

# CENTRAL CORRIDOR HIGH-CAPACITY TRANSIT STUDY

Austin City Council Work Session Briefing

October 15, 2013

Austin City Hall, Boards & Commissions Room



*project***connect**  
central corridor

# 1

## Briefing Topics

- 1) Project Connect
- 2) Work Plan & Schedule
- 3) Public Involvement
- 4) Study Area Definition
- 5) Sub-Corridors
- 6) Evaluation Criteria
- 7) Next Steps





1

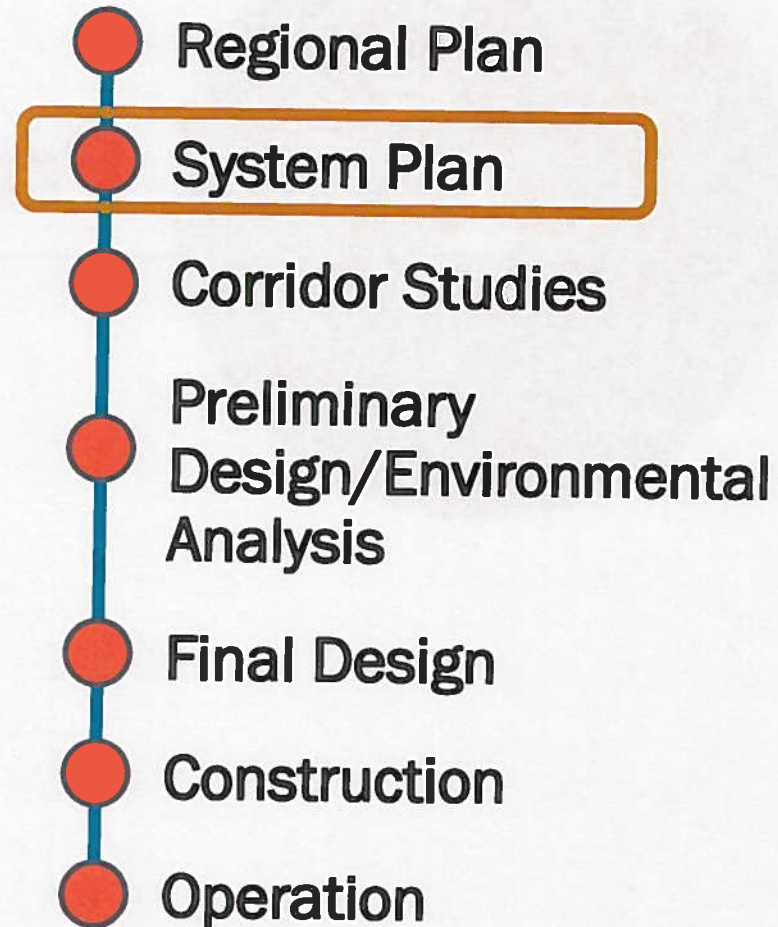
# Project Connect



# 1

## Project Connect

- A **partnership** between Central Texas transportation agencies
- A regional, long-range high-capacity transit **system plan** for Central Texas





# 1

## Project Connect

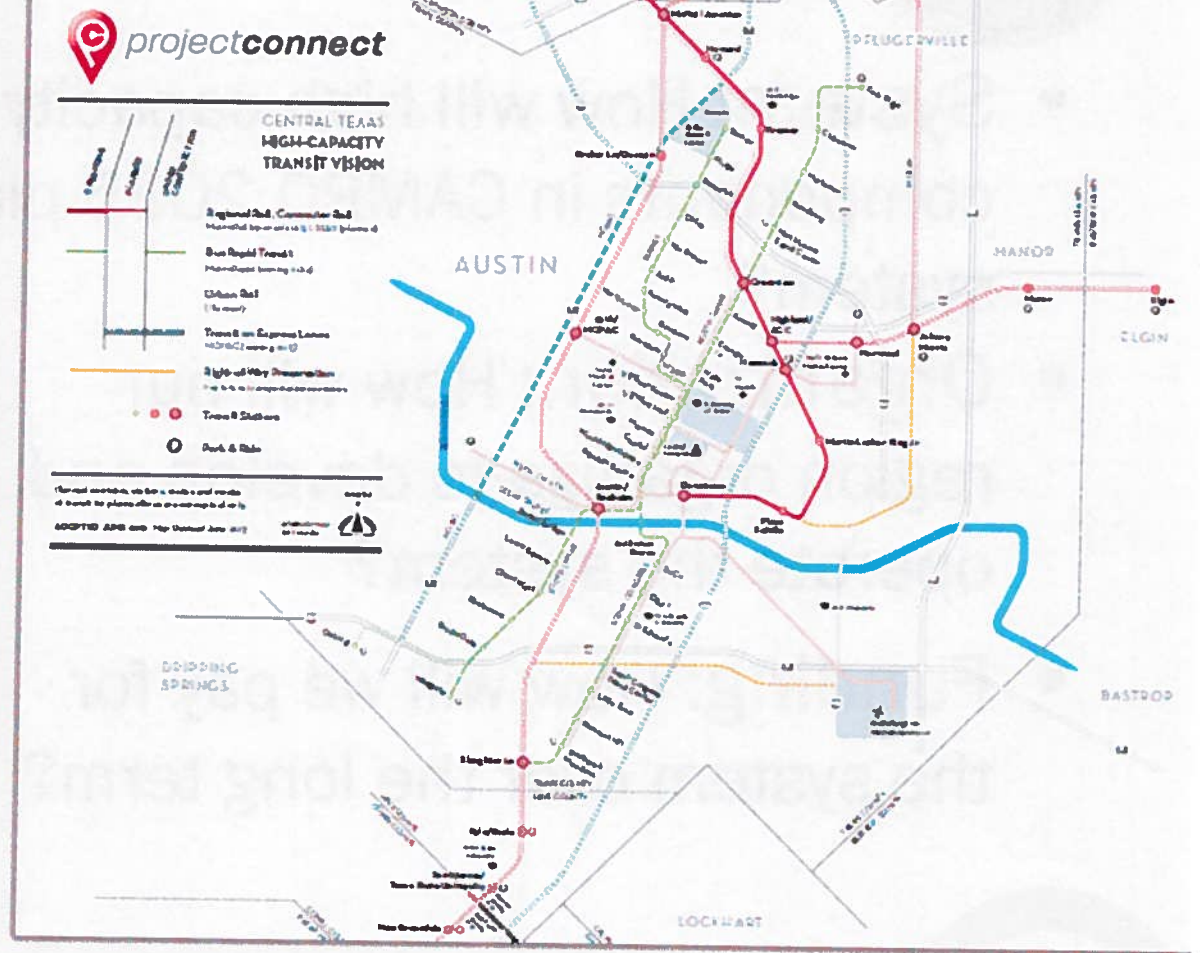
- **System:** How will high capacity transit components in CAMPO 2035 plan work as a system?
- **Organization:** How will our region organize to develop and operate the system?
- **Funding:** How will we pay for the system over the long term?



