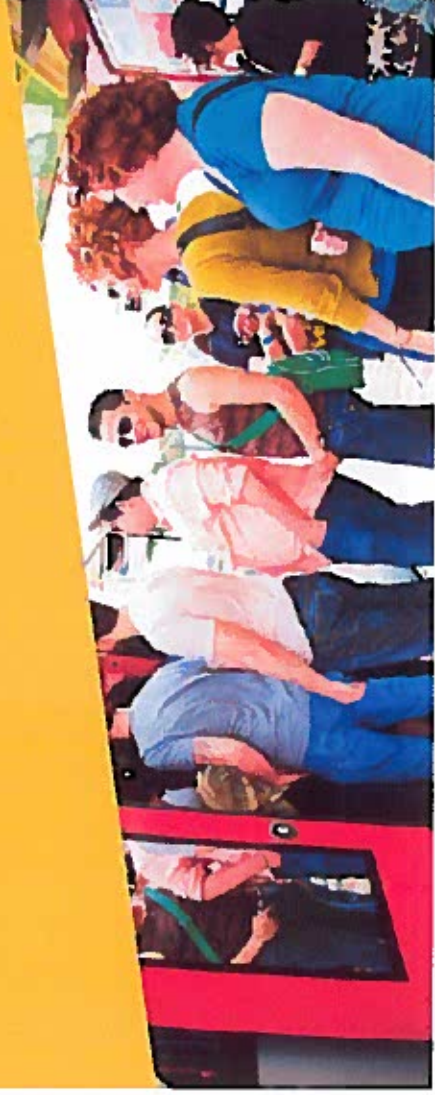


CENTRAL CORRIDOR HIGH-CAPACITY TRANSIT STUDY

Planning Commission

October 22, 2013

Austin City Hall, Council Chambers



*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) Sub-Corridor Evaluation
- 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

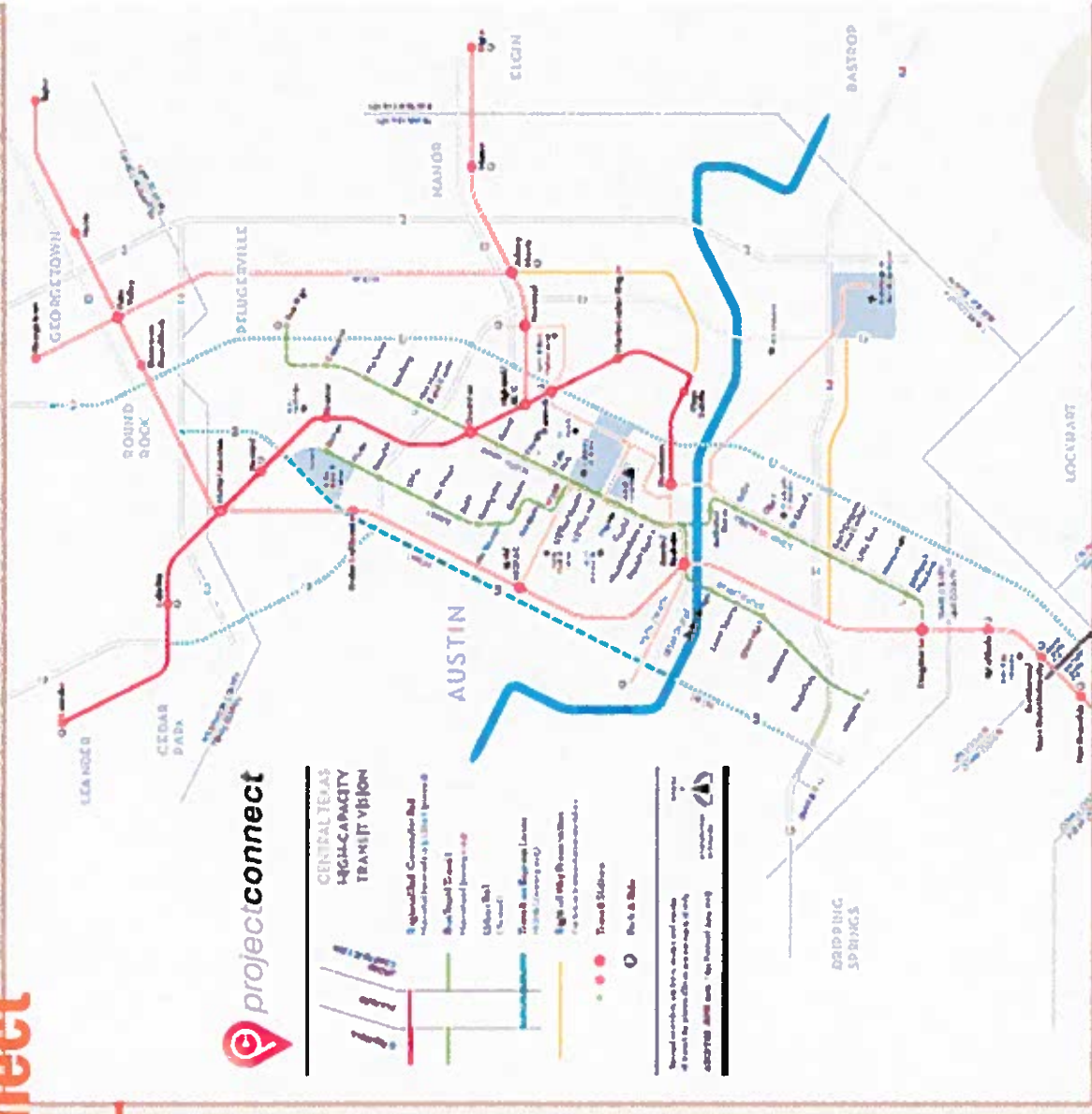
- **System:** How will high capacity transit components in CAMPO 2035 plan work as a system?
- **Organization:** How will our region organize to develop and operate the system?
- **Funding:** How will we pay for the system over the long term?



