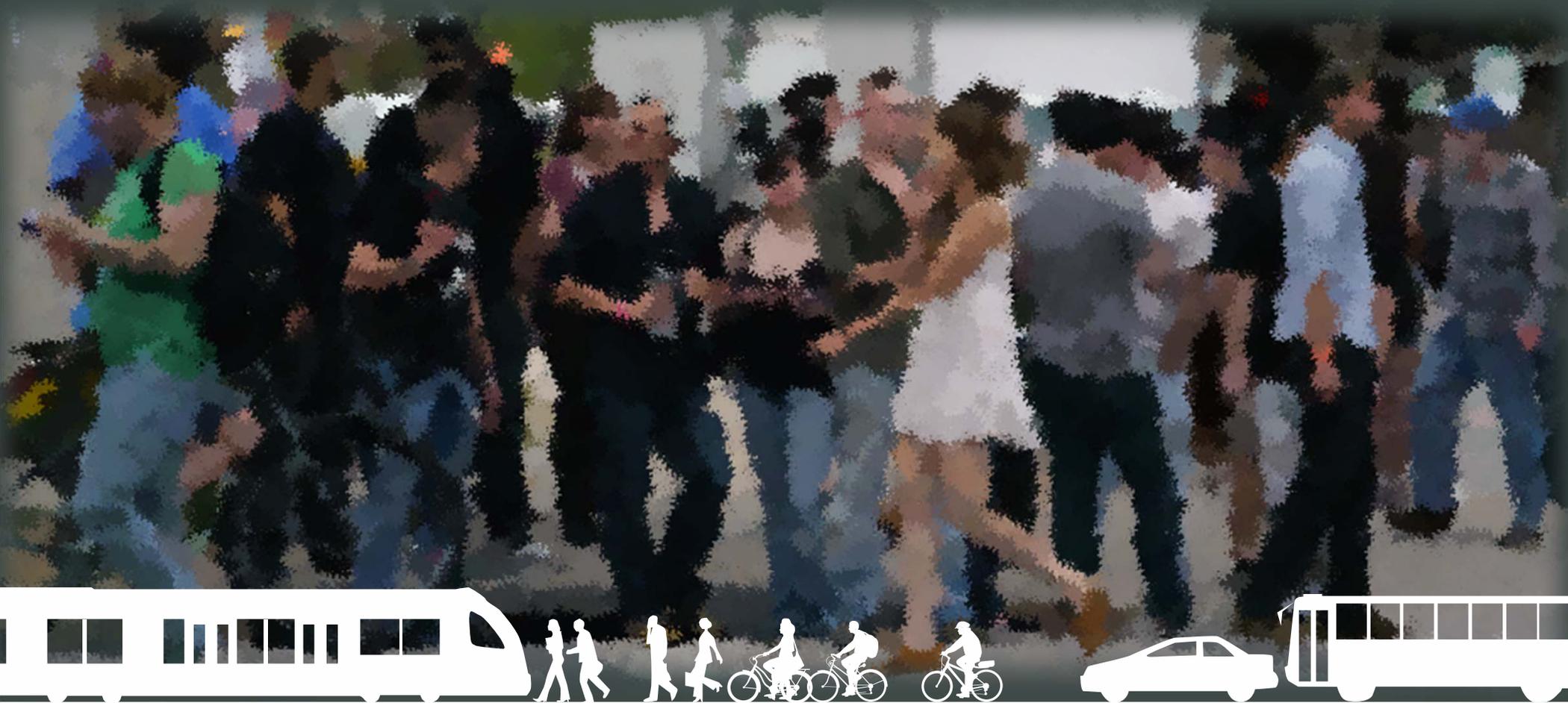


Making Mobility Better, Together

JANUARY 31, 2013

AUSTIN CITY COUNCIL – PROJECT CONNECT REGIONAL TRANSIT UPDATE

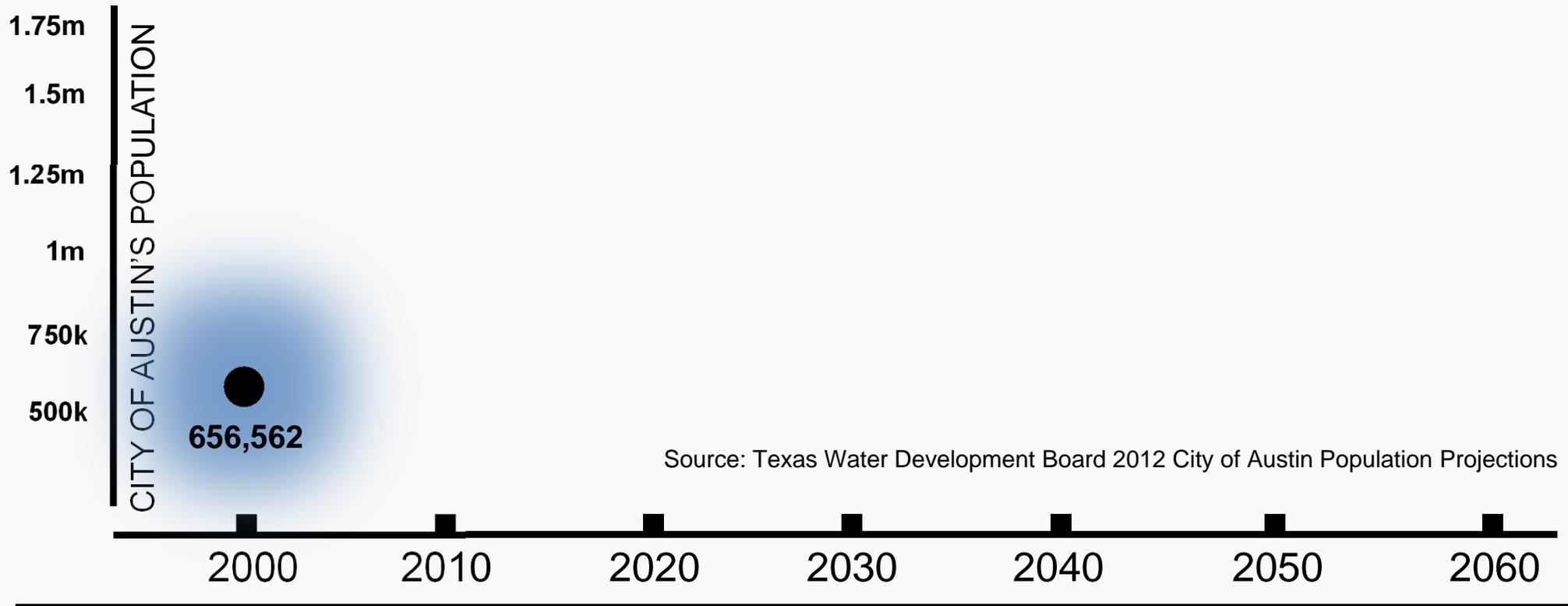


PROJECT CONNECT

Achieving Compact & Connected

- Engaging in a regional transit discussion
- Pursuing a compact and connected oriented solution
- Proposed Regional High Capacity Transit Vision
- Partnering and Next Steps

