

Greater Leander
Chamber of Commerce
Monthly Membership Luncheon

State of the City Address
Mayor John D. Cowman

Tuesday, 26 January 2010



Comments

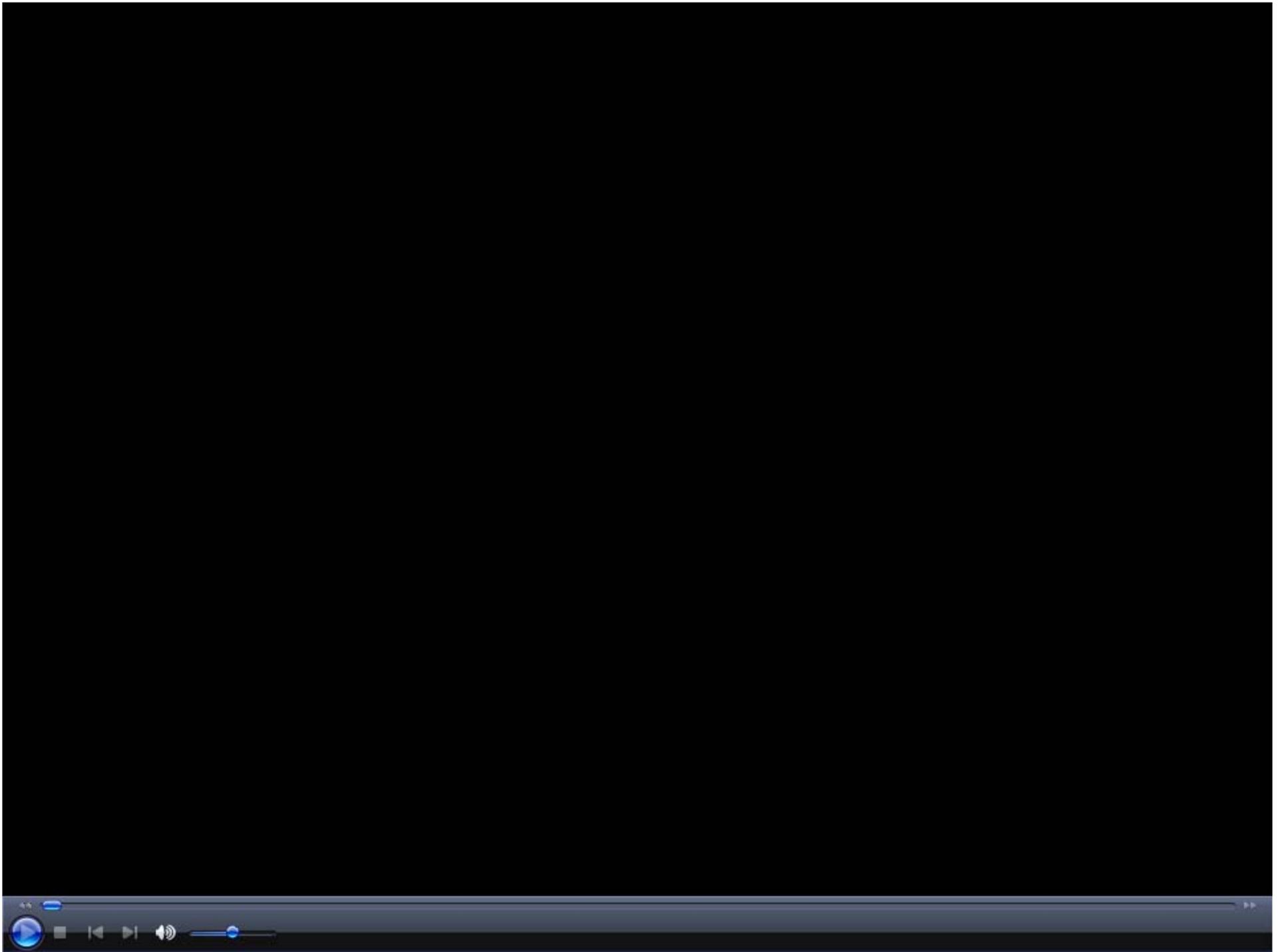
Introduction

Departmental Accomplishments
and Expectations

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Introduction

“A true leader has the confidence to stand alone, the courage to make tough decisions and the compassion to listen to the needs of others. They do not set out to be a leader, but become one by the quality of their actions and integrity of their intent.” – [Unknown](#)



Accomplishments/Expectations

City Council

Customer Service Pledge – remember, you make a difference by being part of this team. Make yourself a better team player through respect, fairness and honesty for each other. Always be constructive. This City depends upon you.

