



DESIGN COMMISSION
MONDAY, MARCH 28, 2016 6:00 PM
AUSTIN CITY HALL, BOARDS AND COMMISSIONS ROOM 1101
301 W. SECOND STREET, AUSTIN, TEXAS 78701

Current Commission Members

_____ Evan Taniguchi – Chair	_____ Martha Gonzales
_____ Bart Whatley – Vice-Chair	_____ Conor Kenny
_____ David Carroll	_____ Ben Luckens
_____ Aan Coleman	_____ Melissa Henao-Robledo
_____ Samuel Franco	_____ Heyden Walker
	_____ Jorge E. Rousselin (COA – PZD) Executive Liaison

AGENDA

Please note: Posted times are for time-keeping purposes only. The Commission may take any item(s) out of order and no express guarantee is given that any item(s) will be taken in order or at the time posted.

	Approx. time
CALL TO ORDER AND ROLL CALL	6:00 PM
1. CITIZEN COMMUNICATION: GENERAL The first five speakers signed up prior to the meeting being called to order will each be allowed a three-minute allotment to address their concerns regarding items not posted on the agenda.	6:00 PM
2. NEW BUSINESS (Discussion and Possible Action): <ul style="list-style-type: none">a. Briefing on the Capital Metro Transportation Authority Downtown Station (Mark Guerrero, CapMetro);b. Briefing on Subchapter E and Alternative Equivalent Compliance (Donna Galati, COA-DSD);c. Briefing on Parkland Dedication Ordinance (Marilyn Lamendsorf, COA-PARD);d. Discussion and possible action on a Design Commission Resolution to request that the City Council authorize the Commission to utilize the message board at http://austincouncilforum.org/. (Commissioner Kenny; Chair Taniguchi).	6:15 PM

3. OLD BUSINESS (Discussion and Possible Action): a. Discussion and possible action on the Infrastructure Project application Checklist (Chair Taniguchi); b. Discussion and possible action on the 2016 Design Commission Annual Work Plan.	7:30 PM
4. COMMITTEE AND LIAISON REPORTS (Discussion and Possible Action): a. Standing Committees Reports; b. Working Group Reports; c. Liaison Reports; and d. Appointment of Committee/Working Group members by Chair.	8:15 PM
5. STAFF BRIEFINGS: None	8:20 PM
6. FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS: None	8:15 PM
7. ANNOUNCEMENTS: a. Chair Announcements; b. Items from Commission Members; and c. Items from City Staff: CodeNEXT: Natural and Built Environment Code Prescription	8:20 PM
ADJOURNMENT	8:30 PM

The City of Austin is committed to compliance with the American with Disabilities Act. Reasonable modifications and equal access to communications will be provided upon request. Meeting locations are planned with wheelchair access. If requiring Sign Language Interpreters or alternative formats, please give notice at least 2 days before the meeting date. Please contact Jorge Rousselin in the Planning and Zoning Department, at jorge.rousselin@austintexas.gov or (512) 974-2975, for additional information. TTY users route through Relay Texas at 711.

Design Commission Committees, Working Groups, and Liaisons

Committees

1. Executive Committee: E. Taniguchi, B. Whatley

Working Groups

1. Planning and Urban Design Working Group: E. Taniguchi, H. Walker, B. Whatley, A. Coleman
2. Architecture and Development Working Group: B. Whatley, M. Gonzalez, D. Carroll
3. Landscape and Infrastructure Working Group: S. Franco, M. Henao-Robledo, A. Coleman, B. Luckens
4. Public Engagement Working Group: B. Luckens, S. Franco, M. Henao-Robledo

Design Commission Liaisons

1. Downtown Comm. Liaison / Downtown Austin Plan: Samuel Franco
2. Airport Boulevard Redevelopment Initiative: Pending

Design Commission Executive Liaison:

Jorge E. Rousselin, CNU-A
Development Services Process Coordinator
Urban Design, Planning and Zoning Department
City of Austin, One Texas Center, 505 Barton Springs Rd., Austin, TX 78704
Phone: (512) 974-2975 ■ E-mail: jorge.rousselin@austintexas.gov

Resources:

1. The Urban Design Guidelines for Austin can be accessed here:
[Urban Design Guidelines for Austin.](#)
2. Design Commission backup may be accessed here: [Design Commission Backup.](#)



Capital Metro Downtown Multimodal Station

Project Briefing

March 2016



Existing Challenges



Existing Challenges



Project Goals & Objectives

1

Address near- and long- term MetroRail operational needs

- 5-minute terminal arrival / departure headway
- Platforms to accommodate longer 2-vehicle consists

2

Address existing safety issues and modal conflicts (pedestrian, bicycle, transit, auto)

- Growth of various modes are not compatible in constrained space

3

Accommodate future multimodal needs

- Additional rail and local circulator routes

4

Improve aesthetics and compatibility with urban context

- Great Streets principles
- Urban aesthetics

Peak Hour Service Capacity



Today

Red Line

~200 pass./train



2018

Red Line with Downtown
Station & passing tracks

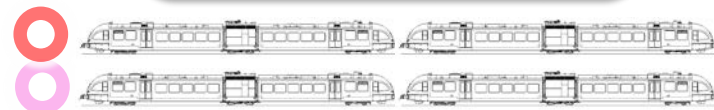
~200 pass./train



Long-Range

Red Line & Future
extensions

~400 pass./train



**<400 people/
peak hour
(one way)**

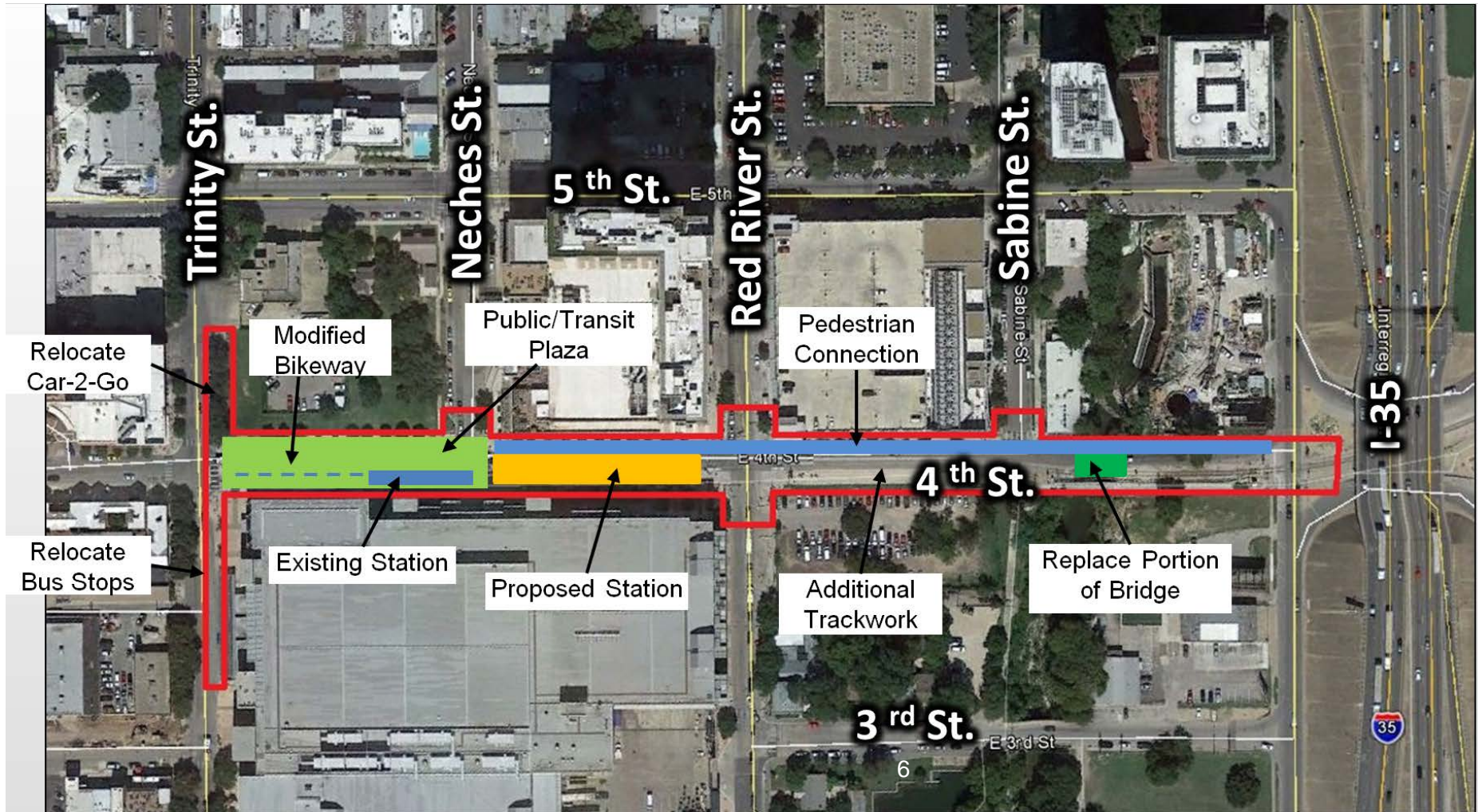


**~800 people/
peak hour
(one way)**



**~4800 people/
peak hour
(one way)**

Project Boundary & Elements



Project Context

1 TxDOT's I35 Mobility




"Modified Existing" Concept
(at Cesar Chavez)

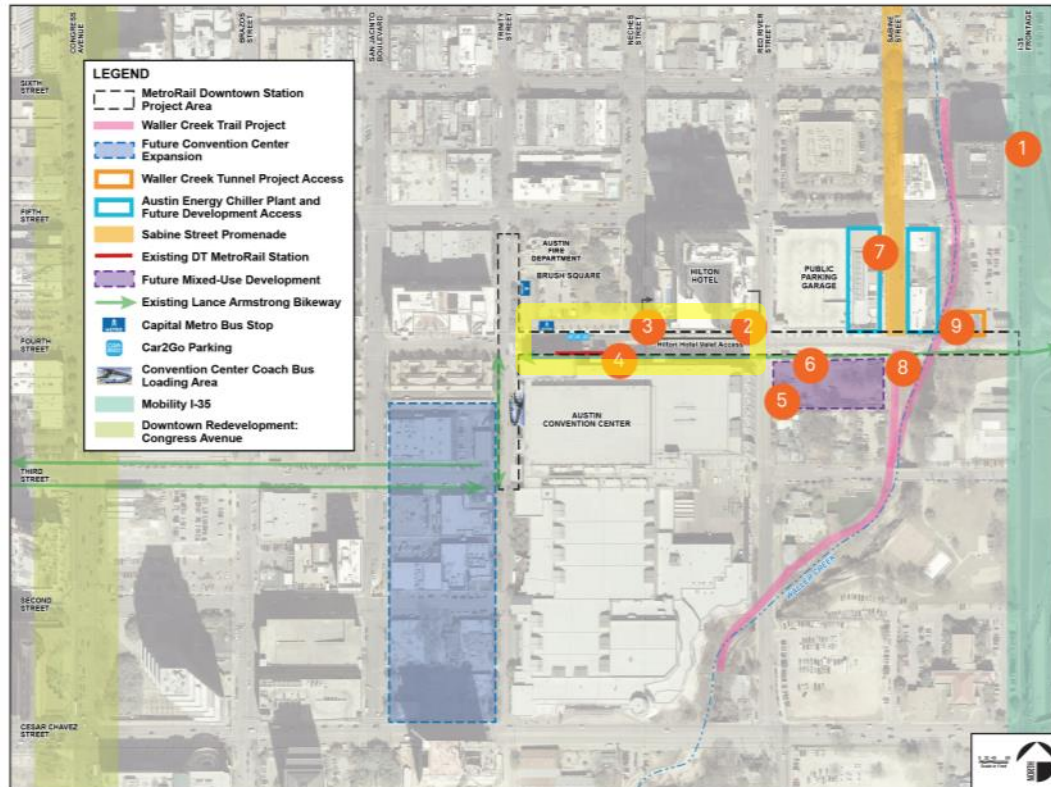
"Fully Depressed" Concept
(at Cesar Chavez)

Source: 2007 Mobility 30 District Area Corridor Implementation Plan (2014)

2 Hilton Valet Circulation



3 Hilton Overhead Bridge Connector


4 Multimodal Compatibility Needs



5 Future Private Development



6 Lance Armstrong Bikeway (4th St)



9 Adjacent Project Access Needs (4th St)



A: Vehicular Access

B: Tunnel Shaft

C: Waller Creek Hike & Bike Trail

8 Waller Creek Trail



7 Sabine Street Promenade



Great Streets

GREAT STREETS PRIORITIZE



Pedestrians



Transit



Bicycles



Cars

STREET USERS, PLACING THOSE USING THEIR **TWO FEET** FIRST.

