CENTRAL CORRIDOR HIGH-CAPACITY TRANSIT STUDY

Step 3 Briefing: Recommendation Summary

December 2013



projectconnect
central corridor

1 Briefing Topics

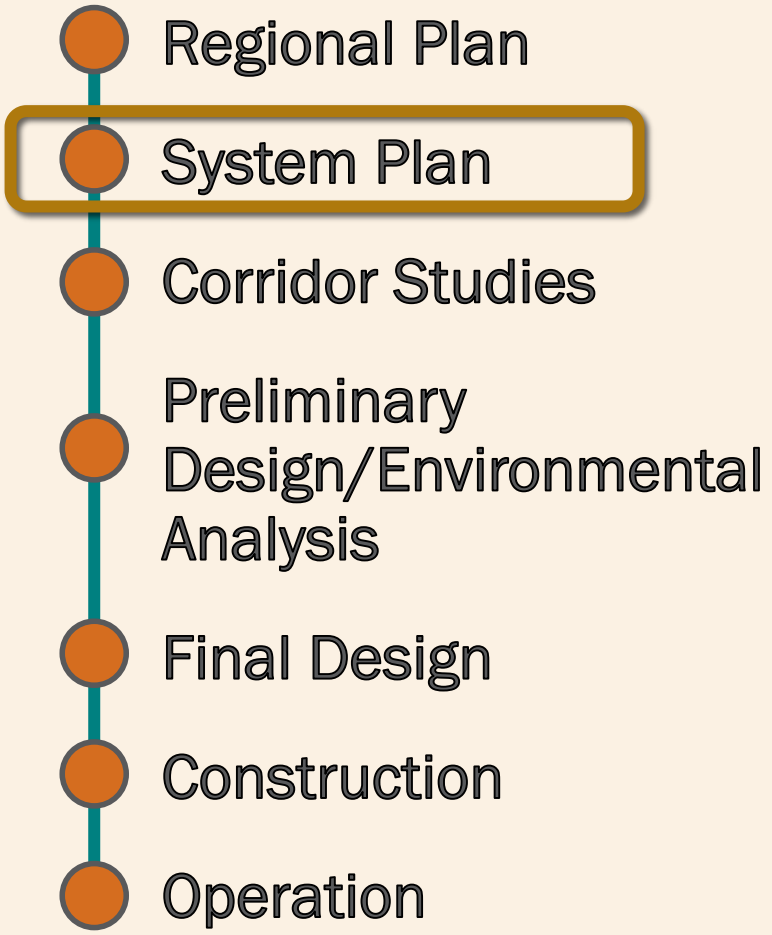
1) Project Connect
2) Work Plan & Schedule
3) Public Involvement
4) Recommendation Summary
5) Next Steps



