



**AUSTIN CITY COUNCIL  
MINUTES**

**COUNCIL STRATEGY WORKSHOP  
WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 7, 2018**

The City Council of Austin, Texas convened in a Council Strategy Workshop on Wednesday, February 7, 2018, Wyndham Garden Hotels, 3401 S. IH-35, Austin and Lake Travis Rooms, Austin, Texas.

Mayor Adler called the Council Meeting to order at 9:10 a.m.

1. Discuss policy priorities, goals, and the potential impacts on governance for the City of Austin.

- Outcome Area 1: Health and Environment

**Presentation was made by Sara Hensley, Interim Assistant City Manager, Cassandra DeLeon and Lewis Leff.**

**Recommended changes or areas to consider in the proposed strategies and metrics include:**

- **On page 4, item 3: Include “avoiding duplication”.**
- **On page 5, item 13: Consider the need for more long-term planning.**
- **For successful contracts with vendors to evaluate what made the contract successful and apply those lessons to other contracts to help improve performance.**
- **Page 5, item 11: Define “where feasible”.**
- **Page 4, items 2, 3 and 4: Include a method to develop a regional process for collecting performance data established by all entities providing services.**
- **Page 4, item 1: Include “access to”.**
- **The outcome is missing any reference to how the City achieves the zero waste goals.**
- **Page 4, item 4: Consider options other than “stagger the awarding of contracts” as a best practice for reviewing contracts.**
- **Consider sharing strategies across all entities to help ensure everyone is aware of which strategies are being funded by each entity.**
- **The outcome is missing any reference to strategies relating to aging found in the “Age Friendly Plan”.**
- **Page 5, item 13: Clarify that the item includes changes resulting from CodeNext.**
- **To consider using “all ages” rather than identify specific age groups (seniors, youths, etc.) to make it more inclusive.**
- **Provide a glossary of terms used in the plan.**
- **Consider adding a metric-related to the tree canopy and how it is impacted by CodeNext.**
- **Consider adding a metric for the total daily water pumpage.**
- **Clarify how performance measures found in the Imagine Austin Plan are going to be reported to Council.**

- Consider rewording item F3 more like item F4.
- Consider adding an item relating to health of incarcerated individuals.
- Consider including measures relating to the Pay for Success program.
- Page 5, item 2: Consider rewording “by collaborating” to make it less limiting.

The meeting was recessed at 10:28 a.m.

The meeting was reconvened at 10:45 a.m.

- Outcome Area 2: Safety

Presentation was made by Rey Arellano, Assistant City Manager, Molly Bolte and Keith Simpson.

Recommended changes or areas to consider in the proposed strategies or metrics include:

- Clarify which outcome includes public safety infrastructure.
- Page 9, item 9: Include “youth/juvenile justice”.
- Consider adding measures relating to violent crime, sexual assault and Vision Zero.
- Page 9, item 2: Make it more than just about the relationship but how the City becomes more proactive in identifying and providing services needed that are not available through public safety departments.
- Consider incorporating measures captured by the Sobriety Center.
- Consider making mental health training for public safety personnel mandatory rather than optional and make it on-going.
- Consider adding a metrics such as “Leverage innovative financing models to ensure necessary public safety infrastructure expansion timely expands with growth.”
- Page 9, item 2: Consider rewording “collaborating with” to something more inclusive.
- Consider including Pay for Success measures.
- Consider including numbers as well as percentages on the metrics.
- Page 7, item C.1: Consider defining “natural disasters” to clarify this includes wildfires.
- Page 7, items B.3 and B.4: Need to ensure the survey is statistically valid and incorporates all residents.

The meeting was recessed at 11:29 a.m.

The meeting was reconvened at 12:43 p.m.

- Outcome Area 3: Economic Opportunity and Affordability

Presentation was made by Jackie Sargent, Austin Energy General Manager and Annemarie Diaz.