Project Connect Vision

1

- System
 - 25 Centers & ABIA
 - 4 Counties/13 Cities
- Funding
 - \$4B Total Capital
 - Can Fund:
 - \$1.9B (49%)
 - \$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



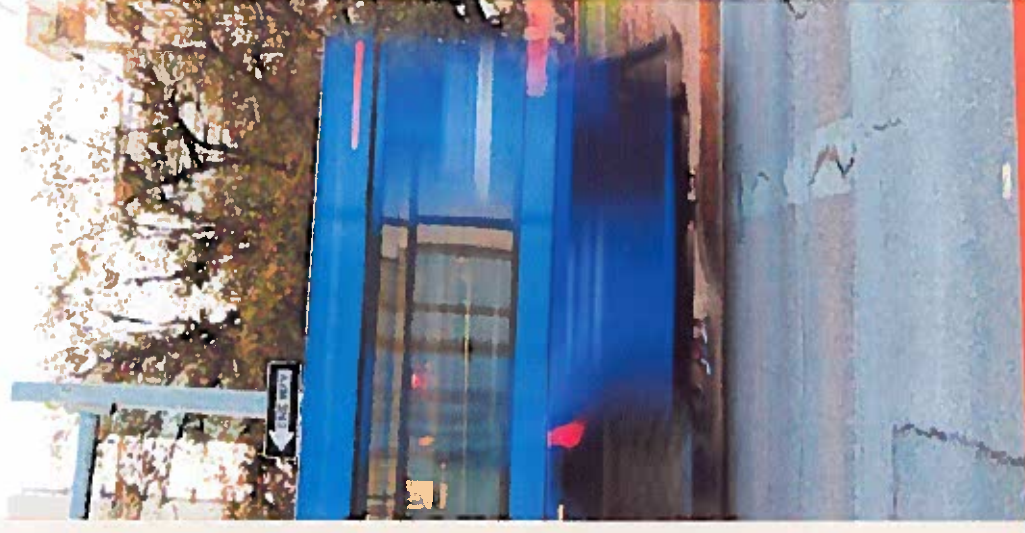
2

Work Plan & Schedule

Central Corridor Work Plan Focus

2

- 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



Central Corridor Work Plan Phases

2

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?’



Central Corridor Work Plan & Schedule

2

Decision-Making Process

- Phase 1: Select Priority Sub-Corridor

Current
Progress

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2

- Phase 2: Select Locally Preferred Alternative (LPA)