1 Project Connect

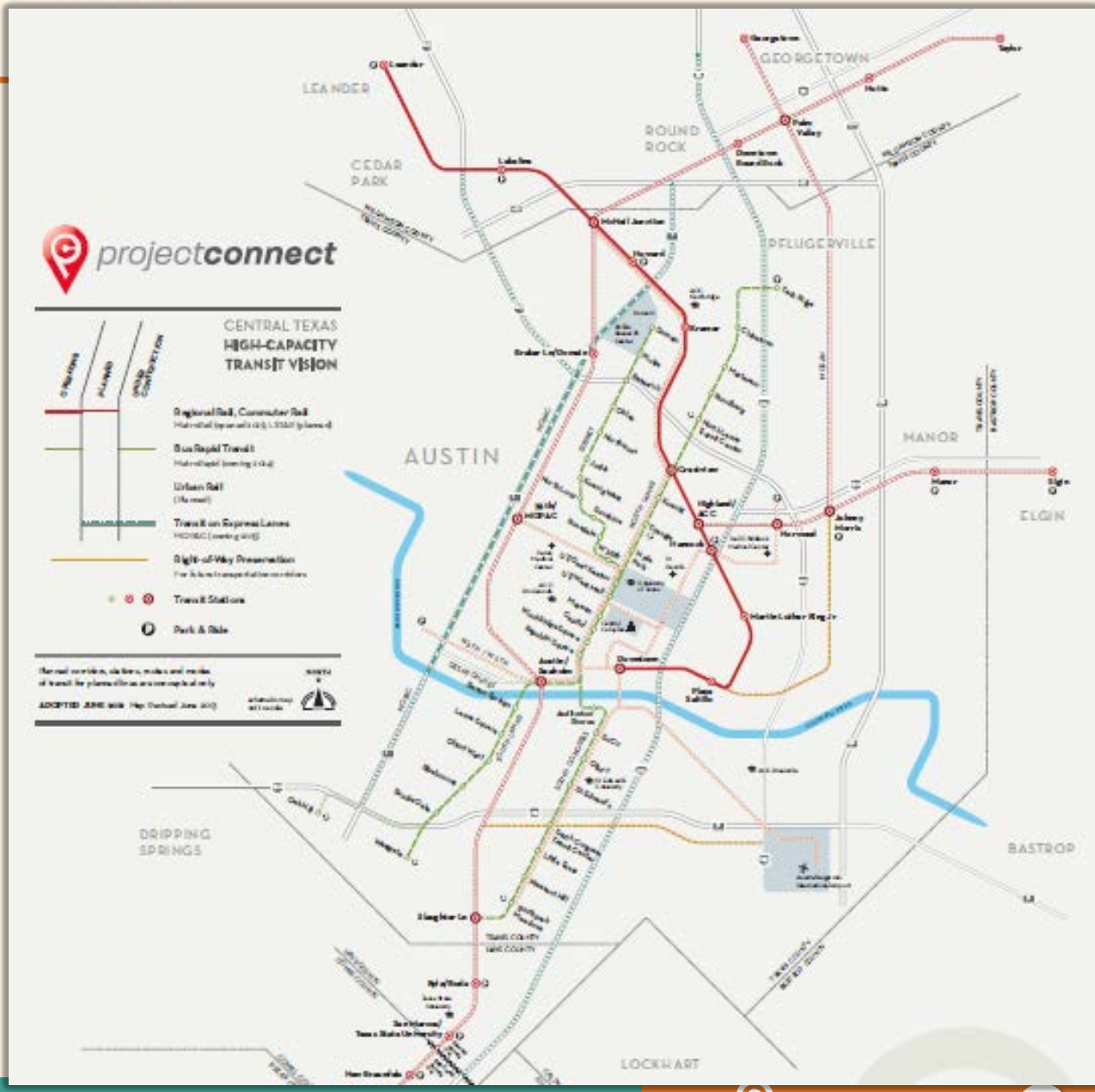
1 Project Connect

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



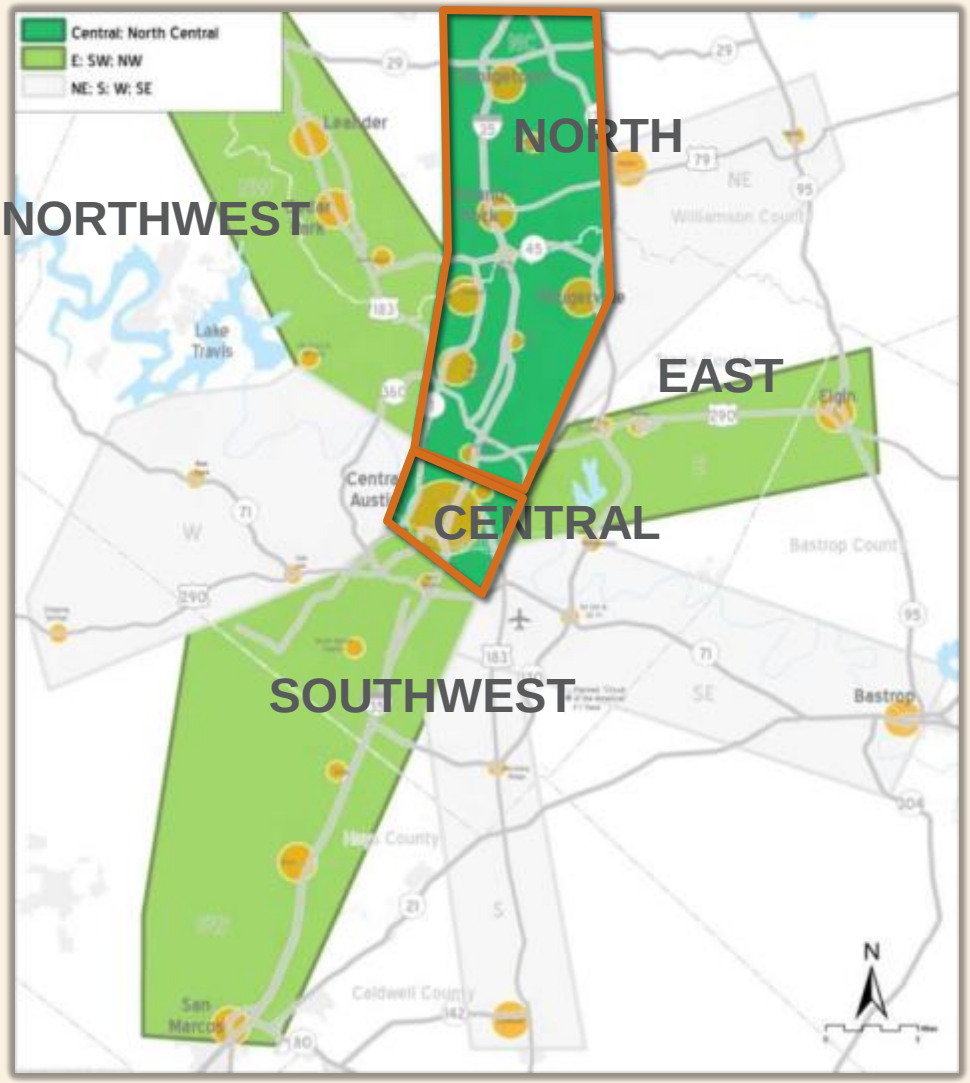
1 Project Connect Vision

- 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 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 Jul	2 Aug	3 Sep	4 Oct	5 Nov	6 Dec	7 Jan	8 Feb	9 Mar	10 Apr	11 May	12 Jun	13 Jul	14 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						*								

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 Phase 1 Public Involvement Goals

- Trust in the process… YES
- Meaningful involvement… YES
- Diverse participation… ONGOING

3

Step 1: Kick-off/Process

Consult on Work Plan & Public Involvement Plan

- Stakeholder meetings
  - Austin Urban Rail Action
  - Austin Chamber staff
  - Alliance for Public Transportation
  - Light Rail Now!
  - Downtown Austin Alliance
  - Capital City African-American Chamber
  - Network of Asian American Organizations
  - Austin Homebuilders Association
  - Other key stakeholders
- Webinar
- Online discussion forum

