

**CENTRAL CORRIDOR HIGH-CAPACITY  
TRANSIT STUDY  
Recommended Locally Preferred Alternative Briefing**

**June 17, 2014 10:00 am – 12:00 pm**

**Joint Briefing to Austin City Council and  
Capital Metro Board**

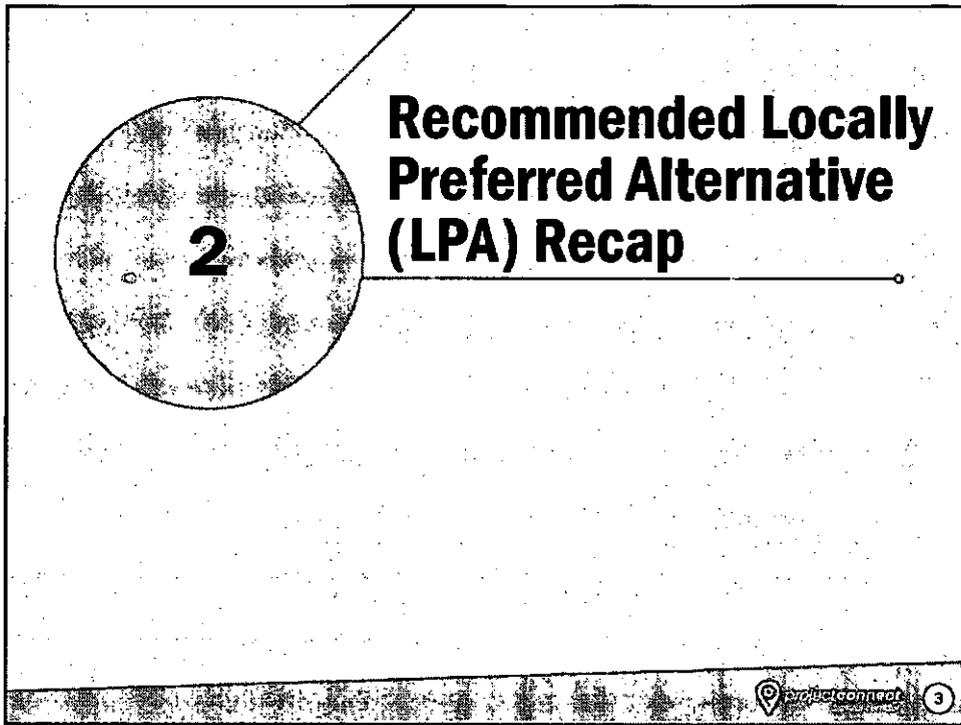
**Austin Convention Center**



**Agenda**

- 1) Welcome & Introductions
- 2) Recommended Locally Preferred Alternative (LPA) Recap
- 3) Discussion
- 4) Next Steps



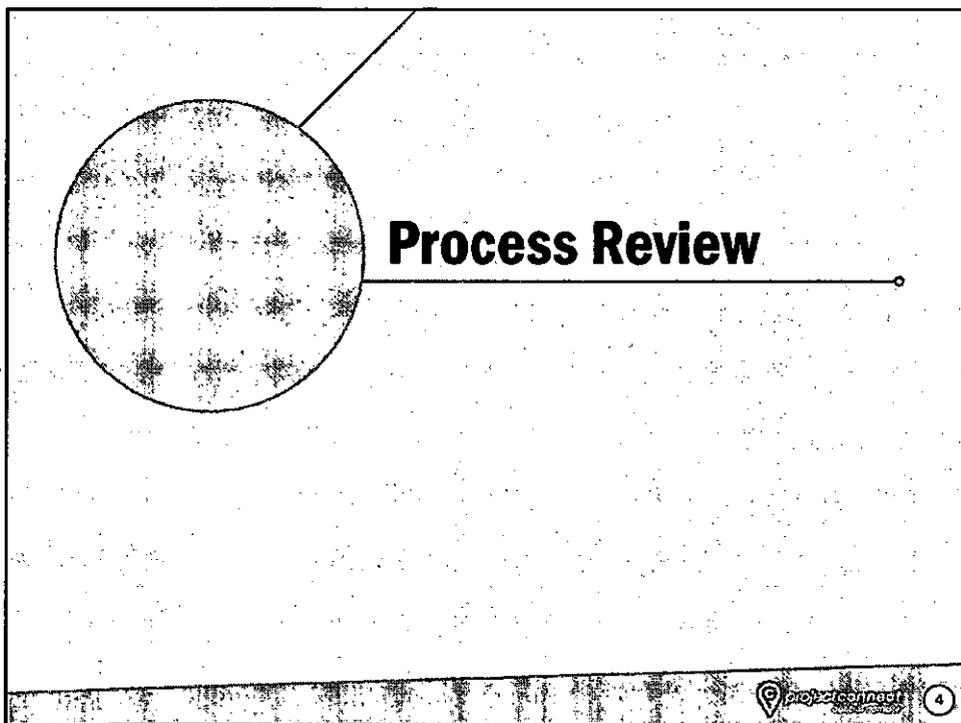


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**Recommended Locally Preferred Alternative (LPA) Recap**

projectconnect 3

This slide features a large, textured circle on the left containing the number '2'. A line extends from the top-right of the circle to the start of the title text. The title is 'Recommended Locally Preferred Alternative (LPA) Recap'. At the bottom right, there is a logo for 'projectconnect' and a small circle containing the number '3'.



**Process Review**

projectconnect 4

This slide features a large, textured circle on the left. A line extends from the top-right of the circle to the start of the title text. The title is 'Process Review'. At the bottom right, there is a logo for 'projectconnect' and a small circle containing the number '4'.