Recommended changes or areas to consider in the proposed strategies or metrics include:

- Page 13, item 1: Define middle-skill jobs.
- Pages 13 and 14: Define the difference between items one and four.
- Page 14, item 7: Include Spirit of East Austin.
- Consider including strategies to increase access to technology.
- Define where successful small businesses fit into the goals. Possible strategy would be “Foster a climate of innovation, entrepreneurship and investment”.
- Consider adding a commitment to a solution to improving the permitting process.
- Consider removing the examples listed in item six.

- Consider including “annual increase in property tax or percent of annual change in property tax”.
- Page 14, item 4: Need to provide method to audit providers for workforce development and housing contractors and develop performance metrics for the contracts.
- Consider including information on the locations of economic opportunities.
- Page 11: Consider removing “compared to income” from the title of the metric C.
- Page 11, item C.5: Add a “c” to address fees.
- Consider adding metrics around early childhood programs.
- Page 11, item C.4: Provide more details on the numbers such as number of bedrooms, etc.
- Page 12, item D.6: Provide more details on the numbers such as number of bedrooms, etc.
- Page 11, item C.2: Include health and other costs as a cost burden.
- Consider including a measure that shows the impact of cost of living for seniors.
- Page 12, items E.2 and E.6: Include the effectiveness of the services and which program helped the individual move into housing.
- Consider including metrics relating to the Pay for Success Program.
- Consider including a metric on the number of people able to move up and out of poverty.
- Page 12, item G.5a: Consider including how many people living in poverty that live on the edge of Austin that would live in Austin if they could afford it.
- Page 12, item E.2: Clarify if this is for permanent supportive housing only.
- Consider adding a general measure to track successful exit from homelessness and the amount of time an individual is homeless.
- Include the numbers as well as the percentage.
- Outcome Area 4: Government that Works for All  
Presentation was made by Mark Washington, Assistant City Manager and Zach Baumer.

**Recommended changes or areas to consider in the proposed strategies or metrics include:**

- Page 19, item 6: Define “meaningful” community engagement.
- Include outcomes that track contract performance to ensure compliance.
- Page 18, Challenge Statement 1: make it more inclusive to include relationship between City Management and Council and effectiveness of Council.
- Page 18, Challenge Statement 3: How we operate across the different levels of government (federal, state and local).
- Consider including how we effectively use technology to improve business processes.
- Page 19, item 5: Add “other regional partners” after City government.
- Page 20, item 9: Include preservation of historical records.
- Consider including rate of property tax increase or percent above the effective tax rate.
- Consider including impact of tax rate on seniors.
- Considering adding a resiliency metric.
- Considering increasing transparency on how we track resolutions and which ones are funded.
- Include numbers in addition to percentages where appropriate.

The meeting was recessed at 2:20 p.m.

The meeting was reconvened at 2:44 p.m.

- Outcome Area 5: Culture and Lifelong Learning  
Presentation was made by Ray Baray, Chief of Staff, and Lara Foss.

**Recommended changes or areas to consider in the proposed strategies or metrics include:**

- **Consider including a strategy that addresses the library system.**
- **Page 24, items 6 and 7: Consider including “utilization of the places including exhibit space”.**
- **Consider adding a measure for strategy 6.**
- **Page 22, item D.3: Include a measure to track the ability to accept and store archival items.**
- **Page 22, item D.2: Include “awareness”.**
- **Page 22, item D.4: Clarify how this measure will be defined.**
- **Consider including a measure to track how diverse festivals and specials events are.**
  
- **Wrap up and next steps, including Plan Adoption and Budget Alignment**
  - **Next steps are:**
    - **Incorporate direction from Council along with feedback from the boards and commissions.**
    - **Prepare final plan for Council review.**
    - **The Mobility strategy is still in development.**
    - **Finalize the roadmap for plan execution.**
    - **Transition to strategic plan aligned to the budget.**
    - **Council to review and adopt plan at the March 8 meeting**
    - **Council to determine priorities for FY19 Budget in April.**

**The meeting was adjourned at 4:02 p.m.**

**The minutes were approved on this the 1<sup>st</sup> day of March 2018 on Council Member Alter’s motion, Council Member Garza’s second on an 11-0 vote.**