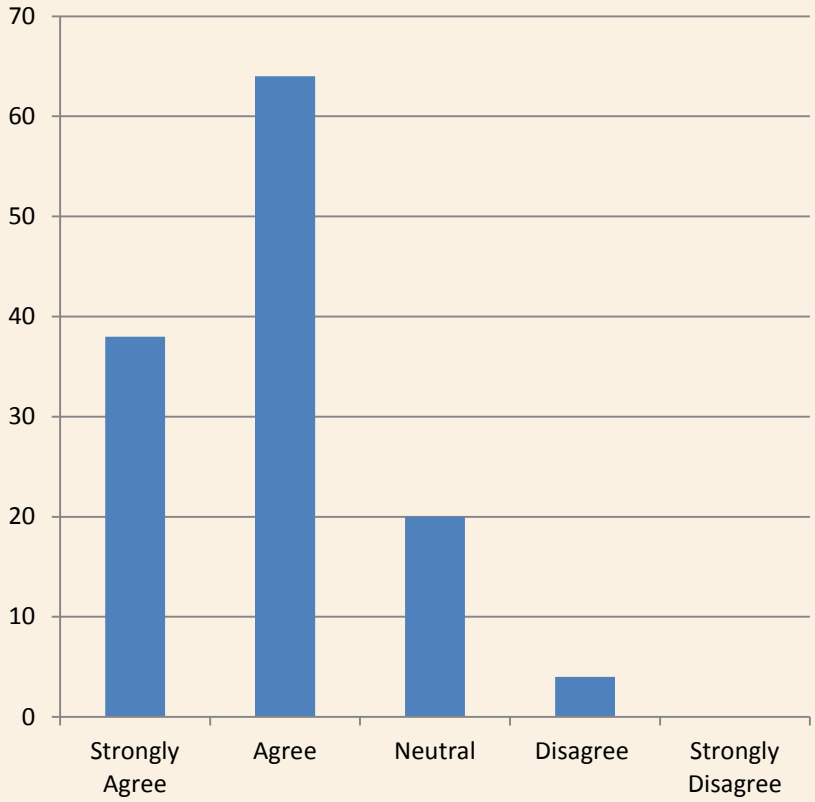
3 Step 2: Define Sub-Corridors

Involve public in defining Sub-corridors, Problem Statements, Evaluation Criteria

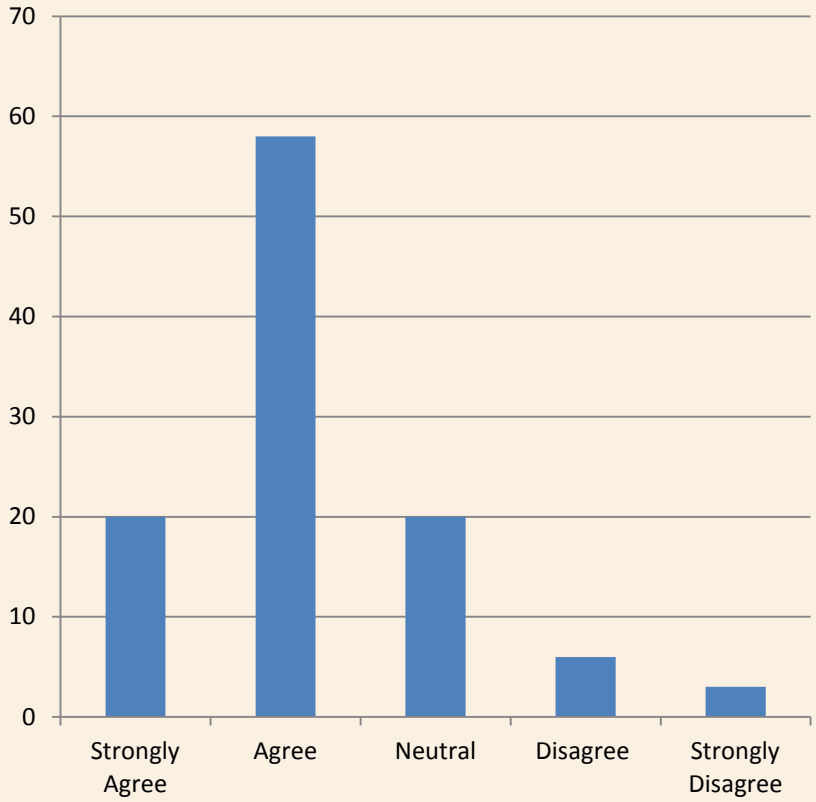
- Public Open Houses
- Webinar
- Stakeholder Briefings
- Community Events
- Email/Social Media

3 Step 2 Results – Trust in Process

"I understand the process..."

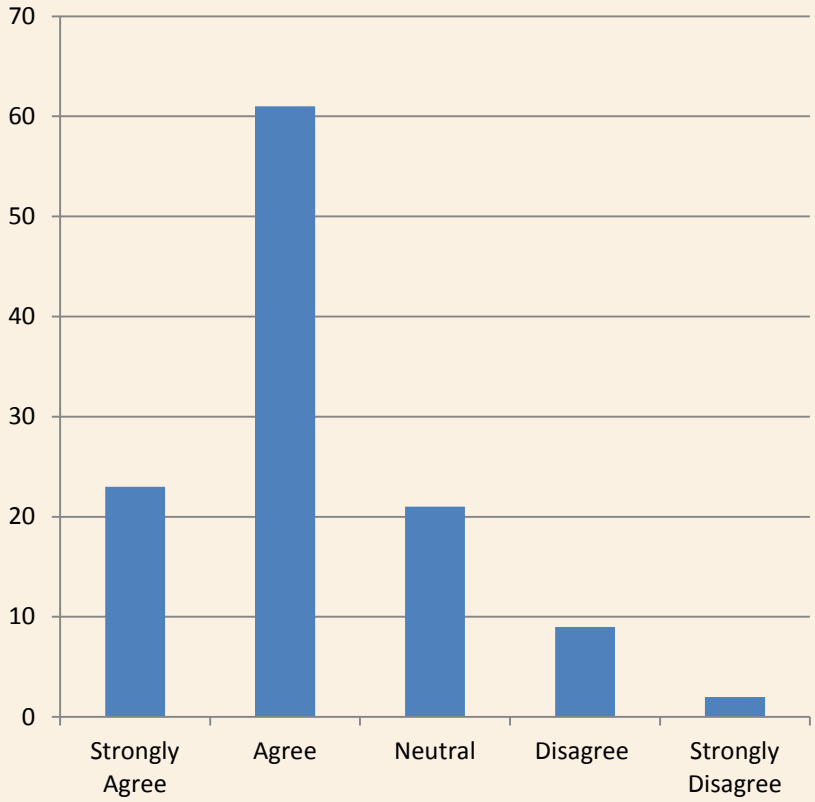


"Evaluation Criteria...are appropriate"

