



Citywide Lighting Plan

Mobility Committee briefing | 4.2.26

Why are we developing a Lighting Plan?



- Reduce roadway fatalities and serious injuries
- Understand what role lighting can play in reducing crime or improving sense of personal safety
- Improve the safety and utility of urban trails and parks
- Improve overall nighttime quality of life and urban character
- Protect sensitive species and reduce light pollution

Project sponsors



Transportation
and Public Works

Energy

Parks and Recreation

Funding



Austin
Parks and Recreation

Ongoing interdepartmental collaboration

- West Campus Lighting Project
- Mobility Bonds and Federal Grants
 - Slaughter Lane
 - Howard Lane
 - Bluff Springs Road
 - McNeil Drive
 - Pearce Lane
 - 13 high crash intersections
- Parks and Recreation
 - e.g. park trail / trailhead lighting
- APD lighting priorities
- Great Streets Plan update



West Campus Lighting Project

Scope of work

- Community engagement
- Existing conditions analysis
- Organizational and peer city review
- New and updated lighting design guidelines
- Policy recommendations
- Prioritization framework for new lighting
- Implementation plan and funding scenarios

Scope includes

- Street and pedestrian lighting in the public right of way
- Trail lighting
- Park lighting

Scope *does not* include

- Privately owned or facade lighting

Community and stakeholder engagement

- Technical Advisory Committee
- Community Advisory Committee
 - DarkSky Texas, Downtown Austin Alliance, AISD, The Trail Conservancy, Bat Conservation International, SafeHorns, Safe Streets Austin, and many more
- Night Walk and Lighting 101 presentation
- Two in-person open houses
- Project web page
- Public survey (362 responses)



Night Walk with Advisory Committee members

Survey findings n=362

- Preference for natural, warm, and unobtrusive lighting
- Reduce light pollution / Dark Sky friendly
- Promote safety, but not overly bright
- Clear processes for requesting new lighting or removing existing lighting
- Latent demand for nighttime walking, biking, trail use, and transit use
 - e.g. 26% of respondents said they would use urban trails more with improved lighting

