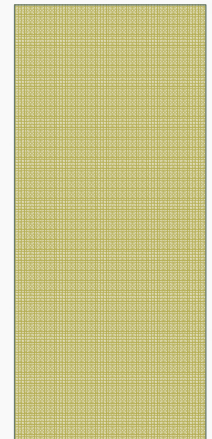




GUADALUPE & LAVACA STREETS

# TRANSIT PRIORITY LANE



**Bicycle Advisory Council**  
**8-20-2013**



# TRANSIT PRIORITY LANES

- Definition:
  - Lane reserved for authorized transit vehicles.
  - Right turning vehicles are allowed to use the lane within the block where they are turning.
  - Marked by “BUS ONLY”
  - Sometimes referred to as “transit lanes”
  - Different from HOV lanes
- Authority:
  - COA Code 12-1-12 Powers & Duties of Traffic Engineer
    - Designate bike and bus lanes
  - COA Code 12-1-13 Designated Lanes for Restricted Use
    - The traffic engineer may designate street lanes for the exclusive use of buses, taxicabs, or high-occupancy vehicles



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# NATIONAL STANDARDS

## Priority Lane Criteria

- Between 25 and 60 Buses per hour
- Persons carried in transit priority lane should be at least equal to 1.5 times the number of people carried in adjacent general purpose lane
- At least 2 general purpose (non transit) lanes remaining after designation
- Parking should not be allowed in adjacent lane
- Non-transit vehicles allowed in lane only for purpose of turning at next opportunity

## Guadalupe-Lavaca Characteristics

- 60 buses per hour during peak hour traffic anticipated with new MetroRapid and Local service these streets
- Passenger load in transit priority lane could reach nearly twice that of the adjacent general purpose lane
- 2 to 3 general purpose lanes will remain after designation
- Parking to the right of transit lane will be prohibited; bicycles will be allowed in vacated parking lane
- Lane designation will be for transit and right-turning vehicles only



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# FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

- **Q: Who is doing the work?**

A: This project is a collaboration between the City of Austin and Capital Metro. The City is constructing the transit lane and providing signage. Capital Metro will provide the transit service within the lane.

- **Q: Where is this change taking place?**

A: The change will take place in the outside travel lanes of Guadalupe and Lavaca Streets, between approximately 4<sup>th</sup> Street and MLK Jr. Boulevard

- **Q: When will this be installed?**

A: Implementation is planned for October 2013.

- **Q: Why is this new installation being done?**

A: Capital Metro is moving their downtown transit services from Congress Ave to the Guadalupe and Lavaca Street Corridor. The Capital Metro Board authorized the construction of rapid bus transit (MetroRapid) service in this corridor, following the successful award of a Federal Transit Administration grant for the project. The new transit priority lanes will provide enhanced transit service to the area, improve the safety and efficiency of the corridor, while increasing connectivity and transportation choices within Austin. These investments are part of a high capacity system identified in the CAMPO 2035 Plan and recommended by the regional Transit Working Group (TWG).



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# FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

- **Q: Once implemented, when will the changes be in effect?**

A: Capital Metro will begin testing for their new Metro Rapid service in Nov/Dec 2013. Metro Rapid service is anticipated to begin operations early 2014. A portion of the local and express transit routes will be moved from Congress Avenue and other downtown locations in Jan 2014. The remainder of the local routes will move in June 2014.

- **Q: What will it look like after installation?**

A: The lanes will be designated appropriate overhead and side signage. "Bus Only" will be painted on the road in the designated lane. Eventually, the pavement color may also be a unique shade of red for higher visibility. When fully utilized, Capital Metro predicts up to 60 buses per hour during peak traffic activity to be using the lane. To a pedestrian, this will look like a bus passing his/her location, on average, every 60 seconds.

- **Q: Does the "Bus Only" – mean carpools can use it?**

A: No. The "Bus Only" pavement markings designates a "reserved" lane. The signage specifies who is allowed in the lane – in this case only transit and right-turning vehicles will be allowed to use the lane. Bicycles are also allowed at specific shared lane use locations.

- **Q: Will there be an opportunity for the public to get more information?**

A: Yes. Austin Transportation is holding meetings with stakeholders and also provide an opportunity to discuss the project with the Urban Transportation Commission, as well as at an Open House meeting scheduled for September 4, 2013



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# FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

- **Q: What will be the impact of the transit priority lanes on motorists?**

A: During operations, general traffic will have two to three lanes available for travel, depending on where in the corridor one is. Traffic signal timings are being modified to improve traffic flow throughout the affected grid.

