



Planning Initiatives Update

Austin Planning | Housing and Planning Committee | December 2, 2025

AUSTIN PLANNING INITIATIVES

November 2025



| Lead Team | Planning Initiative | 2025 | | 2026 | | | | | | | | | | | |
|------------------------|--|------|-----|------|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|
| | | NOV | DEC | JAN | FEB | MAR | APR | MAY | JUN | JUL | AUG | SEP | OCT | NOV | DEC |
| Code Analysis | Equity Overlay Study | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Urban Design | Great Streets Plan and Standards Update | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Urban Design | Urban Design Guidelines Update | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Historic Preservation | Transfer of Development Rights Analysis | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| ETOD Small Area | East Riverside Corridor Vision Plan Update | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| District Planning | Central City District Plan | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Comprehensive Planning | Imagine Austin Update | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| District Planning | Northeast District Plan | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Historic Preservation | East Austin Historic Resource Survey | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |

Timelines to Be Determined

Industrial Study

Greater 78702 Initiative (North River/East)

District Planning Framework

Updated 11/7/25

CHART KEY

Planning Process

- Scoping and/or Cost Estimating
- Development and/or Engagement
- Review and/or Adoption

Completed Initiatives

North Lamar Transit Center Station Area Vision Plan

- Adopted by City Council on May 22, 2025

South Congress Transit Center Station Area Vision Plan

- Adopted by City Council on May 22, 2025

Downtown Historic Resource Survey

- Findings presented to Historic Landmark Commission on July 2, 2025

Agriculturally Focused Neighborhoods

- Memo to Mayor and City Council on October 21, 2025

Imagine Austin Update

Evelyn Mitchell, Principal Planner

What is Imagine Austin?

Imagine Austin is a 30-year plan that is required by Article X of the City's Charter.

It seeks for Austin to be a city of "Complete Communities" where people of all backgrounds and income levels can build a career, make a home, and find happiness near the people and places they love.

The plan serves as a roadmap guiding investments, infrastructure, and decision-making across the city for decades to come.



Project Goals

- City Council approved a resolution to update Imagine Austin on **August 28, 2025**.
- In response, the overall project **goals** include:
 - **Stay relevant and aligned** with the community's current goals and priorities.
 - **Reflect** present-day conditions and anticipate future realities.
 - **Develop** a robust and action-oriented implementation framework that guides City actions.
 - **Provide** clear guidance for infrastructure and public investments.
 - **Create** consistent and regular opportunities to engage with the community and align with evolving needs.
 - **Develop** a Place Types Map to support holistic planning across the City.

| | PHASE 1 Baseline | PHASE 2 Plan Direction | PHASE 3 Plan Development | PHASE 4 Plan Review |
|-----------------------|--|---|--|---|
| Engagement Activities | Survey #1 Community Working Group | Focus Groups Community Working Group | Survey #2 Community Working Group Area Workshops | Public Review of Draft Plan Boards and Commissions Presentations |
| Deliverables | Community Engagement Plan Policy Inventory and Plan Diagnostic Report Existing Conditions Report Growth Scenarios | Policy Framework and Development Place Types Mapping: Methodology and Draft Map Growth Concept Map Drafts | Draft of Updated Plan Place Types Map Drafts Implementation Strategy Framework | Implementation Plan and Dashboard Launch of Web-Based Plan |

Next Steps

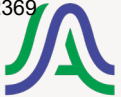
- Preparing for upcoming deliverables in Q1 and Q2 of 2026:
 - Policy Inventory and Plan Diagnostic Report
 - Existing Conditions Report
 - Policy Framework
- Pre-planning for Phase 1 engagement
 - Launch of Survey #1 (Q1)
 - Community Working Group (Q2)
 - Focus Groups (Q2)

