



2018 Accomplishments



Government that Works for All

- Developed and adopted Strategic Direction 2023, guiding the City of Austin for the next 3-5 years.
- Transformed budget process to align with Strategic Direction 2023. The budget was adopted at the lowest tax rate (44.03) since 2009 and passed with the most support from the Council since the 10-1 system started.
- Successful \$925 million general obligation bond election investing in key priority areas.
- Formally launched City's comprehensive language access initiative.
- Conducted 3 citywide job fairs, serving over 1,500 community members.
- City's Equity Assessment tool received "STAR" recognition from Open Government Partnership. Nearly 50% of departments have completed equity assessment.
- Developed and implemented City's first Equity Grant Fund with Quality of Life (QOL) Commissions.
- Launched inaugural Equity Forum with over 200 people in attendance.
- Successfully revised City's Anti-Lobbying Ordinance.
- Developed and implemented new process for Quality of Life Commissions' budget recommendations (600% increase in funded QOL budget recommendations).
- Digitized 4,600+ boxes and on-site site plan records. Annual savings to be realized on storage, retrieval, and space allocation.
- Comprehensive Annual Financial Report (CAFR) issued on March 1, 2018, earliest in over 15 years.
- Successfully completed labor contract negotiations with EMS and police unions and received unanimous support from Council.
- Improved processes and controls for reading water meters.



Health & Environment

- Began implementation of fleet electrification plan with new EV purchases.
- Completed Community Health Assessment and Community Health Improvement Plan.
- Water Forward Plan completed and unanimously approved by Council.
- After historic flooding, a boil water notice was effectively coordinated, communicated and implemented to protect public health.
- Among 25 elite US cities to be selected for Bloomberg American Cities Climate Challenge and will receive \$2 million in services over 2 years.
- Waller Creek District improvements including execution of first significant piece of Waterloo Park for the "flying lawn"; expansion of the Waller Creek TIF.
- Achieved highest live outcome rate for animals to date (99.5% for cats/dogs combined).
- Entered into power purchase agreement (PPA) for solar that took a significant step toward our local solar goal.



Culture & Lifelong Learning

- Launched PARD facility artist access programs using hotel occupancy tax funds and established Artist Space Assistance Program (ASAP) that assisted 13 organizations to remain in current spaces.
- Achieved LEED Platinum designation for the Central Library.
- Launched the Art Box Program allowing artists to place works on signal boxes, reducing graffiti.
- Funded preservation through Hotel Occupancy Tax funds to the maximum allowed by law.
- Expanded hours of Red River to help preserve live music venues.



Economic Opportunity and Affordability

- Launched a personal computer community loan pilot to allocate refurbished City computers to non-profits to serve clients (over 700 computers loaned).
- Piloted the Individuals Experiencing Homelessness Work Program: 30 individuals employed to perform parks maintenance work; 7 of the 30 found transitional housing.
- Transitioned 76 people out of poverty, exceeding goal of 45 people. Also transitioned 77% of case-managed households from homelessness to housing.
- Continued successful efforts around Homeless Outreach Street Team (HOST) in strategic locations: facilitated pop-up resource centers and coordinated needed services.
- Reduced Austin Water rates and improved community affordability.
- Hired 12 automotive interns from Reagan, Crockett, and Eastside Memorial High Schools into full-time positions, offering youth opportunities to go into trades.
- Expanded affordable parking program to include two dozen public/private garages for service/entertainment workers.
- Made changes to the MBE/WBE program to help businesses with their certification, extending the term 3-4 years and removing the annual renewal requirement. Also increased number of certified minority and women-owned businesses.
- Raised the homestead exemption to 10%.
- Increased senior & disabled property tax exemptions four years in a row to \$88,000.
- Approved revised chapter 380 program.
- Extended living wage to \$15/hour for all employees including temporary employees.
- Added \$3.5 million in funding for homelessness and created a central coordinating role for homelessness initiatives.



Mobility

- Added 42 new airline routes; new international routes on Norwegian and Lufthansa carriers (55% more traffic than San Antonio).
- Council approved \$1.4 billion for the Corridor Construction Program. Project improvements are designed to result in an estimated 26% reduction in congestion on 9 major corridors and improve 13 of the top crash intersections.
- 2016 Mobility Bond Program ahead of schedule for planned/actual spending; several projects already completed. Completed projects were delivered on scheduled and on spending plan.
- Deployed over 650 EV charging stations throughout the community to date.
- Successful Vision Zero efforts led to a substantial reduction in crashes at prioritized locations.

- Leveraged 2016 mobility bond to secure commitments for hundreds of millions of dollars of additional transportation funding from Capital Area Metropolitan Planning Organization and Texas Department of Transportation.
- The City of Austin received a Transportation Demand Management Excellence Award last month at the 2018 Association for Commuter Transportation Forum



Safety

- Community leadership and cooperation helped bring the tragic March bombing incident to an end.
- Appointed Police and Fire Chiefs with broad public support and unanimous confirmation by Council.
- Established Office of Police Oversight.
- Opened the Sobering Center.
- Reduction in violent crime by 6%.
- Equipped each APD officer with body worn cameras and First Net smart phones.
- 11% improvement in survival from cardiac arrest over 2017.
- Extended Municipal Court hours of operation: Mon-Wed, Fri: 7am-7pm and Thurs: 7am-10pm.
- Began extensive outreach to educate and inform public about Atlas 14. Reached 1,200 people at 35 outreach events and 24,000 people through postcards.
- Replaced all emergency Knox Boxes at 6,000 building locations.
- Re-focused mental health emergency response to assist first responders.
- Approved 4-person fire staffing by ordinance.

