June 10, 2021

Questions and Answers Report

Mayor Steve Adler
Mayor Pro Tem Natasha Harper-Madison, District 1
Council Member Vanessa Fuentes, District 2
Council Member Sabino "Pio" Renteria, District 3
Council Member Gregorio Casar, District 4
Council Member Ann Kitchen, District 5
Council Member Mackenzie Kelly, District 6
Council Member Leslie Pool, District 7
Council Member Paige Ellis, District 8
Council Member Kathie Tovo, District 9
Council Member Alison Alter, District 10

The City Council Questions and Answers Report was derived from a need to provide City Council Members an opportunity to solicit clarifying information from City Departments as it relates to requests for council action. After a City Council Regular Meeting agenda has been published, Council Members will have the opportunity to ask questions of departments via the City Manager's Agenda Office. This process continues until 5:00 p.m. the Tuesday before the Council meeting. The final report is distributed at noon to City Council the Wednesday before the council meeting.

QUESTIONS FROM COUNCIL

Item #3: Authorize negotiation and execution of an interlocal agreement with Texas A&M AgriLife Research to develop an updated Land Management Plan for the City's Water Quality Protection Lands program.

COUNCIL MEMBER ALTER'S OFFICE

1) Please describe how wildfire mitigation and prevention factor into land management planning at Austin Water.

Austin Water (AW) Wildland Conservation Division (WCD) has been working to reduce wildfire risk on the Water Quality Protection Lands (WQPL) and Balcones Canyonlands Preserve (BCP) through vegetation management, public education and wildfire prevention since the Division was established. Boundary fuel mitigation efforts in the Wildland Urban Interface (WUI) were initiated in 2006. A further analysis of the wildfire risk to structures on and adjacent to the WCD properties was conducted in 2019 by identifying any structures within 150 feet of the property boundaries and prioritizing those areas based on fire intensity models produced by the Texas A&M Forest Service. This approach is consistent with the risk analysis conducted by Austin Fire Department within the City limits. We are also currently working with our Austin Water (AW) emergency planning and climate protection staff, and Austin Fire Department (AFD) Wildfire Division to analyze the wildfire preparedness of critical AW infrastructure, and prioritizing treatment for these areas. The scope of work for the update to the WQPL Land Management Plan will include further recommendations to mitigate wildfire risk.

Specifically, the WQPL Land Management Plan will contain provisions for the use of prescribed fire as one of the most important tools for achieving the goals of prairie and savanna ecosystem restoration. These ecosystems require fire for their continued existence. The landscape scale use of prescribed fire has the concurrent benefit of reducing wildfire fuels on a landscape scale (100's to 1000's of acres) which can provide a large benefit for both preventing and also controlling wildfires that might occur in the same areas. Preparations for prescribed fires also provide predetermined control lines that can likewise be utilized for wildfire suppression. These control line locations can be mapped and communicated to wildland firefighters as they respond to any wildfires on the WQPL. Lastly, the new WQPL Land Management Plan also contains provisions to investigate the use of goats to reduce woody resprouting and to maintain shaded fuel breaks to prevent ladder fuel regrowth in the Wildland Urban Interface. We expect we may have issues with neighborhood dogs and keeping goats on the right side of the fence, but believe it is a tool worth investigating.

Item #5: Approve a resolution finding the use of the Construction Manager at Risk method of contracting, as authorized by Subchapter F Chapter 2269 of the Texas Government Code, is the project delivery method that provides the best value to the City for the Austin Convention Center Expansion Project to demolish and reconstruct portions of the existing Austin Convention Center and to expand the facility by constructing new elements.

COUNCIL MEMBER ALTER'S OFFICE

1) *Please provide details on the rough design and/or specifications for this item.*

   Austin Convention Center staff continue to work on the financing model and proof of concept for the redevelopment of the existing Convention Center. Staff anticipates providing this information to Council following the Summer Council meeting break and are available for discussions with individual Council offices. The financial modeling and proof of concept efforts are parallel processes to the selection of the design firm and CMR. Running these processes sequentially shortens the timeframe for completion of the expansion project which would decrease the cost of the expansion.

   More information can be found in the memo that was released yesterday.

Item #8: Authorize award and execution of a construction contract with Mechanical & Process Systems, LLC, (MBE) for the Davis Water Treatment Plant Gas Heater Replacements project in the amount of $377,777 plus a $37,777.70 contingency, for a total contract amount not to exceed $415,554.70.

COUNCIL MEMBER ALTER'S OFFICE

1) What back-up systems are in place to ensure the functioning of the electrical system in the case of a power outage? Please also elaborate on the advantages of switching to electric

   In order to reduce the risk of power outages, the Davis Water Treatment Plant has two electrical feeds and is identified by Austin Energy as a critical load. As part of an ongoing project to construct a new power distribution system for the plant, improvements were made to one of the electrical feeds to the plant, making it more robust.

   The switch to electrical power offers the advantage of being safer. The Heating Ventilation Air Conditioning (HVAC) system being replaced serves two chemical feed buildings, including the chlorine building, so an electric system is inherently safer than a natural gas system.

Item #16: Approve a resolution authorizing the City Manager and the Chief Financial Officer to execute the Terms of Joint Powers Agreement on Transfer of 'November 2020 Proposition A' Property Tax Revenue interlocal agreement with the Austin Transit Partnership as part of the implementation of Project Connect.

COUNCIL MEMBER KITCHEN'S OFFICE

1) *Once we sign this what is the City's recourse if there is a disagreement with ATP on terms of JPA re allocations back to city, or any other issues for that matter*

   Section 4C allows for the agreement to be amended by a written instrument executed by both the City and ATP. This ILA is for the procedures of the on-going distribution of the Proposition A

Property Tax Revenue, as approved by Austin voters in November 2020; and as required by the Contract with the Voters. The City Council and ATP Board have already approved a Grant Agreement for the distribution of the $300 million in anti-displacement funding from ATP to the City's Housing and Planning Department. Any potential future changes to the distribution of those funds would require an amendment to that Grant Agreement.

2) *Is this ILA going to be an attachment to the JPA? As written, we can't change it with the JPA unless ATP agrees. The JPA is an agreement with CapMetro, city, and ATP. Could we set a one year term for this ILA and/or term ends with the JPA and have this incorporated in the JPA?*

   The Proposition A Property Tax Revenue approved by the voters in November 2020 is for on-going revenue, and as such this ILA describes the process and procedures for the disbursement of this revenue to ATP. This revenue will be used – along with Federal Funds – to issue revenue bonds to finance Project Connect, therefore the ILA needs be in place on a permanent basis, to give assurances to bond holders. This ILA will be in effect until ATP is dissolved, in accordance with Contract with the Voters. This agreement will become part of a broader JPA that will likewise need to be approved by the ATP, the COA, and CapMetro. This is how the Grant Agreement for the anti-displacement funds was handled; a separate grant agreement that will become part of the broader JPA.

3) *Does the 20.789% align with what was on the city website during the campaign?*

   Yes. It represents the portion of the City's O&M tax rate that is equivalent to 8.75 cents.

4) *[ILA, Section 1.C. Allowances] Explain impact of requiring ATP to approve any amendments to TIRZ and any new TIRZ. If the city changes the TIRZ allocation to include some percentage for homelessness, why would we need ATP approval, since those dollars were never available for ATP? Why would we need approval to create a new TIRZ, since TIRZ are used for incremental increases?*

   B Because it would impact the amount of funding ATP will receive under the agreement. Any property tax revenue redirected from the General Fund to a TIRZ would result in less revenue to the ATP. For example, the City may choose to do a TIRZ that encompasses property and valuation that have already been developed or may occur without the TIRZ in place, and in that case the TIRZ would reduce revenue to ATP. This agreement allows for consent and consultation regarding new TIRZs. The agreement states that the City cannot commit ATP's portion of the tax revenue to a new TIRZ without their consent. ATP consent is not required for the City to commit its portion of the tax revenue to a new TIRZ.

5) *Explain impact of requiring ATP approval for future 380 agreements, to include ATP portion of taxes. [ILA, Section 1.C. Allowances].*

   Because it would impact the amount of funding ATP will receive under the agreement. Any property tax revenue redirected from the General Fund to a 380 agreement would result in less revenue to the ATP. For example, the City may choose to do a Chapter 380 Agreement that encompasses property and valuation that have already been developed or may occur without the CH380 in place, and in that case the CH380 agreement would reduce revenue to ATP. This agreement allows for consent and consultation regarding new 380s. The agreement states that the City cannot commit ATP's portion of the tax revenue to a new 380 agreement without their consent. ATP consent is not required for the City to commit its portion of the tax revenue to a new agreement.

6) Why would the city pay interest on late payments, if it is not the city's fault? [Section 2.D]

Interest payments only apply if the City is at fault for the late payment. If the City is later than 15 days past the due date, and ATP is not at fault, we must pay ATP interest on the amount due. Payments to ATP will be transacted through an automated ACH and staff does not foresee a situation in which late payments would result.

COUNCIL MEMBER ALTER'S OFFICE

1) What are the implications for the ATP if the city goes beyond the 3.5% tax rate increase?

Pending

Item #17: Approve a resolution adopting the City of Austin Hazard Mitigation Action Plan Update.

COUNCIL MEMBER ALTER'S OFFICE

1) Please detail the major updates/changes in this document from the current version.

The following are the major updates/changes in the City of Austin Hazard Mitigation Action Plan Update:

- Updated hazard analysis including the last 5 years of data. Added a section about Lightning as a hazard.
- Updated mitigation strategy based on updated hazard data and impacts to the community.
- Carried over mitigation strategies that are relevant and still incomplete
- New mitigation strategies identified based on updated hazard analysis.
- Additional Appendices: City of Austin's Watershed Protection Department's 5-year project list and the City's Climate Resilience Action Plan

There is no red-line version to compare the previous update to this current version. Substantial updates have been made throughout the entire document.

2) What would be the consequences of postponing this item until we can incorporate the after-action report from Winter Storm Uri?

The Disaster Mitigation Act requires that hazard mitigation plans be reviewed and revised every 5 years to maintain eligibility for Hazard Mitigation Assistance grant funding. The current plan expires in August 24, 2021. Without approval, we will not be able to access funding for hazard mitigation projects.

Verbal Questions from Work Session

3) Address how wildfire risk was established in your response.

Staff used wildfire map data from the Texas Forest Service. This provides a data map that is consistent with the rest of the State and meets eligibility requirements. The Wildfire Division of the Austin Fire Department assessed risk with a greater level of granularity and updates it regularly. This can be included in addition to, or instead of the Texas Forest Service map.

4) Outline what the overall HMAP update process looks like.

- The process begins with assembling a planning team and stakeholder groups, to include public safety agencies.
- A capability assessment was developed and distributed at a Kick-Off Workshop.
- Hazards were identified and assessed at a Risk Assessment Workshop.
- Based on the City of Austin's identified vulnerabilities, specific mitigation strategies were discussed and developed at a Mitigation Strategy Workshop.
- Plan maintenance and implementation procedures were developed.
- Public input was sought for the development of the plan.
- Key department stakeholders were presented with drafts of their relevant sections for review.
- The draft plan is submitted to the Texas Department of Emergency Management and FEMA for review and preliminary approval. Final FEMA approval occurs after Council adoption.

The following factors were taken into consideration:

- The nature and magnitude of risks currently affecting the community.
- Hazard mitigation goals to address current and expected conditions.
- Whether current resources will be sufficient for implementing the Plan Update.
    - Anticipated outcomes.

5) What are the options for adding in Lessons Learned from Winter Storm Uri?

The Hazard Mitigation Plan is a living plan that can be reviewed and revised as needed in between the mandated five year cycle. The After Action Report and Improvement Plan for Winter Storm Uri are expected to be complete by mid-September. This will form the basis for the amendments to the Hazard Mitigation Plan.

One option is to add an addendum on Winter Storm Uri to the plan. This can happen within a month of the After Action Report completion.

The other option is to reassess mitigation strategy and incorporate it into the plan. Since winter storm is already profiled as a hazard in the City of Austin plan, no new hazards would need to be added, but new mitigation actions addressing lessons learned from Uri can be added. The process to add mitigation actions after the City receives final approval of the plan update is to revise the actions section of the plan, and submit it to the State. FEMA does not need to re-approve. Since stakeholder groups will be reconvened to create the strategies this will be a longer process and require consultant support. We can engage our consultant to provide a timeline for this but anticipate it may take up to 3 months after engagement.

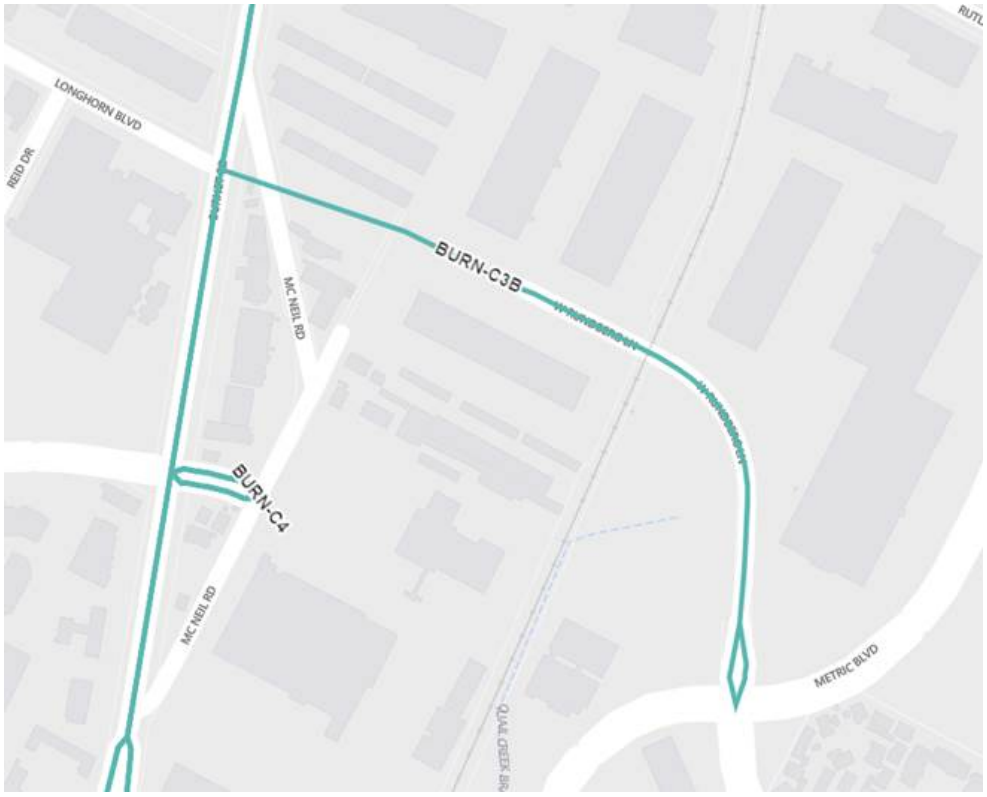
Item #19: Approve an ordinance authorizing the negotiation and execution of all documents and instruments necessary or desirable to acquire in fee simple approximately 2.343 acres (102,060 sq. ft. of land), being out of The James P. Wallace Survey No. 18, Abstract No. 792, in the City Of Austin, Travis County, Texas, said 2.343 acres being all of that tract of land described as 1.921 acres and 0.42 of one acre conveyed to C Hunts Icehouse LLC by Special Warranty Deed dated October 19, 2015, as recorded in Document No. 2015170464 located at 9611 and 9613 McNeil Road, Austin, Texas, from C Hunts Icehouse LLC, a Texas limited liability company for a total amount not to exceed $2,352,500.00,

establishing acquisition and relocation guidelines, and waiving requirements of City Code Chapter 14-3 (Relocation Benefits).

COUNCIL MEMBER ALTER'S OFFICE

1) Please describe in more detail the intended use for this property.

The property being acquired will satisfy the needs of two projects: West Rundberg Extension from Metric to Burnet, and the Burnet Road Improvements Project. The West Rundberg Extension Project has been planned by the City of Austin for the past 10+ years, and this planned project calls for a 4 lane divided roadway to connect Rundberg from its existing terminus at about Metric Drive to intersect with Burnet Road. The Burnet Road Improvements Project requires drainage detention improvements to collect additional runoff caused by the proposed improvements. Below is a screen shot of the proposed West Rundberg alignment:



Approximately two-thirds of the property will be utilized for the West Rundberg Extension from Metric to Burnet project. The remaining third (approximate) will be utilized to provide storm water detention for the Burnet Road project.

Item #23: Ratify an agreement with Central Texas Allied Health Institute to provide COVID-19 vaccinations and other COVID-19 response services to Austin/Travis County residents in an amount not to exceed $602,448, for a five-month term through September 30, 2021.

COUNCIL MEMBER KELLY'S OFFICE

1) Is item 23 on the June 10 agenda meant to focus on a specific group/demographic? What is the plan for these sites? Where will they be?

Given Central Texas Allied Health Institute's experience conducting COVID-19 testing at this location, the organization has built a trusted relationship with segments of the community most disproportionately impacted by COVID-19. Austin Public Health believes that individuals who may be hesitant to receive a vaccine are more likely to seek vaccines from organizations with whom they have built a relationship in a location that is familiar. To reach City and County vaccine goals it is critical that vaccine is made accessible in multiple spaces from a variety of providers beyond Austin Public Health.

COUNCIL MEMBER ALTER'S OFFICE

1) Please provide additional detail about why staff believe this contract is necessary and what services will be delivered that APH is not able to provide in-house.

