



**MEMORANDUM**

TO: KXAN Public Files

RE: Issues and Programs Report – Second Quarter 2012  
April 1 – June 30

DATE: July 5, 2012

The major significant problems and needs of the Austin community are:

Attached are examples of local news reports, public service efforts, local programming, and syndicated programs that have addressed these issues. Additionally, as an NBC affiliate, we broadcast network programs that discuss these problems and needs from a national perspective. These include “Dateline” and “Meet the Press.”

**PROGRAMS OF SIGNIFICANT INTEREST**

<b>NAME OF PROGRAM</b>	<b>DAYS AIRED</b>	<b>TIME AIRED</b>
Austin News Today	Monday-Sunday	(M-F) 5:00-7:00 a.m. (Sat) 7:00-9:00 a.m. (Sun) 7 & 9 a.m.
Austin News Today Show Cut-ins	Monday-Friday	7:26-7:30 a.m. 7:56-8:00 a.m. 8:26-8:30 a.m. 8:56-9:00 a.m.
Austin News @ noon	Monday-Friday	12-1:00 p.m.
Austin News @ 5	Monday-Friday + Sunday	5:00-5:30 p.m.
Austin News @ 6	Monday - Saturday	6-6:30 p.m.
Austin News @ 10	Monday-Friday Saturday-Sunday	10:00-10:35 p.m. 10:00-10:30 p.m.

All of these programs are produced locally and are a mix of news, weather and sports.

## GOVERNMENT & POLITICS

4/9/12 Politics and Economy

Duration :40 seconds

Stock prices fell today which was a reaction to more bad economic news. After three months of record growth, hiring was down in March. President Obama and his Republican rivals plan to address the news tomorrow. But they all took a break today, spending Easter Monday with their families. President Obama welcomed kids at the White House. Mitt Romney posted a family Easter egg photo. And Rick Santorum spent time with his ailing daughter, Bella. Santorum is placing his hopes for the GOP nomination in two big upcoming primaries. Hogan Gidley, Santorum Campaign Spokesman: "We've got to do well in Pennsylvania. We need to win that state but also win Texas. You have heard about the movement afoot over the weekend. Actually Texas could be winner take all by simple majority. If that becomes the case we could have 155 delegates just overnight right there." The Texas primary is May 29th.

4/9/12 Travis County Voter Cards

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They are in Austin from Houston, Dallas, Tyler, Midland and all throughout the state. Their message is the same: "We want our rights." About 3,000 state union workers marched to the Capitol for the "Save Our State" rally. They're hoping that not showing up to work will show lawmakers how well the state will run without them. "This budget is going to ruin us," said union worker T.C. Gillespie, adding that "325,000 jobs easy, gone by the end of the budget. No good." Bus loads of marchers were dropped off at Waterloo Park in Downtown Austin, where the march began. They carried signs reading, "State workers, Work for the state," "Cut Perry, not jobs, and "Have guts, no cuts." Speakers told the crowd as they head back to work tomorrow, it's their duty to recruit more union members.

5/18/12 Ron Paul TX GOP Convention

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Though he has stepped away from actively campaigning, U.S. Rep. Ron Paul – the lone Texan left in the Republican race for the White House – will headline the state's GOP convention in Fort Worth this summer. During the first day of the event June 7 Paul will be featured during a breakout session titled "Uniting Republicans and Balancing the Federal Budget." "His breakout session will undoubtedly be one of the most highly attended special events during the three-day convention, and I know many of our delegates will be interested in hearing about his principled approach to shrinking the size of our federal government from such a major national figure in our party," said Texas GOP Chairman Steve Munisteri in a statement. Rick Santorum who bowed out of the GOP presidential contest last month will also speak at the convention, though his portion of the weekend will be closed to the public.