In a thriving downtown environment with a variety of uses and services and an engaging street life, walking, cycling, and transit are the preferred methods of travel.

PROJECT
GREAT
STREETS



Concept Evaluation

Downtown Multimodal Station



Downtown Station Stakeholders



- Austin Transportation Department
- Austin Fire Department, Police Department and EMS
- Austin Convention Center
- Austin Energy
- Austin Water Utility
- Hilton Austin
- City of Austin Economic Development
- City of Austin Parks and Recreation
- City of Austin Public Works
- City of Austin Real Estate
- City of Austin Special Events
- City of Austin Urban Design / Great Streets
- City of Austin Watershed Protection
- Development Services Department
- Downtown Austin Alliance
- Homeland Security & Emergency Management
- TxDOT
- Waller Creek Conservancy
- Private Entities
- General Public



Public & Stakeholder Outreach



- ✓ 5/23/14 – Stakeholder Workshop #1
- ✓ 7/25/14 – Stakeholder Workshop #2
- ✓ 11/14/14 – Stakeholder Workshop #3
- ✓ 1/31/15 – Public Workshop
- ✓ 8/27/15 – “Pop-Up” Open House
- ✓ 9/28/15 – “Pop-Up” Open House
- ✓ 10/5/15 – “Pop-Up” Open House
- ✓ 10/8/15 – Public Open House
- ✓ 12/9/15 - Stakeholder Workshop
- ✓ 12/11/15 – Public Workshop

Public & Stakeholder Input



- Majority recognize the benefits of elected Concept for a conflict-free pedestrian space
- Stakeholders and coordinating agencies in favor of safety improvements and supporting multimodal mobility improvements
- Some public input indicated traffic concerns with removing autos from this segment of 4th Street

Citizen Feedback (Concept 1)

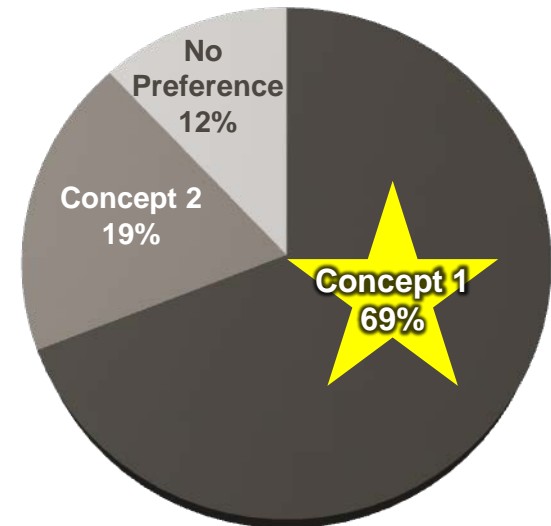
"I like the idea of having more pedestrian area. The vehicle lane isn't really that useful anyway."

"I lean more toward this concept to free more space for pedestrians and bikes."

"Seems like a better use of space but worried about flow of extra traffic displaced from lane of street. Good park space."



Public Survey Results



Concept Confirmation - Technical Evaluation Criteria



1

1. Safety

- a. Mitigation of Multimodal Conflicts
- b. Rail Crossing Protection Requirements

2

2. Station Operations

- a. MetroRail Station and Platform
- b. Multimodal Access to Project Area

3

3. Traffic & Accessibility

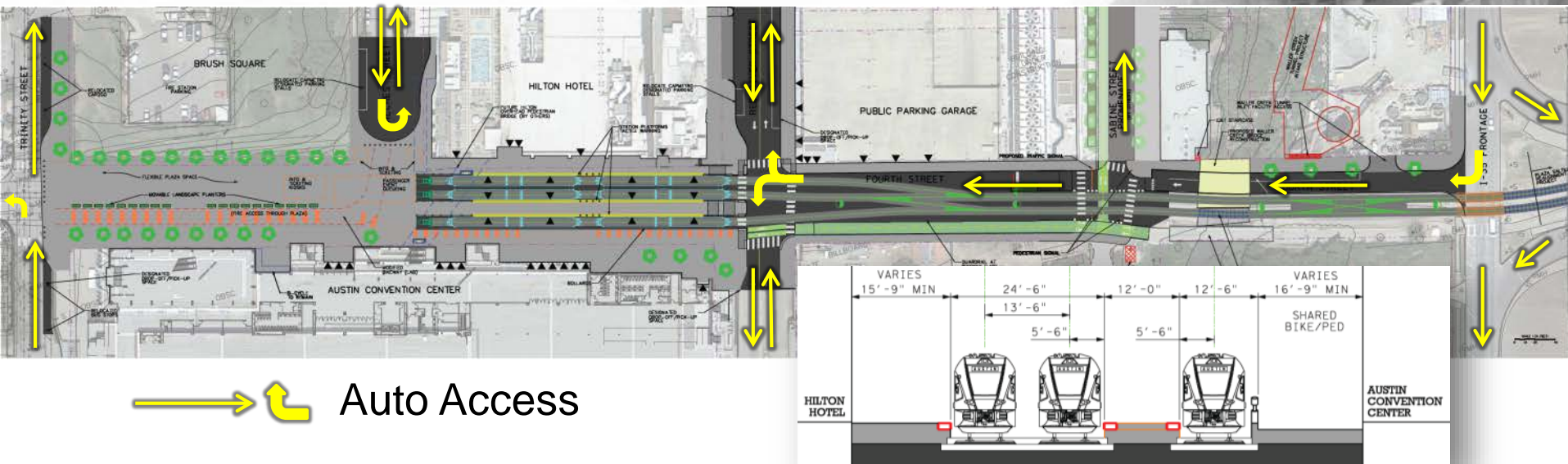
- a. Pedestrian, Bicycle and Auto Circulation
- b. Lane Configurations and Utility
- c. Stakeholder Accessibility

4

4. Context-Sensitive Compatibility

- a. Mitigate Impacts to Adjacent Projects and Stakeholders
- b. Great Streets Compatibility
- c. Supportive of Future Development

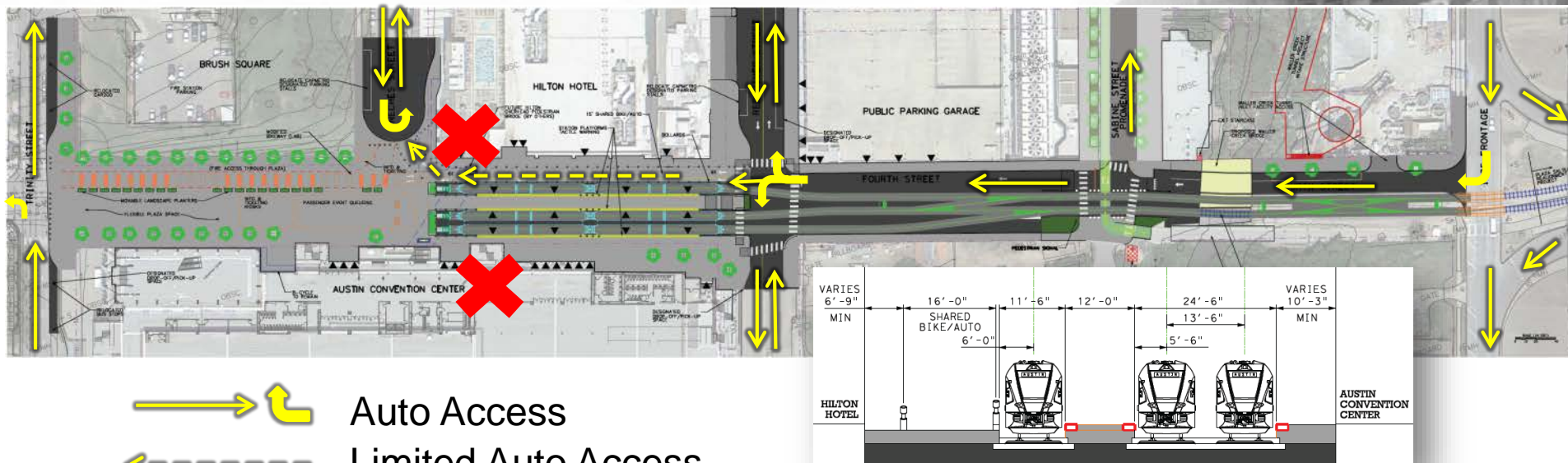
Station Concept 1 (Selected)



- 3 platform positions that accommodate (future) 2-car consists
- **Restrict auto access** on 4th St (between Red River and Trinity)
- Public plaza accommodates platform queuing (Neches to Trinity)
- Lance Armstrong Bikeway (modified for enhanced safety and awareness through platform/plaza area)

Station Concept 2 (not selected)

(Capital Metro is no longer pursuing this concept)



- 3 platform positions that accommodate (future) 2-car consists
- **Shared-use auto/bicycle access** on 4th St (Sabine to Neches)
- Public plaza accommodates platform queuing (Neches to Trinity)
- Lance Armstrong Bikeway (relocated)

- ✗ Station platforms prevent emergency vehicles from accessing convention center
- ✗ Relocated bikeway in conflict with 4th Street auto traffic

Technical Evaluation – Summary



Evaluation Metric	Preferred Concept 1 (Vacate Auto Access on 4th)	Less Preferred Concept 2 (Restricted Auto Access on 4 th)
Safety	Best reduction of conflicts	Auto and bikeway conflicts remain
Transit Operations	Meets requirements	May compromise platform width to fit shared-use lane and emergency access
Traffic and Accessibility	Reduces auto accessibility	Maintains accessibility; requires bikes & autos to share
Context Sensitive Compatibility	Consistent with multimodal vision & hierarchy	Diminishes multimodal vision

- **Concept 1** is the best solution for reducing safety conflicts, meeting transit operational requirements, improving multimodal accessibility, and is consistent with the urban context
- **Concept 1** challenges have been identified and mitigations are being developed.



