



Project Connect

New Transit Solutions for a Greater Austin

CodeNEXT Citizen Advisory Group
Project Briefing





Project Overview



What is Project Connect?

- Central TX regionally adopted High-Capacity Transit Plan (2012)

What are We Doing?

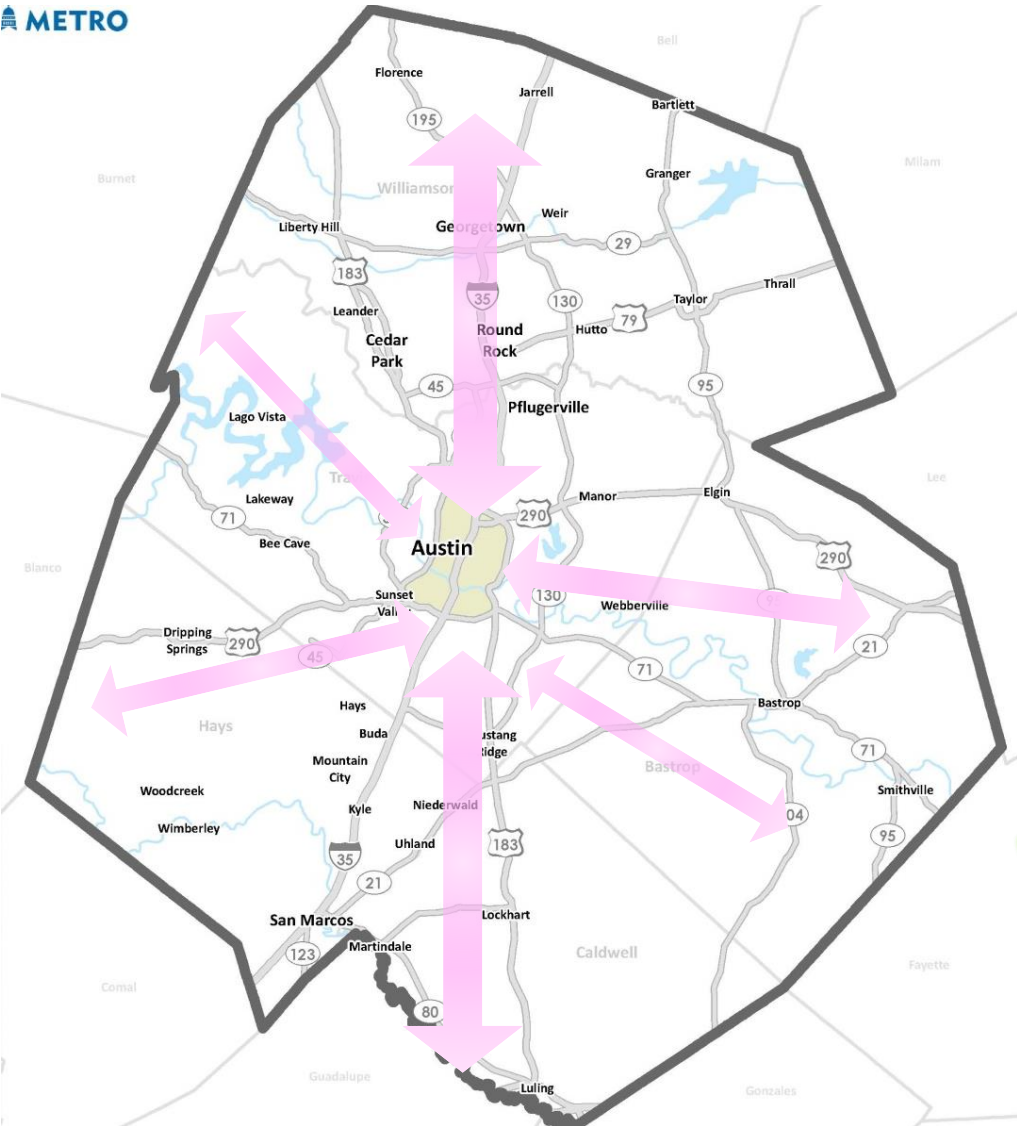
- Refine Project Connect Plan

Why?