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## Regional Challenges & Opportunities

**Centers**



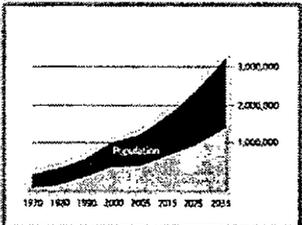
**Core**



**Constraints**



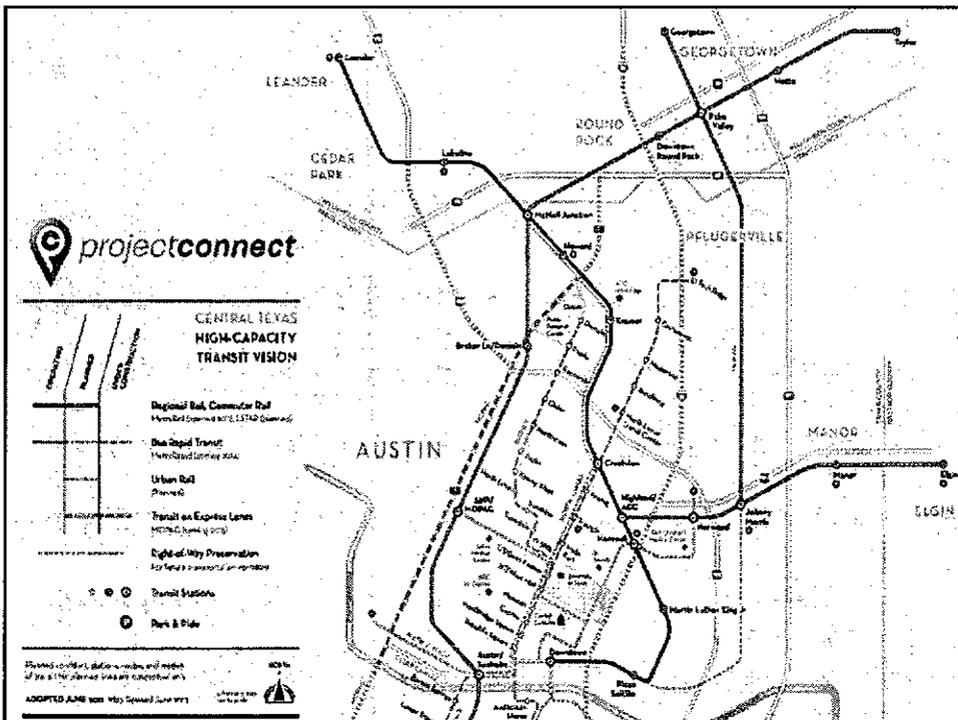
**Growth**



**Congestion**

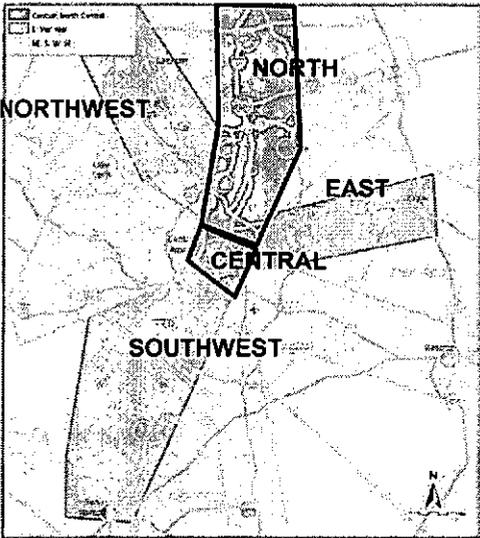



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## 2 Project Connect Corridors

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



The map displays five shaded regions: NORTH, EAST, CENTRAL, SOUTHWEST, and NORTHWEST. A legend in the top-left corner of the map area indicates 'Central North Corridor' and '1 Year Year' with 'M. S. W. St.'. A north arrow is located in the bottom-right corner of the map.



## 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?’



The image shows a bus driving on a road, viewed from a low angle. The bus has 'PROJECT CONNECT' written on its side.



## 2 Phase 1 Evaluation Approach

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

ProjectConnect 9

## 2 Phase 1 Evaluation Approach - Criteria

- 55 Measures
- 12 Criteria
- 5 Problems

ProjectConnect 10

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**Phase 1 Evaluation Results**

Project Team		CCAG		Public*		Equal Weight		Current Focus		Future Focus	
								Serving Criteria Only		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	15	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.

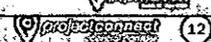
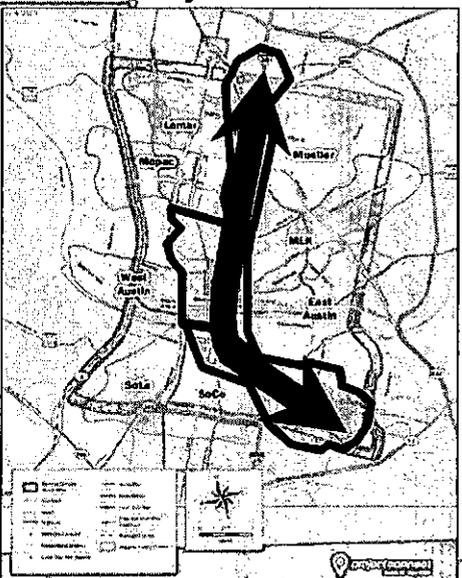


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**Phase 1 Central Corridor Priority Area**

**East Riverside & Highland**

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



## 2 Phase 1 Actions

- CCAG – December 6, 2013
- City Council – December 12, 2013
- Capital Metro – January 29, 2014
- Lone Star Rail Executive Committee – February 7, 2014
- Action Taken
  - Endorsed project team recommendation for East Riverside and Highland Sub-Corridors
  - Identify funding needs and potential sources to continue Central Corridor project definition and development activities in the next tier of sub-corridors
  - Continue cultivating a relationship with FTA to prepare for any future high-capacity transit investments in the Lamar sub-corridor (Council & Board only)



## 2 Phase 2 Work Plan & Schedule

### Decision-Making Process

- Phase 2: Select Locally Preferred Alternative (LPA)

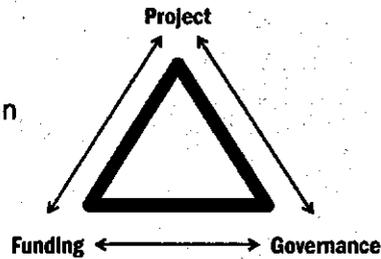
Current Progress

		2013		2014			
		6	7	8	9	10	11
		Dec	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May
Phase 2 Select Draft Locally Preferred Alternative (LPA)	Step 4: Identify Preliminary Alternatives	Task 9: Project Purpose					
		Task 10: Process – Methodology & Criteria					
		Task 11: Identify & Screen Preliminary Alternatives – Service, Mode & Alignment					
	Step 5: Define Final Alternatives	Task 12: Define Final Alternatives – Mode & Alignment					
	Step 6: Evaluate Alternatives	Task 13: Evaluate Final Alternatives					
	Step 7: Select LPA	Task 14: Select Draft Locally Preferred Alternative (LPA)					
	Decision						