5/14/12 Williamson County DA Race

Duration 1:00 minute

Political punches are thrown on the first day of early voting in the race for *Williamson County District Attorney*. On one side, incumbent DA John Bradley, and on the other, current county attorney "Jana Duty" - who is using a high profile murder case against her opponent. *KXAN News* caught up with both candidates today to talk about Michael Morton the man wrongfully convicted of his wife's 1986 murder. Recently, DNA evidence cleared him of the crime - testing that Bradley fought for six years. Voters told us, it's important to know about the case when heading to the ballot box, but some said it's a little distracting. Jana Duty: There are a lot of really important issues in this race that are being overshadowed. John Bradley: We need to focus this race right back on the experience of the prosecutor. "Duty" just received the endorsement of "Caitlin Baker" who is the daughter of another murdered woman connected to the man now charged in the death of Morton's wife. Bradley just received the endorsement of Governor Rick Perry.

6/11/12 Gabby Giffords Seat

Duration :45 seconds

Former Arizona Congresswoman *Gabrielle Giffords* is campaigning for her replacement. Ron Barber used to work for Giffords and was also hurt in the same shooting that wounded Giffords in January 2011. Today Giffords and her husband Mark Kelly stopped by Barber's campaign headquarters where many volunteers were manning the phones to help get out the vote. The couple also attended a campaign rally for Barber over the weekend. Kelly says they are Barber's biggest supporters. "When we were discussing her resignation, it became very clear to her that the best person to run for the seat she was resigning was Ron Barber." Barber is up against Jesse Kelly, a Tea Party Member who ran against Giffords in the last election. Voters go to the polls tomorrow.

6/13/12 Krusee Complaint

Duration :55 seconds

A former state representative from right here in Central Texas was accused of spending thousands in campaign money for "personal use" years after he left office. This week, the watchdog group - Texans for Public Justice filed a complaint with the state's ethics commission against Mike Krusee, the Republican who once held a House seat out of Williamson County. The group says it's identified nearly 95-thousand dollars of "personal" expenses from the account since Krusee left office in 2009. We looked and found many of those expenses are for lavish hotels and pricey food and drinks. Craig McDonald, Texans for Public Justice: "He clearly will have to pay a fine that equals the amount of misspent money. Perhaps a district attorney will be called in to see if there were any other laws broken in the process." Krusee has reportedly said the expenses were related to positions he holds because of his time in the legislature. So far, he has not returned our calls or emails.

## **TRANSPORTATION**

4/9/12 TXDOT 2 Million

Duration 1:20 minutes

Sasha Wytrwal said "Mopac is kind of bumper-to-bumper all the time lately, even on the weekends." But starting in the middle of next year, construction is set to begin on tolled managed lanes that would run from Parmer Lane to Ceasar Chavez, helping reduce the growing congestion. At a meeting Monday night, the CAMPO board was toying with the idea of spending pretty much all of the extra federal and state dollars, 130-million dollars worth, towards this specific project. Mike Heiligenstein says, "It would add some elements that would probably save us three to six months. So, it's significant." The CTRMA already has around \$70-million of the nearly \$200 million needed for the project. The additional \$130-million would help fund the rest without using an external loan source. It would also shave about 25 to 30-million off the overall cost of building those lanes. Heiligenstein says, "So, this actually makes the project less expensive." CAMPO would still have to decide whether they would use the money to invest in the project, or as a loan that would be paid back over the next two decades. But, some on the five-county board have concerns that the money isn't spread out enough, and should go towards projects that would be more beneficial to the region, like I-35. But, according to the rules, that won't be likely. Maureen McCoy says, "The only project that meets the criteria that we've been given is the Mopac Improvement Project."

#### 4/9/12 Metro Rapid

Duration 1:05 minutes

A big announcement tomorrow for public transportation in Austin: The Federal Transit Administration will be in town to make official a multi-million dollar grant, the bulk of the money to pay for Capital Metro's rapid bus project. About half of the 47-point-6 million dollar project's cost will buy twenty-two 60-foot-long buses and eighteen 40-foot-long buses for the North Lamar-South Congress and North Burnet-South Lamar routes. At 60 feet long, this bus dwarfs what Austin now has on the road. And passengers will be able to enter at any of three doors instead of one. Plus, special equipment will extend green-light time when approaching traffic signals. The agency says these enhanced routes will carry more than 21-thousand people per day. More frequent than other buses, these will have about ten minutes between stops at rush hour. Erica McKewen: "We're going to be putting these buses on the most densely populated and traveled corridors in Austin." The project also includes new stations along the routes about a mile apart, with special electronic signs for bus times. Those stations will also be covered. It's all set to start in 2014.

