

Resolution

Directing staff to develop an Interlocal Agreement with the City of Austin to create a Combined Northeast District Plan.

WHEREAS, the City of Austin (the “City”) and Travis County (the “County”) have a long history of collaboration and partnership on joint initiatives to serve the needs of their residents, including the establishment of the Austin/Travis County Sobering Center, participation in the Waller Creek Tax Reinvestment Financing Zone, and the ongoing operations and maintenance of the Travis County Exposition Center; and

WHEREAS, a significant way the two entities can work together is to collaborate on joint planning to maximize the efficient use of land and leverage each other’s resources to provide services for both City and County residents; and

WHEREAS, simultaneously with the Travis County Commissioners Court’s (the “Commissioners Court”) consideration of this Resolution, the City of Austin City Council (the “City Council”) is considering a similar resolution; and

WHEREAS, the City and the County have jointly expressed a strong desire to address historic underinvestment, persistent disparities, and structural inequities in Northeast Austin and in Eastern Travis County.

WHEREAS, the Northeast Austin District area of the Eastern Crescent (the “District,” or the “Northeast Austin District”), is comprised mostly of nine census tracts—22.01, 22.20, 22.21, 22.22, 22.11, 22.13, 22.14, and variously sized portions of tracts 22.19, 22.14, and 22.15 (originally 5 census tracts prior to the 2020 redistricting of census tracts). The District is bounded by U.S. Highway 183 to the west, U.S. Highway 290 to the north, Toll Road 130 to the east, and mostly FM 969 to the south. The District is lacking in critical infrastructure, has seen little financial investment, and has been identified as an area at risk of gentrification; and

WHEREAS, 30.4% of the Northeast Austin District is located in the City of Austin’s extra-territorial jurisdiction (the “ETJ”) as well as in Travis County; and

WHEREAS, the City Council has previously directed the City Manager to coordinate, to the greatest extent possible, with the County on the Northeast Austin District Plan to ensure synergy between the Northeast Austin District Plan and the County’s long range planning efforts. Specifically, for the areas of the Northeast Austin District within the ETJ, the City Manager has been directed to ensure compatibility with relevant County policies, such as the County’s public improvement district policy—Chapter 481 of the Travis County Code; and

WHEREAS, the objective of the Northeast Austin District Plan is to review past and present inequities as well as disinvestments in services and infrastructure within the District, address them, and provide guidance for: retaining existing residents and businesses, creating and maintaining great neighborhoods, spurring economic development, creating and retaining stable jobs that pay a living wage, improving connectivity, provide high-quality public spaces, and meeting community needs; and

WHEREAS, The Northeast Austin District Plan is being led by the City's Planning Department. The City's Planning Department partners with the community, other City departments, and partner stakeholders to shape a more equitable Austin and uses planning disciplines and affordable housing resources to prevent the displacement of people, cultures, and services.

WHEREAS, the County is considering a Marshall Plan for eastern Travis County. A Marshall Plan identifies quality public investments and funding mechanisms to support communities in eastern Travis County that have faced displacement and systemic racism that has left people of color falling further behind economically, made them more likely to be in a generational cycle of poverty and less resilient to natural disasters, weather events, and national or personal economic or health crises; and

WHEREAS, working with community partners, consultants, and stakeholders on the Marshall Plan, County staff will work on the key tasks needed to develop a fiscally sound program that can provide meaningful community benefits in a timely manner. Initial work will include identifying the geographic area, establishing the baseline value, modeling potential revenue/funding scenarios, identifying potential federal funding, addressing any legal issues that may arise, and establishing a project and finance plan that is both data driven, and community informed by a meaningful public engagement strategy; and

WHEREAS, the Marshall Plan will be led by the County's Economic Development and Strategic Investment Office within the Planning and Budget Office's Equity Framework. County staff plans to create a community engagement design that provides community leadership by providing recommendations, create a cross-County work group to address cross-cutting issues, align work product, and reduce duplication by building upon plans, engagement, and projects currently underway or completed; and

WHEREAS, the County wants to work collaboratively through coordination with local partners for data collection, research and financial modeling, engagement of the directly impacted communities, engagement of local universities, identification of project and funding collaboration opportunities to create a larger impact, and implementation of holistic solutions which focus on all aspects of quality-of-life factors; and

WHEREAS, the Travis County Exposition Center is located on City land leased to the County via a 50-year lease that expires at the end of 2033; and

WHEREAS, the Travis County Exposition Center is an important cultural and tourist attraction for the City and its surrounding community and hosts annual events such as the Star of Texas Fair, Rodeo Austin, races and triathlons, as well as livestock, auto, and craft shows; and