Mission – the City will provide its citizens with the highest quality of service through the effective and efficient use of all available resources.

Reduced property tax rate from \$0.602590 to \$0.600420

Staff Growth and Development

Maintain regional leadership

Develop sustainable economic development practices

Complete funded Capital Improvement Projects (CIP)

Green initiative program development

5 YEAR GOALS

Increase Sales Tax Base/Economic Development

Continuous Infrastructure

Staff Retention & Development

Regional Leadership

Citizen Communication

Senior Residential Services (short and long term)

Plan to include people with disabilities

Become a Leader in the Region on Green Initiatives

Add Healthcare and Higher Education to the community's resources



Accomplishments/Expectations

City Manager

2009

Secured Texas Water Development Board Financing for Brushy Creek Regional Water Plant

Oversaw \$21 million Series 2007 Bond CIP and \$9.2 million Series 2007 Utility CIP projects

Bond Rating upgraded to “A+” by Standard & Poors

2010

Complete remaining \$21 million Series 2007 Bond CIP and \$9.2 million Series 2007 Utility CIP projects

Issue balance of \$6.3 million voter-approved General Obligation debt

Membership in Brushy Creek Regional Wastewater System

Evaluate automated water meter reading technology

Review water & wastewater operations for municipal ownership



Accomplishments/Expectations

Finance/Utility Billing

2009

Received the Government Finance Officers Association (GFOA) Distinguished Budget Presentation Award

Received unqualified opinion from Independent Auditors for FY 2008

Purchasing Agent selected to Texas Municipal League (TML) Board representing Texas Public Purchasing Association (TPPA)

Implemented vendor online registration and bid notification system

Joined Williamson County Recycling Coalition of Cities (WILCO Recycles)

Administrative Assistant/Payroll training scholarship recipient

Implemented payroll time entry system

Installed audio/video security system

Implemented new credit card processing interface with accounts receivable

Implemented collections program with McCreary, Veselka, Bragg & Allen

2010

Maintain progress in achieving City Council Financial Targets established in 2008

Monitor economic and financial conditions that affect FY 2010 and beyond

Improve Purchasing Procedures and Effective Cash Management Practices

Provide city department management support to achieve financial excellence

Provide excellent customer service to internal customers

Restructure department to enhance customer service and improve efficiency



Accomplishments/Expectations

City Secretary

2009

Graduated and Received Certification as a Texas Registered Municipal Clerk (TRMC) through the University of North Texas in January 2009

Completed the Leander Leadership Program

Continued working as Secretary of the Tax Increment Finance (TIF)/Leander Development Authority Boards

Updated Leander Code of Ordinances with Franklin Legal Publishing

Filled over one hundred (100) open records requests according to State Law

Maintained Records Retention Facility

Texas Registered Municipal Clerks Re-certification Program

Remained active with the Capital Chapter of the Texas Municipal Clerks

2010

Continue toward Texas Registered Municipal Clerks Program Re-certification

Continue work with the TIF/Leander Development Authority Boards

Attend municipal seminars on Legislative Issues and Election Laws

Update all Boards and Commissions

Utilize Franklin Legal Publishing on the Leander Code of Ordinance Book

Continue to keep the City Secretary's office open for public records requests



Accomplishments/Expectations

Municipal Court

2009

- Added Warrant Officer/Bailiff in August
- Deputy Clerk received Level I Certification
- Court Administrator invited to teach Texas Municipal Court Education Center seminars
- Added quick ticket writers to three patrol units

2010

- Add one additional court clerk
- Equip three more patrol cars with quick ticket writers
- Exhaust all means of collections for timely warrant processing
- Utilize warrant officer to collect outstanding fines
- Improve Case Flow Management
- Add additional court clerk



Accomplishments/Expectations

Fire

2009

Started construction of Fire Station Three, Training Center and Administrative Building

Continued squad program support in less populated areas

Increased Public Education Program by having Friday Lunch with Firemen in Elementary Schools and neighborhood safety fairs

