



Planning Initiatives Update

Austin Planning | Housing and Planning Committee | February 10, 2026



AUSTIN PLANNING INITIATIVES

February 2026



Lead Team	Planning Initiative	2026											
		FEB	MAR	APR	MAY	JUN	JUL	AUG	SEP	OCT	NOV	DEC	
Historic Preservation	Transfer of Development Rights Analysis	█	█	█	█	█	█						
ETOD Small Area	East Riverside Corridor Vision Plan Update	█	█	█	█	█	█	█	█	█	█		
Urban Design	Great Streets Plan and Standards Update	█	█	█	█	█	█	█	█	█	█	█	█
Urban Design	Urban Design Guidelines 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 1/15/2026

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

Equity Overlay Study

- Memo to Mayor and City Council on December 23, 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:
 - **Develop** a Place Types map to support consistent land use planning throughout Austin that helps achieve citywide goals while recognizing the needs of different communities.
 - **Create** regular opportunities to engage with the community.
 - **Update** policies to provide clear guidance for current and future planning and decision-making.
 - **Strengthen** alignment between Imagine Austin and other citywide strategic plans to provide clearer direction and consistency.

Project Roadmap



	PHASE 1 Baseline	PHASE 2 Plan Direction	PHASE 3 Plan Development	PHASE 4 Plan Review
Engagement Activities	<p>Survey #1</p> <p>Community Working Group</p>	<p>Community Working Group</p> <p>Place Type Map Community Meetings</p>	<p>Survey #2</p> <p>Community Working Group</p> <p>Place Type Map Community Meetings</p>	<p>Public Review of Draft Plan</p> <p>Boards and Commissions Presentations</p>
Deliverables	<p>Community Engagement Plan</p> <p>Policy Inventory and Plan Diagnostic Report</p> <p>Existing Conditions Report</p>	<p>Policy Framework and Development</p> <p>Place Types Mapping: Methodology and Draft Map</p>	<p>Draft Updated Plan</p> <p>Draft Place Types Map</p> <p>Draft Implementation Plan</p>	<p>Updated Plan</p> <p>Place Types Map</p> <p>Implementation Plan</p>