#### 5/11/12 TxDOT Plans Fewer Changes to Loop 360

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After hearing the objections from wide range of motorists and elected leaders, the Texas Department of Transportation has decide to pursue fewer changes to Loop 360. TxDOT said Wednesday that it will continue to design conventional intersection improvements on a southern section of Loop 360 near Mopac Boulevard and Barton Creek Mall, but that construction is unfunded. However, the state agency is still seeking funding sources. They will continue to work on plans to synchronize the signals along the corridor to help improve traffic congestion. "TxDOT listened to what the community said about the improvements proposed for Loop 360, and cared deeply about that feedback as we considered how to address congestion in the area," said Carlos Lopez, the chief engineer

for TxDOT's Austin District. "TxDOT honored its commitment to only implement improvements to Loop 360 with the support of the community and that's why plans are scaled back." Rep. Donna Howard, D-Austin, issued a statement Wednesday in reaction to the changes. "I am frustrated by the Texas Department of Transportation's decision to cancel the current planning effort along the State Loop 360 corridor," Howard wrote. "I fear this decision will result in a Do Nothing scenario along Loop 360 over the next 10-20 years. After the strong opposition to unfamiliar "innovative intersection improvements" voiced at the public meetings that TxDOT finally held, it feels as though TxDOT has decided to take the easy route by shelving the issue altogether. TxDOT has classified portions of SL 360 as the 71st and 72nd most congested roadway segments in the state. I believe state staff, appointed transportation officials and elected representatives must work closely with taxpayers to identify and prioritize which Central Texas transportation infrastructure needs deserve the limited funding available and how best to address them."

#### 5/16/12 Urban Rail Update

Duration 1:30 minutes

Thomas Butler Transportation Director, Downtown Austin Alliance says Our current system is maxed out. You can't expand I-35, you can't widen it- unless you're going to take a big chunk out of UT or tear down somebody's neighborhood. But city transportation leaders believe they finally have a solution to All. The plan for miles of electric rail cars to run through the city would be rolled out in phases. Now we know phase one will be a double tracked route meant to link the three primary activity hubs in Central Austin- Downtown, the Capital Complex- and UT connecting to two red lines. Thomas says: We are able to get more people into Downtown and that's what's important- it's not about getting vehicles here- it's about getting people here. That's just phase one. And we don't know yet how much it's going to cost. In 2010, estimates were close to 400 million dollars. The billion dollar question now is "where is the money coming from?" Thomas says: I think the money will have to come from a number of sources there are a lot of creative options. Most insiders believe that means a November bond package for voters- as much as 200 million dollars. To make up the rest- the city will apply for federal grant money- and look for private partners. Lee Leffingwell says, "We'll start small, but our vision is grand and our vision includes the entire city." That's no small task. In fact, it's a 30-year plan. Expected completion is in 2040. Thomas says Great cities have great transit and Austin is a great city but if we want to stay that way we need to get moving now on our rail system.

#### 6/13/12 Hays County Wants Roadway

Duration :30

A transportation dispute is brewing between Hays County and the Austin City Council. Hays County officials want State Highway 45 Southwest to be extended from Mopac to FM 16-26. They believe it will improve traffic in the area dramatically. But Austin's planning commission wants council members to drop the roadway from Austin's master plan called Imagine Austin. Today, Hays County Commissioners passed a resolution calling on the council to support the roadway. Austin's City Council is expected to discuss the move at a public hearing tomorrow.

6/14/12 Imagine Austin

Duration 1:30 minutes

Austin City Council is expected to vote tonight, and we have not heard anything yet. The "Imagine Austin" plan includes more than 18 thousand ideas from Austinites. Of course they are focused on a few big ones like transportation, water resources and the creative economy. Austin is growing in leaps and bounds. Even the city is having a hard time keeping up. Thousands of people are moving here every month, and construction is up 52 percent from last year. There are seven city inspectors to do 37 thousand inspections or reviews this year. That is huge. That's why the city has come up with "Imagine Austin" to help better structure the city's needs over the next 30 years. At the top of the list is transportation options and also reliable water resources. More people coming to Austin means more use of water. The city has also taken a step back to realize what makes Austin so great, and that is the unique, artistic, creative world. "Austin is the be yourself city and you can come create your life here. So, "Imagine Austin" plan embraces that in a really exciting way. To me it gives me goose bumps because what their saying is yes, come create your life here, come be apart of this 30 year plan and Austin's future and we're all creating it together."

