



UPDATE FROM CITY MANAGER SPENCER CRONK

Austin Neighborhoods Council Monthly Meeting | April 28, 2021



Key Updates

From the City Manager's Office

- Spencer Cronk, City Manager
- Rodney Gonzales, Assistant City Manager
- Jackie Sargent, Austin Energy General Manager
- Greg Meszaros, Director, Austin Water



Key Updates

Covid-19 Pandemic

- CoA has been at the forefront of precautionary measures, resulting in comparatively lower cases and impacts
- Vaccinations are well underway, and we highly encourage all to get vaccinated
- Multiple financial assistance programs have been implemented to support residents, businesses, and key industry sectors
- Most City staff continue to work remotely; however, there are plans for reintegration beginning this Summer

Homelessness

- Continued progress on Housing First solutions
 - Motel conversion strategy is a key component to bring forward hundreds of housing units
 - Recent Summit collaboration with DAA and the Greater Austin Chamber of Commerce to set a 3-year goal to address unsheltered homelessness
 - Staff has developed a phased approach for implementing the HEAL Initiative, including funding needed for bridge housing and rapid re-housing,

Key Updates

Mobility

- Major first steps for initiating Project Connect, which is the largest CoA public works project ever undertaken, are underway
 - Includes anti-displacement investments of \$300 Million
- I-35 Capital Express Project (\$4.9 Billion) is in the project scoping phase
- Additional bond projects underway:
 - 2016: \$720 Million
 - 2018: \$160 Million
 - 2020: \$460 Million

Reimagining Public Safety

- Various mid-year budget amendments recommended to and approved by City Council to decouple certain functions from public safety departments
 - Stand alone Emergency Communications Department
 - Alarm unit permitting (not response) transferred into DSD
 - Administrative functions transferred to centralized functions, such as human resources, financial services, public information, and building services
 - Reimagined Police Cadet Academy scheduled to start June 7th

Key Updates

Winter Storm Uri (February 13-17, 2021) Context

- Historic storm impacting hundreds of millions across the country, including loss of lives
- Statewide mandate for “load shedding” in order to prevent the entire electric grid from collapsing
- Significant property damage for residents and businesses

Winter Storm Uri Response

- CoA activated the Emergency Operations Center
 - Primary activities involved Keeping Austin Energy and Austin Water infrastructure operating and restoring services as quickly as possible
 - Assisting residents with life threatening emergencies
- An After-Action Review is Underway
 - Involves a comprehensive review of all City responses to better understand what worked and what didn't work
 - The review will inform how to be better prepared for future similar events

Thank you