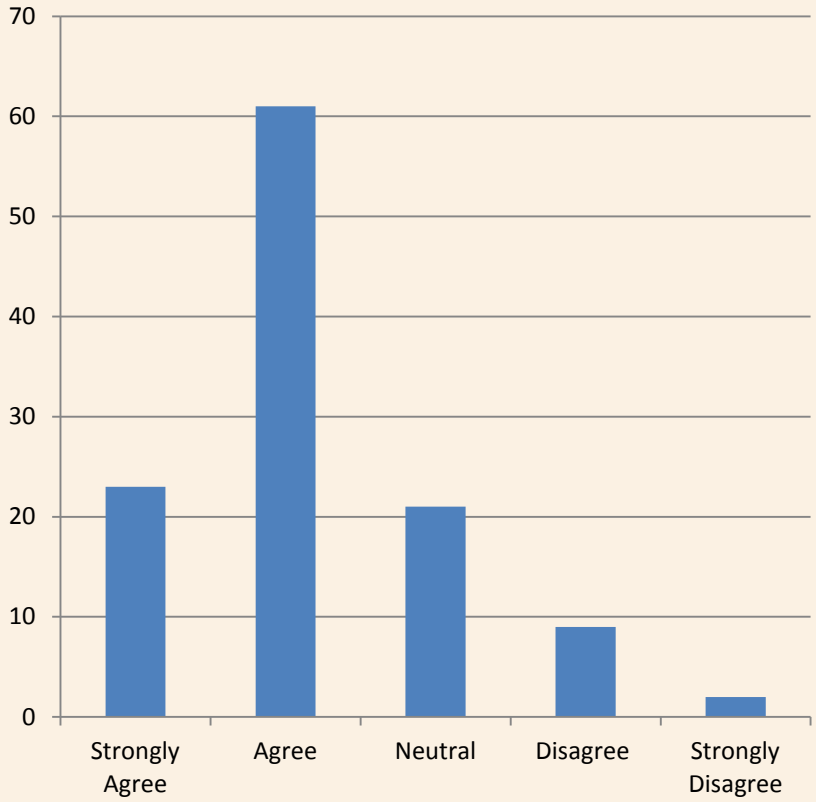


3 Step 2 Results – Trust in Process

"The method used to identify... Sub-Corridors is appropriate."



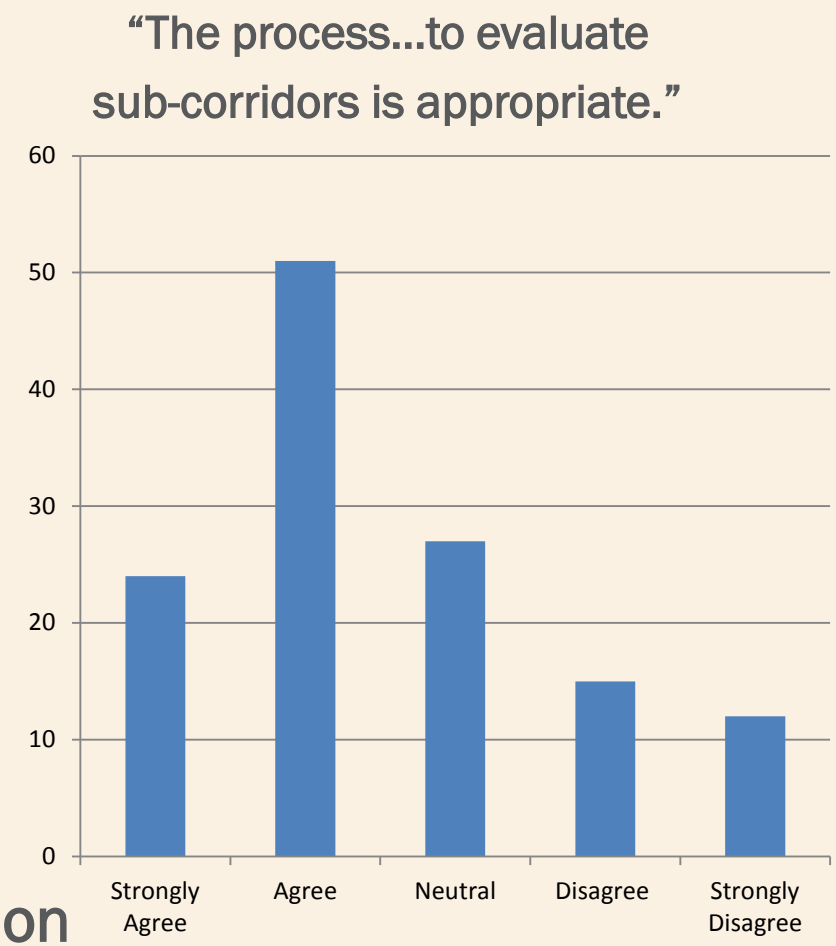
"The Project Team has identified all the appropriate...Sub-Corridors."