Northeast District Plan

Shanisha Johnson, Principal Planner

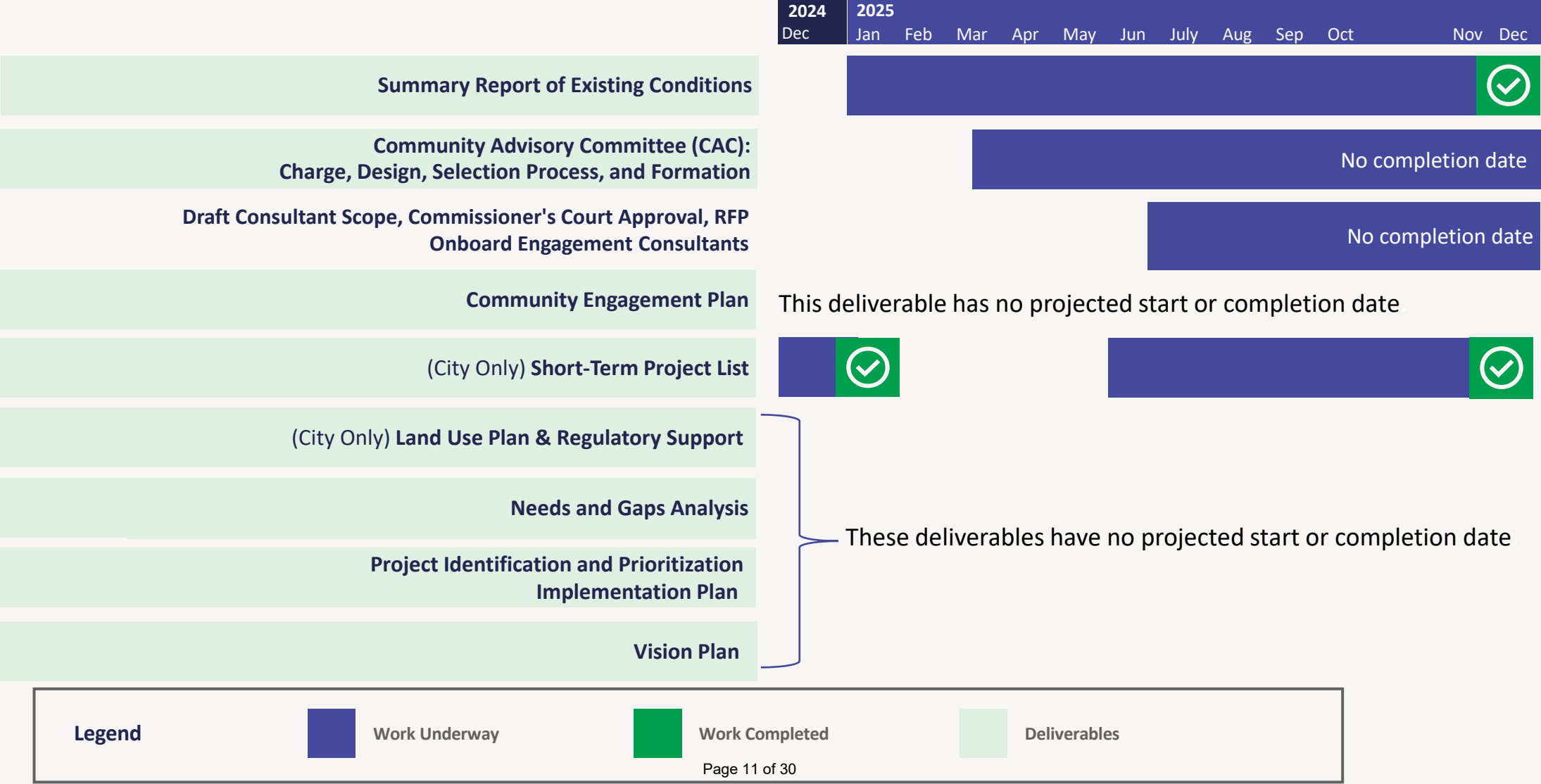
Purpose and Progress

- A March 2024 Interlocal Agreement between Austin City Council and Travis County Commissioner's Court called for a collaborative Northeast District Plan.
- The Northeast Planning District, the geographic area for the plan, encompasses 30 square miles, with one-third County jurisdiction and two-thirds City jurisdiction.
- The purpose of the collaborative effort is to address historic inequities and disparities through cohesive plan implementation.
- Since March 2024, City and County staff have formed the 14-member staff Working Group.
 - The Working Group has held 31 meetings and completed the first deliverable – the Working Group Charter.
- The second deliverable, the Summary Report of Existing Conditions, is being completed by the City's land use consultant and is expected to be finalized in December 2025.



