

**Leander Higher Education Initiative**  
**June 2007 Updates**

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**For Immediate Release \*\* For Immediate Release \*\* For Immediate Release**

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**ACC Land Banking in Leander – Approved:**

Last night, June 4, 2007, the Austin Community College Board of Trustees gave formal Board approval for the pursuit of a land acquisition strategy including pursuing land in Leander.

Approval followed a formal recommendation from ACC's Administration on May 21, 2007 to include "Land Banking" in Leander within ACC's master plan.

The City of Leander was not included for land acquisition within the findings of the College's future facilities and growth outlook report, called the Sasaki Report delivered to the Board in January of 2007. Over the last several months and in an ongoing 18 month process, Leander City leaders increased efforts to become included in ACC's future growth plan. City leaders have been successful in demonstrating higher education need, and sustainability via a series of presentations and meetings with ACC officials.

At a recent 'Leander Higher Education Stakeholders' meeting representatives from the City, Capital Metro, Cedar Park Regional Medical Center, The Alliance for Public Transportation and ACC met to discuss Leander's TOD, transportation connectivity and overall growth projections. Sentiment was positive and all stakeholders agreed that the City's transportation connectivity, planning innovations, and growth projections indicated strong potential for the City to become a regional higher education corridor.

Approval for land acquisition in Leander is a major milestone and serves as direct validation of the City's efforts to attract an ACC campus. In the coming weeks, ACC will issue an RFP – Request for Proposals, regarding land availability in Leander.

The City of Leander recognizes the high potential for college campuses to create jobs, educational opportunity, while also serving as a magnet helping to attract new business, industry and residents.

**ACC Leander Evening Center to Increase Class Offerings:**

In a related story, ACC has increased the number of courses to be offered at the ACC Leander Evening Center at LHS. This Fall 2007 semester will include several courses not previously offered in Leander. Fall 2007 schedule includes courses in the following disciplines: Economics, English, Government, History, Management, Psychology, Sociology, Spanish and Speech. ACC Leander Evening Center course schedule for Fall 2007 is available at; <http://www3.austincc.edu/schedule/s207f/lea207ffs.htm>. The City of Leander is an "In-District" participant within ACC's serving area.

The ACC Leander Evening Center was opened in the Fall of 2006 and represents the first major accomplishment for the City's Higher Education initiative.