Selected Concept

Challenges, Opportunities

Downtown Multimodal Station



4th Street Conversion (Red River to Trinity)



- **4th St. is multimodal**

- Combined bike & ped. volumes already exceed auto traffic at the Neches/4th intersection

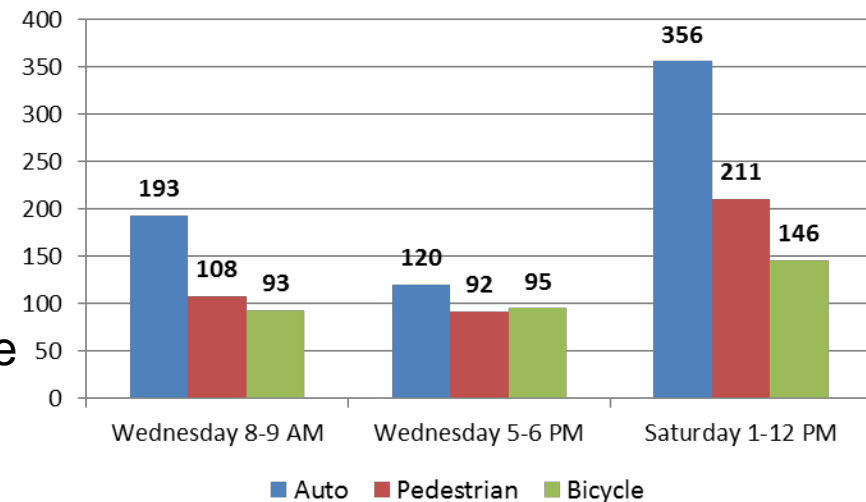
- **4th St. is not a commuter route**

- Peak demand is during the weekend PM entertainment period
- 6th Street peak demand is the during weekday AM commuter period
- Cesar Chavez Street peak demand is the during weekday PM commuter period

- **Conclusion**

- 6th Street and Cesar Chavez have excess capacity to absorb the displaced volume of traffic during both peak and entertainment periods

Auto, Pedestrian & Bicycle
Peak Hourly Volumes on 4th Street



5th Street 2-Way Conversion



- Traffic flow improvement for downtown area, Hilton Hotel occupants
- Austin Transportation Department to initiate process for 5th Street 2-Way conversion from I-35 to Trinity (or Brazos)
- Goal to complete conversion before Downtown Station construction
- Stakeholders have requested additional traffic analysis in vicinity

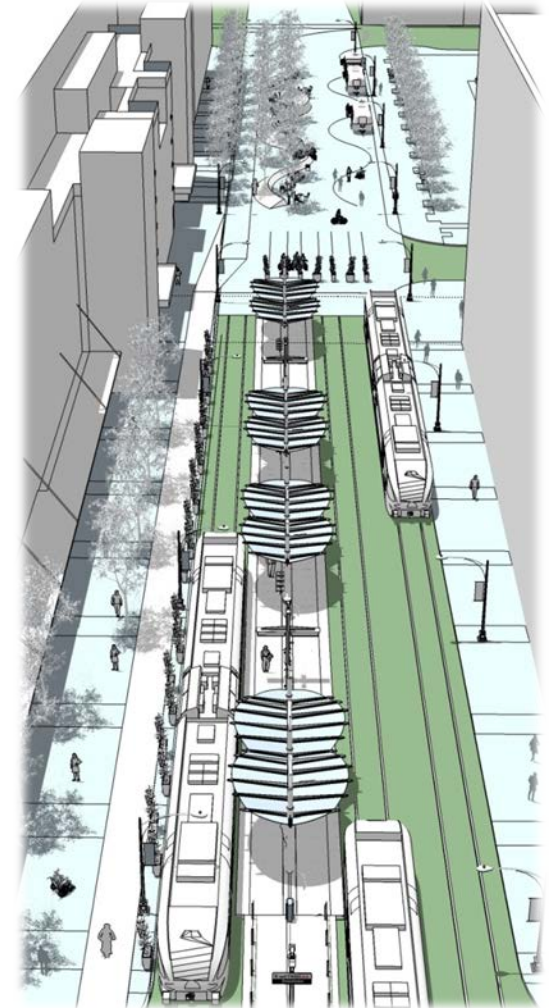
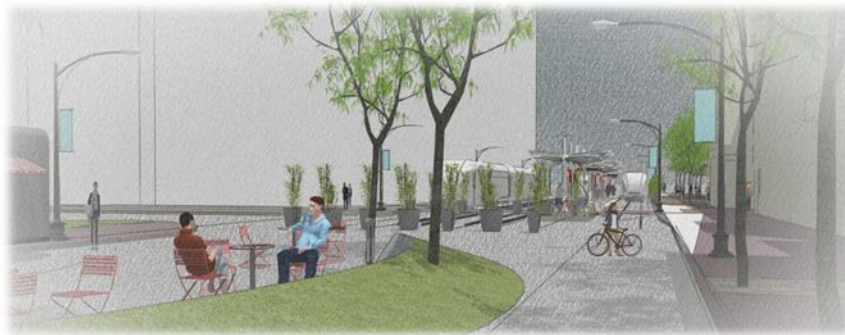
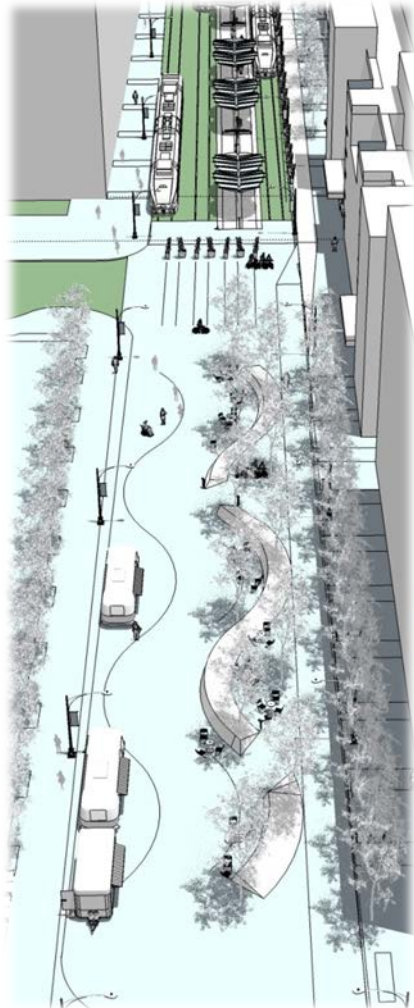


Opportunities

Downtown Multimodal Station

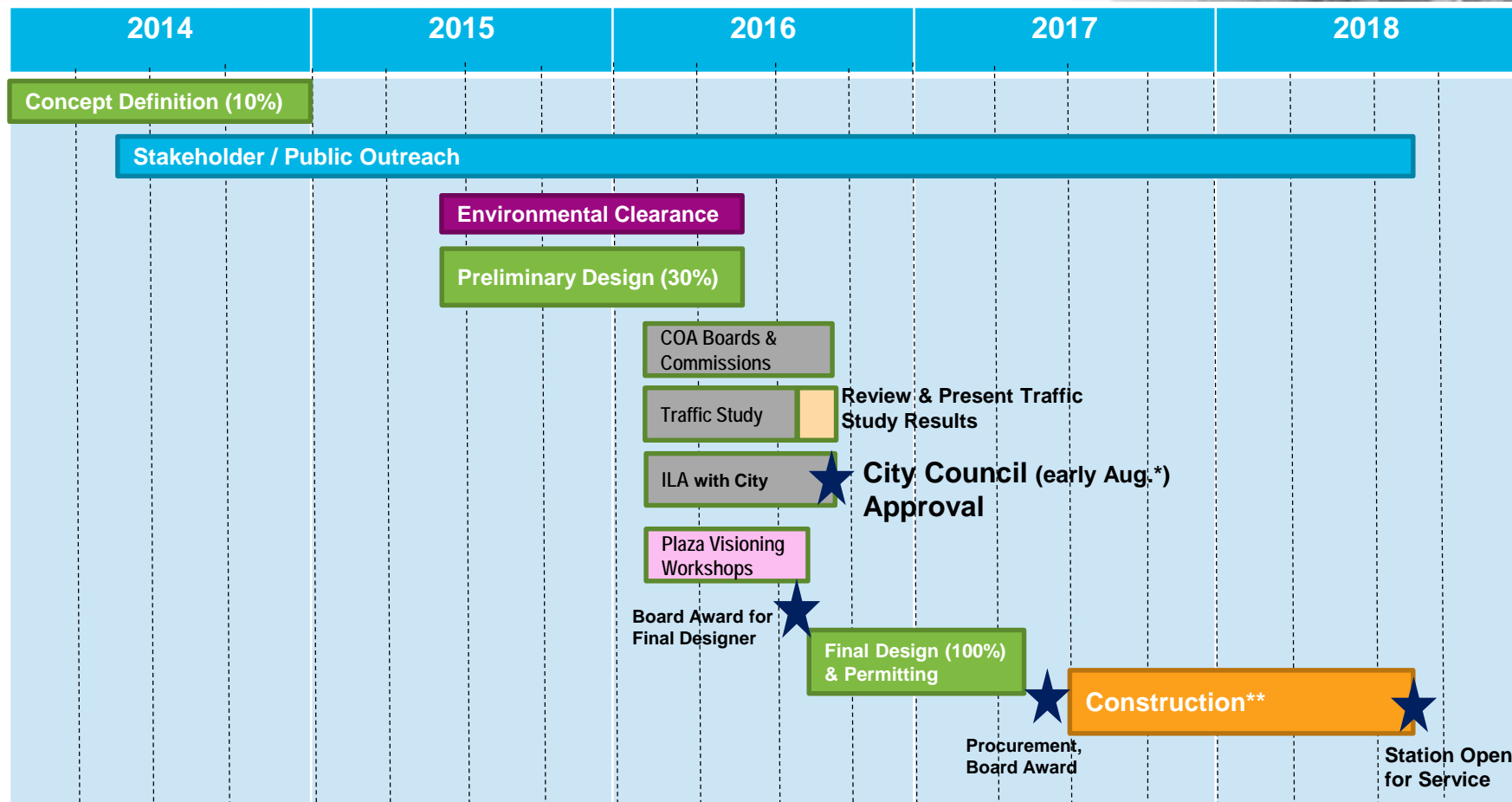


Design Study



Downtown Station

Preliminary Schedule



*June City Council agenda preferred if traffic studies are completed sooner

**All construction activities are pending environmental clearance and City permitting



Next Steps

- Capital Metro & City of Austin Agreement
- 30% Design Completion
- Station Vicinity Traffic Analysis
- Project Environmental Approval

Downtown Multimodal Station





Questions?