Austin

Northeast District Planning Process Timeline



Next Steps

- Continue developing the CAC charge, design, and selection process (2026).
 - The design and structure of the CAC is being informed by five key stakeholder groups listed in the ILA.
- Present the CAC charge, design, and selection process to Commissioner's Court for approval (2026).
- Present the engagement consultant scope to Commissioner's Court for approval (2026).
- Post the RFP for the engagement consultant (2026).
- Finalize and report the Short-Term Project List implementation timeline to the Working Group (*City only*) (Dec 2025).
- Implement one identified short-term project (*City only*) (Feb – May 2026).

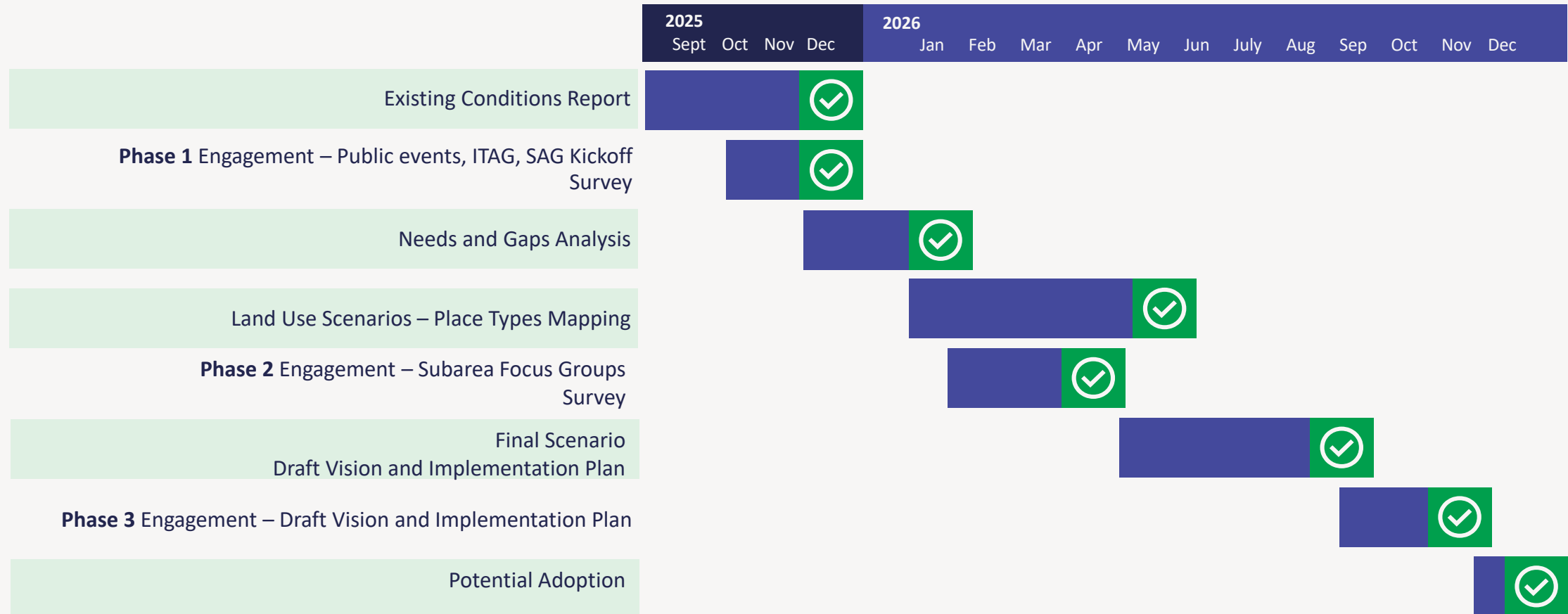
Central City District Plan

Shanisha Johnson, Principal Planner

Purpose and Goals

- A 2024 Council Resolution directed staff to renew the vision for the Downtown Austin Plan.
- Staff is proceeding with the Downtown Austin Plan update as a District Plan that also includes the South Central Waterfront and University of Texas/University Neighborhood Overlay (UNO) areas. Planning efforts include:
 - Developing a Vision Plan and action-oriented Implementation Plan for the Central City District.
 - Engaging community members and stakeholders that live, work, and play in these areas.
 - Inviting underrepresented voices to participate.
 - Aligning area plans with citywide policies and strategies, including the *Imagine Austin* Comprehensive Plan.
 - Bringing the Vision Plan and Implementation Plan before Council for adoption by December 2026.

