

FACT SHEET

Expedited Permitting Program



In August 2013, the Austin City Council adopted Resolution No. 20130808-063 pertaining to expedited permitting. That resolution directed the City Manager to do the following:

- >> Consider the types of projects eligible for expedited review and whether new fees and positions are needed to implement and offer an expedited review service.
- >> Integrate the research and analysis requirements of the resolution into the scope of services for hiring a consultant to conduct an organizational analysis (Zucker Systems)

In April 2015, the Austin City Council adopted Resolution No. 20150402-014, which directed the City Manager to do the following:

- >> Explore options for expanding and modifying our expedited permitting process to achieve more affordability and other community benefits.

Accordingly, the Development Services Department is in the process of developing a proposed Expedited Permitting Program. The goal is to decrease the total length of plan review for small businesses, large commercial and residential projects. Benefits to applicants would be predictability, single plan review session by all pertinent review disciplines, reduced time value of money costs and other reduced costs resulting from a shorter plan review process.

The expedited permitting program being contemplated does not apply to site plan review, but rather to commercial and residential structures. Similar to other best practice expedited review models, separate teams would be created specifically for applicants that desire to pay a premium for expedited plan review.

PROGRAM OVERVIEW

- An optional program for accelerated plan review
- Single review session with team of plan reviewers of all pertinent disciplines
- Applicant's consultants attend the review session to make revisions or decisions as needed
- Permits are issued after review sessions if codes and ordinances are met

TEAM STRUCTURE

- A Plan Review Division Manager administers the program
- Two Plan Review Coordinators are each assigned a strike team
- Business Process Specialist & two Planner II positions support application intake, meeting coordination and fee processing

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Expedited Permitting Program



REVIEW DISCIPLINES

- Building
- Zoning
- Arborist
- Mechanical
- Electric
- Plumbing
- Fire
- Health
- Industrial Waste

PROPOSED PROGRAM RATES

- A service rate of \$180 per hour, per discipline + standard permit fees will be applied
- Additional charges will apply if a second round of review is needed
- A minimum two hour charge for services will be charged; overtime is 1.5 times the hourly rate
- The maximum rate for a commercial project is \$1,620 per hour at nine disciplines
- The maximum rate for a residential project is \$720 per hour at four disciplines