

# 2016

## Annual Report



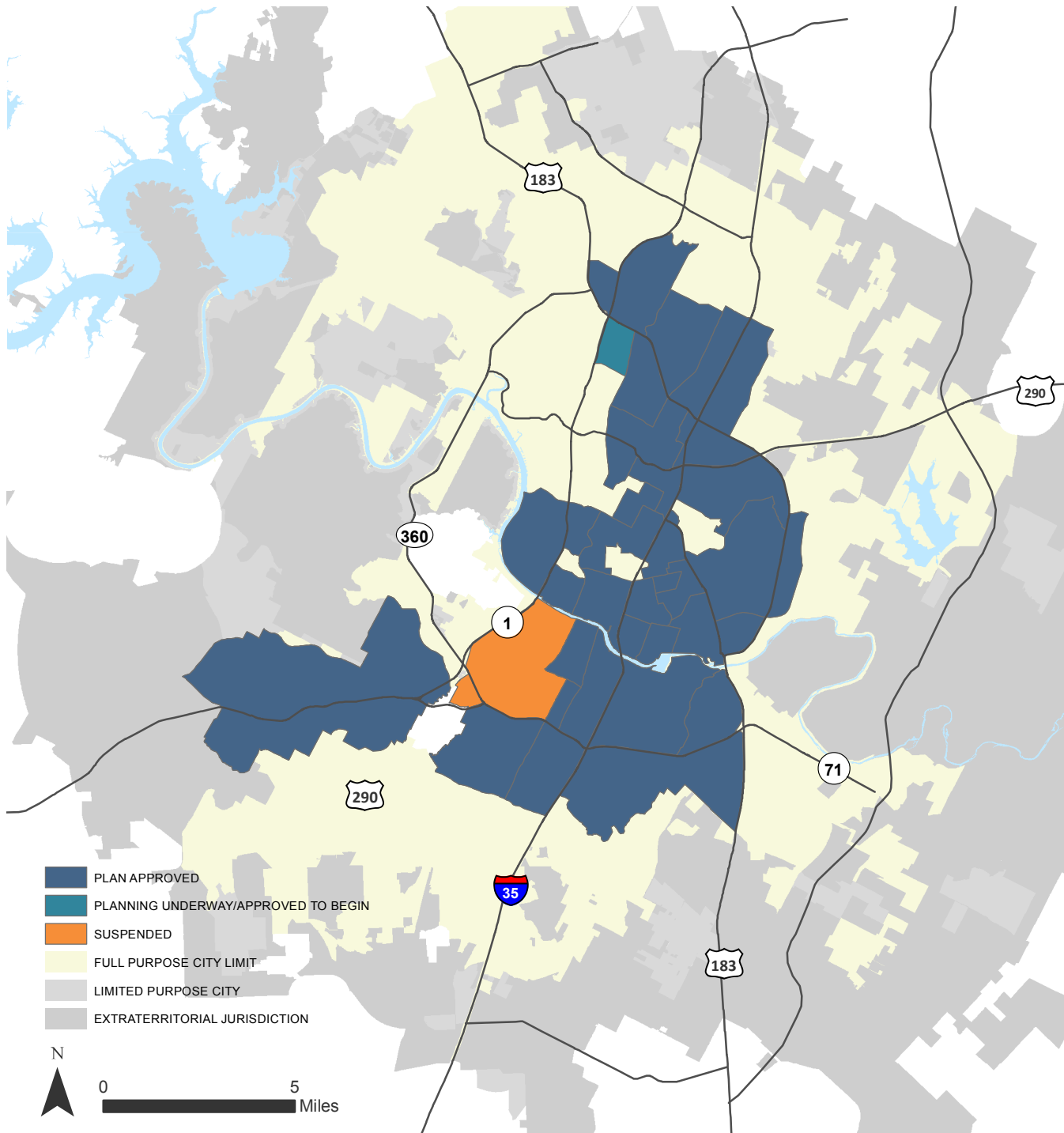
Lakeshore Drive buffered bicycle lanes

## SMALL AREA PLAN IMPLEMENTATION



## SMALL AREA PLAN IMPLEMENTATION

## Adopted Small Area Plans and Austin Jurisdictions



All maps in this plan are for informational purposes and may not have been prepared for or be suitable for legal, engineering or surveying purposes. They do not represent on the ground surveys and represent only the approximate relative location of property boundaries. This product has been produced by the Planning and Zoning Department for the sole purpose of geographic reference. No warranty is made by the City of Austin regarding specific accuracy or completeness.





## About the PAZ Implementation Program

The Planning and Zoning Department (PAZ) monitors and supports the implementation of adopted small area plans. Small area plans include neighborhood plans and other specialized plans that are developed by PAZ and adopted as attachments to the *Imagine Austin Comprehensive Plan*. Small area plans engage the community to articulate a long term vision for a specific area of the City. Each adopted small area plan provides a framework for actions to be taken by the City, neighborhood groups, decision makers, and others within the area covered by the plan as funding and resources become available. Implementation methods are consistent with *Imagine Austin's* Five-Point Implementation Program, and include:

**Regulations:** Regulating and reviewing development under the Land Development Code and other development regulations;


**Education and Engagement:** Providing training and helping to build the capacity of community groups, including Neighborhood Plan Contact Teams;

**Partnerships:** Partnering with the private sector and community groups to implement projects; and

**Internal Alignment and Public Investment:** Coordinating City capital investments.

*The Implementation Program coordinates with other City departments to put the visions created in neighborhood plans on the ground, such as the Arroyo Seco bike lane and turtle bumps in the Brentwood/Highland Combined Neighborhood Planning area.*


### FOR MORE INFORMATION

 Visit the PAZ Implementation Program website at: <http://austintexas.gov/department/implementation-program>