Given Central Texas Allied Health Institute's experience conducting COVID-19 testing at this location, the organization has built a trusted relationship with segments of the community most disproportionately impacted by COVID-19. Austin Public Health believes that individuals who may be hesitant to receive a vaccine are more likely to seek vaccines from organizations with whom they have built a relationship in a location that is familiar. To reach City and County vaccine goals it is critical that vaccine is made accessible in multiple spaces from a variety of providers beyond Austin Public Health.

Item #24: Ratify an agreement with El Buen Samaritano to provide financial assistance to persons who have been impacted by COVID-19, in an amount not to exceed $389,002, for a five-month term through September 30, 2021.

COUNCIL MEMBER KELLY'S OFFICE

1) What will the application process look like for individuals to get assistance from El Buen Samaritano? Who are the intended recipients?

This is a continuation of RISE 2.0 and will not offer assistance to new applicants. The intended recipients are those individuals that had not spent all or any of their RISE 2.0 awarded funds for a variety of reasons partly due to the type of card that was used to distribute funds. In an effort to streamline the process and honor the City's commitment to those awarded, APH has contracted with El Buen to distribute prepaid cards.

Item #24: Ratify an agreement with El Buen Samaritano to provide financial assistance to persons who have been impacted by COVID-19, in an amount not to exceed $389,002, for a five-month term through September 30, 2021.

COUNCIL MEMBER TOVO'S OFFICE

This contract is for "the redistribution of financial assistance in the form of gift cards, to persons impacted by COVID-19 who had not fully expended their allocated RISE 2.0 funds."

1) *Can staff please elaborate or provide additional details about this contract and who it will serve: is it only limited to people who have "not fully expended their allocated RISE 2.0 funds?"*

   The intended recipients are those individuals that had not spent all or any of their RISE 2.0 awarded funds for a variety of reasons partly due to the type of card that was used to distribute funds.

2) *Does this line in the RCA refer to individual recipients or City vendors who are distributing the funds? Does this contract only fulfill the remaining balance of the unused funds via gift cards? Can staff please describe the efficacy of gift cards for this purpose?*

   The redistribution of unused funds will only be via prepaid gift cards. Prepaid gift cards are being used because those awarded selected that as the option to receive the award. In the event the intended recipients do not respond to the multiple methods of communication to receive the gift card, new awardees will be randomly selected from the pool of remaining eligible RISE 2.0 applicants.

Item #25: Authorize negotiation and execution of an agreement with Project Prosper of Florida to conduct survey data collection and analysis for the Office of Violence Prevention, for a twelve-month term through June 30, 2022, in an amount not to exceed $170,500.

COUNCIL MEMBER KELLY'S OFFICE

1) *Can you help me understand the basis for focusing on violence committed against sex workers specifically?*

   As part of the establishment of the Office of Violence Prevention, the budget amendment identified a few initial pilot programs, which included addressing gun violence and violence and harm that surround sex workers. (We can add the attached budget form if it helpful.)

2) *How will participants be identified?*

   The organization that will conduct the surveys has an existing network that has identified sex workers in the community and locations where they work. As such, the organization will leverage these relationships to get survey responses and identify other sex workers.

3) *Will the survey be in person? How will Project Prosper ensure that participants can respond fully and honestly without risking retaliation? Will the survey be offered in multiple languages?*

   Yes, the surveys will be in person. The plan is to recruit sex workers to administer the surveys who can more easily build rapport with the respondents. This will also ease any fears about retaliation as the people administering the surveys are sex workers themselves. It is expected that the survey will be available in multiple languages.

4) *As part of the survey, will participants be offered access to services that might help lift them out of sex work?*

   No, this agreement does not provide funds for that purpose.

5) *Will the survey include questions related to how participants ended up engaging in sex work?*

   The current focus of the survey will deal with present and past violence sex workers have faced.

6) *Will the responses be shared with other agencies/organizations? APD? District Attorney? Hospitals? Social service organizations?*

The intention is to share aggregated findings and identify programs to reduce violence.

Item #29: Authorize negotiation and execution of a multi-term contract with FlashParking, Inc. d/b/a Klever Logic, Inc., to provide a parking access and revenue control system, for up to seven years for a total contract amount not to exceed $1,609,000.

COUNCIL MEMBER KELLY'S OFFICE

1) *Do we have a calculation on how much revenue has been produced by these garages over the last five years?*

ACCD Parking Revenue FY 2016-2020

5060-8200-4100- 2nd street garage

FY 2016	FY 2017	FY 2018	FY 2019	FY 2020
2,289,659	2,436,833	2,170,126	2,734,862	1,452,249

5060-8200-4600-5th street garage

FY 2016	FY 2017	FY 2018	FY 2019	FY 2020
1,656,494	1,821,476	1,872,370	1,985,911	910,680

5432-8200-4500-PEC Garage

FY 2016	FY 2017	FY 2018	FY 2019	FY 2020
1,550,980	1,665,085	1,983,214	2,393,336	1,370,192

Totals	**5,497,133**	**5,923,393**	**6,025,710**	**7,114,109**	**3,733,120**

Item #34: Authorize negotiation and execution of a multi-term cooperative contract with Wright Express Financial d/b/a Wright Express, to provide fuel credit card services, for up to 38 months for a total contract amount not to exceed $2,194,398.

COUNCIL MEMBER TOVO'S OFFICE

1) *Please describe how the City can track and verify transaction data from each credit card to ensure proper usage.*

The City tracks and verifies transaction data for each credit card through our Flee Management Software System. The data is uploaded daily, and each card is tied to a specific vehicle unit number. Detailed monthly transaction reports are sent to department liaisons at the end of each month for the purpose of reviewing and approving the charges. In addition, a dollar limit is assigned to each card and type of purchases are restricted.

Item #35: Authorize negotiation and execution of a multi-term contract with Avesis Third Party Administrators, Inc., or one of the other qualified offerors to Request for Proposal 5800 LMI3000, to provide City employees and retirees with an employee paid vision plan, for up to 66 months for a total contract amount not to exceed $6,840,000.

COUNCIL MEMBER ALTER'S OFFICE

1) *What, if any, insurance savings does the City anticipate from item 35?*

   The new contract lowers the current vision insurance rates by an average of 9.3% over the term of the contract. The five-year contract with Avesis is $536,712 less than the price proposed by the incumbent. The vision plan is at no cost to the City; it is fully employee paid. The savings realized is employee savings because the City pays the vision insurance premiums through employee payroll-deducted premiums.

Item #36: Authorize negotiation and execution of a multi-term contract with SePRO Corporation, to provide sediment and water quality testing and management and treatment of toxic algae, for up to five years for a total contract amount not to exceed $1,484,000.

COUNCIL MEMBER KELLY'S OFFICE

1) *How long will it take to get water quality test results?*

   Most water quality lab results are reported back within two weeks, at which point they go through an internal quality assurance/quality control process to verify the data meets reporting standards, at which point we will likely utilize the WPD's algae website and/or dashboard to share results.

2) *How will staff utilize the results to educate the community in a timely way?*

   The results will be used to educate the community in a timely way, as it was done in 2020; we will utilize social media, the press, and our webpages to disseminate data as quickly as we can based on lab results that are provided to Watershed Protection Department staff. The Lady Bird Lake nutrient management pilot project itself is an experimental approach towards reducing the extent and hopefully toxicity of the cyanobacteria, and we will provide the most relevant and meaningful information about that work alongside our routine monitoring as we get results. Data that is collected is used to provide relative environmental conditions, risk measures, the distribution of potentially harmful algae, and the duration of proliferation persistence.

3) *It looks like this is a new contract. Have we not previously done this because we didn't start seeing dog illnesses and deaths until 2019?*

   This is a new contract and is being implemented after the reported dog illnesses and deaths in 2019, and a resurgence of the toxic algae in 2020, we evaluated a number of mitigation options to begin the process of addressing and hopefully reducing the risks of toxic algae in Lady Bird Lake. The results of this pilot project will inform mitigation efforts in the following years.

Item #37: Approve a resolution directing the publication of an Official Notice of Intention to Issue $69,955,000 City of Austin, Texas, Certificates of Obligation, Series 2021.

COUNCIL MEMBER TOVO'S OFFICE

1) *How does Thursday's action impact, if at all, the City's ability to draw down those surplus funds that was previously discussed to be used for capital investments in shelter and transitional housing for those experiencing homelessness?*

   It does not at all. Thursday's action pertaining to Waller Creek is a step in the process of issuing bonds to reimburse ourselves for the expenditure of funds on Waller Creek projects that were previously approved by City Council.

2) *At what point in the TIRZ's timeline is it expected that those funds will be realized?*

   As originally envisioned, the funding for shelter and transitional housing was considered to be cash funding after the funds were used to complete the original TIRZ projects and pay off the debt for those as well as the amended TIRZ with funding for the park improvements as council approved.

3) *How, if at all, did Addendum Three to the Waterloo Park Construction Phase Plan impact the City's timetable in accessing surplus funds for homelessness?*

   It does not.

4) *Is there a mechanism in which the City could pursue an action similar to Addendum Three to the Waterloo Park Construction Phase Plan and be granted the opportunity to access the surplus TIRZ dollars sooner or in a more accelerated timeline than initially planned?*

   We are conferring with bond counsel to determine whether legally we could issue TIRZ-backed financing for the capital investments for shelter and transitional housing for those experiencing homelessness. If bond counsel obtains agreement from the Attorney General's Office that the TIRZ funds can in fact back such debt, then the City needs to complete the financial analysis to determine which capital projects will benefit the TIRZ, whether those capital projects can be paid for out of the funds from the TIRZ, and after those questions are answered, staff would need to bring an amendment to the TIRZ to council for those particular projects.

Item #77: Approve a resolution adopting the American Rescue Plan Act Spending Framework and authorizing the City Manager to make the necessary allocations.

COUNCIL MEMBER TOVO'S OFFICE

1) *Please provide the total amount allocated or spent for FY21 for homelessness services and housing as well as public health interventions for individuals experiencing homelessness including the pro-lodge costs, services and food provided at the pro-lodges, and the EAT initiative.*

COUNCIL MEMBER ALTER'S OFFICE

1) *Last budget cycle, council approved approximately 65 million dollars in spending to address homelessness If our $65 million estimate is off, please insert the correct amount.) Please detail how much of that 65 million has been spent or contracted to date, and what those dollars were spent on, and how many individuals who were experiencing homelessness are anticipated to be housed as a result of those specific investments.*

FY 2020-21 Homelessness Spending and Housing Metrics

For FY 2020-21, the City identified $68.7 million allocated to homelessness services for crisis response, housing stabilization, public space management, and reducing inflow programs and services. This homelessness services allocation is funded through federal grants and the City's operating and capital budget (CIP) dollars, and City staff estimate spending a total of $92.5 million in FY 2020-21.

This higher-than-projected spending is due to the CIP purchase of three motels—Country Inn (purchased Oct 2020), Texas Bungalows (pending), and Candlewood Suites (pending)—totaling $24.5M for housing stabilization. These purchases are part of the motel conversion strategy and were not included in the original allocation because the timing of these acquisitions were not known during budget development; without these motel purchases, total FY 2020-21 estimated spending would be in line with the total budget.

Categories by Funding Source	FY21 Budget	FY21 Estimated Spend
Crisis Response	**21,319,566**	**26,006,796**
CIP	100,339	563,233
Federal	2,529,141	3,345,706
Operating	18,690,086	22,097,857
Housing Stabilization	**29,504,879**	**49,154,294**
CIP	0	24,526,200
Federal	14,120,206	7,149,902
Operating	15,384,673	17,478,192
Public Space Management	**4,057,269**	**4,034,608**
CIP	0	0
Federal	0	0
Operating	4,057,269	4,034,608
Reducing Inflow	**13,824,625**	**13,258,686**
CIP	6,000,000	5,000,000
Federal	3,435,000	1,870,000
Operating	4,389,625	6,388,686
Total	**68,706,339**	**92,454,384**

City spending on homelessness can fluctuate each fiscal year depending on the type of funding source because they do not always align with the City's fiscal year. Appropriations from federal grants and the City's capital budget are usually multi-year, meaning that although an appropriation is budgeted in one fiscal year, funds are expended over multiple fiscal years, causing deferred spending in later fiscal years. The City's operating budget generally includes efforts and programs on a year-by-year basis, but it can also include one-time or reserve funding meant to be spent down in future years and/or contracts and programs with start dates and spending cycles that don't align with the City's fiscal year.

Furthermore, it is important to have performance metrics to verify the efficacy of City funding on public services. Although not all City homelessness spending directly result in re-housing individuals experiencing homelessness—for instance, public space management programs and shelter operations—many programs and contracts managed by Austin Public Health (APH) and Downtown Austin Community Court (DACC) directly contribute to housing those individuals. Below is a table detailing how many individuals who were experiencing homelessness and are anticipated to move into housing or maintain their housing (for long-term housing programs such as Permanent Supportive Housing or medium-term Rapid Rehousing) by the end of FY 2020-21.

Service	Total # of People Moving Into / Remaining in Housing	# Number of People Served	Rate
Permanent Supportive Housing Programs	376	434	87%
Rapid Rehousing Programs	971	1,227	79%
Total	**1,347**	**1,661**	

FY 2020-21 COVID-19 Expenses Related to Homelessness

As part of COVID-19 emergency response operations under the Austin-Travis County Emergency Operations Center (EOC), multiple services were provided to individuals experiencing homelessness. ProLodge (temporary non-congregate shelters for individuals meeting CDC high risk criteria) total operational costs from October 2020 to May 2021 are estimated to be $14.8 million in FY 2020-21, with approximately $2.6 million of the total allocated to meal services. This total includes personnel regular hours, but not behavioral health and support services, which are reflected in the APH social service contracts. Neither personnel nor behavioral health/support services are reimbursable under Public Assistance. Additionally, total projected spending for FY 2020-21 for the contracts (both prepared meals and shelf-stable food bags) that are a part of the Eating Apart Together (EAT) Initiative is $2.3 million, and no cost estimates are included for City staff time, volunteer partner time, or donated items. Spending on ProLodges and EAT are not considered part of the homelessness spending listed above.

Item #79: Approve an ordinance amending the Fiscal Year 2020-2021 Management Services Department Operating Budget Special Revenue Fund (Ordinance No. 20200812-001) to accept and appropriate $20,555,865 in public assistance grant funds from the Federal Emergency Management Agency via the Texas Department of Emergency Management for COVID-19 vaccination distribution costs.

COUNCIL MEMBER TOVO'S OFFICE

1) *When will the "projects for COVID-19 emergency response, medical care, and sheltering expenditures are be compiled and submitted" to FEMA for review, approval, and reimbursement?*

   The City is actively formulating multiple projects for Citywide COVID-19 expenses. The project formulation process for Isolation Facilities and Protective Lodges will begin in July. Following documentation compilation and review the projects are expected to be submitted to the grants portal in August.

2) *In regard to the line in the RCA that states, "the General Fund will not be required to contribute additional funds beyond those currently budgeted to this grant" – what is the amount of current General Fund funds that are budgeted to this grant?*

   In regard to the line in the RCA that states, "the General Fund will not be required to contribute additional funds beyond those currently budgeted to this grant" – what is the amount of current General Fund funds that are budgeted to this grant?

   Funding in the amount of $20,555,865 is available from the Federal Emergency Management Agency via the Texas Department of Emergency Management. $0 General Funds are budgeted.

Item #81: Authorize the negotiation and execution of an interlocal agreement with University of Texas at Austin to implement and evaluate research-driven pilot projects to improve the well-being of long-term care staff in Travis County, for a four-month term through September 30, 2021, in an amount not to exceed $90,000.

COUNCIL MEMBER TOVO'S OFFICE

1) *Please provide a copy of the COVID-19 Nursing Home Redesign Study.*

   Attached is the Phase 3 report for the Nursing Home System Study and the final close out report for the previous agreement.

Item #91: Approve an ordinance amending the Fiscal Year 2020-2021 General Fund Emergency Reserve Fund (Ordinance No. 20200812-001) to appropriate an amount not to exceed $20,000,000 for the Relief of Emergency Needs for Tenants (RENT) Rental Assistance Program; and relating to coordinating with Travis County on rental assistance programs.

COUNCIL MEMBER TOVO'S OFFICE

1) *It would be helpful to get a sense of what the total amount is represented by the 10 thousand individuals who applied for it.*

DESCRIPTION/NEED	ESTIMATE	NOTES

Applications remaining to be selected or processed (This does not include new applications received daily).	4,400	
Average assistance per household	$5,850	
Average rent per month	$1,100	
Total households assisted to date	3,027	
Total rental assistance approved to date	$17,742,431.83	
Weeks of Processing to date	9	
Average number of households processed per week	335	
Weeks left after ERA funds are depleted (by end of June)	25	
Estimate of applications at 100 new applications per week x 25 weeks x 85%	2125	
85% of 4,400 applications left (based on 85% success rate)	3740	Success rate refers to the percentage of households who will complete submission of all required documentation as requested for verification
Estimated total number of unserved apps	5865	
Funds needed to fund all 5,440 at $5,850 each. This does not include additional months of future rent paid to recertified applicants.	$34,310,250	
Approximate # of weeks to approve all funds, If we approve 335 per week	18	
16 weeks starting July 5th would take us to late October	Late October	
The funds would be depleted much sooner if we approve 3 months future rent (via re-certifications) for households with demonstrated continued need as allowed by federal guidelines.		