- Project Team 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



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

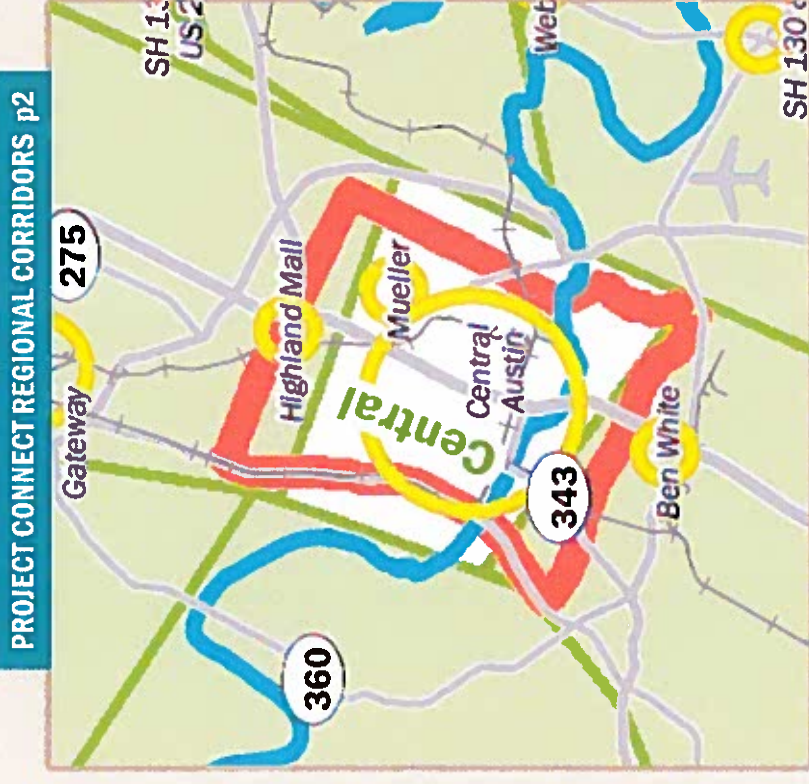
Evaluation Criteria



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, socioeconomics/ affordability, etc.
- Available online (pdf and GIS)



4

Problem Statements

Congestion

System

Centers

Constraints
& Growth

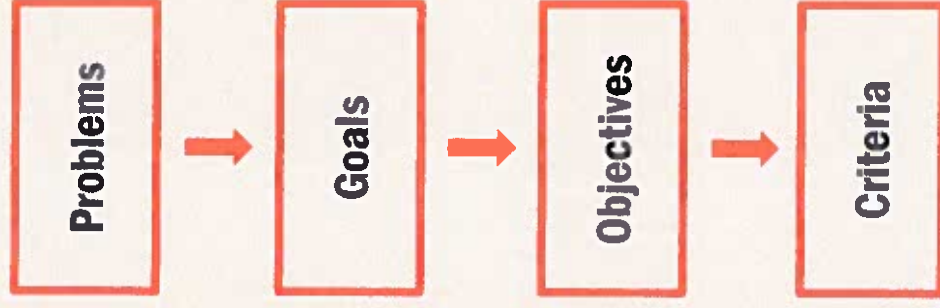
Core



projectconnect
central corridor

21

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)

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

Central Corridor

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



5

Sub-Corridor Identification

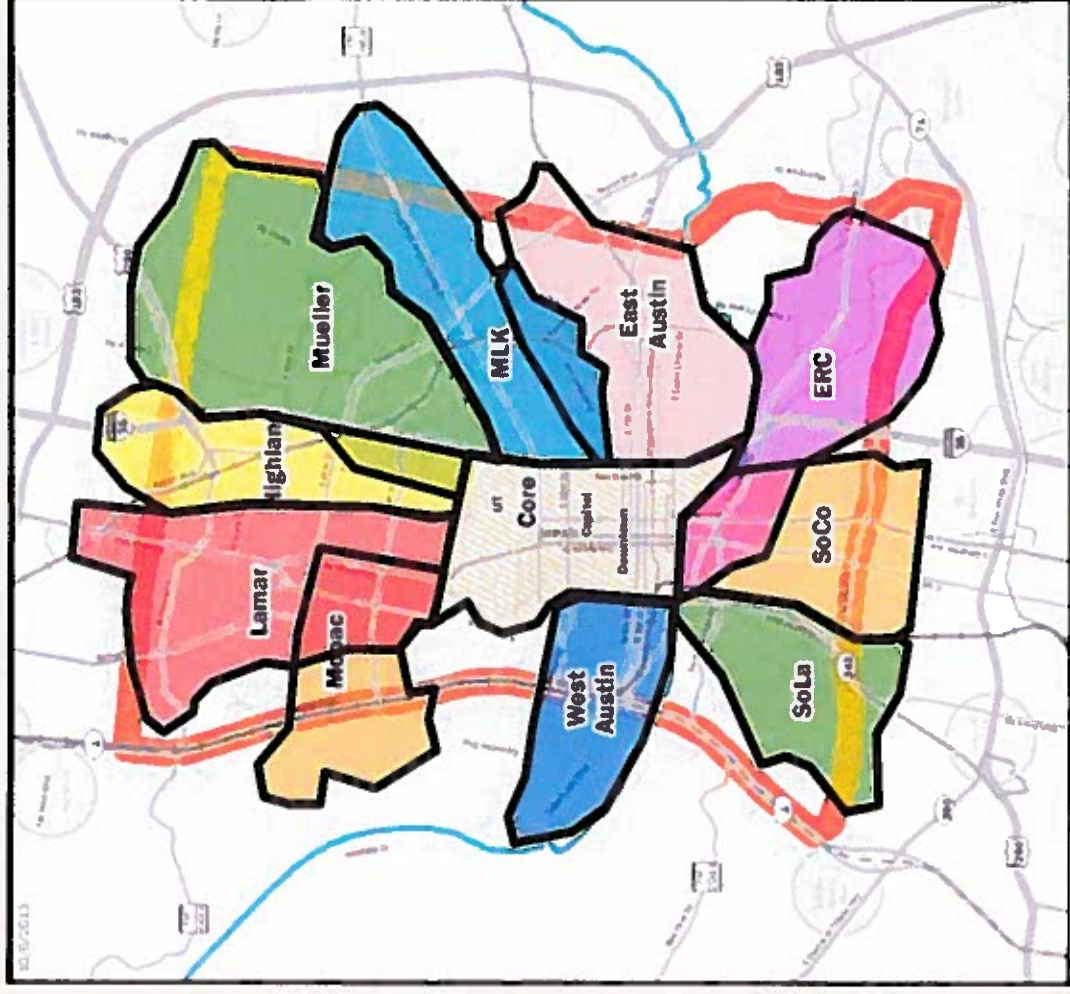
- No one map 'tells the story'
- Maps *inform* and *guide* – technical expertise *draws*
- Taken together they help complete the picture