Performed Citizen's Fire Academies

Expanded Web based communications for internal and external use

Expanded Automatic and Mutual Aid relationships with neighboring fire departments

Developed Staffing Plan

Expanded Technical Rescue Team 115 roles and response

Completed Volunteer Fire Training Academy certification by SFFMA or TCFP

Established and created on-scene safety and rehab programs

2010

No preventable on scene injuries

No preventable fleet accidents

Obtain and Maintain a volunteer roster of 45 active volunteer members

No equipment loss from misplaced or misused equipment

Have front line units in-service and not in need of repair 90% of the time and limit minor problem repairs to less than 72 hours

Decrease maintenance expense by increasing the amount of routine maintenance and repairs done by city staff

Decrease maintenance expense by continue to change delivery service module to include the use of less expensive and more economical units for medical and non-emergent responses

Change current internal communications and data collection process to an electronic format decreasing the needed amount of hard copies and certain printing cost associated with those processes

Actively work to receive grants funds to support and recover expenses associated with the activities of the fire department

Work to decrease expense for equipment and capital purchases by establishing vendor contracts and use of existing regional government programs

Increase collections of cost recover billing from insurance companies



Accomplishments/Expectations

Police

The Leander Police Department is a dynamic, progressive and professional organization dedicated to the principle of community policing which promotes a high quality of life for all citizens.

DEPARTMENT DESCRIPTION

The Leander Police Values are:

Respect the rights and individuality of all people

Committed to personal and organizational integrity

Committed to providing quality service in partnership with our community

2009

Transition to Regional Communications System

Nationally Recognized Police Agency

Community Policing Program

Citizens Police Academy

National Night Out

School Resource Officer Program

Completed International Accreditation application and on-site process

Maintained ENS (Emergency Notification System)

Increased investigations case load

Improved customer service

Established clean up of neglected properties

Began city wide review process for areas for improvement

Decreased bandit sign violations from out town violators



Accomplishments/Expectations

Police (cont.)

The Leander Police Department is a dynamic, progressive and professional organization dedicated to the principle of community policing which promotes a high quality of life for all citizens.

2010

Improve National accreditation status from current “recognized” to “accredited”

Improve and upgrade records management system

Continue five-year staffing plan to attain a ratio of 1.4 officers to 1,000 citizens (1.4:1,000)

Maintain fleet integrity

Join Regional Animal Shelter

Increase directed patrol

Improve Customer Service

Increase sworn staff by five positions (Grant)

Increase dispatch staff to enhance external and internal customer service

Accomplish CALEA accreditation

Increase dispatcher staff by one position

Increase “Front Desk” staffing to enhance evening and weekend coverage

Improve clearance rates

Add crime scene investigator (grant)

Add investigator position to target property crimes

Increase compliance without legal action

Work with public works on city wide clean up days

Decrease process time by converting to electronic records system

Decrease maintenance expense by increasing the amount of routine maintenance and repairs done by city staff

Change current internal communications and data collection process to an electronic format decreasing the needed amount of hard copies and certain printing cost associated with those processes



Accomplishments/Expectations

Permits

2009

415 permits issued (Jan. 09 – Dec. 09)

383 residential permits issued

32 commercial permits issued

Improved inspection procedures by modifications to routing.

Upgraded Invision Software to become more “inspection friendly” regarding data processing.

Continued research regarding implementation of mobile technology for field inspectors.

2010

Further the Department’s progress to meet customer service demands, through technology, education, and manpower

Continue the design and implementation of a “paperless office” system for inspections.

Maintain high standards by employment and education of quality staff

For office and field work

Continue customer satisfaction within a demanding, fast growing community

Implement new resources to effectively provide for growth



Accomplishments/Expectations

Engineering

2009

Completed construction of Blockhouse Creek Wastewater Interceptor Project Segments One, Two and Three

Completed the design of roadway and drainage improvements for the Sonny Drive Extension from U.S. Hwy. 183 to Leander Drive

Completed redesign and commenced construction of Phase One & Two of E. Crystal Falls Parkway Improvements including utility relocations, environmental assessment and traffic signals from U.S. Hwy. 183-A to Reagan Blvd. to convert from two-lane county road to four-lane divided urban roadway from U.S. Hwy. 183 to U.S. Hwy. 183-A

Completed right-of-way acquisition and commenced construction of Bagdad Road North and Old F.M. 2243 Roadway and Intersection Improvements project

Commenced negotiations, completed design and purchased capacity for the Brushy Creek Regional Raw & Wastewater System from LCRA, Round Rock, Cedar Park and Austin. This will extend a 27-inch sewer interceptor from C.R. 179 to Reagan Blvd.