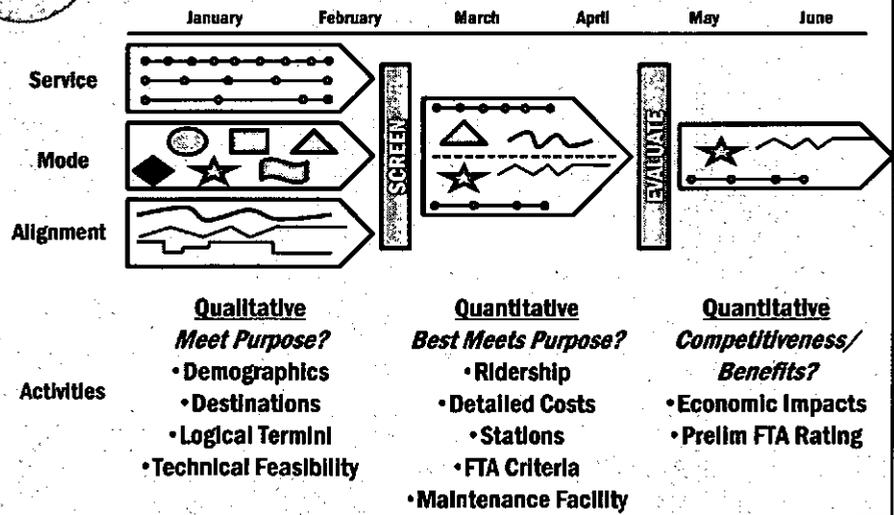


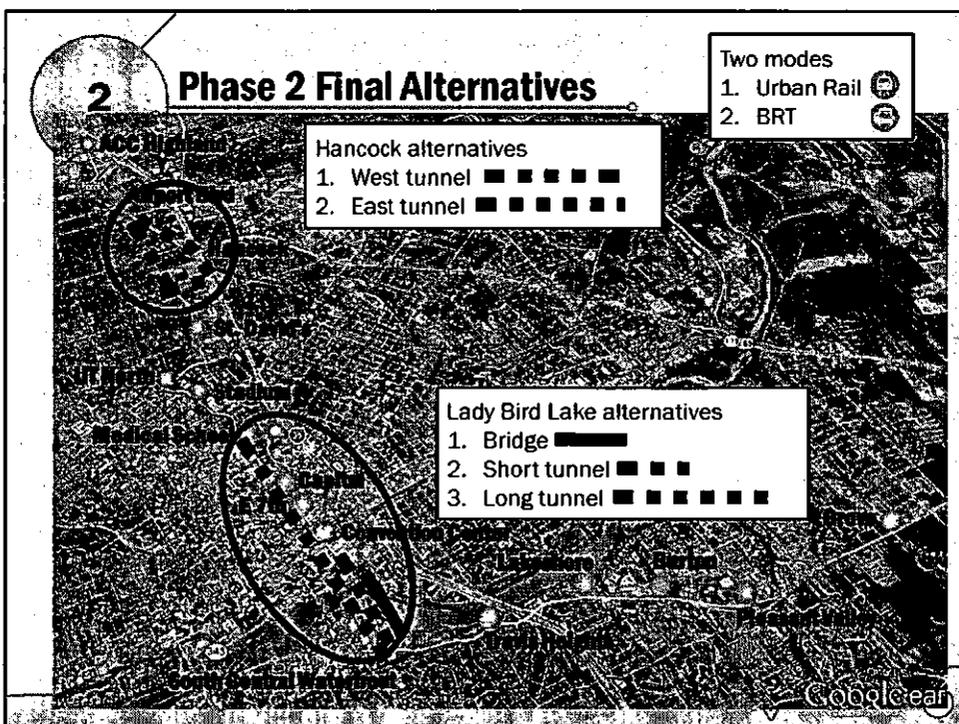
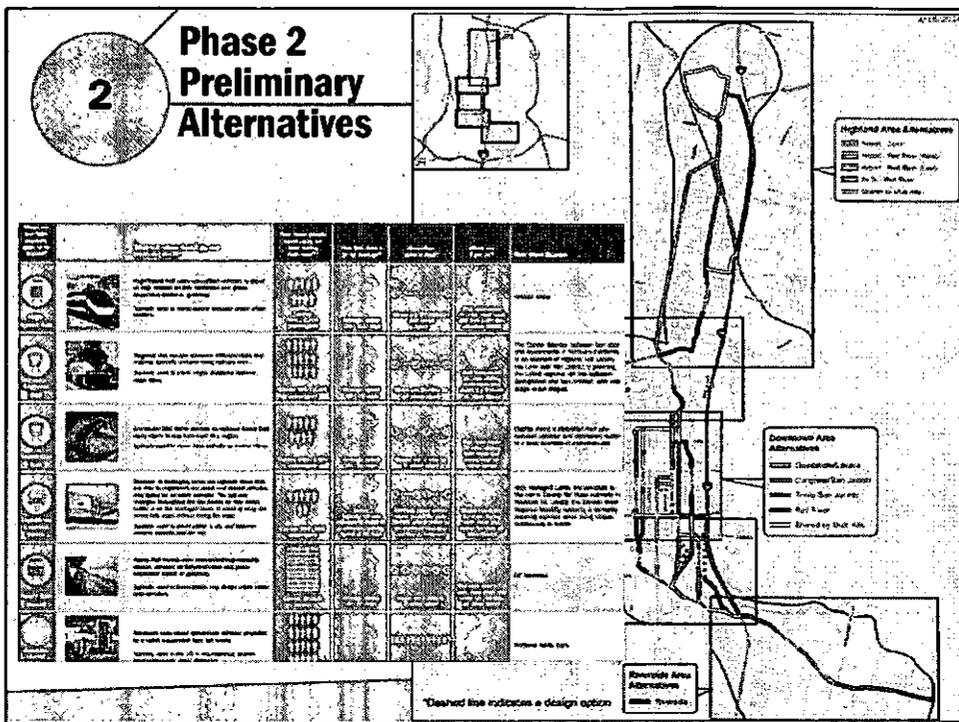
## 2 Phase 2 Objectives