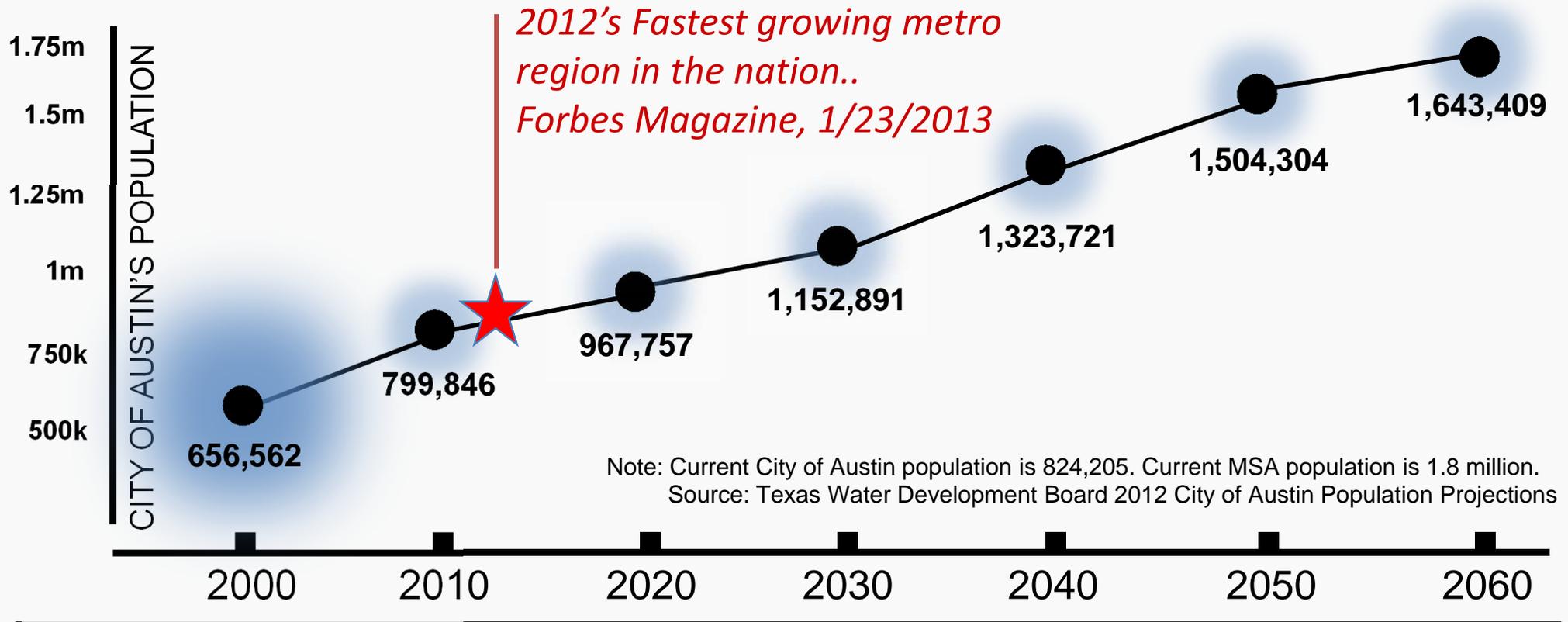
City's Growth Results in Stress to Traditional Mobility Networks:



“We can’t build our way out of congestion with roads alone.... Other cities are looking for ways to provide mobility choices. It’s time for Austin to do the same.”

– Austin American-Statesman Editorial Board, Oct. 2000

City's Growth Results in Stress to Traditional Mobility Networks:

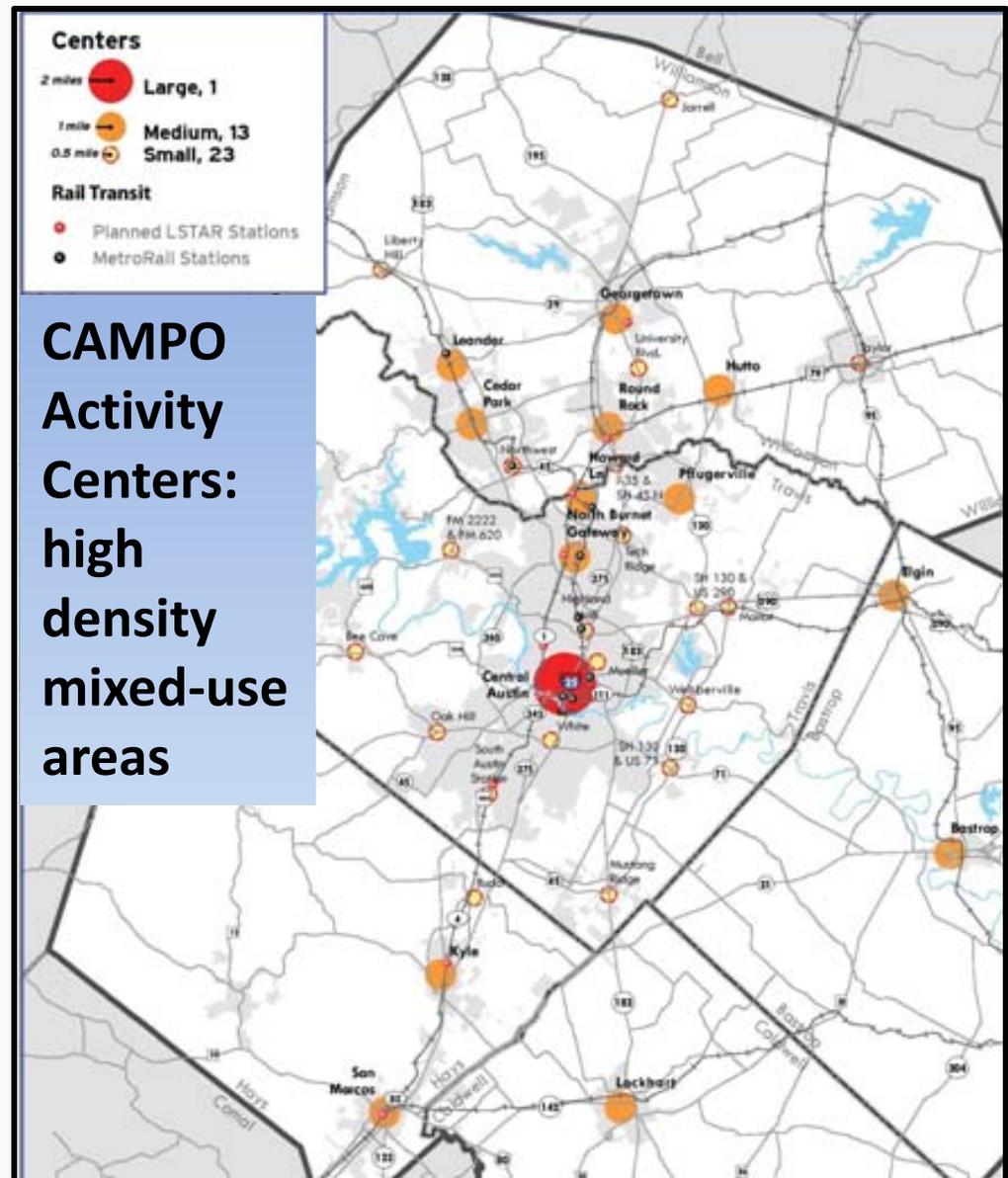


“Highways alone will not solve Austin’s traffic problems... we need to invest in multimodal solutions.”

