

COUNCILWOMAN VANESSA FUENTES PRESENTS

# DELIVERING FOR DISTRICT 2

2024 EDITION

ANNUAL REPORT

A YEAR OF  
**POLICY,**  
**PROGRESS,**  
AND **WINS!**



**VANESSA FUENTES**  
AUSTIN CITY COUNCIL DISTRICT 2





**We have a responsibility to create equitable  
change through trust, communication, and  
policymaking by empowering, educating, and  
building connections for our community.**

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# A LETTER TO DISTRICT 2

Creating stability through progress

Dear Neighbor

**They say time flies when you're having fun - but it also flies when you're working hard to make a difference!** Serving as your representative on the **Austin City Council** is an incredible honor, and I am so grateful to have been **reelected for another four years**. As 2024 comes to a close, I'm reminded not only of how quickly time passes, but also of how much we can accomplish in a year. Major moments like the **Total Eclipse** and the **Paris Olympics** already feel like distant memories, but looking back on the past 12 months, I'm proud of what we accomplished together.

I'm extremely proud to present this **end-of-year report**, which reflects the hard work and dedication of your **District 2 Team** and the many city employees across all departments who serve families in **South and Southeast Austin**.

**This year, we've made significant progress for our community.** From expanding library and parks access, supporting families in need, and providing new public health facilities, to strengthening community resilience through improved food access, flood protections, and other initiatives, **our work is making a real difference**. We've also prioritized safety for all **District 2** residents by completing infrastructure projects like safer bridges, streets, sidewalks, and school crossings, while investing in public safety resources and services in our neighborhoods and at our airport.

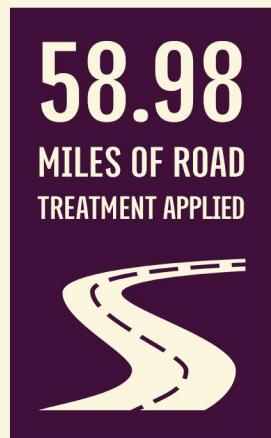
**In these pages, I invite you to learn more about the work we've led and the impact it has had in District 2.** Thank you for the opportunity to continue serving as a champion for you and your neighbors at **City Hall**. I look forward to continuing to bring much-needed investments and improvements to our communities!

Yours in Community,

*Vanessa Fuentes*

# 2024 BY THE NUMBERS

This year, we had our work cut out for us. Here's a snapshot of what we accomplished.



**VANESSA FUENTES**  
**AUSTIN CITY COUNCIL DISTRICT 2**

# MEET THE D2 TEAM



# VANESSA



**Vanessa Fuentes** is your **District 2 Councilwoman**. She leads the D2 Team and works tirelessly to engage, uplift, and empower our District 2 community.

# JASON



**Jason Lopez** is our **Chief of Staff**. He ensures the office runs smoothly, supports our many initiatives, and helps set our team up for success.

# CRTSTAL



**Cristal Peña** is our **Constituent Liaison**. She is the first point of contact when you reach out to our office and ensures City services meet your needs.

# SOFIA



**Sofia Morales** is our **Policy Director**. She develops policies, sets annual agendas, and makes sure the team is prepared for each Council meeting.

# AMELIA



**Amelia Casas** is our **Communications & Policy Advisor**. She crafts policy, develops messaging, and bridges the gap between policy and communication.

# ADAL



**Adal Rivas** is our **Communications Director**. He ensures you get timely updates through social media, visuals, and all of our public channels.

# DISTRICT 2 2024 MILESTONES

**JANUARY 18<sup>th</sup>**

First Council Meeting Held



**JANUARY 24<sup>th</sup>**

Skillpoint Del Valle Opens



**JANUARY 26<sup>th</sup>**

Dove Springs Pickup Launches



**FEBRUARY 8<sup>th</sup>**

D2 Hosts Flood Readiness Class



**FEBRUARY 13<sup>th</sup>**

First Community Convo Held



**MARCH 2<sup>nd</sup>**

GNR Fire/EMS Station Opens



**APRIL 6<sup>th</sup>**

D2 Local & County Town Hall Held



**MAY 4<sup>th</sup>**

Skyline Park Opens



**MAY 23<sup>rd</sup>**

AUS Celebrates 25<sup>th</sup> Birthday



**MAY 30<sup>th</sup>**

Displacement Prevention Nav. Day



**JUNE 14<sup>th</sup>**

5,000<sup>th</sup> Enhanced Library Card Issued



**JULY 17<sup>th</sup>**

D2 Budget Town Hall Held



**AUGUST 14<sup>th</sup>**

Next Year's Budget Adopted



**AUGUST 24<sup>th</sup>**

MeadowFest Music Festival Held



**SEPTEMBER 12<sup>th</sup>**

Thinkery Del Valle Opens



**OCTOBER 17<sup>th</sup>**

GNR Austin Regional Clinic Opens



**OCTOBER 25<sup>th</sup>**

Dove Springs Public Health Center Opens



**NOVEMBER 5<sup>th</sup>**

D2 Re-elects Vanessa



**NOVEMBER 14<sup>th</sup>**

Del Valle WellMed Opens



**DECEMBER 12<sup>th</sup>**

This Report is Released



# YOUR DISTRICT 2 FAVORITES



## RESTAURANTS



**1** **Leroy and Lewis BBQ**  
5621 Emerald Forest Dr



**2** **El Perrito ATX**  
730 W Stassney Ln #165

**3** **Thicket Food Park**  
7800 1st St

**4** **Tacos El Huache**  
4500 E William Cannon Dr

## COFFEE & BEVS



**1** **Meanwhile Brewing**  
3901 Promontory Point Dr

**2** **RADIO/EAST**  
3504 Montopolis Dr

**3** **Fast Friends Beer Co**  
7313 N I-35 Frontage Rd NB

**4** **Cenizo Coffee**  
7701 Colton-Bluff Springs Rd

# MUSIC & ACTIVITES



# OUTDOORS



**1** **The Little Darlin'**  
6507 Circle S Rd

**2** **The Far Out Lounge**  
8504 Congress Ave

**3** **Austin Rock & Roll Car Museum**  
8408 Annalise Dr Bldg 1 #115

**4** **Circuit of the Americas**  
9201 Circuit of the Americas Blvd

**1** **McKinney Falls State Park**  
5808 McKinney Falls Pkwy

**2** **Onion Creek Doggy Park**  
7001 Onion Creek Dr

**3** **Skyline Park**  
7800 Apogee Blvd

**4** **Armadillo Neighborhood Park**  
910 Armadillo Rd

"Great food and drinks, live music, awesome place to hang out. Wish we had more like [The Little Darlin'] east of 35!"

**Suzanne, D2 Constituent**

"You can't beat **Meanwhile Brewing Company**'s atmosphere."

**Chris, D2 Constituent**

"[**Fast Friends**] has a vegan chef who makes excellent vegan pies!"

