



Annual Internal Review

This report covers the time of 7/1/2023 to 6/30/2024

Austin/Travis County Food Policy Board

The Board/Commission mission statement (per the City Code) is to serve as an advisory body to the City Council and Travis County Commissioners Court concerning the need to improve the availability of safe, nutritious, locally, and sustainably-grown food at reasonable prices for all residents, particularly those in need, by coordinating the relevant activities of city and county government, as well as nonprofit organizations, and food and farming businesses.

The Board shall:

- a) monitor the availability, price and quality of food throughout the Austin and Travis County areas;
- b) collect data on the food security (i.e., access to an affordable, diversified local food supply) and the nutritional status of city residents
- c) inform city and county policy makers, administrators, and the public at large about the status of the region's food system and food security;
- d) monitor and analyze the administration of city and county food and nutrition programs;
- e) explore new means for the city and county to improve the local food economy, the availability, sustainability, accessibility, and quality of food and our environment, and assist city and county departments in the coordination of their efforts;
- f) review availability and recommend measures to promote the preservation of agricultural land in the City of Austin and Travis County; and
- g) recommend to the city and county adoption of measures that will improve existing local food production and add new programs, incentives, projects, regulations, or services.

1. **Describe the board's actions supporting their mission during the previous calendar year. Address all elements of the board's mission statement as provided in the relevant sections of the City Code.**

The Board's priorities for the 2023-2024 year were:

Annual Review and Work Plan
2024

- Supporting the City of Austin and Travis County Food Plan work
- Following up on Emergency Preparedness and Resilience Hubs cross-departmental alignment
- Developing the concept of ‘Food In All Policies’ to align how food and water access, resilience, and sustainability are seen, used, funded, and programmed consistently across City Departments in alignment with the pending Regional Food Plan
- Ongoing advocacy with City and County leaders and Departments.

Over the course of the 2023-2024 year, the Board made the following recommendations:

- Recommendation Number 20230710-13: Supporting Food Access in Travis County
- Recommendation 20230727-001: Board Statement on Proposed FY24 COA Budget
- Recommendation 20240318-007: COA Food Plan Implementation FTE
- Recommendation 20240318-008: Travis County Food Plan Implementation FTE
- Recommendation 20240318-009: Support for Sustainable Purchasing
- Recommendation 20240610-014: City Council to approve the proposed Austin-Travis County Food Plan
- Recommendation 20240610-015: Travis County Commissioners Court to approve the proposed Austin-Travis County Food Plan

Over the course of 2022-2023 year, the Board progressed its strategic plans and completed or pushed forward the following:

ATCFPB received the following presentations to the Board:

- Good Food Purchasing Program update from Lake Travis ISD and Greener Pastures Chicken
- FY24 Community Investment Budget Proposal from Equity Action ATX
- Imagine Austin Comprehensive Plan update from the COA Planning Department
- Resilience Planning and Hub Updates from the COA Office of Resilience
- Several presentations throughout the Food System Plan development from COA Office of Sustainability and members of the Community Advisory Committee
- Travis County Land, Water, and Transportation plan progress update
- Update on the College Food Access with Central Texas Food Bank Contract from Austin Public Health

Food Planning Progress

Throughout the 2023-2024 year, most members of the ATCFPB participated in the development of the Austin Travis County Food Plan, either as members of or liaison to the Community Advisory Committee, or as participants in one of the Issue Area Groups helping to define a comprehensive set of goals, objectives, and strategies for the 5-year plan.

Additionally, ATCFPB members met with Austin City Council Members and Travis County Commissioners to respond to any questions and advocate for the support and adoption of the Food Plan.

Emergency Preparedness and Resilience Hubs

ATCFPB presented a list of questions to Homeland Security and Emergency Management (HSEM) following the winter weather event on January 17th- 19th, to ascertain to what degree the Food & Water Appendix to the Emergency Operations plan was implemented. We also had presentations and conversations with both HSEM and Office of Resilience to gain further understanding of how the emergency shelters and resilience hubs operations coordinate efforts.

Food in All Policies

The Food in All Policies/Departments Working Group met monthly to discuss and generate ideas on how to incorporate food in all policies across all departments. The working group did this through a study and discussion of existing governmental and regional food planning efforts. Through these discussions, the working group created a framework for discussions with the City of Austin departments. Specifically, the working group drafted a list of standing questions that all City of Austin departments should address when presenting to the Austin/Travis County Food Policy Board. Questions include topics of sustainability, outcome evaluation, policy impacts, resilience, and technology.

2. Determine if the board's actions throughout the year comply with the mission statement.

(If any of the board's actions were outside the scope of the mission statement, the report should explain the non-compliance issues.)

The Board's actions complied with their mission statement in that it focused on all aspects of the food system, and how to improve it for all Austin and Travis County residents.

3. List the board's goals and objectives for the new calendar year.

(Make sure the goals and objectives fall within the mission statement of the board/commission.)

Annual Review and Work Plan
2024

The Board's priorities for the 2024-2025 year will be determined in our scheduled Strategic Planning meeting in September. Undoubtedly, it will include advocacy, support, and recommendations for insuring the adoption and implementation of the Austin & Travis County Food Plan.

We struggled throughout the year with Board vacancies, appointments, and reappointments. We did a lot of outreach and recruiting for new Board members to take empty seats, and to get existing Board members reappointed. We will be going into the 2024-2025 year with a full Board for the first time in a very long time.