### CONTACT

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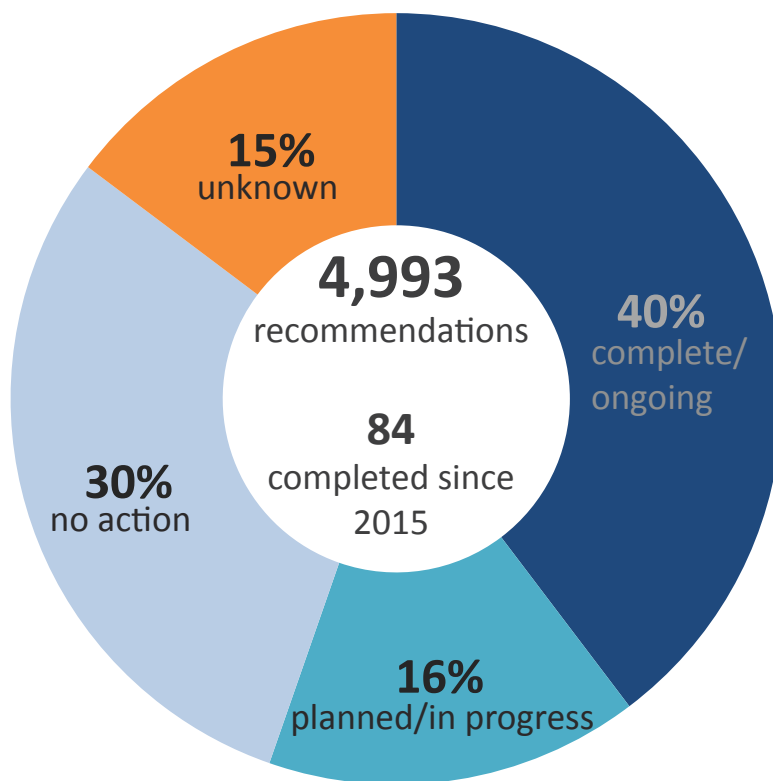
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## SMALL AREA PLAN IMPLEMENTATION

## Summary of Implementation Status

Of the 4,993 recommendations included in adopted small area plans, 1,971 are known to have been completed or are on-going and another 782 are planned or in progress.

### Status of Adopted Small Area Plan Recommendations (as of Dec. 2016)



Definition of status: "Complete" recommendations have been fully implemented. "Ongoing" recommendations have been initiated and are of a continuing nature. "Planned" recommendations have been included in a City budget document, or have been otherwise formally advanced through specific planning, design, or engineering. "In Progress" recommendations have been partially completed or are underway. "No Action" recommendations have not yet been initiated or are not recommended for action. "Unknown" recommendations are those which PAZ Implementation Program staff have not yet been able to verify an implementation status.





*New playscape at Battle Bend Park in the South Congress Combined Neighborhood Planning area.*

## Neighborhood Plans

To date, the City has adopted 30 neighborhood plans covering 53 out of 60 designated neighborhood planning areas. The North Shoal Creek planning process is currently underway.

## Other Special Small Area Plans

The Planning and Zoning Department has developed additional small area plans focused on urban design and other aspects of the built environment in specific areas throughout the city. These include master plans, station area plans, corridor plans, and district plans. To date, the City has adopted eight of these special small area plans.

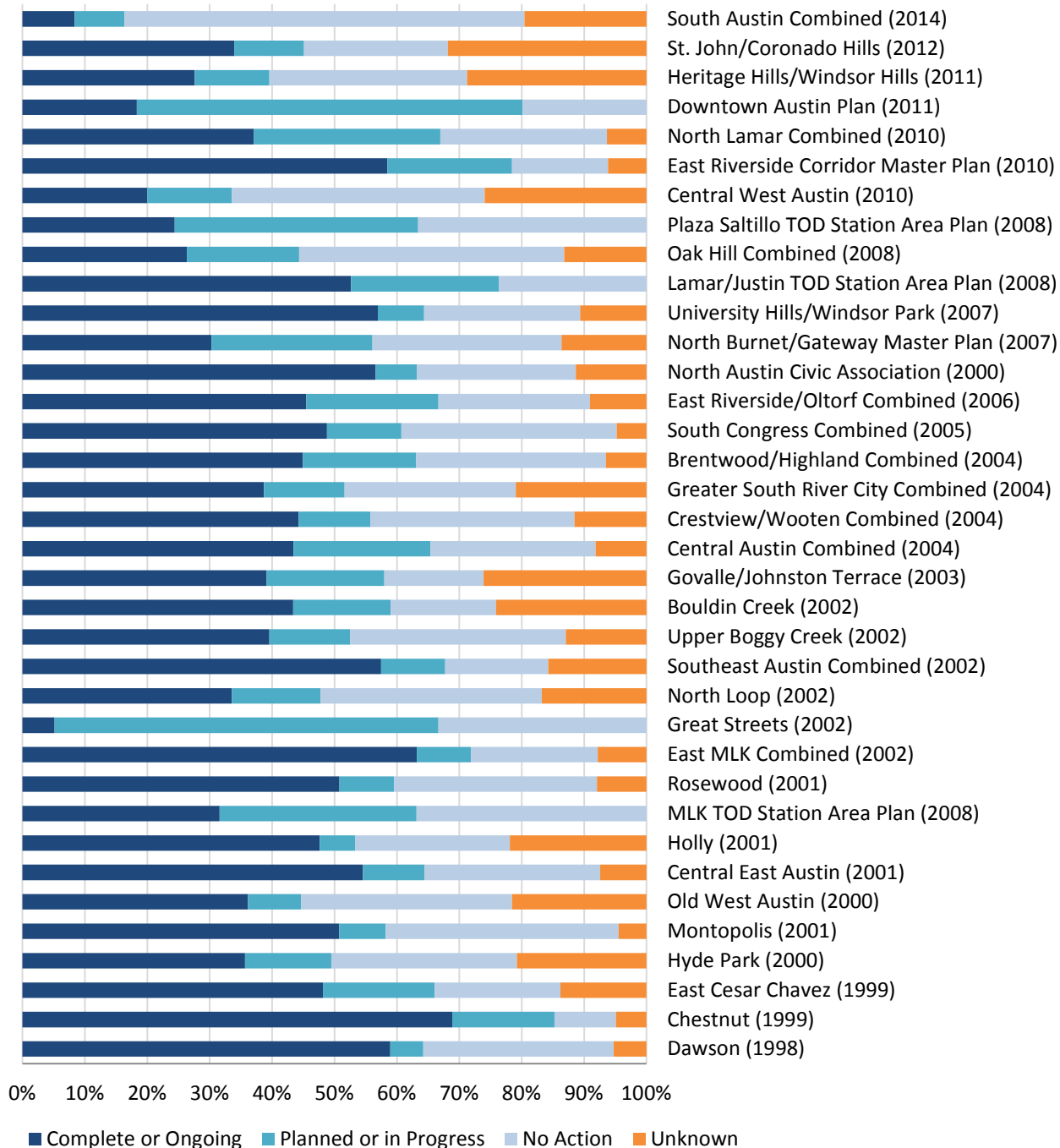
A listing of all adopted small area plans is included in Appendix A.