Completed all easement acquisitions for construction of County Glen Wastewater Improvements to eliminate lift station.

2010

Construct Phase One of E. Crystal Falls Parkway from two-lane county road to four-lane divided urban roadway with traffic signals from U.S. Hwy. 183-A to Reagan Blvd.

Construct Bagdad Road North and Old F.M. 2243 Roadway and Intersection Improvements project

Construct of Phase Two of E. Crystal Falls Parkway Improvements from two-lane county road to four-lane divided urban roadway from U.S. Hwy. 183 to U.S. Hwy. 183-A

Construct San Gabriel Parkway from Halsey to Bagdad Road North with intersection improvements

Complete easement acquisitions and construct Phase One of Brushy Creek Interceptor Project

Finalize Development Agreement for Sarita Valley Ranch, et al, and construct a 30-inch water line along Reagan Blvd.

Finalize agreement for entrance into Brushy Creek Regional Wastewater System

Complete purchase of Cedar Park's North Brushy Creek Wastewater Interceptor and North Brushy Creek Wastewater Interceptor Extension

Construct County Glen Wastewater Improvements to eliminate lift station

Update and adopt the comprehensive Water Master Plan through year 2030

Update and adopt the comprehensive Wastewater Master Plan through year 2030



Accomplishments/Expectations

Street Department

2009

- Continued Team Ownership attitude within the department
- Completed Shop Renovation Project that will add 4,000 square feet
- Continued employees training and safety program
- Completed Street Department Policy Handbook
- Expanded knowledge of asphalt paving through hands-on training
- Began installation of proper sized signs according to TxMUTCD
- Trained Drainage Crews on chemical application through Tx Ag Com
- Created a consistent mowing pattern for ROW Maintenance

2010

- Continue Sign upgrade and installation according to TxMUTCD standards
- Obtain grant funding for TEEEX training to be held at the City of Leander
- Implement Signal light verification and maintenance schedules
- Begin major point repairs on S. Bagdad Road
- Continue to build the Fleet Maintenance Department to include all city owned vehicles. (Police, Fire, Permits, Parks, Streets)



Accomplishments/Expectations

Planning Department

2009

Crystal Falls Plaza (Starbucks, Cricket, Southern's Pizza, and available lease space) – completed – 5,986 square feet
McDonalds – completed – 4,260 square feet
The Village at Leander Station (TOD) – concept plan approved – 66.4 acres
Sarita Valley – preliminary plat - +/- 770 single-family lots, +/- 683 multi-family units, and 33.32 acres commercial
Children's Courtyard – completed – 14,885 square feet
Wrench Funeral Home – completed – 4,340 square feet
Texaco Convenience Store – completed – 3,500 square feet
Tile Warehouse on Nameless Road – under construction – 7,500 square feet
Holiday Inn Express – site development plans approved – 18,432 square feet
LISD A.C. Bible Stadium – completed – 182,513 square feet
Bagdad Meadows Research Building – completed – 12,000 square feet
A+ Federal Credit Union – completed – 3,882 square feet
B&B Body & Paint – under construction – 20,888 square feet
CVS – under review – 12,900 square feet
County Glen Plaza (jeweler, restaurant, grocery store, and lease space) – completed – 15,970 square feet
Leander Village (grocery store and available lease space) – completed
Gateway Lot 7 (AT&T, Great Clips, restaurant, and lease space) – under construction – 11,463 square feet

2010

Continue to provide high quality customer service
Continue to revise the development process as needed to improve response time, departmental coordination and review quality
Pursue training as needed for Planning and Zoning Commissioners and for staff to better perform duties and to maintain AICP certification
Implement the Comprehensive Plan by working with the Comprehensive Plan Update Committee to initiate new proposals
Continue budgeted renovations to the Economic Development Office (Adams House)
Continue staff support and training to the Planning and Zoning Commission and the Board of Adjustment
Identify green initiatives for development rules, the planning process and departmental operations
Continue to help improve interdepartmental coordination



