

Data Availability

Data is essential to understanding our capital investment needs and making sound decisions moving forward. We need to know about current and expected service demands, the geographic location of recommendations identified through our adopted plans and policies, the demographics of our communities and how those demographics are shifting over time, and the condition of our existing assets.

The City of Austin is fortunate to have a very rich set of data to work with, which is presented in the various sections of the LRCSP. However, there are a few areas where there are significant data gaps. In particular, several key pieces of data are unknown related to the condition, risk and criticality of our existing infrastructure assets. These data gaps are described in more detail in Chapter 7, Comprehensive Infrastructure Assessment.

The City should prioritize efforts to develop a more complete inventory and assessment of existing infrastructure assets, so that we have a full picture of existing conditions and potential liabilities over time.

Conclusion

The City of Austin has made a lot of progress since the LRCSP was first transmitted to the City Manager six years ago. Since then, the city has:

- Updated the Watershed Protection Master Plan;
- Adopted the Strategic Housing Blueprint;
- Adopted the Austin Strategic Transportation Plan;
- Integrated the LRCSP more fully into City CIP decision making;
- Approved Strategic Direction 2023 to guide near term decision-making in support of *the Imagine Austin Plan*;
- Implemented many of the investments identified in past iterations of the LRCSP; and
- Received voter approval to spend over 1.7 billion dollars on a range of investments that will address capital renewal and service demand needs while implementing the *Imagine Austin Plan*.

But there is still work to be done to realize the vision of the Imagine Austin Plan as it relates to capital improvements. The Planning Commission is pleased to transmit the *FYs 2019-2021 Long-Range Capital Improvement Program Strategic Plan (LRCSP)*, and requests that the City continue to use this plan, including the attached Rolling Needs Assessment, as a framework for capital investment decisions moving forward over the next two years.