## SMALL AREA PLAN IMPLEMENTATION

## Implementation Status of Recommendations by Plan and Project Type

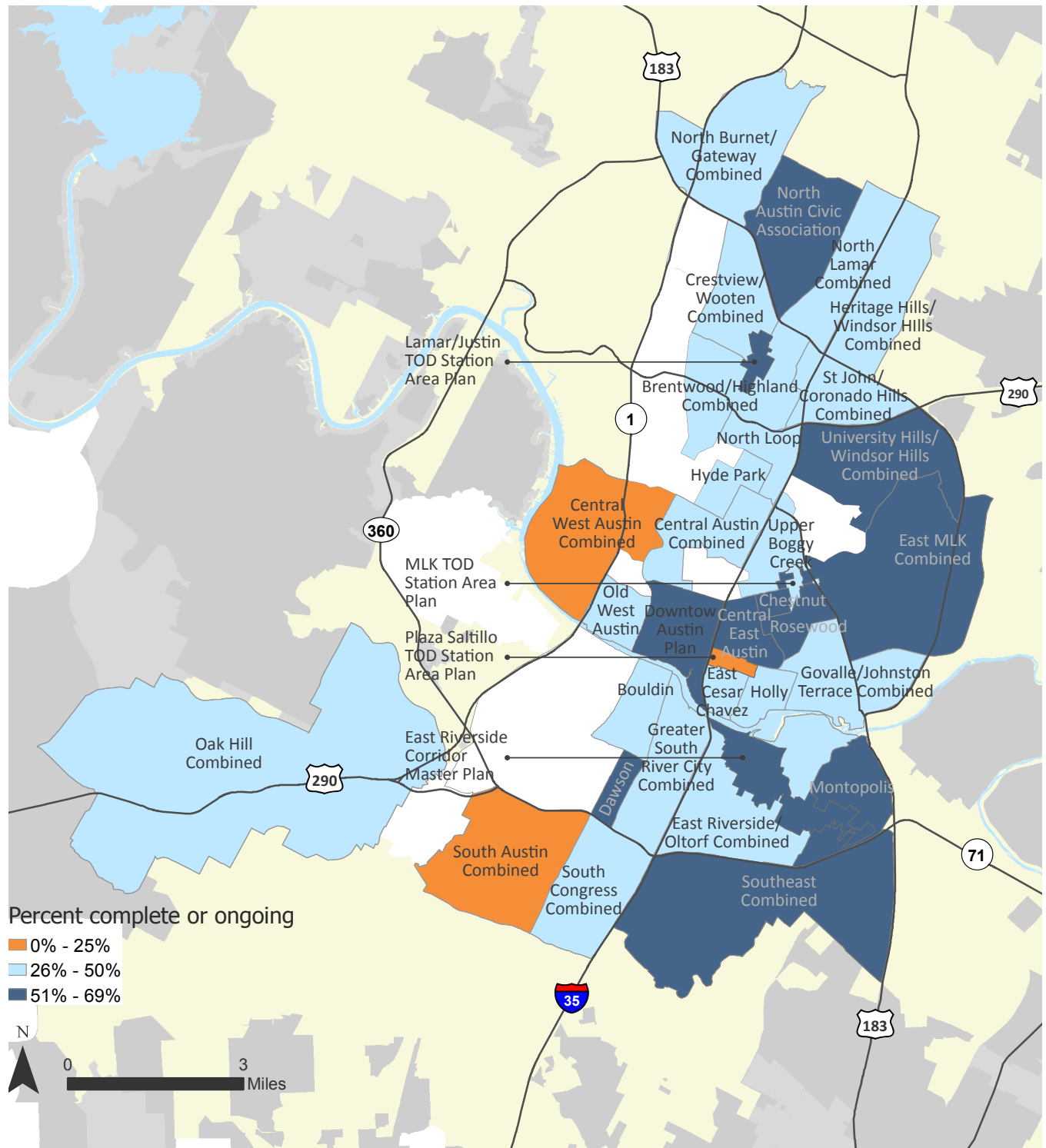
The percentage complete/ongoing varies by plan, ranging from a low of 5% to a high of 69%. In general, older plans show a higher level of completion than more recently adopted plans.

