



Creation & Implementation of an Equity Assessment Tool

City of Austin: Equity Office, Innovation Office, Resilience, Housing and
Planning Department, Transportation Department

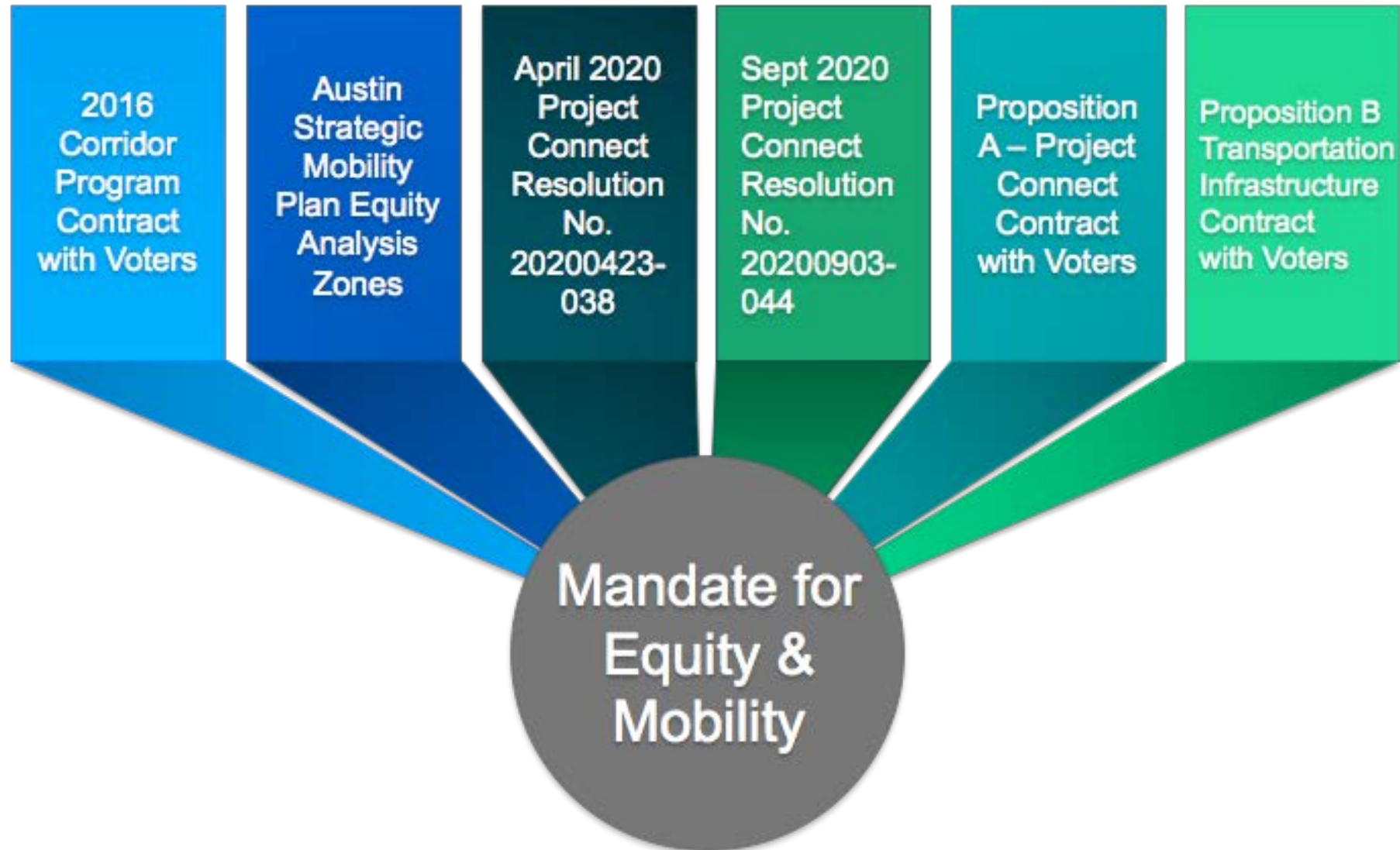


Agenda

- Equity Assessment Tool – Policy Direction
- Team Structure
 - City of Austin: Equity Office, Innovation Office, Resilience, Housing and Planning Department, Transportation Department
- Work to Date
 - Environment to Advance Equity Defined
 - Housing & Planning Department Displacement Prevention Division
- Next Steps
 - Project Connect Equity Assessment Tool – Scope Development
 - Consultant Selection
 - Equity Office - Equity Action Team Discussion in December
 - Neighborhood Stabilization Strategy Tool and other model tools research/review