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

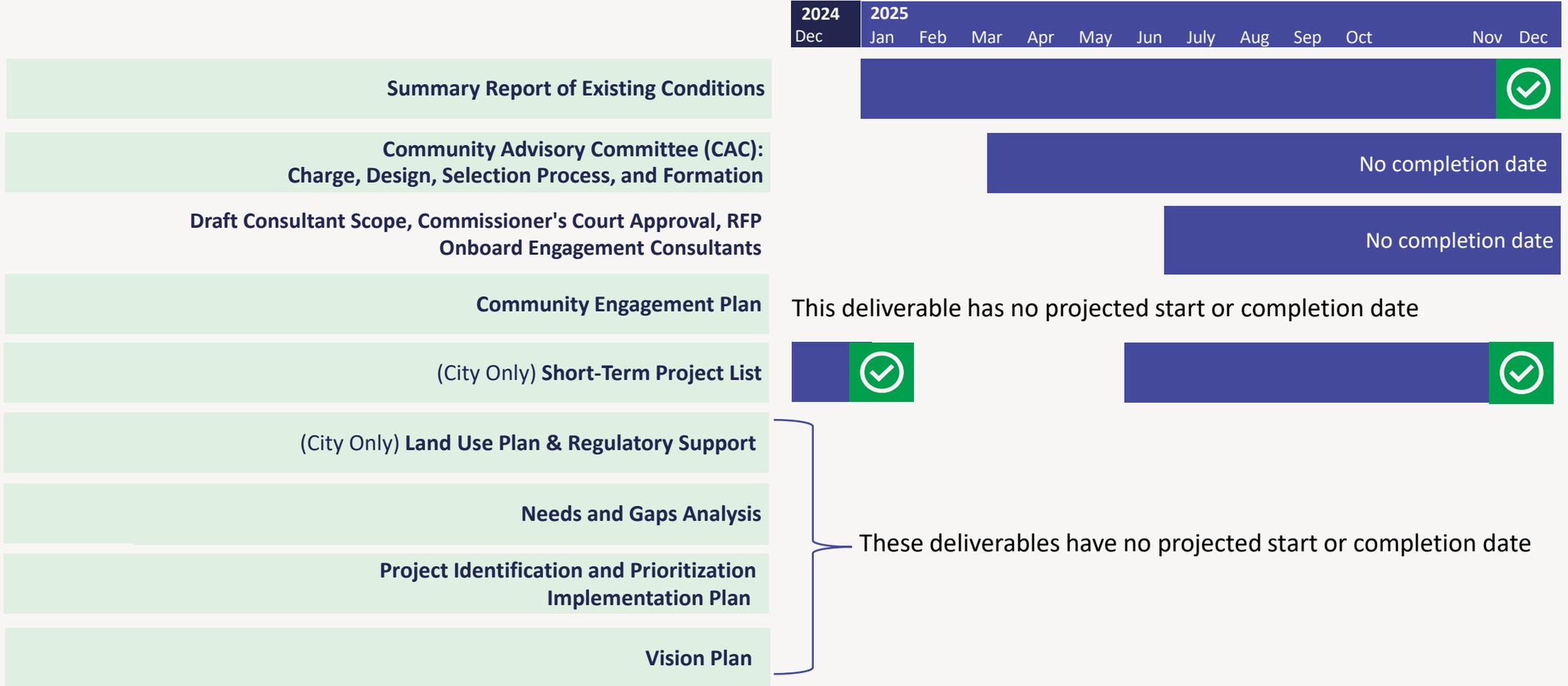
Shanisha Johnson, Principal Planner



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, was delivered to the Working Group on January 9, 2026.

Northeast District Planning Process Timeline



Legend

Work Underway

Work Completed

Deliverables

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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 RFS for the engagement consultant (2026).
- Implement one identified short-term project (*City only*) (Feb – June 2026).