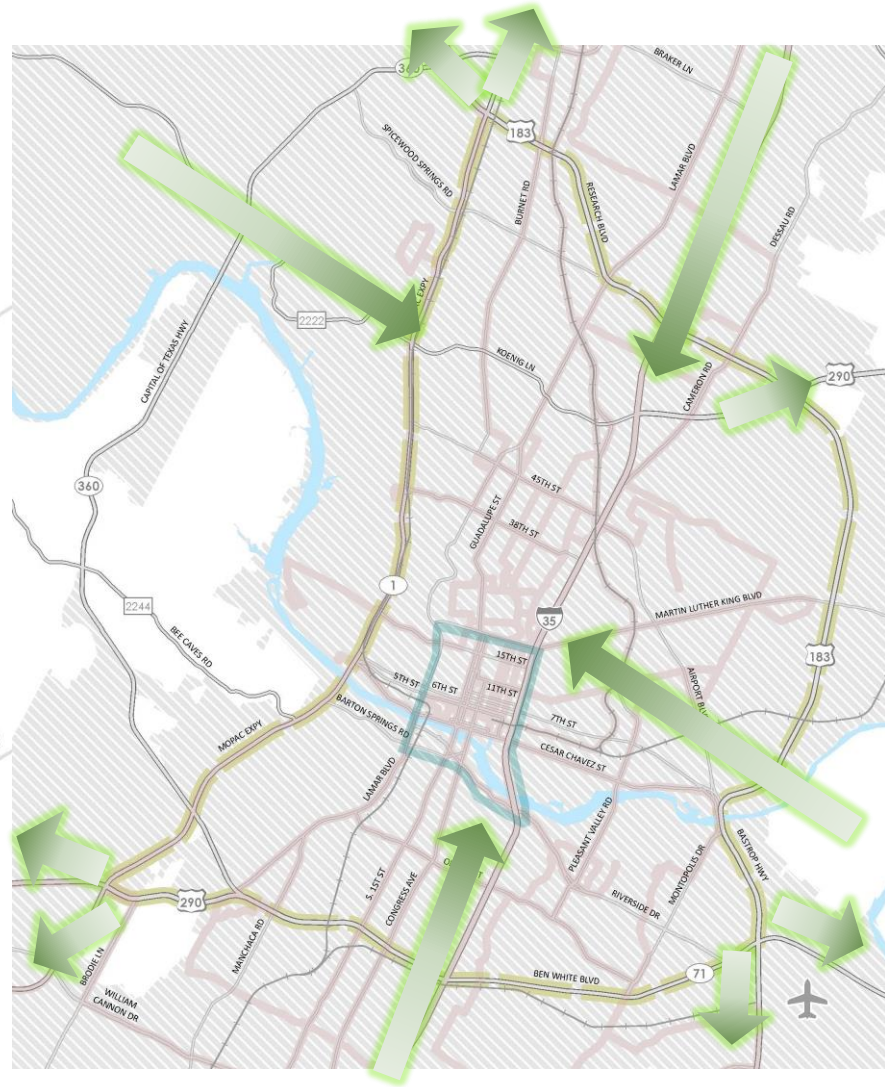
- Select new transit solutions for access into, out of, & within central Austin



Study Area



Focus Area



What is High-Capacity Transit?

Transit that includes these features:

- Dedicated right-of-way or transit priority lanes (esp. during peak hours)
- High frequency (<15 min, or better) and extended service hours
- Significant, branded stations and amenities



Kansas City's Modern Streetcar



Cleveland's HealthLine BRT



Minneapolis' BRT on I-35 W

Phased Approach to Project Development

Phase 1 Big Ideas, Bold Starts

(6-9 mo.)

- **SELECTION**
- Phase 1 Feasibility Analysis
- Where are enhancements / new services needed?
- Which projects are most critical / make the most sense?

Phase 2 Real Solutions for Real Problems

(14-18 mo.)

- **DETAIL ANALYSIS**
- Phase 2 Alternatives Analysis
- What is the best system of solutions?
- What is the most effective strategy for implementation?