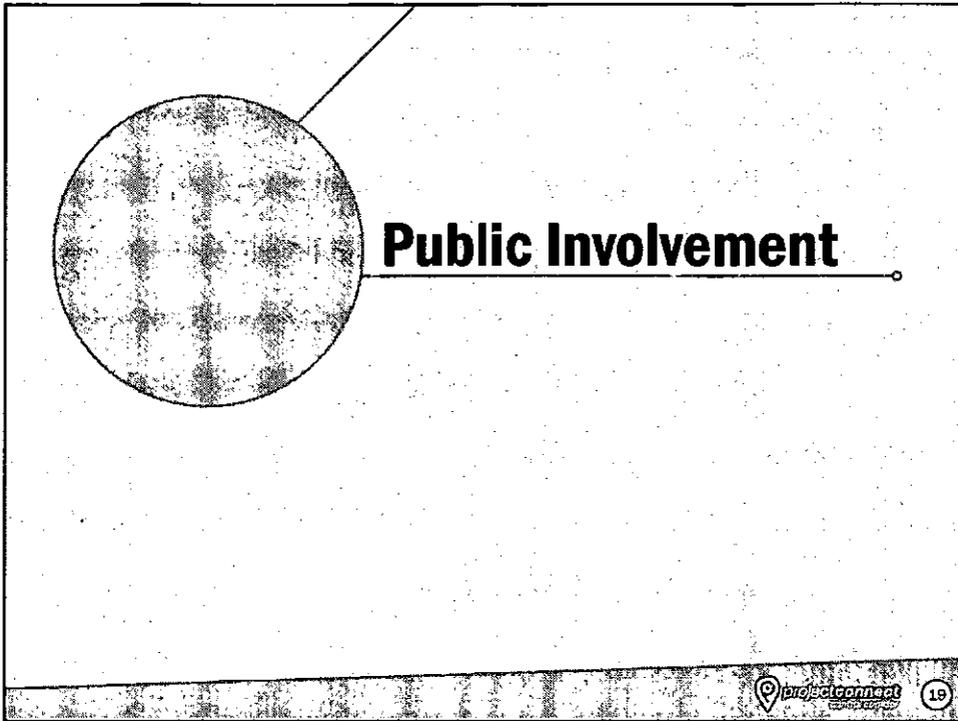
- **Project Definition**
  - Service, mode, alignment, stops
- **Funding Approach**
  - Capital and O&M costs, funding sources
  - *Within* overall Project Connect Plan
- **Governance Approach**
  - Framework, lead roles
- **Programs and Policies**
  - *Housing/Transit/ Jobs Action Team*
  - *Alignment of programs and policies with FTA New Starts criteria*

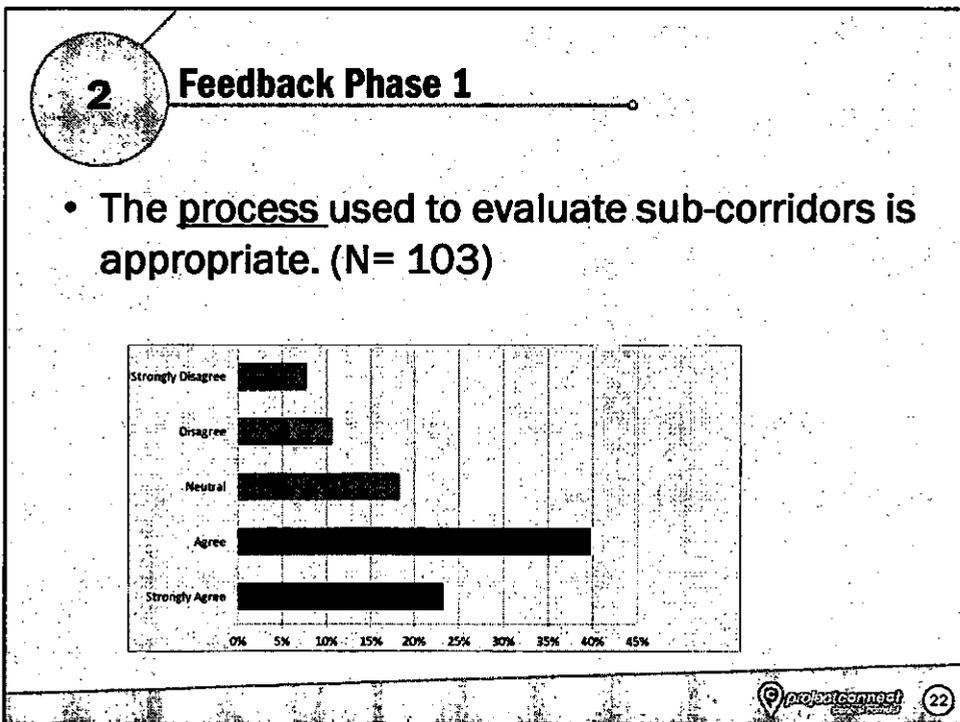
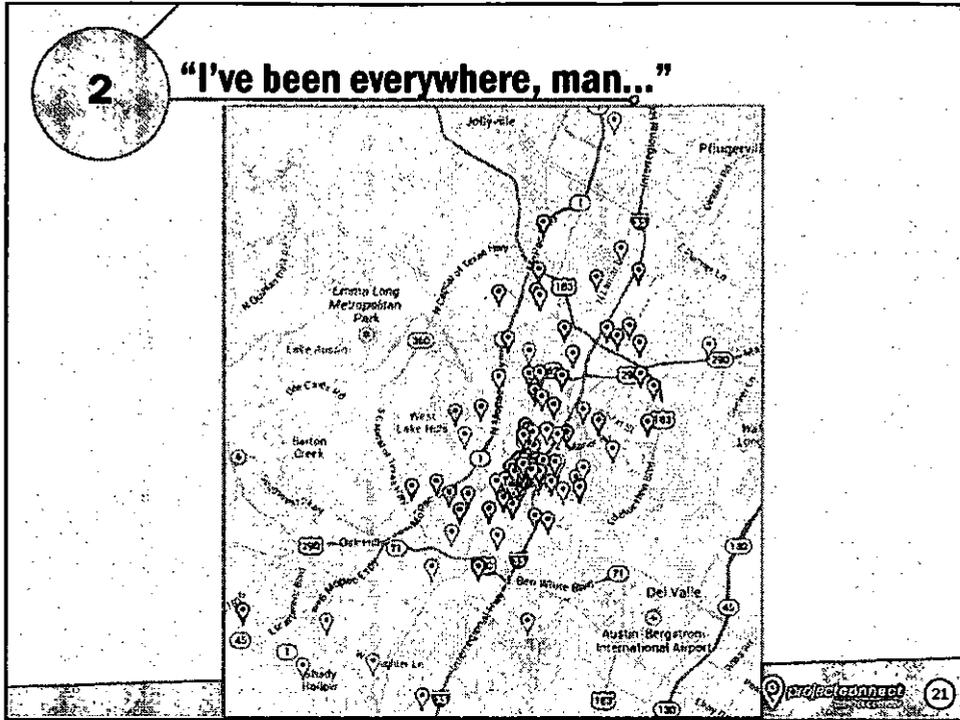