Sub-Corridor Identification & Definition

5

- 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

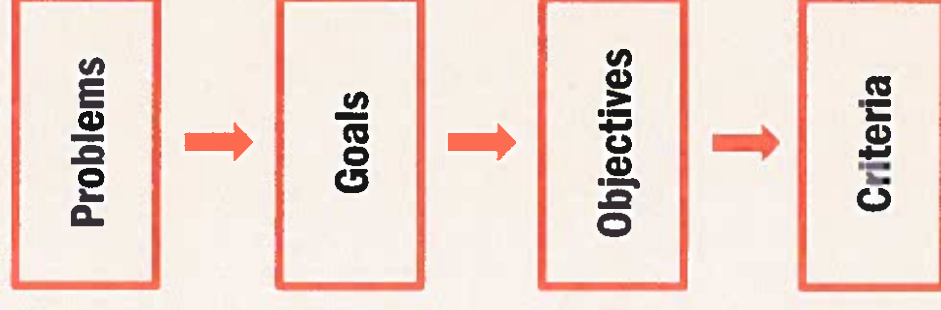
Sub-Corridor Evaluation

Sub-Corridor:

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



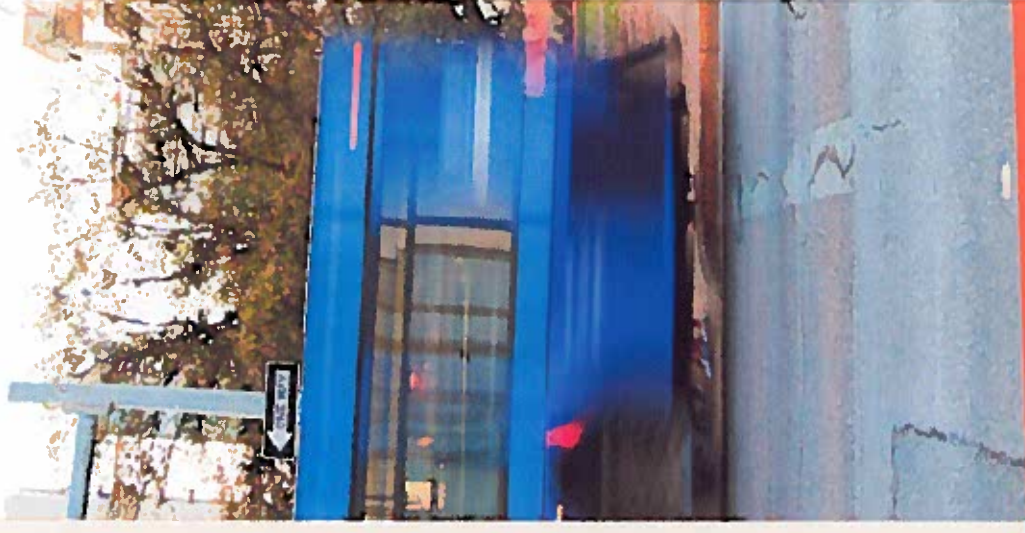
- Criteria flows from Problem Statements, Goals & Objectives
- Focus on prioritizing/phasing Sub-Corridors
 - Emphasize differentiation
 - Not for selecting alignments
- Sources include data (Map Book), Imagine Austin, Project Connect, FTA, etc.



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 1st CCAG meeting
- **No conclusions can be drawn at this time**



7

Central Corridor Next Steps

7

Next Steps

- Ongoing Public Outreach
 - Step 3 Public Meetings November 6th – 12th
- Evaluate Sub-Corridors
- Select Priority Sub-Corridor
- Begin Phase 2 Activities



Project Connect & Central Corridor HCT Study

projectconnect.com



THANK YOU



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