### Status of Small Area Plan Recommendations by Plan



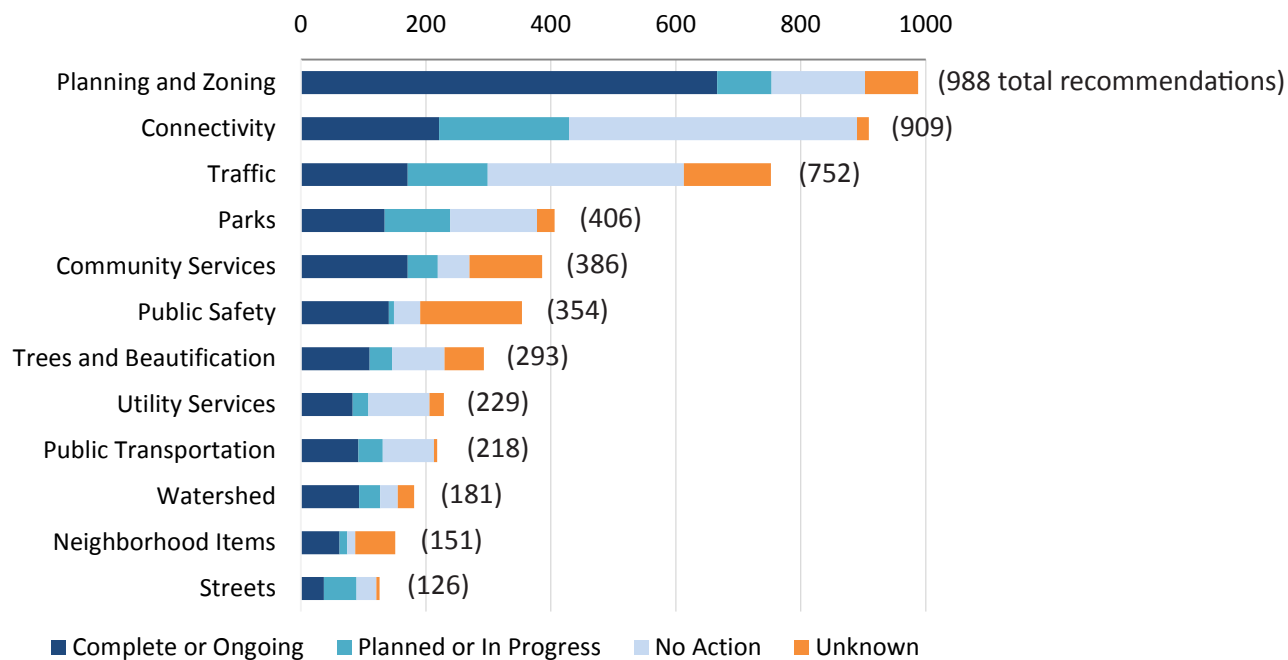


## Percent complete/ongoing Adopted Small Area Plan Recommendations by Plan



## SMALL AREA PLAN IMPLEMENTATION

## Status of Small Area Plan Recommendations by Project Type



## Capital Improvement Program Coordination

PAZ Implementation Program staff collaborates with various City departments to integrate small area plan recommendations into capital project planning. Examples of recent CIP collaboration activities include:

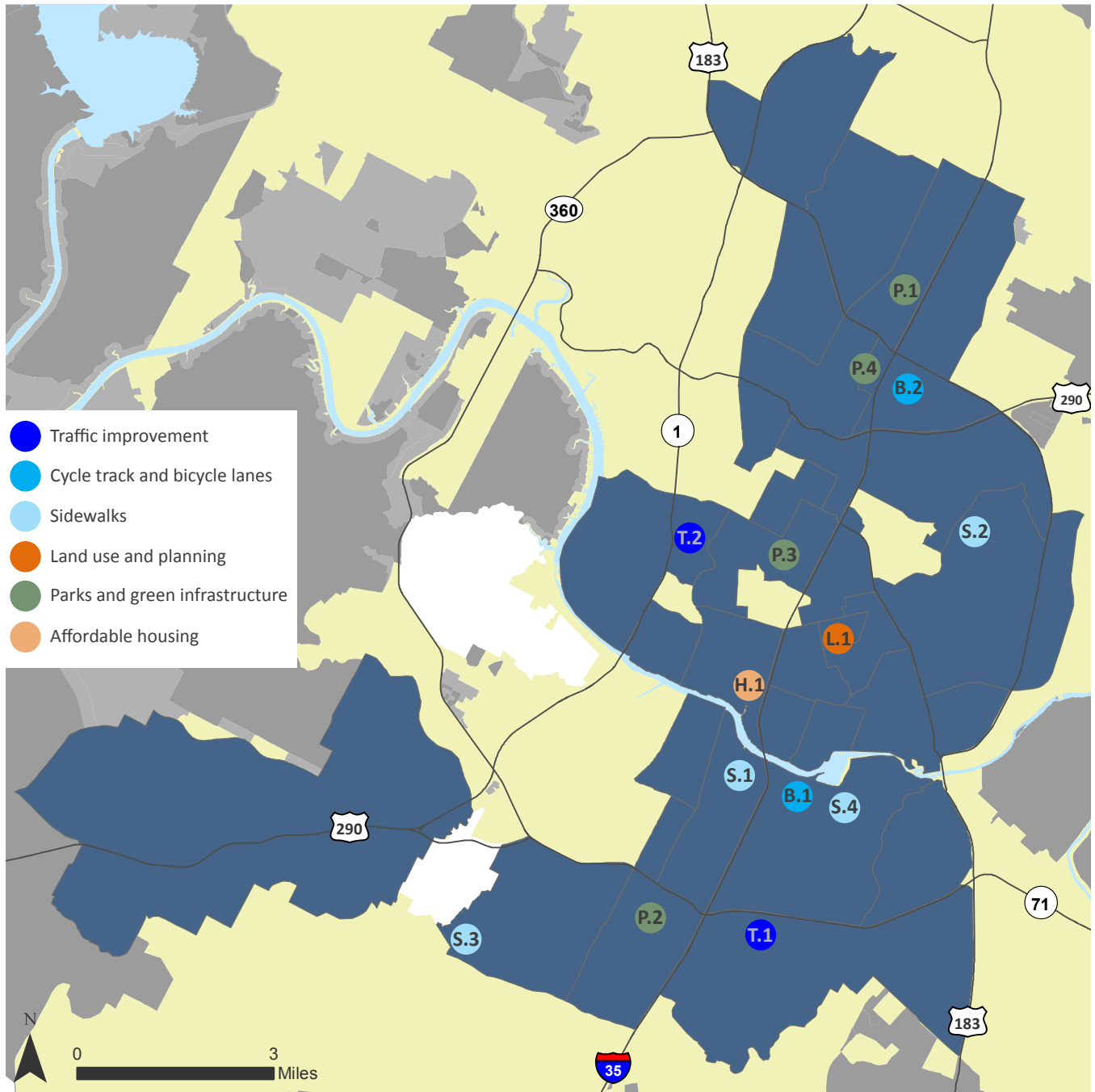
- **Coordination with internal capital project management systems** (eCapris and IMMPACT) provide for automated tracking of capital projects that implement small area plan recommendations and allow project managers to identify opportunities to implement small area plan recommendations through near term and routine capital investments.
- **Regular coordination with staff from Capital Departments** (including Public Works, Watershed Protection, Parks and Recreation, and Transportation) help identify opportunities for including small area plan recommendations in department budgets.
- **Creation and distribution of small area plan recommendation data** to department staff in formats that meet the individual needs of the departments and support broader understanding and use of small area plan recommendations. Methods vary by project type and include: making geographic data available for download, interactive online viewer and Flickr site, and providing specialized reports by project type.
- **Coordination with departments to develop the Long Range CIP Strategic Plan.** The CIP Strategic Plan identifies the City's priority unfunded capital needs over the next 10 years, as identified by City departments, to keep pace with services as well as make strategic investments aligned with the recommendations of *Imagine Austin*, its supporting small area plans, departmental master plans, and related City priorities. By collecting future capital needs in one place, the City can better identify opportunities for coordinated CIP investments at an early stage in the project planning process and prepare for future bond package development and identification of other funding.



