

City of Austin

Urban Transportation Commission

Capital Metropolitan
Transportation Authority

MetroRail Green Line - Update

December 8, 2015



Capital MetroRail Green Line

28-mile route on existing
Capital Metro tracks



Union Depot, Elgin

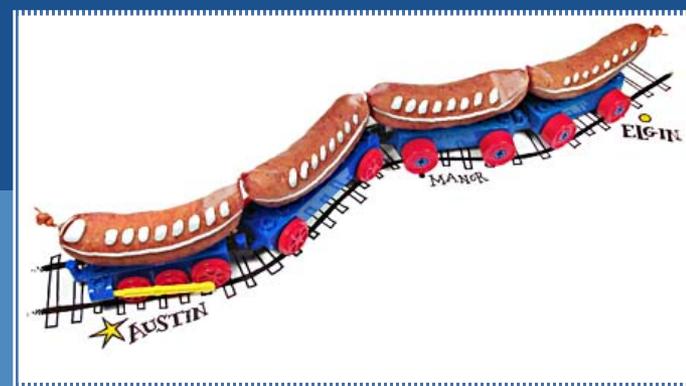


Austin-Manor-Elgin Passenger Rail Statement of Purpose*

***Develop and operate passenger rail
in the East Austin area to provide
transportation choices, improve
mobility, enhance the environment
and move towards the regional
vision for growth.***

Actions to Date

- Capital Metro acquired rail line (1986)
- Elgin purchased 80 acres on line for future TOD (2007)
- Capital Metro acquired 45 acres in corridor for possible TOD & rail maintenance facility (2006)
- Active commitment to land use coordination by Elgin & City of Austin
- Sustainable Places pilot project evaluated potential TOD along Green Line corridor
- TxDOT Austin-Houston Rail Study included this corridor in analysis
- Included in Project Connect System Plan (2012)



Proposed Initial Service Concept*

- The Green Line will connect Elgin, Manor, Decker Lake and downtown Austin
- Eight stations; 28 miles
- Weekday service with 20-minute frequency during peak periods**



*From 2008 Austin-Manor-Elgin Transit Corridor Study

**This was the initial concept, more current estimates are included in the 2015 cost estimates

Green Line Rationale (2008)

- **The Green Line supports regional land use plans and the Envision Central Texas vision**
- **Maximizes existing resources by using Capital Metro owned right-of-way**
- **Reduces vehicle traffic and provides another transportation option for residents of Elgin, Manor and east Austin who are destined for central Austin**
- **The Green Line and Highway 290: multimodal corridor that provides access to emerging east Austin, creating new opportunities for job centers, retail, healthcare and education.**
- **Greater social equity and economic opportunity for the region's highest percentage of low to moderate-income families through access to jobs, educational opportunities, and services in Austin.**

EARLY DRAFT Projected Ridership*

- 7,000 -12,000 daily riders in 2030
- 1.8 M – 3.1 M annual riders in 2030

* Ridership estimates from 2008 Green Line study and assumed 20-minute peak period service