Central City District Planning Process Timeline



Legend

Work Underway

Work Completed

Deliverables

Next Steps

- Finalize the Existing Conditions Report (Dec)
- Kick off the Stakeholder Advisory Group (Dec)
- Analyze Phase 1 Engagement feedback – community events, survey, ITAG, and SAG (Dec/Jan)
- Finalize the Needs and Gaps Analysis (Jan)
- Pre-planning for Phase 2 Engagement (Jan - Feb)
 - Place Types Map typologies workshop with City staff
 - Announce and launch focus group signups through Speak Up Austin

Great Streets Plan and Standards Update

Jorge Rousselin, Urban Design Division Manager

Great Streets Overview: History

- **Early 2000s**
 - **City Council adopted** the Downtown Design Guidelines, Great Streets Plan Standards, and Great Streets Development Program.
- **2003**
 - City Council **dedicated a portion of the parking meter revenue** to Great Streets.
- **2014**
 - City Council **established Great Streets as a Downtown Density Bonus Program gatekeeper** requirement.
- An Update to the Great Streets Plan and Standards is needed.
- The Update includes an existing conditions analysis.



Existing Conditions Analysis

- Completed **inventory** of Great Streets elements
- **Condition** of Great Streets elements
- **Highest scoring streetscape elements**
 - Light poles
 - Bike racks
 - Trees
- **Lowest scoring streetscape elements**
 - Benches
 - Trash receptacles
 - Recycling receptacles



Top Scoring Great Streets Element:
Trees



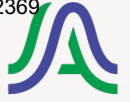
Low Scoring Great Streets Element:
Trash Receptacles

Great Streets Update Goals



- **Align the program** with other initiatives
- **Holistic conversations** around right of way
- Focus on the entirety of the **Central Business District experience**
- **Modernization and clarification** of the standards
- **Create champions** for the program
- Work **flexibility and conflict resolution** into the standards
- Ensure continued and consistent **funding and accountability**





Austin

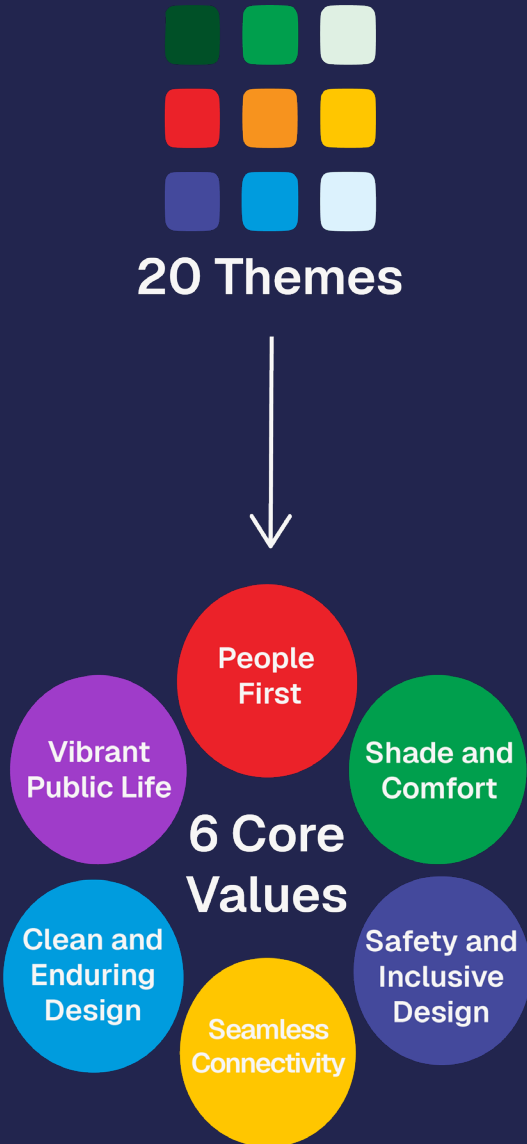
Community Engagement Overview

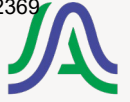
- July to November 2025
- Gather feedback from **residents, employees, and visitors** about how they experience downtown streets and what they would like to see moving forward
- Our outreach included:
 - Online survey - **328 participants**
 - Open house - **75 attendees**
 - Stakeholder meetings
 - Imagine Austin Speaker Series Event
- Almost **1,000 comments** from all engagement
- This input will form the **recommendations** for the Update and define the **priorities, challenges, and shared values** that will guide future enhancements.