## 2 Phase 2 Evaluation Process









## 2 Phase 2 Public Input

Purpose Statements	
Congestion	1.62
System	1.98
Core	2.02
Growth	2.16
Centers	2.20
Funding	2.21
Constraints	2.33



Service Characteristics	
Reliability	1.90
Frequency	1.93
Speed	2.47
Stop Spacing	3.04

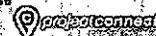
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## 2 Recent Public Involvement Activities

- 5/17 University Hills Neighborhood
- 05/17 Manor Expressway Opening
- 05/17 Asian American Resource Center Food Festival
- 5/18 Questors Class
- 5/19 Central Austin Neighborhood Planning Advisory Committee
- 5/20 Capital Metro Special Board Meeting
- 5/20 Pfleger Architects
- 05/20 North Acres Homeowners Association
- 5/20 Brykerwoods Neighborhood Association
- 05/20 Northeast Austin HOA
- 5/21 Downtown Commission
- 5/21 Environmental Board
- 5/21 NW Austin Civic Association
- 5/21 Central Austin Democrats
- 5/22 Parkway Health and Wellness Fair
- 5/22 Austin Young Democrats
- 5/23 Eagle Talk Show Anniversary
- 5/27 St. David's (downtown) Open House
- 5/27 Planning Commission
- 05/28 Urban Land Institute Breakfast
- 5/29 VIN Etching Event - South Austin
- 6/02 VIN Etching Event - North Austin
- 6/02 South River City Citizens
- 6/03 IH35 Open House - Kealing
- 6/04 Alliance for Public Transportation
- 6/04 Capital Metro Access Advisory Committee
- 6/04 IH35 Open House - Akins
- 6/04 Heritage Neighborhood Association
- 6/05 Austin Chamber Transportation Committee
- 6/06 The News Movement
- 6/07 Kealing Neighborhood Association
- 6/07 Downtown Farmers Market
- 6/08 Senate Hills Neighborhood Association
- 6/09 Stakeholders meeting for future UR System Planning
- 6/09 Comprehensive Planning Subcommittee
- 6/09 Waterfront Planning Board
- 6/10 Urban Transportation Commission
- 6/10 Sierra Club
- 6/10 Imagine Austin Meet-Up
- 6/10 Bouldin Creek Neighborhood Association
- 6/11 Online Open House
- 6/11 Capital Metro Customer Satisfaction Advisory Committee
- 6/12 Austin Chamber Business Showcase
- 6/12 Reddit AMA
- 6/12 Dove Springs Open House



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**2** Upcoming Public Involvement Activities

- Public Open Houses
- Stakeholder Briefings
- Presence at various community events and festivals

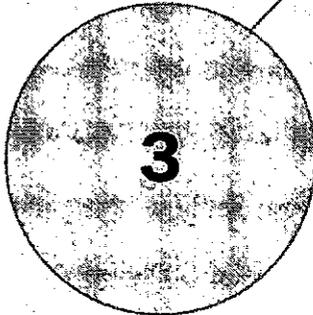
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**2** Upcoming Public Involvement Activities

- 6/14 Triangle Open House
- 6/17 Oak Hill Parkway Open House
- 6/21 Juneteenth Celebration
- 6/21 Liveable City Board
- 6/22 South Lamar Farmers Market
- 6/23 Colony Park Family Fun Fest
- 6/23 Northwest Austin Coalition
- 6/25 K + Friese & Associates
- 6/26 Restore Rundberg
- 6/28 Domain Open House
- 6/29 Mueller Farmers Market
- 6/29 First Unitarian Universalist Church Public Affairs Forum
- 7/01 Gus Garcia Rec Center Open House
- 7/03 1<sup>st</sup> Thursday on SoCo
- 7/12 Circle C Open House
- 7/19 Sunset Valley Farmers Market
- 7/21 Highland Park West Neighborhood Assn
- 7/26 Barton Creek Mall Farmers Market

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**3 Recommended LPA**



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**3 Target Service Profile**

**Reliability** Mostly Dedicated

Mixed Traffic    Transit Priority/  
Pre-emption    Dedicated  
Guideway    Separated  
Guideway    Fully Separated  
Guideway

**Frequency** 10-15

5 minutes    60 minutes

**Stop Spacing** 1/2 - 1 mile

< 1/4 mile    > 5 miles

**Speed** 20-30 avg.

10 mph    55 mph maximum (including stops)    60 mph

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### 3 Recommended Locally Preferred Alternative (LPA)