– Texas Department of Transportation, Austin District, 2012

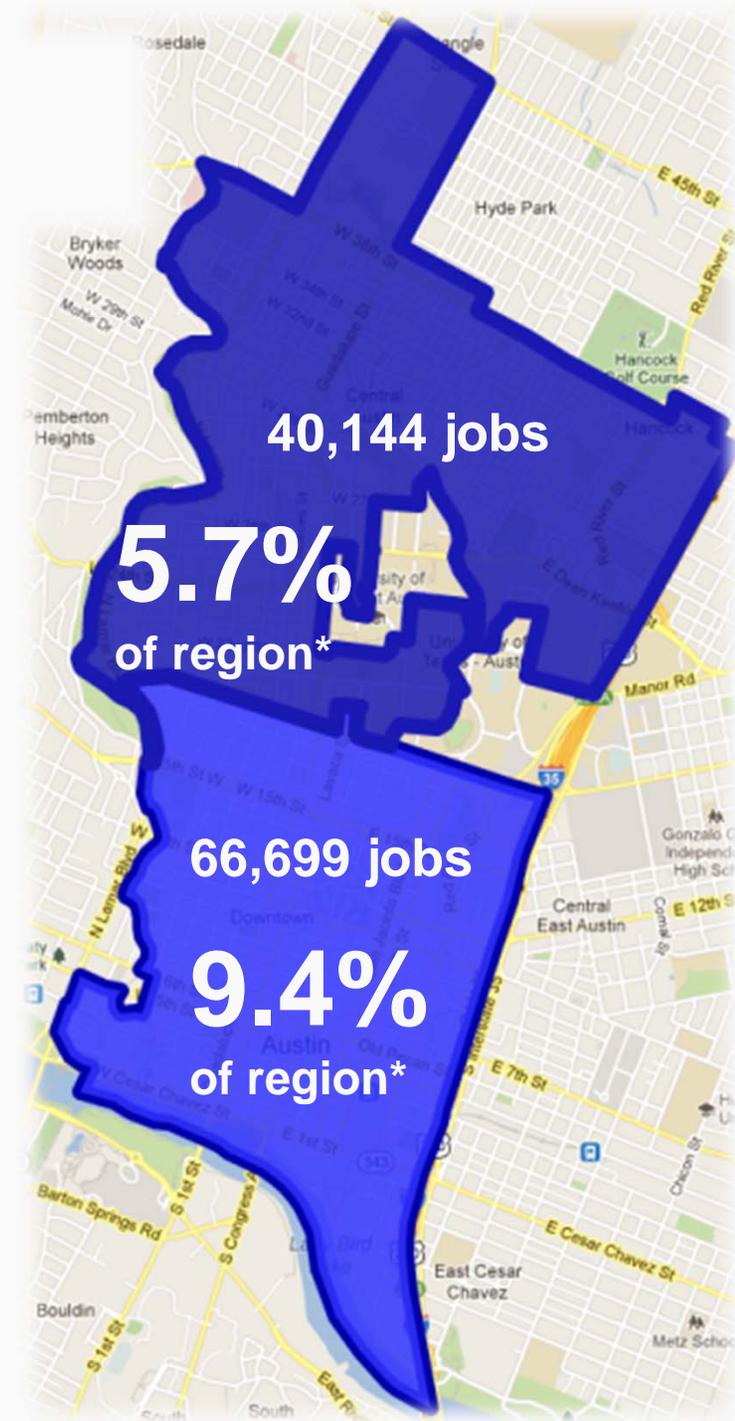
Regional Calls For Mobility

- **All Systems Go! (2004):** Regional centers connected by transit, 62% voter approval for MetroRail, Cap Metro board call for Mueller-Downtown connection study
- **CAMPO 2035 (2010):** Seeks investments to add both roadway and high-capacity transit capacity to serve regional centers
- **Imagine Austin (2012):** Priority Program No. 1 calls for a compact, connected Austin with improved transportation options.
- **TWG (2012):** Regional Public/Private leaders call for connectivity, seamless transit operation



Largest Activity Center is at Region's Core

- 100,000+ jobs (1 out of every 6 jobs in the region are in downtown and the university)
- 60,000 UT/ACC students travel to classes daily
- Equivalent of 14 Frost Bank Towers (7.5 million Sq. Ft.) underway or planned near downtown**



Sources: *U.S. Census Bureau; ** EGRSO

Mueller: The Next Closest Activity Center to Connect

- Capacity for 15,700 jobs** equivalent to San Marcos's share of the region's jobs (15,460)*
- Public-private 700-acre transit-oriented redevelopment
- \$280 M of active development
- \$1.3 B project at build-out, with \$8 - \$10 M in annual taxes
- 15,000 residents, with minimum 25% affordable apartments, condos and houses

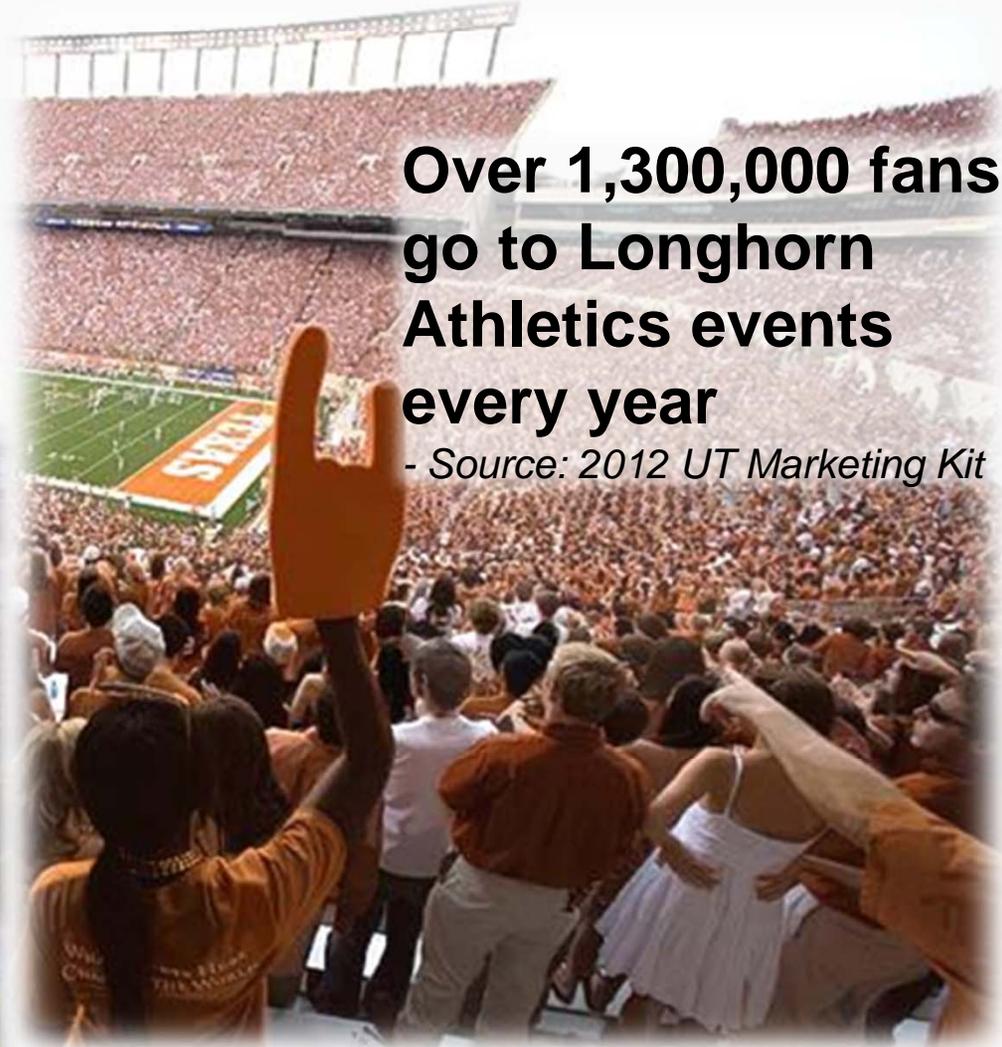
Located on 42 acres in the heart of Mueller, Aldrich St. is a planned 1.2M-square-foot, urban mixed-use district underway now.