## Recently Completed Project Highlights

Numerous projects were completed in 2016 which implemented small area plan recommendations. Recently completed projects are geographically dispersed and include a range of project types. The map and accompanying descriptions below provide highlights of recently completed projects.

### 2016 Completed Projects Recommended in Small Area Plans



## SMALL AREA PLAN IMPLEMENTATION

## P. Parks and Green Infrastructure



### P.1 *Georgian Acres Neighborhood Park Master Plan*

**Description:** The City of Austin Parks and Recreation Department received \$500K from Council through the 2015-16 budget cycle to develop Georgian Acres Park. The funds are allotted for design, engineering and development of the park. The planning process will be conducted in partnership with the District 4 Council Office, the area neighborhood association, and community leaders. Thus far, there have been community block walks, surveys, an interactive workshop with James Rojas, an urban planner and community activist, and community meetings. The park is currently in design development. Construction is expected to be Spring 2018.

**Year Complete : 2016 (Master Plan)**

**Implements:** North Lamar Combined Recommendation 47.F-M: "Consider the incorporation of the following amenities within the design of a new park: trash cans, mutt mitt stations, playground equipment, walking trails, exercise equipment, an area for a community garden & large open space to allow for various activities, including football and kite flying."

### P.2 *Battle Bend Neighborhood Park*

**Description:** More than \$600K in funds from the Parks and Recreation Department, Austin Parks Foundation and the National Recreation and Parks Association were provided for renovations to improve the safety and aesthetics of the park. Phase one renovated the basketball court that included replacing the basketball backboards and rims, resurfacing and re-stripping the entire court, and the installation of a new sports court lighting system. Phase two included the removal and installation of the playscape and swings. A nature based area with natural stone settings and large boulder outcrops, a new playscape with large shade element and a new swing set were also added. Phase three provided ADA connectivity from Sheraton Ave and Suburban Dr to all elements of the park. A new picnic pavillion, picnic tables, drinking fountain and trash receptacles were also installed.

**Year Complete : 2016**

**Implements:** South Congress Combined Recommendation 5.4: "Increase the number of significant shade trees in Battle Bend Park."





### P.3 Sparky Park Building Rehabilitation

**Description:** Sparky Pocket Park is the site of the former North Austin Electric Substation at 3701 Grooms Street, which was rededicated as a public park in 2009. The Parks and Recreation Department rehabilitated the 1930s substation building to better relate to the pocket park. The project began with a schematic design phase in 2013 and has been constructed with a combination of Parkland Dedication funding and revenue funds from the onsite cell phone tower. The project, designed by hatch + ulland, owen architects, features an exterior steel and wood canopy, restored steel windows, and a large accordion door system to connect the interior and exterior.

**Year Complete : 2016**

**Implements:** Central Austin Combined Recommendation 6.4.8: "When the electric substation on Grooms is decommissioned, convert it to a park/recreational use."



### P.4 Highland Neighborhood Park

**Description:** The Parks and Recreation Department and Norris Design completed a draft Master Plan for Highland Neighborhood Park and Reznicek Fields. The property at 401 W. St. Johns is 7.5 acres of city owned land transferred from the Watershed Protection Department to the Parks and Recreation Department. This property provides several opportunities to provide neighborhood park amenities to the area that are currently lacking while also providing sports fields. The final master plan represents a vision for the park that satisfies the needs of the community, and the proposed implementation approach can be achieved over a period of time without negatively impacting the current use of the park.

**Year Complete : 2016**

**Implements:** Brentwood/Highland Combined Recommendation PH2.1: "Develop the City-owned land at the intersection of St. Johns and Northcrest into a public park."

## SMALL AREA PLAN IMPLEMENTATION

## B. Bicycle Lanes and Cycle Tracks

**B.1** *Lakeshore Boulevard Project*

**Description:** In May 2016, the Austin Transportation Department completed the first phase of bicycle and pedestrian improvements along Lakeshore Boulevard between Riverside Drive and Pleasant Valley Road. The parking-protected bicycle lane on the north side of the street was installed to provide an all-ages-and-abilities bicycle facility for people living, working and playing in the South Shore District. A total of five pedestrian refuge islands and improved trail connections to the Boardwalk and Country Club Creek Trail will be installed as part of the second phase of the project.