**Melissa, D2 Constituent**

"**Radio/East** is of my FAVORITE spots for coffee, work, and hosting events!"

**Vanessa, D2 Councilwoman**

"**El Perrito** is a great spot to enjoy El Paso favorites. And the story behind their hard work is admirable."

**Martha, D2 Constituent**

"[**Leroy and Lewis BBQ**'s] excellent barbecue menu isn't [just] built around brisket, although that beloved item is available as a daily special at the end of the week.

In fact, several specials keep things interesting throughout the week, such as spice-crusted, melt-in-your mouth beef cheeks or the daily sausage which may be studded with Hatch green chiles and mozzarella cheese. The banana pudding tiramisu is a clever hybrid with coffee-soaked 'Nilla wafers.'

**Michelin Guide**

DELIVERING FOR

# FAMILIES



# KEEPING AUSTIN ROOTED

Displacement Prevention Navigators are making a difference. Rising housing costs remain a major challenge for those vulnerable to displacement. The first year of the Displacement Prevention Navigator pilot program, an initiative I proudly championed, concluded this summer, assisting over 394 households in Dove Springs and Colony Park. This program helped families stay in their homes and connected to their communities.

The next phase, launching in summer 2025, will build on lessons learned to provide even more comprehensive support for housing costs, food, utilities, healthcare, and home repairs - continuing our fight to prevent displacement and strengthen our neighborhoods.

3,040 HOMES REACHED

2,133 HOURS LOGGED

394 HOMES ASSISTED

69 EVENTS ATTENDED

as seen on Austin PBS



## NEW PARKS COMING TO D2



### New All-Abilities Park

In January, we were thrilled to announce that Onion Creek will soon be home to Austin's first All-Abilities-Playground! This project is currently undergoing the design and planning phase.



### Grand Meadow Park

In March, the Grand Meadow Park Concept Plan was approved. Once complete, Grand Meadow Park will include a variety of amenities for families to play and spend time together.



### Pleasant Hill Elem. Park

In October, the City bought land near Pleasant Hill Elementary school to improve access to Pleasant Hill Creek and expand connectivity for the surrounding communities.



### Shadywood Parkland

In March, the City acquired land off Shadywood Dr to transform and expand the South Boggy Creek Greenbelt. Our Parks Dept is currently assessing exactly how this land will be developed.

This year, CapMetro launched the **Dove Springs Pickup Zone**, an on-demand rideshare service tailored for the Dove Springs community. Residents can now arrange affordable rides (only \$1.25 per trip!) from their home to destinations within the service zone, including appointments, shopping trips, and connections to the wider CapMetro transit network.



Since its launch in January, the Dove Springs Pickup Zone has quickly become the most popular of CapMetro's 10 service areas, with an impressive **23,270 rides** provided this year so far.

This marks an exciting milestone in improving public transportation access and supporting diverse mobility options for District 2 neighborhoods!



Dove Springs Pickup Zone Ridership

**Our libraries are at the heart of learning and connection in our community.**

We're excited to share that this year, we eliminated non-resident library fees, expanding access to these vital resources for many families in and near the Austin area.

Additionally, last year's Enhanced Library Card pilot program continues to thrive, with over **7,000 total cards** issued, making our libraries more inclusive and accessible than ever.



## MAJOR CHILDCARE INVESTMENTS



**Childcare is the second greatest expense for families in Austin, just behind housing.** Thankfully, in November, Travis County voters approved a ballot initiative to bring nearly **\$75M** in funding to benefit **9,000 children** through early childhood, after-school, and summer care programs. This critical funding will:

- **Expand access to nontraditional hour care and target areas with the greatest need**
- **Help bridge the gap between the cost of care and what families can afford**
- **Improve wages and training to better recruit, educate, and retain childcare professionals**

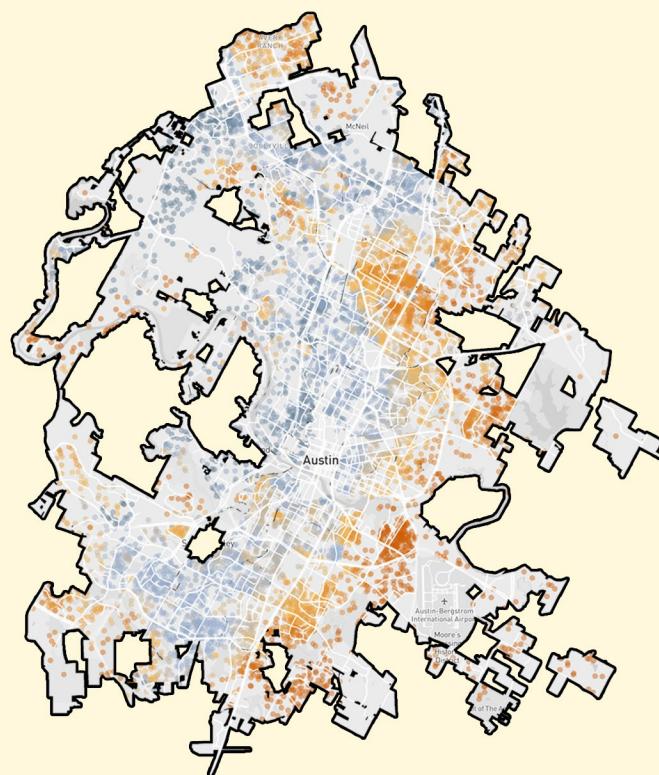
As our city continues to struggle with affordability and housing insecurity, it's crucial to make investments in programs that work.

Last year, the **Family Stabilization Grant (FSG)** program provided grants to **135 families** in need to support housing stability and household goals. Families have used this funding to pay for housing costs and other basic needs and have seen improvements in mental health outcomes and food security. This year, I passed a budget amendment to fund the continuation of this program.

Learn more about the FSG Program by scanning the QR code and reading the City of Austin FAQ.



### Austin Childcare Supply Need



Adequate Scarce

(Source: [childcaredeserts.org](http://childcaredeserts.org))

## SUPPORTING FAMILIES IN NEED

DELIVERING FOR

# PUBLIC HEALTH



# KEEPING AUSTIN HEALTHY

As your Councilwoman, one of my top priorities is addressing the healthcare gaps that have impacted our community for far too long - gaps rooted in historical inequities that have left our communities without the resources needed to support our health and well-being. For this reason, I'm thrilled to see new healthcare facilities opening their doors this year in Southeast Austin.



## Dove Springs Public Health Center

5811 Palo Blanco Ln | soft-launched 10/25/24

The new Dove Springs Public Health Center is now offering Women, Infant & Children (WIC) and immunization services - and will bring childcare, employment assistance, a food pantry, a kitchen, a community closet, and more to the Dove Springs community in 2025!

## Goodnight Ranch Austin Regional Clinic

5901 Vertex Blvd, Ste 100 | launched 10/17/24

The new Goodnight Ranch Austin Regional Clinic (ARC) is now open, providing accessible and comprehensive care for the community. With services in Family Medicine, Internal Medicine, Pediatrics, and more, ARC offers same-day care and evidence-based treatments.