Sources: *U.S. Census Bureau; ** EGRSO

Mobility also means having fun in Austin and *getting home safe*

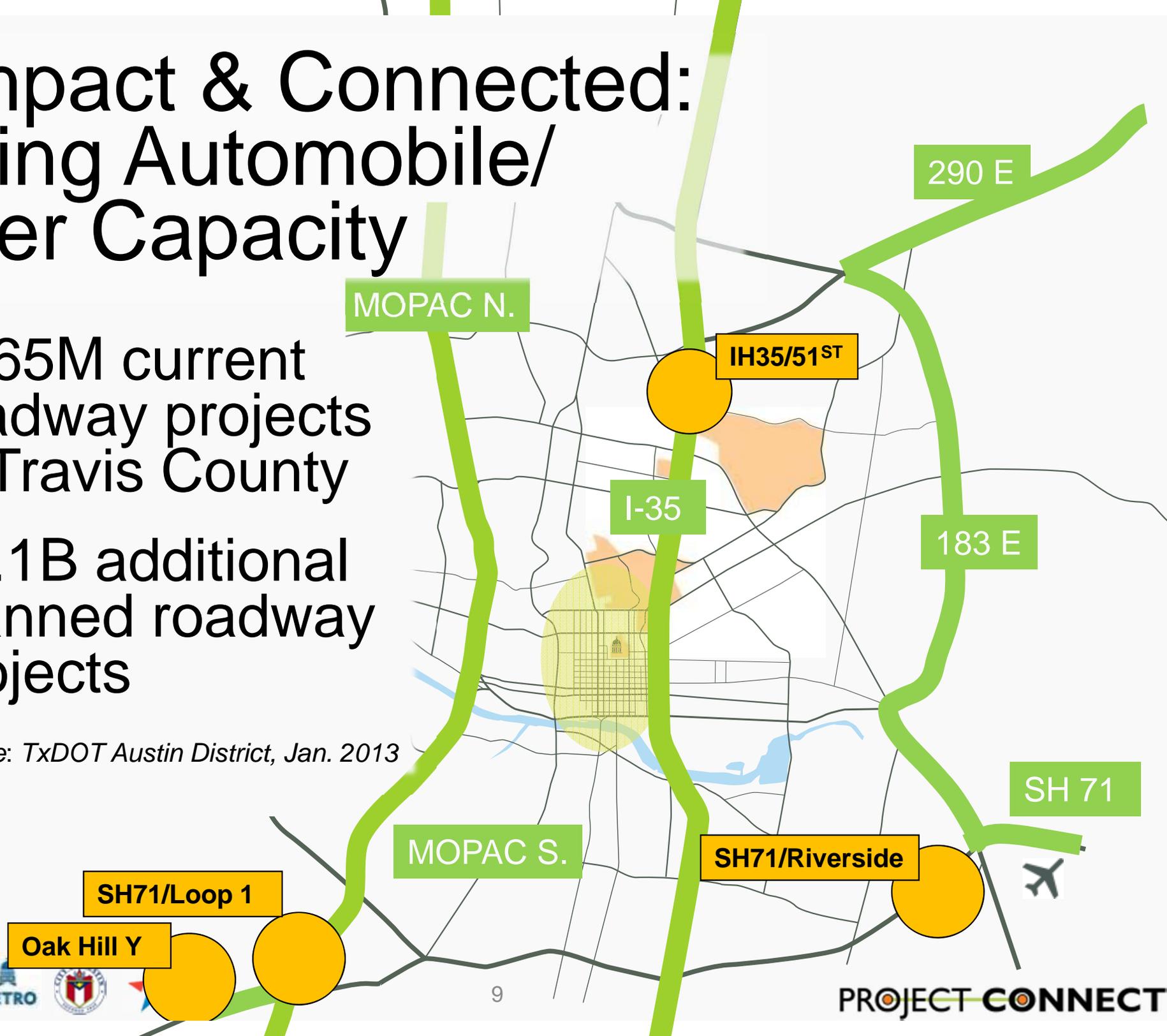
- Special Events affecting mobility in the core grew from 108 in FY10/11 to 136 FY11/12, **up 26%**.



Compact & Connected: Adding Automobile/ Driver Capacity

- \$565M current roadway projects in Travis County
- \$3.1B additional planned roadway projects