COUNCIL MEMBER ALTER'S OFFICE

1) *Please provide the total amount of money that we have distributed / allocated thru the various RENT iterations to date (before the $35.3 million allocation) during pandemic? Also how much money we distributed via RISE to date?*

RENT:

PROGRAM	HOUSEHOLDS SERVED	BUDGET	DATES	FUNDING SOURCE
RENT 1.0	1,681	$1,271,428	May – June 2020	Housing Trust Fund
RENT 2.0	4,844	$15,479,214	August 2020 – February 2021	CARES Housing Trust Fund CDBG-CV
RENT 3.0	3732* (In Progress)	$29,467,788	March 2021 – June 2021	US Department of Treasury

To Date (June 10th) for RENT 3.0:

- Total Households Served to Date = 3,302 unduplicated families
- Total Dollars Spent to Date = $19,842,608.44
- Total Months of Rent Paid to Date = 17,354
- With an average of $6,009.27 per Household
- For 5.33 months of rent, on average
- An average monthly rent of $1,090.51

RISE:

- The Relief in a State of Emergency Funds distributed $29 million in direct financial assistance and direct relief services to 196,386 households impacted by the COVID-19 pandemic.
- RISE (RISE 1.0, RISE Bridge, RISE 2.0) – April 2020 – January 2021.

Item #93: Approve a resolution directing the City Manager to participate in the Capital Metro Equitable Transit Oriented Development Study and community engagement efforts; to develop an Equitable Transit Oriented Development Policy Plan to achieve specified goals, including, but not limited to identifying methods to address community displacement, exploring opportunities to fund affordable housing, creating diverse housing options near transit, and encouraging multimodal transportation; and identify potential funding for the policy plan development.

COUNCIL MEMBER TOVO'S OFFICE

1) *Please provide a comprehensive update on the direction provided by Council in Resolution No. 20170413-025. Please specifically provide an update on staff's response to the direction to the City Manager to:*
   - *Consider using the Corridor Housing Preservation Tool to help assess current conditions and set corridor- specific numeric goals for the creation and preservation of affordable housing for corridors throughout Austin, beginning with those corridors that will receive funding through the 2016 Mobility Bond.*
   - *Using the Strategic Housing Plan and other preservation reports and plans as the foundation, the City Manager is directed to identify any additional resources or strategies for leveraging transportation and infrastructure investments and coordinating with the Strike Fund to retain and create affordable housing along Austin's corridors.*
   - *Report at least twice per year on the provisions contained within the resolution so that Council can be apprised of where development is occurring along corridors and what progress the City is making toward meetings its goals for affordable housing in those areas.*

Housing and Planning Department staff, in partnership with HousingWorks Austin, created Scorecard to analyze and track the community's progress towards reaching the affordable housing goals established in the Blueprint.

The Scorecards measure goals outlined in the Strategic Housing Blueprint including ensuring the creation, preservation, and equitable spread of affordable housing units

across our City, while aiming to create affordability accessible to a wide range of incomes.

The annual scorecard (published 6-12 months after the close of the reporting period) can help Austin track its efforts to sustainably achieve affordability goals, expand housing opportunities, and ensure Austin remains a livable city for all. Find more information, including the 2018 and 2019 Scorecards, on the Blueprint Reporting and Progress website.

In addition, the Housing and Planning Department has created an Affordable Housing + Transit map series, which shows all existing income-restricted affordable housing units in relation to the City's Transit Priority Network and the proposed Project Connect transit expansion.

The original response to this Council resolution can be found here.

2) *Please provide a comprehensive update on the direction provided by Council in Resolution No. 20180823-076. Please specifically provide an update on staff's response to the direction to the City Manager to:*
   - *Develop a plan to use a portion of available funds, such as the Housing Trust Fund and General Obligation bonds to acquire and preserve multi-family developments and mobile home parks that are home to households earning below 60% median family income (MFI). The plan should be developed in concert with any broader land acquisition program that is being developed by staff.*
   - *Structure the framework of this affordable housing preservation initiative to prioritize acquisition, preservation, rehabilitation of multi-family developments and mobile home parks that are located within a quarter mile of high-frequency transit corridors in areas that are rapidly gentrifying or highly vulnerable to gentrification.*
   - *Consider the acquisition of parcels where there exists additional development potential.*
   - *Explore the feasibility of contracting or working with a consultant, or community partners to provide technical assistance.*
   - *Include in the plan how this new initiative is prioritized compared to other initiatives of the Housing Trust Fund and General Obligation bonds in order to maximize the impact of funds and maximize the number of affordable residential units and reach the other goals of the Strategic Housing Blueprint*
   - *Return to Council with recommended acquisition criteria no later than November 25, 2018, and an acquisition plan, budgetary estimates, and framework by November 25, 2018, if possible.*

On February 12, 2019, staff presented to City Council's Housing and Planning Committee a comprehensive implementation strategy for the *Austin Strategic Housing Blueprint.* Staff continues to follow the implementation strategy, including the Preservation Strategy, that was detailed within the Blueprint Implementation Briefing Book: ASHBI_Book_ 2 12 19 final.pdf (austintexas.gov)

At the March 11, 2021 Housing and Planning Committee, staff provided an update on the deployment of the 2018 Affordable Housing Bonds: https://www.austintexas.gov/edims/document.cfm?id=356217.

As detailed in the presentation, nearly $75 million of the $100 million in 2018 General Obligation Bonds for Land Acquisition has been committed to date. Those acquisitions have been guided by established priorities for the creation and preservation of affordable housing in (1) areas experiencing gentrification;

- high opportunity areas; and (3) locations in proximity to transit.

Acquisitions thus far include both vacant land and hotels/motels (in alignment with the City's Motel Conversion Strategy):

Address	**Council District(s)**	**Amount**	**Council/ AHFC Approval**
1212 W. Slaughter	5	$10,715,000	5/21/20
11225 Pecan Park Blvd.	6	$4,265,000	2/20/20
20 Scattered-Site Single-Family Homes	1, 2, 6, and 7	$4,739,000	5/21/20
1108-1114 Kramer Lane	4	$5,350,000	8/27/20
6200 Menchaca Road	5	$7,200,000	11/12/20
4011 Convict Hill Rd.	8	$1,500,000	11/12/20
County Inn Hotel (7400 N. IH-35)	4	$8,250,000	5/21/20
8908, 8916, 9006 Cullen Lane	2	$8,800,000	12/10/20
Texas Bungalows (13311 Burnet Road)	7	$6,700,000	1/27/21
Candlewood Suites (10811 Pecan Park Blvd.)	6	$9,500,000	TBD
Acquisitions under	1,8	$7,200,000	TBD
Consideration/Contract			
TOTAL		**$74,219,000**	

Preservation of affordable housing is integral to Austin Housing Finance Corporation's (AHFC) programs and investments. There are several recent relevant actions of note:

1. On May 7, 2020, the AHFC Board of Directors approved a $2.5 million loan to the Asociacion de Residentes de North Lamar for the acquisition and preservation (as a cooperative) of the 69-unit North Lamar Mobile Home Park. AHFC staff worked with ROC USA (a national nonprofit Community Development Financial Institution and technical assistance provider) to leverage our local investment of GO Bonds with additional debt. Conversations with additional mobile home communities continue, and we anticipate future preservation opportunities based on this model.
2. In the past year, AHFC has initiated preservation efforts on two AHFC partnership properties. At the July 29, 2020 board meeting, the AHFC Board of Directors authorized staff to move forward with buying out the original investor interests at the 160-unit Villas on Sixth development, located at 2011 E. 6th Street. Similarly, at the April 8, 2021 board meeting, the AHFC Board of Directors authorized staff to move forward with purchasing the limited partner interests in 176- unit Arbors at

Creekside, located at 1022 Clayton Lane. Both of these transactions will enable AHFC to control the interests of the properties, extend the affordability periods, provide additional short-term investment in the properties, potentially deepen the affordability levels, resyndicate the properties in the future for significant rehabilitation, and potentially expand housing opportunities in the future.

3. AHFC issues Private Activity Bonds for multifamily preservation. On October 15, 2020, AHFC authorized an inducement resolution for $37 million for the rehabilitation of the 225-unit RBJ Tower. Similarly, at the May 6, 2021 AHFC Board meeting, the Board of Directors will consider an inducement resolution for up to $40 million for the substantial renovation of Woodway Square, 1700 Teri Road. The owner of the property (Dominium) is planning substantial renovation of this nearly 20-year old family property. The complex includes 240 units. The rehabilitation will include comprehensive rehab of the interior of the units, plus a new playground, bus shelter, and fitness center. This action will result in an extended affordability period. In addition, staff is currently in conversation with the developer about providing additional, deeper affordability levels.
4. AHFC works closely with partners, such as the Housing Authority of the City of Austin (HACA), to preserve existing affordable housing. AHFC has been working with HACA on the redevelopment of Rosewood Courts, which is one of the oldest public housing properties in the nation. Funding through the City of Austin's federal Action Plan for infrastructure related to the Rosewood Courts redevelopment will be coming before City Council next month.

3. *Please provide an update on Resolution No. 20190606-010, which adopted affordable housing goals based on council districts and 2016 Mobility Bond Corridors.*

Housing and Planning Department staff, in partnership with HousingWorks Austin, created Scorecard to analyze and track the community's progress towards reaching the affordable housing goals established in the Blueprint.

The Scorecards measure goals outlined in the Strategic Housing Blueprint including ensuring the creation, preservation, and equitable spread of affordable housing units across our City, while aiming to create affordability accessible to a wide range of incomes.

The annual scorecard (published 6-12 months after the close of the reporting period) can help Austin track its efforts to sustainably achieve affordability goals, expand housing opportunities, and ensure Austin remains a livable city for all. Find more information, including the 2018 and 2019 Scorecards, on the Blueprint Reporting and Progress website.

In addition, the Housing and Planning Department has created an Affordable Housing + Transit map series, which shows all existing income-restricted affordable housing units in relation to the City's Transit Priority Network and the proposed Project Connect transit expansion.

4) *Please provide an update on Resolution No. 20200423-038, which directed the City Manager to:*
   a. *Provide data-informed recommendations to align current policies, services, programs, and resources already in place at the City to more specifically prevent transportation investment-related displacement and ensure people of different incomes can benefit from transportation investments.*
   b. *Provide options for establishing a fund that could provide financing for additional strategies and solutions to prevent transportation investment-related displacement and ensure people of different incomes can benefit from transportation investments in the proposed Fiscal Year 2020-2021 budget in conjunction with Project Connect and any proposed transit investments, including options for potential debt services for land acquisition.*
   c. *Present these recommendations and options no later than the last regularly scheduled Council Meeting in May of2020, or as soon as reasonably possible before the Council considers the budget.*

      Voters approved $300 million in dedicated funds as part of Project Connect to invest in displacement prevention activities to include resources, programs, and policies.

      The Housing and Planning Department has created the Displacement Prevention Division and hired a Community Displacement Prevention Officer to respond to lead displacement prevention activities, including leading the response to this Council resolution. HPD staff has prioritized the need to address transited oriented displacement by providing dedicated staff and resources to address this issue.

      To date, the City has strengthened its tenant stabilization programs to include renter assistance and other tenant stabilization services including eviction representation, expanded tenant-landlord mediation services, moving and storage, and a fund to assist with negotiated settlements.

      Other displacement prevention strategies that the department has operationalized include:

      - Preference Policy
      - Community Land Trust
      - Home Repair Program
      - Home Buyer Assistance Program

5) *Please provide an update on Resolution No. 20200903-044, which expressed Council's intent to include Key Performance Indicators related to equity and displacement in a Performance Dashboard for Project Connect implementation.*

   Staff from the Equity Office, the Innovation Office, the Housing and Planning Department, Office of Resilience, Transportation and the Economic Development departments are collaborating with consultants and community members to develop an equity tool to be used for Project Connect anti- displacement strategies and priorities. The equity tool will be completed by summer 2021, and the Key Performance Indicators will be developed following completion of the tool.

6) *Please identify anyrecommendations researched during the City's participation in PolicyLink's Anti-Displacement Policy Network that could be applied in an eTOD Plan.*

PolicyLink's All in Cities Anti-Displacement Policy Network report notes that anti-displacement policies need to center the voices of low-income communities of color. Many public processes, such as city council hearings and neighborhood association meetings, are not inclusive or empowering for low- income people or people of color due to time and location, language, and other access needs. Recommendations to better center the voices of communities of color includes:

- Increasing the political voice and power of low-income communities of color in decision-making
- Shifting the policy making process to center communities of color
- Increase capacity to measure indicators using data and research

Potential anti-displacement policies from PolicyLink's All in Cities Anti-Displacement Policy Network that could be applied to an eTOD Plan include the following:

Tenant Protections:

- Good/just cause eviction
- Fair chance housing and more equitable tenant screening
- Tenant protections for housing projects receiving public dollars
- Right to counsel or eviction counseling

Affordable Housing Preservation:

- Preservation funds
- Mobile home park preservation

Equitable Development:

- Community benefits agreements
- Assessment of fair housing in equitable development
- New or increased funding for affordable housing development

Community Ownership:

- Community land trusts
- Community control of public land

Business and Cultural Stabilization:

- Small business stabilization strategies
- Cultural districts

Institutionalizing Racial Equity:

- New or increased funding for grassroots organizations
- Ongoing anti-displacement team meetings
- Anti-displacement task force

7) *Please provide a copy of Capital Metro's Green Line TOD Study.*

The Green Line Study has not yet been finalized and published.

8) *Please provide a copy of Capital Metro's grant proposal for the Federal Transit Administration (FTA) to complete an Equitable Transit Oriented Development (eTOD) study. When will this study conclude and when will the results be released?*

Capital Metro presented the eTOD Study to the City of Austin Mobility Committee in April. The presentation, including purpose and timeline, is available here, along with video of the presentation and discussion.

9) *Please describe how passage of a citywide eTOD Policy Plan would legally impact, for example, the Plaza Saltillo Transit-Oriented Development (TOD) Station Area and Regulating Plan.*

Existing TOD Station Area Plans and Regulating Plans, including the Plaza Saltillo TOD Station Area and Regulating Plan are adopted as attachments to Imagine Austin and would continue to apply in those station areas until Council took specific action to repeal or replace them. The citywide eTOD Policy Plan could recommend amendments to these plans or could recommend repeal and replacement of these plans with new regulations if appropriate.

10) *The resolution directs the City Manager to bring forward requests for resources to support the study and creation of an eTOD Policy Plan during the budget process. Please describe what resources Capital Metro will be providing toward the creation of an eTOD Policy Plan.*

Capital Metro applied for and secured $1.5M in FTA grants ($600k for Green Line, and $900k for eTOD with a $350k match from Capital Metro) and is leading those studies. Capital Metro will continue to support and lend expertise and resources to the creation of TODs throughout the service area as part of our normal course of business.

11) *Please provide information about best practices of successful eTOD policies in cities without inclusionary zoning (such as Miami).*

Should this resolution be adopted by Council, this type of research that will be conducted in developing the eTOD policy.

12) *Please provide information about the Dallas TOD TIF District and a breakdown of what percentage stays in the station area, what percentage goes to a lower value area, and what percentage goes to affordable housing within the corridor.*

While it is not possible to provide a full response in this short time, we have collected the information below about Dallas' TIF Districts.

Dallas TOD Affordable Housing Policy

All Dallas TIF Districts created or amended after 2005 require an affordable housing set-aside:

- 20% of all housing receiving TIF funding must be set-aside for families earning less than 80% of Area Median Family Income (AMFI) for a period of 15 years (except City Center and Downtown Connection TIF Districts, which have a 10% set-aside);
- Affordable units must be distributed geographically and by unit size;

- Maximum affordable rents set at 30% of 80% of AMFI, adjusted annually;
- All units must share access to same amenities.

Between 2005 and beginning of 2016, the TIF Program has helped facilitate 2300 affordable housing units. In FY 19-20, of the $10 million allocated, $4.3 was for affordable housing.

Council Question and Answer			
Related To	Item #3	**Meeting Date**	June 10, 2021

Additional Answer Information

Authorize negotiation and execution of an interlocal agreement with Texas A&M AgriLife Research to develop an updated Land Management Plan for the City's Water Quality Protection Lands program.

QUESTION/ANSWER: Council Member Alter's Office

1) Please describe how wildfire mitigation and prevention factor into land management planning at Austin Water.

Austin Water (AW) Wildland Conservation Division (WCD) has been working to reduce wildfire risk on the Water Quality Protection Lands (WQPL) and Balcones Canyonlands Preserve (BCP) through vegetation management, public education and wildfire prevention since the Division was established. Boundary fuel mitigation efforts in the Wildland Urban Interface (WUI) were initiated in 2006. A further analysis of the wildfire risk to structures on and adjacent to the WCD properties was conducted in 2019 by identifying any structures within 150 feet of the property boundaries and prioritizing those areas based on fire intensity models produced by the Texas A&M Forest Service. This approach is consistent with the risk analysis conducted by Austin Fire Department within the City limits. We are also currently working with our Austin Water (AW) emergency planning and climate protection staff, and Austin Fire Department (AFD) Wildfire Division to analyze the wildfire preparedness of critical AW infrastructure, and prioritizing treatment for these areas. The scope of work for the update to the WQPL Land Management Plan will include further recommendations to mitigate wildfire risk.

Specifically, the WQPL Land Management Plan will contain provisions for the use of prescribed fire as one of the most important tools for achieving the goals of prairie and savanna ecosystem restoration. These ecosystems require fire for their continued existence. The landscape scale use of prescribed fire has the concurrent benefit of reducing wildfire fuels on a landscape scale (100's to 1000's of acres) which can provide a large benefit for both preventing and also controlling wildfires that might occur in the same areas. Preparations for prescribed fires also provide predetermined control lines that can likewise be utilized for wildfire suppression. These control line locations can be mapped and communicated to wildland firefighters as they respond to any wildfires on the WQPL. Lastly, the new WQPL Land Management Plan also contains provisions to investigate the use of goats to reduce woody resprouting and to maintain shaded fuel breaks to prevent ladder fuel regrowth in the Wildland Urban Interface. We expect we may have issues with neighborhood dogs and keeping goats on the right side of the fence, but believe it is a tool worth investigating.