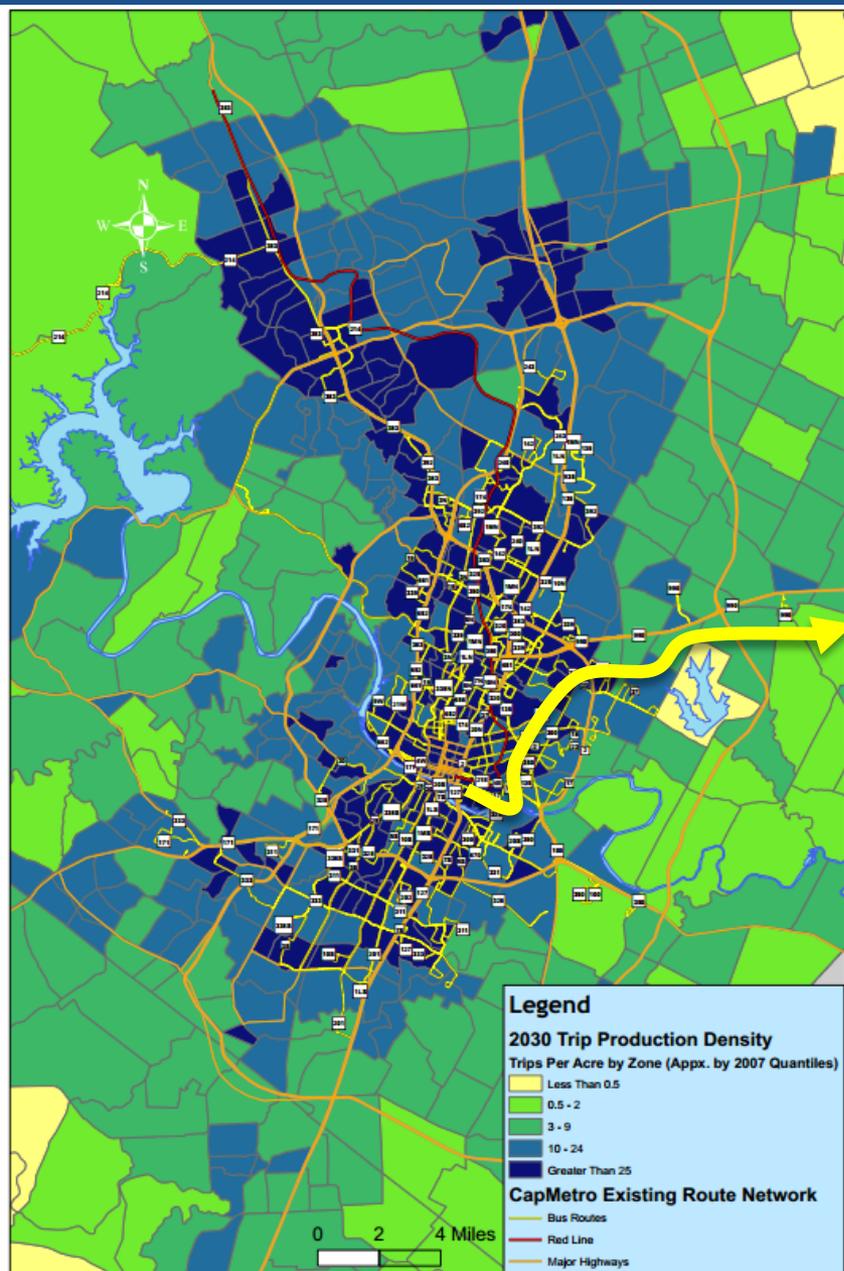
EARLY DRAFT Projected Costs

- **Capital Cost**
(including 30% contingency) **\$360-\$460M***
- **Operations & Maintenance**
(annual) **\$7M to \$16M****

* Capital cost estimates originally developed in 2008 dollars, updated to 2015. Actual costs dependent on further engineering and environmental analysis and year of construction among other factors.

** Operations and Maintenance cost estimates originally developed in 2008 dollars, updated to 2015. Actual costs dependent on level of service.

A Key Question: Will the demand support the line?