Downtown Multimodal Station





Appendix

Downtown Multimodal Station

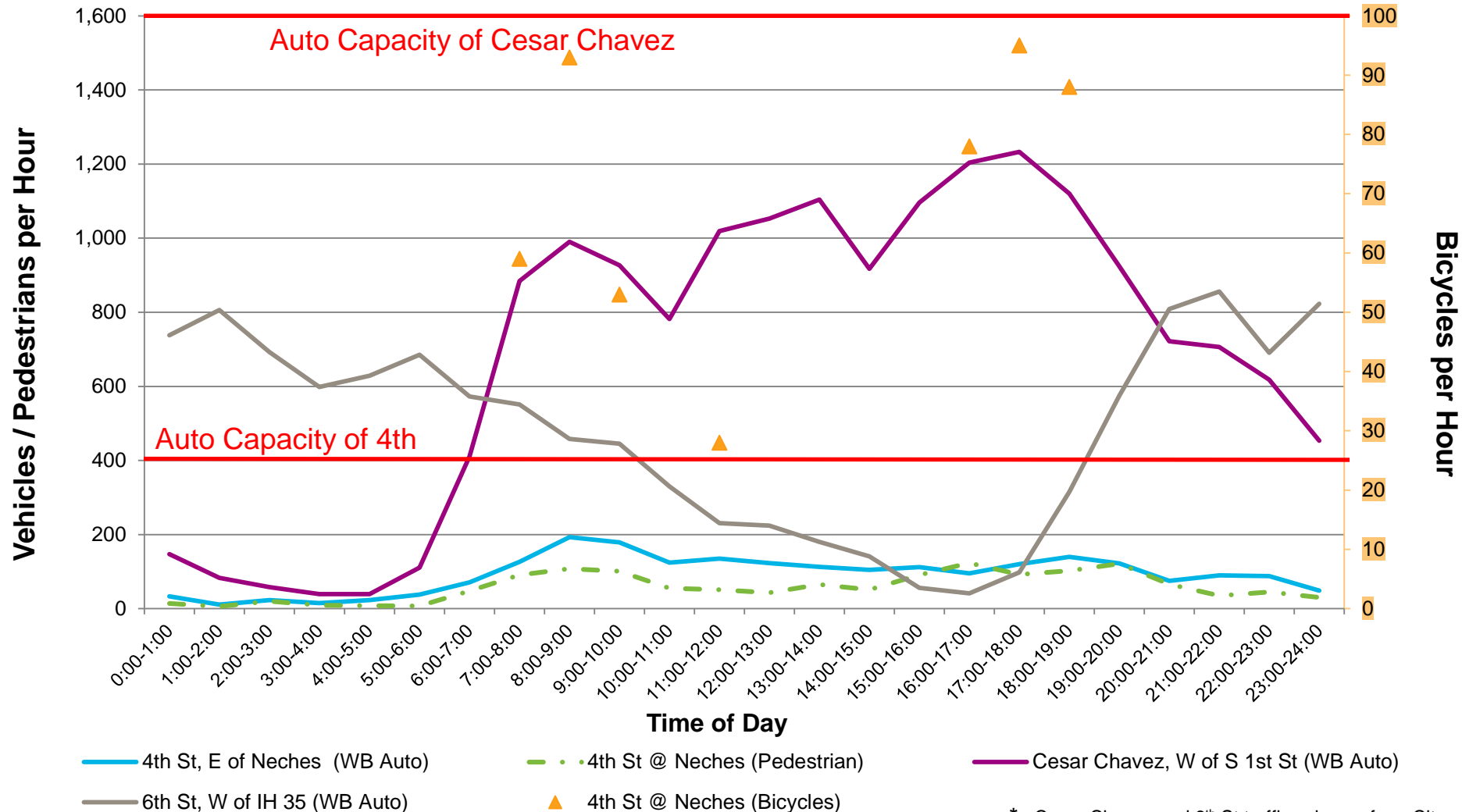


Traffic Data Collection

- Video camera set up at the corner of 4th Street and Neches
- 7-day, 24-hour counts (Thursday 9/3 to 9/10)
- Data for auto, pedestrian, and bike
- Historical counts on Cesar Chavez, 5th, and 6th Streets

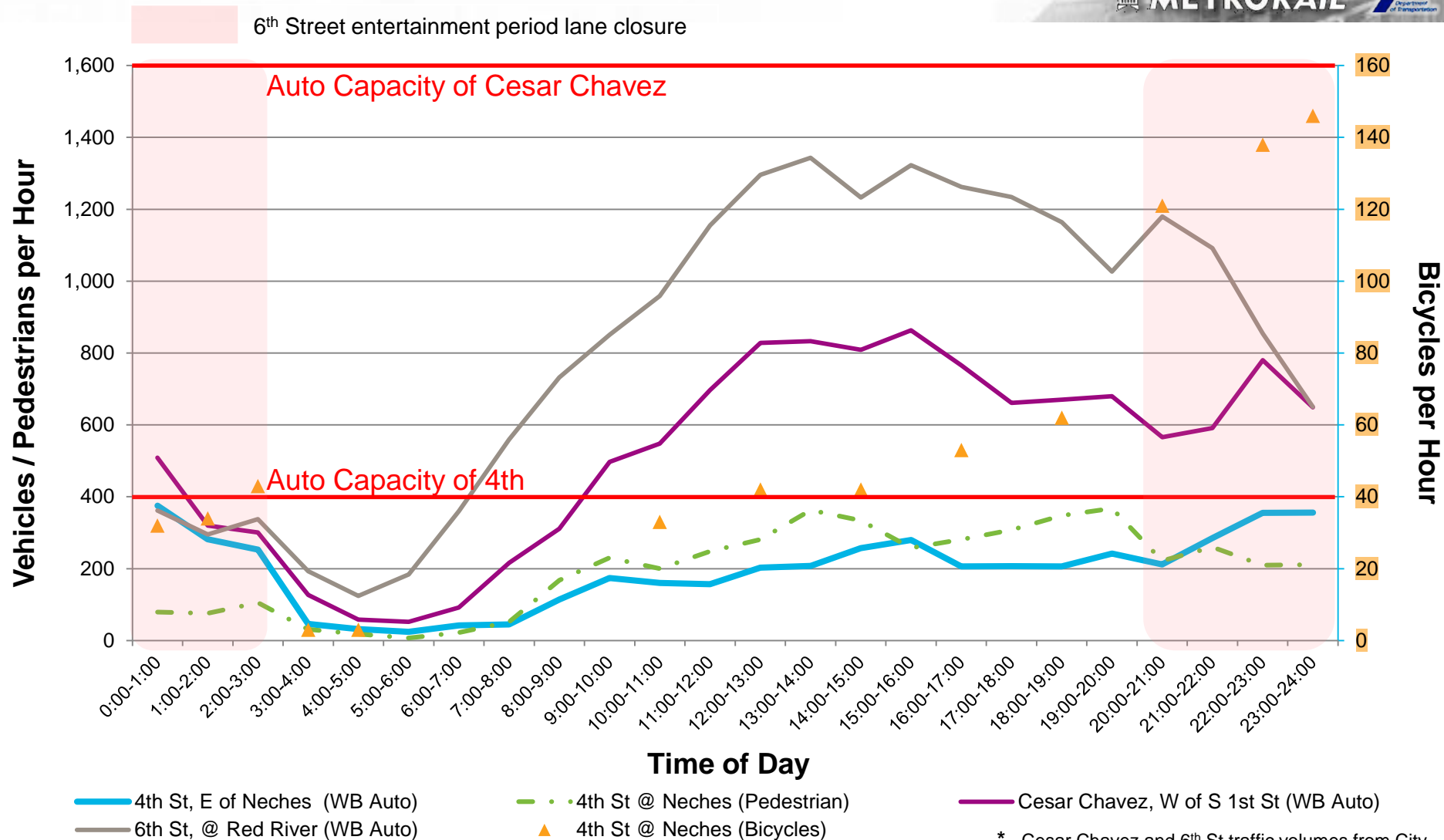


Data Summary – Hourly Volumes on Typical Weekday*



* - Cesar Chavez and 6th St traffic volumes from City of Austin historical data

Data Summary – Hourly Volumes on Typical Weekend* (Saturday)





5th Street

Downtown Multimodal Station

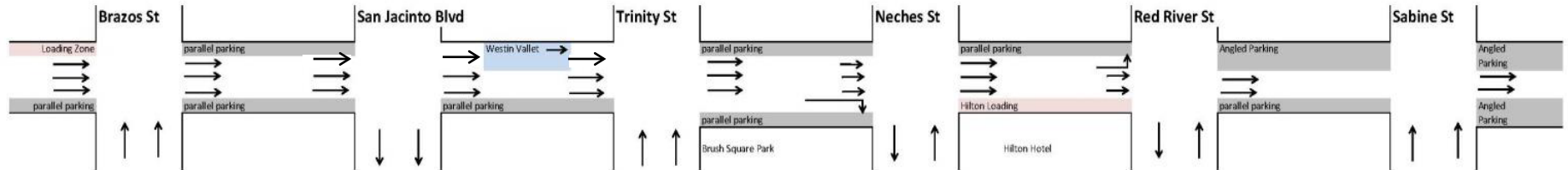


Potential 5th Street 2-Way Conversion by City of Austin

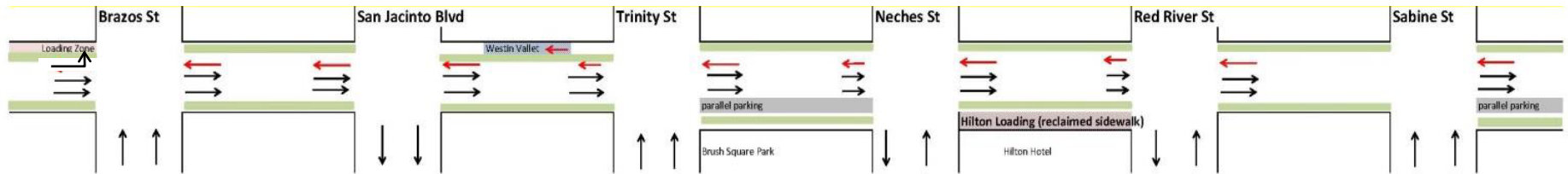
Lane Configuration Options



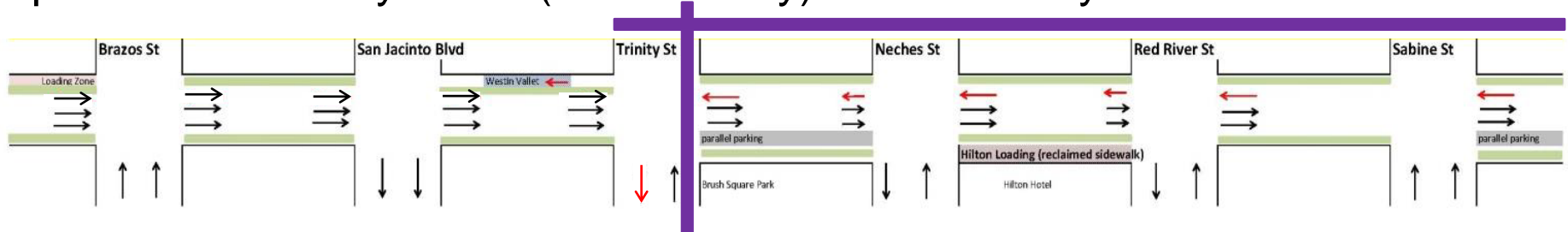
Existing



Option 1 - Two-way on 5th (I35 to Brazos)



Option 2 - Two-way on 5th (I35 to Trinity) and on Trinity



- Limits of 2-way conversion

- Protected bicycle lane (potential)

Subchapter E Alternative Equivalent Compliance Design Commission

Development Services Land Use Review

March 28, 2016



City of Austin Projects and Design Commission

Overview

- Resolutions regarding Site Plans and Design Commission
- Purpose of Alternative Equivalent Compliance
- Recommendations
- Examples

City of Austin Projects and Design Commission

Resolution 20071129-046 –

- Municipal buildings and associated site development shall be presented to Design Commission
- Demonstrate compliance with city design and sustainability standards
- Presentation is early enough in development process to enable incorporation of improvements

City of Austin Project and Design Commission

Resolution 20100923-086

- The required presentation to Design Commission must be done prior to staff approving Alternative Equivalent Compliance.

Alternative Equivalent Compliance (AEC)

Purpose of AEC

- To encourage design flexibility
- Accommodate projects where site conditions or proposed use prevent strict compliance

AEC should meet the intent of Subchapter E while not strictly adhering to standards.

