



STRATEGIC PLAN 2023





It is a great time to be a part of the fast-growing Hutto community! We intend for this Strategic Plan to grow and evolve over the coming years to prepare for the growth we all know is coming. City leaders have the responsibility to properly plan for the future, and I believe that this document is a great start to that planning.

The Strategic Plan considered community input received through a statistically valid survey and facilitated sessions. I believe the foundation of any great city in Texas begins with the infrastructure needed to serve current and future residents. Thus, our Strategic Plan is built on the Capital Improvement Plan (CIP).

New residents and businesses who have arrived or who are planning to join the Hippo family can rest assured they are our priority. City staff will continue to work diligently and efficiently to prepare for the upcoming growth while balancing to address current issues. We are a City of innovation, inquiring about the flexibility to find unique revenue sources that allow us to provide the highest quality of service with minimal tax burden.

Within this plan, you will see a list of pillars (goals) and corresponding strategies the City plans to complete within the following 24 months. These strategies align with Hutto's immediate needs for infrastructure and start the process of planning for future growth, so as to not get behind again.

Hutto is fortunate to foster a diverse community. People continue to choose to move to Hutto for a variety of reasons. I hope you are eager to participate in all Hutto has to offer. I thank you for being a part of Hippo Nation and for investing time in the health and success of Hutto.

Mayor Mike Snyder



The Path to a Strategic Plan

The path to the City of Hutto's current Strategic Plan stretches back to October 2021. The Hutto City Council met to begin discussing key aspects of their roles together, protocols, and leadership responsibilities, collectively known as a governance model.

The next step on the path came in January 2022, when then-Interim City Manager Isaac Turner invited a facilitator to not only continue this crucial conversation, but also to brainstorm and move towards agreement on the City's pillars—also known as goals—and core values. Out of these talks emerged the four Pillars which you can see on signs throughout City Hall and have informally guided City decision-making ever since.

In 2022, the City collected data and public feedback to update its long-range plan for land use, resulting in the "Hutto SOAR 2040" comprehensive

plan. Hutto SOAR 2040 is the direct result of significant community input, from which the City was able to thoughtfully develop a broad Vision Statement.

Next, City Council met again with a facilitator in March 2023 to add the voices of new Council members to the conversation, as supported by City Manager James Earp. Together, they reviewed and confirmed their governance model; identified key elements they saw as further illuminating the Vision Statement (these are the words and phrases you'll see surrounding the Statement on pages 3-4); and identified key projects and directives in anticipation of the Fiscal Year 2024 City Budget.

Entirely fundamental to all of this work was the Council's clear and committed focus on capital improvement plan (CIP) projects. Without enhancing City

roads and infrastructure such as water and wastewater systems, the pillars would not be possible, and the Vision Statement would crumble. Hutto's capital improvement projects are the foundation on which the City pillars are built, and the Vision Statement is like a roof protecting this framework and bringing the entire structure together.

In June 2023, the path came to a critical juncture as City Council approved the combination of these pieces in the new Strategic Plan. However, as this plan is designed to hold the City for about a year, Council will need to resume the conversation in 2024 to develop and approve a standard 5-year plan.

Follow along as the City moves forward with this important work by visiting www.huttotx.gov/strategicplan. Or to see updates on capital projects, go to www.huttotx.gov/CIP.



Accessible **Variety of Housing** **Inclusive**
Innovative **Diverse Job Opportunities**

Hutto is a sustainable, innovative, and well-managed city that honors its history and culture to attract quality businesses, visitors, and new residents. It cultivates an atmosphere of inclusion and connection, offering community activity and entertainment options that strengthen its quality of life, and attracts and retains people from all walks of life. Hutto focuses on its small-town feel and upholds "The Hippo Way."

Well-rounded Tax Base **Transparent**
Safe **Youthful** **Financially Sound** **Stable**





Collaborate for Operational Excellence and Efficiency

The City of Hutto strives to be a beacon that others can look towards by holding each other accountable, achieving leadership alignment, and actively seeking efficiency. 2023-24 strategies include:

- Enhance the annual budget development process with a new budget calendar featuring public input and City Council direction early in the schedule
- Launch strategic work groups among staff, called HUBs, to streamline tactical collaboration and problem-solving
- Implement a project management software across the organization that increases efficiency



3 Grow Responsibly and Sustainably

The City of Hutto will leverage its rapid growth through strategic planning, recruiting revenue-generating businesses, and adopting innovative infrastructure policies and projects. 2023-24 strategies include:

- Begin discussions and planning to have SH-130 ramps constructed
- Increase the focus on preventative maintenance of current infrastructure to proactively repair roads, drainage, and utilities
- Continue planning for the long-term effects of new developments, to include traffic, trails, utilities and drainage



2 Maintain Financial Stability

The City of Hutto is committed to fiscal responsibility which includes transparency, long-term financial health, and alternate revenue sources. 2023-24 strategies include:

- Implement budgeting software for a more accurate and comprehensive budget, with information available to the public in real time
- Expand creative financing measures over time through more public-private partnerships, grants, and partners
- Move City functions in-house that would increase efficiency and save funds as compared to outside contractors, such as engineering



4 Create the Highest Quality of Life

The City of Hutto is proud to be consistently ranked among the safest cities in Texas. In addition to maintaining this standard, Hutto will support a high quality of life by improving the parks system and adding entertainment venues. 2023-24 strategies include:

- Continue improvements of Fritz Park, Durango Park, and Brushy Creek Amphitheater
- Prioritize public safety through increased pay, staffing, and purchasing supportive technological tools
- Establish an Emergency Management Department that is focused on prevention, preparedness, response, and recovery