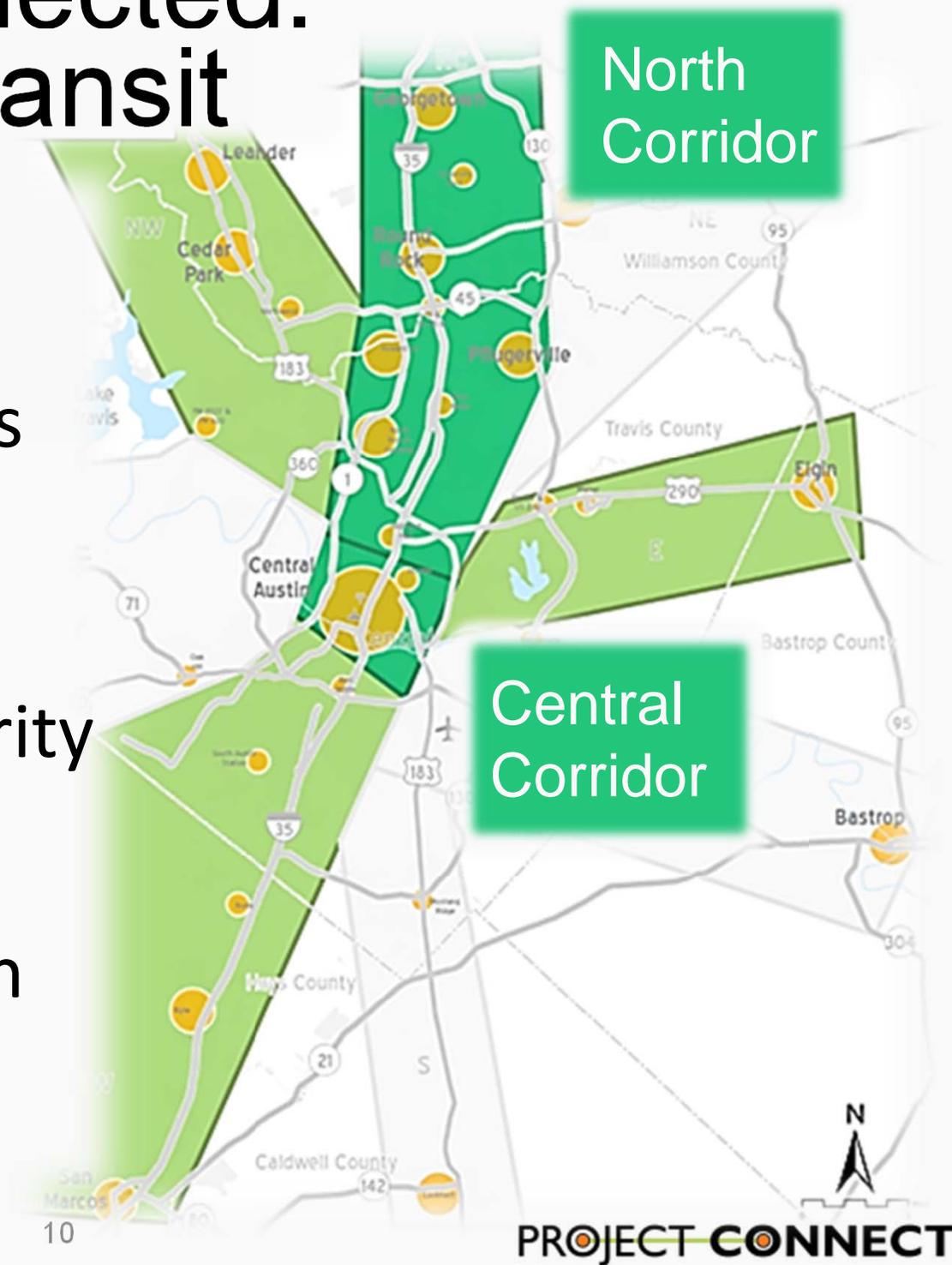
Source: TxDOT Austin District, Jan. 2013



Compact & Connected: High-Capacity Transit

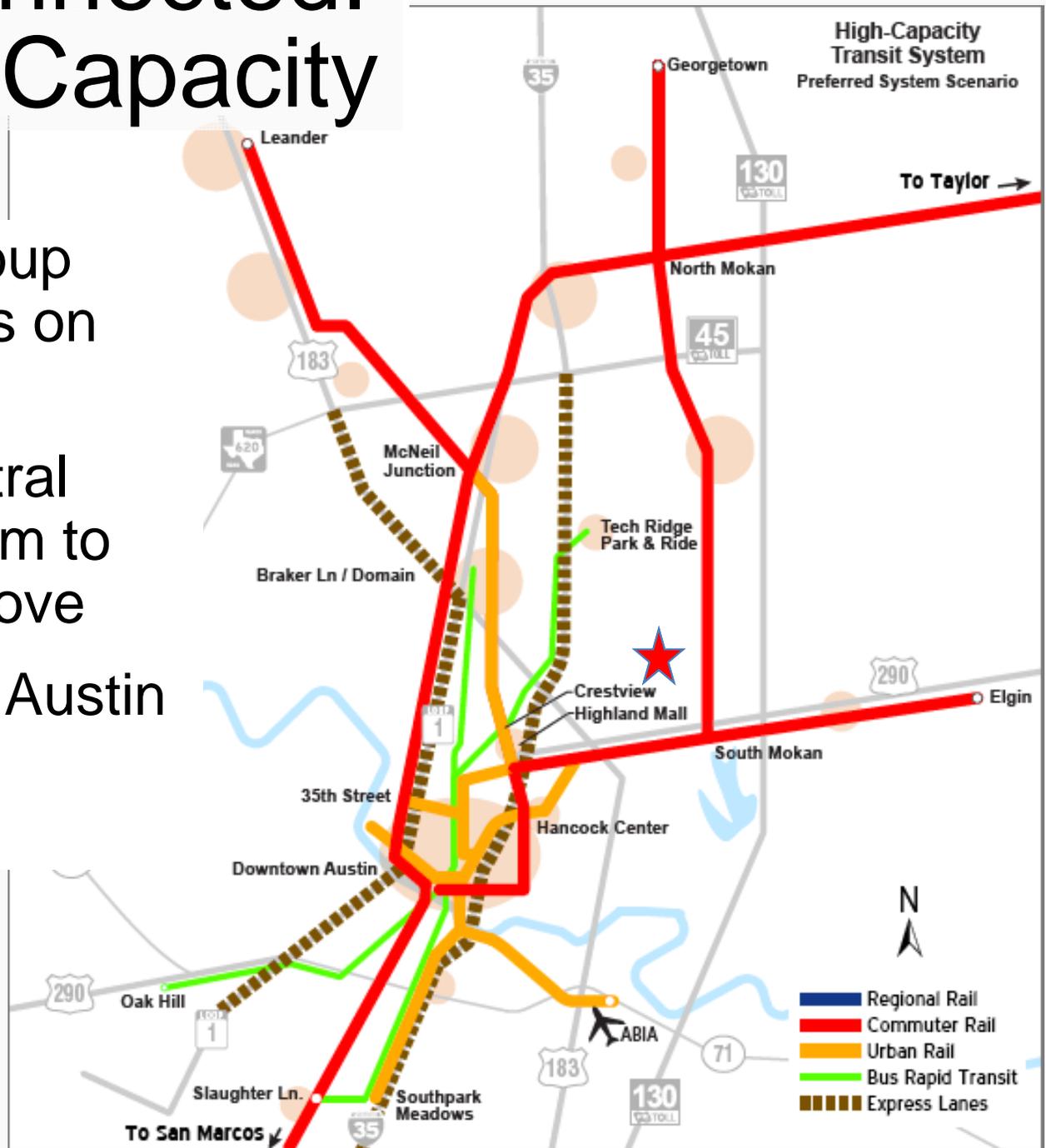
Transit Working Group:

- Regional transit services should serve regional centers
- Identified Central & North Corridors as priority
- Prioritize funding options for regional system and organization