Recommended Role of Design Commission

- **Provide recommendations related to design and sustainability standards**
- **Provide written recommendations on AEC for City projects and forward to Development Services staff**

Examples of COA Projects

Zach Scott Theater

ANDERSSON-WISE

• Memo •

Date: 15 Jan 2010
To: Sarah Graham and Jan Adler
From: Catherine Craig and Arthur Andersson, Andersson-Wise Architects
Subject: ZACH Theatre Center - Alternative Equivalent Compliance

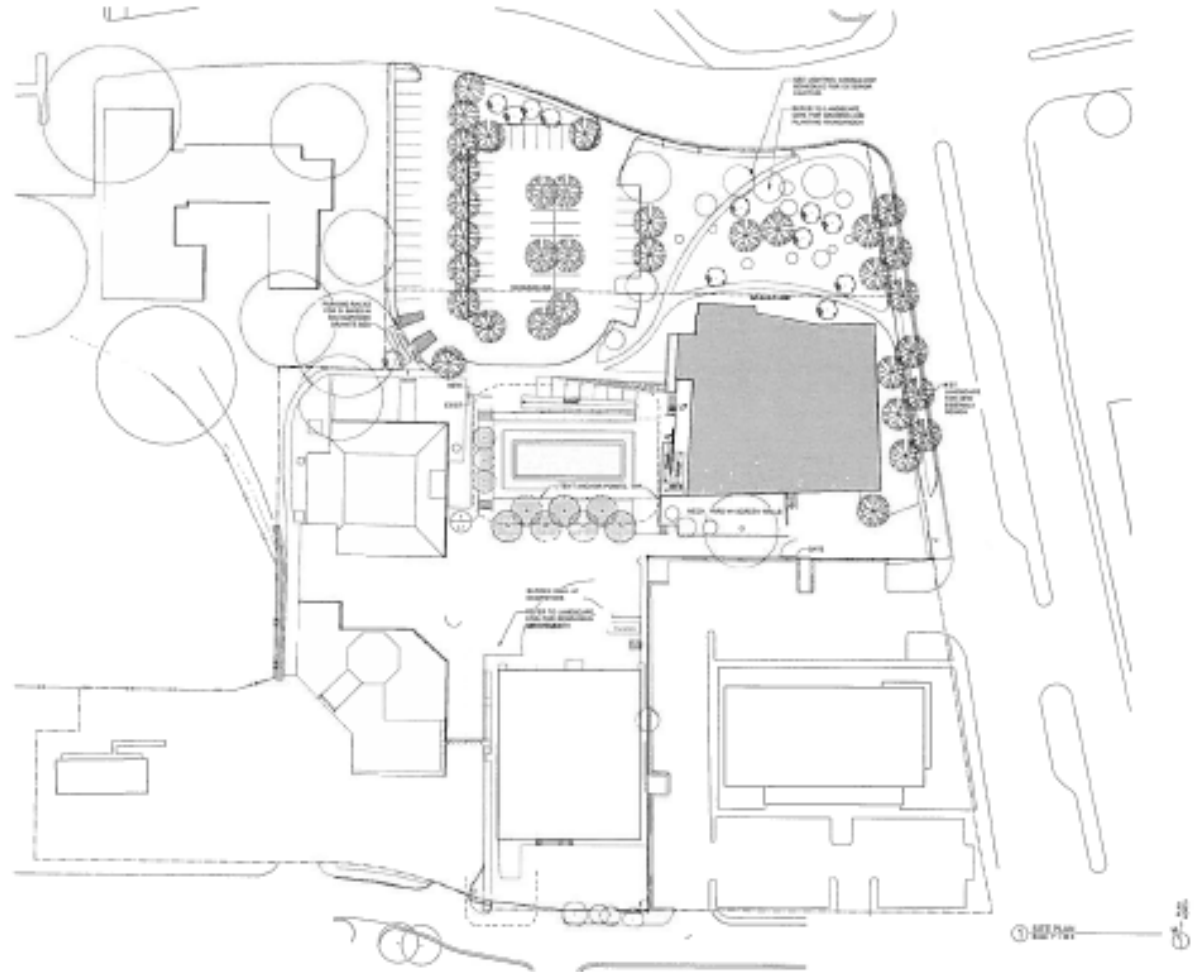
The purpose of this memo is to request acceptance of an Alternative Equivalent Compliance for Austin City Code, Chapter 25-2, Subchapter E, Subsections 2.2.6 - Building Entryways and 3.2.2 - Glazing on Building Facades.

The specific use of the building, particularly sound and light isolation requirements essential to a theatre stage and auditorium limit opportunities for public entryways and vision glazing. In addition to this, in order to achieve a desired campus organization for the Zachary Scott Theatre buildings, the new ZACH Theatre has been oriented towards the campus interior, rather than toward South Lamar Blvd., a Core Transit Corridor.

This memo will outline the proposed Alternative Equivalent Compliance for both the orientation of the new ZACH Theatre and its entryways and facade glazing requirements. Part 1 addresses Subsection 2.2.6 - Building Entryways, Part 2 addresses Subsection 3.2.2 - Glazing on Building Facades, and Part 3 elaborates on specific points in narrative form.

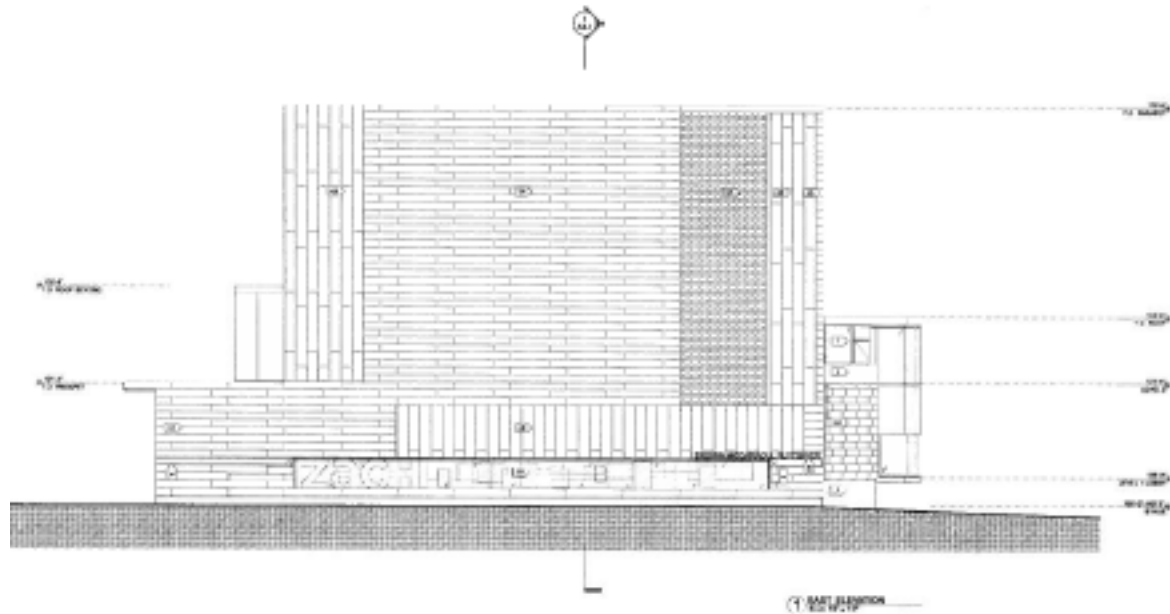
Examples of COA Projects

Zach Scott Theater



Examples of COA Projects

Zach Scott Theater



Examples of COA Projects

Asian American Resource Center

REQUESTED RECOMMENDATION

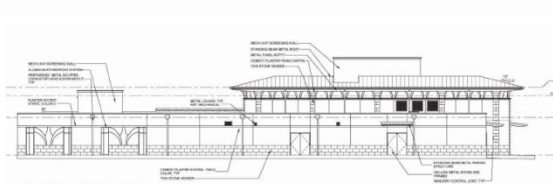
- Recommendation of proposed design
- Alternative Equivalent Compliance
 - Minor sidewalk & buffer space adaptations on Cameron Road
 - Building placement with landscaped street yards for civic building
 - Internal paths in lieu of some ICR sidewalks
 - Decorative panels in lieu of some fenestration

Examples of COA Projects

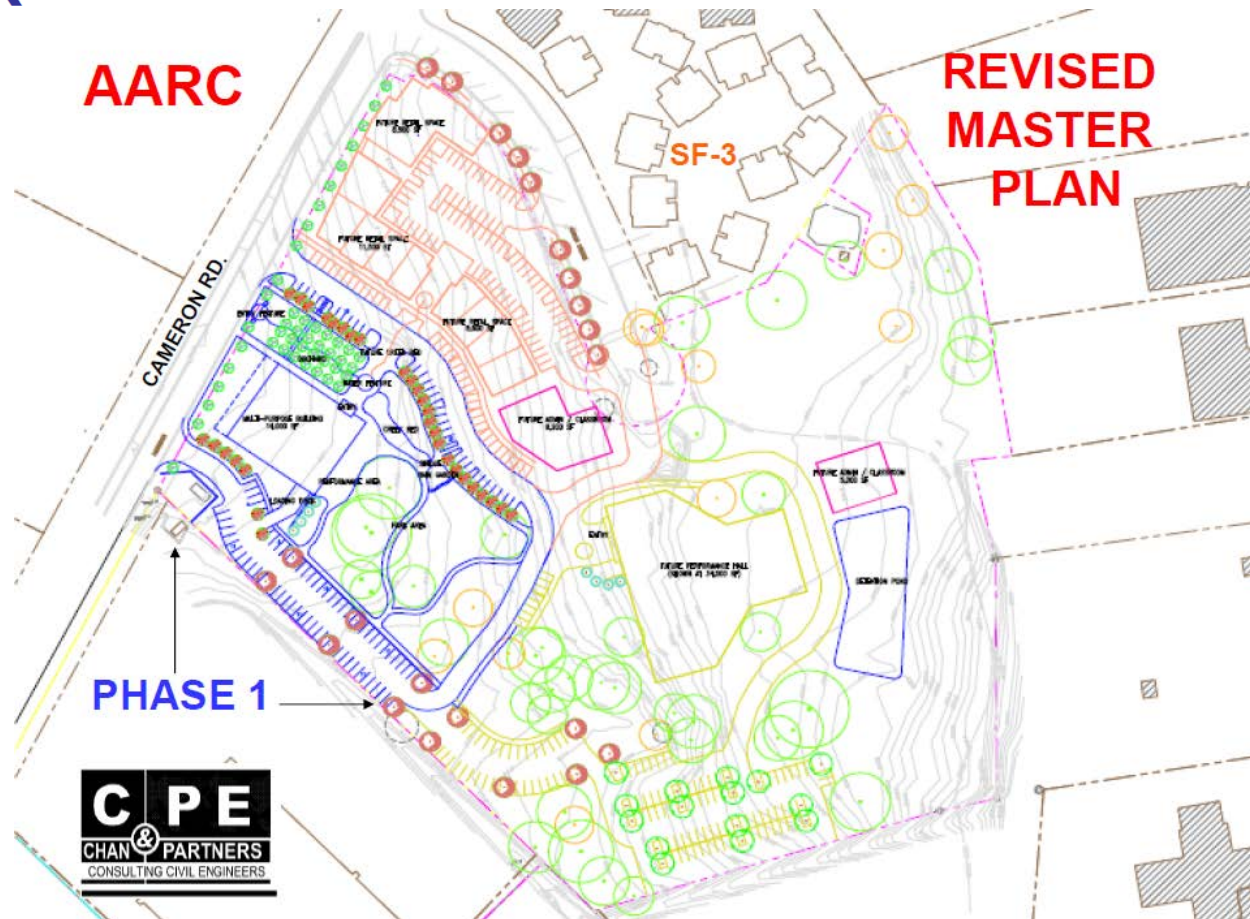
ASIAN AMERICAN RESOURCE CENTER



NORTH ELEVATION



SOUTH ELEVATION



Examples of COA Projects

- **Site Plans come in, need AEC, applicant is unsure what to propose,**
- **Review staff is unsure what to accept for AEC**
- **Solution – Use Design Commission recommendations to guide the AEC**

Contact Information

Donna Galati

Donna.Galati@austintexas.gov

512-974-2733



Parkland Dedication Code Amendment

Randy Scott, Park Development Coordinator
City of Austin Parks and Recreation Department