# 1

## Project Connect Vision

- System
  - 25 Centers & ABIA
  - 4 Counties/13 Cities
- Funding
  - \$4B Total Capital
  - Can Fund:
    - \$1.9B (49%) Capital
    - \$82M O&M
- Organization
  - ILA for Early Project Development
  - Framework for Regional Organization and 'Single System' Integration

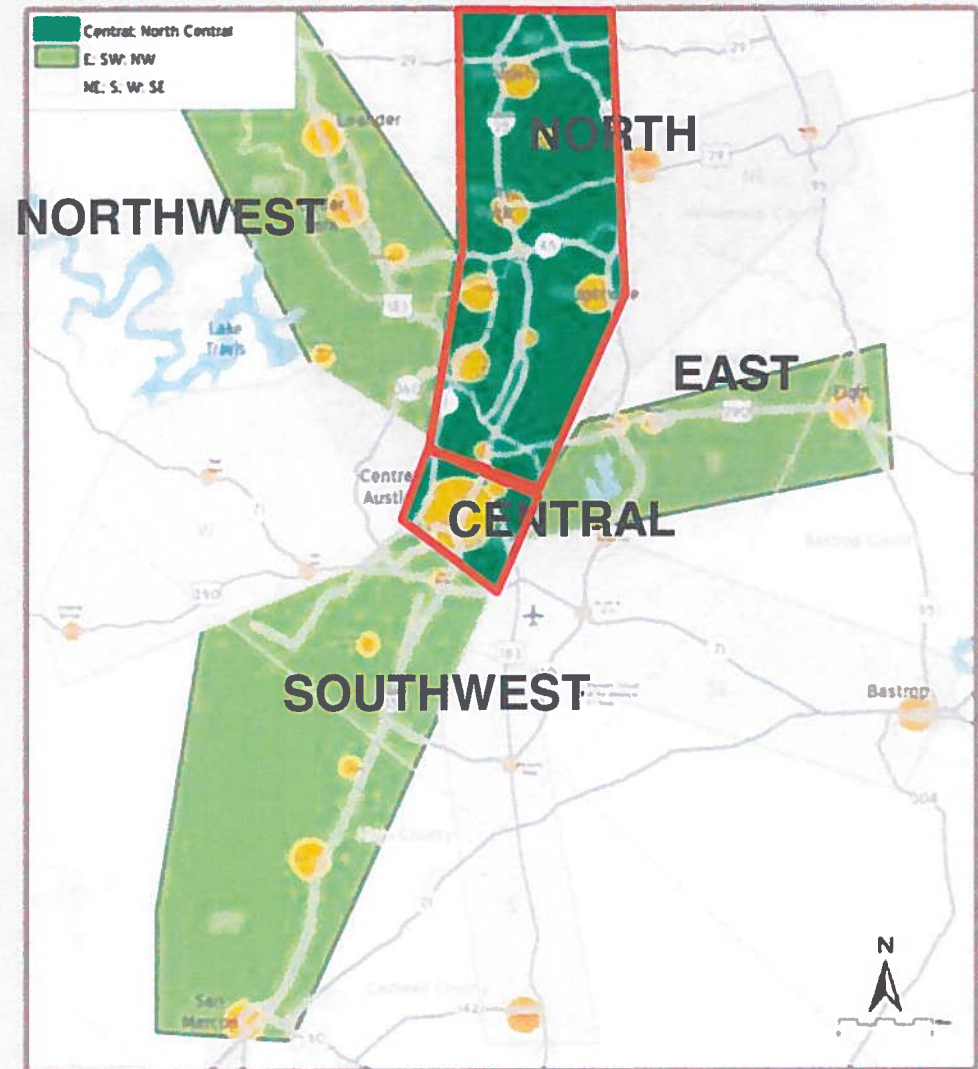




# 1

## Project Connect Corridors

- 9 Project Connect Corridors
- 5 High Priority:
  - North
  - East
  - Southwest
  - Northwest
  - Central



# 2

## Work Plan & Schedule



## 2

## Central Corridor Work Plan Focus

- Developed and implemented under integrated, interagency Project Team – City of Austin, Capital Metro, Lone Star Rail – per ILA
- High-Capacity Transit (HCT)
- Decision-Making Process
  - Transparent and inclusive
  - Sequential and logical
  - Efficient



## 2

# Central Corridor Work Plan Phases

## Decision-Making Process

- Phase 1: Select Priority Sub-Corridor
  - ‘Where are we going...next?’
- Phase 2: Select Locally Preferred Alternative (LPA)
  - ‘How will we get there?’





