Solutions for 6th

April 2014

Purpose

The goal of today's discussion is to present concepts for the reconstruction and reimagining of 6th Street and gain feedback, suggestions, and recommendations as detailed design work commences.

Agenda

- Why rebuild 6th Street?
- What should a rebuilt 6th Street look like?
- Where are we now?
- Where do we go next?

Why Rebuild 6th Street?

- Downtown Austin Plan approved by City Council Ordinance in 2011:
  - Identified 6th Street improvements as a “highest priority” and one of the “Seven Transformative Steps in the Next 10 Years”.
  - Directed that 6th Street be “reimagined as a destination for everyone”.
  - Established project goals of improved pedestrian environment, diverse activities and protection of unique historical character.
- Street pavement and subgrade is failing.
- Sidewalks are failing, inconsistent and require increased maintenance.
- Drainage is poor and the storm drain system is less than half the size that it should be.

Pavement Assessment

Segment from:	Segment to:	Condition
Congress Avenue	Brazos Street	D
Brazos Street	San Jacinto Street	D
San Jacinto Street	Trinity Street	F
Trinity Street	Neches Street	F
Neches Street	Red River Street	D
River Street	Sabine Street	C
Sabine Street	IH35 SB Service Road	D

Note: PWD can stretch the useful life of 6th Street pavements by 5 -10 years through the installation of an overlay, however sidewalk and drainage conditions remain areas of concern.

Drainage and Pavement Concerns

Failing and Inconsistent Sidewalks

What should a Rebuilt 6th Street Look Like?

- What the community is concerned about:
  - Movement of traffic (cars, bikes, and people)
  - Street closures
  - Parking/loading vehicles blocking lanes
  - Wider sidewalks with furniture and trees
  - Nighttime safety
  - Retain the historic character