## **CRIME**

4/10/12 Couple Found Dead

Duration :25 seconds

Authorities are investigating an apparent murder-suicide in New Braunfels. The bodies of 39-year-old Augustine Garcia and 37-year-old Elizabeth Trevino were discovered by their three teenaged daughters. They were locked in the bedroom, each with a gunshot wound to the head. Relatives say the couple had been having problems but agreed to meet at the home Sunday night. Investigators have not yet determined which one was the shooter.

4/13/12 Fatal Shooting of Officer

Duration 1:30 minutes

Austin Police chief Art Acevedo says second guessing the fatal shooting of Officer Jaime Padron won't benefit the department but learning from it will. It isn't APD protocol to send officers out alone unless a cadet is training. APD tells KXAN News: their are not enough officers to have two person teams responding to calls. Wayne Vincent said: "There is always a question of whether we should have two man units or a one man unit." A decades old study by the San Diego police department found that two person teams are no safer than one officer patrols. Both policing plans, according to study findings, equally encounter suspects assaulting officers. "Time and time again, studies have shown that it is not safer whether you have two or one. These things unfold rapidly." Padron was shot in mere seconds, and if you go by the study's findings, having a partner would not have saved Padron's life. Changing patrol policy at APD is not likely considering violent crimes are down. APD is focusing all their attention on honoring officer Padron.

5/14/12 Roger Clemens Trial

Duration :35 seconds

Roger Clemens' main accuser took the stand today in the former pitcher's perjury trial. Brian McNamee, Clemens former strength coach, testified that he injected the pitcher with steroids beginning in 1998. Clemens says McNamee only gave him shots of vitamin B-12 and the anesthetic Lidocaine. The baseball star is accused of lying to Congress in 2008 when he testified that he had never used steroids or human growth hormone. McNamee says he saved syringes, needles and other items that he used while injecting Clemens. But defense attorneys claim those items have been tainted and contaminated because they weren't stored properly.

5/16/12 Cams Going Up Near Rundberg

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APD will install four crime surveillance cameras in the Rundberg Lane area of North Austin in June. The department said Monday they do not have the budget to monitor the cameras 24/7, but they will be monitored at times and the video will be available for 7 days. Video from the cameras will be monitored on screens in the department's real time crime center, under construction right now inside the Austin Police Department headquarters. "They're going to be a very big investigative tool," said Lt. Patrick Cochran. "Initially we may not have them monitored 24/7 but they will be recorded. Inside the real time crime center, six officers will monitor radio traffic and provide real time intelligence to officers responding to calls on the street. "They're running anything they possible can- information on the address- who normally is there, who might fit the description and they're sending that directly to the officers," said Cochran. The center will be up and running in June, when the first of the APD cameras go online. An additional 28 cameras are set to go up in Downtown Austin in October or November. Monday, APD robbery detective Derek Israel said cameras are vital to solving crimes. "As an investigator, I can tell you that having a picture of someone is invaluable," said Israel. Signs near the cameras will tell people that APD is doing surveillance in the area and the cameras will be visible to everyone. Eventually, APD plans to stream the video live online at their website .

6/11/12 Jogger Hit & Run

Duration :50 seconds

Austin Police are still searching for the suspects involved in a hit and run yesterday. 38 year old Mark Gobble was struck and killed while jogging outside of his neighborhood on slaughter lane. Gobble was deaf and an advocate for the hearing impaired community. The community is still torn up over his loss. A memorial now marks the spot where it all happened. The driver of the truck that hit him fled the scene, but only made it a few blocks before ditching the car. This is the 36th deadly traffic accident Austin has seen this year alone. Jeff Slater, Austin Police Department says, "Most accidents are avoidable, and I think one of the biggest problems we have now is the multiple distractions people have with vehicles. You have texting and people are installing video players." APD is now waiting for a search warrant to arrest that suspect on charges for failing to stop and render aid.