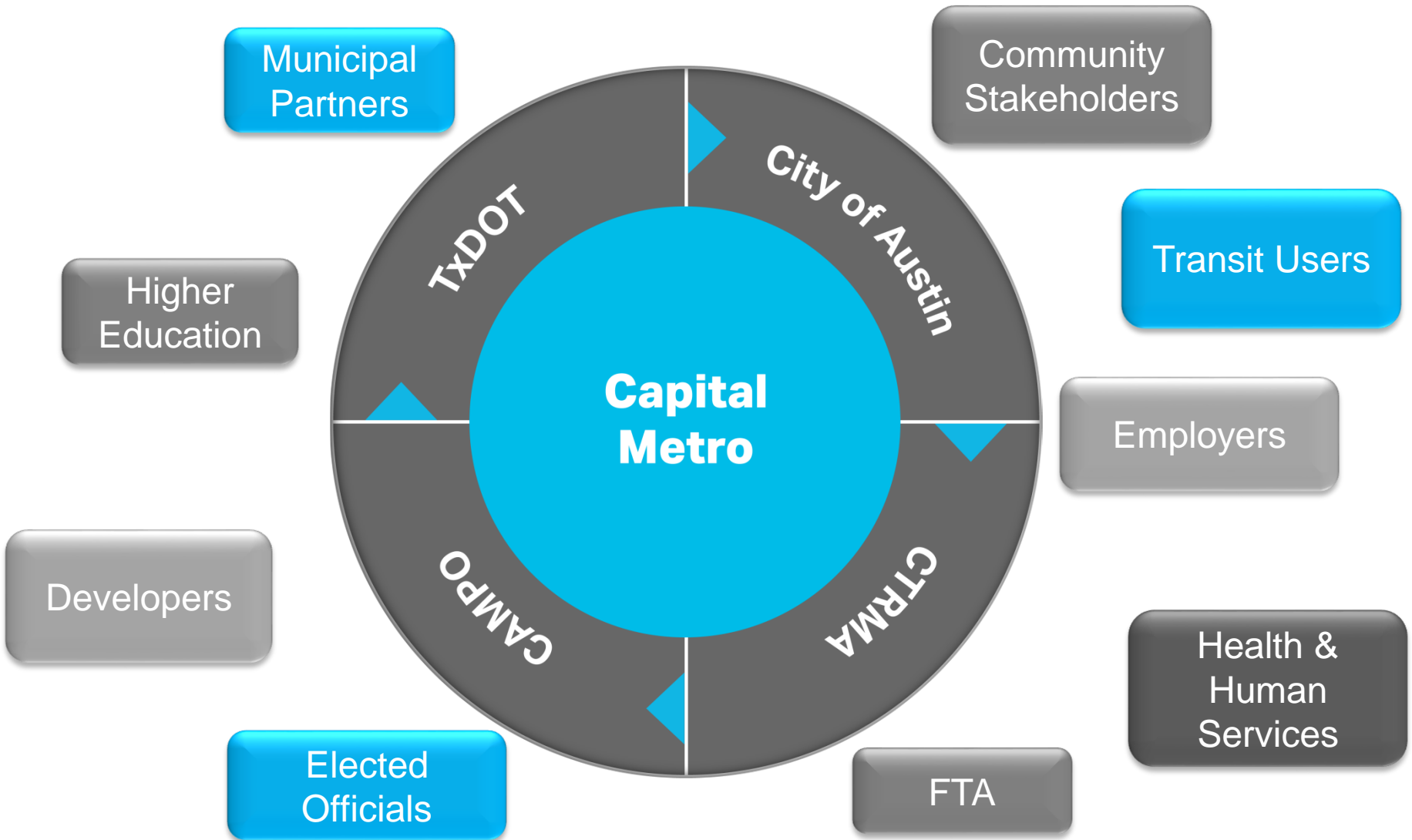
Phase 3 Path to Implementation

(4-6 mo.)

- **PROJECT DEVELOPMENT**
- Adopt Locally Preferred Alternatives (LPAs)
- Advance preliminary engineering / environmental
- Submit Federal Application for Project Development