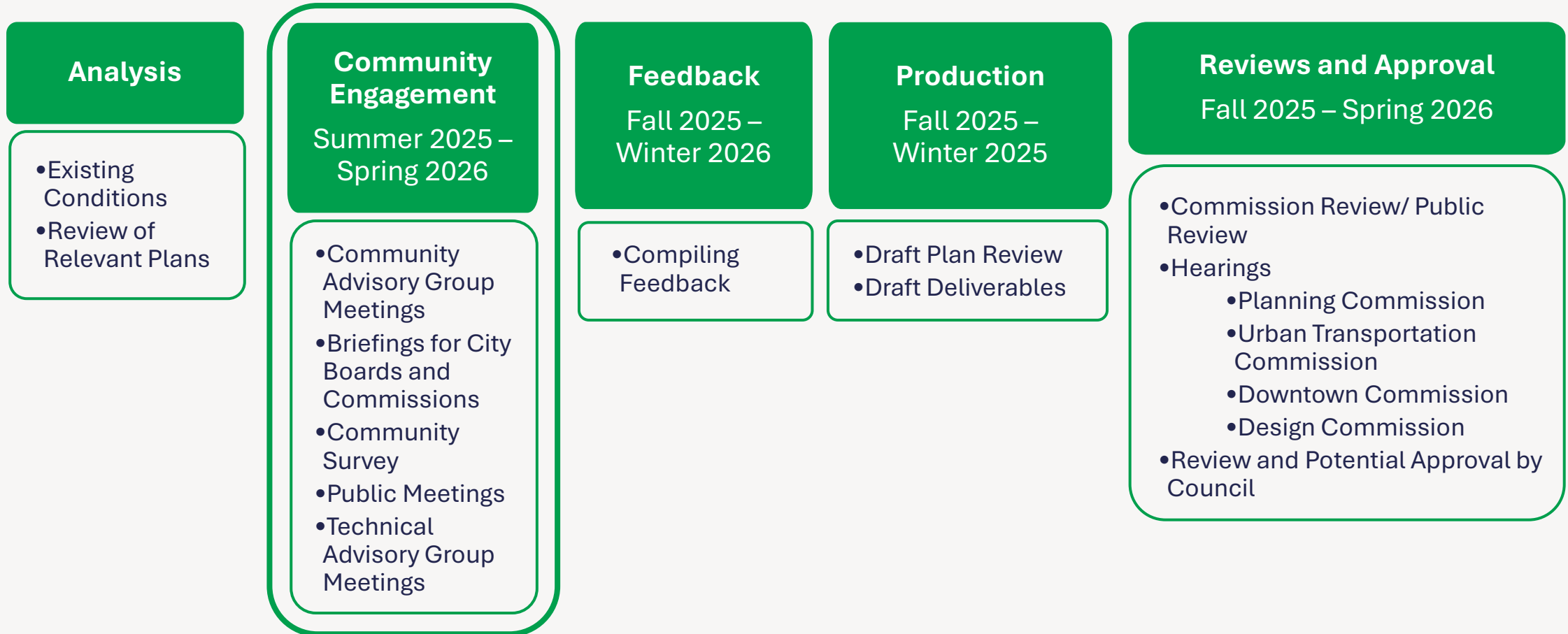
What We've Heard: Emerging Themes

- Over **600 open-ended survey comments** were analyzed and grouped into recurring themes that reflected what survey respondents value most about downtown streets.
- From these patterns, Urban Design distilled **20 community themes** into **six core values**:
 - **People first**
 - **Vibrant public life**
 - **Shade and comfort**
 - **Safety and inclusive design**
 - **Seamless connectivity**
 - **Clean and enduring design**





Great Streets Update Schedule



East Riverside Corridor Planning Initiative

Ana Villarreal, Principal Planner

Background

- In 2024, the Austin City Council passed [Resolution 20240201-054](#), directing staff to align the existing East Riverside Corridor Vision Plan and Regulating Plan with the City's Equitable Transit-Oriented Development (ETOD) initiative, ensuring future development supports **equity**, **affordability**, and **community needs**.