Central City District Plan

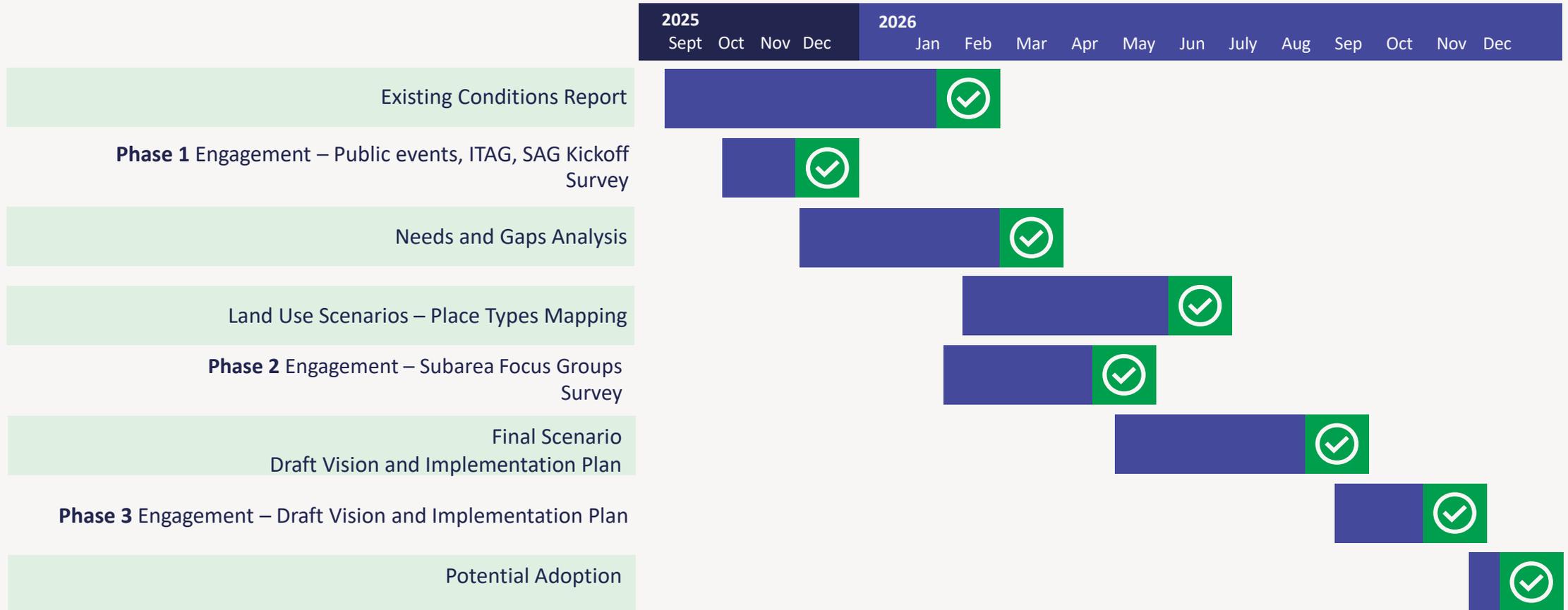
Shanisha Johnson, Principal Planner

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 (Feb)
- 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
- Finalize the Needs and Gaps Analysis (April)

Great Streets Plan and Standards Update

Jill Amezcua, Principal Planner

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.

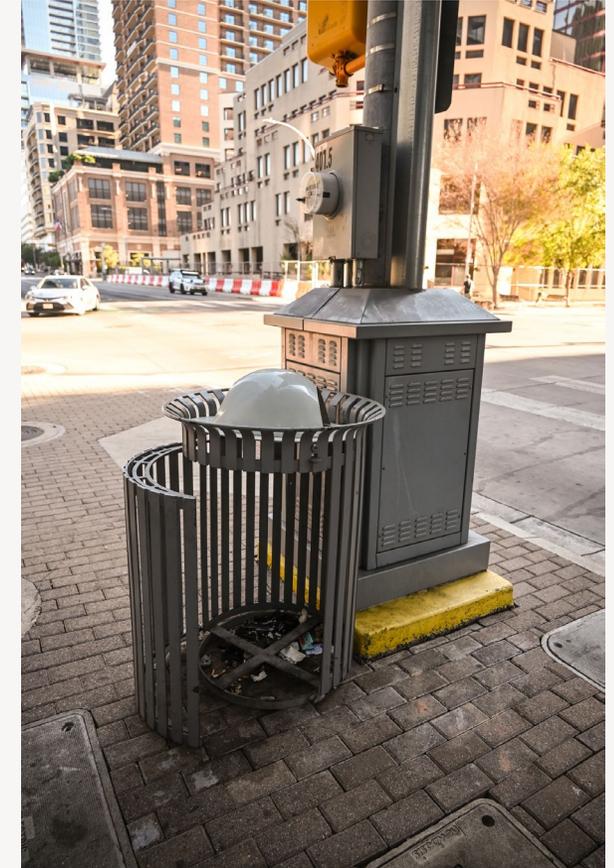


Existing Conditions Analysis

- 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**



Community Engagement Overview



- July 2025 to January 2026
- 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.