**Year Complete :** 2016

**Implements:** East Riverside and Oltorf Combined Recommendation 53: "Put a striped bike lane along Lakeshore Blvd."

**B.2** *Coronado Hills Drive Bike Lane*

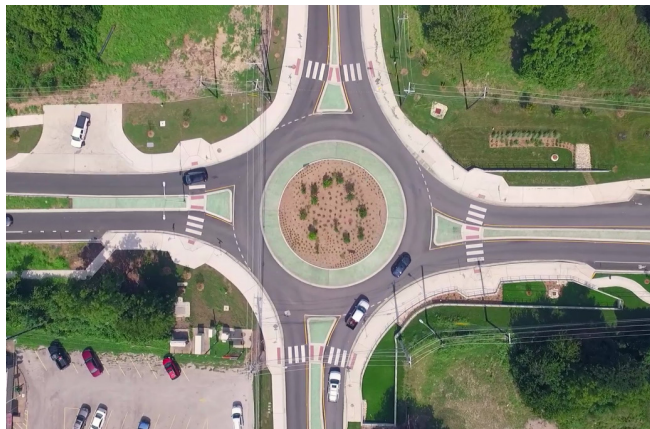
**Description:** The Austin Transportation Department completed bicycle lanes on both sides of Coronado Hills Dr. between Cameron Rd. and Berkman Dr.

**Year Complete :** 2016

**Implements:** St. John/Coronado Hills Combined Recommendation 152a: "Provide a bicycle lane on Coronado Hills from Cameron Rd. to Berkman Dr."



## T. Traffic Improvements



### T.1 Todd Lane Improvements Project

**Description:** The Public Works Department completed improvements to Todd Lane from Ben White Boulevard to St. Elmo Road. The certified Greenroads<sup>R</sup> Project is a vibrant corridor that accommodates traffic needs, improves pedestrian and bicycle accessibility, promotes a healthy and active lifestyle, and sustainably manages water resources by integrating green infrastructure features. Project highlights include: 10-foot wide sidewalks; 8-foot wide buffered bicycle lanes; single-lane, modern roundabout; storm drain lines; pedestrian hybrid beacon; seven rain gardens; two bio-filtration/sedimentation ponds; water and wastewater lines; four CapMetro bus stops; drought tolerant native plants and additional complete streets elements.

**Year Complete : 2016**

**Implements:** Southeast Austin Combined Recommendation 88: "After TxDOT's reconstruction of Ben White, Todd Lane and Burleson intersections, build sidewalk along Todd Lane, south of Ben White Blvd."

### T.2 Northwood Traffic Calming

**Description:** The Austin Transportation Department installed speed cushions on Northwood Drive.

**Year Complete : 2016**

**Implements:** Central West Austin Recommendation T.1.2.J: "Current neighborhood concerns regarding volume and speed: Northwood Ave. Excessive traffic during rush hour. Used as a cut through to Mopac."

## SMALL AREA PLAN IMPLEMENTATION

## S. Sidewalks

**S.1** *Travis Heights Blvd. Sidewalk*

**Description:** The Public Works Department constructed a sidewalk on Travis Heights Blvd. between E. Riverside Dr. and E. Live Oak St.

**Year Complete :** 2016

**Implements:** Greater South River City Combined Recommendation D1c: "Construct the following priority sidewalks in the South River City planning area: Travis Heights Blvd. between E. Riverside Drive and E. Live Oak St."

**S.2** *Pecan Springs Road Sidewalk*

**Description:** The Public Works Department constructed a sidewalk on Pecan Springs Rd. from Manor Rd. to 51<sup>st</sup> St.

**Year Complete :** 2016

**Implements:** East MLK Combined Recommendation 99c: "Construct the following priority sidewalks: Pecan Springs (either side) from Manor to 51<sup>st</sup>."



### S.3 *William Cannon and West Gate Sidewalk*

**Description:** The Public Works Department constructed sidewalks and ADA ramps at the intersection of William Cannon Dr. and West Gate Blvd.

**Year Complete :** 2016

**Implements:** South Austin Combined Recommendation T A15.8 "Complete sidewalk network, prioritizing these segments: Intersection of William Cannon Dr. and West Gate Blvd."

### S.4 *Pleasant Valley Road Sidewalk*

**Description:** The Public Works Department constructed sidewalks on Pleasant Valley Rd. between Elmont Dr. and Lakeshore Dr.

**Year Complete :** 2016

**Implements:** East Riverside/Oltorf Combined Recommendation 58c: "Build sidewalks within the Pleasant Valley planning area in this order of priority: West side of Pleasant Valley Rd. (north of Elmont to Lakeshore)."



## SMALL AREA PLAN IMPLEMENTATION

## H. Housing



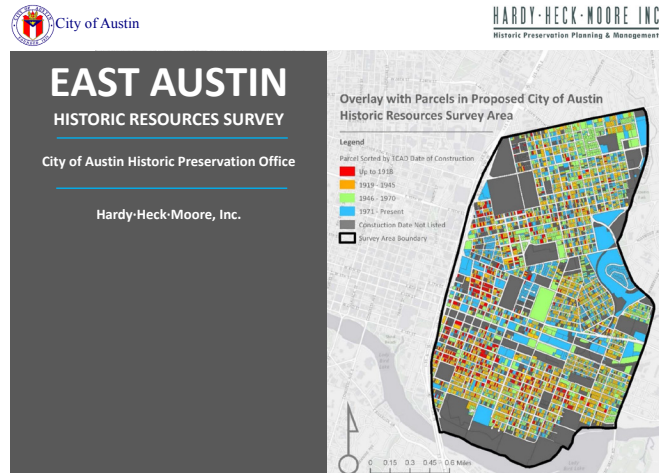
## H.1 Affordable Housing

**Description:** Foundations Communities developed Capital Studios using \$2M in General Obligations bonds, \$360,000 in state Community Development Block Group funds, and \$11M in federal housing tax credits. Capital Studios is the first affordable housing development in downtown Austin. Located near E. 11<sup>th</sup> and San Jacinto Streets, Capital Studios offers housing to persons exiting homelessness and low-income working individuals. It is hoped that the location will provide easy access to employment for persons who work downtown. The project has 135 efficiency rental units and has an affordability term of 99 years.