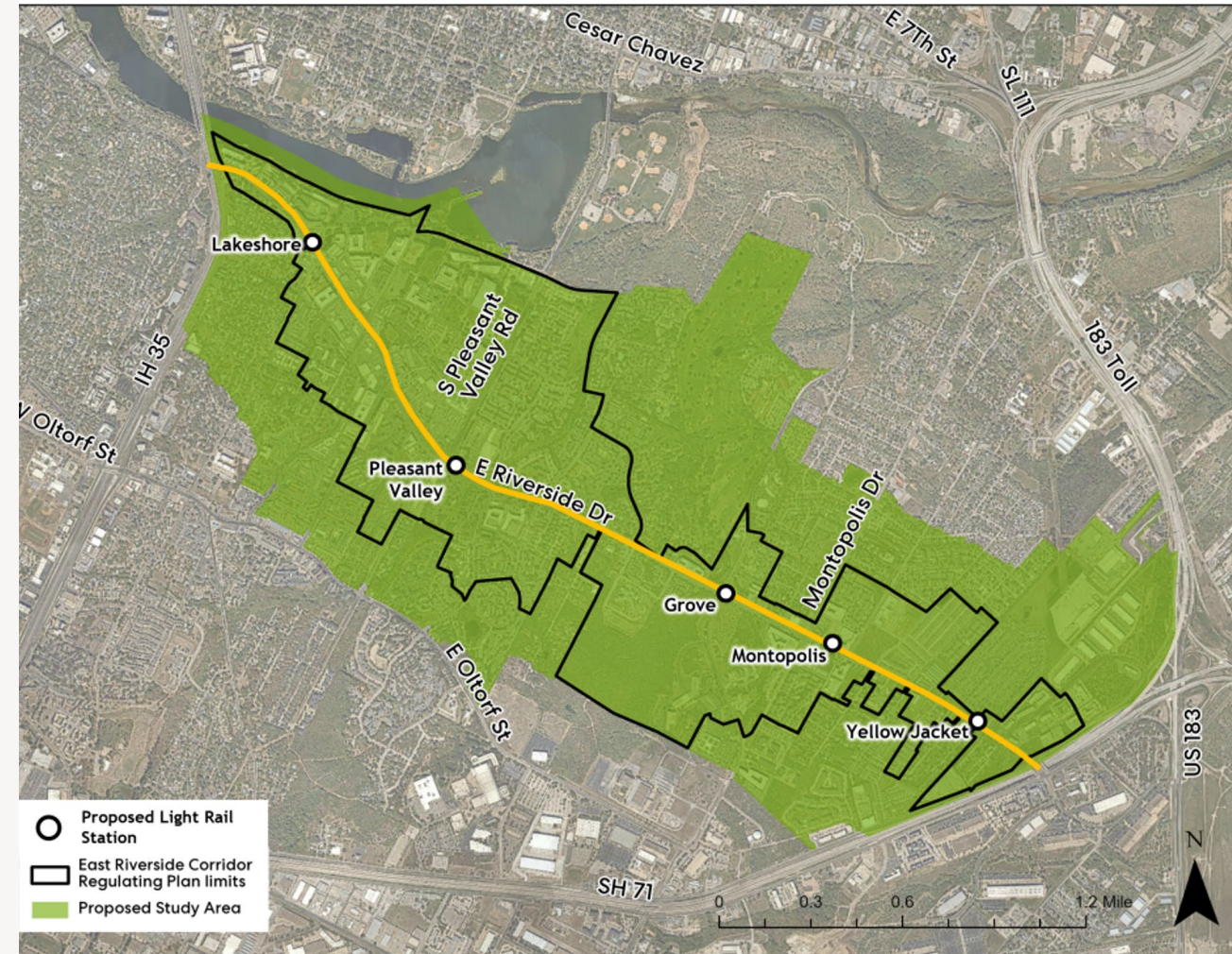
Key Objectives

- Promote Equitable Transit-Oriented Development
- Maximize opportunities for existing and future residents
- Mitigate displacement pressures
- Ensure that land uses support the anticipated light rail investment
- Create a vibrant, sustainable, and inclusive corridor