6/12/12 Steven Keller Punch and Run Case

Duration :25 seconds

Keller was caught on tape brutally punching a woman outside an East Austin Bar. And today, a jury found 30-year-old Steven Keller guilty of aggravated robbery. Keller attacked a woman in May of last year outside the Liberty Bar on East Sixth Street. He approached "Merri Gale Heiger" from behind, punched her in the face, grabbed her purse and then ran off. It was all captured by a surveillance camera outside the bar. It was revealed in the trial that Keller has a history of drug addiction. Sentencing starts tomorrow. Keller could go to prison for life.

## **EDUCATION / FAMILY VALUES**

4/14/12 Alliance For Peace

Duration :45 seconds

Students from across Texas converged on the state capitol today for the Austin Alliance for peace rally. Organizers say they hope to make this first rally an annual event. They want to raise awareness of growing violence in society and to promote peaceful solutions. They also hope to bring attention to the problem of "bullying" in schools, and what they call the "glorification" of violence among young people. They say the results are often tragic including suicide or people turning to lives of crime. About two dozen people turned-out for today's rally.

4/17/12 Shuttle to Smithsonian

Duration :50 seconds

Today, marks one final mission for the Space Shuttle "Discovery." It made the trip from its old home in Florida to its new one near Washington. The shuttle rode piggy-back on a jumbo jet. Crowds gathered on the ground as "Discovery" made its way up the Eastern seaboard. The flight wrapped-up with a dramatic flyover over the National Mall. The sight was framed by the Capitol's iconic monuments. "It was amazing to see it like it is. What kind of picture did you get? Actually, really good! Look!" "That was fantastic! I can't believe it flew right over us, and it was the most amazing experience." "It was like right there. It was amazing." "Discovery" will have a permanent home at the "Smithsonian Air and Space Museum" annex at *Dulles Airport* near Washington. With 39 trips into space over the 28 years NASA used it. Shuttle *Discovery* is the most-flown spacecraft in history.

5/16/12 IDEA Allen Elementary

Duration 1:40 minutes

There are still signs of skepticism around Allan Elementary. But despite some protesting a charter school taking over... IDEA Allan school leaders announced Wednesday that there are more than enough students signed up. Matthew Randazzo/IDEA Public Schools Chief Growth Officer says, "Kindergarten, first second and sixth grade we had more applicants than we have seats available." Kindergarten through second grade each have 125 spots. 146 kindergartners, 134 first graders and 127 second graders have applied. Sixth grade has the largest response with 268 students applying for 225 spots. IDEA says 30-percent of the kids live in the school boundaries for Eastside Memorial High School - and are automatically guaranteed a seat. The rest live in Southeast and Northeast

Austin...and will be part of a lottery. A computer will randomly assign seat numbers. Matthew says, "So if your name is drawn as number 99 for kindergarten, you're accepted. If your name is drawn as number 136 there are only 125 seats, so you're number 11 on the wait list." There are many students about to say their final farewells to teachers at Allan Elementary, including Emee McAfee's two sons. She wanted her five year old son Ozell to stay. Emee McAfee/Allan Parent says, "I was like that sounds really good, it sounds really nice except I can't keep my third grader there so he could benefit as well." Qamar can't come back next year because there won't be a fourth grade. Emee says, "I have to keep them together, it would be too hard to have them split, it just wouldn't make sense for our family." The grades will add on each year. IDEA Allan's principals will try to continue their South Texas track record...of 100-percent of students graduating and going to college. Matthew says, the pressure feels a little bit higher for them, but ultimately it is about getting every single kid to and through college, and I trust that we're going to have success here.