# 2

## Central Corridor Work Plan & Schedule

### Decision-Making Process

- Phase 1: Select Priority Sub-Corridor

Current  
Progress

				2013						2014							
				1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14
				Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug
Phase 1 Select Priority Sub-Corridor	Step 1: Kick-Off/Process	Task 1	Work Plan/Decision-Making Process														
	Step 2: Define Sub-Corridors	Task 2	Framework/History														
		Task 3	G&O/Problem Statement														
		Task 4	Methodology/Criteria														
		Task 5	Identify Sub-Corridors														
		Task 6	Define Sub-Corridors														
	Step 3: Select Priority Sub-Corridor	Task 7	Evaluate Sub-Corridors														
		Task 8	Select Priority Sub-Corridor														
			Decision						*								
					- Project Team Activities						- Public Involvement Activities						

- Project Team Activities

- Public Involvement Activities



projectconnect  
central corridor

# 2

## Central Corridor Work Plan & Schedule

### Decision-Making Process

- Phase 2: Select Locally Preferred Alternative (LPA)

				2013						2014							
				1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14
				Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug
Phase 2 Select Locally Preferred Alternative (LPA)	Step 4: Identify Preliminary Alternatives	Task 9	Project P&N/Problem Statement														
		Task 10	Methodology/Criteria														
		Task 11	Identify Preliminary Alternatives – Alignment & Mode														
	Step 5: Define Final Alternatives	Task 12	Define Final Alternatives – Alignment & Mode														
	Step 6: Evaluate Alternatives	Task 13	Evaluate Alternatives														
	Step 7: Select LPA	Task 14	Select Locally Preferred Alternative (LPA)														
			Decision														

– Project Team Activities

– Public Involvement Activities



**3**

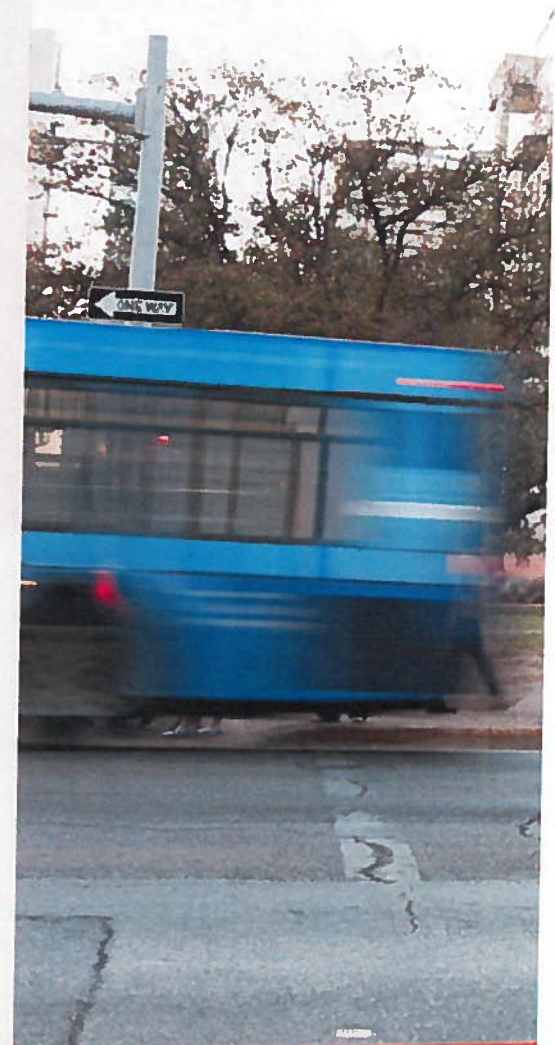
## **Central Corridor Public Involvement**



# 3

## Public Involvement Key Elements

- Informed consent
- Build and maintain trust
- Meaningful opportunities for the community to be involved in the decision-making process
- Integrated with Work Plan





# 3

## Recent Public Involvement

- North Austin Civic Association (9/19)
- Rotary Club of East Austin (9/24)
- Austin Home Builders Government Relations Committee (9/25)
- Public Open House (9/26, 10/2)
- Online Open House (Webinar) (9/27)
- UT Annual Resource Fair, Asian American Resource Center Grand Opening (9/28)
- Downtown Austin Alliance Mobility & Streetscapes Committee Workshop (10/16)
- Barton Hills Neighborhood Association Quarterly Meeting (10/22)

4

## Central Corridor Study Area Definition



4

## Study Area Definition

Study Area Limits

Identify Problems

Problem Statement(s)