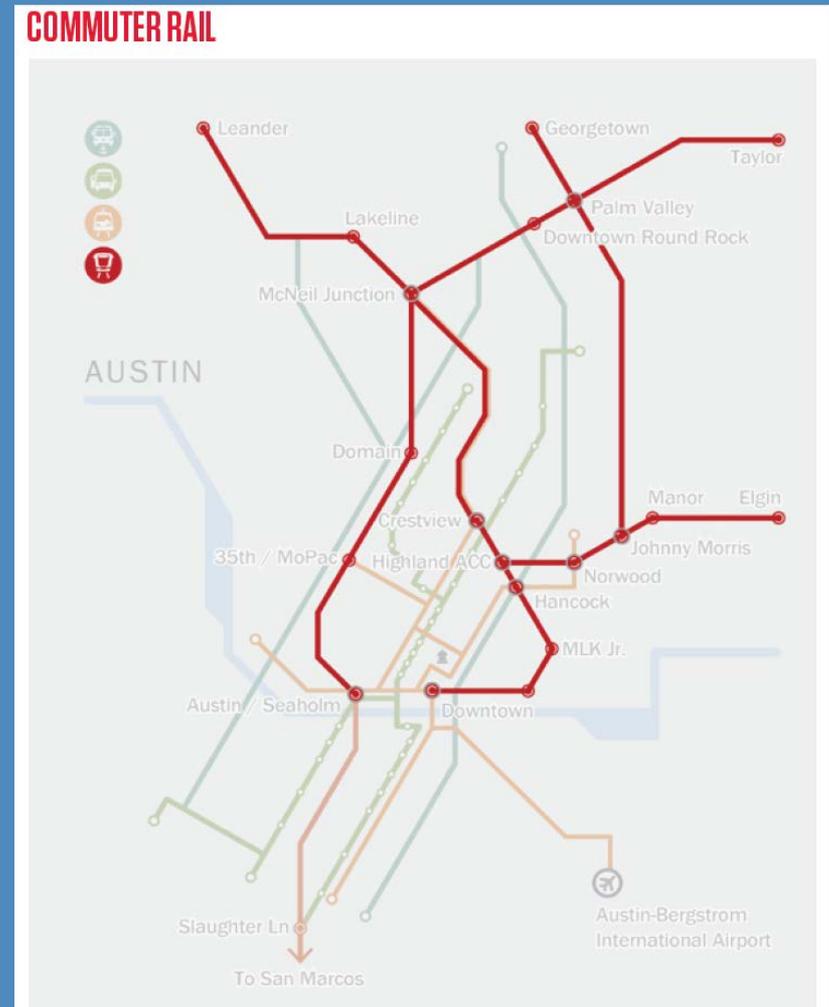


- Based on growth projections, alignment (shown by yellow line) extends into lower transit ridership areas north and east of Decker Lake
- This is in contrast to Capital Metro Red Line (as seen on map in red)
- Conclusions:
 - Local jurisdiction action needed to spur transit-supportive development in corridor
 - Doing so will help maximize ridership and improve cost-effectiveness
 - Without transit-supportive development, other corridors merit priority for foreseeable future

