



27 owned land and real estate, the Austin Infrastructure Academy, partnerships with  
28 higher education institutions, regional economic development organizations,  
29 including the Diversity Ethnic Chamber Alliance (DECA) Chambers, the Austin  
30 Chamber of Commerce, Opportunity Austin, and Rally Austin, skilled labor  
31 organizations, and a global brand that attracts talent and investment from every  
32 corner of the world; and

33 **WHEREAS**, Austin's ~~target existing~~ economic ~~sectors align~~ landscape aligns  
34 strongly with the State of Texas's own statewide economic development strategy,  
35 positioning the City to leverage state and federal programs — including the Texas  
36 Enterprise Fund, the Jobs, Energy, Technology and Innovation (JETI) Act, the  
37 Texas Semiconductor Innovation Fund, and Creating Helpful Incentives to  
38 Produce Semiconductors (CHIPS) Act resources—as active tools in Austin's  
39 economic development work; and

40 **WHEREAS**, Austin's innovation economy is anchored by its research  
41 institutions, medical school, and the pipeline from university lab to commercial  
42 enterprise to established employer is one of the most valuable and underleveraged  
43 economic development assets the City has—and a modern, progressive policy must  
44 create a defined pathway for that pipeline to connect to City resources,  
45 partnerships, and investment; and

46 **WHEREAS**, Austin's economy has a shared regional component, and the  
47 City's economic development strategy must be pursued in active coordination with  
48 regional partners, neighboring jurisdictions, the State of Texas, and international  
49 economic development organizations—with the City bringing its own strategy, its  
50 own assets, and its own voice to that collaboration as a full and committed partner;  
51 and

52           **WHEREAS**, Austin has long been a gateway city—attracting talent, capital,  
53 and companies from across the globe—and a modern, progressive economic  
54 development strategy must include a robust international component: actively  
55 recruiting foreign direct investment, supporting international companies seeking to  
56 establish or expand U.S. operations, and positioning Austin as a preferred  
57 destination for global firms in the City's ~~target sector~~existing economic landscape;  
58 and

59           **WHEREAS**, the City is now host to one of the most consequential  
60 infrastructure investment cycles in its history—with approximately \$25 billion in  
61 regional capital investment underway including the Interstate Highway-35  
62 improvements, Project Connect light rail, the Walnut Creek Wastewater Treatment  
63 Plant, and the Austin-Bergstrom International Airport expansion—and this  
64 investment cycle represents not merely a condition for growth but an economic  
65 sector in its own right, generating workforce demand, supply chain opportunity,  
66 and innovation in infrastructure technology that Austin is uniquely positioned to  
67 lead; and

68           **WHEREAS**, economic development policy must account for the full cost  
69 and carrying capacity of growth, including demands on the City's water, energy,  
70 and infrastructure systems—and companies that consume public resources in  
71 extraordinary concentrations must meet proportionally higher standards of  
72 community contribution and environmental accountability; and

73           **WHEREAS**, Austin's economy must work for all Austinites—and an  
74 economic development policy that does not explicitly address workforce mobility,  
75 equitable hiring, the development of career pathways for residents across every zip  
76 code, and the support of women-owned and minority-owned businesses is  
77 incomplete, regardless of how many jobs or how much investment it generates; and

78           **WHEREAS**, Austin's existing Chapter 380, Local Government Code,  
79           incentive framework, including the recently updated Business Expansion Program  
80           and the Place-Based Enhancement Program, provides an important foundation, but  
81           the City lacks a comprehensive, ~~sector-targeted~~, values-aligned policy to guide  
82           how it recruits, evaluates, structures agreements with, and holds accountable the  
83           larger companies and strategic investments that will define Austin's economic  
84           future; and

85           **WHEREAS**, Austin stands at the threshold of a generational development  
86           opportunity—with significant tracts of underutilized City-proximate land, major  
87           public infrastructure investments underway, and global attention focused on this  
88           region—and the City must have a policy framework capable of capturing that  
89           opportunity in a manner consistent with its values and its long-term fiscal health;

90           **NOW THEREFORE,**

91           **BE IT RESOLVED BY THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF AUSTIN:**

92           The City Council adopts the findings and predicates in Exhibit A.

93           **BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED:**

94           The City Council establishes a framework to guide the development of a  
95           modern, progressive economic development policy that is consistent with the  
96           findings and predicates adopted above.