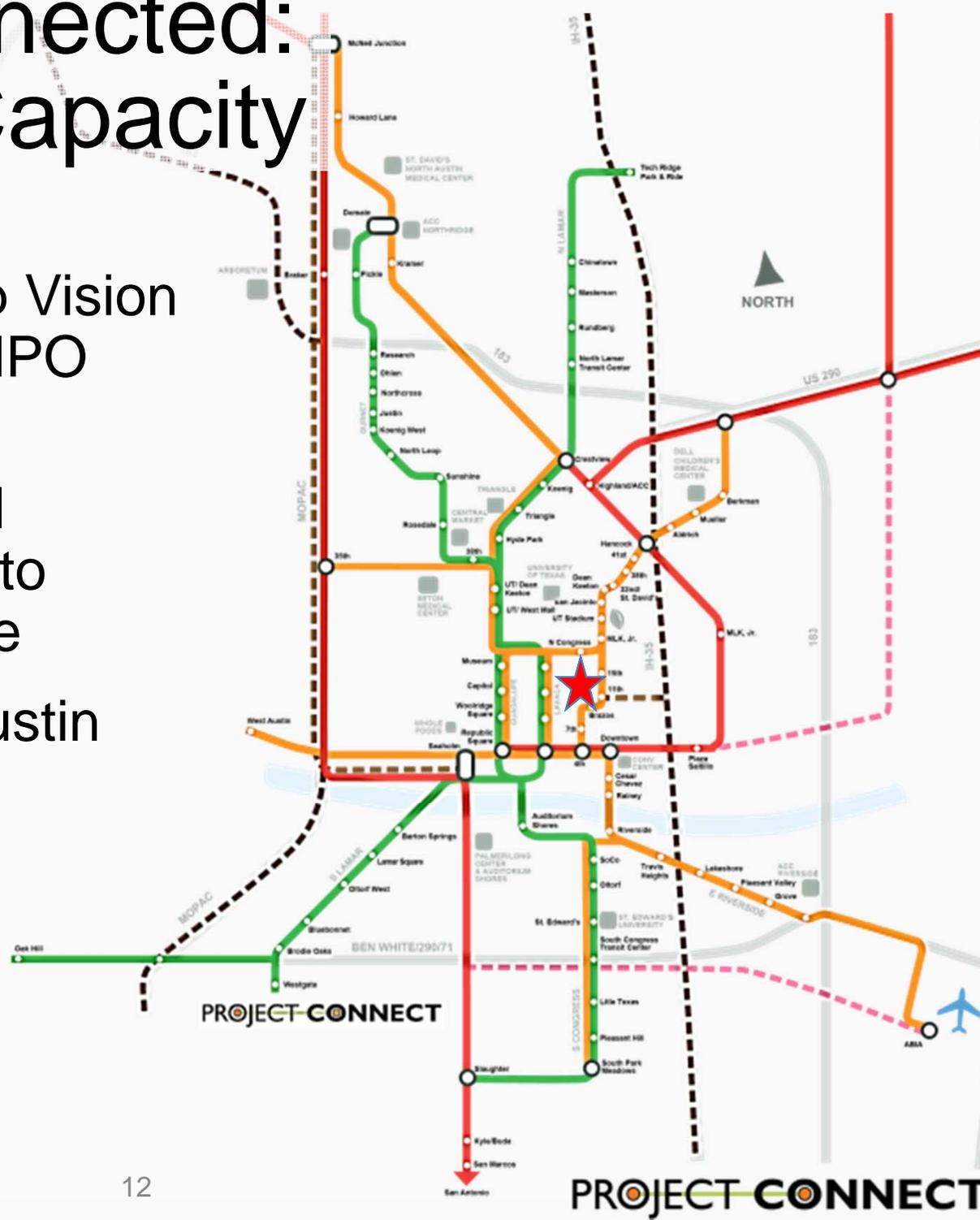
Compact & Connected: Adding Transit Capacity

- Transit Working Group Vision (2012), builds on CAMPO plan
- A future where Central Texans have freedom to choose how they move
- Reinforces Imagine Austin plan for connected community



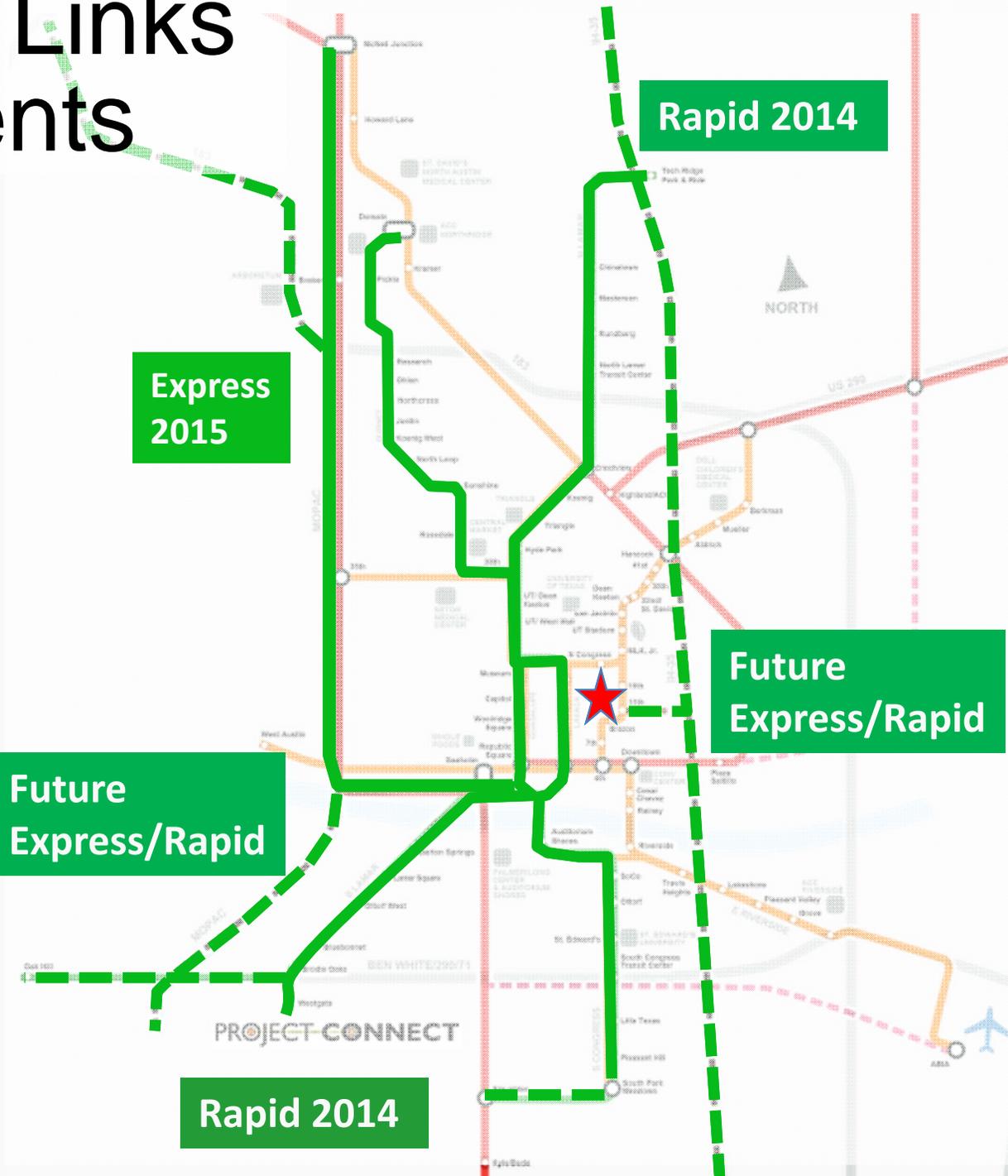
Compact & Connected: Adding Transit Capacity

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Project Connect Links Transit Investments

- Rapid and Express transit services
 - Lamar/Burnet-S. Congress
 - Express lanes on MOPAC
 - Express lanes on IH 35
 - Extensions to key destinations