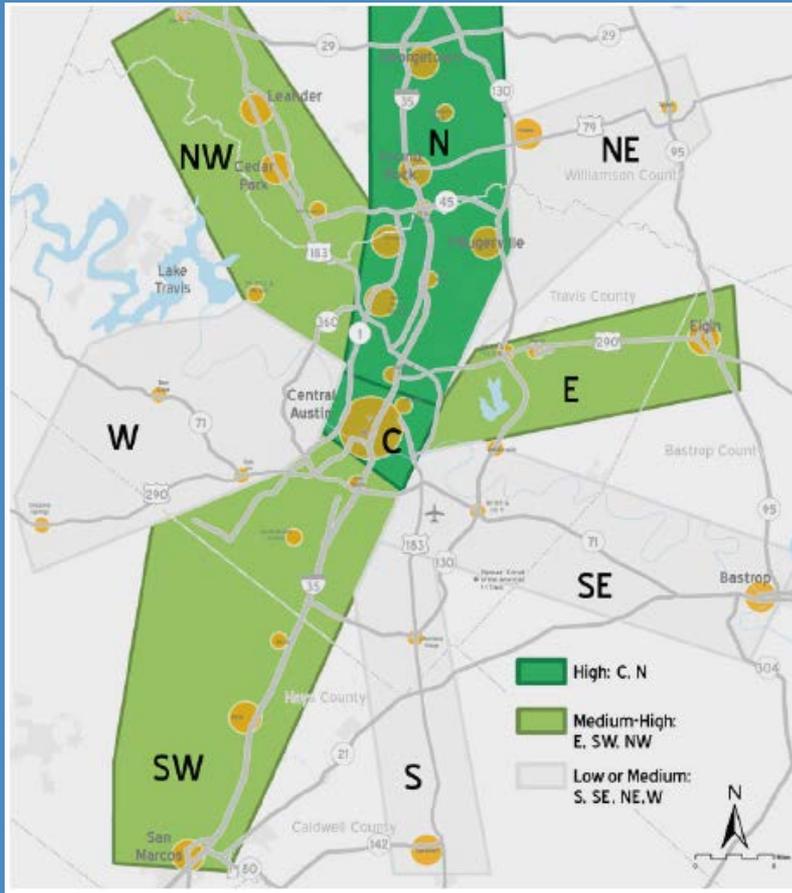
System Expansion Initiatives

Project Connect

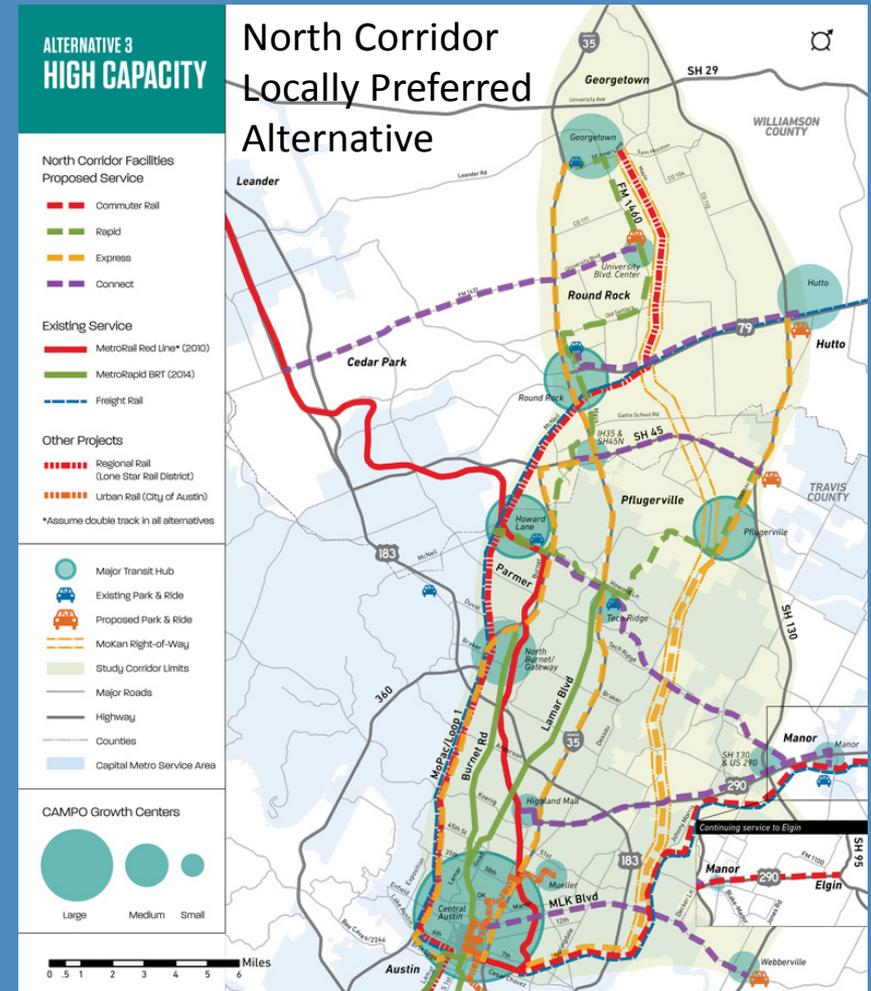
- Central Texas High-Capacity Transit System Plan
- Initiatives/Recommendations/Assumptions
- Improvements to Red Line – Ongoing
- Green Line Extension to Manor/Elgin – via Highland Station.....
- Commuter Rail Service on Lone Star Regional future infrastructure



