

**ACCOMPLISHMENTS OF THE CITY OF LEANDER**  
**(PARTIAL LIST)**  
**May 2003-March 2009**

**BY THE NUMBERS**

- 9<sup>th</sup> fastest growing City in Texas
- Williamson County Unemployment Rate – 5.66%
- Percent Growth – 13.67% average annual growth, 2000 thru 2008
- City staff increased from 105 employees to 165 employees
- Total Construction Value - \$96,125,504, in 2008
- Sales Tax Collections - \$1,656,810 in 2008
- Budget – \$17,180,926 for 2008-2009 Fiscal Year
- Median Home Sales Price - \$155,000
- Increased Sales Tax 282% during the previous five years
- \$9,200,000.00 Completed Combination Tax and Revenue Certificates of Obligation
- \$21,210,000.00 Completed General Obligation and Refunding Bond
- Annexed approximately 5,897 acres
- Extended ETJ for a total of 61.50 miles
- The City's value rose from \$ 703,304,969 in 2003 to \$ 1,495,328,127 in 2008
- Population rose from an estimated 12,500 in 2003 to an estimated 30,000 today
- Chamber Membership – 43 in 2003 to almost 400 today
- Celebrated 30<sup>th</sup> Anniversary

**PLANNING**

- Re-located historic Davis house to 104 N Brushy St
- The Planning Department held a design workshop “charrette” for the Adams House renovation
- Adopted *Transit Oriented Development* plan and *Composite Zoning Ordinance*
- Received state and national awards for Transit Oriented Development
- Published articles in “Planning” and “Practicing Planner” re: *Composite Zoning Ordinance*

- Fully supported National Accreditation for Police Department
- Coordinated the subdivision construction plan, plat, zoning and site processes
- Comprehensive Plan Update Committee (CPUC) support and development
- Developed a “How to Develop in Leander” primer that helps expedite development
- Re-vamped the development process
- Comprehensive Plan projected completion date early 2009
- Received APA “Innovative and Current Planning Awards” for *Composite Zoning Ordinance*
- Adopted new *Site Development Ordinance*
- Updated the City of Leander Zoning Ordinance and *Subdivision Ordinance and Roadway Plan*
- Hiring of Professional Staff
- Updating the Comprehensive Plan for the City of Leander
- Located a site in TOD for an ACC campus and identified partner in funding higher ed facility
- Solidified borders of the City with boundary agreements with neighboring cities
- Best Form Based Code (National Award) for the Leander TOD SmartCode – Form Based Code Institute, awarded at the 2007 Congress of New Urbanism in Philadelphia
- Creation of the Leander TIRZ No 1 and the Leander Development Authority
- Adoption of a \$59 million dollar project plan for the Leander TIRZ No 1
- Williamson County to participate at 50% of the incremental increase in value for the Leander TIRZ No 1
- Development of participation policy for developers within the Leander TIRZ No 1
- Resolution of the “Bryson Farmstead”, Texas Historical Commission/Texas Department of Transportation/Federal Highway Administration, issue for the benefit of the Leander TOD and San Gabriel Parkway;
- (Un-Official) Resolution of the FM 2243 improvements between US183 and 183A with TxDOT, to be built per the SmartCode cross-section
- Negotiation of funding from the participating landowners within the TOD for the administrative fee (\$151,000) to be paid to TxDOT in order to proceed with the design and construction of the Leander “T” (CAMPO Grant)
- Coordinated the completion of new development agreement with LISD and the City of Leander
- Initiated Leander’s and regions first TOD (Transportation Oriented Development)
- Revising the City of Leander Zoning Ordinance