Public Involvement

Building Partnerships for Transit Solutions





Purpose & Need, Goals & Objectives

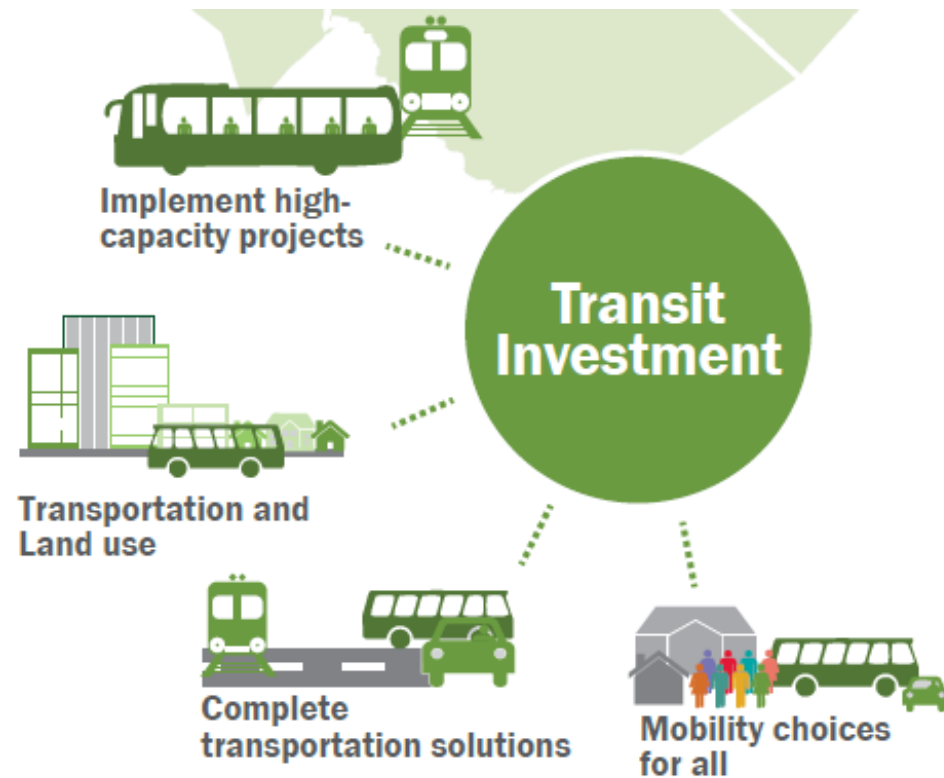


Draft Purpose & Needs

The **Purpose** of Project Connect is to improve existing high-capacity transit and develop new high-capacity transit that provide efficient travel options to, from, and within Central Austin from the surrounding region.

The **Needs (Problems)** to be addressed by Project Connect:

- Explosive growth
- Limited ability to build more roads
- Issues of affordability / cost of living
- Implement a regional transit system



Project Connect Goals

Draft Goals:

- Improve Customer Experience
- Improve Reliability
- Promote Sustainability
- **Incorporate Land Use & Policy Tools to Support High-Capacity Transit**
- Develop Solutions for Implementation & Continued Operations



