austin Resource Recovery



Recommendations

- Open the outdoor restroom at City Hall
- Pilot “Pit Stop” locations
 - 4th and Trinity
 - Near 7th and Neches
 - IH 35 and 7th Street
- Long term
 - Installation of Portland Loo
 - Based on high utilization
 - Based on stakeholder feedback



Questions?