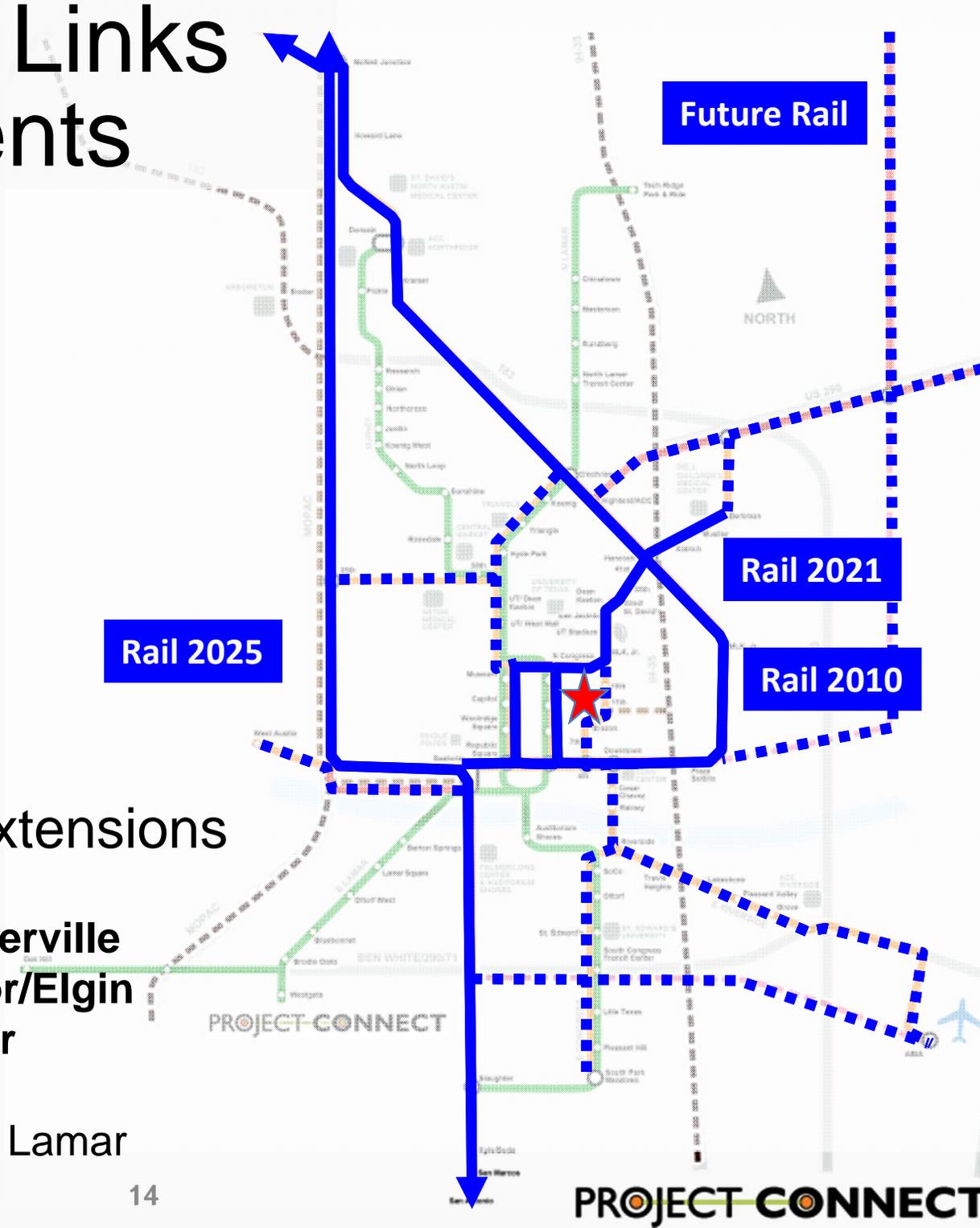
Project Connect Links Transit Investments

- Regional Rail Service

- East & Northwest **Austin**
- **Leander**
- Downtown, Capitol, UT
- Mueller
- South Austin
- **Buda**
- **Kyle**
- **San Marcos & south**
- North Central **Austin**
- Domain
- **Georgetown**
- **Round Rock**