Color Temperature



1000K

Candlelight

2000K

Tungsten Light

3000K

Household Light Bulbs

4000K

Natural White

5000K

Daylight

6000K

Cool White

7000K

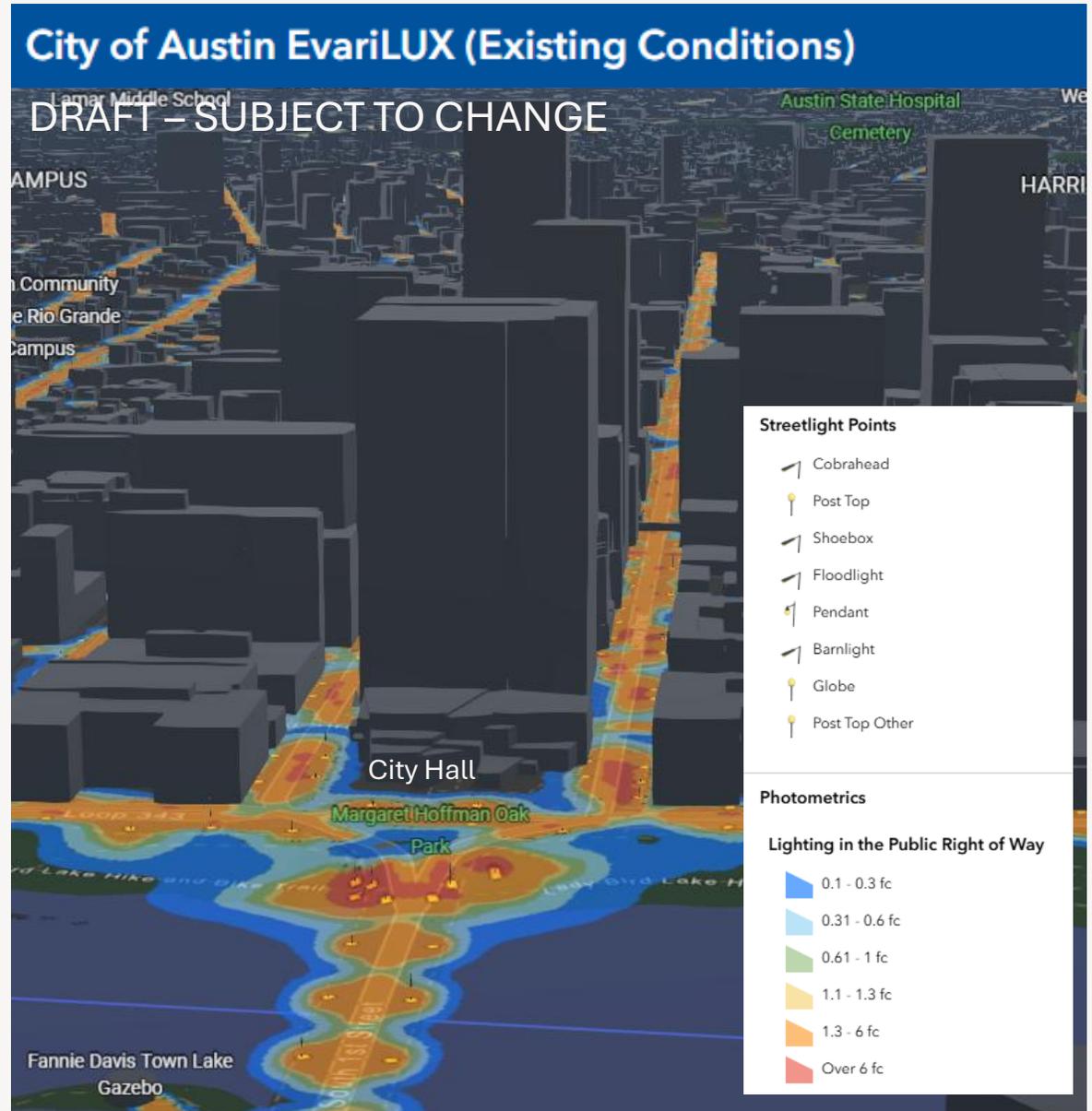
Overcast

10000K

Sky Blue

Existing conditions analysis

- Lighting asset inventory
 - 65,000+ lighting assets reviewed/collected
 - NEW: Urban trails and park lighting inventory
- Citywide lighting model
- This data enables
 - Lighting gap analyses
 - Prioritization of new lighting
 - Quantification of potential energy / cost savings
 - Assessment of crash and crime trends related to lighting