Goals & Objectives

Evaluation Criteria

## Study Area Definition Limits

- **9 Project Connect Corridors**

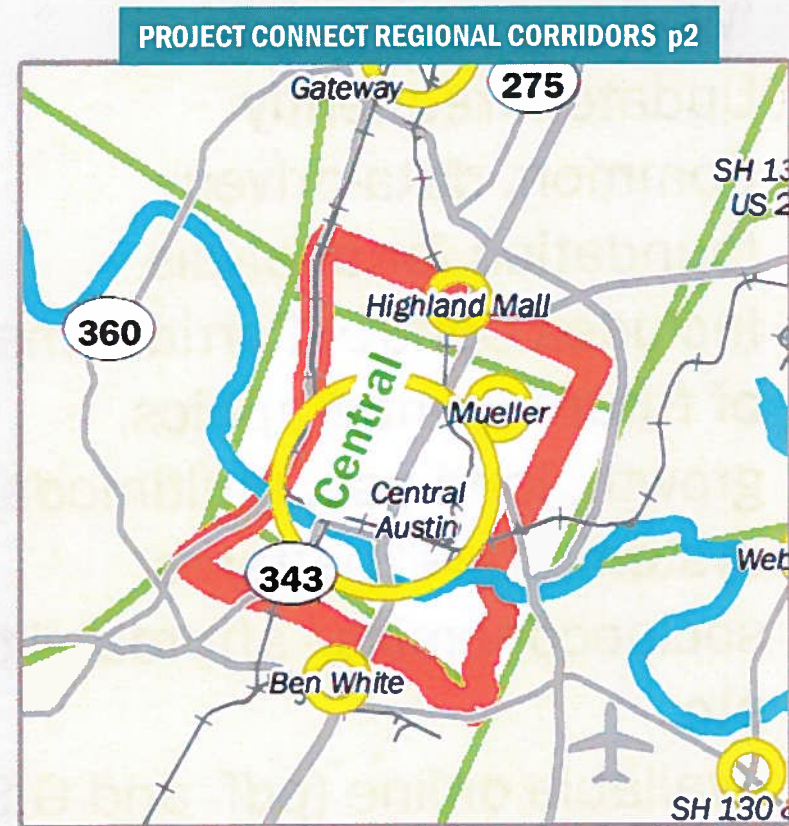




# 4

## Study Area Definition Limits

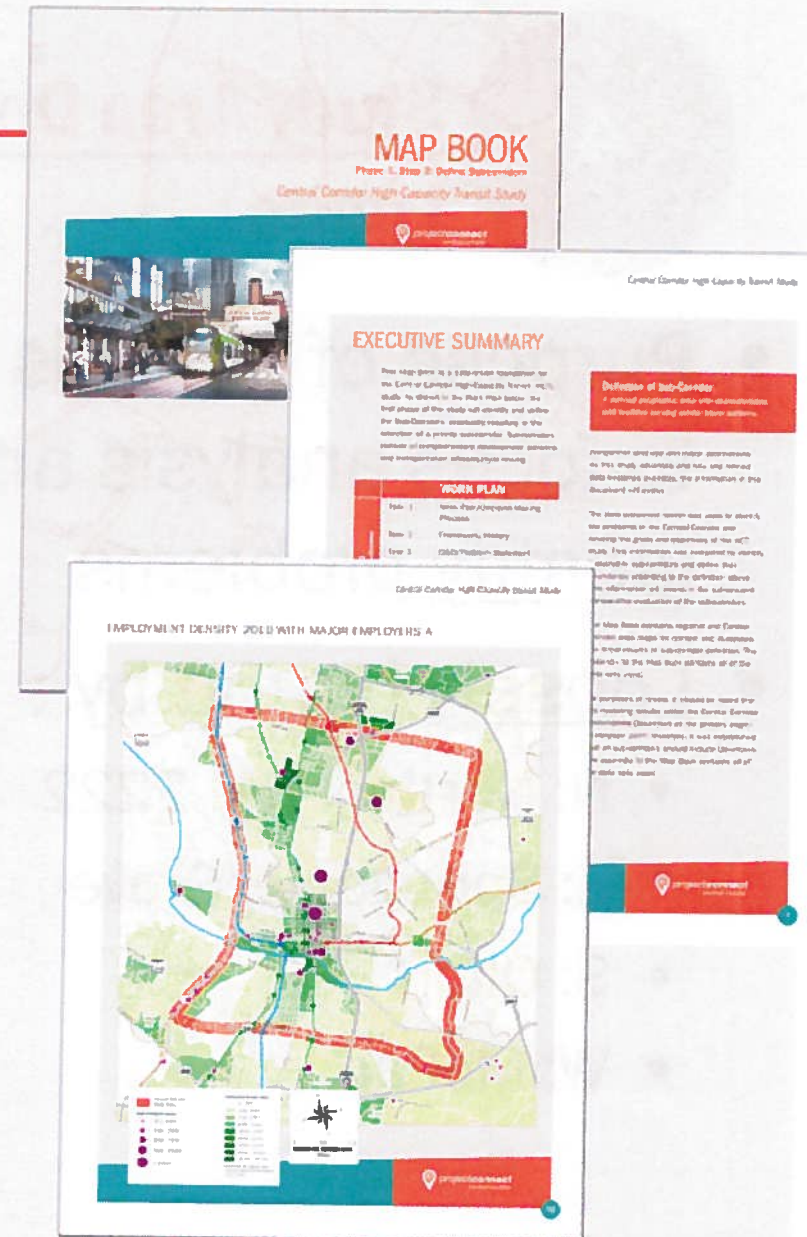
- Purpose of limits is to focus analysis and identify problems
- Loosely bound by :
  - N: North of RM 2222
  - E: Springdale/Grove
  - S: Oltorf
  - W: MoPac



# 4

## Study Area Definition Map Book

- 'Working' reference
- Updated frequently
- Common, data-driven foundation for analysis
- Includes Central Corridor maps of future demographics, growth, land use, multimodal system, travel patterns, socioeconomic/ affordability, etc.
- Available online (pdf and GIS)





4

## Problem Statements

Congestion

System

Centers

Constraints  
& Growth

Core



# 4

## Evaluation Criteria – Phase 1



### Congestion

- Congested lane miles and percent congested lane miles (2010)
- Congested lane miles and percent congested lane miles (2030)
- Average daily trips (ADT) on major roadways (2010)
- Average daily trips (ADT) on major roadways (2030)



# 4

## Evaluation Criteria – Phase 1

### Core

- Economic Development Potential
- Zero-car Households (2010)
- Population Below Poverty Level (2010)
- Population over 65 (2010)
- Affordability

### Centers

- Consistency with local plans and policies
- Number of major trip generators
- Number of Imagine Austin Centers
- Area of Imagine Austin centers and length of Imagine Austin corridors
- CAMPO center trips to sub-corridor



# 4

## Evaluation Criteria – Phase 1

### Constraints & Growth

- Population and population density (2010)
- Population and population density (2030)
- Employment and employment density (2010)
- Employment and employment density (2030)
- Physical and environmental constraints

### System

- Number of high-capacity transit options
- Existing transit ridership
  - Average daily bus ridership
  - Average MetroRail ridership
- Ridership potential (2030)
- Number of special trip generators
- Transit connectivity



