

## The Mayors' Challenge for Safer People, Safer Streets City of Austin Activities 2015 - 2016

### Highlights

**Initiatives – Ongoing (I)** = Existing City of Austin activities being integrated into Mayors' Challenge

**New Activities 2015-16 (N)** = Activities being initiated, or significantly expanded, as part of Mayors' Challenge

*City departments leading individual activities are noted below.*

#### Key to City Departments

ATD	Austin Transportation
PAZ	Planning and Zoning
DSD	Development Services Department
PWD	Public Works Department
APD	Austin Police Department
WPD	Watershed Protection Department

### Challenge 1. *Take a Complete Streets approach.*

**Lead:** Complete Streets Program, Austin Transportation Department (ATD)

#### Initiatives - Ongoing

- City Projects: Design Austin streets as complete streets for the safety of all travelers, including people walking and biking. Conduct complete streets policy compliance reviews for City projects that include street and ROW elements, utilizing the Complete Streets Policy Compliance Checklist.
- Other Projects: Integrate safety and complete streets policy compliance reviews into all standard City development review processes, for private sector developments and non-City roadway projects.
- Education and Outreach: Provide information on Complete Streets Policy objectives and professional development to city staff, the professional community, and the public.
- Green Streets: Integrate green infrastructure goals and efforts into complete streets approach.

#### New Activities 2015-16

- Austin to host NACTO 2015 Designing Cities Conference, Oct. 28-31, 2015, a premier transportation industry conference with a focus on complete street design.
- Better Streets Week – A week of educational community events (concurrent with NACTO conference).

### Challenge 2. *Identify and address barriers to make streets safe and convenient for all road users, including people of all ages and abilities and those using assistive mobility devices.*

**Lead:** Active Transportation Program, ATD

*Also see Challenges 4, 5, 6*

#### Initiatives - Ongoing

- Actively implement projects and initiatives defined in the Austin Bicycle Master Plan to create a network of bicycle travel routes that offer safety for people of all ages and abilities.
- Pedestrian Safety Action Plan: Complete and release by end of 2015. Identify short- to long-term goals and actions to improve pedestrian safety.

- Update the Sidewalk Master Plan, including ADA compliance; update with Complete Streets approach. (PWD)
- CodeNEXT: Correct zoning barriers to taking a Complete Streets approach in the Land Development Code. (PAZ)
- Great Streets: Continue to improve Downtown streets to make them safer and more attractive for people travelling by all modes, especially people walking and biking and taking transit. (PAZ)
- Safe Routes to School: Provide crossing guards at 90 elementary schools in 7 districts. Educate children on how to safely cross the street, ride a bike, or take the bus to school. (PWD)
- Neighborhood Partnering Program: Build complete streets projects proposed and supported by neighborhoods. Build complete streets projects funded by Neighborhood Parking Benefit districts. (PWD)

#### **New Activities 2015-16**

- Professional Safety Education & Training: At the NACTO Conference, sessions on pedestrian and bicycle safety are emphasized. Speakers also will present to community groups during Better Streets Week.
- Involve Pedestrian Advisory Council, Bicycle Advisory Council, and Vision Zero Task Force in follow-on “mini-summit” after NACTO conference to capture ideas generated for Austin and recommend actions.
- ATD Safety Improvement Action Plan: Develop plan, taking a Complete Streets and Vision Zero approach. 2015: Identify, review, and make recommendations for improvements to locations where high incidence of crashes has occurred. 2016: Initiative plans to redesign 5 locations/intersections annually.

### **Challenge 3. *Gather and track biking and walking data.***

**Lead: Active Transportation Program and Complete Streets Program, ATD**

#### **Initiatives - Ongoing**

- Further develop City resources and systems to measure, track, and utilize data on biking and walking behaviors. Expand data and metrics programs to measure outcomes, in addition to infrastructure. (ATD)
- Integrate data points into all relevant public-facing Imagine Austin and City communications. (ATD, PAZ)

#### **New Activities 2015-16**

- Conduct peer city review of Complete Streets metrics; issue report and recommendations. Establish new program to institute at least 3 new best practices from peer cities. (ATD)
- Establish Complete Streets program metrics, analysis, and reporting (ATD, PAZ)
- Pedestrian Safety Action Plan: Complete and release. Integrate data on crashes that involve pedestrians.
- ATD Safety Action Plan: Utilize data on crashes that involve people walking and biking. (ATD)
- Vision Zero Task Force: Recommend approach to track and share data among participating depts. and agencies to better coordinate education, enforcement, and engineering efforts. Explore development of an interactive crash mapping platform to promote community awareness of traffic deaths and critical injuries. (PAZ, ATD, APD)
- Safe Routes to School: Track and report data on elementary students walking and biking to school. (PWD)
- Fatality Review Board: Review all crashes involving fatalities, for all travel modes, monthly. Develop short-term actions to address causes and prevent future crash fatalities. (ATD, APD)