## POLICE DEPARTMENT

- The Police Department has increase sworn officer positions by 45% since 2003
- Implemented Automated Police citation process to improve officer safety and court accuracy
- Saved tax payers over \$2,000,000 for new Police Station
- The Police Department received awards including the Williamson County Children's Advocacy Center officer of the year award in 2006. Two officers received honorable mention awards in '07
- The Police Department has awarded seven "Honorable Conduct Citations" and three "Meritorious Service Awards" to LPD employees during the time frame
- Increased staffing initiative in the Police Department from 37 to 49 current employees
- Increased educational profile, both formal education and vocational standings, from 26% of officers in 2004 to 55% of our officers in 2007 with one or more Bachelor, Masters Degrees or Master Peace Officer License
- The overall crime rate, as reported by Texas DPS, has been reduced by 4%
- The City reports the lowest "violent crime rate" of any of the 5 larger cities in Williamson County
- In 2004 and 2007, the department received national recognition for "National Night Out" program
- Upgraded the public safety communications system and joined the Austin / Williamson County Regional Communications network in December of 2007
- Opened new 22,000 square foot police facility, October 1, 2007
- Fully supported National Accreditation for Police Department

## FIRE DEPARTMENT

- Acquired nine pieces of rolling stock for the Fire Department
- Improved Fire Department emergency response time by 16% during the five previous years
- Improved the Fire Department's training hours by ten hours per person
- Hired architect to design new Fire Station and Fire Administration Building
- Partnership with the Williamson County Regional Animal Shelter and received Partnership Award
- Fire Station Administration/Training Facility to start construction Mid 2009
- Increased number of paid firefighters from seven in 2004 to 29 in 2008
- Increased number of firefighter volunteers from 12 to 27
- Associate Members 12 - support group for firefighters and fundraising events
- Took delivery of new Quint (75' aerial ladder)

- Started squad response concept to decrease response times
- Accepted delivery of new Command Unit from bond
- Accepted delivery of new Light and power and air trailer from bond
- Accepted delivery of new 800 mgz radios from bond
- Built new “award winning” Fire Station No 2
- Accepted delivery of new Rescue truck, Squad and Pumper
- Placed permits and inspections under fire department
- Started Citizen's Fire Academy annually
- Increased public education programs
- Established area rescue school in conjunction with TEEEX
- Established automatic mutual aid with Liberty Hill and Cedar Park fire departments
- Prepared for ISO (insurance services office) inspection to lower insurance class
- Established testing program for all fire apparatus
- Established fire hydrant testing program
- Partnered w/Cedar Park to use their fire safety house to reach every elementary school in LISD
- Remodeled warehouse building for training and storage at new Public Safety Complex
- Texas commission on fire protection certification for training facility to train Driver-Operator, Inspector, Fire Officer 1 and 2 Fire instructor 1-2-3
- Automatic Mutual aid with Cedar Park and Liberty Hill working well

## **PARKS AND RECREATION DEPARTMENT**

- Implemented new programs in Parks and Recreation, including Concerts, Bluegrass Festival, Spring Egg-Stravagnaza, Senior Recreation including day trips and Morning Club recreation area,
- Initiated the Benbrook Ranch Park Improvements
- Completed the construction of a two mile segment of the Heritage Trail
- Completed Mason Home renovations (Foundation leveling, roof, porches)
- Published the first Leander *Good Times Guide to Recreation Services*
- Exceeded facility rental revenue projections during the first six months of the year
- Began a field-use partnership with LCP Youth Sports League

- Implemented programming for Senior Citizens through our Parks Department
- Renovated the old library and opened new Parks & Recreation Office
- Developed Devine Lake Park
- Benbrook Ranch Park Grants (Texas Parks & Wildlife - \$500,000 and LCRA - \$200,000)
- Opened three new parks with 119 acres of parkland on the books