- 9.5-mile Urban Rail route, double-track and electrified
  - Bridge across Lady Bird Lake
  - East tunnel at Hancock Center under Red Line
- 16 Stations with 4 park and rides
- Estimated 18,000 daily Ridership by 2030
  - 6,500 new transit riders to line
  - 10,000 new transit riders to system
- Travel Times
  - Grove to Conv Center (3.9 miles) - 11 min
  - ACC Highland to Conv Center (5.6 miles) - 17 min
- Total Capital Cost: \$1.38 B (2020)
- Annual O&M Costs: \$22 M (2022)

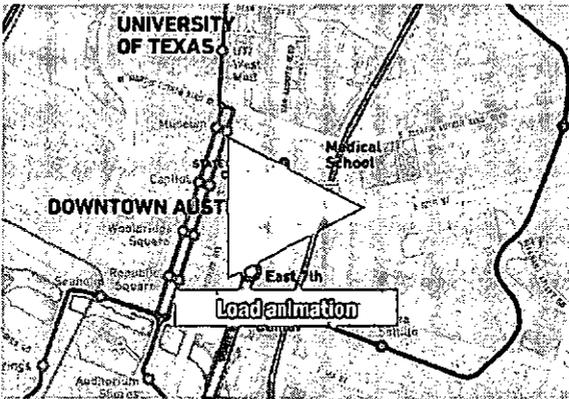
### 3 Capital Costs

Capital Cost Category	Estimated Cost (2020 Year of Expenditure)
Construction	\$730 M
Vehicles	\$40 M
Right-of-Way	\$40 M
Professional services	\$240 M
Total contingencies	\$330 M
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$1.38 B</b>

- In current dollars, proposed Urban Rail starter line is \$118.9M/mi
- 21 US LRT projects currently under construction in FY14
  - Average per mile cost is \$236.3M
- 16 of 21 US LRT projects are at-grade or mostly at-grade
  - Average per mile cost is \$123.1M
  - 6 projects more expensive per mile than Urban Rail
  - 5 projects with total cost above Urban Rail

3

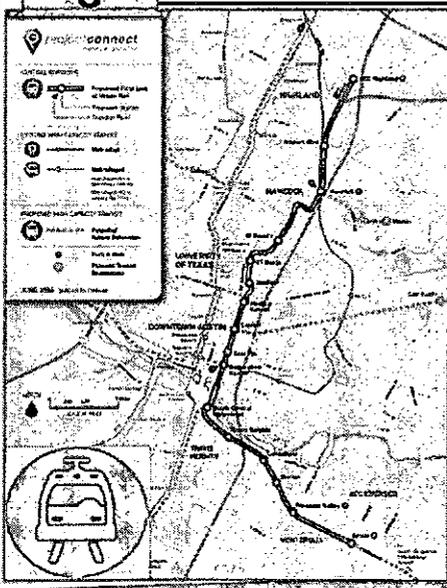
## Recommended Locally Preferred Alternative (LPA)




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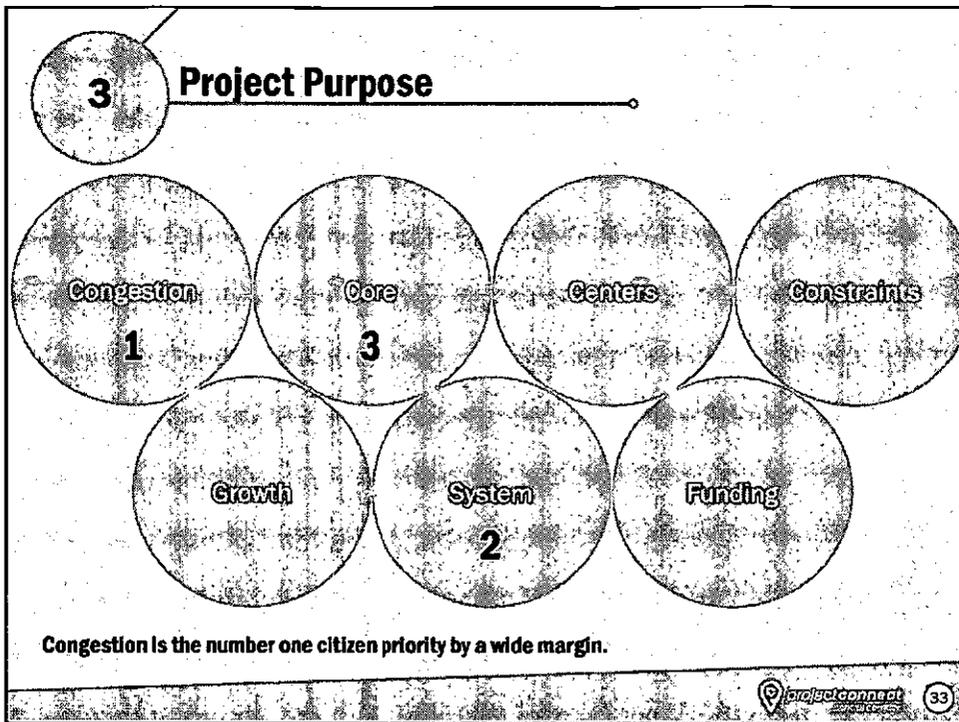
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## Project Benefits