Accomplishments/Expectations

Parks & Recreation

2009

Renewed program and event sponsorships with Suddenlink for the Full Moon Concert Series and Bluegrass Festival, H-E-B Plus! for Spring Egg-Stravaganza and NFL Pepsi Punt, Pass & Kick

First time facility in Leander (Skate Park)

Expanded use of the Morning Club Activity Center (Painting Class, Canasta Club)

Expanded Movies in the Park from 6 to 8 movies

Managed Capital Metro Build Central Texas Sidewalk Grants and Bagdad Road Sidewalk Grant through TxDOT

Received two new vans from Capital Metro to expand program participation

2010

Maintain and manage City parks in a manner that encourages public use in a safe and healthy environment

Continue maintenance of non-recreation areas and City-owned facility landscapes

Provide programs and special events that enhance the quality of life for residents of all ages

Expand recreational programming to meet the needs of our growing population

Work with regional partners to plan for the future and implement projects that mutually benefit Leander and the region

Secure partnerships and resources that enhance the quality of life in Leander

Provide staff with continuing education opportunities



Accomplishments/Expectations

Golf Course

2009

Brought more than \$1,000,000 in during a year that was far from normal
Kept our expenses under budget during some tough times
Food/beverage department was profitable
Increased tournament revenue from the previous year
Senior Men's Golf Association is once again a big part of operation
Had doors open for 359 days and consistently offered guests professional service, and an enjoyable experience
Total golf course maintenance operation within budget
Kept course in good playing condition during a drought
Cleaned up left side of #14 to speed up play
Improved creek area between #17 fairway and #13 tee area for better drainage and beautification
Minimized damage done by feral hogs with a grub control plan
Improved left side of #18 from 225 yards to green by adding 25 more yards of fairway and moved old cart path to re-route around the top of Crystal Falls
Received several comments about greens being the best in Greater Austin
Improved neatness of trees during winter months



Accomplishments/Expectations

Golf Course (cont.)

2010

- Maintain reputation for the best public golf course greens in the Greater Austin Area
- Lead water source efficiency
- Repair damaged cart paths
- Maintain feral hog damage with grub control plan
- Maintain fire ant control
- Clean course of Dallas grass and other weeds
- Improve turf in new area next to the falls and #18 green, area near left side of #4 green, #8 blue tee and #11 tee area
- Add new tees to #18 and improve levelness of gold tees
- Clean up #9/10, 12, 13 creek areas
- Keep operations within the budget and increase rounds
- Look for ways to start a capital improvement fund for the course grounds
- Keep course maintained with an experienced and well trained staff
- Improve customer service through consistency of quality and conditions led by communication among staff and our guests
- Get Men's Golf Association more active in our operation
- Increase food/beverage sales through controlled costs, waste and offering specials on weekends and beverage cart on weekdays
- Insure Crystal Falls residents know that you don't have to be a golfer to enjoy our grill
- Facility become self supportive
- Financially stand alone, show a profit and also pay down the debt



Accomplishments/Expectations

Library

2009

Gate count increased 163,224 or 254%

Children's programs increased 328 or 221%

Circulation increased 115,031 or 10%

Material numbers increased 31,489 or 27%

Public access computers increased 24 or 10%

Internet uses increased more than 43,630 or 17%

Staffing increased to eight or 14%

2010

Increase collection size to 40,000 volumes

Welcome 185,000 visitors

Expand programming and special activities

Improve customer service through excellent resource materials and programs along with professional, knowledgeable staff



Accomplishments/Expectations

Urban Design Officer

2009

Drainage and Water Quality concept was developed for the region

Wastewater Reuse Master Plan for the 2,300-acre, award-winning Transit Oriented Development (TOD) was completed

Landowners agreed to fund Leander "T" construction design, through development agreements with the City and Williamson County of an extension of CR 269, from US183 to the toll road

Concept Plan for 160 acres was approved by the City for re-development of the Capital Metro Park & Ride along with surrounding acreage within the TOD

Memorandum of Understanding was executed between the City and the Central Texas Regional Mobility Authority (CTRMA) to address access management, funding partnership parameters, future improvements and operation and maintenance issues