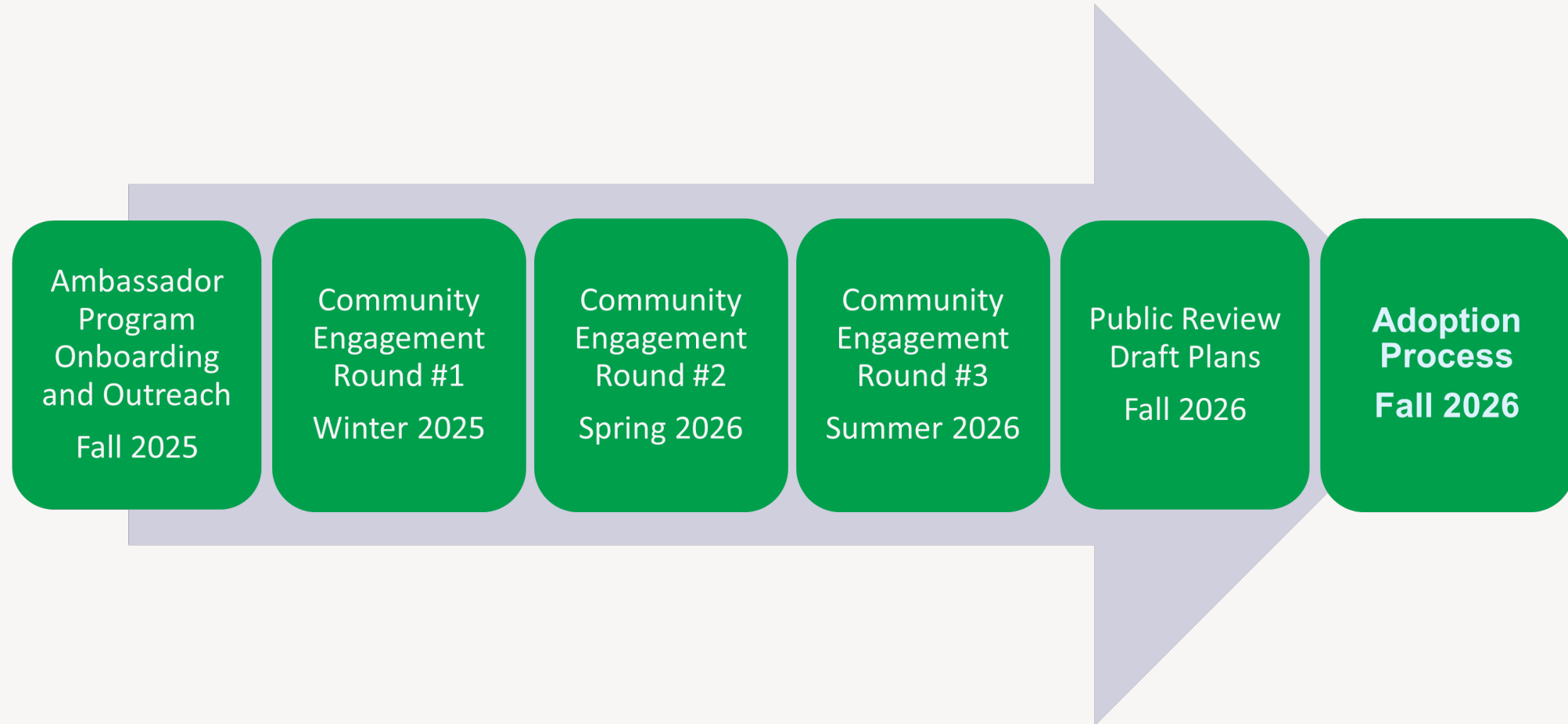


Study Area and Scope

- Integrate equity as an actionable goal
- Promote economic opportunity
- Recalibrate Development Bonus Program
- Align the plans with the equitable tools in the ETOD Policy Plan
- Update the Future Land Use Map