### **Challenge 4. *Use designs that are appropriate to the context of the street and its uses.***

**Co-Leads: Complete Streets Program, ATD; Planning and Zoning**

### Initiatives - Ongoing

- Comply with Council-adopted, Institute of Transportation Engineers (ITE) best practice manual on Context Sensitive Approach. Follow integrated complete street design process across departments. Encourage all regional transportation agencies, counties, and partners to partner on this process and approach. (ATD, PAZ, PWD)
- Zoning and site plan reviews – review applicant submissions for compliance with Complete Streets policy. (PAZ, DSD)
- Private Development: Educate the development community about the complete streets policy, approach, and requirements. (PAZ, DSD)
- Green Streets: Take a context-sensitive approach to green infrastructure goals and designs, for street trees and other landscaping, stormwater elements, flood control, sustainability, etc. (WPD, OOS)
- Provide to all City departments, partners, and the public a “Complete Streets Guide to City Programs,” with helpful information and contacts for all city programs that contribute to taking a complete streets approach.

**Challenge 5. *Take advantage of opportunities to create and complete pedestrian and bicycle networks through maintenance.***

**Co-Leads: Active Transportation Program, ATD, and Engineering Services/Street & Bridge, PWD**

### Initiatives - Ongoing

- Through the Active Transportation “Rapid Implementation” program, continue adding bicycle and pedestrian facilities during routine road maintenance/restriping. In 2015-16, further adjust Public Works Department (PWD) project planning and scheduling horizons, for roadway maintenance projects, to provide additional time for full ATD operational redesign of streets (e.g. right-sizing, restriping). (ATD, PWD)

### New Activities 2015-16

- Public Works Service Plan projects: Update project prioritization process to integrate goals from 1) Mayors’ Challenge for Safer People, Safer Streets, 2) Bicycle Master Plan and Active Transportation, 3) Vision Zero Task Force Recommendations, and 4) ATD Safety Improvement Plan. (PWD, ATD)

**Challenge 6. *Improve walking and biking safety laws and regulations***

**Co-Leads: Austin Transportation Department and Planning and Zoning**

### Initiatives - Ongoing

- Survey City of Austin laws and regulations, related to safety of people traveling by all modes. (ATD, APD)
- Conduct peer city review of best practices in walking- and biking-related safety laws and regulations; identify opportunities to update City laws and regulation to conform to these best practices. Confer with other relevant city departments and offices to develop and issue recommendations. (ATD, APD, PAZ)
- Vision Zero Task Force (VZTF) is developing recommendations towards a goal of zero pedestrian and cyclist fatalities, and improved safety for people as they travel by all modes. Primary areas of study include 1) new/improved traffic safety laws and regulations, and 2) enhanced education and enforcement. (VZTF)
- Invite recommendations, as above, from Bicycle Advisory Council, Pedestrian Advisory Council and allied community partners. (ATD)

### New Activities 2015-16

- VZTF to complete action plan recommendations by end of 2015. (VZTF)
- Include recommendations for action on walking and biking safety laws and regulations, and related education and enforcement, into framework for Austin Transportation Safety Improvement Plan (informed by VZTF recommendations). Include regional perspective. (ATD, PAZ)

**Challenge 7. Educate and enforce proper road use behavior by all.**

**Co-Leads: Active Transportation Program, ATD, and APD**

**Initiatives – Ongoing & New**

- ATD Public Outreach: Educate the public about traffic and travel safety, as people are travelling by all modes, through monthly ATD newsletter, and website. Lead or support specific campaigns. Participate in community dialogue about needed/effective education and enforcement via Bicycle and Pedestrian Advisory Councils, and Urban Transportation Commission. (ATD)
- Enforcement: Educate drivers, and enforce laws requiring safe driver behaviors *toward people walking and cycling*, as part of traffic safety. (APD)
- Enforcement: Educate cyclists and pedestrians, and enforce laws requiring safe behaviors *by people walking and cycling*, as part of traffic safety. (APD)
- Safe Routes to School: Educate students on safe walking and cycling, through elementary schools. (PWD)