Preliminary traffic safety findings

Potential lighting gaps on transportation facilities

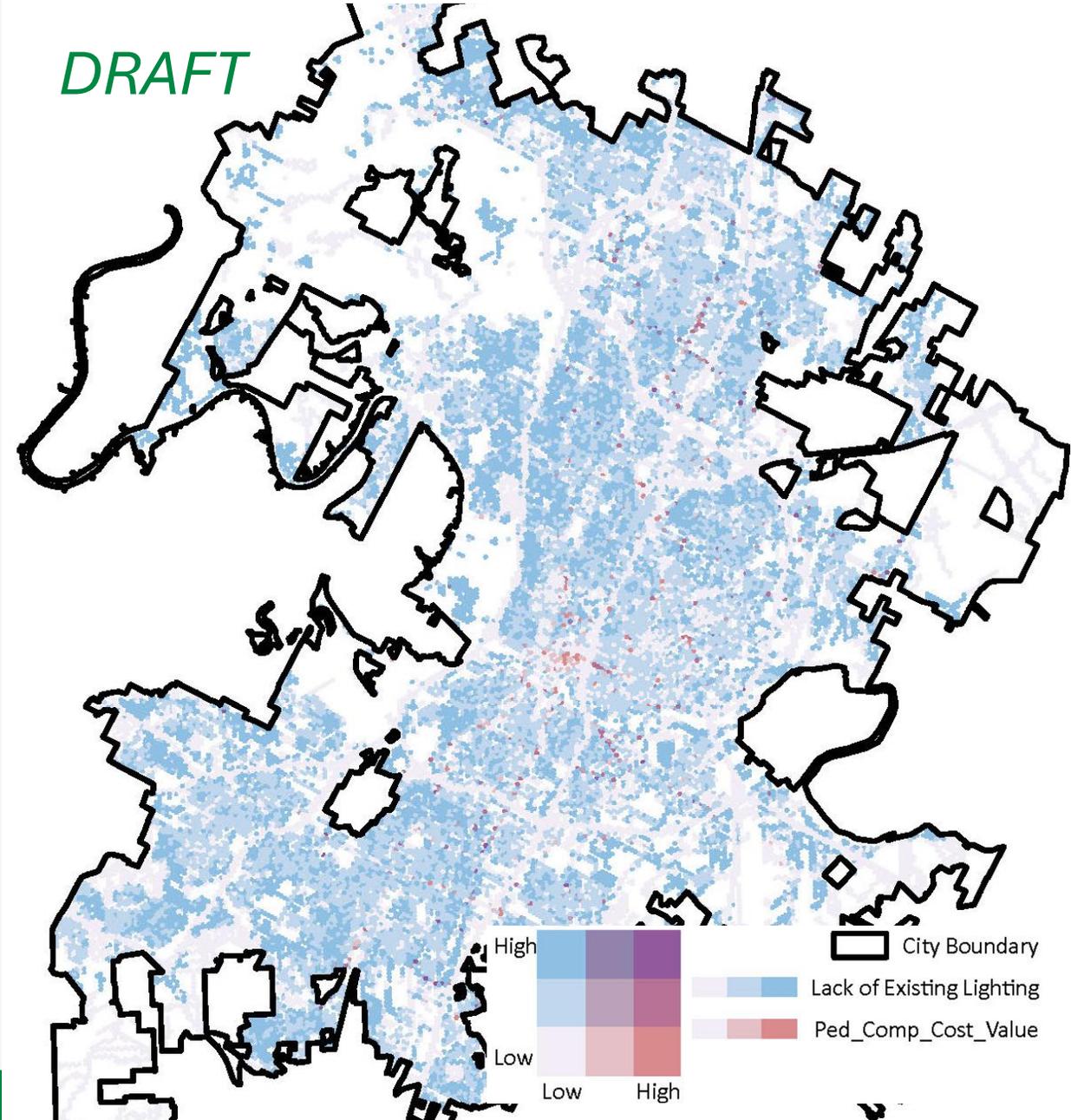
Facility type	Share of facility mileage with <0.1 foot-candle of lighting
Level 1 Streets	54%
Level 2 Streets	35%
Level 3 Streets	24%
Level 4 Streets	27%
Urban Trails network	91%
High Injury Network	24%

subject to change -- based on modeled lighting levels

Relationship between lighting and nighttime pedestrian crashes (2021-2025)

File ID: 26-1378

DRAFT



Current activities

- Review existing Austin lighting policies and standards
- Peer city review
- Develop interdepartmental responsibility matrix
- Review lighting character areas
 - Historic districts
 - Economic and Cultural Districts
 - Neighborhood or design overlays
 - Integration with Great Streets update

 Transportation and Public Works Energy Parks and Recreation			
Street lighting			
Pedestrian lighting			
Trail lighting	Example Responsibility Matrix		
Park lighting			
Requests and prioritization			
Design			
Operations and maintenance			
GIS / data management			

Upcoming work

- Recommend updates to Austin lighting codes and design guidelines
- Establish lighting warrants to define where and what type of lighting is needed
- Develop prioritization framework for new lighting based on safety impact, equity, environmental protection, community input, other factors
- Develop implementation plan
 - Quantify lighting gaps citywide
 - Develop buildout scenarios
 - Quantify expected costs and benefits
 - Identify potential funding mechanisms



What to expect

Fall 2026

- Present draft recommendations to Boards, Commissions and Council Committees
- Incorporate feedback into final plan document

Late 2026

- Potential Council adoption of Citywide Lighting Plan

Beyond 2026

- Implementation of Lighting Plan recommendations based on available funding

Questions?

joel.meyer@austintexas.gov



Austin

publicinput.com/lightingplan