Presented to Design Commission

March 28, 2016

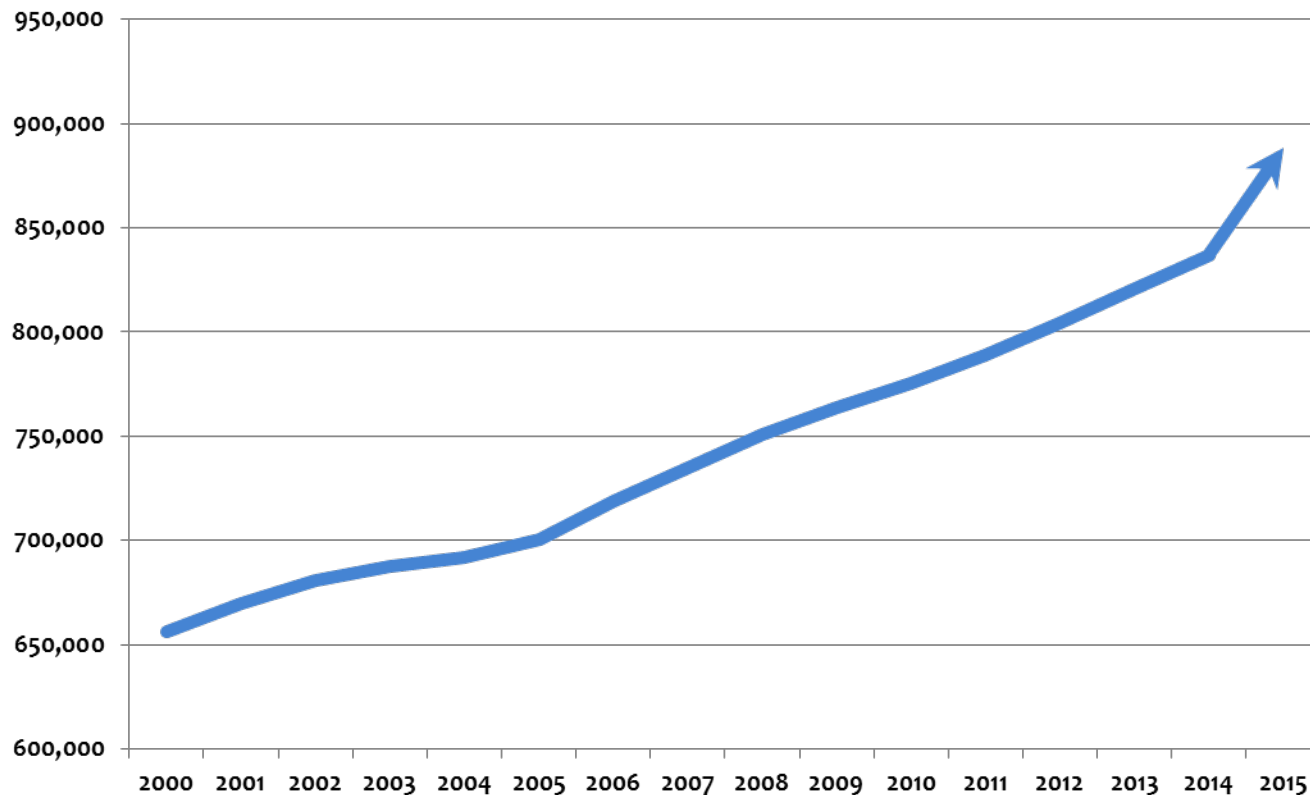


What is Parkland Dedication

- Parkland dedication is a local government requirement for residential subdivisions and site plans, mandating that they dedicate land for a park and/or pay a fee to be used by the government entity to acquire and develop park facilities
- New development generates a need for additional park amenities; the people responsible for creating that need should bare the cost of providing the new amenities

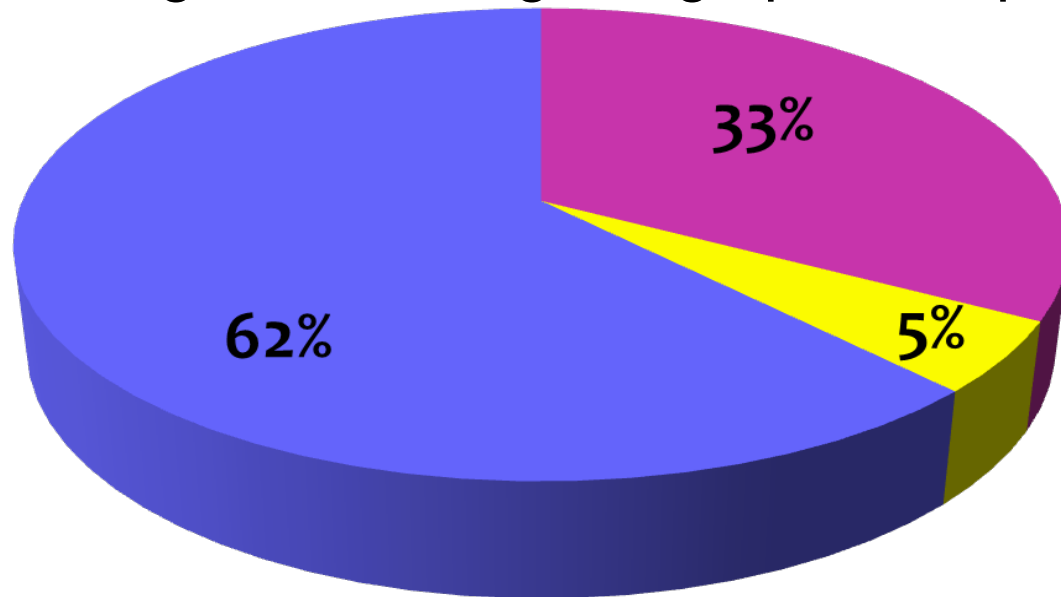
City of Austin Growth Rate

- Austin population has grown 35% since 2000



Parkland Acquisition

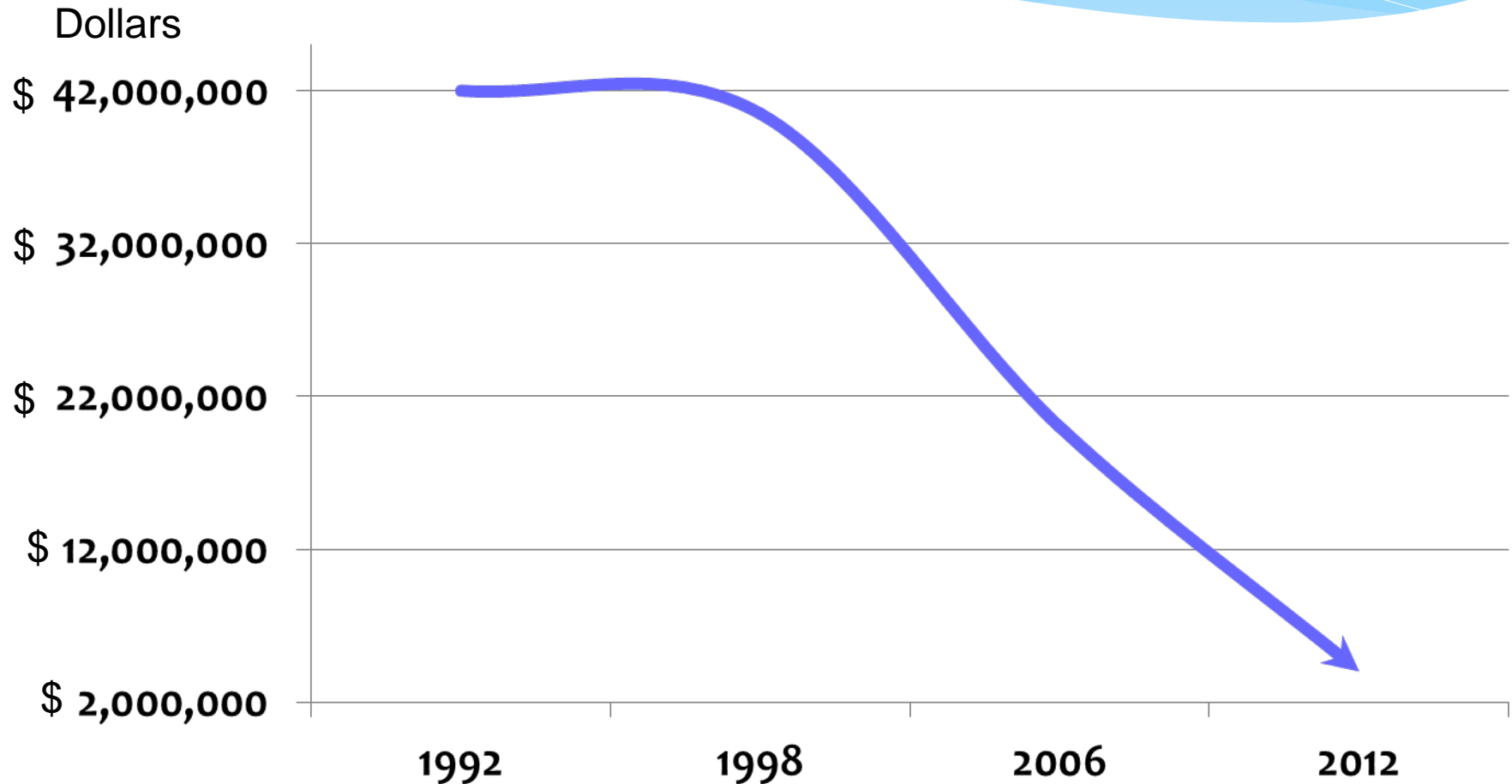
- Historically, the community has subsidized the park impacts of population growth through large park acquisition bonds



■ PLD ■ Annexation ■ Bonds

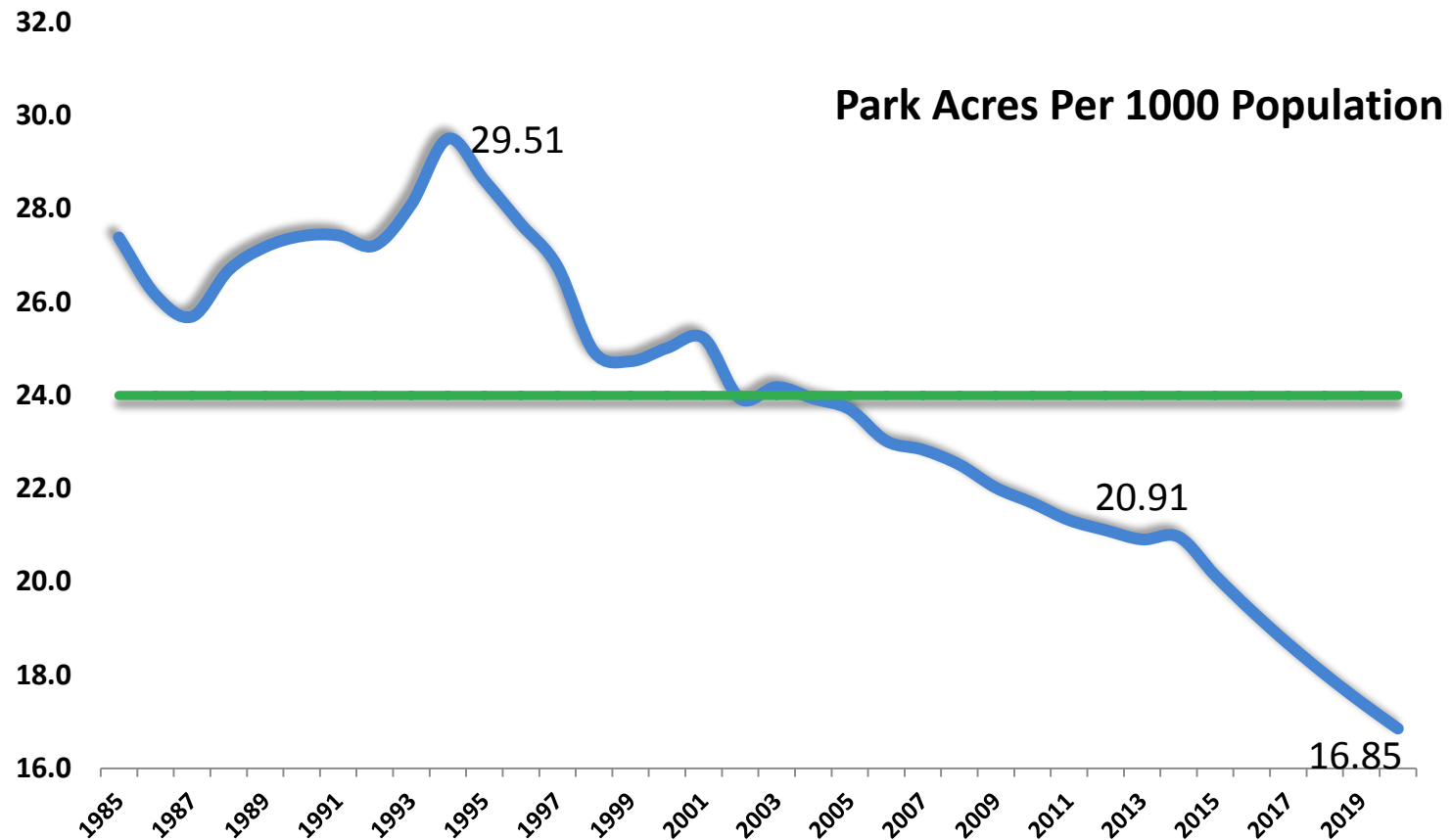
Parkland Acquisition Bonds

- Bonds for parkland acquisition down 90% since 1992



Parkland per 1,000 residents

- By 2020, Austin will have a 7,500-acre deficit in parkland



Code Amendment

20160128-086

- Council adopted changes that:
 1. Increases fees and land to current level of service and cost so that we don't continue to lose ground
 2. Incentivizes land dedication with pre-application review processes
 3. Codifies use of a Park Deficient Map to guide land and fee decisions
 4. Develops standards for parkland in a Parkland Dedication Operating Procedure (PDOP)
 5. Develops standards for private space, open to the public, in a Parkland Dedication Operating Procedure (PDOP)