# 5

## Sub-Corridors

### **Sub-Corridor:**

**A defined geographic area with characteristics and facilities serving similar travel patterns.**

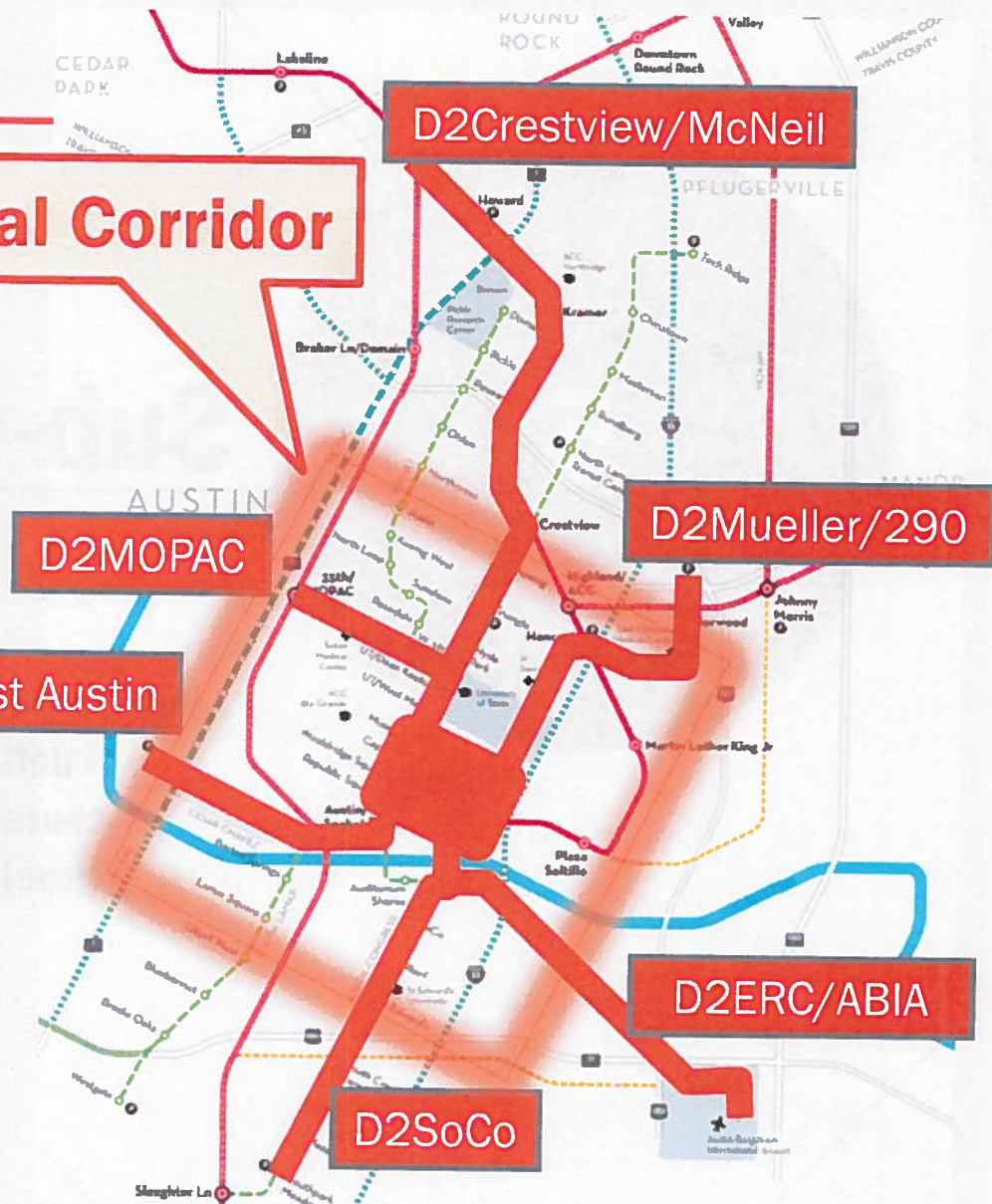


5

## Sub-Corridor Identification

- Initially identified according to ~40-mi Urban Rail System / Layer
- 6 Sub-Corridors radiating from Downtown (“Downtown to...”)

### Central Corridor





# 5

## Sub-Corridor Identification

- No one map 'tells the story'
- Maps *inform* and *guide* – technical expertise *draws*
- Taken together they help complete the picture

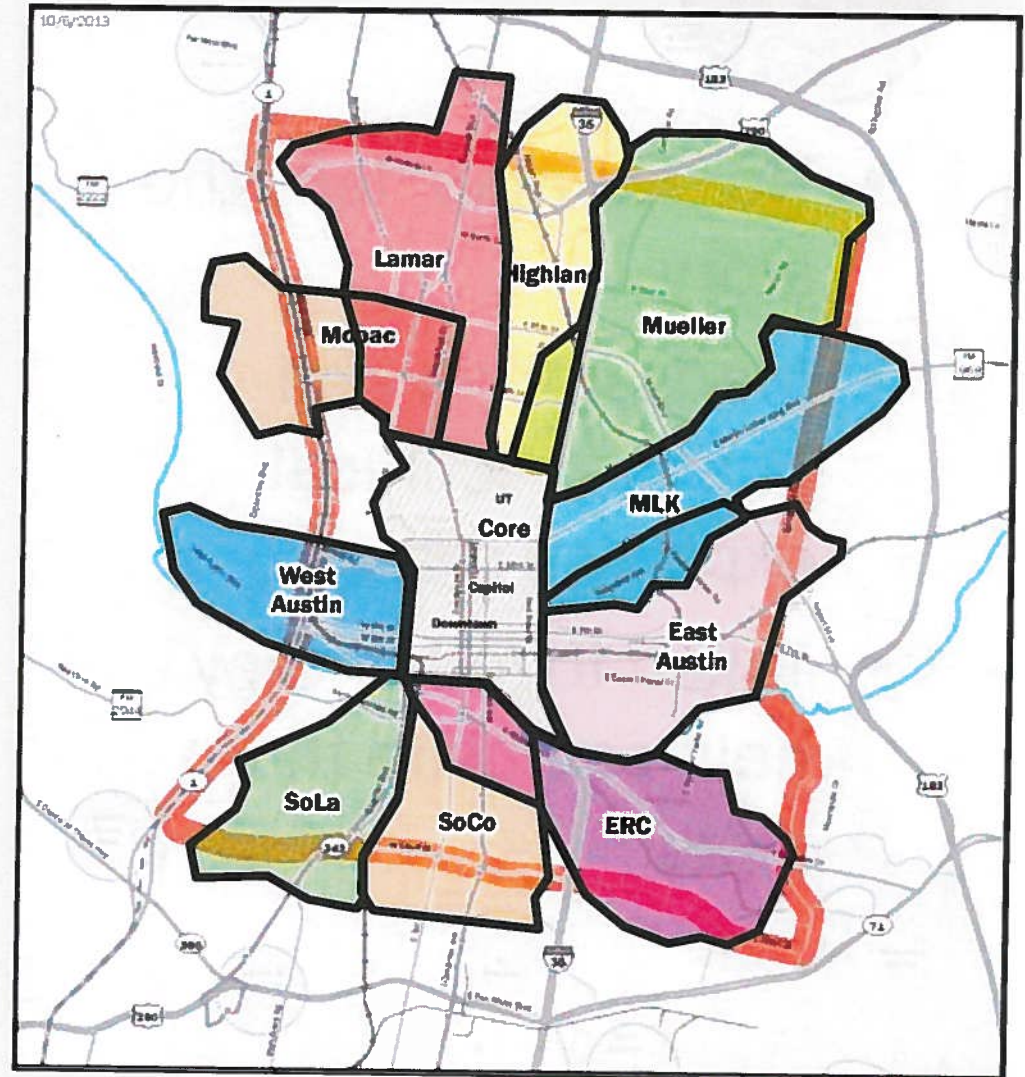




# 5

## Sub-Corridor Identification & Definition

- 10 Sub-Corridors *identified*
- Data suggested adding 4 more (SoLa, Highland, MLK, East Austin)
- Some Sub-Corridors overlap
- Core re-defined for this study as Downtown, Capitol Complex, UT
- Core part of each Sub-Corridor, but not used in comparison
- Core will be served