Council Question and Answer			
Related To	Item #5	**Meeting Date**	June 10, 2021

Additional Answer Information

Approve a resolution finding the use of the Construction Manager at Risk method of contracting, as authorized by Subchapter F Chapter 2269 of the Texas Government Code, is the project delivery method that provides the best value to the City for the Austin Convention Center Expansion Project to demolish and reconstruct portions of the existing Austin Convention Center and to expand the facility by constructing new elements.

QUESTION/ANSWER: Council Member Alter's Office

1) *Please provide details on the rough design and/or specifications for this item.*

Austin Convention Center staff continue to work on the financing model and proof of concept for the redevelopment of the existing Convention Center. Staff anticipates providing this information to Council following the Summer Council meeting break and are available for discussions with individual Council offices. The financial modeling and proof of concept efforts are parallel processes to the selection of the design firm and CMR. Running these processes sequentially shortens the timeframe for completion of the expansion project which would decrease the cost of the expansion.

More information can be found in the memo that was released yesterday.

Council Question and Answer			
Related To	Item #8	**Meeting Date**	June 10, 2021

Additional Answer Information

Authorize award and execution of a construction contract with Mechanical & Process Systems, LLC, (MBE) for the Davis Water Treatment Plant Gas Heater Replacements project in the amount of $377,777 plus a $37,777.70 contingency, for a total contract amount not to exceed $415,554.70.

QUESTION/ANSWER: Council Member Alter's Office

1) *What back-up systems are in place to ensure the functioning of the electrical system in the case of a power outage? Please also elaborate on the advantages of switching to electric*

   In order to reduce the risk of power outages, the Davis Water Treatment Plant has two electrical feeds and is identified by Austin Energy as a critical load. As part of an ongoing project to construct a new power distribution system for the plant, improvements were made to one of the electrical feeds to the plant, making it more robust.

   The switch to electrical power offers the advantage of being safer. The Heating Ventilation Air Conditioning (HVAC) system being replaced serves two chemical feed buildings, including the chlorine building, so an electric system is inherently safer than a natural gas system.

Council Question and Answer			
Related To	Item #16	**Meeting Date**	June 10, 2021

Additional Answer Information

Approve a resolution authorizing the City Manager and the Chief Financial Officer to execute the Terms of Joint Powers Agreement on Transfer of 'November 2020 Proposition A' Property Tax Revenue interlocal agreement with the Austin Transit Partnership as part of the implementation of Project Connect.

QUESTION/ANSWER: Council Member Kitchen's Office

1) *Once we sign this what is the City's recourse if there is a disagreement with ATP on terms of JPA re allocations back to city, or any other issues for that matter*

   Section 4C allows for the agreement to be amended by a written instrument executed by both the City and ATP. This ILA is for the procedures of the on-going distribution of the Proposition A Property Tax Revenue, as approved by Austin voters in November 2020; and as required by the Contract with the Voters. The City Council and ATP Board have already approved a Grant Agreement for the distribution of the $300 million in anti-displacement funding from ATP to the City's Housing and Planning Department. Any potential future changes to the distribution of those funds would require an amendment to that Grant Agreement.

2) *Is this ILA going to be an attachment to the JPA? As written, we can't change it with the JPA unless ATP agrees. The JPA is an agreement with CapMetro, city, and ATP. Could we set a one year term for this ILA and/or term ends with the JPA and have this incorporated in the JPA?*

   The Proposition A Property Tax Revenue approved by the voters in November 2020 is for on-going revenue, and as such this ILA describes the process and procedures for the disbursement of this revenue to ATP. This revenue will be used – along with Federal Funds – to issue revenue bonds to finance Project Connect, therefore the ILA needs be in place on a permanent basis, to give assurances to bond holders. This ILA will be in effect until ATP is dissolved, in accordance with Contract with the Voters. This agreement will become part of a broader JPA that will likewise need to be approved by the ATP, the COA, and CapMetro. This is how the Grant Agreement for the anti-displacement funds was handled; a separate grant agreement that will become part of the broader JPA.

3) *Does the 20.789% align with what was on the city website during the campaign?*

   Yes. It represents the portion of the City's O&M tax rate that is equivalent to 8.75 cents.

4) *[ILA, Section 1.C. Allowances] Explain impact of requiring ATP to approve any amendments to TIRZ and any new TIRZ. If the city changes the TIRZ allocation to include some percentage for homelessness, why would we need ATP approval, since those dollars were never available for ATP? Why would we need approval to create a new TIRZ, since TIRZ are used for incremental increases?*

   B Because it would impact the amount of funding ATP will receive under the agreement. Any property tax revenue redirected from the General Fund to a TIRZ would result in less revenue to the ATP. For example, the City may choose to do a TIRZ that encompasses property and valuation that have already been developed or may occur without the TIRZ in place, and in that case the TIRZ would reduce revenue to ATP. This agreement allows for consent and consultation regarding new TIRZs. The agreement states that the City cannot commit

ATP's portion of the tax revenue to a new TIRZ without their consent. ATP consent is not required for the City to commit its portion of the tax revenue to a new TIRZ.

5) *Explain impact of requiring ATP approval for future 380 agreements, to include ATP portion of taxes. [ILA, Section 1.C. Allowances].*

   Because it would impact the amount of funding ATP will receive under the agreement. Any property tax revenue redirected from the General Fund to a 380 agreement would result in less revenue to the ATP. For example, the City may choose to do a Chapter 380 Agreement that encompasses property and valuation that have already been developed or may occur without the CH380 in place, and in that case the CH380 agreement would reduce revenue to ATP. This agreement allows for consent and consultation regarding new 380s. The agreement states that the City cannot commit ATP's portion of the tax revenue to a new 380 agreement without their consent. ATP consent is not required for the City to commit its portion of the tax revenue to a new agreement.

6) *Why would the city pay interest on late payments, if it is not the city's fault? [Section 2.D]*

   Interest payments only apply if the City is at fault for the late payment. If the City is later than 15 days past the due date, and ATP is not at fault, we must pay ATP interest on the amount due. Payments to ATP will be transacted through an automated ACH and staff does not foresee a situation in which late payments would result.

Council Question and Answer			
Related To	Item #17	**Meeting Date**	June 10, 2021

Additional Answer Information

Approve a resolution adopting the City of Austin Hazard Mitigation Action Plan Update.

QUESTION/ANSWER: Council Member Alter's Office

1) Please detail the major updates/changes in this document from the current version.

The following are the major updates/changes in the City of Austin Hazard Mitigation Action Plan Update:

- Updated hazard analysis including the last 5 years of data. Added a section about Lightning as a hazard.
- Updated mitigation strategy based on updated hazard data and impacts to the community.
- Carried over mitigation strategies that are relevant and still incomplete
- New mitigation strategies identified based on updated hazard analysis.
- Additional Appendices: City of Austin's Watershed Protection Department's 5-year project list and the City's Climate Resilience Action Plan

There is no red-line version to compare the previous update to this current version. Substantial updates have been made throughout the entire document.

2) What would be the consequences of postponing this item until we can incorporate the after-action report from Winter Storm Uri?

The Disaster Mitigation Act requires that hazard mitigation plans be reviewed and revised every 5 years to maintain eligibility for Hazard Mitigation Assistance grant funding. The current plan expires in August 24, 2021. Without approval, we will not be able to access funding for hazard mitigation projects.

Verbal Questions from Work Session

3) Address how wildfire risk was established in your response.

Staff used wildfire map data from the Texas Forest Service. This provides a data map that is consistent with the rest of the State and meets eligibility requirements. The Wildfire Division of the Austin Fire Department assessed risk with a greater level of granularity and updates it regularly. This can be included in addition to, or instead of the Texas Forest Service map.

4) Outline what the overall HMAP update process looks like.

- The process begins with assembling a planning team and stakeholder groups, to include public safety agencies.
- A capability assessment was developed and distributed at a Kick-Off Workshop.
- Hazards were identified and assessed at a Risk Assessment Workshop.
- Based on the City of Austin's identified vulnerabilities, specific mitigation strategies were discussed and developed at a Mitigation Strategy Workshop.
- Plan maintenance and implementation procedures were developed.

- Public input was sought for the development of the plan.
- Key department stakeholders were presented with drafts of their relevant sections for review.
- The draft plan is submitted to the Texas Department of Emergency Management and FEMA for review and preliminary approval. Final FEMA approval occurs after Council adoption.

The following factors were taken into consideration:

- The nature and magnitude of risks currently affecting the community.
- Hazard mitigation goals to address current and expected conditions.
- Whether current resources will be sufficient for implementing the Plan Update.
  - Anticipated outcomes.

5) What are the options for adding in Lessons Learned from Winter Storm Uri?

The Hazard Mitigation Plan is a living plan that can be reviewed and revised as needed in between the mandated five year cycle. The After Action Report and Improvement Plan for Winter Storm Uri are expected to be complete by mid-September. This will form the basis for the amendments to the Hazard Mitigation Plan.

One option is to add an addendum on Winter Storm Uri to the plan. This can happen within a month of the After Action Report completion.

The other option is to reassess mitigation strategy and incorporate it into the plan. Since winter storm is already profiled as a hazard in the City of Austin plan, no new hazards would need to be added, but new mitigation actions addressing lessons learned from Uri can be added. The process to add mitigation actions after the City receives final approval of the plan update is to revise the actions section of the plan, and submit it to the State. FEMA does not need to re-approve. Since stakeholder groups will be reconvened to create the strategies this will be a longer process and require consultant support. We can engage our consultant to provide a timeline for this but anticipate it may take up to 3 months after engagement.

Council Question and Answer

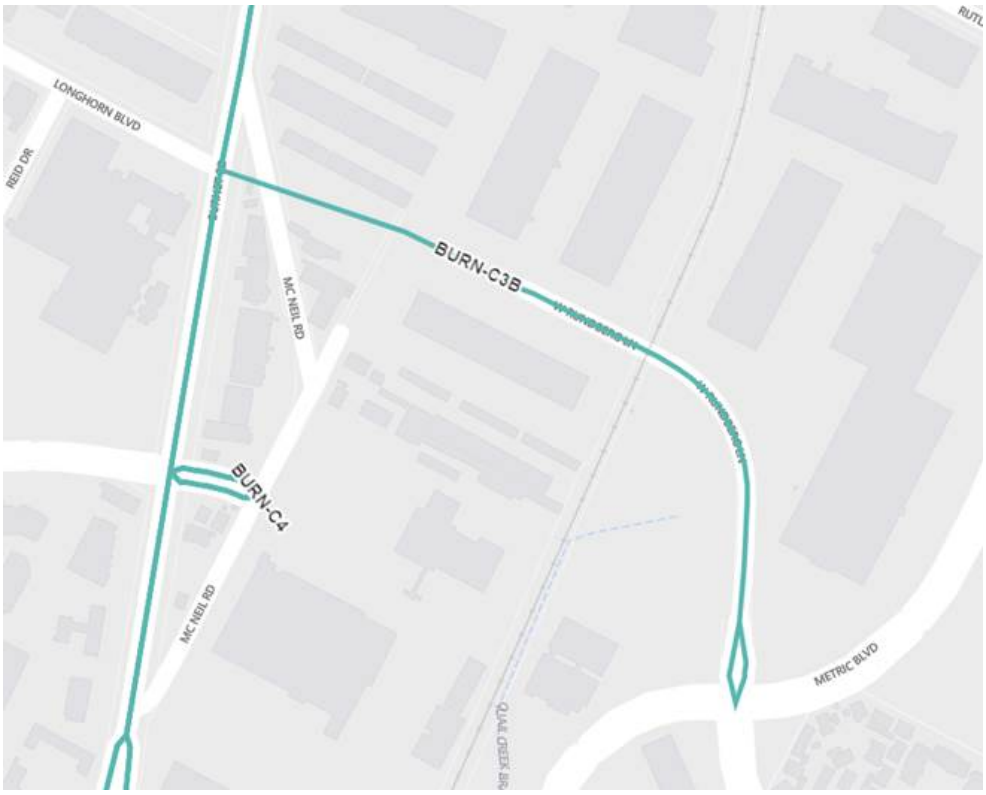
Related To	Item #19	Meeting Date	June 10, 2021

Approve an ordinance authorizing the negotiation and execution of all documents and instruments necessary or desirable to acquire in fee simple approximately 2.343 acres (102,060 sq. ft. of land), being out of The James P. Wallace Survey No. 18, Abstract No. 792, in the City Of Austin, Travis County, Texas, said 2.343 acres being all of that tract of land described as 1.921 acres and 0.42 of one acre conveyed to C Hunts Icehouse LLC by Special Warranty Deed dated October 19, 2015, as recorded in Document No. 2015170464 located at 9611 and 9613 McNeil Road, Austin, Texas, from C Hunts Icehouse LLC, a Texas limited liability company for a total amount not to exceed $2,352,500.00, establishing acquisition and relocation guidelines, and waiving requirements of City Code Chapter 14-3 (Relocation Benefits).

QUESTION/ANSWER: Council Member Alter's Office

1) Please describe in more detail the intended use for this property.

The property being acquired will satisfy the needs of two projects: West Rundberg Extension from Metric to Burnet, and the Burnet Road Improvements Project. The West Rundberg Extension Project has been planned by the City of Austin for the past 10+ years, and this planned project calls for a 4 lane divided roadway to connect Rundberg from its existing terminus at about Metric Drive to intersect with Burnet Road. The Burnet Road Improvements Project requires drainage detention improvements to collect additional runoff caused by the proposed improvements. Below is a screen shot of the proposed West Rundberg alignment:



Approximately two-thirds of the property will be utilized for the West Rundberg Extension from Metric to Burnet project. The remaining third (approximate) will be utilized to provide storm water detention for the Burnet Road project.

Council Question and Answer

Related To	Item #23	Meeting Date	June 10, 2021

Ratify an agreement with Central Texas Allied Health Institute to provide COVID-19 vaccinations and other COVID-19 response services to Austin/Travis County residents in an amount not to exceed $602,448, for a five-month term through September 30, 2021.

QUESTION/ANSWER: Council Member Alter's Office

1) Please provide additional detail about why staff believe this contract is necessary and what services will be delivered that APH is not able to provide in-house.

Given Central Texas Allied Health Institute's experience conducting COVID-19 testing at this location, the organization has built a trusted relationship with segments of the community most disproportionately impacted by COVID-19. Austin Public Health believes that individuals who may be hesitant to receive a vaccine are more likely to seek vaccines from organizations with whom they have built a relationship in a location that is familiar. To reach City and County vaccine goals it is critical that vaccine is made accessible in multiple spaces from a variety of providers beyond Austin Public Health.

Council Question and Answer			
Related To	Item #23	**Meeting Date**	June 10, 2021

Additional Answer Information

Ratify an agreement with Central Texas Allied Health Institute to provide COVID-19 vaccinations and other COVID-19 response services to Austin/Travis County residents in an amount not to exceed $602,448, for a five-month term through September 30, 2021.

QUESTION/ANSWER: Council Member Kelly's Office

1) Is item 23 on the June 10 agenda meant to focus on a specific group/demographic? What is the plan for these sites? Where will they be?

Given Central Texas Allied Health Institute's experience conducting COVID-19 testing at this location, the organization has built a trusted relationship with segments of the community most disproportionately impacted by COVID-19. Austin Public Health believes that individuals who may be hesitant to receive a vaccine are more likely to seek vaccines from organizations with whom they have built a relationship in a location that is familiar. To reach City and County vaccine goals it is critical that vaccine is made accessible in multiple spaces from a variety of providers beyond Austin Public Health.

Council Question and Answer			
Related To	Item #24	**Meeting Date**	June 10, 2021

Additional Answer Information

Ratify an agreement with El Buen Samaritano to provide financial assistance to persons who have been impacted by COVID-19, in an amount not to exceed $389,002, for a five-month term through September 30, 2021.

QUESTION/ANSWER: Council Member Tovo's Office

This contract is for "the redistribution of financial assistance in the form of gift cards, to persons impacted by COVID-19 who had not fully expended their allocated RISE 2.0 funds."

1) *Can staff please elaborate or provide additional details about this contract and who it will serve: is it only limited to people who have "not fully expended their allocated RISE 2.0 funds?"*

   The intended recipients are those individuals that had not spent all or any of their RISE 2.0 awarded funds for a variety of reasons partly due to the type of card that was used to distribute funds.

2) *Does this line in the RCA refer to individual recipients or City vendors who are distributing the funds? Does this contract only fulfill the remaining balance of the unused funds via gift cards? Can staff please describe the efficacy of gift cards for this purpose?*

   The redistribution of unused funds will only be via prepaid gift cards. Prepaid gift cards are being used because those awarded selected that as the option to receive the award. In the event the intended recipients do not respond to the multiple methods of communication to receive the gift card, new awardees will be randomly selected from the pool of remaining eligible RISE 2.0 applicants.

Council Question and Answer			
Related To	Item #24	**Meeting Date**	June 10, 2021

Additional Answer Information

Ratify an agreement with El Buen Samaritano to provide financial assistance to persons who have been impacted by COVID-19, in an amount not to exceed $389,002, for a five-month term through September 30, 2021.

QUESTION/ANSWER: Council Member Kelly's Office

1) What will the application process look like for individuals to get assistance from El Buen Samaritano? Who are the intended recipients?

