



# **Language Access Initiative**

## **Update to the Joint Inclusion Committee**

Doug Matthews,  
Chief Communications Director



# **Prior & current initiatives**

- **Community engagement initiatives**
  - Engagement staff focused on limited access
  - QOL Task Force (Hispanic, Asian-American)
- **Translation & Interpretation Policy (2014)**
- **Community Engagement Task Force (2016)**
- **Language Access Audit (2016)**



# **Admin. policy initiatives**

- **Terminology bank**
- **Document bank**
- **Vendor registration & prequalification**
- **Annual review for effectiveness**



# **Task force initiatives**

- **Website translation**
- **Partnerships with community organizations**
- **Place-based engagement**





# **Audit recommendations**

- **Develop a multi-department group to define plans and initiatives**
- **Assign/define responsibility for ongoing monitoring and ownership**



# Identified gaps & needs

- **Natural language translation for online services**
- **Use and monitoring of bilingual stipend**
- **Consistent plans for federal compliance**
- **Single-point resource for all departments**
- **Prequalification & access to vetted resources**



# **Current status**

- **Convening internal “front line” team and leadership/community team consistent with Audit recommendations**
- **Reviewing best practices internally and from outside agencies**



# Timeline

- **Convene initial meetings to define scope and deliverables – Aug/Sep**
- **Continue meetings with internal and external stakeholders – Sep through Nov**
- **Conduct needs identification and develop initial recommendations by end of 2016**





# Timeline

- **Integrate activities with new Equity Office when appropriate**
- **Integrate recommendations with website redesign in 2017**
- **Align recommendation with departmental policies (ex. HRD) in 2017**

A wide-angle photograph of the Austin skyline across a body of water. The water is calm, reflecting the city buildings and the sky. On the left, a modern building with a glass facade is visible. The sky is filled with soft, white clouds, and the overall lighting suggests a late afternoon or early morning setting.

# Questions?