# 6

## Sub-Corridor Evaluation

### **Sub-Corridor:**

**A defined geographic area with characteristics and facilities serving similar travel patterns.**

## 6

## Evaluation Criteria – Phase 1

- Criteria flows from Problem Statements, Goals & Objectives
- Focus on prioritizing/phasing Sub-Corridors
  - Emphasize differentiation
  - Not for selecting alignments
- Sources include data (Map Book), Imagine Austin, Project Connect, FTA, etc.





## 6

## Approach to Phase 1 Evaluation

- Complete data compilation
- Prepare graphic representations of the data
  - 3 examples
    - Population density
    - Employment density
    - Congestion
- Develop sub-corridor evaluation matrix
- Remaining information to be presented at November 1<sup>st</sup> CCAG meeting
- **No conclusions can be drawn at this time**

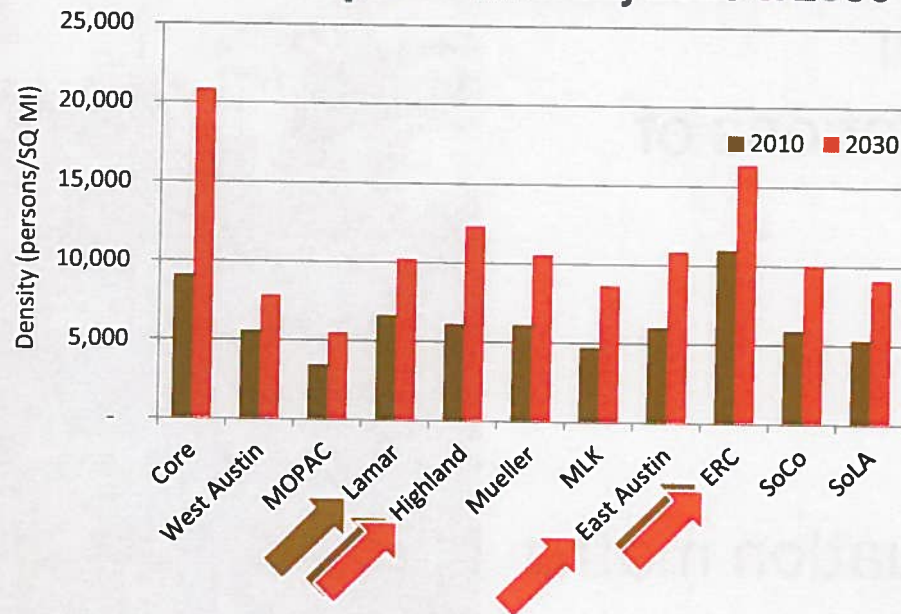




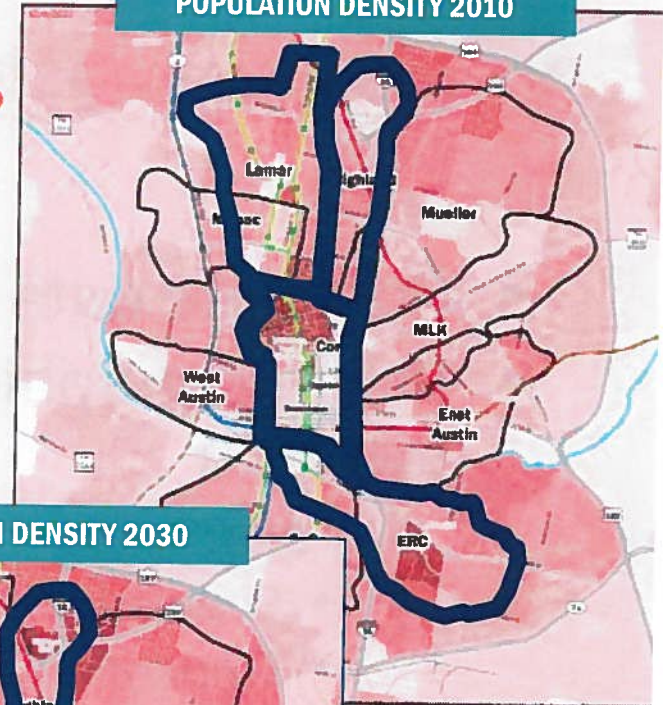
# 6

## Evaluate Sub-Corridors

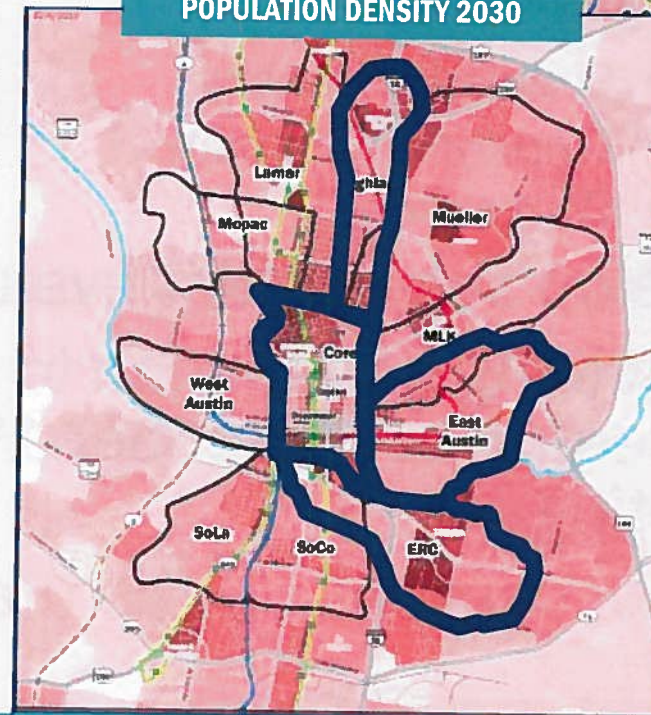
Population Density 2010 & 2030



POPULATION DENSITY 2010



POPULATION DENSITY 2030

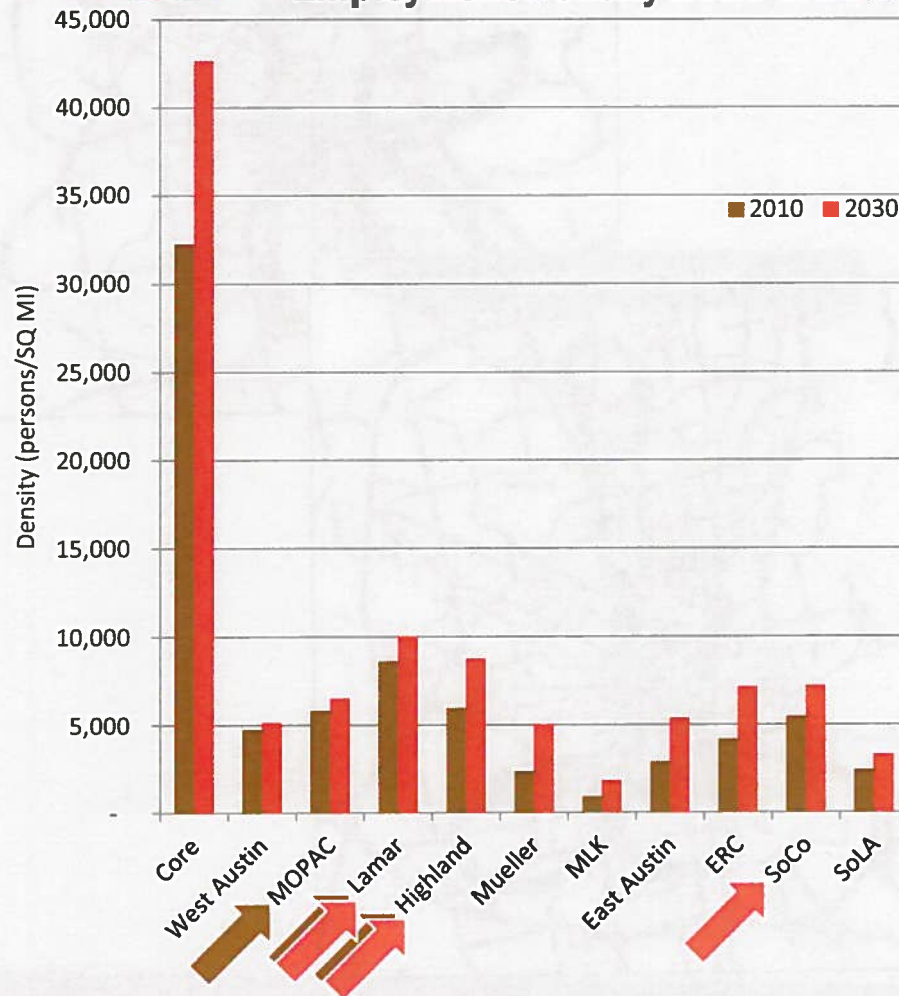




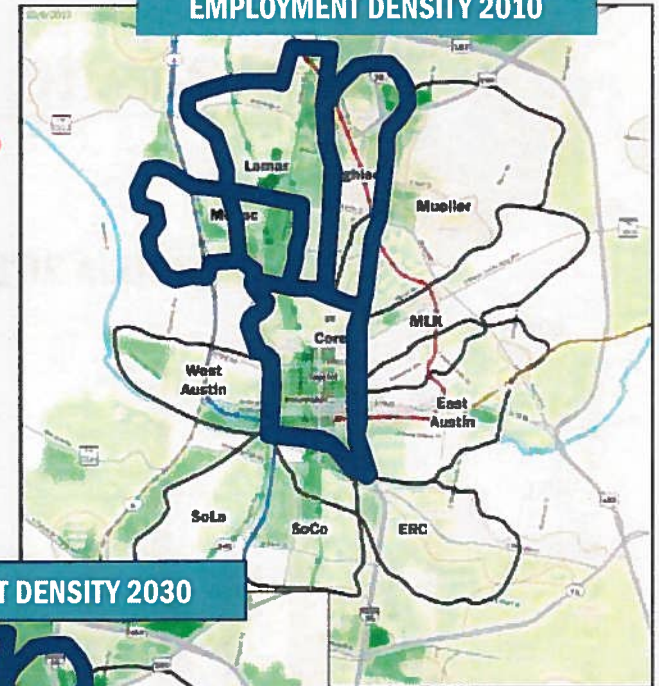
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## Evaluate Sub-Corridors