## ENGINEERING/PUBLIC WORKS

- Tentative agreement for Regional Wastewater Treatment to accommodate growth
- Master Plan for water and sewer
- Reconstruction of W Crystal Falls Parkway from 2-Lane undivided roadway to 2-lane divided roadway with 6-foot bike lanes from Whitestone Elementary to Golf Course
- Realignment of Crystal Falls Parkway from Overland Drive to Whitestone Elementary with conversion from 2-lane undivided roadway to 4-lane divided roadway
- Reconstruction of Leander Drive from E Crystal Falls Parkway to terminus
- Reconstruction of Sonny Drive from U S Hwy 183 to West Street
- Construction and realignment of Old F M 2243 from Broade to U S Hwy 183 (HEB)
- Expanded CCN to ensure utility service for future development
- Purchase of expanded R O W for Old F M 2243 for future roadway widening project
- Construction of 12-inch water line from E Crystal Falls Parkway along U S Hwy 183 and Lacy Drive to Sonny Drive and across and under U S Hwy 183 and the Railroad to Leander Drive
- Construction of 8-inch water line loop connection at the southern end of the Middle Pressure Plane inset from Leander Drive to C R 273
- Construction of 12-inch encased water line under Hwy 183-A
- Open cut installation 42-inch and 36-inch encasement pipe for future water line crossings of Reagan Blvd and Hwy 183-A
- Construction of 8-inch water line in Leander Drive E Crystal Falls Parkway to terminus cul de sac of Leander Drive, including water and wastewater stub-outs to all lots
- Construction of 16-inch water line along W Crystal Falls Parkway to northwestern boundary of Grand Mesa Five at the end of High Lonesome
- Construction of 24-inch water line at E Crystal Falls Parkway from Ridgewood South to C R 271
- Constructed 18-inch water line from Overland Drive to Whitestone Elementary

- Completed reconstruction of Bagdad Road North from 2-lane undivided to 5-lane undivided roadway from Crystal Falls Parkway to Old F M 2243
- Completed construction of 16-inch water line along the east side of the railroad from E Crystal Falls Parkway to F M 2243
- Completed construction/acquisition of 12-inch water line from Hwy 183 to the east side of Hwy 183-A and 18-inch water line segment from along the east of Hwy 183-A
- Detected conflicts in existing water and wastewater CCN's; filed four water and wastewater CCN Applications with TCEQ for amend existing and/or obtain new, dual water and wastewater CCN's
- Completed the first Water Model of City's water system
- Completed the first comprehensive Water Master Plan through year 2025
- Completed the first comprehensive Wastewater Master Plan through year 2025
- Completed Phase One and Phase Two Drainage Master Plans
- Update of Community Impact Fee Land Use Plan, Capital Improvements Plan, and Impact Fees
- Key role in establishment of the Brushy Creek Regional Utility Authority (BCRUA)
- Established the City's first GIS/CAD position creating mapping, drafting, addressing, CAD, etc ,
- Completed construction of 24-inch water line from C R 271 to Reagan Blvd
- Completed construction of Mason Creek Neighborhood Drainage Improvements
- Completed rehabilitation of Mason Creek Channel at Honeysuckle Drive including recovery of backyards along failed channel embankment
- Completed construction of 15-inch wastewater interceptor from Lakeline Blvd to U S Hwy 183
- Completed construction of 24-inch waterline along Bagdad Road North and C R 280 from Benbrook Subdivision to new 1.5 MG Elevated Storage Tank
- Completed construction of 1.5 MG Elevated Storage Tank
- Completed construction 5,000 gpm Water Booster Station on Bagdad Road North to supply new 1.5 MG Elevated Storage Tank
- Completed design of County Glen Wastewater Improvements and lift station
- Completed Phase One design of Blockhouse Creek Wastewater Interceptor Project
- Commenced Phase Two design of Blockhouse Creek Wastewater Interceptor Project
- Commenced design of E Crystal Falls Parkway reconstruction project in order to convert from 2-lane undivided to 4-lane divided roadway from U S Hwy 183 to Reagan Blvd
- Commenced design of Bagdad Road North reconstruction project in order to convert from 2-lane undivided to 5-lane undivided roadway from Old F M 2243 to C R 280