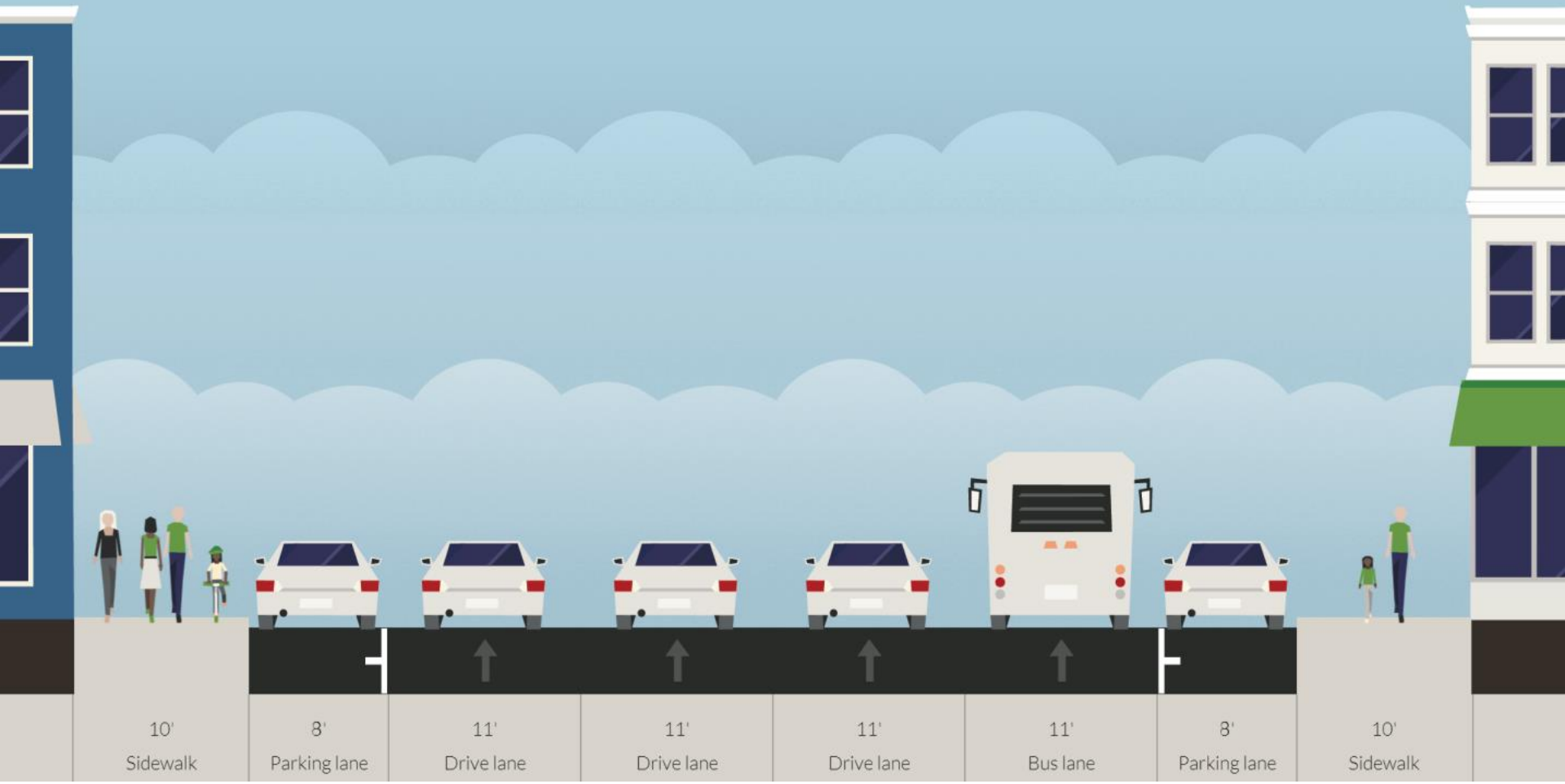
Community Derived Design Elements

- 18’ wide sidewalks
- 3 travel lanes (1 convertible for parking)
- Bicycle lane
- Concrete sidewalks/colored concrete construction
- Historic brick accents
- Trees where they don’t block historic views
- Festival street (similar to 2nd Street by NCL)
  - No curb with trench drain
  - Retractable bollards

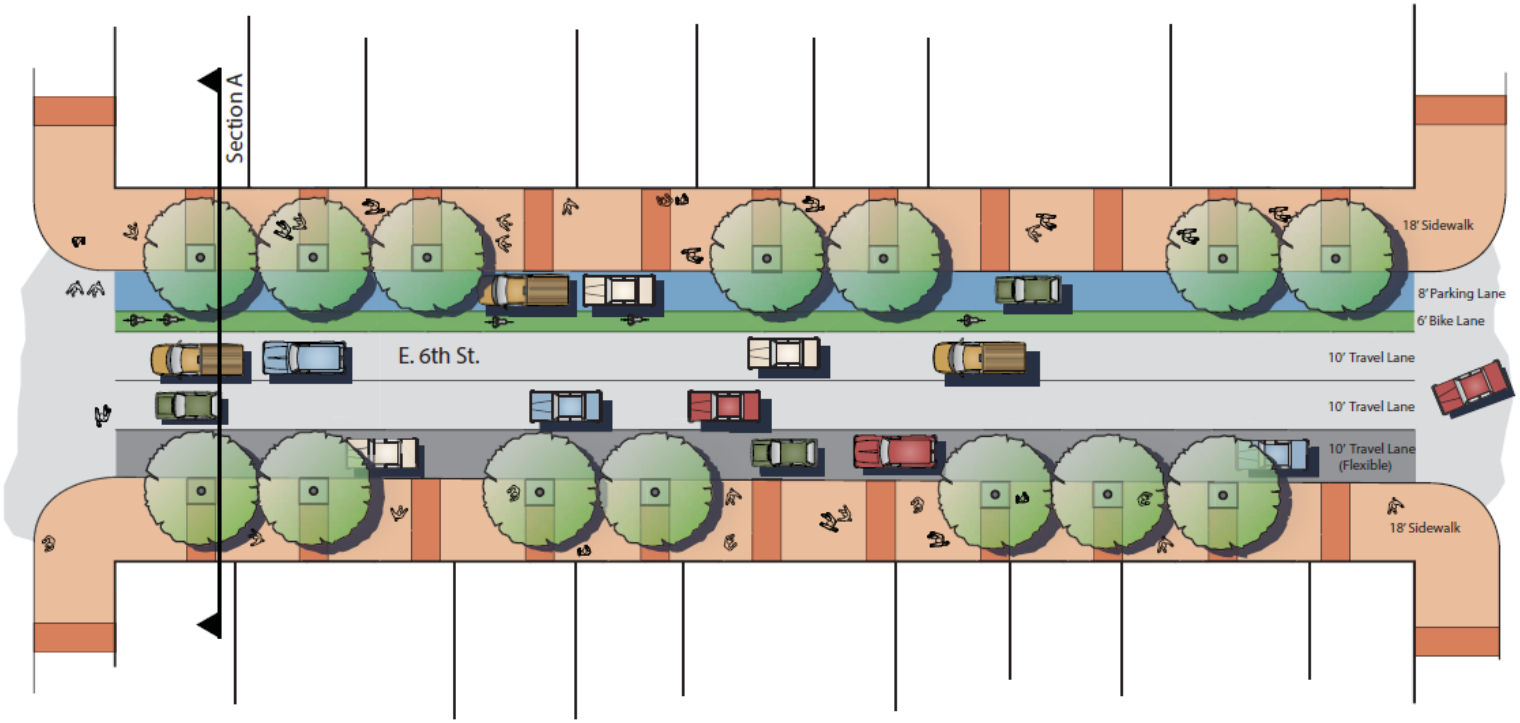
Festival Street Concept

- Flexible spaces
- “Blank slate” for multiple configurations
- Retractable bollards to define space
- Accommodates everyday uses ***and*** special events