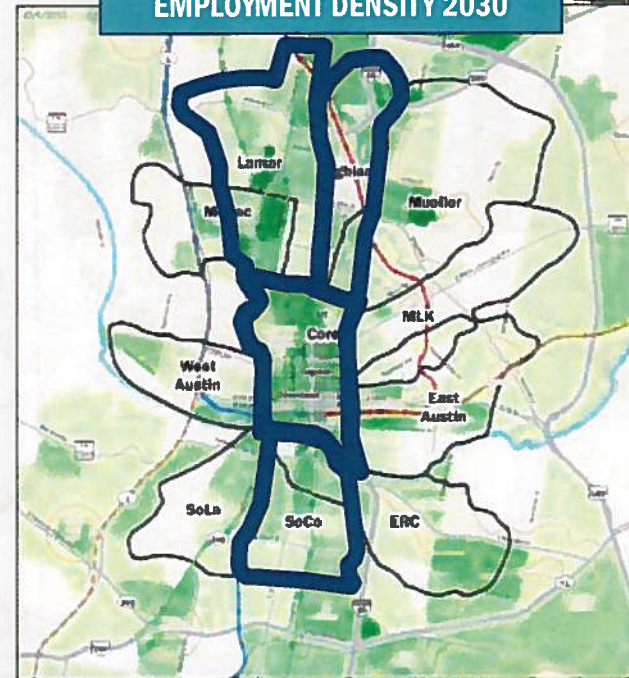
Employment Density 2010 & 2030



EMPLOYMENT DENSITY 2010



EMPLOYMENT DENSITY 2030

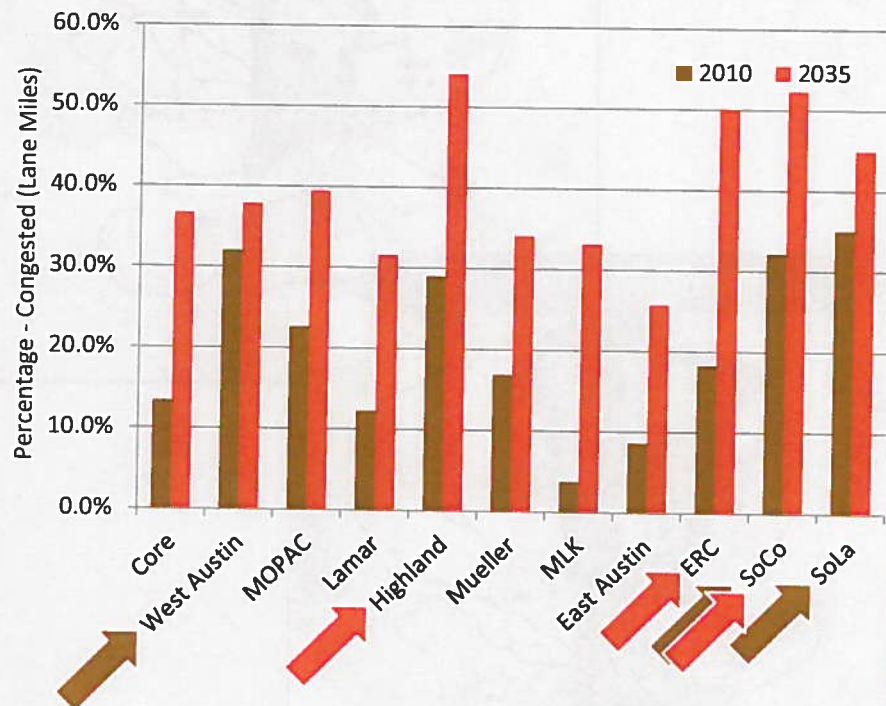




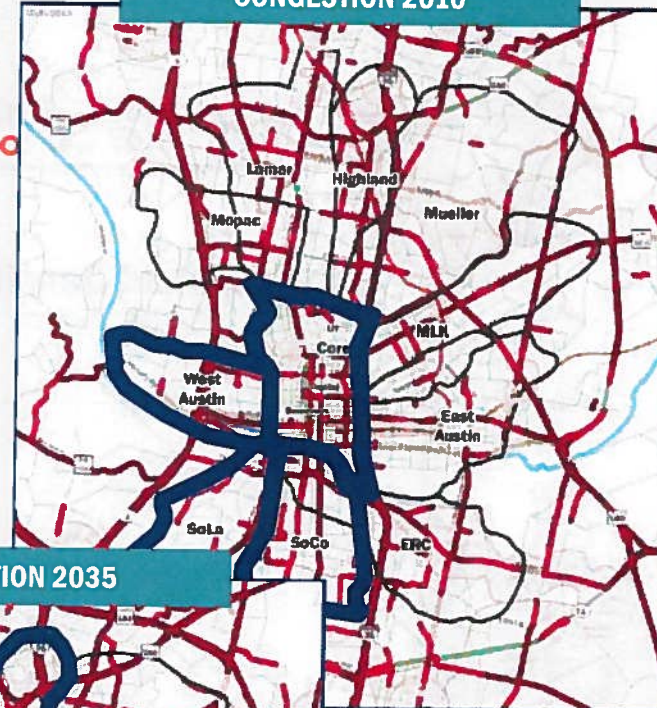
# 6

## Evaluate Sub-Corridors

% Congestion 2010 & 2035



CONGESTION 2010



CONGESTION 2035





8

## Central Corridor Next Steps



## 8

## Next Steps

- Evaluate Sub-Corridors
- Select Priority Sub-Corridor
- Ongoing Public Outreach
  - Step 3 Public Meetings November 6th – 12th
- Council
  - Follow-ups
  - Briefing on Evaluation November 19th or 21st (tbd)
  - Action on Priority Sub-Corridor December 12<sup>th</sup>
- Begin Phase 2 Activities



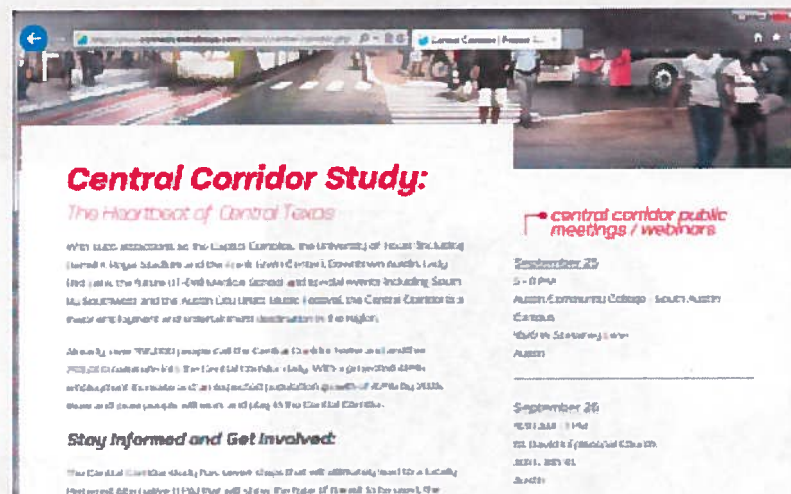


# 8

## More Information

# Project Connect & Central Corridor HCT Study

[projectconnect.com](http://projectconnect.com)



# THANK YOU



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