- Commenced design of Brushy Creek Wastewater Interceptor from C R 179 to Reagan Blvd
- Negotiated terms of agreement for the purchase of capacity in Cedar Park's North Brushy Creek Wastewater Interceptor and North Brushy Creek Wastewater Interceptor Extension
- Participated as major partner in the creation of a regional water supply system, the BCRUA
- Increased the City's Raw Water Reservation with LCRA to 24,000 ac-ft /yr
- Executed Boundary Agreements with Cedar Park, Liberty Hill, and Jonestown
- Negotiated terms for entry into the Brushy Creek Regional Wastewater System
- Created Water Conservation Plan, first in the State to mandate 6-inch minimum top soil layer, first in U S to mandate 1.3 gallons per flush toilets, outlaws all varieties of St Augustine grasses except the one drought resistance variety
- Complete Phase Two design of Blockhouse Creek Wastewater Interceptor Project
- Complete design of E Crystal Falls Parkway reconstruction project in order to convert from 2-lane undivided to 4-lane divided roadway from U S Hwy 183 to Reagan Blvd
- Complete design of Bagdad Road North reconstruction project in order to convert from 2-lane undivided to 5-lane undivided roadway from Old F M 2243 to C R 280
- Adopt the first comprehensive Water and Wastewater Master Plan through year 2025
- Adopt Phase Two Drainage Master Plan
- Adopted Community Impact Fee Land Use Plan, Capital Improvements Plan, and Impact Fees
- Finalize route and begin easement purchases for Brushy Creek Interceptor Project
- Finalize Development Agreement for Winding Creek Estates
- Construction of Drainage Improvements along and across E Crystal Falls Parkway
- Completed (GIS) improvements and aerial photo mapping with regional partners
- Completed 5,000 gpm Water Booster Station on Bagdad Road North
- Completed design of Regional Water Treatment Plant and acquisition of site
- Constructed Blockhouse Creek Wastewater Interceptor (Phase One)
- Continued redesign of E Crystal Falls Parkway reconstruction project
- Completed realignment and redesign of Bagdad Road North reconstruction project
- Commenced design of Brushy Creek Wastewater Interceptor from C R 179 to Reagan Blvd
- Completed Master Agreement for the BCRUA Phase One Water System
- Completed Wastewater Treatment Plant Discharge Permit Renewal Application

- Updated Community Impact Fees, Land Use Plan and Capital Improvements Plan
- Completed County Glen Subdivision Drainage Master Plan (Phase Two)
- Completed construction of off-site drainage improvements for the Gateway at Leander
- Finalized route and began easement purchases for Brushy Creek Interceptor Project
- Completed Sandy Creek Water Transmission Line relocation
- Completed City limits and ETJ aerial pictometry project
- Hired qualified, experienced professional engineer for Assistant City Engineer position
- Key role member in establishing Brushy Creek Regional Utility Authority
- Created and staffed GIS department for City
- BCRUA Water Treatment Plant, Transmission and Water System Acquired 32 acre Plant Site
- East Crystal Falls Parkway construction improvements – March 2009 start date
- Bagdad Road sidewalk improvements south of Crystal Falls – construction to begin June 2009
- Sidewalk project west side of Bagdad from Crystal Falls Parkway to Library to begin June 2009

## FINANCE/ACCOUNTING

- Started with 0 months expenditures in reserves and now have 3 months expenditures in reserves
- Funded 2006 Bond election for Police station funding, new Fire Station and Administration Building, road improvements and Fire Department equipment
- Developed and approved new Protocols for good governance
- Implemented on-line bill paying for utilities and municipal court
- Set up purchasing department
- Completed Arbitrage Rebate Calculations
- Achieved reserve capacities in all funds as established in the City's Fund Balance Policy
- Employed City Receptionist
- Completed selection of new auditor per City Charter
- Purchasing manual written and approved by the City Council
- Consolidated city-wide purchases of printing services, office supplies, copy paper, janitorial supplies and cell phones
- Formed purchasing alliance with Cedar Park, Round Rock, Georgetown, Hutto and Taylor

- Updated Incode (financial software) to enable complete utilization of the Purchasing Module
- Implemented “greener” administrative practices: Paper, Can, Plastic and Metal recycling
- Instituted Automated Meter Reading Pilot Project
- Employed Comptroller
- RFP and Selection of new Bank Depository (Bank of America)
  1. Lower monthly banking costs – lower fees and consolidated several bank accounts
  2. Utilize investment sweep to improve interest earnings
  3. Cash management features(a) remote deposit(b) paymode concentrator(c)positive pay
- Collected from Williamson County \$500,000 for County’s commitment to CR 272 project
- Implemented Project Accounting Module onto our INCODE system
- Worked with First Southwest to complete Arbitrage Compliance requirements
- Revised Investment Policy in March 2007
- Submitted FY 2008-09 budget to GFOA Budget Excellence Award anticipated 3/09
- Set up Security Deposits for Permits
- Cleaned up the Permits System for Accuracy
- Reconciled the Utility report between Eco and the city
- Check reconciliation program up and running - Tyler Technologies Program system
- New Phone System – New Servers, T-1 Lines, Fiber, VPN (Virtual Private Network)
- Remodeled Utility Billing Office
- Divided workstations in Utilities for accountability
- Solid waste franchise agreement established to improve service and reduce truck traffic
- Budget prepared in order to acquire Government Finance Officer Association recognition
- Took Bond Rating from “B” to “AAA” with a savings of millions of dollars over the life of the bonds
- Instituted the State Gas Card Program
- Automated Utility Department
- Received in excess of \$ 8,144,185 in Grants for improvements for the community
- Implemented comprehensive accounting process for all departments