Sixth Street (Existing)



Festival Street Concept



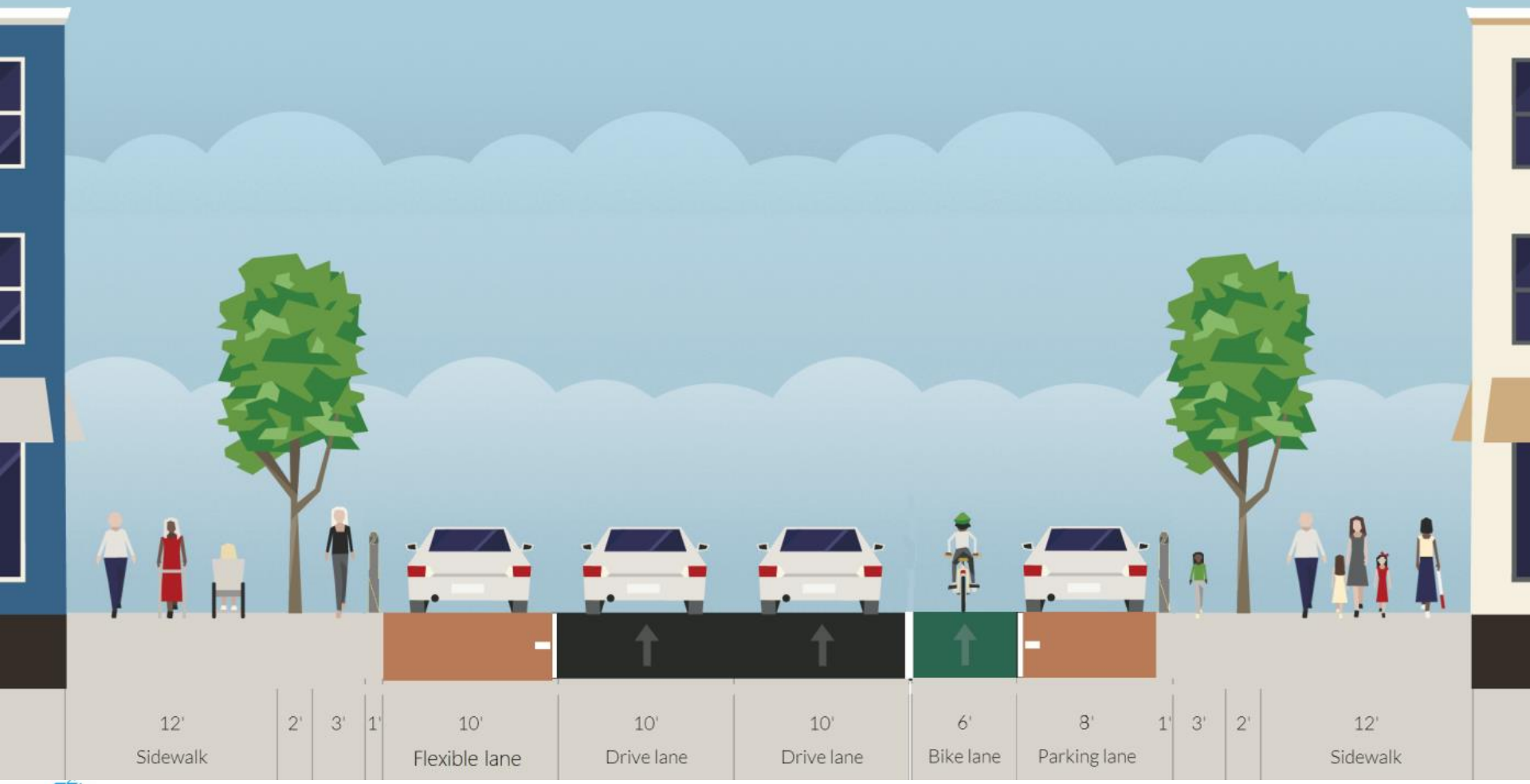
6th Street Streetscape Improvements - Sample Block Plan