**Year Complete : 2016**

**Implements:** Downtown Austin Plan Recommendation AU-2.3: “Develop a supportive housing project in Downtown.” Recommendation D1.1: “Identify and acquire site and issue developer RFP.” Recommendation D1.2: “Partner with other agencies to construct first supportive housing project (225 DU).”

## L. Land Use and Zoning



## L.1 East Austin Historic Resources Survey

**Description:** The Planning and Zoning Department consulted with Hardy-Heck-Moore, Inc. to complete a historic resources survey in East Austin roughly bound by IH-35 to the west, the Colorado River to the south, Pleasant Valley Rd. and the rail line to the east, and Manor Rd. to the north. The document identifies buildings eligible for local landmark listing, historic district listing, and/or National Register listing.

**Year Complete: 2016**

**Implements: Central East Austin Recommendations 2.1-2.5:** “Request a historic survey be completed for Blackshear/Prospect Hill: Chicon east to Northwest-ern, Rosewood south to 7th; 11th, Rosewood, Chicon “triangle”; south end of the Guadalupe neighborhood defined as the south side of 9th Street, Navasota, 7th Street, San Marcos, also include the north side of 7th between IH-35 and San Marcos; Angelina Street, north of Rosewood area and south of Cotton; Angelina Street, north of Rosewood area and south of Cotton; the northeast corner of the planning area, Leona east to Chicon. **Holly Recommendation 1.1.1:** Complete historic survey of structures in the Holly area and determine historic resources in the neighborhood. **Chestnut Recommendation 4:** Update the City’s East Austin Survey of Cultural Resources including: “Emancipation Park” and the “Hudspeth’s Corner” area along Cedar Avenue.

## Planned Capital Projects

Numerous small area plan recommendations are likely to be constructed with funding authorized under the 2012 and 2016 Bond packages over the next several years. Planned projects include:

- [Great Streets](#) reconstruction of several downtown streets including Colorado Street, Sabine Street, and Cesar Chavez Street
- [Corridor improvements](#) to East Riverside Drive, North Lamar Boulevard, Burnet Road, Airport Boulevard, South Lamar Boulevard, Guadalupe Street, Slaughter Lane, and William Cannon Drive
- [Development of future corridor](#) preliminary engineering and design for East Rundberg Lane, West Rundberg Lane, East MLK Jr Boulevard, South Congress Avenue, Manchaca Road, and South Pleasant Valley Road, Colony Loop Drive, North Lamar Blvd and Guadalupe Street
- [Urban Trail Improvements](#) including continued development of Country Club Creek Trail, the YBC Trail, and the Violet Crown Trail
- Ongoing support of citywide bicycle improvements and citywide sidewalk improvements
- Ongoing support of local area traffic management, intersection improvements, and installation of traffic signals and pedestrian hybrid beacons in various locations citywide
- Ongoing support of the Public Works [Neighborhood Partnering Program](#)
- Neighborhood Plan Parks Improvements including parks in Montopolis, Georgian Acres, Highland and Franklin Park
- Improvements within the Waller Creek District
- Improvements to Gus Garcia Recreation Center
- Improvements to various parks and facilities citywide which could implement specific neighborhood plan recommendations

## Neighborhood Plan Contact Teams

Neighborhood Plan Contact Teams (NPCTs) are groups of individuals designated under the requirements of the Austin Land Development Code to be stewards of their adopted neighborhood plan. NPCTs work with city staff towards the implementation of plan recommendations, review and initiate Neighborhood Plan Amendments, serve as community points of contact and work on behalf of other neighborhood stakeholders. Neighborhood Plan Contact Teams may represent a single planning area or a combined planning area. There are currently 33 designated Neighborhood Plan Contact Teams.

PAZ Implementation Program staff support the work of these groups by helping new groups form where appropriate, monitoring membership and bylaws, providing capacity building and training support, and asking for input from the groups on priorities within their Plan on a rotating basis. In 2016, PAZ Implementation Program staff hosted four quarterly trainings on various topics targeted to NPCTs, including online tools training. Staff surveyed 10 NPCTs for their priorities for plan implementation. In 2017, staff will survey Bouldin Creek, Brentwood/Highland, Central Austin Combined, Chestnut, East Riverside/Oltorf, Heritage Hills/Windsor Hills, North Austin Civic Association, Old West Austin, Rosewood, University Hills/Windsor Park.

The South Manchaca Planning Area adopted their by-laws in September 2016 and formed the South Manchaca Neighborhood Plan Contact Team. They are the first Contact Team in the South Austin Combined Neighborhood Planning Area.

In late 2016, the City Auditor's office completed an audit of neighborhood planning processes. The audit included recommendations related to the neighborhood planning process. Staff is working with NPCTs to create trainings and processes to review and revisit NPCT by-laws.