3 Step 3: Select Priority Sub-Corridor

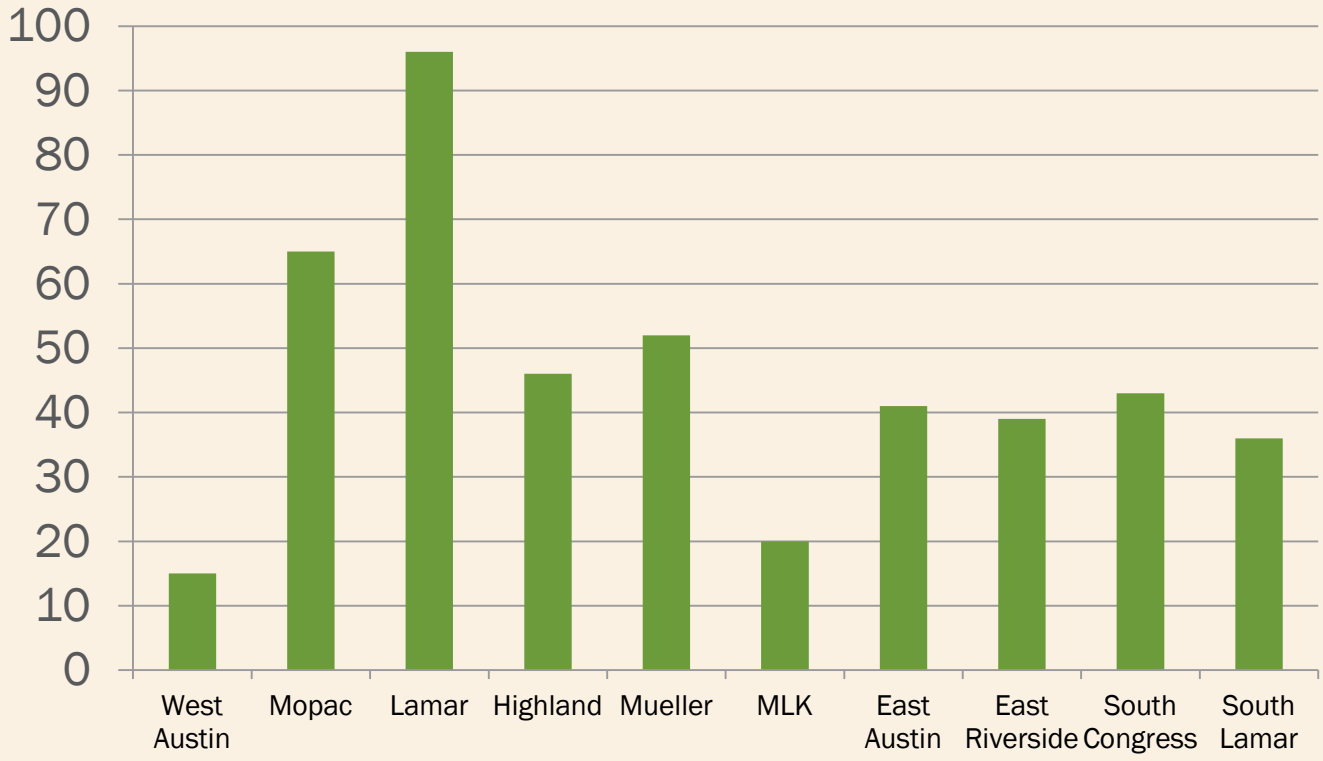
Collaborate on Sub-Corridor Evaluation

- Public Workshops
- Webinar
- Stakeholder Workshops
- Stakeholder Briefings
- Community Events
- Online Survey/Evaluation Tool
- Email/Social Media
- Televised Community Conversation



3 Sub-Corridor Preferences

Which sub-corridor do you believe would be the best place to invest first in high-capacity transit?

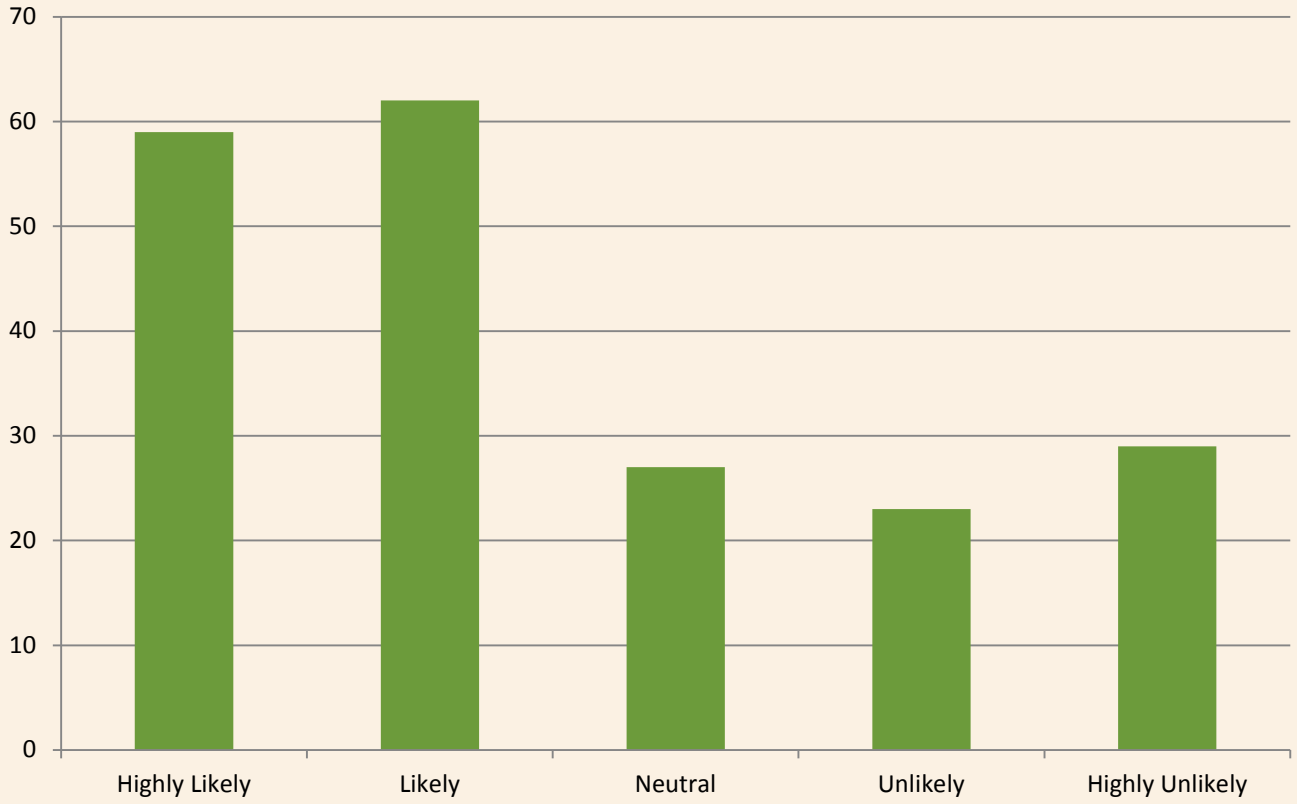


From Televised Community Conversation – 11/26

- **Channel 6 broadcast from Council Chambers**
- **6,750 individuals accepted the dial out (out of 50,000)**
- **1,200 individuals on the call at one time**

3 Step 3 Results – Trust in Process

"If your preferred sub-corridor is not the one recommended…would you still support the next investment…?"