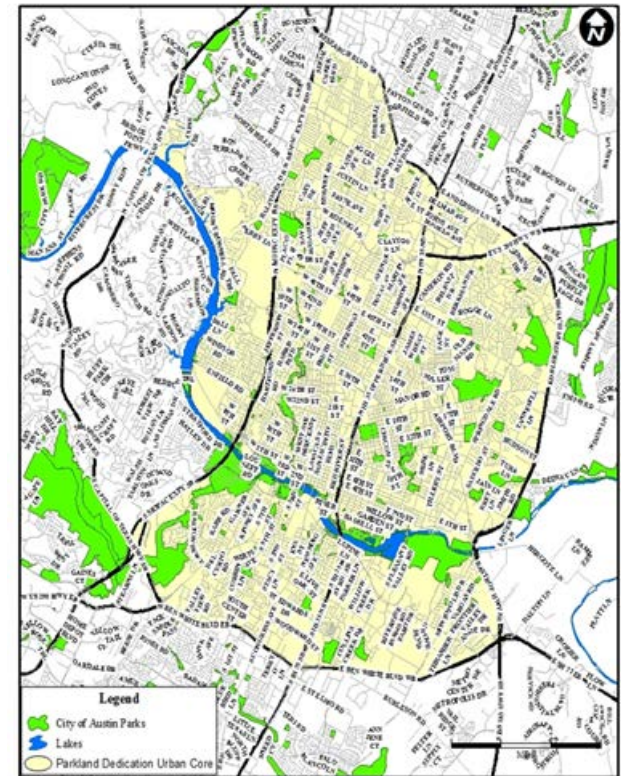
Code Amendment – Increased Parkland

- Establishes a “roughly proportional” formula for land and fees based on City’s existing Level of Service (9.4 acres per 1,000 for neighborhood type parks)
- Adds hotel/motels to applicability, could give land or fees
- Creates a fee for park construction to fund more park development or allow developers to get credit for park amenities



Code Amendment – Urban Core

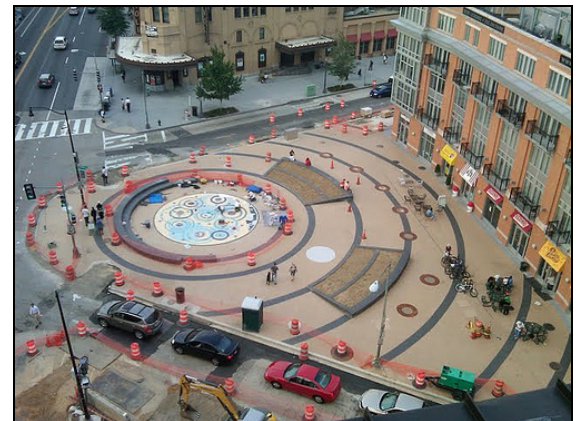
- Establishes a Parkland Dedication Urban Core
- Caps land dedication in that core to 15% of the site (pocket park) unless more is requested
- Establishes an appeals process to the Land Use Commission if land dedication request is opposed by applicant



Parkland Dedication Urban Core

Code Amendment – Private Parks

- Increases flexibility by allowing land, fees and amenities on public and private lands
- Allows up to 100% credit for privately owned and maintained parkland open to the public
- Allows up to 100% credit for active park amenities constructed on that parkland



Discussion

Staff contact information:

Randy Scott, Park Development Coordinator

Phone: 512 974-9484

Email: randy.scott@austintexas.gov

Ricardo Soliz, Division Manager

Phone: 512 974-9452

Email: ricardo.soliz@austintexas.gov

Draft resolution for consideration by the Austin Design Commission.
Submitted by Conor Kenny

WHEREAS meeting only monthly in-person and abiding by Open Meetings Act restrictions on communications between Austin Design Commission members can substantially slow the work of the Commission;

WHEREAS changes to the Open Meetings Act spearheaded by Austin's own Senator Kirk Watson created an exception (Sec. 551.006) to those restrictions, allowing members of a governmental body to communicate or exchange information regarding their official business as long as "(1) the communication is in writing; (2) the writing is posted to an online message board or similar Internet application that is viewable and searchable by the public; and (3) the communication is displayed in real time and displayed on the online message board or similar Internet application for no less than 30 days after the communication is first posted";

WHEREAS the Austin City Council created such a message board at <http://austincouncilforum.org/> and makes use of it for Council business;

WHEREAS for many members of the public, reading about the Commission's business is probably easier than watching long videos of meetings;

WHEREAS the members of the Austin Design Commission wish to expeditiously yet transparently discharge their duties under the city code;

WHEREAS this may serve as a useful experiment to inform the practices of other city commissions;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Austin Design Commission requests that the Austin City Council allow members of the Commission to utilize a new section of the Council's message board created for members of the Commission to discuss Commission business between meetings, and direct staff to make any necessary technical changes to make this possible.



City of Austin

Design Commission

Infrastructure Project Application

City Council Resolution 20100819-035 directs the Design Commission to ensure that proposed infrastructure projects “are carefully planned and executed to respect our City’s quality of life”. Infrastructure projects that have the potential to significantly effect the “public realm” shall be reviewed by the Design Commission and shall address each of the items listed below. These projects include electrical substations, water towers, bridges, transit-oriented infrastructure, etc. The City Architect and the Design Commission Executive Staff Liason will be the gatekeepers for this project submittal process and may identify other projects that might fall into this category requiring DC review. Projects that are already required to conform to existing City of Austin guidelines such as the Great Street Master Plan, are not required to be reviewed by the Design Commission.

Project Name:	
Project Location/Address:	
Applicant:	Property Owner:
Mailing Address:	Mailing Address:
Phone Number:	Phone Number:
Project Architect/Engineer and Contact Info (mailing address, phone no, e-mail address)	
Project Start Date:	Project End Date
Is project subject to redevelopment site plan or zoning application approvals?	Planning Commission Action Date: City Council Action Date:
Narrative Description of Proposed Project (including entitlements that you are seeking; attach or add additional page(s) as necessary)	
Current Status of Submittal: Conceptual Schematic Design Development	

Please provide a concise (brief but comprehensive) response for each item listed below. These responses will be used to evaluate your project and should be included in your presentation as requested. Provide responses as an attachment to this application.

- 1] Is this infrastructure project located in a populated area where it could adversely affect the quality of life for those living/working nearby? Adverse conditions include environmental conditions such as noise, air quality, etc; impact on traffic, visual/aesthetic eyesores; lack of adequate buffer to separate project from those living/working at adjacent locations; etc. Illustrate these issues in presentation images.
- 2] Describe how this project addresses relevant sections of Imagine Austin.
- 3] Has community outreach been implemented for this project? If so, please provide documentation of results.
- 4] Is this project occupied on a regular basis, and if so, how many occupants (maximum)?
- 5] If landscaping is provided, describe the type of planting proposed (native, xeriscape?) and how it will be maintained (irrigation system?). Illustrate these issues in presentation images.
- 6] If this project includes a building or structure that is visible by existing/future neighbors, have any/all potential visual/aesthetic eyesore issues been addressed? This could possibly be associated with Item 3. Illustrate these issues in presentation images.
- 7] Describe buffer between project and existing/future neighbors. Illustrate effectiveness of buffer in presentation images.



Annual Internal Review

This report covers the time period of 1-1-2014 to 12/31/2014

THE DESIGN COMMISSION

The Board/Commission's Mission Statement per City Code (Section 2-1-129) is:

The commission shall provide advisory recommendations to the city council as requested by the city council to assist in developing public policy and to promote excellence in the design and development of the urban environment.

The commission shall:

- (1) Offer policy recommendations regarding specific issues of urban design;
- (2) Participate in developing design guidelines;
- (3) Unless otherwise directed by the city council, for projects that require the approval of the Planning Commission or the Zoning and Platting Commission:
 - (a) Review a project only after a formal request by the project sponsor or applicant; and
 - (b) Complete the review before the respective Planning or Zoning and Platting Commission takes final action;
- (4) Provide citizen education and outreach regarding quality urban design;
- (5) Provide a venue for citizen input on the design and development of the urban environment;
- (6) Maintain liaison relationships with city staff and other boards and commissions; and
- (7) Perform other activities as directed by the city council.

The commission may appoint one or more of its members to serve as liaison to a project specific community advisory group addressing urban design and planning issues at the formal request of the project sponsor.

1. Describe the board's actions supporting their mission during the previous calendar year. Address all elements of the board's mission statement as provided in the relevant sections of the City Code.

- A. Specific outcomes of significance:

Design Commission Annual Review and Work Plan 2014

- a. The Design Commission continued its study of City infrastructure projects thru discussions and meetings with City Staff and Council. The Commission continued with a work plan to execute the Council directive by the fall of 2015.
- b. The Design Commission assisted in policy development thru liaisons to Council charged study areas to help advocate the greater vision.
- c. The Design Commission established a new working method for reviewing developer driven projects that wish to establish substantial compliance with the Urban Design Guidelines as part of the newly established process to streamline the Density Bonus entitlement system.
- d. The Design Commission restructured its Working Groups for increased efficiency and service to the public.

- B. The Design Commission reviewed public and private projects as demonstrated in the agendas.
- C. Drafted project review letters as requested.
- D. Agendas
- E. Meeting minutes

2. Determine if the board's actions throughout the year comply with the mission statement.

Evaluation 2014:

The Design Commission ("Commission") successfully achieved the goals and objectives as set forth by the City Council in evaluating projects for compliance with approved Urban Design guidelines and setting forth design criteria for urban projects. The Commission continues to evaluate urban projects for compliance with the updated, citywide Urban Design Guidelines.

3. List the board's goals and objectives for the new calendar year.

- A. To finalize Infrastructure Projects Design Guidelines by the end of fall 2015 in accordance with City Council directive under Resolution No. 20120816-060.
- B. To raise the awareness of urban design, establishing and promoting design guidelines in order to improve the quality of the built environment throughout the metropolitan area, and informing policies that shape the application of urban design principles,
- C. To efficiently and effectively evaluate projects in order for developments to see DC as a tremendous asset and continue to use DC as a resource for assisting their projects.
- D. To protect the future development of areas that have the potential to have dense development

- E. To reorganize the working methodologies of the Design Commission in order to adapt to the new council structure.
- F. To continue to uphold the duties of the Commission's Mission Statement.