Austin, Texas

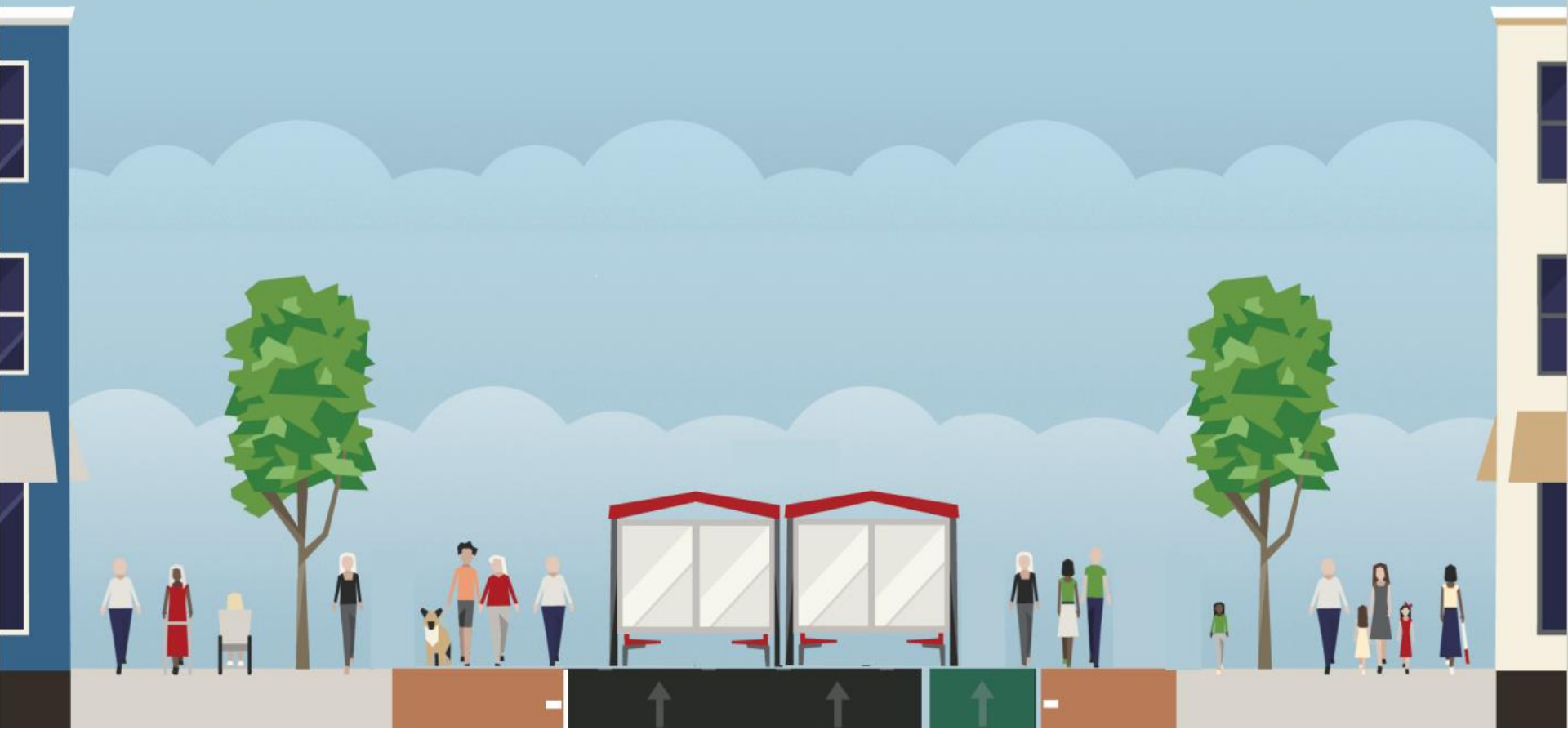
JANUARY 2014

city of austin DESIGN URBAN

Sixth Street (Proposed)



Sixth Street (Festival)



Festival Street Concept

Business Concerns – Alternative Considerations

CONCERN	RESPONSE
Mitigate impacts of construction on businesses	Incorporate incentives/penalties Pursue alternative delivery methods
Preserve existing hardscape	Not feasible due to road/sidewalk/ drainage conditions
Retain 10’ sidewalks	Inconsistent with City planning documents
Head-in angle parking	Not safe Restricts roadway to two lanes
Provide two-lanes of traffic	Inconsistent with City requirements Not preferred alternative

Where are we now?

- Conducted extensive stakeholder engagement. Following-up with additional interested parties.
- Ready to start detailed design: $1M available from 2010 and 2012 bond programs.
- Total project cost conservatively estimated at $19M, unfunded.
- There is broad support for a more pedestrian-oriented experience on 6th Street.
- Major business owner concerns exist over construction impact, regardless of design approach taken.

Where do we go next?

- Continue discussions with stakeholder groups.
- Integrate input into a final design concept.
- Present the final design concept to the appropriate City boards and commissions.
- Commence detailed design.
- Pursue construction funding.

Points of Contact

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