Equity & Mobility – Interrelated Policies





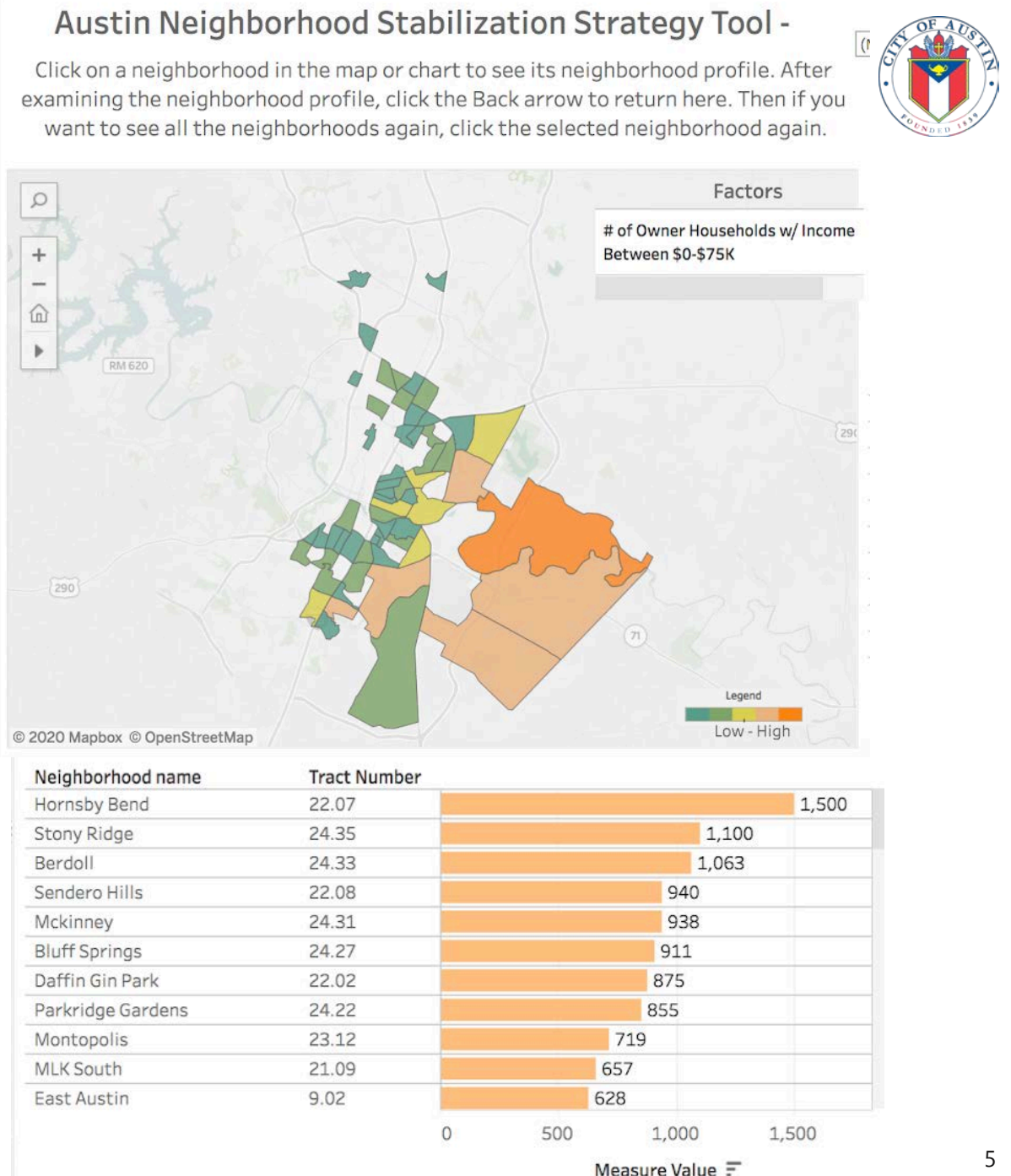
2016 Bond Program - Corridors

- ... also makes allowances for: i) **preservation of existing affordable housing and local businesses** on the corridors, and opportunities for development of **new affordable housing** along the corridors, including, but not limited to, the use of community land trusts, tax increment finance zones along corridors, homestead preservation zone tools, revisions to the S.M.A.R.T. Housing Program...
- ... emphasize making corridors livable, walkable, safe, and transit-supportive, and aligned with the principles and metrics in the Imagine Austin Comprehensive Plan, with goals of reducing vehicle miles traveled, increasing transit ridership and non-vehicular trips, and promoting healthy, **equitable, and complete communities** as growth occurs on these corridors;

2019 ASMP Chapter 6 – Equity

Action Item #200 | Equity Analysis Zones

Identify a **framework to designate geographic zones**...criteria should consider **race, income, car-ownership, educational attainment, housing tenure, transit availability, language spoken at home, age, disability status**, and other factors to help **focus efforts on historically underrepresented and underserved communities.**