## Del Valle WellMed Clinic

4820 Ross Rd | launched 11/14/24

The new WellMed facility in Del Valle is now open, offering personalized primary care tailored for people with Medicare. With a proactive, prevention-focused approach, WellMed empowers patients to live their best lives - we're glad to see this resource in Del Valle!



# TACKLING THE HOMELESSNESS CRISIS

Homelessness is one of the most pressing issues impacting our community, touching nearly every facet of city life.

Addressing homelessness isn't just about helping those in immediate need - it's about creating a more effective and equitable city for everyone. The City recognizes that no single solution will end this crisis, which is why we're committed to investing in a variety of approaches that lead with compassion and empathy.

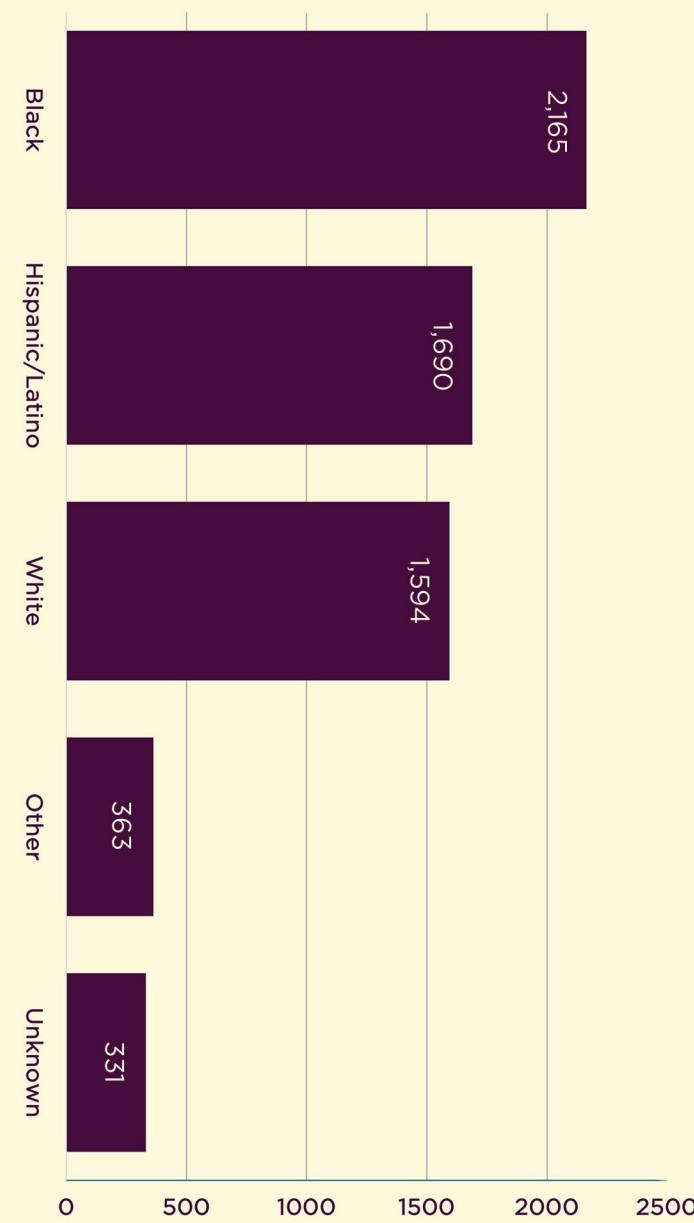
This year, we are proud to make historic investments that reflect our commitment to solving homelessness, including:

- **\$3.6 million for the I Belong in Austin Program (rental assistance)**
- **\$2.2 million for homelessness prevention services**
- **\$3.2 million for rapid rehousing support services**
- **\$300,000 for our family homeless services program**
- **\$2.8 million for bridge and emergency shelter**
- **\$2.6 million for Permanent Supportive Housing**
- **\$440,000 for Homeless Engagement Assistance Response**

By addressing our homelessness crisis head-on, we can create lasting change that benefits our families while strengthening our entire community.



**Austin Unsheltered Homeless Population**



(Source: Echo ATX Dashboard)

Last year, we set out to certify 1,000 Austinites in Mental Health First Aid (MHFA), a vital training to recognize and respond to mental health challenges. Thanks to our community's enthusiasm, we reached this goal in less than six months!

This year, we're aiming even higher, with a target to train 3,000 Austinites by the end of 2025. MHFA empowers individuals to support those in need, just like CPR for mental health.

Scan to find a free MHFA training



At a time when abortion access is under attack nationwide and throughout the state, we took a stand and passed legislation that aligns the City of Austin with international human rights standards and declares reproductive rights are human rights.



## NASW AWARD HIGHLIGHT

This year, I was honored to be recognized as an **Elected Official of the Year** by the **National Association of Social Workers!**

A heartfelt thank you and a special shout-out to the social workers in our communities. Your dedication and compassion never go unnoticed.

We also invested **\$400K** to start a logistical fund that will assist with travel costs for Austinites seeking abortion care. We will uphold access to reproductive care because it's the right thing to do - and it must be done.