This is a continuation of RISE 2.0 and will not offer assistance to new applicants. The intended recipients are those individuals that had not spent all or any of their RISE 2.0 awarded funds for a variety of reasons partly due to the type of card that was used to distribute funds. In an effort to streamline the process and honor the City's commitment to those awarded, APH has contracted with El Buen to distribute prepaid cards.

Council Question and Answer			
Related To	Item #25	**Meeting Date**	June 10, 2021

Additional Answer Information

Authorize negotiation and execution of an agreement with Project Prosper of Florida to conduct survey data collection and analysis for the Office of Violence Prevention, for a twelve-month term through June 30, 2022, in an amount not to exceed $170,500.

QUESTION/ANSWER: Council Member Kelly's Office

1) *Can you help me understand the basis for focusing on violence committed against sex workers specifically?*
   As part of the establishment of the Office of Violence Prevention, the budget amendment identified a few initial pilot programs, which included addressing gun violence and violence and harm that surround sex workers. (We can add the attached budget form if it helpful.)
2) *How will participants be identified?*
   The organization that will conduct the surveys has an existing network that has identified sex workers in the community and locations where they work. As such, the organization will leverage these relationships to get survey responses and identify other sex workers.
3) *Will the survey be in person? How will Project Prosper ensure that participants can respond fully and honestly without risking retaliation? Will the survey be offered in multiple languages?*
   Yes, the surveys will be in person. The plan is to recruit sex workers to administer the surveys who can more easily build rapport with the respondents. This will also ease any fears about retaliation as the people administering the surveys are sex workers themselves. It is expected that the survey will be available in multiple languages.
4) *As part of the survey, will participants be offered access to services that might help lift them out of sex work?*
   No, this agreement does not provide funds for that purpose.
5) *Will the survey include questions related to how participants ended up engaging in sex work?*
   The current focus of the survey will deal with present and past violence sex workers have faced.
6) *Will the responses be shared with other agencies/organizations? APD? District Attorney? Hospitals? Social service organizations?*
   The intention is to share aggregated findings and identify programs to reduce violence.

Council Question and Answer			
Related To	Item #29	**Meeting Date**	June 10, 2021

Additional Answer Information

Authorize negotiation and execution of a multi-term contract with FlashParking, Inc. d/b/a Klever Logic, Inc., to provide a parking access and revenue control system, for up to seven years for a total contract amount not to exceed $1,609,000.

QUESTION/ANSWER: Council Member Kelly's Office

1) *Do we have a calculation on how much revenue has been produced by these garages over the last five years?*

ACCD Parking Revenue FY 2016-2020

5060-8200-4100- 2nd street garage

FY 2016	FY 2017	FY 2018	FY 2019	FY 2020
2,289,659	2,436,833	2,170,126	2,734,862	1,452,249

5060-8200-4600-5th street garage

FY 2016	FY 2017	FY 2018	FY 2019	FY 2020
1,656,494	1,821,476	1,872,370	1,985,911	910,680

5432-8200-4500-PEC Garage

FY 2016	FY 2017	FY 2018	FY 2019	FY 2020
1,550,980	1,665,085	1,983,214	2,393,336	1,370,192

Totals	**5,497,133**	**5,923,393**	**6,025,710**	**7,114,109**	**3,733,120**

Council Question and Answer			
Related To	Item #34	**Meeting Date**	June 10, 2021

Additional Answer Information

Authorize negotiation and execution of a multi-term cooperative contract with Wright Express Financial d/b/a Wright Express, to provide fuel credit card services, for up to 38 months for a total contract amount not to exceed $2,194,398.

QUESTION/ANSWER: Council Member Tovo's Office

1) *Please describe how the City can track and verify transaction data from each credit card to ensure proper usage.*
   The City tracks and verifies transaction data for each credit card through our Flee Management Software System. The data is uploaded daily, and each card is tied to a specific vehicle unit number. Detailed monthly transaction reports are sent to department liaisons at the end of each month for the purpose of reviewing and approving the charges. In addition, a dollar limit is assigned to each card and type of purchases are restricted.

Council Question and Answer

Related To	Item #35	**Meeting Date**	June 10, 2021

Authorize negotiation and execution of a multi-term contract with Avesis Third Party Administrators, Inc., or one of the other qualified offerors to Request for Proposal 5800 LMI3000, to provide City employees and retirees with an employee paid vision plan, for up to 66 months for a total contract amount not to exceed $6,840,000.

QUESTION/ANSWER: Council Member Alter's Office

1) *What if any insurance savings does the City anticipate from item 35?*

   The new contract lowers the current vision insurance rates by an average of 9.3% over the term of the contract. The five-year contract with Avesis is $536,712 less than the price proposed by the incumbent. The vision plan is at no cost to the City; it is fully employee paid. The savings realized is employee savings because the City pays the vision insurance premiums through employee payroll-deducted premiums.

Council Question and Answer			
Related To	Item #36	**Meeting Date**	June 10, 2021

Additional Answer Information

Authorize negotiation and execution of a multi-term contract with SePRO Corporation, to provide sediment and water quality testing and management and treatment of toxic algae, for up to five years for a total contract amount not to exceed $1,484,000.

QUESTION/ANSWER: Council Member Kelly's Office

1) *How long will it take to get water quality test results?*
   Most water quality lab results are reported back within two weeks, at which point they go through an internal quality assurance/quality control process to verify the data meets reporting standards, at which point we will likely utilize the WPD's algae website and/or dashboard to share results.

2) *How will staff utilize the results to educate the community in a timely way?*
   The results will be used to educate the community in a timely way, as it was done in 2020; we will utilize social media, the press, and our webpages to disseminate data as quickly as we can based on lab results that are provided to Watershed Protection Department staff. The Lady Bird Lake nutrient management pilot project itself is an experimental approach towards reducing the extent and hopefully toxicity of the cyanobacteria, and we will provide the most relevant and meaningful information about that work alongside our routine monitoring as we get results. Data that is collected is used to provide relative environmental conditions, risk measures, the distribution of potentially harmful algae, and the duration of proliferation persistence.

3) *It looks like this is a new contract. Have we not previously done this because we didn't start seeing dog illnesses and deaths until 2019?*
   This is a new contract and is being implemented after the reported dog illnesses and deaths in 2019, and a resurgence of the toxic algae in 2020, we evaluated a number of mitigation options to begin the process of addressing and hopefully reducing the risks of toxic algae in Lady Bird Lake. The results of this pilot project will inform mitigation efforts in the following years.

Council Question and Answer			
Related To	Item #77	**Meeting Date**	June 10, 2021

Additional Answer Information

Approve a resolution adopting the American Rescue Plan Act Spending Framework and authorizing the City Manager to make the necessary allocations.

QUESTION/ANSWER: Council Member Alter's Office/Council Member Tovo's Office

1) *Last budget cycle, council approved approximately 65 million dollars in spending to address homelessness If our $65 million estimate is off, please insert the correct amount.) Please detail how much of that 65 million has been spent or contracted to date, and what those dollars were spent on, and how many individuals who were experiencing homelessness are anticipated to be housed as a result of those specific investments.*
2) *Please provide the total amount allocated or spent for FY21 for homelessness services and housing as well as public health interventions for individuals experiencing homelessness including the pro-lodge costs, services and food provided at the pro-lodges, and the EAT initiative.*

FY 2020-21 Homelessness Spending and Housing Metrics

For FY 2020-21, the City identified $68.7 million allocated to homelessness services for crisis response, housing stabilization, public space management, and reducing inflow programs and services. This homelessness services allocation is funded through federal grants and the City's operating and capital budget (CIP) dollars, and City staff estimate spending a total of $92.5 million in FY 2020-21.

This higher-than-projected spending is due to the CIP purchase of three motels—Country Inn (purchased Oct 2020), Texas Bungalows (pending), and Candlewood Suites (pending)—totaling $24.5M for housing stabilization. These purchases are part of the motel conversion strategy and were not included in the original allocation because the timing of these acquisitions were not known during budget development; without these motel purchases, total FY 2020-21 estimated spending would be in line with the total budget.

Categories by Funding Source	FY21 Budget	FY21 Estimated Spend
Crisis Response	**21,319,566**	**26,006,796**
CIP	100,339	563,233
Federal	2,529,141	3,345,706
Operating	18,690,086	22,097,857
Housing Stabilization	**29,504,879**	**49,154,294**
CIP	0	24,526,200
Federal	14,120,206	7,149,902
Operating	15,384,673	17,478,192
Public Space Management	**4,057,269**	**4,034,608**
CIP	0	0
Federal	0	0
Operating	4,057,269	4,034,608
Reducing Inflow	**13,824,625**	**13,258,686**

CIP	6,000,000	5,000,000
Federal	3,435,000	1,870,000
Operating	4,389,625	6,388,686
Total	**68,706,339**	**92,454,384**

City spending on homelessness can fluctuate each fiscal year depending on the type of funding source because they do not always align with the City's fiscal year. Appropriations from federal grants and the City's capital budget are usually multi-year, meaning that although an appropriation is budgeted in one fiscal year, funds are expended over multiple fiscal years, causing deferred spending in later fiscal years. The City's operating budget generally includes efforts and programs on a year-by-year basis, but it can also include one-time or reserve funding meant to be spent down in future years and/or contracts and programs with start dates and spending cycles that don't align with the City's fiscal year.

Furthermore, it is important to have performance metrics to verify the efficacy of City funding on public services. Although not all City homelessness spending directly result in re-housing individuals experiencing homelessness—for instance, public space management programs and shelter operations—many programs and contracts managed by Austin Public Health (APH) and Downtown Austin Community Court (DACC) directly contribute to housing those individuals. Below is a table detailing how many individuals who were experiencing homelessness and are anticipated to move into housing or maintain their housing (for long-term housing programs such as Permanent Supportive Housing or medium-term Rapid Rehousing) by the end of FY 2020-21.

Service	**Total # of People Moving Into / Remaining in Housing**	**# Number of People Served**	**Rate**
Permanent Supportive Housing Programs	376	434	87%
Rapid Rehousing Programs	971	1,227	79%
Total	**1,347**	**1,661**	

FY 2020-21 COVID-19 Expenses Related to Homelessness

As part of COVID-19 emergency response operations under the Austin-Travis County Emergency Operations Center (EOC), multiple services were provided to individuals experiencing homelessness. ProLodge (temporary non-congregate shelters for individuals meeting CDC high risk criteria) total operational costs from October 2020 to May 2021 are estimated to be $14.8 million in FY 2020-21, with approximately $2.6 million of the total allocated to meal services. This total includes personnel regular hours, but not behavioral health and support services, which are reflected in the APH social service contracts. Neither personnel nor behavioral health/support services are reimbursable under Public Assistance. Additionally, total projected spending for FY 2020-21 for the contracts (both prepared meals and shelf-stable food bags) that are a part of the Eating Apart Together (EAT) Initiative is $2.3 million, and no cost estimates are included for City staff time, volunteer partner time, or donated items. Spending on ProLodges and EAT are not considered part of the homelessness spending listed above.

Council Question and Answer			
Related To	Item #79	**Meeting Date**	June 10, 2021

Additional Answer Information

Approve an ordinance amending the Fiscal Year 2020-2021 Management Services Department Operating Budget Special Revenue Fund (Ordinance No. 20200812-001) to accept and appropriate $20,555,865 in public assistance grant funds from the Federal Emergency Management Agency via the Texas Department of Emergency Management for COVID-19 vaccination distribution costs.

QUESTION/ANSWER: Council Member Tovo's Office

1) *When will the "projects for COVID-19 emergency response, medical care, and sheltering expenditures are be compiled and submitted" to FEMA for review, approval, and reimbursement?*

   The City is actively formulating multiple projects for Citywide COVID-19 expenses. The project formulation process for Isolation Facilities and Protective Lodges will begin in July. Following documentation compilation and review the projects are expected to be submitted to the grants portal in August.

2) *In regard to the line in the RCA that states, "the General Fund will not be required to contribute additional funds beyond those currently budgeted to this grant" – what is the amount of current General Fund funds that are budgeted to this grant?*

   In regard to the line in the RCA that states, "the General Fund will not be required to contribute additional funds beyond those currently budgeted to this grant" – what is the amount of current General Fund funds that are budgeted to this grant?

   Funding in the amount of $20,555,865 is available from the Federal Emergency Management Agency via the Texas Department of Emergency Management. $0 General Funds are budgeted.

Council Question and Answer			
Related To	Item #81	**Meeting Date**	June 10, 2021

Additional Answer Information

Authorize the negotiation and execution of an interlocal agreement with University of Texas at Austin to implement and evaluate research-driven pilot projects to improve the well-being of long-term care staff in Travis County, for a four-month term through September 30, 2021, in an amount not to exceed $90,000.

QUESTION/ANSWER: Council Member Tovo's Office

1) *Please provide a copy of the COVID-19 Nursing Home Redesign Study.*

   Attached is the Phase 3 report for the Nursing Home System Study and the final close out report for the previous agreement.

DESIGN INstitute for HEALTH

Nursing Home Systems Study

Close Out Report

December 18, 2020

Deliverable 6

Agreement No. MA 4700 20052800052

1. Successes

What successes emerged in this work?

Our success in the Nursing Home Systems Study relied on our ability to understand the present and ever-changing needs of long-term care facilities, their staff, and their residents and family members. As outsiders of this space and industry, the qualitative and immersive nature of our research allowed us to develop first-hand knowledge of the current challenges in long-term care facilities created and/or exacerbated by the COVID-19 pandemic. We leaned on long-term care subject matter experts (both in facilities and in the broader industry) in a variety of roles – facility administrators, certified nurse aides, nurses, social workers, policy makers, geriatric physicians, and so many more – to provide necessary insight into how their role has evolved or changed during COVID-19.

Our extensive research was translated into seven insights, and now, we have created several design concepts intended to address a multitude of needs throughout the very complex long-term care ecosystem. Lastly and most importantly, our success in this work is shared with our partner facilities, numerous stakeholders, and the staff members who so graciously shared their expertise, insight, and knowledge with our team.

2. Challenges

What challenges emerged in this work?

Our partner, Dr. Liam Fry, and other connections helped us collaborate with eight different facilities around Austin and one facility in Temple, Texas. We were able to create strong, working relationships with these facilities, but unfortunately, we struggled to connect with facilities outside of this network. Additionally, all of the facilities we partnered with were located in central, south, and west Austin, and we weren't able to collaborate with any facilities in east or north Austin. It is important to note – there is a broader system challenge and equity issue here in that only 10% of the long-term care facilities in Austin are east of I-35.

In order to continue our work in this space, we also needed to find additional funding to move this research into design solutions and prototype pilots. In the midst of a pandemic, this created an

added challenge with many other organizations and groups requesting money to continue and pursue their work in COVID-adjacent efforts.

Lastly, we had to consider the ever-changing nature of COVID-19 and how this may impact our opportunities and potential solutions. As a team, we needed to ensure we were up to date with new discoveries or any guidance or policy changes for the COVID-19 response.

3. Study Impact

What has the impact of this study been to-date and potential for future impact?

The qualitative nature of our work uncovered and highlighted the struggles and issues experienced by long-term care staff, residents, and family members during the COVID-19 pandemic. Our role in this study has allowed us to elevate these voices by amplifying their concerns and listening to the challenges they have endured for months. Not only were new challenges surfaced during COVID-19, but we also discovered systemic breakdowns and issues that have been longstanding in the long-term care space pre-COVID.

Our work has consistently focused on leveraging design as a tool to address needs at a variety of system levels. This allows us to not only make an impact today, but to also think about potential solutions and sustainable interventions for the near and far term. We've divided our design efforts into three tracks: facility, regional, and state. Track One is focused on developing tactical, actionable prototypes for facility and staff-based needs. Track Two and Three are dedicated to local, regional, and state-wide initiatives for long-term solutions in the long-term care space.

4. Unmet Needs

What key unmet needs emerged in this work?

Our initial research uncovered five opportunity areas: Training, Helping with Infection Control, Preventing Staff Burnout, Building Staff Morale, and Improving Communication Capabilities. After extensive synthesis, it became evident that the workforce needs support, and we were uniquely positioned to create innovative solutions to reduce staff burnout and increase staff morale.

This is a well-studied area – we know the tremendous negative implications of burnout in the workplace, especially on our ability to perform daily tasks. This is an incredibly important consideration when your daily tasks primarily focus on providing care to a vulnerable population, and simultaneously required to adhere and remain compliant with life-saving infection control measures.

5. Trends

What key trends emerged in this work?

The COVID-19 pandemic has both created new concerns, but primarily, has exacerbated long-standing systemic issues that existed prior to and were made worse by this crisis. The long-term care industry has historically struggled with staffing challenges like high turnover, low staff-to-resident ratios, and low staff wages. There is a shortage of nurses and certified nurse aides (CNA), and the Medicaid reimbursement rate in Texas is incredibly low, which impacts facilities' abilities to innovate, maintain their bottom line, and increase staff pay. Additionally, long-term care facilities are consistently villainized in the media, which creates a trickle-down effect to staff experience and the ability to have a robust workforce.

5. Conclusion

We are always interested in and welcome opportunities in 2021 to share our learnings, findings, and progress of the Nursing Home Study with Austin City Council.

DESIGN INstitute for HEALTH

Nursing Home System Study

Design & Development (Phase 3)

December 8, 2020

Deliverable 06
Agreement No. MA 4700 20052800052

Agenda

1. Objective
2. Track Approach
3. Design Direction Strategy
4. Prototype Development To-Date
5. Next Steps
6. Discussion

Study Objective

The Design Institute for Health will build on the immediate emergency COVID-19 response efforts of the City of Austin by analyzing, evaluating, and identifying approaches for broader-scale system improvements to protect residents and reduce the risks of the spread of COVID-19 in nursing homes, Assisted Living centers, and other long-term care facilities.