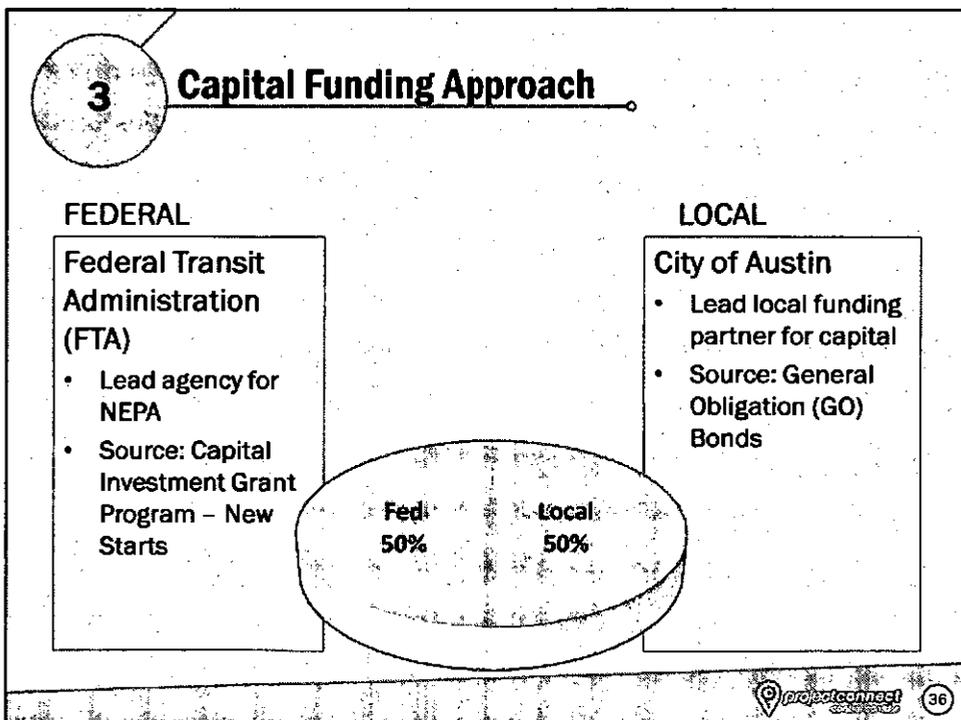
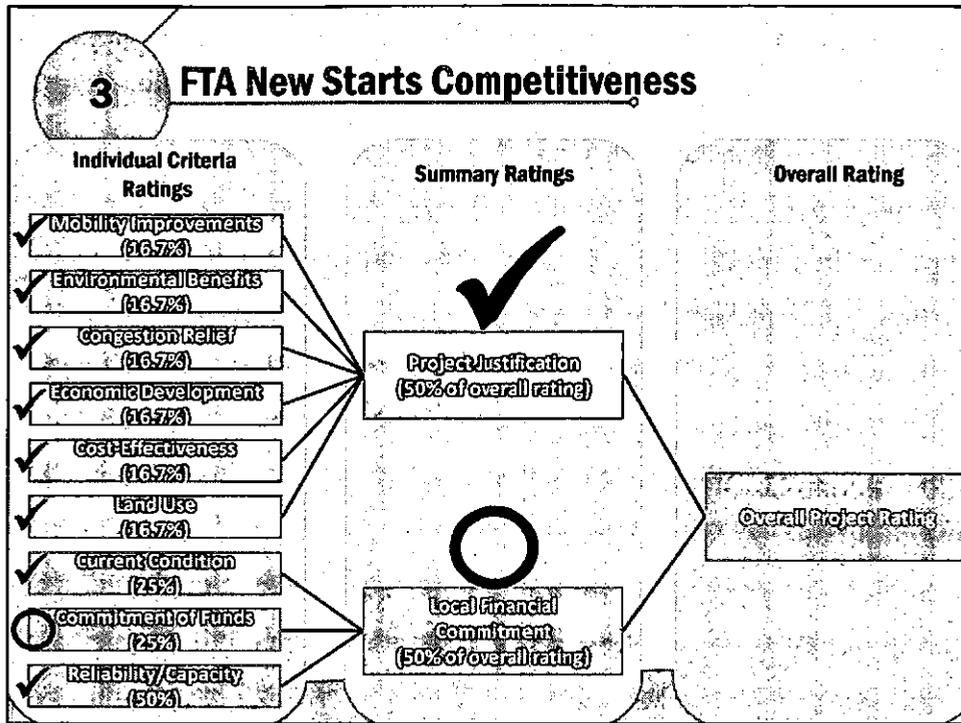


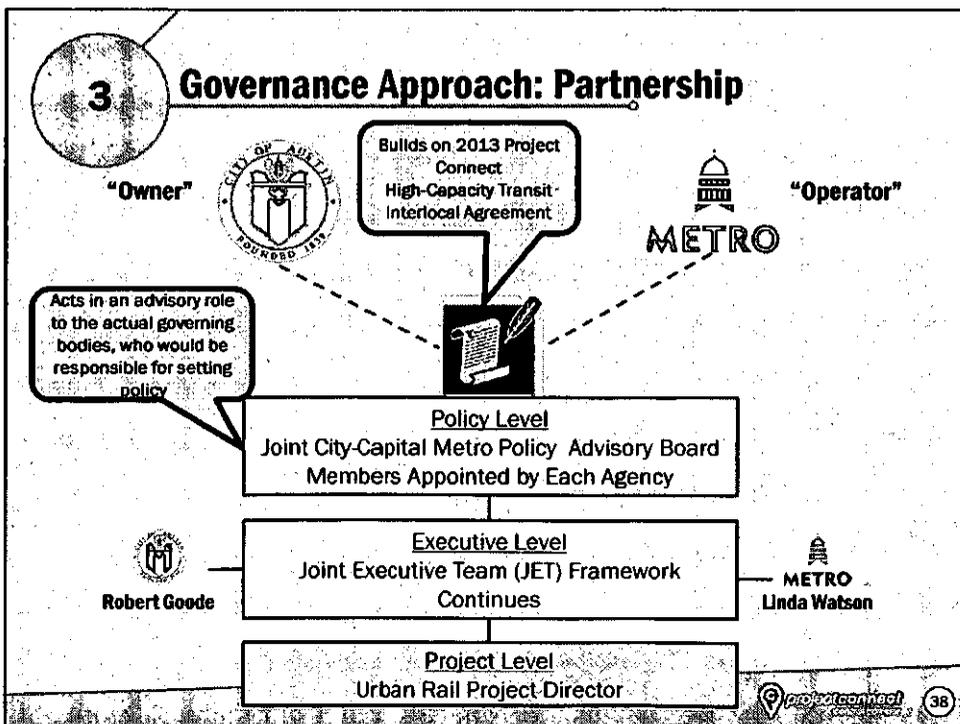
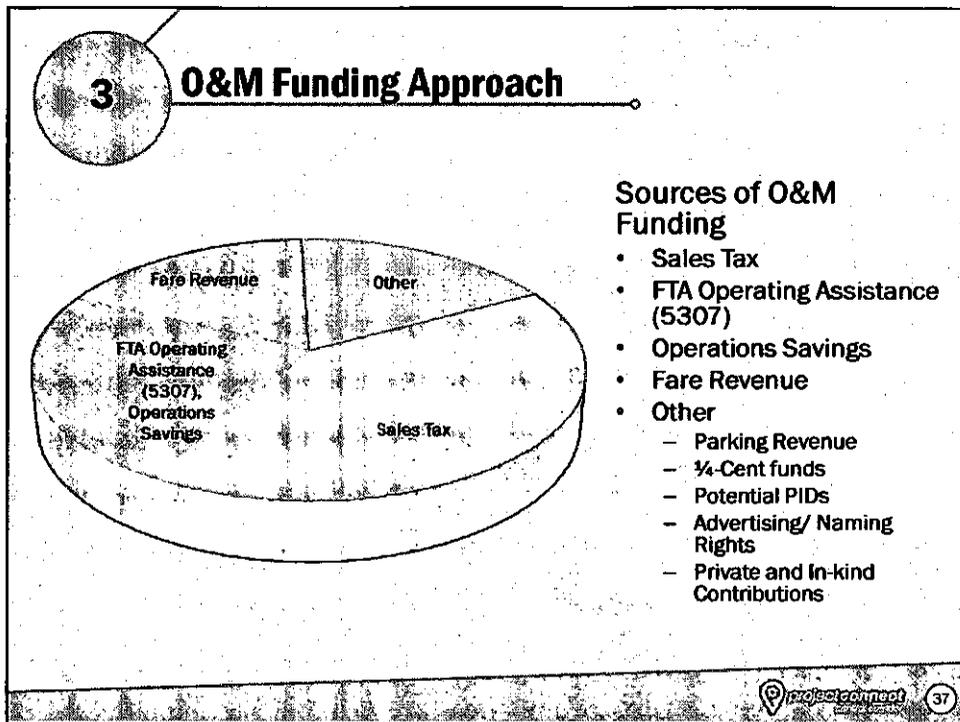
- Takes 10,000 cars off the road every weekday
- Within ½ Mile of Stations:
  - Over 46,000 residents currently
    - Over 8,400 new residents by 2030
  - Nearly 97,000 employees currently
    - Over 17,500 new employees by 2030
  - Estimated 3:1 ROI – private development due to the public investment
  - \$23M new annual City of Austin property and sales tax revenue
  - Higher value development
  - Lower per capita transportation costs and carbon emissions