April 2020 Project Connect Resolution

- Resolution No. [20200423-038](#)
 - Provide recommendations to prevent transportation investment-related displacement by aligning current policies, services, programs and resources
 - Recommendations should ensure that people of different incomes can benefit from transportation investments
 - Recommendations should also include options for financing additional strategies and solutions



September 2020 Project Connect Resolution

- Resolution No. [20200903-044](#)
 - Work with impacted neighborhoods in the creation of neighborhood-level anti-displacement strategies and priorities
 - Identification and tracking of Key Performance Indicators (KPI) related to equity and displacement
 - Establish KPI triggers that signal the need for a posted Council discussion and public comment on the status of equity and anti-displacement strategies associated with Project Connect



2020 Proposition A: Project Connect

- Provide \$300,000,000 for (1) acquiring real property, and (2) financing tools and other anti-displacement strategies related to the implementation of Project Connect, such as:
 - construction or development of new affordable housing;
 - preservation, repair, and rehabilitation of existing affordable housing;
 - financial assistance for home ownership;
 - home repair;
 - rental subsidies;
 - right-to-return assistance that grants current tenants of affordable housing the option to lease a unit of comparable affordability and size following completion of rehabilitation of affordable housing;
 - or other strategies that build economic mobility opportunities for residents along the transit corridors and increase transit-supportive economic development and ridership.



2020 Proposition A: Project Connect

- Equity Assessment Tool will help analyze, on a neighborhood level, both:
 - (A) the potential, unintended, or undesirable effects of the transit investment that contribute to difficulties for people to remain living in an area, such as gentrification and displacement, and
 - (B) the opportunities to make investments to build economic mobility for residents along the transit corridors
- The tool would help focus any allocated anti-displacement funding and help dismantle structural racial inequity and create equitable outcomes for all to eliminate direct, indirect and cultural displacement of neighborhoods.

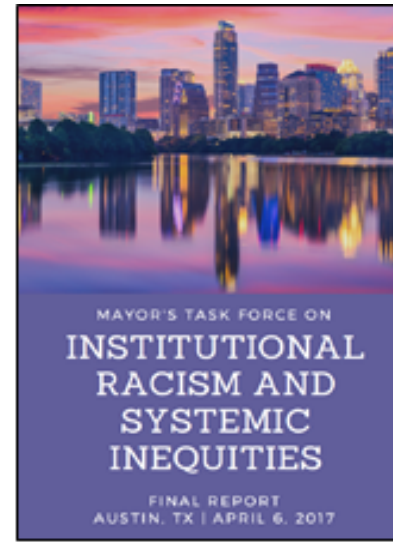
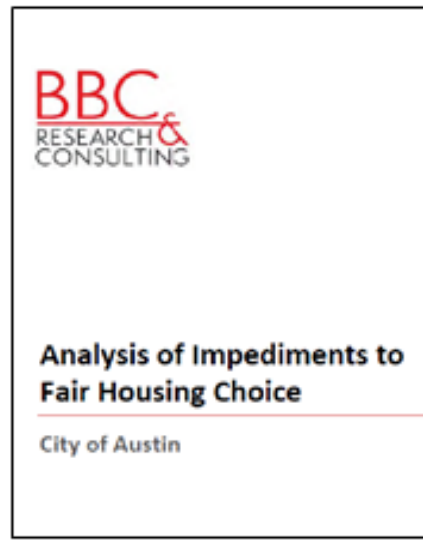


2020 Proposition B: Transportation Infrastructure

- Develop recommendations for implementation of transportation infrastructure proposals in manner that:
 - Prioritizes investments in traditionally underserved communities, low-income communities, and other vulnerable communities; and anticipates unintended consequences that may disproportionately affect historically underserved and underrepresented populations and proactively mitigates these effects.
 - Existing project prioritization criteria for all programs identified in this resolution should be reevaluated and, where necessary, modified to further prioritize equitable outcomes.

Work to Date

- Anti-displacement recommendations reviewed:



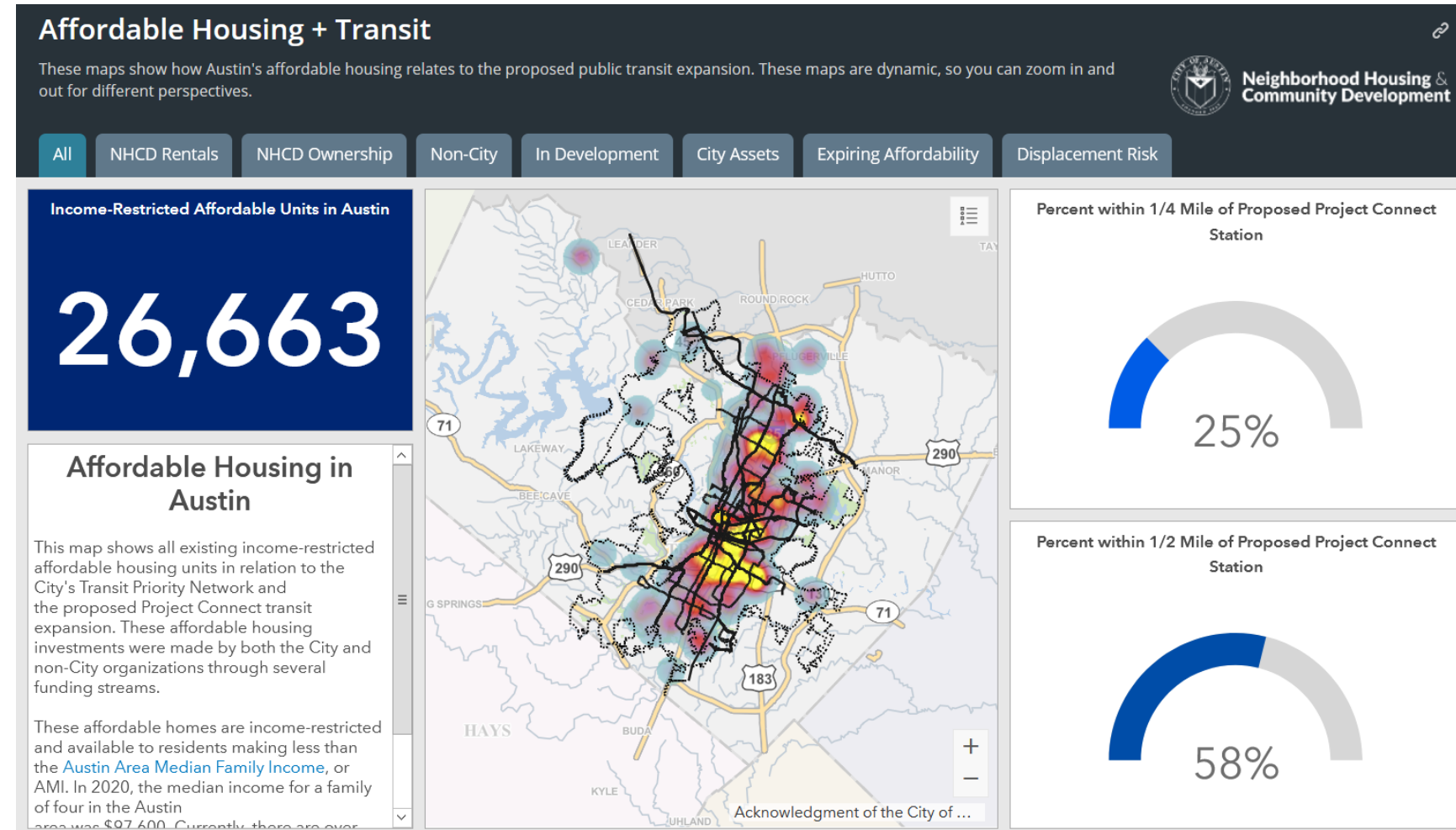
- Displacement Prevention Division created in the Housing and Planning Department



Work to Date

[Affordable Housing + Transit Affordable Housing Map Series](https://austin.maps.arcgis.com/apps/MapSeries/index.html?appid=b689c16a4db143698166b57a7abb876e)

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Team Structure

City of Austin Equity Assessment Tool Development Participating Departments:

- Equity Office
- Innovation Office
- Resilience
- Housing and Planning Department
- Transportation Department



Environment to Advance Equity

For an equity scorecard or tool to be effective, it needs an environment conducive to receiving and using the data and information it yields, including:

- 1) Centering on the values of and having a shared mandate for racial equity,
- 2) Rebalancing power and decision-making structures, and
- 3) Accountability to those most directly impacted by displacement pressures.



Next Steps

Direction: Within six months of voter approval, provide a process for the creation of neighborhood-level strategies with **community members and organizations**

- Coordination with Project Connect National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) process
- Develop Equity Assessment Tool scope with the community
- Contract with entity to lead the cocreation of the tool with community
- Definition of process to implement the use of the tool with community
- Implementation stage of the tool with community
 - Work with impacted neighborhoods in the creation of neighborhood-level anti-displacement strategies and priorities
 - Identification and tracking of Key Performance Indicators (KPI) related to equity and displacement and establishment of KPI triggers



Next Steps – Timeline

- Coordination with Project Connect National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) process (ongoing)
- Develop Equity Assessment Tool scope with the community (Fall/Winter 2020)
- Contract with entity to lead the cocreation of the tool with community (Winter 2021)
- Definition of process to implement the use of the tool with community (Spring 2021)
- Implementation stage of the tool with community (Summer 2021-Project Connect Completion)

THANK YOU