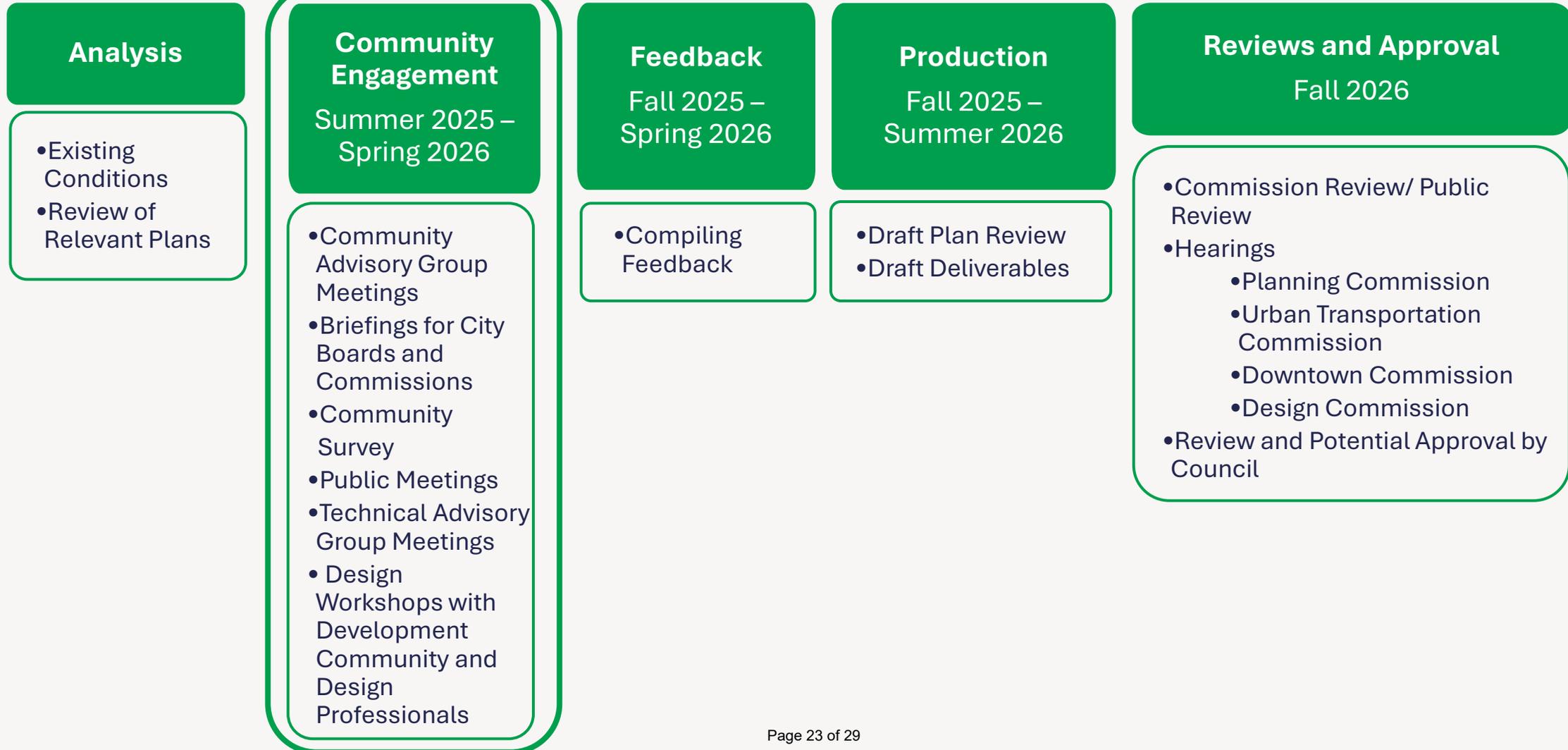
What We've Heard: Emerging Themes

- 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

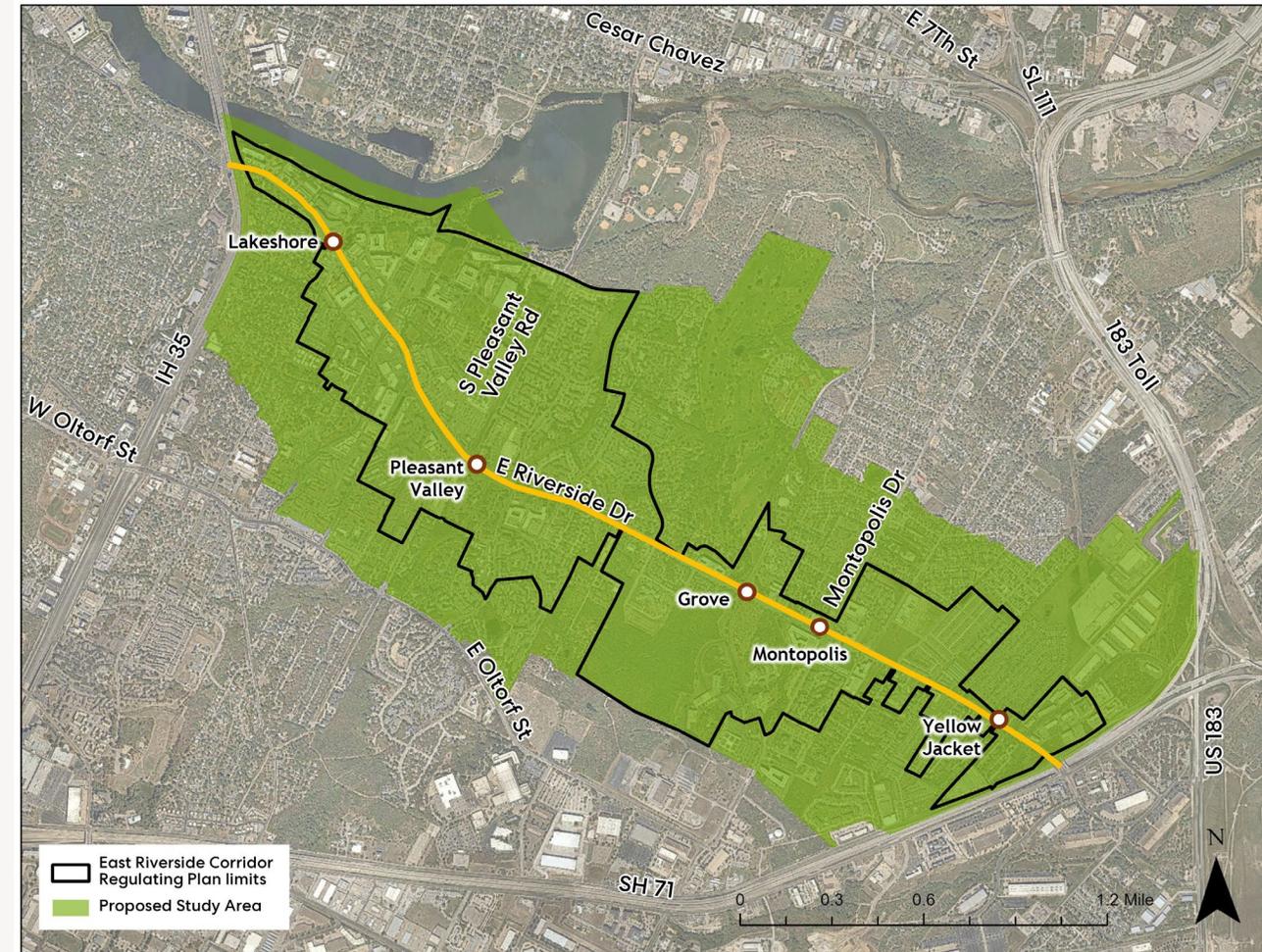
- In 2024, the Austin City Council passed [Resolution 20240201-054](#), directing staff to align the existing East Riverside Corridor Vision Plan and Regulating Plan with the City's Equitable Transit-Oriented Development (ETOD) initiative, ensuring future development supports **equity**, **affordability**,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