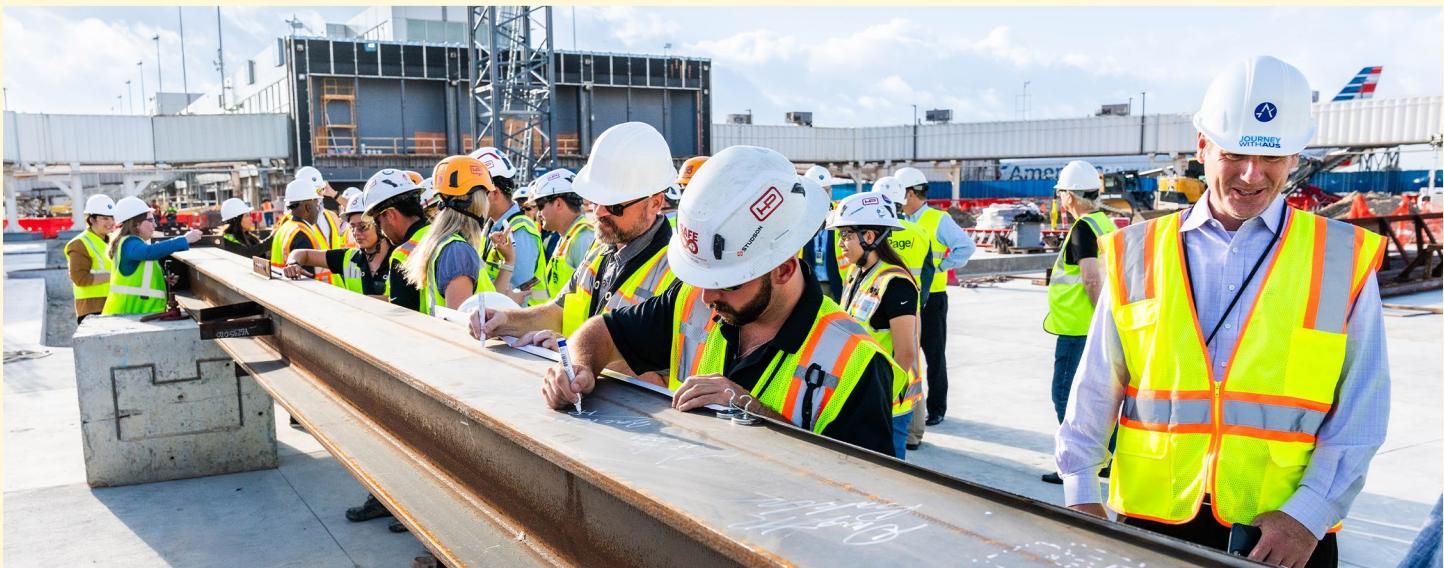


# DELIVERING FOR INFRASTRUCTURE.



# OUR GROWING AIRPORT

Our city, and by extension, District 2's airport, are growing faster than ever! As Austin-Bergstrom International Airport moves forward with its Journey with AUS expansion project, I want to highlight the initiatives underway to ensure your airport experience is both safe and convenient. Current projects under construction include:



## West Gate Expansion

**Est. completion: 2026**

This project will add amenities like more restrooms and waiting areas, a quiet space, a playscape, and three new gates.

## West Infill & TSA 3 Expansion

**Est. completion: 2026**

This new space will house the new baggage handling system and increase TSA Checkpoint 3's capacity.

Future, long-term projects that have not begun construction include a new concourse, arrival & departure hall, parking garage, ticketing atrium space, and more. Scan the QR code to learn more about the Journey With AUS project. Local Austin taxpayer dollars are not being used to fund the program.

## International Arrival Improvements

**Est. completion: 2025**

New baggage carousels, more queuing space and processing booths will be added to speed up the arrivals process.

## New Baggage Handling System

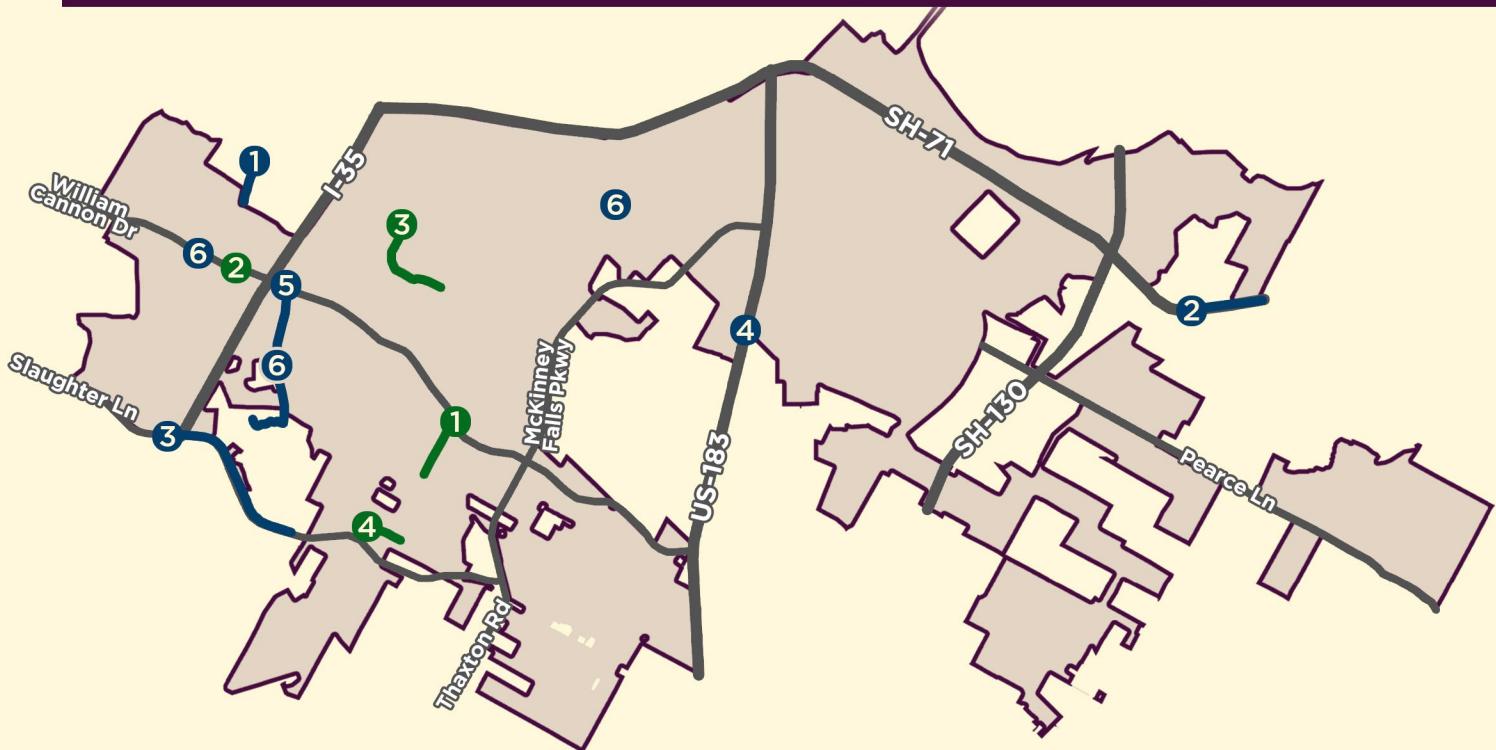
**Est. completion: 2026**

A new system for outbound checked bags will process 4,000 bags per hour, increasing airport efficiency.



# KEEPING AUSTIN CONNECTED

2024 District 2 road treatments, school safety improvements, projects, and more



## Treating our D2 Roads



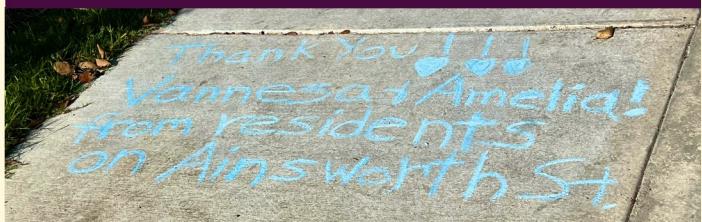
In 2024, the City of Austin provided our District 2 roads with **58.98 miles** of treatment, including:

- **6.3 lane miles** of overlay
- **26.8 lane miles** of seal coat
- **1.58 lane miles** of fog seal
- **17.09 lane miles** of crack seal
- **6.4 lane miles** of CoolSeal Treatment

## Fixing Our D2 Bridges

This year, the Bridge Maintenance Team completed work on **nine bridges** across the District 2 community, including handrail replacements, retaining wall & guardrail installations, vegetation removal, and fencing repairs.