- **Q: What if I need to turn right?**

A: During transit priority lane operations, motorists can enter the bus only lane to access driveways, alleys and to make a right turn at the next intersection.

- **Q: What will be the impact on cyclists?**

A: Cyclists will be provided a separated lane to the right of the transit priority lane. At transit stations and at some intersections, the bicyclists will merge with the transit lane to get past the obstacle.

- **Q: What will happen to the existing parking in the transit lanes?**

A: Additional near-by on-street parking spots are being sought to replace any parking to be removed. This can be accomplished by metering additional spaces on cross streets or changing some existing parallel parking to angled parking where feasible.

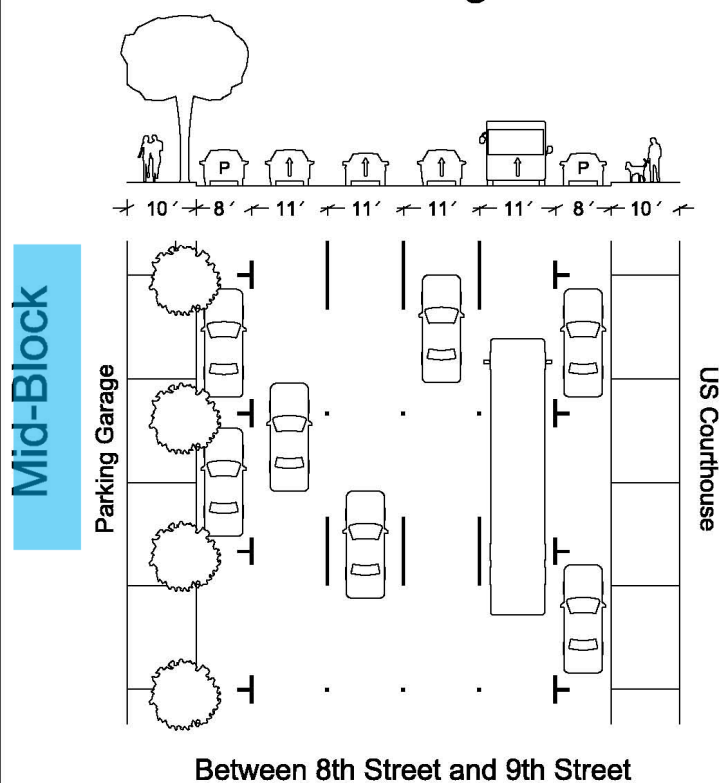


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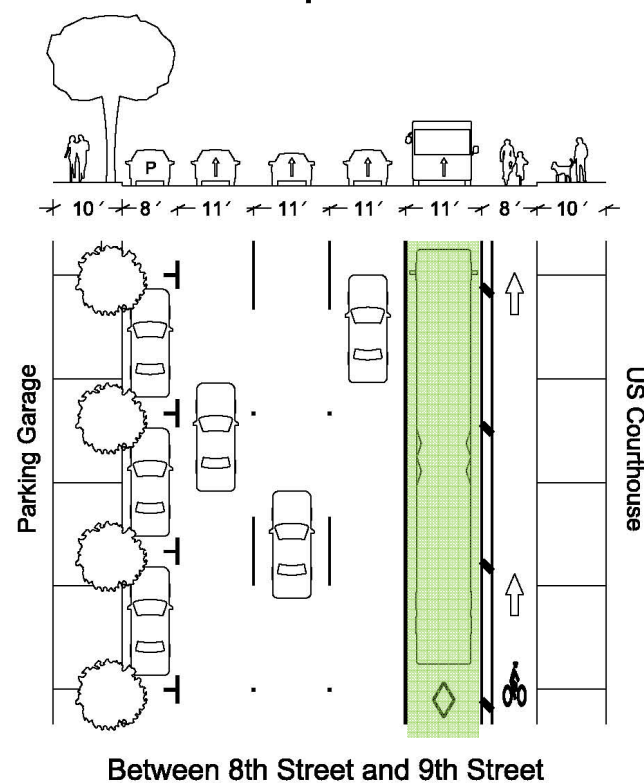