5/18/12 Lawmakers update on Status of Texas Educators

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Texas school teachers should be better trained to prepare students for the state's higher standards and new statewide tests and their salaries should be raised to make the profession more attractive, the higher education commissioner told lawmakers on Friday. Commissioner Raymund Paredes said he reached that conclusion after looking at national and international studies examining teacher quality around the world, particularly with the introduction of new standardized tests that make greater demands on students. "They don't have the faculty in K-12 that can teach to those standards. As we move to end-of-course exams and higher levels of rigor, I am fearful and virtually certain we are going to face exactly the same challenge," Paredes said. The testimony set off spirited questioning in the Senate Education Committee, which was holding a hearing on how the state prepares teachers and principals in public schools. "How do we hold these kids accountable for taking these high-stakes tests if they don't have a teacher who is adequately prepared?" asked Sen. Royce West, D-Dallas. "We have to move to higher standards for teachers, we have to move to better training for teachers and we have to particularly develop better policies," Paredes replied. Democratic Sen. Wendy Davis of Fort Worth was concerned the state was not being fair to teachers. "If we are not giving our teachers the tools they need to help those students best succeed in those standardized tests, then we measure the teachers based on the student's performance, it's probably pretty unfair to those teachers," she said. Paredes said studies of successful public schools around the world showed that recruiting the best college students and enrolling them in effective teacher training programs were the keys to success. Then it was important to treat teachers well, he said. "We don't pay teachers enough, we don't train them as well as we should and we don't make the profession very attractive," he said. He recommended diverting funding from programs that do not improve student test scores and use those funds for salaries. Last year the Republican-controlled Legislature cut \$4 billion in spending for public schools, the first such cut since World War II. That has forced school districts to lay-off teachers across the state. Stan Carpenter, dean of the College of Education at Texas State University, reported that enrollment in the largest teacher training program in the state had dropped 5 percent in recent years because of the poor

economy and widespread reports of teacher layoffs. He said the state should use every possible incentive to attract more top students into education. West questioned whether the Legislature would accept the recommendations. "Are we prepared in Texas for the government to pay for teacher training and provide the kind of compensation ... that we ought to provide in order to get the best and brightest to teach the next generation of Texans to be world leaders?" West asked his fellow senators. "If not, we ought to shut up." Conservative Sen. Dan Patrick, R-Houston, complained that the Texas higher education system does not properly train teachers and that schools don't spend money efficiently. "Everyone wants to fix this but I don't want to put more money to teachers if our universities and colleges aren't going to change the way they teach our teachers to teach," Patrick said. Paredes said Texas needed to change how it trains teachers and the Legislature should pass laws incentivizing universities to produce graduates in needed fields. "We need to fund universities based on what we need, like high quality teachers," he said.

#### 6/11/12 STARR Test Results

Duration 1:36 minutes

Concern and anxiety over the first round of STAAR test results has turned to immediate action as districts spend the next few weeks drilling students on skills that gave them the most trouble. A 3-week long test prep camp starts Tuesday - for Austin students who did not pass one or more of the new STAAR tests. Bill Caritj Austin ISD Chief Performance Officer says the preliminary results are encouraging, but you know we still have a lot of work to do. Austin students were strongest in Algebra and Biology with 84-percent of kids passing. 79-percent passed World Geography. English is where scores drop. Only 69-percent passed Reading and nearly half the kids failed Writing. According to Caritj he thinks it is going to be very common across the state. The state raised the bar higher in high school writing than any other subject. Under the new STAAR scoring system, passing also called 'satisfactory' isn't good enough. Schools are aiming for the 'advanced' level, which means students are college ready, which only a very small percentage of students reached. Ken Zarifis who is the local teachers union president says that it is clear by the scores that teachers weren't given enough time to prepare kids. He's convinced a 3 week boot camp before the re-test in July won't change a thing. He says "I'd be hard pressed to see the kids doing any better the second and third time around since we're missing what's important about teaching and learning and it's about testing and retesting.

#### 6/13/12 Poss Teacher Abuse

Duration :25 seconds

A middle school teacher in Round Rock resigns after allegations of sex abuse. The Williamson County Sheriff's Office interviewed the teacher at Chisholm Trail Middle School back in May. But the teacher has not been charged. A Round Rock I-S-D spokesperson did not have details about the interview, but said the district immediately put the teacher on leave. She resigned a week later. The teacher had been with the Round Rock district since 2000.