

# Downtown Austin Alliance

Advocacy Priorities  
FY2024-2025

**DOWN  
AUSTINTOWN  
ALLIANCE**

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For our organization to create, preserve and enhance the vibe, vitality, and value of Downtown Austin for everyone, we advocate for policies, regulations, and funding for pressing issues and transformative infrastructure downtown. We champion policies to advance dense, walkable neighborhoods, preserve and enhance cultural assets and to make downtown safer and easier to get around.

Our FY 24-25 advocacy priorities are aligned with our organization's Strategic Plan objectives and FY 24-25 budget. To advance progress toward these priorities, we engage in and influence decisions and actions at the local, state, and federal levels.

### **Keep Downtown Safe, Clean & Welcoming**

Downtown Austin is a place for everyone. We support policies to make it safe, clean, and welcoming to visitors, residents, and employees. Our advocacy priorities include:

- Police officer recruitment
- Increasing visible police resources and cameras
- Advancing the Travis County Mental Health Diversion Center and Pilot
- Improving cleanliness and enhancing safety in the East 6th & Red River Districts

### **Fund Innovative Homelessness Outreach Programs & Housing**

To ensure the police, EMS and 911 are not the only ways to address non-criminal, non-threatening issues are addressed downtown, our organization has created and funded an outreach team that actively engages people in need, providing them with food, clothes, and referral to shelter through HEART Austin. Our advocacy priorities include:

- The HEART Austin pilot expanding across downtown, with enhanced public sector funding
- Increasing funding for non-congregate shelter, emergency services, and services needed to sustain permanent supportive housing projects
- Improving the homelessness response system as a whole

### **Advance Transformational Infrastructure Projects**

Infrastructure projects will not only transform downtown, but will provide safer options for people traveling to and within Downtown Austin. Our advocacy priorities include:

- Securing federal funding and protecting local funding for the construction of light rail and adopting Wooldridge Station as an additional downtown light rail station
- Completing and integrating the Our Future 35 Cap & Stitch vision and design and securing funding for the downtown Our Future 35 Caps
- Advancing the Congress Avenue Urban Design Initiative
- Adopting the Austin Core Transportation Plan
- Advancing the Construction Partnership Program

### **Reform the Downtown Development Code**

Downtown should be the densest, most walkable and vibrant center of the region. City plans and land use policies can support these goals to achieve this density downtown. Our advocacy priorities include:

- Re-zoning all downtown properties to central business district designations
- Encouraging affordable housing in or near downtown
- Focusing on policies affecting the South Central Waterfront

### **Save Live Music**

As the eastern edge of Downtown Austin continues to develop, action must be taken to preserve downtown cultural music venues for years to come. Our advocacy priorities include:

- Policies that fund, preserve and enhance cultural districts that keep this tradition alive, like the Red River Cultural District

### **Keep Downtown Vibrant**

We champion policies that enhance Downtown Austin; igniting, attracting and cultivating arts, culture, music and a sense of place. Our advocacy priorities include:

- Making event fees more affordable
- Adopting incentives to encourage the reuse of vacant spaces to keep downtown active



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about our  
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for advocacy inquiries