4. Proposed activities for the next year to achieve the board's goals and objectives.

- A. Offer strategic help to City Staff in the review of changes to the Land Development Code as they propose them and present it to the Design Commission.
- B. Work to finalize the Infrastructure Design Guidelines, integrate them into the urban design guidelines and craft the final documentation.
- C. The Commission will continue to refine the Design Commission Project Review process by including, but not limited to, the following
 - a. Creation of a "Frequently Asked Questions" list for project submissions
 - b. Review of the required items for project submittal process.
 - c. Develop processes that streamline the review process including areas of critical concern.
- D. The Commission will work with the City of Austin Planning & Development Review Department on issues and activities pertaining to Urban Design such as the Comprehensive Plan, Urban Design Guidelines, the Commercial Design Standards ordinance, and design implications of code amendments.
- E. The Commission will continue to conduct project reviews and make advisory recommendations upon request by project sponsors and/or applicants regarding private and public development to the City Council, the Planning Commission, Planning & Development Review Department, and other boards and commissions, utilizing the Urban Design Guidelines as a primary reference.
- F. The Commission will continue to conduct project reviews and make advisory recommendations to the city council regarding the City of Austin improvement projects (Great Streets, buildings, bridges, roads, parks, infrastructure, etc.).
- G. The Commission will monitor planning activities through Design Commission liaisons selected emerging projects and small area plans such as the Airport Boulevard Redevelopment Initiative, Downtown Austin Plan Implementation, Downtown Way-finding, East Riverside Corridor Regulating Plan, Imagine Austin Comprehensive Plan, Subchapter E, and Waterfront Overlay, South Austin Neighborhood Plan.
- H. The Commission will offer design guideline education and act as a resource for city departments, developers, other boards and commissions, interested stakeholder, and the community regarding design related issues.

- I. The Commission will continue commission efforts to offer general assistance and advisory recommendations on issues as defined in the Urban Design Guidelines.
- 5. Proposed work schedule: The commission proposes to hold public meetings during fiscal year 2015-2016:**
- A. On the fourth Monday of every month unless specified by an approved meeting calendar.
 - B. When called to review and make advisory recommendations of subjects as may be assigned for commission review by request from city management, other city departments, and or city council.

The Next Austin: Manage our growth, keep our character

Natural and Built Environment Code Prescription

Board and Commission Feedback Form



The following is a feedback form to assist the CodeNEXT team on evaluation of the [Natural and Built Environment Code Prescription](#). Your feedback as a Board/Commission is valued and will be considered as Code products are crafted. The Board/Commission is encouraged to provide feedback on any prescription topics. For most effectiveness and to assist the team keep track of all feedback, it is recommended that the Board/Commission take specific action via a this form or an official letter/resolution. Your feedback is greatly appreciated.

Additional information about the project may be found here: [CodeNEXT Website](#).

Board/Commission providing comments: _____ **Date Comments issued:** _____

Action by the Board/Commission and vote (if any): _____

Example 1: The motion to craft recommendations via the feedback form on the CodeNEXT Natural and Built Environment Code Prescription made by Commissioner R, second by Commissioner T was approved on a vote of 11-0.

Example 2: The motion to craft recommendations via an action letter/resolution on the CodeNEXT Natural and Built Environment Code Prescription made by Commissioner R, second by Commissioner T was approved on a vote of 9-0. [Commissioner E and W absent].

Code Prescription Topic: Water and Watersheds

Imagine Austin goals:

- Conserve Austin’s natural resources, enhancing the protection of creeks and floodplains, and integrating development with the natural environment
- Plan for and adapt to increased drought, severe weather, and other potential impacts of climate change on water supply

Prescription	Does the prescription help us achieve Imagine Austin goals?	Why/why not?	Other comments? (ex: the Prescription is too strong/weak, other ideas, etc)
1. Maintain Austin’s historic watershed regulations and recent Watershed Protection Ordinance improvements			
2. Incremental redevelopment should occur in step with an evaluation of infrastructure, including drainage capacity			
3. Redevelopment will be required to mitigate for the site’s share of existing downstream flooding, reducing post-development peak rates of discharge to match peak rates of discharge for undeveloped conditions.			

4.Tools for mitigating flood impacts could include onsite detention, off-site detention, off-site conveyance improvements, or participation in the Regional Stormwater Management Program (RSMP)			
5.New and redevelopment sites will be required to retain and beneficially use stormwater onsite.			
6.Require sites and subdivisions to prevent off-site discharge from all rainfall events less than or equal to the 95 th percentile event through practices that infiltrate, evapotranspire, and/or harvest and use rainwater.			
7.Reclaim excess right of way for green infrastructure.			

8. Incorporate green streets throughout Austin that are calibrated for context, weather located downtown or in a neighborhood.			
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Code Prescription Topic: Landscape and Trees

Imagine Austin goals:

- A green infrastructure management program that creates an interconnected system of parks, waterways, open space, trails, green streets, tree canopy, agriculture, and stormwater management features.

Prescription	Does the prescription help us achieve Imagine Austin goals?	Why/why not?	Other comments? (ex: the Prescription is too strong/weak, other ideas, etc.)
1. Maintain our current code's strong emphasis on preservation of existing topography, native vegetation, and environmental health.			
2. Require a comprehensive approach to landscape treatment throughout the site, creating opportunity to integrate environmental, aesthetic, and site-use functionality.			
3. Encourage the incorporation of low-impact development in coordination with landscaping standards.			

4. Adopt the context-based approach that is the cornerstone of the new LDC. Ideas include: Integrate landscape elements throughout the site, use “Functional Green,” a point-based system that allows choices among landscape elements.			
5. Recognize that compact development can pressure existing vegetation; provide tools to implement a site-specific approach to preservation that prioritizes protection of “significant” trees.			
6. Promote land cover that preforms multiple ecosystem functions, requires fewer resources, and provides better planting environments for a more sustainable urban landscape.			

7. Clarify existing code provisions regarding applicability, definitions, survey requirements, review requirements, and other code sections.			
8. Set impervious cover limits as a maximum, not a guarantee of buildable land.			
9. Improve administrative procedures to ensure clear, consistent, and timely reviews and inspections.			
10. Use a site-by-site approach to tree preservation. Recognize the non-uniform distribution of trees, the varying biological and structural health of trees, and differing land development types.			

11. Allow for more flexibility in accounting for various building types, internal circulation, utility assignments, parking requirements, and so forth, allowing more creative site layouts to preserve trees.			
12. Integrate public trees standards in City Code Title 6 with the LDC for consistent code application.			
13. Explore opportunities to improve tree preservation for “missing middle” developments.			

Code Prescription Topic: Compatibility and Transitions

Imagine Austin goals:

- Creating the compact and connected city envisioned by this plan requires establishing harmonious transitions between different types of land uses, such as retail and residential areas or buildings of different heights and scales. New and redevelopment along corridors and at the edges of centers should complement existing development such as existing neighborhoods.

Prescription	Does the prescription help us achieve Imagine Austin goals?	Why/why not?	Other comments? (ex: the Prescription is too strong/weak, other ideas, etc)
1. Form-based Standards that build compatibility into the base zoning districts and incorporate landscape as a means of promoting compatibility.			
2. Transect districts with specific Building Types that must adhere to certain design and dimensional standards. This allows transect zones to compel compatibility.			
3. Allow a greater array of housing types, including missing middle housing			
4. Retain something similar to current Compatibility Standards in the portions of Austin that remain zoned with “use-based” zoning districts.			

Code Prescription Topic: Design for Mobility

Imagine Austin goals:

- Changing Austin’s land development regulations to promote a compact and connected city, including incentives for compact and transit-oriented development and complete streets.
- Continuing to expand the range of mobility options beyond the single occupant automobile.

Prescription	Does the prescription help us achieve Imagine Austin goals?	Why/why not?	Other comments? (ex: the Prescription is too strong/weak, other ideas, etc)
1. Reduced parking minimums in areas targeted for compact development, especially in the presence of transit or other mobility options.			
2. Form-based standards that provide functionality but also minimize the negative impacts of on-site parking.			
3. Sign rules not solely oriented around visibility from automobiles.			
4. Roadway designs will be based not only on the function of a roadway, but also on the contexts through which it passes.			
5. Form-based coding that enables compact redevelopment to be constructed in transit-rich environments.			

6. Subdivision and site plan standards that promote road, pedestrian, and bike connectivity. Use greenways to build new transportation systems (ex: land in floodplain)			
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Code Prescription Topic: Redevelopment

Imagine Austin goals:

- We will become a city of complete communities, where the needs and wants of our citizens are well served.

Prescription	Does the prescription help us achieve Imagine Austin goals?	Why/why not?	Other comments? (ex: the Prescription is too strong/weak, other ideas, etc)
1. Reduced parking minimums in areas targeted for compact development, especially in the presence of transit or other mobility options.			
2. Require the extension of roads, alleys, trails, bike lanes, sidewalks, or green connectors as opportunities allow. Promote walkability with small block sizes, strategic parking requirements and placement, and building coverage and placement.			
3. Allow a diverse array of housing and building types through reduced parking requirements, diverse and compact lot sizes, adaptable buildings, and carrying forward the recently adopted Accessory Dwelling Unit code elements.			

4. Integrate site development and building design standards directly into the base zoning district to increase ease of use and administration.			
5. Form-based standards that help integrate redevelopment with its surroundings and adjacent neighborhoods.			

Code Prescription Topic: Greenfield Development

Imagine Austin goals:

- We will become a city of complete communities, where the needs and wants of our citizens are well served.

Prescription	Does the prescription help us achieve Imagine Austin goals?	Why/why not?	Other comments? (ex: the Prescription is too strong/weak, other ideas, etc)
1. Simplified subdivision code to contain only the process for creating a legally platted lot.			
2. Promote connectivity by requiring walkable block lengths; street, bike, and pedestrian connections; and encouraging creative design that respects the natural environment (ex: conservation subdivision)			
3. Protect the natural environment as growth occurs by retaining current environmental standards; promoting green spaces that are connected, desirable, and multi-functional; requiring stormwater to be filtered, retained, or otherwise reused onsite.			

Code Prescription Topic: Parks and Open Space

Imagine Austin goals:

- We enjoy an accessible, well-maintained network of parks throughout our city...Our open spaces and preserves shape city planning, reduce infrastructure costs, and provide us with recreation, clean air and water, local food, cooler temperatures, and biodiversity.
- Creation of an interconnected system of parks, waterways, open space, and trails.
- Maintaining our pleasant outdoor setting and provide safe access to green space and recreation for all Austinites, particularly in urban activity centers and corridors

Council Resolution 20091119-068

- Publicly accessible and child-friendly parks or green space are provided within ¼ mile of all urban core residents and ½ mile walking distance outside the urban core.

Prescription	Does the prescription help us achieve Imagine Austin and Council Resolution goals?	Why/why not?	Other comments? (ex: the Prescription is too strong/weak, other ideas, etc)
1. Increase park and open space types; calibrate them to complement particular contexts; and incentivize the creation of great, active public spaces.			
2. Increase access to recreation by expanding the number of parks and outdoor play spaces available to residents			
3. Develop standards for public spaces that are well-designed and tree-covered, and incentivize such spaces in new and redevelopment projects.			

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Natural and Built Environment Code Prescription

Board and Commission Feedback Form



4. Infuse recommended changes from the Parkland Dedication Ordinance: set fees to current land and construction costs, increase credits for developments that agree to provide outdoor spaces for active use by the public, develop standards for public spaces to be used in giving parkland dedication credits, retain the city's park level-of-service as codified in the Ordinance.			
5. Incorporate a metric for green infrastructure, for public space, and other items to obtain higher quality open space.			
6. Incentivize designing green infrastructure with dual active recreation options to meet dual purposes in the code.			
7. Require connections between new and infill projects to adjacent or nearby parkland.			

8. Create a common language and incentivize the use of varied park and open space typologies.			
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