A "Special District" was formed within the TOD for the enhancement of development options in the northern portion of the TOD

The TOD Transect Map and the Planned Unit Development (PUD) Plan were amended to allow for up to eight story buildings in the vicinity of the rail station

2010

Finalize the Leander "T" construction

Construct of Hero Way (CR 269 Extension)

Prepare site development plans for the re-development of the Capital Metro Park & Ride

Identify a partnership for the construction of a 500-space parking structure near the rail stop

Facilitate the proliferation of development within the TOD

Continue the City's effort to realize a vision and concept embodied by the plan and code of the TOD



Accomplishments/Expectations

Economic Development

2009

- Maintained 108-month, fifteen-factor, Economic Indicators Database
- Updated 67 existing industry Primary Employer's Directory
- Developed 87-site, 11,000-plus acre Site/Facility Inventory
- Sent over 112,000 individual emails since 1 January 2009
- Submitted over 75 stories for inclusion in various media outlets
- Co-hosted with the Greater Leander Chamber of Commerce the monthly Leander Business Circle and Real Estate Roundtable meetings
- Relocated One Source Manufacturing Technologies' 35,000 square foot, 75 employee manufacturing facility
- Expanded Suncoast Post-Tension's 35,000 square foot, 20 employee manufacturing facility
- Panelist and/or Speaker at ten different Central Texas professional association meetings
- Formation of the Public Art Committee

2010

- Maintain fifteen-factor, Economic Indicators Database
- Expand 67 existing Primary Employers
- Assist with development of 96-site, 8,300-plus acre Site/Facility Inventory
- Send over 150,000 individual emails
- Assisted Williamson County and Regional Partners with Freeport Exemption passage
- Host the annual Prospector's Bus Tour
- Submit Leander's story to various media outlets
- Co-host with the Greater Leander Chamber of Commerce the monthly Leander Business Circle and Real Estate Roundtable meetings
- Expand retail opportunities at the Gateway at Leander, Forum Shopping Center and other retail locations in Leander
- Relocate at least two manufacturing facilities
- Retain or expand two manufacturing facilities
- Speak to at least ten different professional association meetings
- Host Leander's Classic Car and Cars and Coffee Cruise Ins
- Expand the presence of healthcare and higher education



Community Numbers

City of Leander – 22.57 square miles

Extra-Territorial Jurisdiction – 38.94 square miles

City Employees – 165

38th fastest growing City in Texas (out of 1,522 government entities), Absolute Numbers and 9th fastest growing City in Texas, Percentage (the community added 18,218 residents in 120 months (ten years))

Williamson County Unemployment Rate – 7.55% (end of year 2009)

Percent Growth – 12.63% average annual growth, 2000 thru 2009

(average composite of electric, natural gas and water meter counts & sales tax receipts)

Total Construction Value - \$75.5 million in 2009

Sales Tax Collections - \$1.7 million in 2009

Budget – **\$15,097,927** for 2009-2010 Fiscal Year

Median Home Sales Price - **\$149,159** (ten year average of existing/new)

Total Estimated Taxable Value - \$1,584,424,785

Tax Rates (per \$100 valuation)

City of Leander	\$0.600420
Williamson County	\$0.459999
Leander Independent School District	\$1.422340
Upper Brushy Water Control Improvement Dist.	\$0.020000
Austin Community College	\$0.096500
Total	\$2.599259



Conclusions

Great Place to Be
Moderate Cost of Living
Diversity
Emerging Technology
Healthcare and Higher Education
Intra-City Mobility
Planned Community
Green Space
Culture
Small City Atmosphere
Entertainment District
24-Hour City
Utilities
Identity

Inspire
Lead
Learn
Partner
Listen
Set the Pace
Focus
Communicate
Innovate
Challenge
Change
Believe
Fearless
Sustainability
Long-Haul



Thank you for the opportunity to serve.



The City will provide its citizens with the highest quality of service through the effective and efficient use of all available resources.

Leander residents are a critical component to the success of the community.

Your educational attainment, experience and commitment to build a sustainable community are reflected in the City's philosophy and policies.

The Council and staff will strive for continuous improvement.

Your participation in that effort will enable Leander to be the best possible community it can be.

John Cowman, Mayor