## New & Repaired D2 Sidewalks



This year, the Transportation Sidewalks and Urban Trails Division installed **2.8 miles** of new sidewalk and repaired **3.7 miles** of existing sidewalk.

## Major D2 Improvement Projects



Near Stassney Ln and S Congress Ave, from Mockingbird Ln to Little Texas Ln:

- ① Two new left turn lanes, separated bike & pedestrian paths, new crosswalks and ADA-compliant ramps, six new CapMetro stops, raised medians, and signal & timing upgrades

State of Texas project along SH-71, from Ross Rd to Kellam Rd:

- ② New bridges over Ross and Kellam Rd, new frontage roads, and new pedestrian & biking infrastructure

Along E Slaughter Ln, from S Congress Ave to Bluff Springs Rd:

- ③ New bike lanes and sidewalk improvements along E Slaughter Ln

Intersection of Burleson Rd and US-183:

- ④ New pedestrian curb ramps, advanced signage, intersection illumination, and sidewalk improvements

Along Bluff Springs Rd, from William Cannon Dr to Terra Apartments:

- ⑤ Restriped roadway, new protected bike lanes, and bus stop enhancements

Newly activated traffic lights:

- ⑥ New traffic lights activated at William Cannon Dr & Sunstrip Dr, Bluff Springs Rd & Quicksilver Blvd, and Burleson Rd & Metropolis Dr

## Improving D2 School Safety



In 2024, the **Safe Routes to School Program** improved safety for students walking, biking, and rolling to six District 2 schools. Improvements include:

- ① New sidewalk, curb ramps, islands, bus stops, and bike ramps along Salt Springs Dr near Palm Elementary
- ② New pedestrian signal modifications and upgrades at Congress Ave and William Cannon Dr near Pleasant Hill Elementary and Bedichek Middle
- ③ New speed cushions and pedestrian islands on Palo Blanco Ln near Widen Elementary and Mendez Middle
- ④ New speed limits at Baythorne Dr and Vertex Blvd, near Blazier Intermediate

## DISTRICT SERVICE FUNDS



I often hear from constituents about small improvements, such as safer streets and better sidewalks, but navigating the City's processes can be slow. That's why I introduced a resolution to pilot **District Service Funds** for Council Members, allowing us to quickly address district needs and build stronger connections with the communities we represent.

# DELIVERING FOR RESILIENCE



# KEEPING AUSTIN PREPARED



**For decades, our community has been impacted by severe local flooding and rising flood insurance costs.**

This year, we took action by passing a resolution to improve **flood risk-mitigation measures** and establish a program to help offset **flood insurance premiums** for local residents. To support this effort, I also passed a budget amendment to fund a **pilot flood insurance financial assistance program**. The City is currently exploring ways to make home repairs more accessible for community members affected by flooding.



Thanks to our efforts, the **Watershed Protection Department** also recently installed a new **flood detection camera** in District 2 (pictured above), near **Brassewood Dr** and **S Pleasant Valley Rd**. This is the fourth camera in District 2, helping keep our community safer before and during major floods.

This year, the City also began work on the **Brassewood Capital Improvements Project**, which will reduce the risk of flooding in homes by:

- 1) Installing a new storm drain system
- 2) Implementing new safety practices
- 3) Installing new larger curb stain inlets

Construction for Phase 1 of 3 is expected to continue until early 2025, with work occurring **daily from 7 AM to 5 PM**. The entire project is anticipated to be completed by fall 2026.



# AUSTIN'S NEW FOOD PLAN



**All Austinites deserve access to healthy, affordable food.**

Yet, inequities in food access persist. In Travis County, **15% of residents are food insecure**, and **18 of 47 zip codes lack a grocery store**, with many of these areas being within in our District 2 community.

This year, we took a significant step by approving the **Austin Travis County Food Plan**, which affirms our commitment to addressing these inequities and co-creating sustainable, thriving communities and ecosystems.

To ensure this vision becomes a reality, I brought forward a companion resolution that will help provide direction for implementation while calling for the resources to bring this plan to life.



Read the full plan

The food plan consists of **9 strategies, or goals**, aimed at creating a resilient food system for all Austin/Travis County residents.



**Goal 1**  
Land

**Goal 2**  
Ownership

**Goal 3**  
Livelihoods



**Goal 4**  
Preparedness

**Goal 5**  
Institutions

**Goal 6**  
Access



**Goal 7**  
Food Recovery

**Goal 8**  
Pro-Climate, Pro-Health Food

**Goal 9**  
Empower



**The lack of an emergency shelter in Del Valle has been a significant concern, especially during extreme weather events like winter storms.**

To address this, **Homeland Security Emergency Management (HSEM)** has launched a **Mass Care Program** and the **Austin Resilience Network** to expand shelter capacity and improve coordination citywide, including in Del Valle.

**HSEM is refining shelter plans, strengthening partnerships with local organizations, and enhancing resources to better support communities during emergencies.**

These efforts are a critical step toward ensuring Del Valle residents have access to safe, reliable shelter options and are prepared for future disasters.

**In Austin, we love our trees, and for good reason!**

Trees improve air quality, reduce heat impacts, mitigate flooding, boost mental health, and much more. That's why I'm thrilled see a District 2 tree win the **2024 TreeFolks Large Tree of the Year Award!**

The **Halloween Tree**, located in **McKinney Falls State Park**, sits between the Cactus and Onion Creek trails. For nominator Mariya Prytula, this tree became the highlight of McKinney Falls, offering a sense of wonder and connection to nature.

Congratulations to the **Halloween Tree** for winning **Large Tree of the Year!** Scan the QR code to view all 2024 Tree of the Year winners.



DELIVERING FOR

# PUBLIC SAFETY



# KEEPING AUSTIN SAFE

Community safety, our new Police Chief, and the new Austin Police Contract



**Austin City Council's top priority is ensuring the safety of our community.**

This year, we welcomed a **new Police Chief, Lisa Davis**, and secured a robust police contract. This contract is the result of years of advocacy, and includes measures that strengthen transparency and accountability, including:

- **Increased Transparency:** Eliminating the "G-file" confidentiality allows public access to disciplinary records, removing barriers to oversight.
- **Enhanced Oversight:** The Office of Police Oversight (OPO) can now investigate all complaints, including anonymous ones, strengthening accountability in misconduct cases.
- **An Extended Statute of Limitations:** The timeframe for filing complaints and taking disciplinary actions has increased from 180 to 365 days, starting when a complaint is filed.
- **A New Mediation Process:** A mediation option now enables officers and community members to resolve disputes through open dialogue.

The contract also contains measures to improve recruitment and retention by allowing Council and the Police Chief to establish a modified hiring process, new recruitment/retention programs, incentive pays, and updated promotion criteria.