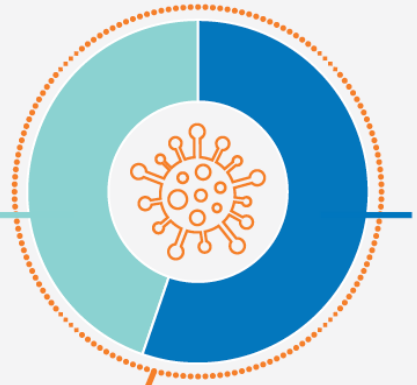
Phases 3-5 Objective

The objective of Phases 3-5 is to design, develop, implement, and evaluate potential solutions and responses to the needs, challenges, and opportunities identified in previous phases by leveraging a series of collaborative and generative co-design sessions with key stakeholders (e.g. facility administrators, facility staff, City of Austin, Austin Public Health, Health and Human Services, etc.)

Local and State Impact of COVID-19

Travis County Long-Term Care Staff and Residents

Positive COVID-19 Cases



850
STAFF
tested positive

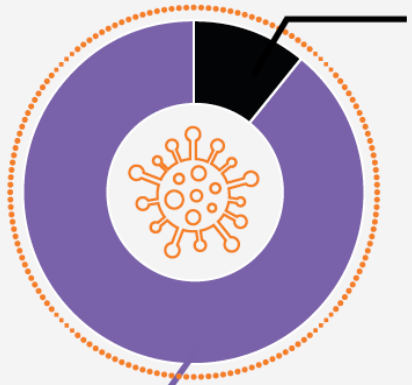
1053
RESIDENTS
tested positive

1903
TOTAL
Positive COVID-19 Cases

6.4%
POSITIVITY RATE
Staff and Residents

Travis County Long-Term Care Staff and Residents

COVID-19 Deaths



207
DEATHS
from COVID-19

↓

12.2%
death rate

1696
RECOVERED
Staff and Residents

Data is cumulative. Based on data as of 12/01/20. For current data, see (source).

Track Approach

TRACK #1: LONG-TERM CARE FACILITIES

Objective

Co-design, prototype, and pilot Now-term Strategic Opportunities with select, yet representative Long-Term Care facilities in greater Travis County / Central Texas in order to assess the potential to scale various implementations and/or identify necessary iterations and improvements

Target Partner

Long-Term Care Facilities

TRACK #2: REGIONAL COLLABORATION

Objective

Engage and collaborate with key local organizations and entities who have the potential to impact Near Term Strategic Opportunities primarily through the connection and coordination of local resources, initiatives, etc.

Target Partner

City of Austin, Austin Public Health

TRACK #3: POLICY & REGULATORY

Objective

Educate key stakeholders who are potentially involved in the upcoming 87th Texas Legislative Session on noteworthy Insights and Far Term Strategic Opportunities relevant to the long-term care space

Target Partner

State Policy and Regulatory Entities

Track Approach Rationale

TRACK #1: LONG-TERM CARE FACILITIES

Ensure a maximum number of partners and stakeholders can be involved in the co-designing, prototyping, and piloting processes though a variety of avenues that are tailored to their subject matter expertise, potential time commitment, and other duties.

TRACK #2: REGIONAL COLLABORATION

Allow for evaluation to be measured and iteration to occur over a longer period of time.

TRACK #3: POLICY & REGULATORY

Allow for a portion of the work to be developed and/or iterated in response to the 87th legislative session, which begins January 12, 2021.

What Strategic Opportunities did we identify?

In this body of work, the specific **Strategic Opportunities** our team identified are as follows:

1. Infection Control – COVID-19 and Beyond
2. Staff Wellbeing
3. Expansion & Evolution of Staff Roles
4. Staff Retention and Incentives
5. Resident Wellbeing

What Strategic Opportunities did we identify?

In this body of work, the specific **Strategic Opportunities** our team identified are as follows:

1. Infection Control – COVID-19 and Beyond
2. Staff Wellbeing
3. Expansion & Evolution of Staff Roles
4. Staff Retention and Incentives
5. Resident Wellbeing

Down-selection Process

- Reviewed the "Now term" Strategic Opportunities identified from the research in Phase 1 and Phase 2 and collectively did a down selection from a design feasibility and timeline lens.
- Consulted Dr. Liam Fry for her feedback on the down selection from a long-term care clinical, facility, and resident perspective to confirm our direction and rationale, or revise if needed.

What Strategic Opportunities did we identify?

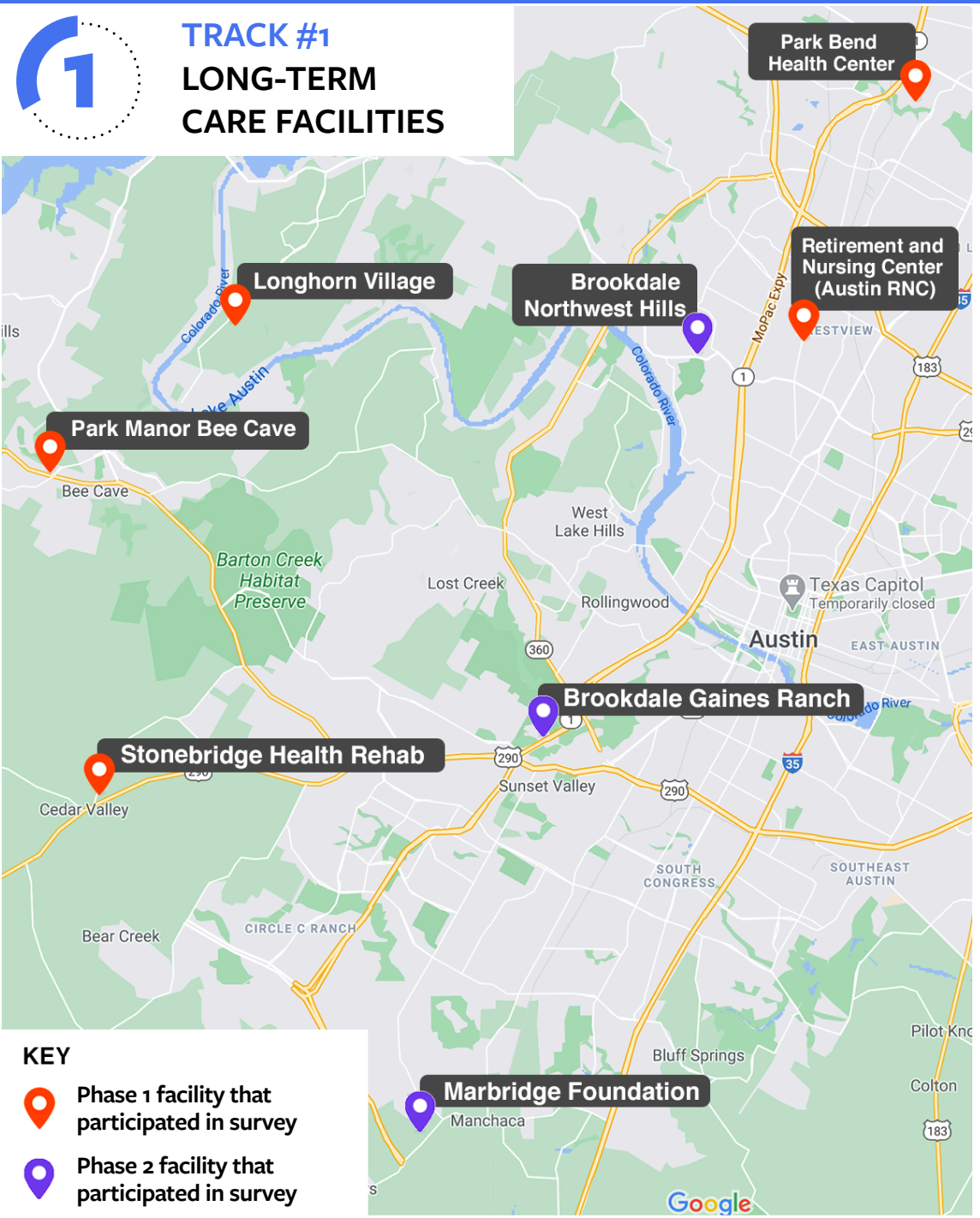
In this body of work, the specific **Strategic Opportunities** our team identified are as follows:

1. Infection Control – COVID-19 and Beyond
2. Staff Wellbeing
3. Expansion & Evolution of Staff Roles
4. Staff Retention and Incentives
5. Resident Wellbeing

Design Directions

1. Training
2. Helping with Infection Control
3. Preventing Staff Burnout
4. Building Staff Morale
5. Improving Communication Capabilities

TRACK #1
LONG-TERM
CARE FACILITIES



KEY

- Phase 1 facility that participated in survey
- Phase 2 facility that participated in survey

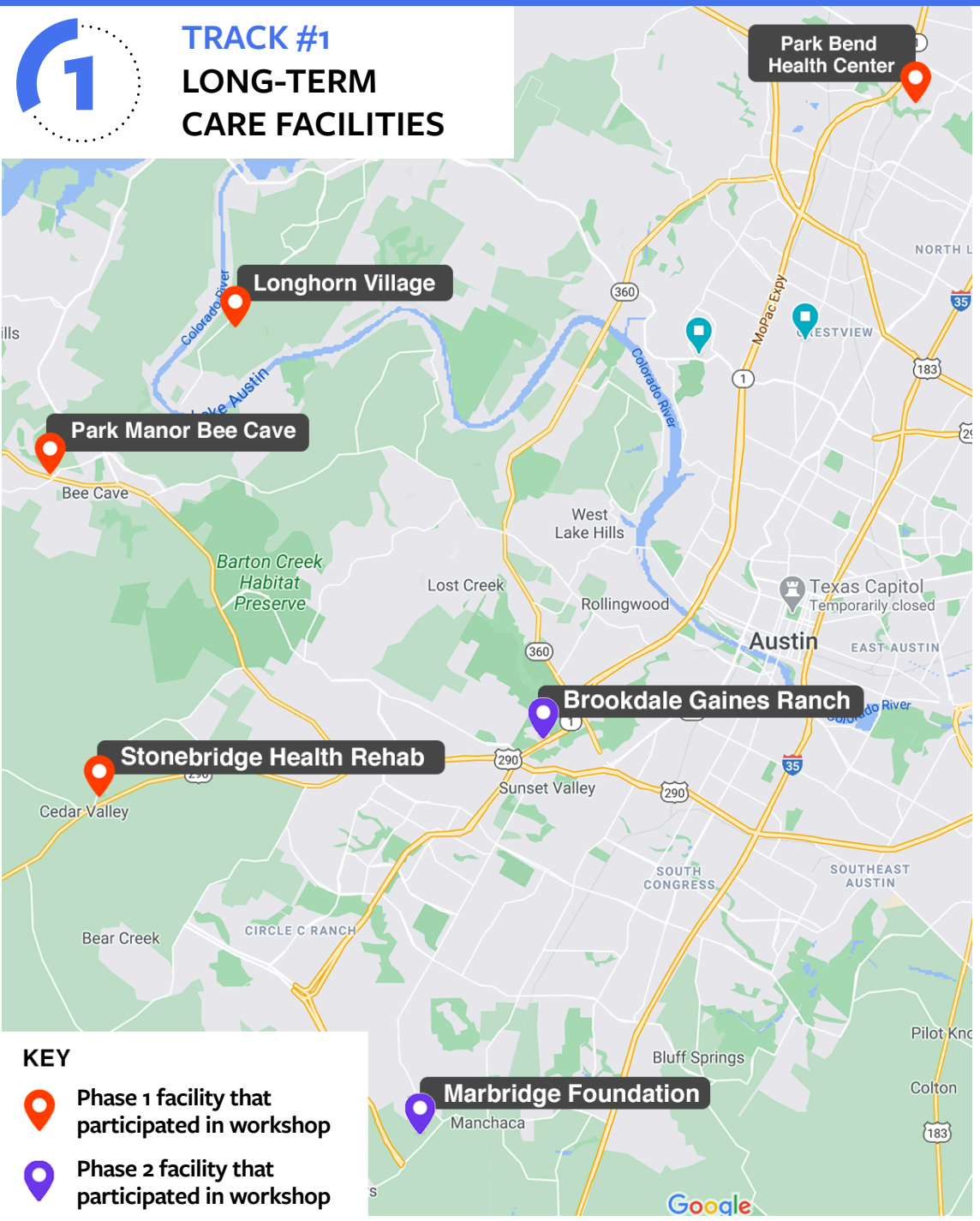
Facility Feedback Participants – Survey

In terms of our team's onsite engagement with 8 of the 9 long-term care facilities visited during Phase 1 and Phase 2 for input and feedback on potential design directions:

SURVEYS

- Print and digital surveys were shared with 8 facilities.
- 140 survey responses received thus far (print and digital combined).
- Wide variety of staff completed the survey.

TRACK #1
LONG-TERM
CARE FACILITIES



KEY

- Phase 1 facility that participated in workshop
- Phase 2 facility that participated in workshop

Facility Feedback Participants – On-sites

ON-SITE WORKSHOPS

A total of 31 interviews were conducted with long-term care staff for feedback and input on potential design directions. Specifically, based on 6 facility on-sites our team conducted, we met with:

12 LEADERSHIP & MANAGEMENT STAFF

- 4 Facility Administrators
- 1 Executive Director
- 1 Director of Nursing
- 1 Director of Health and Wellness in Assisted Living
- 1 Human Resources Manager
- 1 Staffing Coordinator
- 1 Life Enrichment Coordinator
- 1 Director of Memory Care
- 2 Social Workers
- 1 Activities Director

12 FRONTLINE STAFF

- 1 Nurse Manager
- 3 Licensed Vocational Nurses
- 5 Certified Nurse Aides (CNA)
- 2 Certified Medication Aides (CMA)
- 2 Medication Techs

4 SUPPORT STAFF

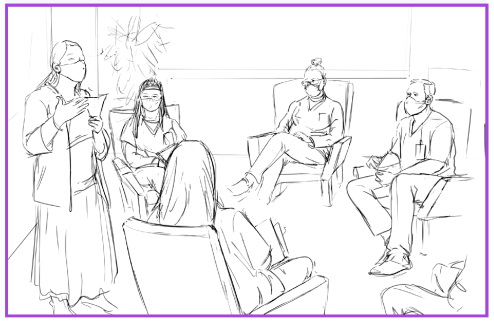
- 1 Activities Assistant
- 1 Housekeeping Manager
- 2 Dining

TRACK #1
LONG-TERM CARE FACILITIES

On-Site Workshop Tools

CATEGORY 3: Preventing Staff Burnout

1. Staff support groups via Zoom to share experiences, struggles, and successes in a confidential space. Led by a social worker 1x/week with staff from other facilities

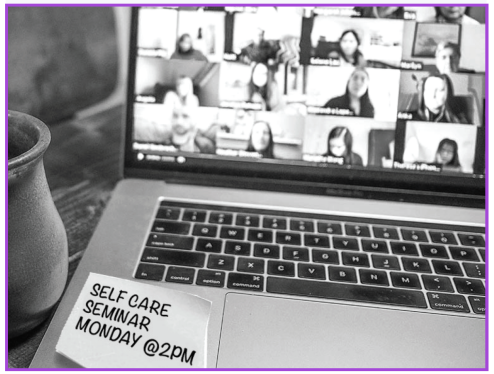


A During lunch

B Join from home after work hours (e.g., after shift or on day off)

CATEGORY 3: Preventing Staff Burnout

2. In-services focused on self-care and/or mental health resources. Led by outside facilitator 1x/month



A In person with a small group

B Online webinar to do on your own time

CATEGORY 3: PREVENTING STAFF BURNOUT

How can we better support you both at work and outside of work hours to reduce burnout?

1. Staff support groups (share experiences, struggles, successes, personal stories – confidential space) via Zoom; 1x/week with staff from other facilities led by social worker

   A. During lunch

   B. After shift or on days off and join from home

2. Self-care and/or mental health focused in-services; 1x/month led by an outside facilitator

   A. In-person

   B. Online webinar

Follow-up questions:

- Do you have other ideas for how to prevent staff burnout?

TRACK #1
LONG-TERM
CARE FACILITIES

Overview of Design Directions

Design Directions	1. Training	2. Helping with Infection Control	3. Preventing Staff Burnout	4. Building Staff Morale	5. Improving Communication Capabilities
Example design prototype ideas for feedback and input	1. Hands-on training during an in-service • Competition • Observe and fix on the spot 2. Resources and/or training materials following an in-service • Online database in a Google Drive folder to refer to on your own time • Resources sent via email 1x/week • A daily text reminder with an important infection control fact 3. Online collaborative groups to share ideas, tips, and strategies with staff in other facilities • Use during work hours • Use at home after work hours (e.g., after shift or on day off)	1. Flyers around the facility to help with infection control protocols • Change existing flyers with more visuals, less text • Add more flyers 2. Visual reminders in staff spaces for social distancing • X's on chairs in staff break room • Colorful dots 6 feet apart in outdoor spaces 3. Hand sanitizer accessibility around facility • Change current locations of hand sanitizer dispensers • Add more dispensers near high-touch surfaces (i.e., resident rooms, screening, time clock)	1. Staff support groups via Zoom to share experiences, struggles, and successes in a confidential space. Led by a social worker 1x/week with staff from other facilities • During lunch • Join from home after work hours (e.g., after shift or on day off) 2. In-services focused on self-care and/or mental health resources. Led by outside facilitator 1x/month • In person with a small group • Online webinar to do on your own time	1. Staff appreciation campaign informed by staff preference on how you like to be recognized and thanked • An event with food 1x/month (i.e., BBQ, potluck) with all COVID precautions (i.e., one person serving food) • Individual recognition 1x/month (i.e., handwritten card from supervisor or gift card for something to do outside of work) 2. Media campaign to change the public perception about long-term care staff members • Individual interviews or surveys • Group interviews with multiple staff members via Zoom	1. Share community resources (i.e., food assistance, transportation, housing assistance) with facility staff • Weekly newsletter via email • Paper flyers available to you at screening check-in • Text 1x/week with a different resource 2. Improve communication protocols/systems in the facility • Consistent communication about essential caregivers (For example: a text every morning at the beginning of your shift with the schedule for the day) • Email templates for family communication 1x/week

TRACK #1
LONG-TERM
CARE FACILITIES

Overview of Design Directions

Design Directions	1. Training	2. Helping with Infection Control	3. Preventing Staff Burnout	4. Building Staff Morale	5. Improving Communication Capabilities
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Why the focus on Staff Burnout & Morale?