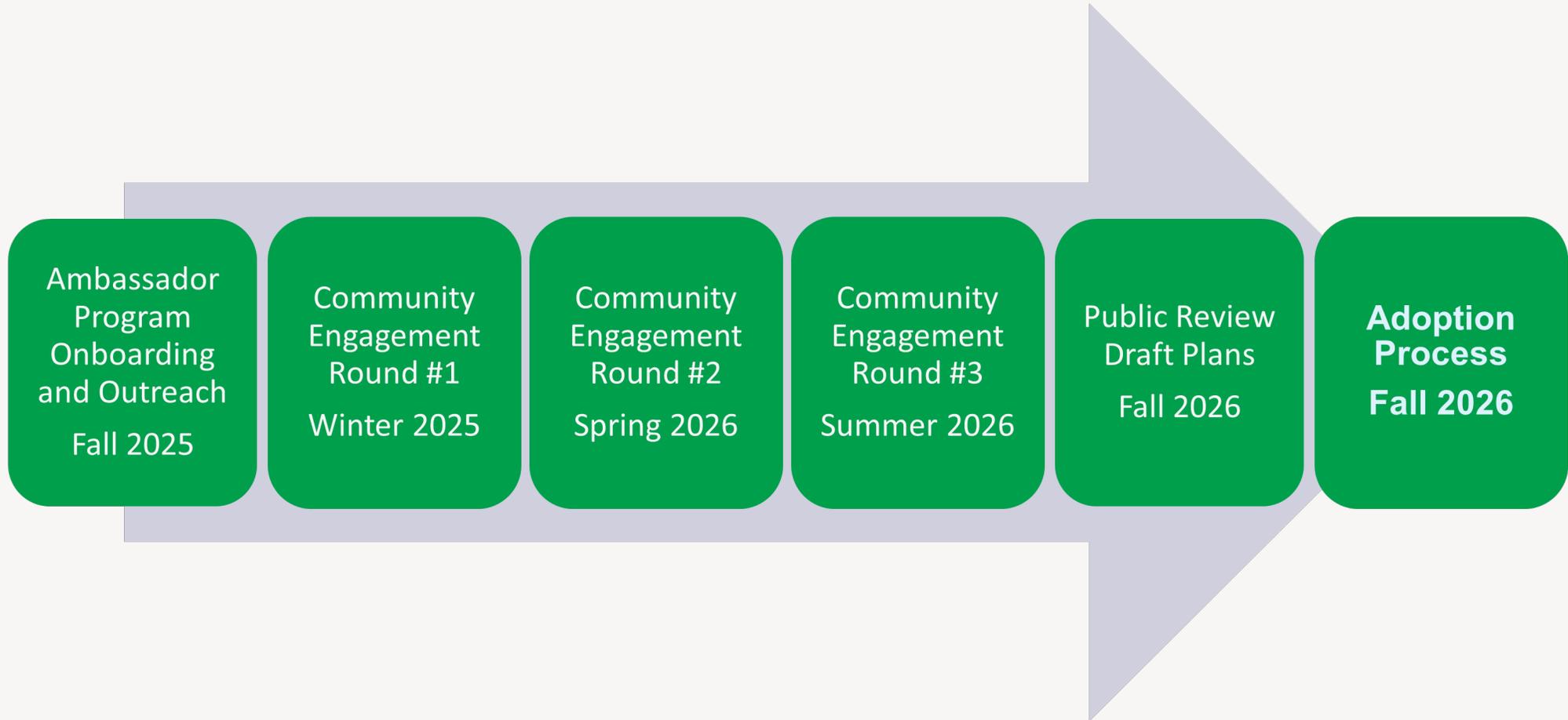
Study Area and Scope



- Integrate equity as an actionable goal
- Promote economic opportunity
- Recalibrate ERC Development Bonus Program
- Align the plans with the equitable tools in the ETOD Policy Plan
- Update the Future Land Use Map
- Support a vibrant, connected, and inclusive corridor

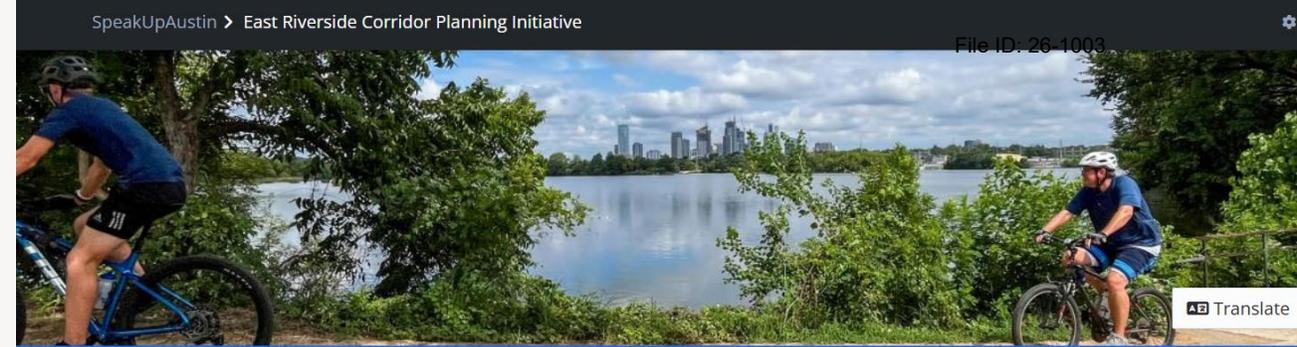


Project Timeline



How to Participate

- Attend a community meeting
- Meet us at an upcoming event
- Join a Focus Group
- Connect with 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



East Riverside Corridor Planning Initiative

East Riverside Corridor Vision Plan and Regulating Plan Update/ *Actualización de Plan de Visión y Plan Regulador del Corredor de East Riverside*





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