## MISCELLANEOUS

- Completed renovation to east side of City Hall

- Host Leander bus tour events The city hosted over 1,300 participants on a 32-mile tour
- The news media reported stories of and about Leander from March '05 thru August '07 revealed 275 stories about Leander This equates to 2 1/2 times per week where Leander appeared in the Hill Country News, Community Impact News, American-Statesman and Austin Business Journal
- Superintendent of the Year awarded to Golf Course Superintendent
- Golf Course rated one of the best municipal Golf Courses in Central Texas
- "How to do Business with the City of Leander" presentation to the Chamber of Commerce's Leander Business Circle
- Completion and opening of the Library
- Acquired 50 year water supply to accommodate growth
- Hired City Manager familiar with "High Growth" Strategy
- Established Comprehensive City goals at annual meetings
- Completed Commercial Development with HEB which is currently valued at \$26,000,000
- Opened Gateway Center which is currently valued at \$22,000,000
- Established new Comprehensive Zoning Ordinance
- Implemented ADA compliant City website
- Improved quality of Golf Course with capital improvement projects; rounds up by 30%
- Expanded Municipal Court by adding a Warrant Officer and an Associate Judge
- Creation of 2300 acre TOD which is the largest for any city in the State and the first in the Region
- Received recognition for City/County Regional Animal Shelter
- Streamlined development process for local and national commercial developments
- Recruited two primary employers with the City's first Economic Development incentive
- Received awards from Governor's office recognizing the City's efforts in Economic Development
- Reinstated city wide annual clean-up day to improve community appearance
- Implemented programming for Senior Citizens through our Parks Department
- Cut our city tax rate three years in a row
- CR 273 Extension through TOD to FM 2243 – acquired \$4.03 million grant from CAMPO
- Gateway at Leander (Lowe's, Kohls, IBC Bank Austin Java, McDonalds) open mid 2008
- Partner with Lowe's to raise public awareness about living a green life

- Maintained annual Council Program of Work Session to identify City goals
- Implemented ADA compliant City website
- Instituted Automated Meter Reading Pilot Project
- Received recognition for City/County Regional Animal Shelter
- Recruited business and expanded two primary employers w/City's first incentive agreements
- Reinstated city wide annual clean-up day to improve community appearance
- Identified citizens of Old Town interested in improving their properties, options for implementation
- Identified bus routes, internal to the City of Leander, to access the rail stop with Capital Metro
- Coordinated efforts to begin construction of Mel Mathis Avenue along with San Gabriel Parkway
- Created Leander Arts Ordinance
- Suggested passage of the Freeport Exemption
- Formalized the community's business retention, expansion and relocation with e-Synchronist
- Visited ten Primary Employers as part of the community's *Business Retention* effort
- Maintained business relocation efforts with the Austin Chamber, and Governor's office
- Improved statistical resources (Economic Indicators, Community Profile, Site/Facility Inventory)
- Hosted 150 business development allies during the Prospector's Tour Responded to roughly 63 Requests for Proposals (RFP) for office/industrial relocations
- Participated in the Greater Austin Chamber of Commerce (GACC) *Site Selector's Showcase*, Regional Partner's meetings and other activities
- Improved BR&E visitation program
- Co-Hosted *State of the City* and *State of the District*
- Continued regional participation
- Established more economic development partner programs
- Attended the International Council of Shopping Centers (ICSC) RECon Annual Event
- Initiated Master Gardner's Project at Davis House and Adam's House
- Established Parmer/Reagan Corridor Group