97           **BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED:**

98           The City Manager is hereby directed to, within 180 days of the adoption of  
99           this resolution, present to City Council a comprehensive Economic Development  
100           Policy for the City of Austin, consistent with Exhibit A and the framework and  
101           principles established herein. The proposed policy for Council consideration shall  
102           include:

- 103 • ~~A~~An analysis and detailed operational ~~target sector~~ strategy ~~for each of~~  
104 ~~the ten sectors identified in Exhibit A,~~ including specific recruitment  
105 priorities, supply chain development strategies, innovation ecosystem  
106 investments, and alignment with applicable state and federal programs;
- 107 • A full economic development toolkit inventory documenting every tool  
108 available to the City and establishing protocols for how those tools are  
109 identified, offered, and coordinated in business recruitment and retention  
110 conversations, including their use to incentivize annexation into the City  
111 of Austin where applicable;
- 112 • An operational sector innovation track, including eligibility criteria,  
113 proportional incentive structures, and connection to Austin's research  
114 institution ecosystem;
- 115 • A community benefit framework establishing minimum standards, a  
116 proportional scaling methodology, and binding compliance and claw  
117 back provisions for all Chapter 380 agreements;
- 118 • An international economic development strategy, including target  
119 markets, partnership structures, trade mission priorities, and a soft-  
120 landing facilitation program for international companies entering the U.S.  
121 market;
- 122 • A major development opportunity framework establishing how the City  
123 identifies, prepares, and actively markets large-scale development sites,  
124 including City-owned land, for catalytic economic development projects  
125 consistent with Austin's values and long-term interests;
- 126 • A small business development program that provides potential for  
127 coordinated resources to early-stage entrepreneurs and assists local  
128 businesses in sustaining and expanding operations.

- A resource stewardship standard establishing how the City evaluates infrastructure carrying capacity and resiliency, including water, energy, and transportation, in making economic development commitments;
- A regional and state coordination protocol establishing the City's engagement structure with regional economic development partners, neighboring jurisdictions, and state economic development programs; and
- A public accountability architecture including an annual performance report on all active incentive agreements, a public-facing business investment dashboard, and a claw back enforcement protocol—all published on the City's open data portal.

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED:**

The City Council requests the City Manager fill the position of Director of Austin Economic Development as soon as practicable. This position is central to Austin's ability to execute on its economic development strategy and to signal to the business community, to regional partners, and to prospective employers that the City is a serious, capable, and committed economic development actor.

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED:**

The City Manager is directed to include in the policy development process structured engagement with: Austin business, education, and labor leaders ~~across target sectors;~~, including but not limited to: the University of Texas at Austin, Huston-Tillotson University, St. Edward's University, Concordia University, Texas State University, and Austin Community College; the Austin Infrastructure Academy and workforce development organizations, including skilled labor organizations, the City's Construction Training Program, and Department of Labor

154 training programs; environmental and sustainability stakeholders; the DECA  
155 Chambers, the Austin Chamber of Commerce, Opportunity Austin, ~~and~~ Rally  
156 Austin and the Downtown Austin Alliance; and regional, state, and international  
157 economic development partners.

158 **BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED:**

159 The City Manager is directed to immediately:

- 160 • ~~Activate the City's~~ Initiate an economic development permitting concierge  
161 service for ~~any project in a target sector~~ projects that are currently in the  
162 development pipeline;
- 163 • Assure Austin Energy's strategic role in economic development  
164 recruitment, and establish a protocol for Austin Energy's participation in  
165 ~~target sector~~ business recruitment conversations; and
- 166 • Compile an inventory of City-owned land and real estate assets with  
167 economic and community development potential, noting to preserve that  
168 which has been previously prioritized for housing, that could expand the  
169 City's opportunities for employers, expand the tax base or achieve  
170 community goals, and present findings to Council within 90 days of  
171 adoption.

173 **ADOPTED:** \_\_\_\_\_, 2026

173 **ATTEST:** \_\_\_\_\_

174 Erika Brady  
175 City Clerk