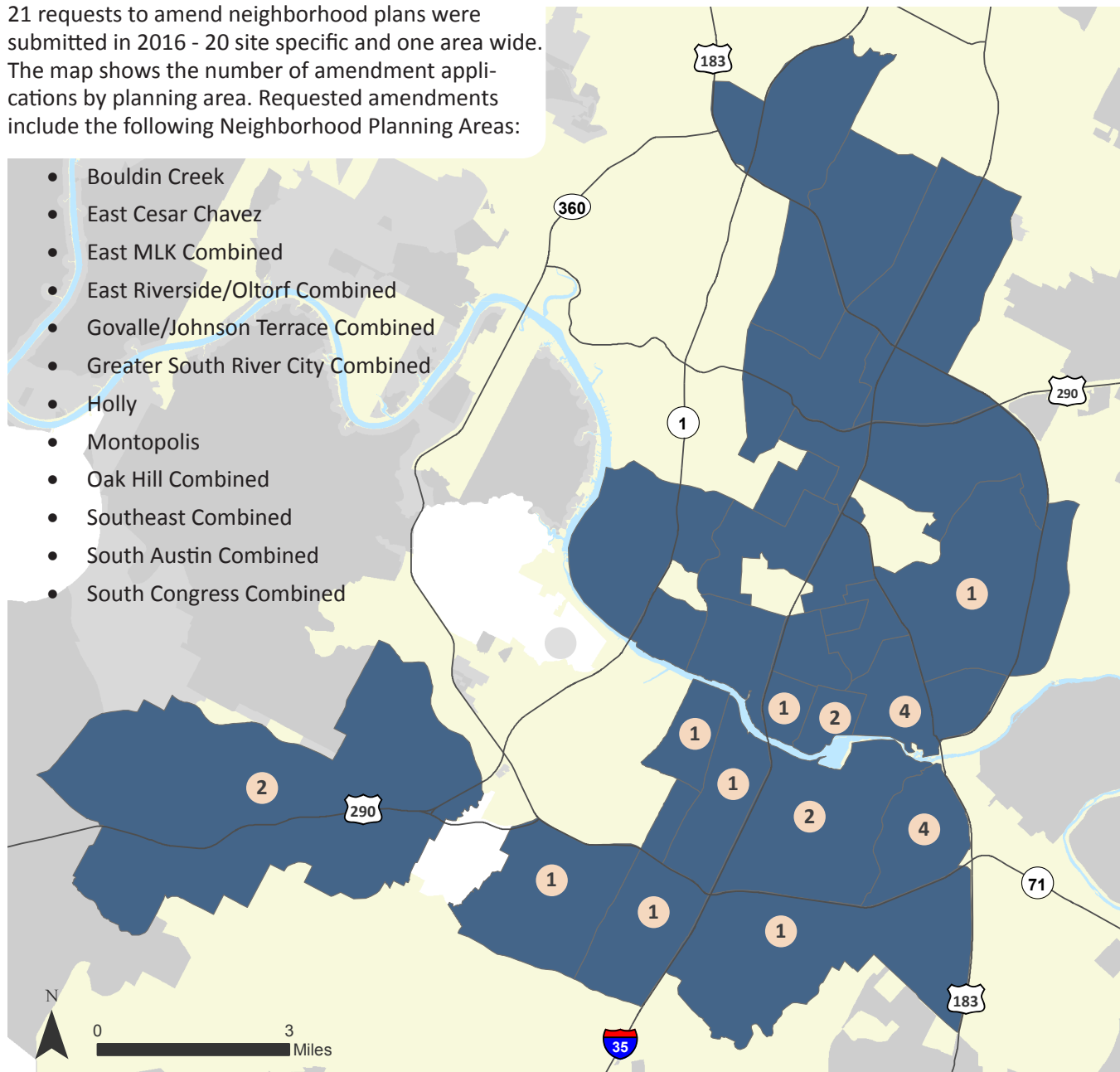
## SMALL AREA PLAN IMPLEMENTATION

## Neighborhood Plan Amendments

Amendments to neighborhood plans must meet the process requirements in the Land Development Code which include submittal deadlines by geographic area and a requirement for input from the Neighborhood Plan Contact Team. Contact Teams have the authority to submit applications to amend the goals, recommendations, and other text within their plans.

21 requests to amend neighborhood plans were submitted in 2016 - 20 site specific and one area wide. The map shows the number of amendment applications by planning area. Requested amendments include the following Neighborhood Planning Areas:

- Bouldin Creek
- East Cesar Chavez
- East MLK Combined
- East Riverside/Oltorf Combined
- Govalle/Johnson Terrace Combined
- Greater South River City Combined
- Holly
- Montopolis
- Oak Hill Combined
- Southeast Combined
- South Austin Combined
- South Congress Combined







Quail Creek Painted Bridges - North Austin Civic Association and the Neighborhood Partnering Program

## On the Horizon for the Implementation Program

As we move forward into 2017, the PAZ Implementation Program continues to support implementation of adopted small area plans in various ways:

- Tracking, monitoring, and geographic analysis of recommendations;
- Regular coordination with City Capital departments to advance recommendations through department budgets;
- Coordination to develop the Long-Range CIP Strategic Plan and identify projects for inclusion in the “Rolling Needs Assessment”;
- Outreach to Neighborhood Plan Contact Teams to prioritize neighborhood plan recommendations;
- Regular Quarterly Contact Team Trainings and newsletters with information for Contact Team members;
- Creation of new Neighborhood Plan Contact Teams in various locations; and
- Development of additional training materials for Contact Teams and neighborhood groups.

The PAZ Implementation Program will continue to evolve as the Department develops new small area plans and works toward turning *Imagine Austin* and its related plans to reality.

## SMALL AREA PLAN IMPLEMENTATION



*Todd Lane Improvements received a Greenroads Silver Certification.*

## Appendix A

### Adopted Neighborhood Plans:

- Bouldin Creek
- Brentwood/Highland Combined
- Central Austin Combined
- Central East Austin
- Central West Austin Combined
- Chestnut
- Crestview/Wooten Combined
- Dawson
- East Cesar Chavez
- East MLK Combined
- East Riverside/Oltorf Combined
- Govalle/Johnston Terrace Combined
- Greater South River City Combined
- Heritage Hills/Windsor Hills Combined
- Holly
- Hyde Park
- Montopolis
- N. Austin Civic Association (NACA)
- North Burnet/Gateway Combined (also serves as a Master Plan)
- North Lamar Combined
- North Loop
- Oak Hill Combined
- Old West Austin
- Rosewood
- South Austin Combined
- South Congress Combined
- Southeast Combined
- St. John/Coronado Hills Combined
- University Hills/Windsor Park
- Upper Boggy Creek

Adopted Master Plans, Station Area Plans, and Corridor Plans:

- Downtown Austin Plan
- Great Streets Master Plan
- North Burnet Gateway Master Plan (Also serves as a Neighborhood Plan)
- Lamar/Justin TOD Station Area Plan
- MLK TOD Station Area Plan
- Plaza Saltillo TOD Station Area Plan
- East Riverside Corridor Plan
- South Central Waterfront Initiative

Note: South Central Waterfront Initiative recommendations were not included in the data included in this report.