- Burnout continues to take a drastic toll on our entire healthcare workforce, with long-term care staff integral to their facility's COVID-19 response being some of those who feel it most acutely and are the most dissatisfied with their jobs.
- Staff experiencing burnout are five times more likely to finish a shift without completing necessary care – a concerning fact when increased infection control care needs due to COVID-19 are taken into consideration.
- While root causes of long-term care staff burnout and dissatisfaction have been known for years – low pay, high turnover, staffing ratios, stressful and challenging work – progress to change these circumstances has been limited, and unfortunately these challenges have only been exacerbated by the pandemic.

White, E.M., Aiken, L.H. and McHugh, M.D. (2019), Registered Nurse Burnout, Job Dissatisfaction, and Missed Care in Nursing Homes. J Am Geriatr Soc, 67: 2065-2071. https://doi.org/10.1111/jgs.16051

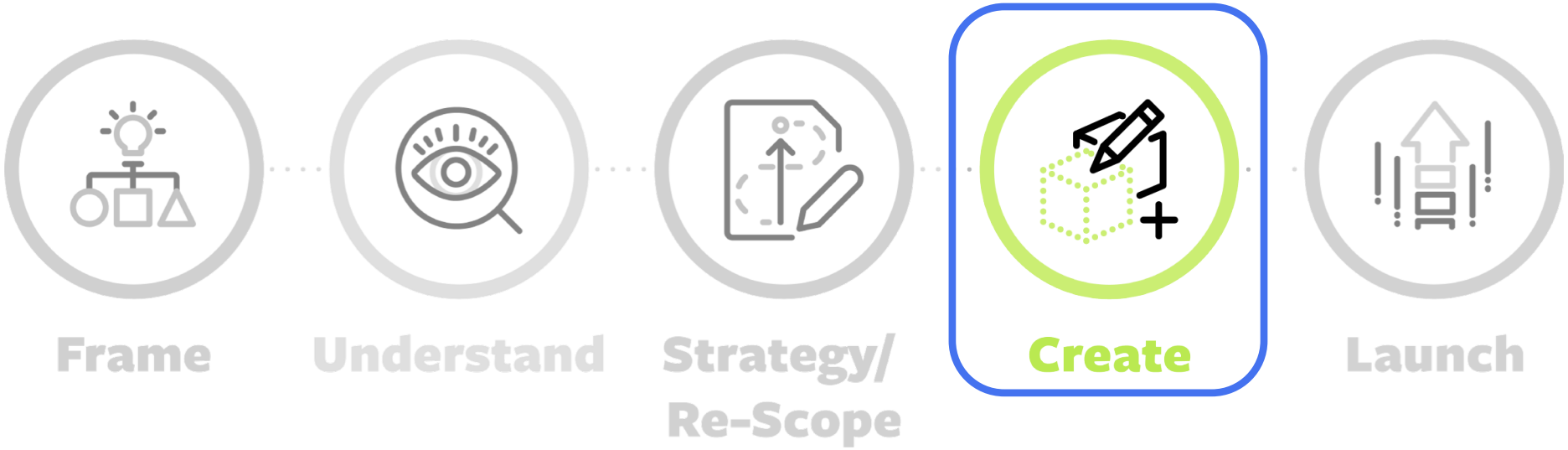
We need to care more about staff providing long-term care..

- As the approval of a COVID-19 vaccine is steadily becoming a possibility in the near-term, it raises the question of how can we have the most sustainable impact today?

- Arguably, needs for PPE, spaces for donning and doffing, and infection control trainings will still be critical, but the daily focus and emphasis placed on them will fade as we adapt to our new normal and integrate our learnings from COVID-19 into daily practice.

- Yet, what will be left unchanged is the overworked, overburdened, underpaid long-term care workforce - a notion that will continue to impact the quality of resident care for years to come, unless we begin to care more about those providing care.

What can design do?



What is a prototype?

An initial realization of an idea or concept as a tangible creation – something people can experience, engage with, and respond to – in service of identifying ways to improve the idea.

TRACK #1
LONG-TERM
CARE FACILITIES

Prototype Development: Progress To-Date

Essential Care Pantry

Prototype 1

Gratitude Portal

Prototype 2

Service Connection

Prototype 3

One-on-One Support

Prototype 4

Essential Care Pantry

Prototype 1

Description

The Essential Care Pantry is a refuge for front-line staff and long-term care workers. It is a dedicated, physical space in a long-term care facility set up like a mini-grocery store stocked with an assortment of everyday essentials such as food staples, cleaning supplies, toiletries, snacks, seasonal items, such as back-to-school supplies, and other "little luxuries" and self-care resources - all free to long-term care staff!

TRACK #1
LONG-TERM
CARE FACILITIES

Essential Care Pantry

Prototype 1

TRACK #1
LONG-TERM
CARE FACILITIES

Why?

Long-term care staff members are acutely aware of the risk of COVID-19 transmission in the community. Many staff members identified home and work as their two safe spaces and actively try to reduce their time in public places. Frontline workers are underpaid and tend to work multiple jobs to support themselves and/or their family.

The goal of the Essential Care Pantry is to not only bring necessary, basic items to the staff in their workplace, but to also create a physical space in long-term care facilities that offers self-care and mental health materials/resources, a wellbeing check-in, and other "little luxuries" for staff.

How would the Essential Care Pantry work?

- Identify available physical space in or adjacent to our participating long-term care facilities in order to stand up the pantry with attention to accessibility and privacy
- Determine the needs of the staff members - ask staff what they need/want/if they can contribute
- Recruit a staff member to act as the point person for pantry logistics and stocking
- Solicit donations from local partners to stock the pantry
- Iterate on the items in the pantry based on staff feedback and popularity
- Create sustainable partnerships with local organizations and corporations to ensure longevity for the pantry

Essential Care Pantry

Prototype 1

TRACK #1
LONG-TERM
CARE FACILITIES

How does the Essential Care Pantry grow?

Based on a successful pilot, we see the opportunity to grow the Essential Care Pantry in the following ways:

CORPORATE PARTNERSHIP

We will need outside support in order to successfully maintain and grow the Essential Care Pantry, primarily from groups familiar with food distribution, such as HEB, Whole Foods, Central Texas Food Bank, or Meals on Wheels. There is also the opportunity for businesses within the Austin community to contribute to the Essential Care Pantry program either through direct donation of goods or sponsorship (ex: The HEB Essential Care Pantry sponsored by Kendra Scott).

EXPANSION & EVOLUTION

Once a pilot proves viable, we hope to expand this initiative to other long-term care facilities. Beyond the current pandemic, the Pantry could evolve to meet staff needs post-COVID, shifting from tactical necessities to long-term emotional support and growth, and adding value and appreciation for the long-term care workforce.

If this model is successful, we see the potential of expanding it to various communities and other crisis scenarios.

MOVING ONLINE

The initial focus of the Essential Care Pantry is to provide easy, free, and low-barrier access to basic needs. Our long-term goal is to evolve the Essential Care Pantry into a digital platform allowing for essential care workers to post needs to the Pantry and to then receive support from their community.

Gratitude Portal

Prototype 2

Description

The Gratitude Portal celebrates the long-term care community by profiling front-line staff from facilities across Travis County. Through the Portal's website and social media presence, the public can read staff and facility stories and show their gratitude by publicly thanking these dedicated health heroes.

TRACK #1
LONG-TERM
CARE FACILITIES

Gratitude Portal

Prototype 2

TRACK #1
LONG-TERM
CARE FACILITIES

Why?

Morale amongst long-term care staff is low. The institutions they have dedicated their lives to are consistently demonized in the media, and they haven't received the same public recognition and appreciation of other frontline healthcare workers. Many staff simply feel unacknowledged for the work they do.

The goal of the Gratitude Portal is to shift the narrative around nursing homes by humanizing the staff and providing a way for the public, other long-term care staff, and family members to acknowledge the hard work that they do day-in and day-out.

How would the Gratitude Portal work?

- The team will travel to the initial set of 3-5 facilities participating in the Gratitude Portal pilot, profiling and photographing the staff to capture their stories for the site and social media outlets.
- Those stories and photos will form the basis for the Gratitude Portal website and social media platforms. We will build out these platforms, focusing on accessibility and ease of use, while also providing easy ways for the community to share stories through their own social media channels.
- To kickstart this appreciation campaign, we will solicit "letters of thanks" from UT and other relevant stakeholders (i.e., our Steering Committee).
- Share and advertise the Gratitude Portal to long-term care facilities, staff, families, and the public to continue populating the website and social media platforms.

Gratitude Portal

Prototype 2

TRACK #1
LONG-TERM
CARE FACILITIES

How does the Gratitude Portal grow?

Based on a successful pilot, we see the opportunity to grow the Gratitude Portal in the following ways:

DONATIONS & GIFTING

A fast follow to the initial launch of the Gratitude Portal could be the added ability for visitors of the site to make donations, both material and financial. Those donations could take the form of direct contributions to facilities or charities in individual staff members' names.

PHYSICAL THANKS

While digital kudos are worthy, time and again, we heard from the staff how valuable a hand-written note can be. With this in mind, the Gratitude Portal could promote letter writing as a form of thanks and celebration of the long-term care community, soliciting messages from site visitors, and coordinating letter-writing campaigns amongst the public.

WHITE LABEL GRATITUDE PORTALS

Based on the pilot's success, the Gratitude Portal could be formalized into a template and shared among other long-term care facilities to promote their employees and share their stories. In the future, this template could be utilized by other industries (i.e., restaurant and service industry, education) to humanize their workforce.

Service Connection

Prototype 3

Description

The Service Connection is an online hub connecting long-term care workers to businesses and individuals offering their COVID-safe services at discounted rates, exclusively for the long-term care community.

TRACK #1
LONG-TERM
CARE FACILITIES

Service Connection

Prototype 3

TRACK #1
LONG-TERM
CARE FACILITIES

Why?

Long-term care staff are underpaid and underappreciated in their contribution to our communities. They bear the same burdens and risks as the rest of the medical community but are inundated with highly-critical news stories and negative public perception. Many staff members spoke of not just the stress of their work but also their stressful home lives.

The goal of Service Connection is to provide an easy way for workers to access critical services for their families but also help bolster the reputation and respect that these vital workers receive within our community. While we can't directly supplement staff pay, we can augment the value of their position through community-contributed benefits.

How would Service Connection work?

- Build the Service Connection website with a focus on accessibility, ease of use, and future expansion.
- Recruit local businesses and individuals to contribute their services to the site. Our initial focus will be on the following services:
  - Tax preparation
  - Children's tutoring services
- Advertise the site and services to workers and facilities.
- Refine the website's design and add additional services based on feedback from the long-term care community.
- Explore alternative delivery mechanisms, such as physical pamphlets or text messaging to engage a broader, less tech-savvy audience among the long-term care community.

Service Connection

Prototype 3

TRACK #1
LONG-TERM
CARE FACILITIES

How does Service Connection grow?

Based on a successful pilot, we see the opportunity to grow the Service Connection in the following ways:

SERVICE EXPANSION

The needs of long-term care staff and their families are multifaceted, and so as Service Connection grows, it needs to diversify the services it offers. In the near term, Service Connection could expand to include social services and access to basic necessities. Still, longer-term, the platform could expand to have creature comforts such as cooking classes for families and nail spas, all informed by and curated towards the needs of the long-term care community.

DONATIONS & GIFTING

The initial launch of Service Connection would focus on connecting long-term care staff with service providers, but the format makes it an ideal platform for gifting and donations. A future iteration of Service Connection could include the ability for facilities, families, or members of the public to sponsor or donate services to long-term care staff and their families.

ALTERNATIVE CURRENCIES

Service Connection is a marketplace, and marketplaces often develop financial models and currencies that best suit the needs of the communities they serve. We know that money is only part of the way the long-term care community measures value. As Service Connection develops and evolves, there is an opportunity to explore alternative payment methods and exchange, including sliding-scales and models that prioritize time and service over cold hard cash.

One-on-One Support

Prototype 4

Description

One-on-One Support connects long-term care workers with a licensed mental health professional for convenient phone-based short-term case management (i.e., connecting to community resources, applying for government programs such as WIC or SNAP) and/or mental and emotional support. This service focuses on short-term crisis prevention for long-term resilience and stability.

TRACK #1
LONG-TERM
CARE FACILITIES

One-on-One Support

Prototype 4

TRACK #1
LONG-TERM
CARE FACILITIES

Why?

Long-term care staff are dealing with many of the same challenges that others are experiencing during the pandemic – increased financial stress, juggling virtual learning, reduced or cut hours, and so many more. However, they have many other added stressors: a constant fear of contracting or transmitting COVID-19 both in the facility or at home, the pressures to keep the residents safe and healthy with limited or reduced family interactions, the trickle-down effect of negative press surrounding nursing homes, and a lack of appreciation from the broader community.

The goal of One-on-One Support is to reduce the barriers to ask for help and to provide tangible and actionable help based on the staff members' readiness to engage with services and/or mental health support.

How would One-on-One Support work?

- Recruit and hire a licensed mental health professional to facilitate the one-on-one calls
- Share this opportunity and service to staff through a variety of channels: flyers, text messages, newsletter with introduction, email, virtual meet and greet
- The licensed mental health professional will send out a weekly text to ask staff if they would like to sign-up for a one-on-one call
- Staff will pick a time that works for their schedule (i.e., driving home from work, lunch break, after dinner)
- The licensed mental health professional will call the staff member during their chosen time

One-on-One Support

Prototype 4

TRACK #1
LONG-TERM
CARE FACILITIES

How does One-on-One Support grow?

Based on a successful pilot, we see the opportunity to grow the One-on-One Support in the following ways:

REGIONAL EXPANSION

Once a pilot proves viable, we hope to expand this initiative to other long-term care facilities to share this service with other long-term care staff members.

CREATING SUSTAINABILITY

We believe this service is a first step towards normalizing mental health support in long-term care. However, we first need to create a sustainable system for One-on-One Support. This could be included in the existing benefits plans currently offered by long-term care facilities with the goal of making this a permanent and formalized service available to staff as they need it post-COVID.

FACILITY INTEGRATION

As mental health support and staff wellbeing are more prioritized and integrated into long-term care facility culture, this service has the potential to extend beyond one-on-one support for staff. Ideally, each facility would have an embedded licensed mental health professional to assist with staff and resident needs as they arose.

TRACK #1
LONG-TERM
CARE FACILITIES

Prototype Development: Progress To-Date

Essential Care Pantry

Prototype 1

Gratitude Portal

Prototype 2

Service Connection

Prototype 3

One-on-One Support

Prototype 4

Next Steps

TRACK #1:
LONG-TERM CARE FACILITIES

June 2020	July 2020	Aug 2020	Sept 2020	Oct 2020	Nov 2020	Dec 2020	Jan 2021	Feb 2021	March 2021
Phase 1 **Focused Investigation**		Phase 2 **Broadened Investigation**		Phase 3 **Design & Development**		Phase 4 **Prototype & Pilot**			Phase 5 **Implementation & Recommendations**

- Continue prototype development
- Finalize prototypes after facility/key stakeholder feedback in preparation for pilots
- Finalize measuring & evaluating plan for pilots
- Pilot launch mid-January 2021; pilot conclusion end of March 2021
- Share out of learnings and potential for scale to key partners & stakeholders

Next Steps

TRACK #2: REGIONAL COLLABORATION

June 2020	July 2020	Aug 2020	Sept 2020	Oct 2020	Nov 2020	Dec 2020	Jan 2021	Feb 2021	March 2021
Phase 1 **Focused Investigation**		Phase 2 **Broadened Investigation**		Phase 3 **Design & Development**		Phase 4 **Prototype & Pilot**			Phase 5 **Implementation & Recommendations**

- Support Austin Public Health existing identified needs and partnerships to augment efforts and facilitate potential for scale, such as their collaboration with Integral Care to create support groups / offer group therapy to long-term care staff
- Share out of learnings and potential for scale to key partners & stakeholders

Next Steps

TRACK #3:
POLICY & REGULATORY

June 2020	July 2020	Aug 2020	Sept 2020	Oct 2020	Nov 2020	Dec 2020	Jan 2021	Feb 2021	March 2021
Phase 1 **Focused Investigation**		Phase 2 **Broadened Investigation**		Phase 3 **Design & Development**		Phase 4 **Prototype & Pilot**			Phase 5 **Implementation & Recommendations**

- Generate tools, resource documents and/or white papers that explore conceptual facility financial models wherein current resource and financial waste are repurposed as avenues to increase staff pay and/or retention
- Share out of learnings to key partners, stakeholders & committees

DESIGN INstitute for HEALTH

Questions?