System Expansion Initiatives



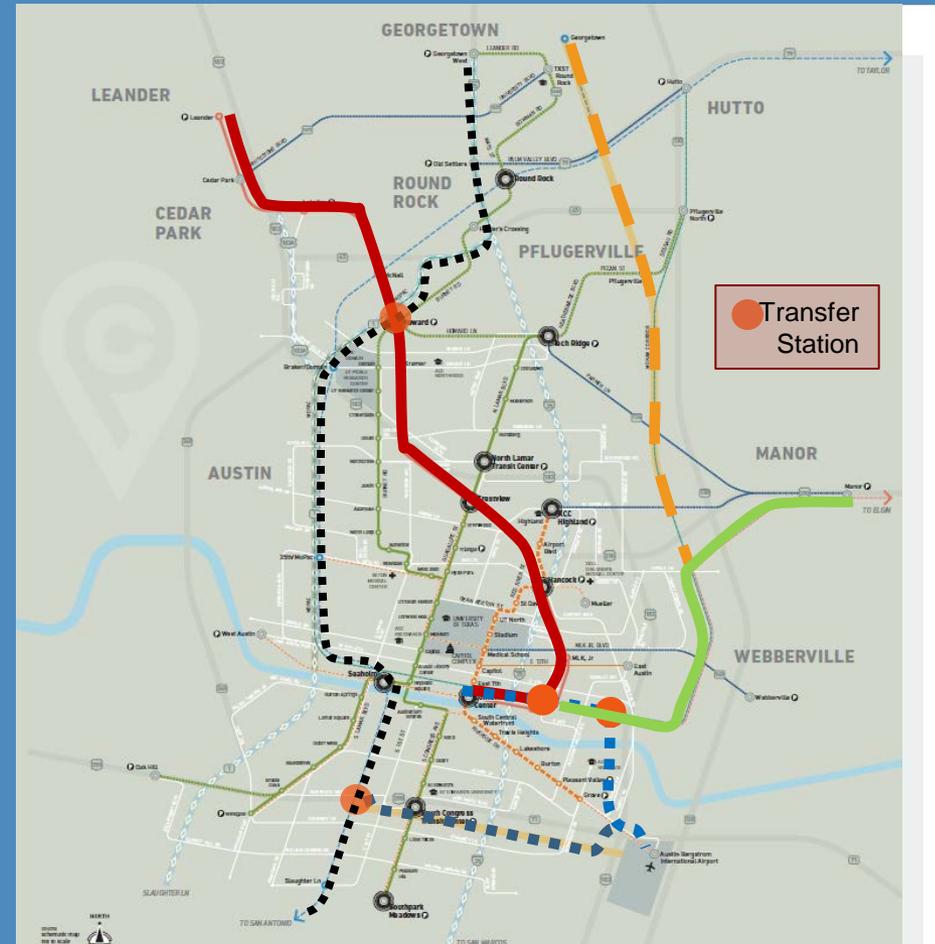
Project Connect High Capacity Transit Corridors



System Expansion Initiatives

System Plan

- Red Line
- Green Line
- Airport /Downtown Connection
- Bergstrom Extension
- MoKan Extension



System Expansion Initiatives

Green Line

- During peak hours, passenger rail is more effective than highways.

Key Rationale

- Greater social equity and economic opportunity for the region's highest percentage of low to moderate-income families through reverse access to jobs, educational opportunities, and services in Austin.



System Expansion Initiatives

Estimated Total System Capacity
(Red - Green Lines)
64,000 Weekday Passenger Trips

Where the Green Line stands as of 2015

- After 2008 study, momentum lapsed as Elgin staffing/leadership and financial conditions changed
- In 2011-12, Sustainable Places Project renewed interest in Elgin
- Included as lower priority project (beyond 2020) within Project Connect plan
- Considered in one of three Project Connect North Corridor alternatives- but not advanced as a result of cost, local priorities and inconsistency relative to project goals and objectives
- Additional stakeholder interest may be emerging
- CMTA's MetroRail Long Range Plan under development