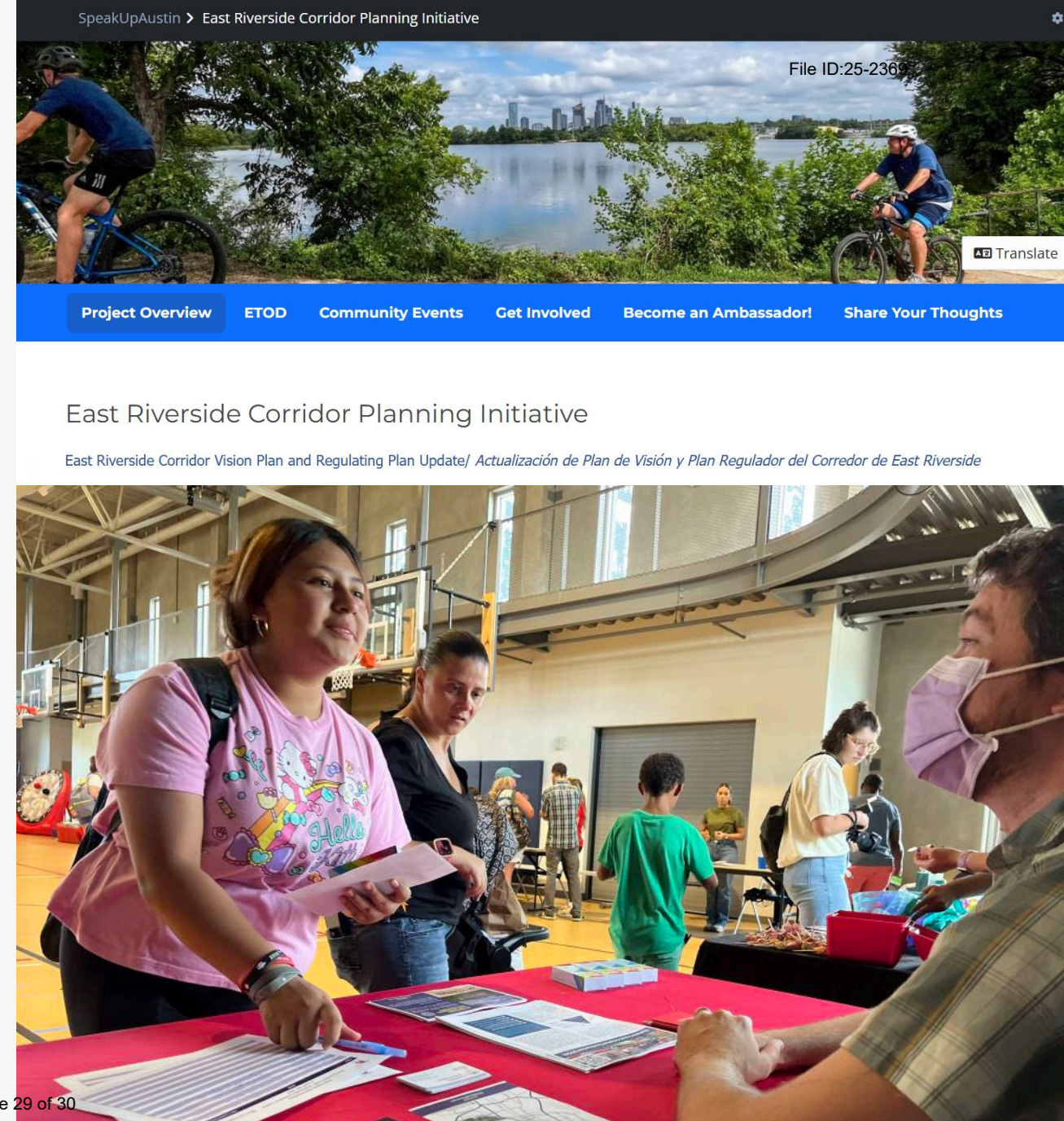


Project Timeline



How to Participate

- Attend a community meeting
- Meet us at an upcoming event
- Join a Focus Group
- Apply to become an Ambassador
- Contact us at ETOD@austintexas.gov
- Visit the [East Riverside Corridor Speak Up Austin](#) page to:
 - Review the project timeline
 - Learn about upcoming events
 - Subscribe to receive project updates
 - Share your feedback



Thank You!

For Planning Initiative Questions:

Imagine Austin Comprehensive Plan Update

- Evelyn Mitchell, Principal Planner, Evelyn.Mitchell@austintexas.gov

Northeast District Plan and Central City District Plan

- Shanisha Johnson, Principal Planner, Shanisha.Johnson@austintexas.gov

Great Streets Plan and Standards Update

- Jill Amezcua, Principal Planner, Jill.Amezcua@austintexas.gov

East Riverside Corridor Planning Initiative

- Ana Villarreal, Principal Planner, Ana.Villarreal@austintexas.gov

Other Questions

- Andrea Bates, Assistant Director, Andrea.Bates@austintexas.gov