DESIGN INstitute for HEALTH

Thank you.

Council Question and Answer			
Related To	Item #91	**Meeting Date**	June 10, 2021

Additional Answer Information

Approve an ordinance amending the Fiscal Year 2020-2021 General Fund Emergency Reserve Fund (Ordinance No. 20200812-001) to appropriate an amount not to exceed $20,000,000 for the Relief of Emergency Needs for Tenants (RENT) Rental Assistance Program; and relating to coordinating with Travis County on rental assistance programs.

QUESTION/ANSWER: Council Member Alter's Office

1) *Please provide the total amount of money that we have distributed / allocated thru the various RENT iterations to date (before the $35.3 million allocation) during pandemic? Also how much money we distributed via RISE to date?*

RENT:

PROGRAM	HOUSEHOLDS SERVED	BUDGET	DATES	FUNDING SOURCE
RENT 1.0	1,681	$1,271,428	May – June 2020	Housing Trust Fund
RENT 2.0	4,844	$15,479,214	August 2020 – February 2021	CARES Housing Trust Fund CDBG-CV
RENT 3.0	3732* (In Progress)	$29,467,788	March 2021 – June 2021	US Department of Treasury

To Date (June 10th) for RENT 3.0:

- Total Households Served to Date = 3,302 unduplicated families
- Total Dollars Spent to Date = $19,842,608.44
- Total Months of Rent Paid to Date = 17,354
- With an average of $6,009.27 per Household
- For 5.33 months of rent, on average
- An average monthly rent of $1,090.51

RISE:

- The Relief in a State of Emergency Funds distributed $29 million in direct financial assistance and direct relief services to 196,386 households impacted by the COVID-19 pandemic.
- RISE (RISE 1.0, RISE Bridge, RISE 2.0) – April 2020 – January 2021.

Council Question and Answer

Related To	Item #91	**Meeting Date**	June 10, 2021

Additional Answer Information

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QUESTION/ANSWER: Council Member Tovo's Office

1) *It would be helpful to get a sense of what the total amount is represented by the 10 thousand individuals who applied for it.*

DESCRIPTION/NEED	ESTIMATE	NOTES
Applications remaining to be selected or processed (This does not include new applications received daily).	4,400	
Average assistance per household	$5,850	
Average rent per month	$1,100	
Total households assisted to date	3,027	
Total rental assistance approved to date	$17,742,431.83	
Weeks of Processing to date	9	
Average number of households processed per week	335	
Weeks left after ERA funds are depleted (by end of June)	25	
Estimate of applications at 100 new applications per week x 25 weeks x 85%	2125	
85% of 4,400 applications left (based on 85% success rate)	3740	Success rate refers to the percentage of households who will complete submission of all required documentation as requested for verification
Estimated total number of unserved apps	5865	
Funds needed to fund all 5,440 at $5,850 each. This does not include additional months of future rent paid to recertified applicants.	$34,310,250	
Approximate # of weeks to approve all funds, If we approve 335 per week	18	
16 weeks starting July 5th would take us to late October	Late October	
The funds would be depleted much sooner if we approve 3 months future rent (via re-certifications) for households with demonstrated continued need as allowed by federal		

guidelines.		

Council Question and Answer

Related To	Item #93	**Meeting Date**	June 10, 2021

Additional Answer Information

Approve a resolution directing the City Manager to participate in the Capital Metro Equitable Transit Oriented Development Study and community engagement efforts; to develop an Equitable Transit Oriented Development Policy Plan to achieve specified goals, including, but not limited to identifying methods to address community displacement, exploring opportunities to fund affordable housing, creating diverse housing options near transit, and encouraging multimodal transportation; and identify potential funding for the policy plan development.

QUESTION/ANSWER: Council Member Tovo's Office

1. *Please provide a comprehensive update on the direction provided by Council in Resolution No. 20170413-025. Please specifically provide an update on staff's response to the direction to the City Manager to:*
   - *Consider using the Corridor Housing Preservation Tool to help assess current conditions and set corridor-specific numeric goals for the creation and preservation of affordable housing for corridors throughout Austin, beginning with those corridors that will receive funding through the 2016 Mobility Bond.*
   - *Using the Strategic Housing Plan and other preservation reports and plans as the foundation, the City Manager is directed to identify any additional resources or strategies for leveraging transportation and infrastructure investments and coordinating with the Strike Fund to retain and create affordable housing along Austin's corridors.*
   - *Report at least twice per year on the provisions contained within the resolution so that Council can be apprised of where development is occurring along corridors and what progress the City is making toward meetings its goals for affordable housing in those areas.*

     Housing and Planning Department staff, in partnership with HousingWorks Austin, created Scorecard to analyze and track the community's progress towards reaching the affordable housing goals established in the Blueprint.

     The Scorecards measure goals outlined in the Strategic Housing Blueprint including ensuring the creation, preservation, and equitable spread of affordable housing units across our City, while aiming to create affordability accessible to a wide range of incomes.

     The annual scorecard (published 6-12 months after the close of the reporting period) can help Austin track its efforts to sustainably achieve affordability goals, expand housing opportunities, and ensure Austin remains a livable city for all. Find more information, including the 2018 and 2019 Scorecards, on the Blueprint Reporting and Progress website.

     In addition, the Housing and Planning Department has created an Affordable Housing + Transit map series, which shows all existing income-restricted affordable housing units in relation to the City's Transit Priority Network and the proposed Project Connect transit expansion.

     The original response to this Council resolution can be found here.

2. *Please provide a comprehensive update on the direction provided by Council in Resolution No. 20180823-076. Please specifically provide an update on staff's response to the direction to the City Manager to:*
   - *Develop a plan to use a portion of available funds, such as the Housing Trust Fund and General Obligation bonds to acquire and preserve multi-family developments and mobile home parks that are home to households earning below 60% median family income (MFI). The plan should be developed in concert with any broader land acquisition program that is being developed by staff.*
   - *Structure the framework of this affordable housing preservation initiative to prioritize acquisition, preservation, rehabilitation of multi-family developments and mobile home parks that are located within a quarter mile of high-frequency transit corridors in areas that are rapidly gentrifying or highly vulnerable to gentrification.*
   - *Consider the acquisition of parcels where there exists additional development potential.*
   - *Explore the feasibility of contracting or working with a consultant, or community partners to provide technical assistance.*
   - *Include in the plan how this new initiative is prioritized compared to other initiatives of the Housing Trust Fund and General Obligation bonds in order to maximize the impact of funds and maximize the number of affordable residential units and reach the other goals of the Strategic Housing Blueprint*
   - *Return to Council with recommended acquisition criteria no later than November 25, 2018, and an acquisition plan, budgetary estimates, and framework by November 25, 2018, if possible.*

On February 12, 2019, staff presented to City Council's Housing and Planning Committee a comprehensive implementation strategy for the *Austin Strategic Housing Blueprint.* Staff continues to follow the implementation strategy, including the Preservation Strategy, that was detailed within the Blueprint Implementation Briefing Book: ASHBI_Book_2 12 19 final.pdf (austintexas.gov)

At the March 11, 2021 Housing and Planning Committee, staff provided an update on the deployment of the 2018 Affordable Housing Bonds: https://www.austintexas.gov/edims/document.cfm?id=356217. As detailed in the presentation, nearly $75 million of the $100 million in 2018 General Obligation Bonds for Land Acquisition has been committed to date. Those acquisitions have been guided by established priorities for the creation and preservation of affordable housing in (1) areas experiencing gentrification; (2) high opportunity areas; and (3) locations in proximity to transit. Acquisitions thus far include both vacant land and hotels/motels (in alignment with the City's Motel Conversion Strategy):

Address	**Council District(s)**	**Amount**	**Council/ AHFC Approval**
1212 W. Slaughter	5	$10,715,000	5/21/20
11225 Pecan Park Blvd.	6	$4,265,000	2/20/20
20 Scattered-Site Single-Family Homes	1, 2, 6, and 7	$4,739,000	5/21/20
1108-1114 Kramer Lane	4	$5,350,000	8/27/20
6200 Menchaca Road	5	$7,200,000	11/12/20
4011 Convict Hill Rd.	8	$1,500,000	11/12/20
County Inn Hotel (7400 N. IH-35)	4	$8,250,000	5/21/20
8908, 8916, 9006 Cullen Lane	2	$8,800,000	12/10/20
Texas Bungalows (13311 Burnet Road)	7	$6,700,000	1/27/21
Candlewood Suites (10811 Pecan Park Blvd.)	6	$9,500,000	TBD
Acquisitions under	1,8	$7,200,000	TBD

Consideration/Contract			
TOTAL		**$74,219,000**	

Preservation of affordable housing is integral to Austin Housing Finance Corporation's (AHFC) programs and investments. There are several recent relevant actions of note:

1. On May 7, 2020, the AHFC Board of Directors approved a $2.5 million loan to the Asociacion de Residentes de North Lamar for the acquisition and preservation (as a cooperative) of the 69-unit North Lamar Mobile Home Park. AHFC staff worked with ROC USA (a national nonprofit Community Development Financial Institution and technical assistance provider) to leverage our local investment of GO Bonds with additional debt. Conversations with additional mobile home communities continue, and we anticipate future preservation opportunities based on this model.
2. In the past year, AHFC has initiated preservation efforts on two AHFC partnership properties. At the July 29, 2020 board meeting, the AHFC Board of Directors authorized staff to move forward with buying out the original investor interests at the 160-unit Villas on Sixth development, located at 2011 E. 6th Street. Similarly, at the April 8, 2021 board meeting, the AHFC Board of Directors authorized staff to move forward with purchasing the limited partner interests in 176-unit Arbors at Creekside, located at 1022 Clayton Lane. Both of these transactions will enable AHFC to control the interests of the properties, extend the affordability periods, provide additional short-term investment in the properties, potentially deepen the affordability levels, resyndicate the properties in the future for significant rehabilitation, and potentially expand housing opportunities in the future.
3. AHFC issues Private Activity Bonds for multifamily preservation. On October 15, 2020, AHFC authorized an inducement resolution for $37 million for the rehabilitation of the 225-unit RBJ Tower. Similarly, at the May 6, 2021 AHFC Board meeting, the Board of Directors will consider an inducement resolution for up to $40 million for the substantial renovation of Woodway Square, 1700 Teri Road. The owner of the property (Dominium) is planning substantial renovation of this nearly 20-year old family property. The complex includes 240 units. The rehabilitation will include comprehensive rehab of the interior of the units, plus a new playground, bus shelter, and fitness center. This action will result in an extended affordability period. In addition, staff is currently in conversation with the developer about providing additional, deeper affordability levels.
4. AHFC works closely with partners, such as the Housing Authority of the City of Austin (HACA), to preserve existing affordable housing. AHFC has been working with HACA on the redevelopment of Rosewood Courts, which is one of the oldest public housing properties in the nation. Funding through the City of Austin's federal Action Plan for infrastructure related to the Rosewood Courts redevelopment will be coming before City Council next month.

3. *Please provide an update on Resolution No. 20190606-010, which adopted affordable housing goals based on council districts and 2016 Mobility Bond Corridors.*

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Austin remains a livable city for all. Find more information, including the 2018 and 2019 Scorecards, on the Blueprint Reporting and Progress website.

In addition, the Housing and Planning Department has created an Affordable Housing + Transit map series, which shows all existing income-restricted affordable housing units in relation to the City's Transit Priority Network and the proposed Project Connect transit expansion.

4. *Please provide an update on Resolution No. 20200423-038, which directed the City Manager to:*
   - *Provide data-informed recommendations to align current policies, services, programs, and resources already in place at the City to more specifically prevent transportation investment-related displacement and ensure people of different incomes can benefit from transportation investments.*
   - *Provide options for establishing a fund that could provide financing for additional strategies and solutions to prevent transportation investment-related displacement and ensure people of different incomes can benefit from transportation investments in the proposed Fiscal Year 2020-2021 budget in conjunction with Project Connect and any proposed transit investments, including options for potential debt services for land acquisition.*
   - *Present these recommendations and options no later than the last regularly scheduled Council Meeting in May of2020, or as soon as reasonably possible before the Council considers the budget.*

   Voters approved $300 million in dedicated funds as part of Project Connect to invest in displacement prevention activities to include resources, programs, and policies.

   The Housing and Planning Department has created the Displacement Prevention Division and hired a Community Displacement Prevention Officer to respond to lead displacement prevention activities, including leading the response to this Council resolution. HPD staff has prioritized the need to address transited oriented displacement by providing dedicated staff and resources to address this issue.

   To date, the City has strengthened its tenant stabilization programs to include renter assistance and other tenant stabilization services including eviction representation, expanded tenant-landlord mediation services, moving and storage, and a fund to assist with negotiated settlements.

   Other displacement prevention strategies that the department has operationalized include:
   - Preference Policy
   - Community Land Trust
   - Home Repair Program
   - Home Buyer Assistance Program

5. *Please provide an update on Resolution No. 20200903-044, which expressed Council's intent to include Key Performance Indicators related to equity and displacement in a Performance Dashboard for Project Connect implementation.*

   Staff from the Equity Office, the Innovation Office, the Housing and Planning Department, Office of Resilience, Transportation and the Economic Development departments are collaborating with consultants and community members to develop an equity tool to be used for Project Connect anti-displacement strategies and priorities. The equity tool will be completed by summer 2021, and the Key Performance Indicators will be developed following completion of the tool.

6. *Please identify any recommendations researched during the City's participation in PolicyLink's Anti-Displacement Policy Network that could be applied in an eTOD Plan.*

   PolicyLink's All in Cities Anti-Displacement Policy Network report notes that anti-displacement policies need to center the voices of low-income communities of color. Many public processes, such as city council hearings and neighborhood association meetings, are not inclusive or empowering for low-

income people or people of color due to time and location, language, and other access needs. Recommendations to better center the voices of communities of color includes:

- Increasing the political voice and power of low-income communities of color in decision-making
- Shifting the policy making process to center communities of color
- Increase capacity to measure indicators using data and research

Potential anti-displacement policies from PolicyLink's All in Cities Anti-Displacement Policy Network that could be applied to an eTOD Plan include the following:

Tenant Protections:

- Good/just cause eviction
- Fair chance housing and more equitable tenant screening
- Tenant protections for housing projects receiving public dollars
- Right to counsel or eviction counseling

Affordable Housing Preservation:

- Preservation funds
- Mobile home park preservation

Equitable Development:

- Community benefits agreements
- Assessment of fair housing in equitable development
- New or increased funding for affordable housing development

Community Ownership:

- Community land trusts
- Community control of public land

Business and Cultural Stabilization:

- Small business stabilization strategies
- Cultural districts

Institutionalizing Racial Equity:

- New or increased funding for grassroots organizations
- Ongoing anti-displacement team meetings
- Anti-displacement task force

7. *Please provide a copy of Capital Metro's Green Line TOD Study.*

   The Green Line Study has not yet been finalized and published.

8. *Please provide a copy of Capital Metro's grant proposal for the Federal Transit Administration (FTA) to complete an Equitable Transit Oriented Development (eTOD) study. When will this study conclude and when will the results be released?*

   Capital Metro presented the eTOD Study to the City of Austin Mobility Committee in April. The presentation, including purpose and timeline, is available here, along with video of the presentation and discussion.

9. *Please describe how passage of a citywide eTOD Policy Plan would legally impact, for example, the Plaza Saltillo Transit-Oriented Development (TOD) Station Area and Regulating Plan.*

Existing TOD Station Area Plans and Regulating Plans, including the Plaza Saltillo TOD Station Area and Regulating Plan are adopted as attachments to Imagine Austin and would continue to apply in those station areas until Council took specific action to repeal or replace them. The citywide eTOD Policy Plan could recommend amendments to these plans or could recommend repeal and replacement of these plans with new regulations if appropriate.

10. *The resolution directs the City Manager to bring forward requests for resources to support the study and creation of an eTOD Policy Plan during the budget process. Please describe what resources Capital Metro will be providing toward the creation of an eTOD Policy Plan.*

    Capital Metro applied for and secured $1.5M in FTA grants ($600k for Green Line, and $900k for eTOD with a $350k match from Capital Metro) and is leading those studies. Capital Metro will continue to support and lend expertise and resources to the creation of TODs throughout the service area as part of our normal course of business.

11. *Please provide information about best practices of successful eTOD policies in cities without inclusionary zoning (such as Miami).*

    Should this resolution be adopted by Council, this type of research that will be conducted in developing the eTOD policy.

12. *Please provide information about the Dallas TOD TIF District and a breakdown of what percentage stays in the station area, what percentage goes to a lower value area, and what percentage goes to affordable housing within the corridor.*

    While it is not possible to provide a full response in this short time, we have collected the information below about Dallas' TIF Districts.

    Dallas TOD Affordable Housing Policy

    All Dallas TIF Districts created or amended after 2005 require an affordable housing set-aside:

    - 20% of all housing receiving TIF funding must be set-aside for families earning less than 80% of Area Median Family Income (AMFI) for a period of 15 years (except City Center and Downtown Connection TIF Districts, which have a 10% set-aside);
    - Affordable units must be distributed geographically and by unit size;
    - Maximum affordable rents set at 30% of 80% of AMFI, adjusted annually;
    - All units must share access to same amenities.

    Between 2005 and beginning of 2016, the TIF Program has helped facilitate 2300 affordable housing units. In FY 19-20, of the $10 million allocated, $4.3 was for affordable housing.