In November, Chief Davis announced her **100-day action plan**. Her top priorities are aimed at improving:

- 1) APD recruitment, retention & moral
- 2) Community trust & prevention initiatives
- 3) APD's excellence & innovation capacity

These developments are a major step forward, but the story doesn't end here. The safety and well-being of our community depend on much more, and we will continue working to secure alternative responses, support robust accountability, and create a safer Austin for everyone.



In a major development for District 2, we're thrilled to welcome the Goodnight Ranch Fire/EMS Station to our community!

The new Fire 53/Medic 42 Station is a state-of-the-art facility that will reduce response times and deliver critical service improvements to our District 2 neighborhoods.

I'm so grateful to the City staff, crews, and everyone who made this possible for our community!



**No one should be jailed simply because they can't afford bail. It's a matter of fairness and justice.**

Everyone deserves equal treatment under the law, regardless of their financial situation. Travis County's Counsel at First Appearance (CAFA) program ensures people have access to early legal representation, protecting rights and reducing unjust pretrial detention.

This year, I passed a resolution to expand the City's support for CAFA, reaffirming our commitment to fairness, equity, and meaningful criminal justice reform.

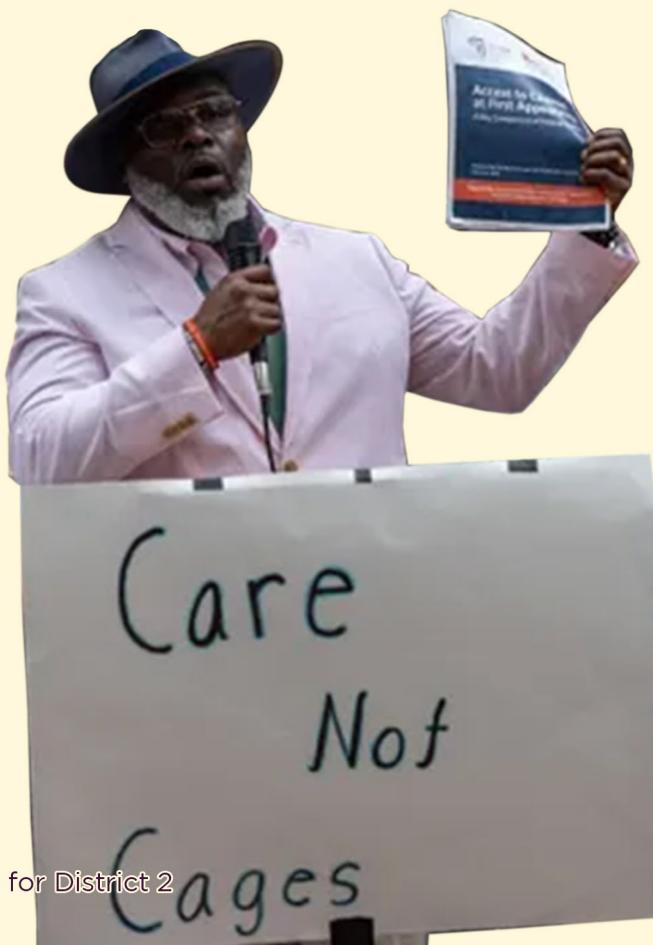
Programs like CAFA address systemic inequities and help create a justice system that upholds dignity and protects rights for all Austinites. I look forward to seeing the impact this program will bring to our Austin communities.



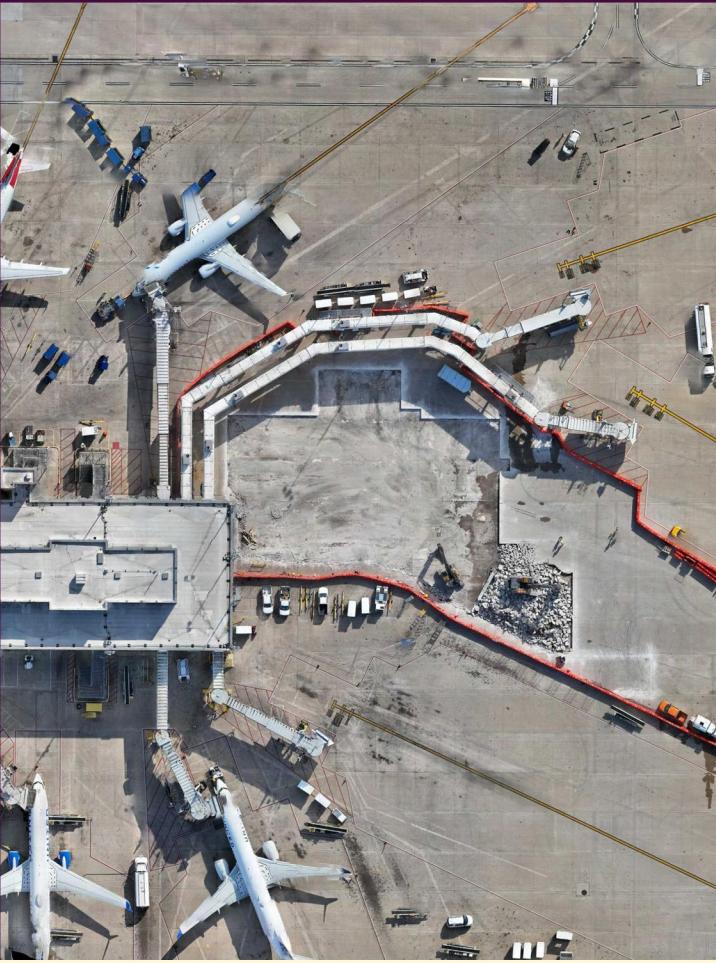
## PREVENTING CAR THEFT

My first policy of the year came from the community: urging a recall of Kia and Hyundai models lacking theft-prevention immobilizers. Though only 9% of vehicles in Travis County are Kias or Hyundais, they account for 35% of stolen cars. While free software updates are available, Austin will keep pushing for a full recall.

Photo: Mikala Compton,  
Austin American-Statesman



## SAFETY AT AUSTIN'S AIRPORT



Last year, the 88th Texas Legislature passed **SB4**, which authorizes local law enforcement to arrest individuals they suspect of entering the U.S. unlawfully.

This law creates fear in our community, goes against Austin's values as a welcoming city, promotes racial profiling, and discourages immigrants from seeking help from public safety agencies. At its core, SB4 is misaligned with the principles of fairness and justice.

As the daughter of immigrants, this issue is deeply personal to me. I know how important it is to protect our families and ensure all residents feel safe and supported. That's why, this year, I worked with immigration rights groups to pass a resolution deprioritizing the enforcement of SB4 and reaffirming Austin's commitment to our immigrant communities.

Earlier this year, I was also proud to team up with Councilmember José Velásquez and American Gateways to host a Know Your Rights training for our East and Southeast Austin communities.

My team and I remain committed to empowering our community with knowledge, standing up for their rights, and welcoming all people with dignity and respect.