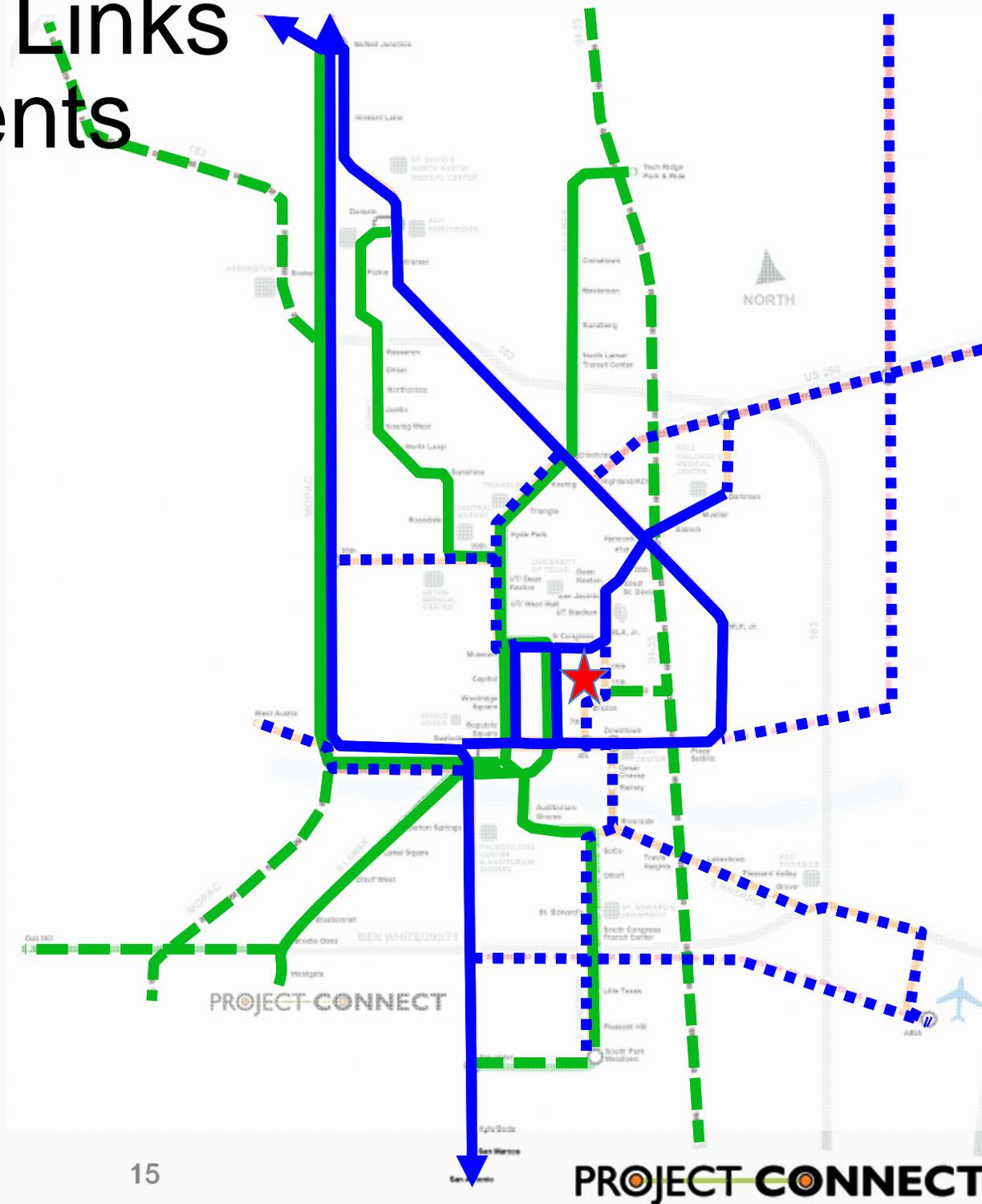
- Rail Extensions

- ABIA
- **Pflugerville**
- **Manor/Elgin**
- **Taylor**
- SoCo
- North Lamar



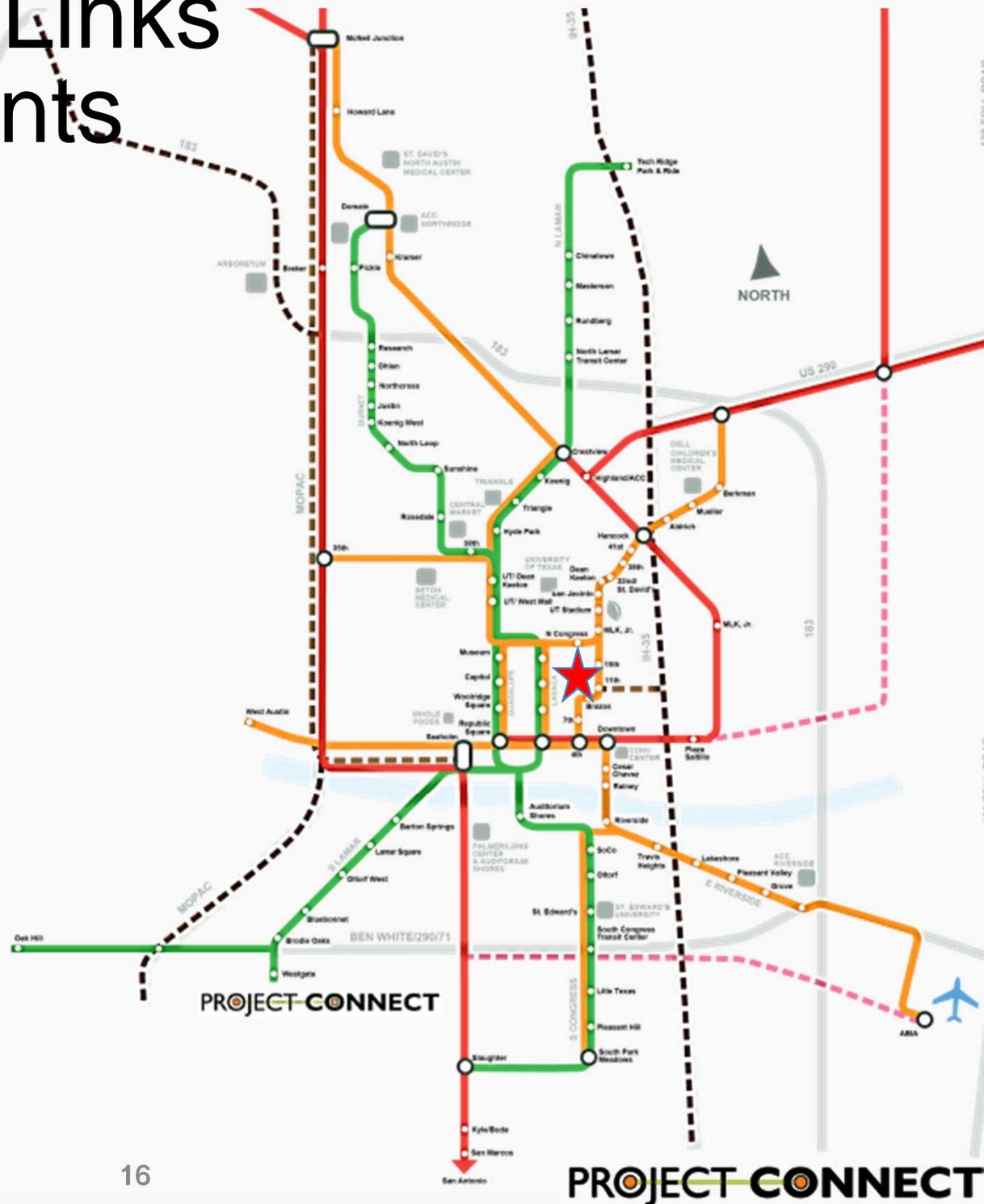
Project Connect Links Transit Investments

- Regional Transit Proposal offers long-term vision to link regional activity centers
- Requires long-term partnerships
- Achieves regional High-Capacity Transit system by 2025
- Regional extensions as financing and opportunities allow



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Transit Peers Delegation Reviewed Austin Plan (12/2012)

Recommendations:

- Solid technical plan, stay the course
- Enact funding, management partnerships now
- Focus operational efforts through a single agency (Capital Metro)
- Urban Rail has elements for success, but needs City & Cap Metro cooperation
- Region needs single set of mobility priorities



Project Connect next investment planning and outreach in 2013:

- Policy discussion with City Council, Capital Metro Board, & CAMPO (Feb to Dec)
- Complete construction on Metro Rapid, initiate MOPAC Express
- Public input on Project Connect Vision rail projects (Feb to Sep)
 - Red Line Improvements
 - North Corridor
 - Urban Rail
 - Lone Star Rail
- Draft rail system partnership - Capital Metro, Lone Star Rail & City of Austin (Feb - Mar)



Preparing for federal funding in 2013

Moving Ahead for Progress in the 21st Century Act (MAP-21) signed July, 2012

New Federal Funding Criteria

- Economic development, includes affordable housing and high-quality workforce retention/attraction
- Land use policies to manage/encourage growth, support transit
- Ridership

– *Source: FTA Proposed New Starts and Small Starts Policy Guidance; January 9, 2013*



FTA Administrator Peter Rogoff speaking in Austin about New Transportation law (MAP 21) that shortens time to enter federal funding pipeline and establishes new funding criteria

Capital Metro Partners with City & Lone Star to Hire Rail Expert

- Capital Metro & City identify national expert as Rail Program Director
 - Contracting in progress
 - Position jointly funded by Cap Metro & City with previously approved STPMM Grant funding
 - Key Responsibilities:
 - Lead program level efforts
 - Assure technical competency
 - Assist region to access Federal New Starts Funding





Making mobility better, together:

- The region continues growing rapidly, our mobility challenges continue to mount
- Connecting regional activity centers using high capacity transit is critical to attaining a compact and connected community
- Rail is identified as a key part of a regional multi-modal vision
- Austin is partnering with Capital Metro, Lone Star Rail, and other regional transportation providers to improve mobility by planning and implementing the regional vision