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- 3 Project Purpose**
- The purpose of the next high-capacity transit project in the Central Corridor is to:
- Provide a reliable alternative to congestion
  - Reinforce the success of the core through improved access and affordable mobility
  - Provide connectivity to the city's and region's activity centers
  - Provide a project compatible with urban physical constraints
  - Serve current demands and shape future growth
  - Implement an integrated high-capacity transit system
  - Be competitive for FTA funding
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## Next Steps


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## Road to the LPA

- **Capital Metro Board, May 20<sup>th</sup>**
  - Briefing to Special Board Session
- **City Council, May 22<sup>nd</sup>**
  - Briefing at regular meeting
- **CCAG #14, June 13<sup>th</sup>**
  - Develop recommendation for Council & Board
- **Council & Board, June 17<sup>th</sup>**
  - Briefing to Special Joint Session
- **Capital Metro Board, June 23<sup>rd</sup>**
  - Action on recommended LPA
- **City Council, June 26<sup>th</sup>**
  - Action on recommended LPA
- **City Council, August 7<sup>th</sup>**
  - Action on bond election

May						
Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
					1	2
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18	19	20	21	22	23	24
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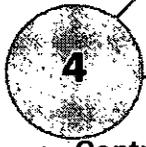
  

June						
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22	23	24	25	26	27	28
29	30					

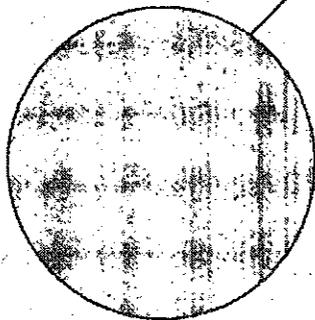
July						
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24	25	26	27	28	29	30
31						


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## CCAG Action

- Central Corridor Advisory Group (CCAG) Action on June 13, 2014
  - Endorsed project team recommendation for LPA that serves East Riverside, Downtown, Capitol Complex, Medical School Complex, University of Texas, and Highland with urban rail
  - Endorsed the partnership approach to governance and funding
    - Including securing federal funding and an identifiable, secure source of O&M funds to support urban rail without adversely impacting other transit operations
  - Recommended pursuit of environmental clearance of the recommended LPA
  - Recommended continued use of data to monitor demographics, existing transit ridership, and economic development activities as LPA advances
  - Recommended continued planning for crosstown connections, along with next-tier sub-corridors

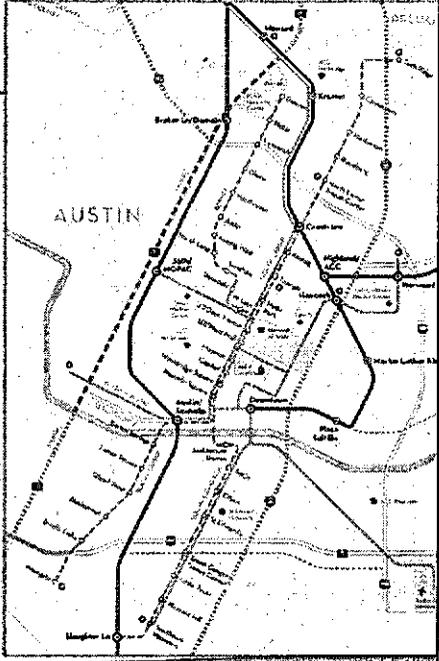


## System Planning/ Project Definition



## 4 Urban Rail "Layer" System Concept

- Identification of Central Corridor LPA informs definition of Urban Rail "Layer" of Project Connect Vision
- Next steps
  - Update Project Connect Vision following LPA selection
  - Project definition and development activities for next tier: Lamar, Mueller, East Austin




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# THANK YOU

More Information:

Project Connect & Central Corridor HCT Study

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





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central corridor

