
Finance Committee

DEPARTMENT: Finance


FROM: Michael Franklin, Deputy Director of Finance

MEETING: December 17, 2025

SUBJECT:

Receive a report, hold a discussion, and provide staff direction regarding the pursuit of the Texas Comptroller of Public Accounts' Transparency Stars program, which recognizes local governments for going above and beyond in their transparency efforts. *(Staff Contact: Michael Franklin, Deputy Director of Finance)*

STRATEGIC PRIORITY AND GOAL(S):

Strategic Priority	Strategic Goal
 <p>High Performing City Organization Providing Exceptional, People Focused Services</p>	<p>1.2 Continue to improve the efficiency and productivity of operations</p> <p>1.3 Deliver high-quality service and communications to external and internal customers</p>

SUMMARY:

The Texas Comptroller of Public Accounts' Transparency Stars program recognizes local governments for going above and beyond in their transparency efforts. The program recognizes government entities that accomplish the following:

- Open their books not only in their traditional finances, but also in the areas of contracts and procurement, economic development, public pensions, debt obligations, and Open Government and Compliance; and
- Provide clear and meaningful financial information not only by posting financial documents, but also through summaries, visualizations, downloadable data, and other relevant information.

A government entity can apply for one or more Stars, up to a maximum of six. Entities must first receive a Traditional Finances Star, but may apply for Stars in up to five other areas:

- Contracts and Procurement;
- Economic Development;
- Public Pensions;
- Debt Obligations; and
- Open Government and Compliance

The program recognizes the remarkable breadth and depth of information presented for each specific Transparency Star awarded, making each star a prestigious achievement. The Stars stand on their own and are not awarded along a continuum or with an expectation that entities should attain six out of six stars.

For more detailed information, please refer to the attached Frequently Asked Questions document.

RECOMMENDATION:

Staff recommend that the Committee discuss the status of the Texas Comptroller of Public Accounts' Transparency Stars program.

PRIOR ACTION/INPUT (Council, Boards, Citizens):

On July 23, 2025, the Policy and Valuation Committee received a report on the progress of the Transparency Stars Program and supported the pursuit of the additional stars in the program.

On August 4, 2025, the City Council received a report on the progress of the Transparency Stars Program and supported the pursuit of the additional stars in the program.

REFERENCE:

N/A

FISCAL IMPACT:

N/A

STAFF CONTACT:

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