4 Public Involvement Updates

- New publications online
  - Data matrix
  - Demographic projection methodology
  - Evaluation scenarios weighting
- FAQs posted
- Responses to Map Book comments



4

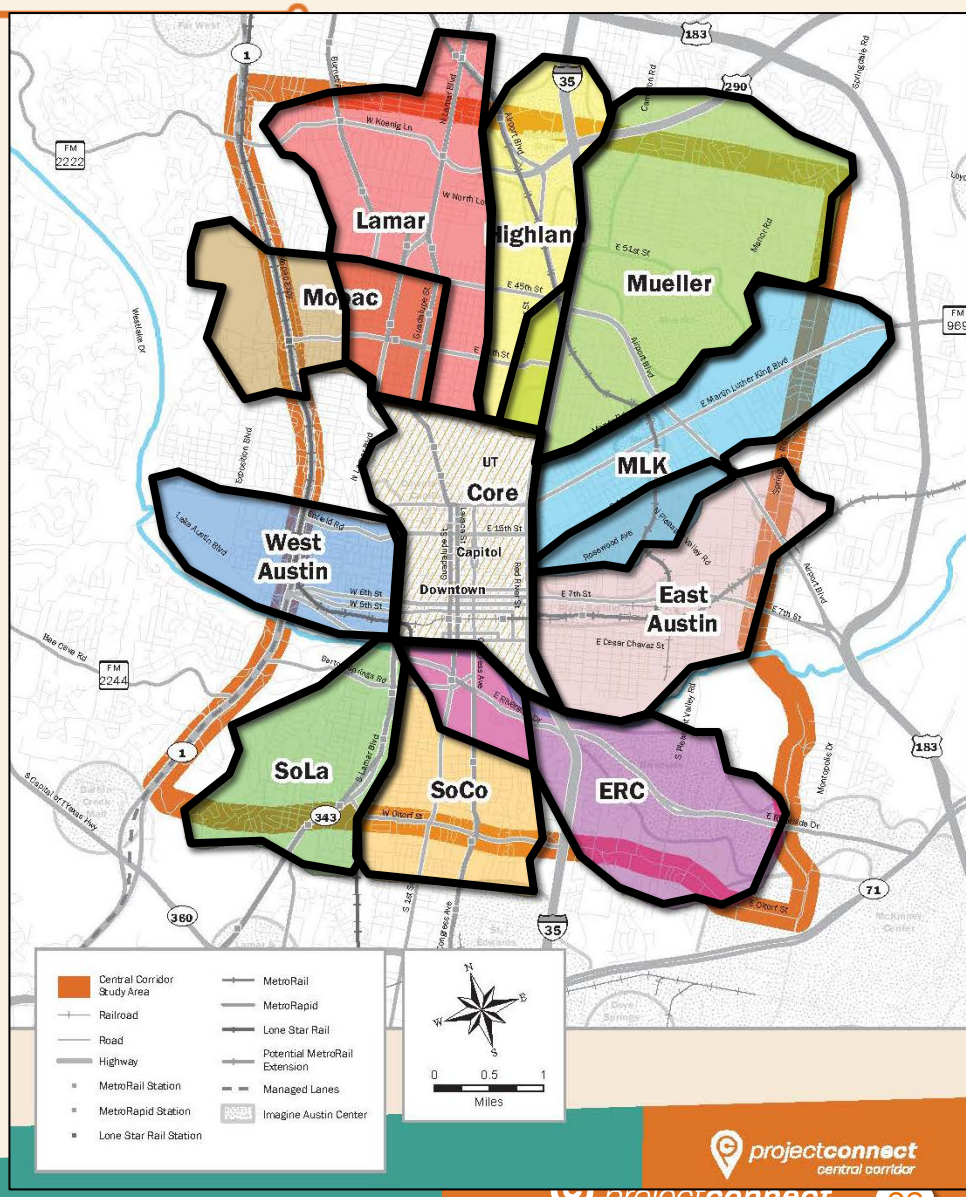
Recommendation Summary

4 Phase 1 Summary

- Data-driven
- Open and transparent
- Robust public involvement
- Comprehensive look at the Central Corridor
- Deliberative decision-making process
- Evaluation data and methodology publicly available

4 Evaluation Approach

- 10 sub-corridors identified + Core
- Comparison of sub-corridors for high-capacity transit (HCT) suitability
- No single factor tells the whole story



4 Evaluation Results

Project Team		CCAG		Public*		Equal Weight		Current Focus: Serving Criteria Only		Future Focus: Shaping Criteria Only	
ERC	70	ERC	58	ERC	71	ERC	60	ERC	55	ERC	57
Highland	61	Highland	58	Highland	64	Highland	57	East Austin	53	Highland	52
Lamar	53	Mueller	51	Mueller	57	Mueller	51	Lamar	53	Mueller	44
Mueller	52	Lamar	48	Lamar	50	Lamar	50	West Austin	52	Lamar	42
East Austin	50	East Austin	45	East Austin	49	East Austin	47	Highland	47	SoCo	38
SoCo	44	SoCo	41	SoCo	45	SoCo	43	Mueller	45	East Austin	34
West Austin	33	West Austin	32	West Austin	39	West Austin	32	SoCo	37	West Austin	28
MLK	27	SoLa	22	MLK	31	MLK	25	Mopac	36	SoLa	21
Mopac	27	MLK	22	Mopac	27	SoLa	22	MLK	31	MLK	18
SoLa	24	Mopac	18	SoLa	26	Mopac	21	SoLa	16	Mopac	11