# LAVACA STREET

Existing



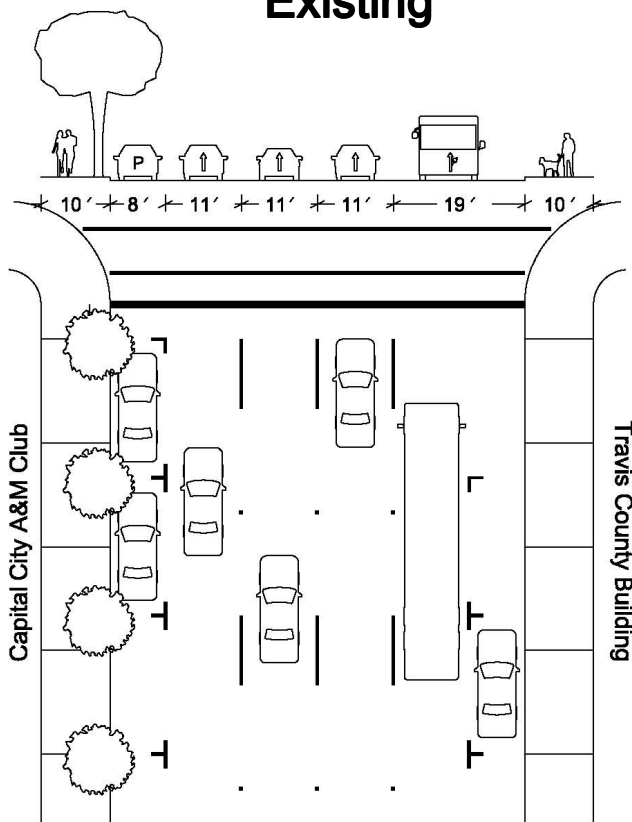
Proposed



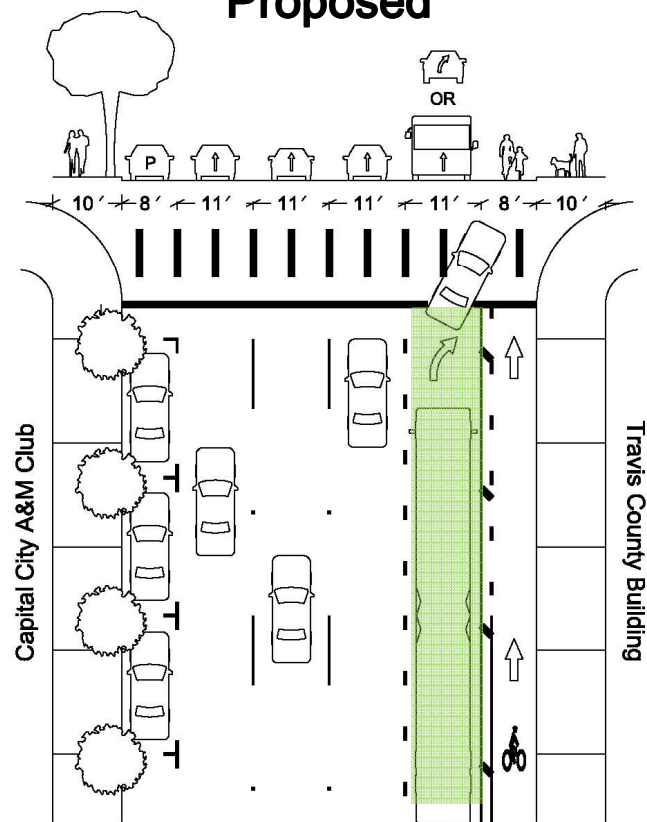
# LAVACA STREET

## Intersection

### Existing



### Proposed



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# THE CURRENT CONFIGURATION OF GUADALUPE STREET BETWEEN 12TH & 13TH STREETS



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THE ADDITION OF A TRANSIT PRIORITY LANE AND BICYCLE  
LANE TO THE RIGHT SIDE OF GUADALUPE, BETWEEN 12<sup>TH</sup> &  
13<sup>TH</sup> STREETS. (ARTIST RENDERING)



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## THE METRORAPID STATION UNDER CONSTRUCTION AT GUADALUPE STREET AND 12TH STREET.



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ONCE CONSTRUCTION IS COMPLETED, CYCLISTS WILL NEED TO YIELD TO METRORAPID VEHICLES TRAVELING IN THE TRANSIT PRIORITY LANES. (ARTIST RENDERING OF GUADALUPE STREET AT 12TH STREET STATION LOCATION)



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BEFORE | GUADALUPE STREET AT 12TH STREET STATION LOCATION,  
LOOKING NORTH



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AFTER | GUADALUPE STREET AT 12TH STREET STATION LOCATION  
LOOKING NORTH



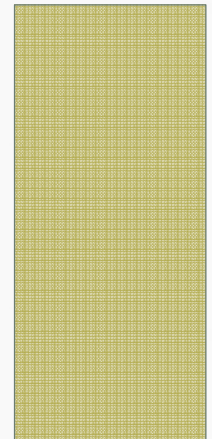
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GUADALUPE & LAVACA STREETS

# TRANSIT PRIORITY LANE



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