

Bond Election Advisory Task Force (BEATF): Report to Austin Neighborhoods Council, 09/27/2017

Sumit DasGupta

Status:

- Created by City Resolution passed by City Council in August, 2016 (Resolution # 20159561472)
- 13 member group (1 per CC member including mayor, 1 from Planning Commission, 1 from Zoning & Platting Commission)
 - ◆ Appointments completed 01/2017
- First kick-off meeting held 12/15/2016, second meeting held 02/2017, monthly meetings thereafter
- Target date for completion of Task Force bond package recommendations to CC: 01/2018
- Scope:
 - ◆ Identify and prioritize bond funding for projects that will address infrastructure needs, including but not limited to needs related to flooding, libraries, housing, mobility, transit, parks, fire stations and other planned, unfunded capital improvement needs
 - ◆ Planned election date: 11/2018
- Accomplishments to date:
 - ◆ Received input from the City's Bond Team, which is comprised of financial staff
 - Staff Recommended Starting Point: \$640M (between Scenario 2 and 3 below)
 - Scenario 1: \$325M (no tax rate increase)
 - Scenario 2: \$575M (1 cent tax rate increase)
 - Scenario 3: \$875M (2 cent tax rate increase)
 - ◆ Formed 5 working groups, which have met weekly since August, 2017
 - Affordable Housing
 - Parkland & Open Spaces
 - Reinvestment in Facilities & Assets
 - Stormwater
 - Transportation Infrastructure
 - ◆ Defined a list of parameters to qualitatively evaluate project proposals, tailored to each individual working group
 - ◆ Set up 2018 bond website where citizens can find information on WG meetings and backup documents: <http://www.austintexas.gov/department/city-austin-2018-bond-development>
- Future activities:
 - ◆ Continue with weekly WG meetings to better understand proposal details
 - ◆ Continue monthly meetings to review progress and bring WG's together
 - ◆ Share feedback from Mayor and CC members on their priorities among TF members
 - ◆ Define some quantitative measures for better evaluation of line items
 - ◆ Collect citizen input (planning on November meeting)
 - ◆ Attend CC member town halls
 - ◆ Produce final report for CC