*Public includes input from on-line surveys (295) and three public workshops (120)

Key Findings

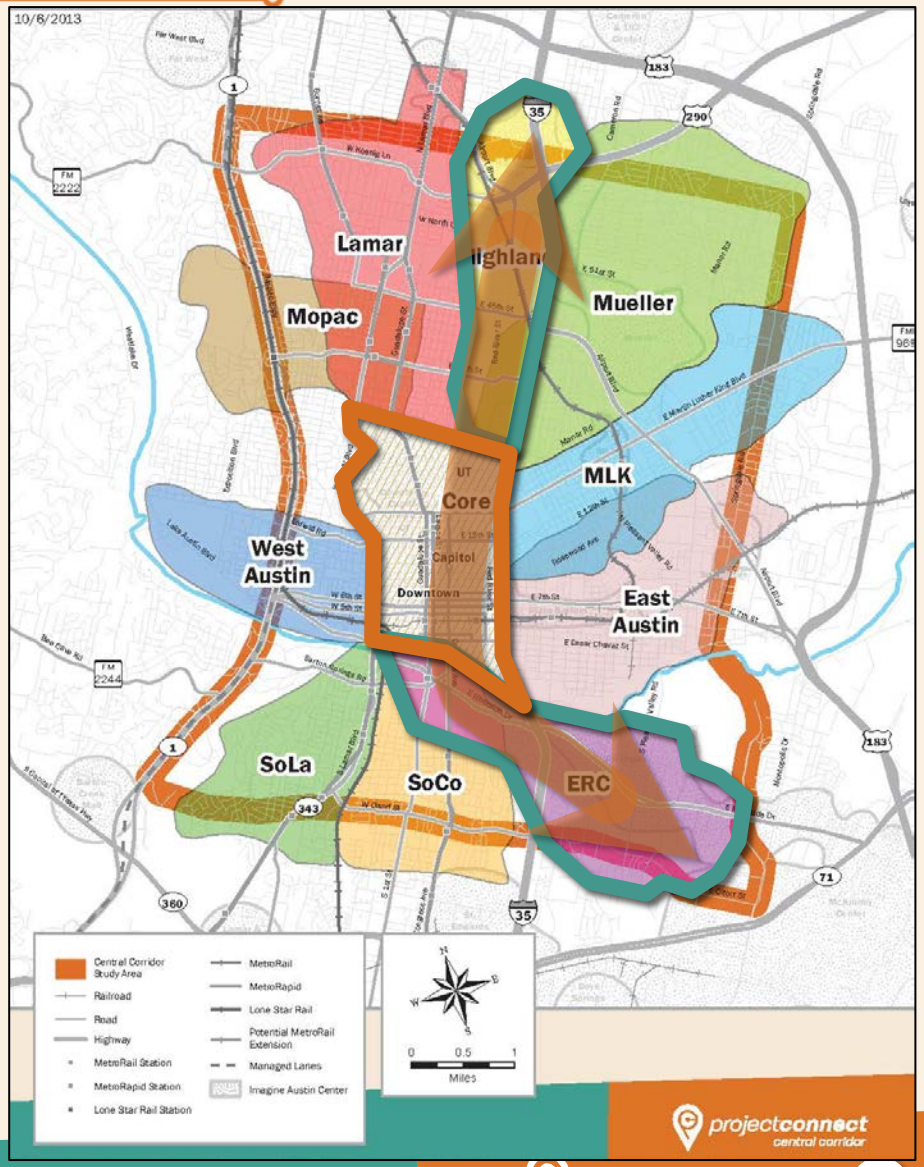
- ERC & Highland are top performers
  - From various perspectives
- Weightings do not change the overall results
- All sub-corridors could support HCT

Note: Evaluation scores can only be compared within each column.