In 2024, Austin-Bergstrom International experienced yet another record-breaking year. As passenger and airline activity at continues to skyrocket, I introduced a resolution to prioritize the development of a **Ramp Control System**. This will enhance on-the-ground navigation, improve safety, and help prevent the near-collisions our airport has experienced in recent years.

Additionally, the permanent **EMS station at AUS** I championed last year has been incredibly effective in reducing emergency response times. To build on this success, I passed a budget amendment to secure funding for an additional medic position, ensuring the airport remains ready to meet the needs of our rapidly growing city.

# DELIVERING FOR ARTS & CULTURE



# KEEPING AUSTIN PLAYING



## Austin loves fútbol!

Soccer has long been a cornerstone of Austin's East and Southeast communities, and today, the passion for the game has grown citywide. **Austin is one of only three cities in Texas to host a professional soccer team**, and our city is home to many leagues and organizations dedicated to creating more opportunities for everyone to enjoy soccer.

**I often hear from our community about the need for more soccer fields, for both professional and casual play.**

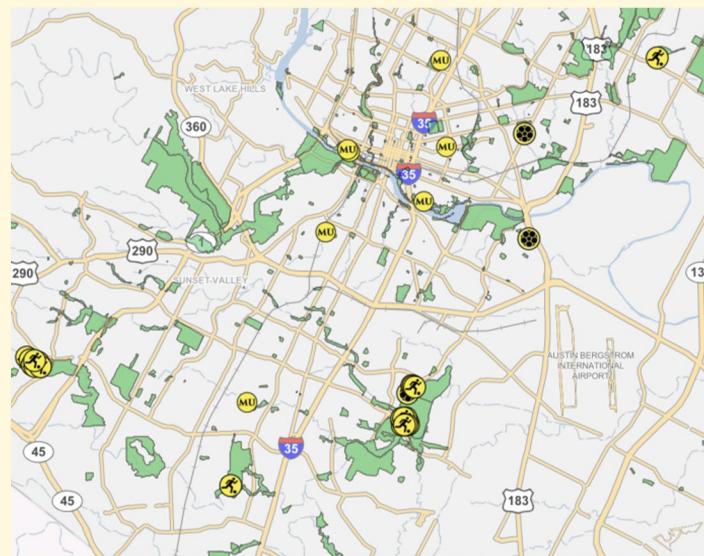
That's why this year, I was thrilled to pass a resolution officially establishing Austin as a **Soccer City**, reaffirming our commitment to expanding access to the sport and supporting its growing cultural significance in our community.

In our city's efforts to expand soccer access to the community, our Parks and Recreation Department has made already great strides, including:

Creating a new interactive soccer field map

Establishing soccer scholarship programs

Cultivating partnerships to add new pitches



**Austin's soccer culture is thriving**, and through these initiatives, we're working to ensure the game is accessible to all. Scan the QR code to check out the interactive soccer field map and learn more about the **Austin Soccer City initiative**!



Austin used to be the only major city in Texas without a Poet Laureate program, but this year, we changed that. Through a community-led effort, we established Austin's Poet Laureate program to celebrate the art of poetry and its power to connect, inspire, and educate.

A Poet Laureate is an honorary position held by a local poet who represents and promotes poetry throughout the community. They will work to integrate poetry into Austin's culture, history, and politics while promoting literacy and creativity across the city.

We're thrilled to share that the first Austin Poet Laureate will be announced in 2025! This milestone marks an exciting new chapter for the arts in our city.

Thank you to KB Brookins, local author and advocate, for coming to us with this policy idea initiative!



This year, we put out a call for local artists to bring two exciting new public art projects to District 2: the Armadillo Park Water Tower Mural, and the Ross Road Art Project!

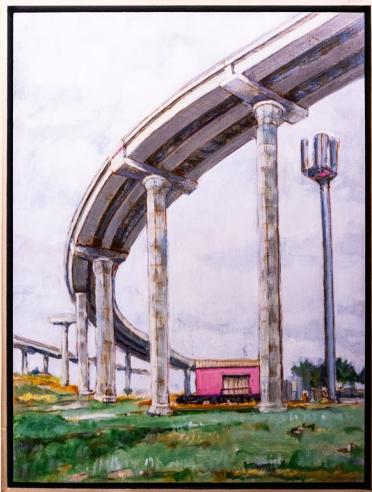
In 2025, we'll be thrilled to announce the artists selected to help shape the future of D2 through public art. We look forward to seeing these art projects come to our community in the near future!



# D2 AT THE PEOPLE'S GALLERY

Every year, Austin City Hall transforms into a showcase of local talent through The People's Gallery, featuring artwork from artists across all parts of Austin. This year's gallery includes 136 works of art, with six pieces created by District 2 artists!

1



2



3



4



5



6



1 Paul Moncus, Adandoned Building N IH 35 and Highway 183, 2023

2 Litzy Rea Valez, Little Friends, 2024

3 Michelle Rahbar, Not Everything That Holds You Down is Yours to Carry, 2023

4 Sandra C Fernandez, We Are All in the Same Boat, 2019

5 Bryana Fleming, Sweet Umber, 2021

6 Patrick Moran, Duality of Connection 1 & 2, 2022

# COMMUNITY VOICES

“[It’s] always great to see ANY improvements in D2. I feel for far too long we were ignored until you came in and started working hard for us. Now it seems like every week there’s a new park or upgrades/improvements! Thank you, Councilwoman Fuentes, for all your hard work and dedication to us in D2!”

**-Javier, D2 Constituent**

“Thank you for making it safer for pedestrians and cyclists. It’s now safer for me to get from home in 78744 to 78745 and beyond via bike.”

**-Jessica, D2 Constituent**

“[I] appreciate all you’ve done for our neighborhood. It’s been a beautiful thing to see the improvements to my childhood neighborhood over the time you’ve been in office.”

**-Sonny, D2 Constituent**

“[Vanessa] nos a ayudado mucho ya tengo mi ID de librería, gracias consejal!”

**-Arayls, D2 Constituent**

# VANESSA'S VOICE

Throughout the year, I've had the privilege of contributing to a variety of publications. Read my writings below to explore my thoughts on various topics, ranging from abortion rights to my personal education journey and more.



## Más Mujer Cover Story: Elected Official, Advocate, and Student

In this Spanish piece, I share my journey as a first-generation Latina pursuing higher education and emphasize the importance of making education accessible for all.



## Rewire: From TX to MD, Cities Are Fighting Abortion Bans

In this co-authored piece with Mayor Celina Benitez of Mount Rainier, MD, we highlight local efforts to recognize abortion as a human right in both Texas and Maryland.



## Más Mujer: Progress can be Slow, but it's Constant

In this Spanish writing, I reflect on the local progress made in reproductive rights, labor movements, and community advocacy, emphasizing our recent victories.



## Austin Chron: Clean Air Can't Wait - How We Can Improve I-35

In this co-authored piece with Austin City Council colleagues and Travis County counterparts, we address the environmental impacts of the I-35 expansion.



# ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

## The District 2 Team

**Adal Rivas, D2 Communications Director**

**Amelia Casas, D2 Communications & Policy Advisor**

**Sofia Morales, D2 Policy Director**

**Cristal Peña, D2 Constituent Liaison**

**Jason Lopez, D2 Chief of Staff**

**Bella Yi, D2 Intern**

**Nadia Lott, D2 Intern**

## City of Austin & Partners Staff

**Isaias Castro, Austin 3-1-1**

**Matilda Sanchez-Vichique, Austin 3-1-1**

**Reynaldo De La Garza, Transportation and Public Works**

**Peter Hofstad, Austin Public Library**

**Christina Nelson, Austin Public Library**

**Nelson Andrade, Planning Department**

**Katie Steward, Financial Services Department**

**Keyheira Keys, Capital Delivery Services**

**Alex Lari, Watershed Protection Department**

**Celso Baez III, CapMetro**

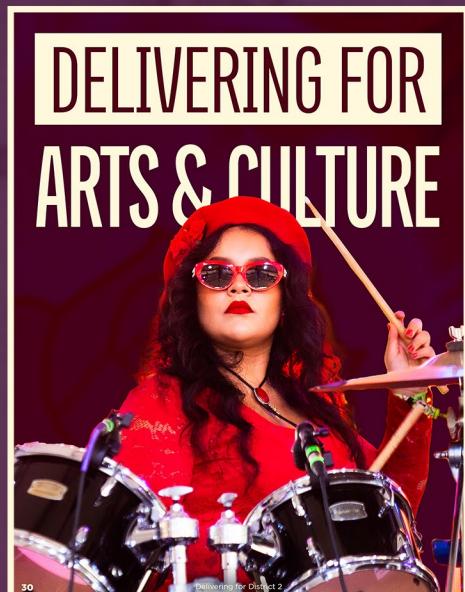
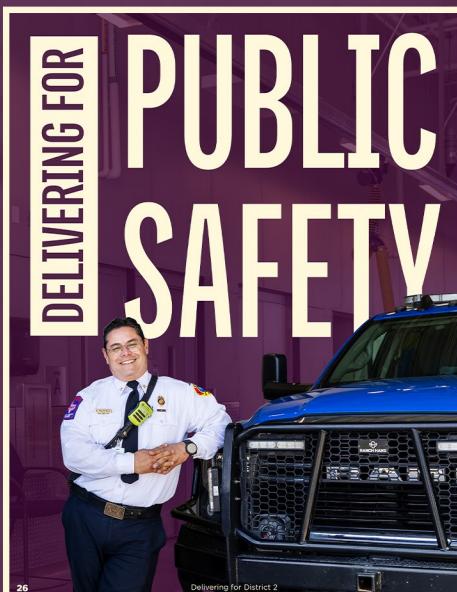
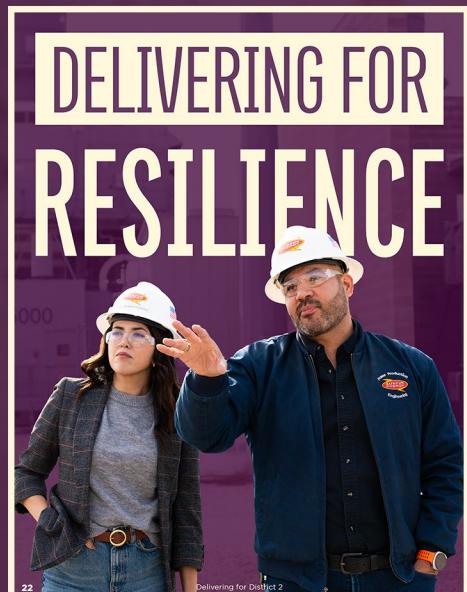
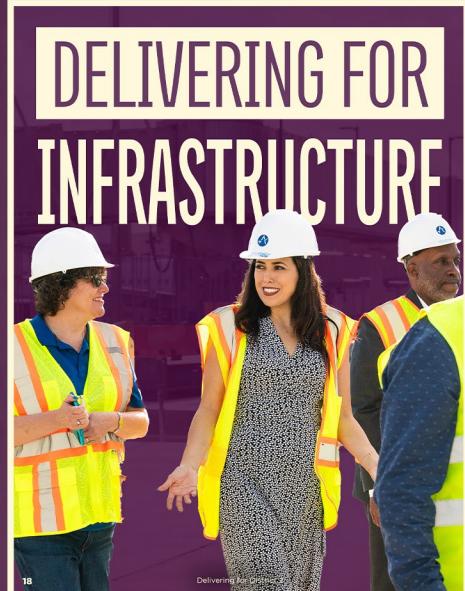
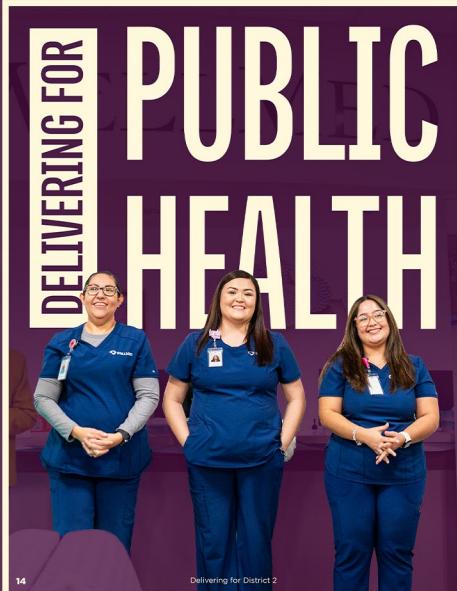
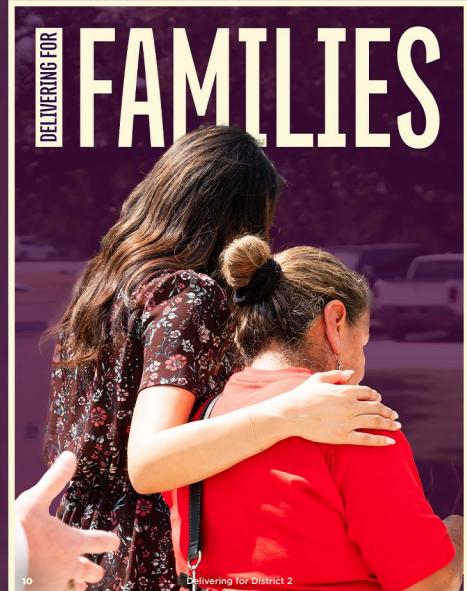


# THANK YOU



Enjoyed the 2024 Delivering For District 2 annual report? Scan the code above to tell us your thoughts and help shape next year's edition! We can't wait to see what you think.

# A YEAR IN THE MAKING



VANESSA FUENTES  
AUSTIN CITY COUNCIL DISTRICT 2

Check out  
our newsletter!

