

August 9, 2022 Planning Commission Question and Answer Report

Item 10

Question Thompson:

One of the questions I had during our last hearing was about the number of reverse commuters, people who live in Austin but work in a neighboring community. Staff said they didn't have the answer but would have the data by our next meeting.

Staff responded to some of the questions in our last hearing including some of mine, but their response was more about why the data was unnecessary in their thinking. I just wanted to follow up and make sure that staff would have the data before our next meeting.

Staff Response:

According to the American Community Survey data, there are 73,792 workers living in Austin and working outside of Austin. These workers would be residents of Austin, with access to Austin's park system and addressed through residential requirements. The number of employees working in Austin (those residing in the city and outside) according to the same survey is 747,394, however, the 73,792 is not part of that sum, since they work outside of Austin. They are counted as residents.

The use of other jurisdictions' park systems by those workers during their workday is not something we can affect. Note that Hutto, for example, also has a commercial parkland dedication requirement.