4 Recommendation

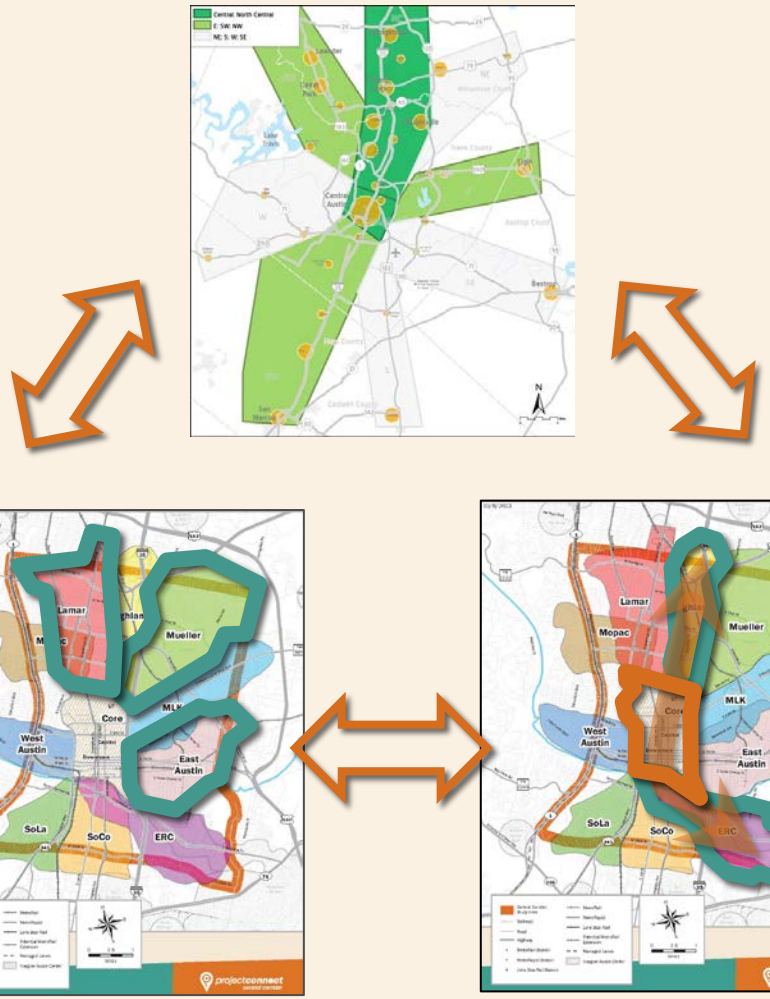
East Riverside & Highland

- East Riverside (ERC) and Highland are consistently in the top two
- Advance both into Phase 2
  - Develop best project
- Balanced recommendation
  - System Development
  - Shaping Characteristics
  - Serving Characteristics



4 Central Corridor System Planning

- Continuing system level planning during project development is critical
  - All sub-corridors could support high-capacity transit
  - Central Corridor phasing must be integrated with all system planning efforts
- Project definition is needed for Lamar, Mueller, East Austin
  - Leverage future funding opportunities
  - Create project pipeline - “shovel-ready”



4 CCAG Action

- Central Corridor Advisory Group (CCAG) Action on December 6, 2013
  - Endorsed project team recommendation for East Riverside and Highland Sub-Corridors
  - Recommended the project team continue critical Central Corridor system level planning and project development, with special consideration of the next tier of sub-corridors, including East Austin, Lamar, and Mueller

5 Central Corridor Next Steps

5 The Road to the Priority Sub-Corridor

CCAG Meetings

- November 1
  - Present Data (2 of 2)
  - Evaluation Process
  - *Public Comment*
- November 15
  - Evaluation Results
  - Project Team Recommendations
  - Public Comment
- December 6
  - *Public Comment*
  - CCAG Discussion and Selection

Boards & Council

- November 13
  - Capital Metro Board
- November 21
  - Austin City Council
- December 11
  - Capital Metro Board Briefing
- December 12
  - Austin City Council Briefing & Action
- February 7, 2014
  - Lone Star Board Executive Committee

5 Phase 2 Preparations

- Purpose and Need
- Methodology and Criteria
- Identify Preliminary Alignments and Mode Alternatives

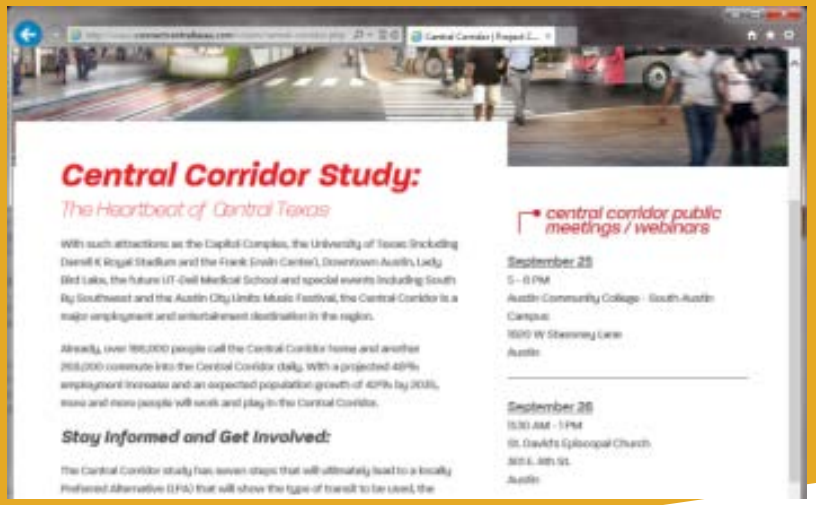


THANK YOU

More Information:

Project Connect &
Central Corridor HCT Study

projectconnect.com





projectconnect
central corridor

5 Toward a Recommendation – Highland

- Keys to Highland
  - Scored in the top two due to Growth and Congestion criteria
  - Strong in all other criteria
  - Significant development plans
  - Limited additional roadway network and capacity
  - A focal point of all three Project Connect: North Corridor final alternatives
  - Served by MetroRail (Highland Station)
    - TIGER Grant-funded improvements
      - Added track/sidings will reduce headways from 34 minutes to 17 minutes at peak times
      - Allows 4 train runs during peak hours instead of 2

	Highland
Ranking	2
Congestion	5
Congestion Index	22
Travel Demand Index	52
Constraints & Growth	23
Growth Index	55
Constraint Index	33
Core	6
Affordability Index	19
Econ Development Index	25
Centers	8
Centers Index	25
Consistency with Plans	16
System	19
Future Ridership Potential	21
Current Ridership Potential	10
Connectivity Index	13
Transit Demand Index	12

5 Toward a Recommendation - ERC

- Keys to East Riverside (ERC)
  - Scored #1 in all scenarios
  - Best responds to all problems
    - Highest on 3 of 5, Congestion, Centers, and System
    - Second highest on Growth and Core
  - High existing densities and potential growth
    - Population and employment
  - High existing ridership
  - High *future* ridership potential
  - Not currently served by HCT
  - Constraints are a challenge
    - Lady Bird Lake and I-35 crossings

	ERC
Ranking	1
Congestion	5
Congestion Index	25
Travel Demand Index	57
Constraints & Growth	19
Growth Index	56
Constraint Index	16
Core	8
Affordability Index	27
Econ Development Index	33
Centers	10
Centers Index	40
Consistency with Plans	8
System	27
Future Ridership Potential	29
Current Ridership Potential	16
Connectivity Index	22
Transit Demand Index	15