WHEREAS, the County has identified the need to expand and improve the Travis County Exposition Center, as well as to secure a longer-term solution related to facility ownership so that the Travis County Exposition Center can continue to host events and attract cultural tourism to the City and the County; and

WHEREAS, City Council Resolutions No. 2020112-043 and No. 20220324-056 directed the City Manager to convene stakeholders in a planning effort for the Northeast Austin District,

with knowledge and support of the Colony Park Sustainable Community Plan (the “Colony Park Community Plan”). The Colony Park Community Plan was initiated in 2012 and incorporates significant community engagement; and

WHEREAS, per the City Council resolutions, the resulting Northeast Austin District Plan should be informed also by Project Connect and the Austin Strategic Mobility Plan and should establish a cohesive vision and strategic plan for Walter E. Long Park, Colony Park, Decker Creek Power Station, John Trevino Jr. Metro Park, the Travis County Exposition Center, and commercial development at the former Freescale campus; and

WHEREAS, Colony Park is a community within the Northeast Austin District. The Colony Park Community Plan, with its holistic Eight Community Pillars—mobility and connectivity, community safety, health care and wellness resources, open spaces and parks, healthy foods, economic vitality, life-long learning opportunities, workforce housing, and City/County resources—addresses the inequities and disinvestments in the District.

WHEREAS, The Colony Park Community Plan will be a critical model for the co-creation of the Northeast Austin District Plan, and the participation of existing core community organizations such as, but not limited to, Colony Park Association, Inc., d/b/a Colony Park Neighborhood Association, Colony Park/Lakeside CDC, Equidad ATX, Austin Revitalization and RBI will be critical for successful collaboration within the Northeast Austin District Plan area; and

WHEREAS, the North East Community Advisory Committee will be a group of community residents, stakeholders, and organizations comprised of faith-based networks, neighborhood associations, homeowner's associations, mobile home community representatives, local and small businesses and employers, school districts, arts and music non-profits and collectives, housing developers, and other community advocacy groups, convened to share their lived and professional experiences, knowledge, relationships, and other resources for co-creation of holistic, sustainable, transformative and equitable community development.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE TRAVIS COUNTY COMMISSIONERS COURT:

County staff will, upon an affirmative decision about the Marshall Plan budget expansion request for fiscal year 2024:

1. **Interlocal Agreement.** Negotiate and bring forward to the Commissioners Court, an interlocal agreement further identifying collaborative work, deliverables, performance metrics and shared funding with the City for a Collaborative Northeast District Plan.
2. **Collaborative Governance.** Co-create a collaborative area planning effort between the City, the County, and other interested local governments and entities in northeastern Travis County as a pilot project of the Marshall Plan in partnership with the existing Northeast Austin District Plan in order to establish a Collaborative Northeast District Plan. The Marshall Plan identified all eastern Travis County as the

possible area of geographic focus. The Combined Northeast District Plan will serve as a pilot area to model and potentially expand to southeastern Travis County as a component of the Marshall Plan.

3. **Community-led Planning.** Support a community-led vision for northeastern Travis County informed by past efforts and plans that are included within the boundaries identified in the City’s Northeast Austin Planning District and expands them, based on data to shape a holistic vision for northeastern Travis County.
4. **Inter-jurisdictional Engagement.** Coordinate a collaborative engagement plan for areas outside and within the City of Austin municipal limits within northeastern Travis County and co-create a Northeast Community Advisory Committee including existing and new stakeholders.
5. **Interdepartmental Coordination.** Create a cross-County department work group that collaborates with a cross-City department work group on a frequency to be determined.
6. **Collaborative Projects.** Develop a collaborative workplan that includes shovel ready improvements to infrastructure, affordable housing, economic redevelopment, and other community investments in northeastern Travis County that augments, not supplants, any investments made or anticipated by other governmental entities or other funding sources. These plans may include leveraging public-owned land, federal funding, and other programmatic resources to support the goals of the Northeast Austin District Plan; and
7. **Regular Updates** Provide quarterly updates on progress to the Commissioners Court.

SIGNED AND ENTERED THE _____ DAY OF _____ 2023.

ANDY BROWN
County Judge

JEFFREY W. TRAVILLION
Commissioner, Precinct 1

ANN HOWARD
Commissioner, Precinct 3

BRIGID SHEA
Commissioner, Precinct 2

MARGARET J. GÓMEZ
Commissioner, Precinct 4