Alvin "Al" Austin was appointed the historically black colleges and universities (HBCU) outreach director for the North Carolina Department of Transportation by Chief Deputy Secretary David Howard on July 27, 2017. He is a former Charlotte City Councilman representing Council District 2, covering uptown, north and northwest Charlotte.

He served on the Council’s Environment Committee, vice chairman of Public Safety Committee and vice chair of the Housing and Neighborhood Development Committee. Austin also served as the director of development at Johnson C. Smith University where he championed their $150 comprehensive campaign.

Austin was identified as one of Charlotte’s emerging minority leaders by Access Charlotte; honored with the PEARL Award from the Alpha Lamda Omega Chapter of Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, Incorporated as an outstanding community leader; and honored by the Powerhouse Project with their 2015 Power of One Community Award.

He is a member of Kappa Alpha Psi Fraternity, the Almetto Alexander Labyrinth Foundation Board of Managers; S.T.A.R.S. Board of Managers and former Board of Trustees for the Penn Center in Beaufort South Carolina. He has B.S. degrees from the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill in sociology and criminal justice administration.