Train / Articulated Transit Vehicle



Dedicated Right-of-Way



Moderate - Wide Stop Spacing

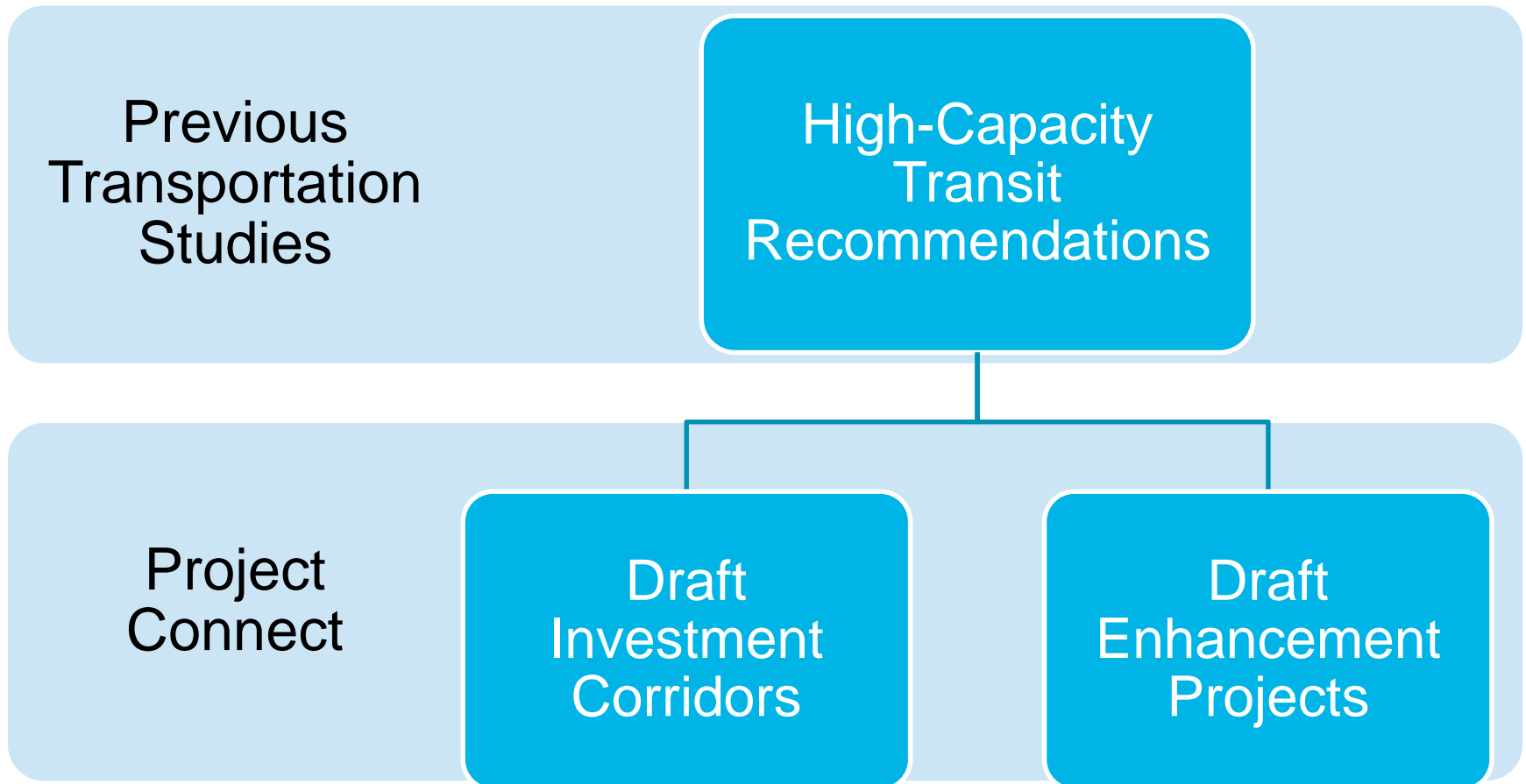




High-Capacity Transit Investment Corridors & Enhancement Projects



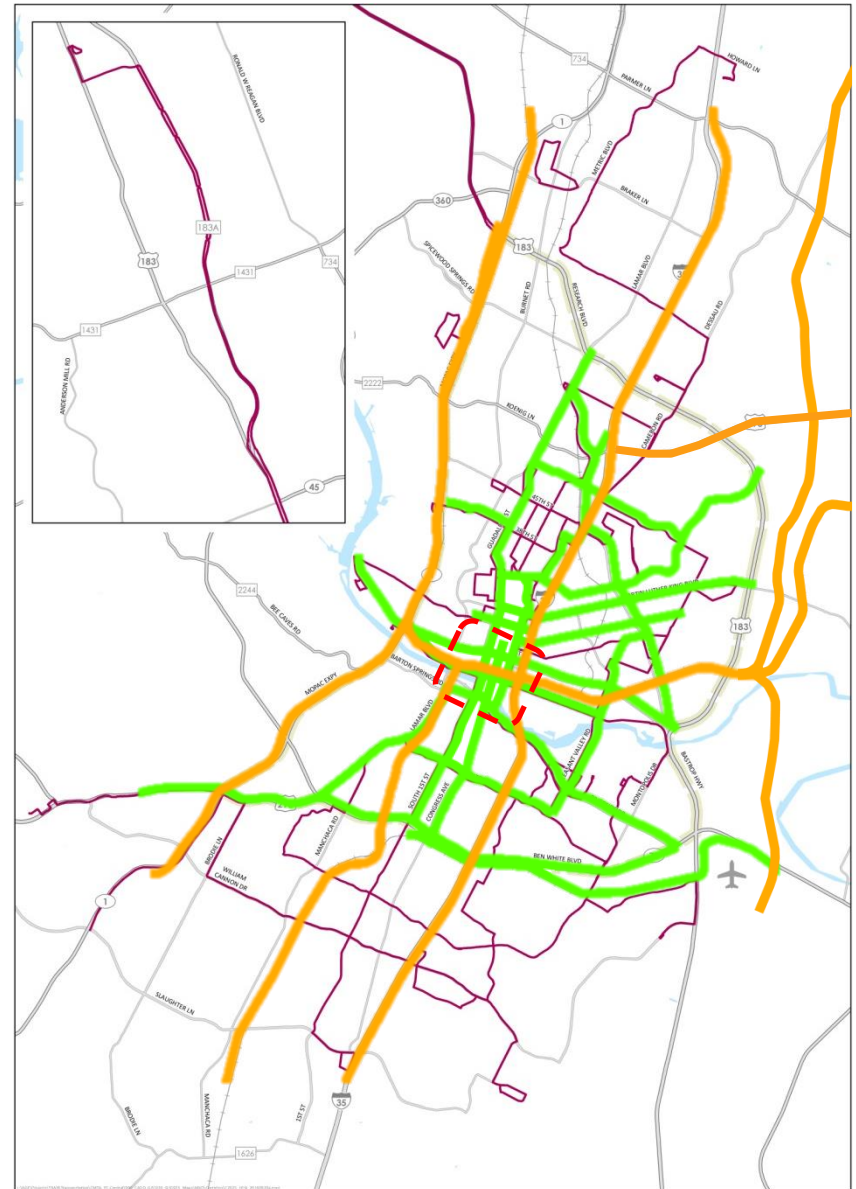
Review of Local Planning Efforts



Draft Investment Corridors

What is an Investment Corridor?

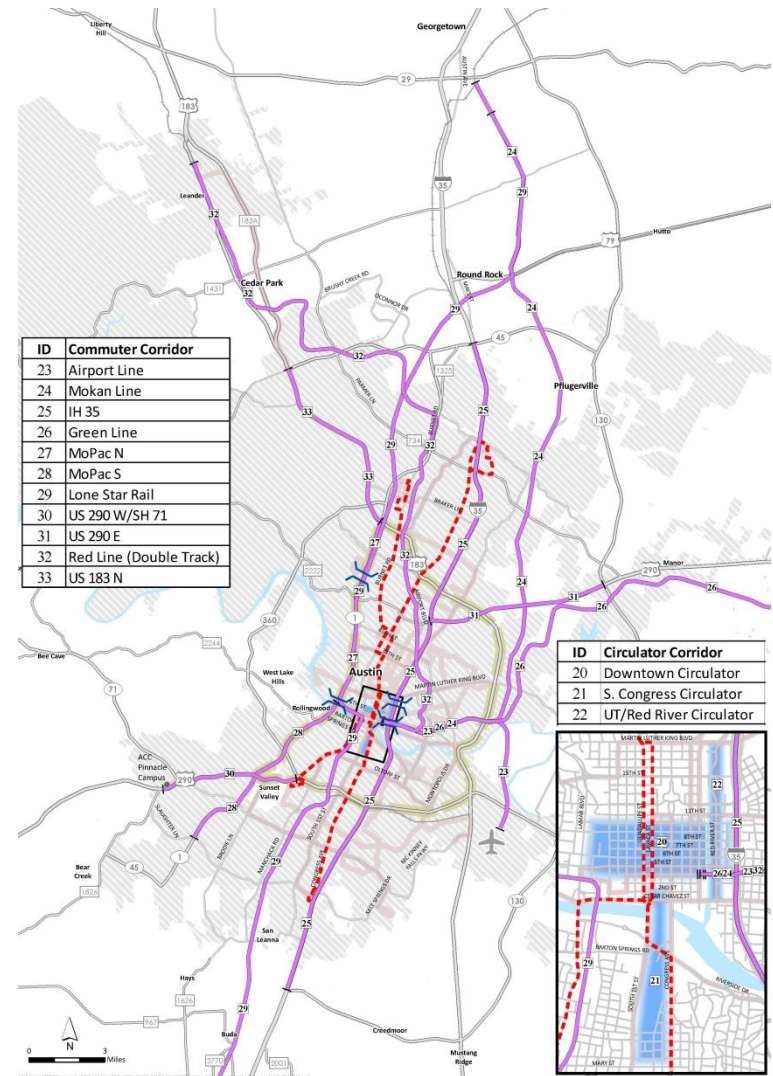
- Roadway or railroad corridor that can support high-capacity transit
- May requiring alternative and/or Federal funding
- **Purpose:** Identify corridors studied for high-capacity transit under previous local planning efforts
 - **Commuter Corridors**
 - **Connector Corridors**
 - **Circulator Corridors**



Draft Investment Corridors

Commuter Corridors

- Serve regional trips from *Study Area* into *Focus Area* (Central Austin)
- Use express lanes within existing highways (i.e. North MoPac)
- Dedicate transit right-of-way / lanes within priority roadways

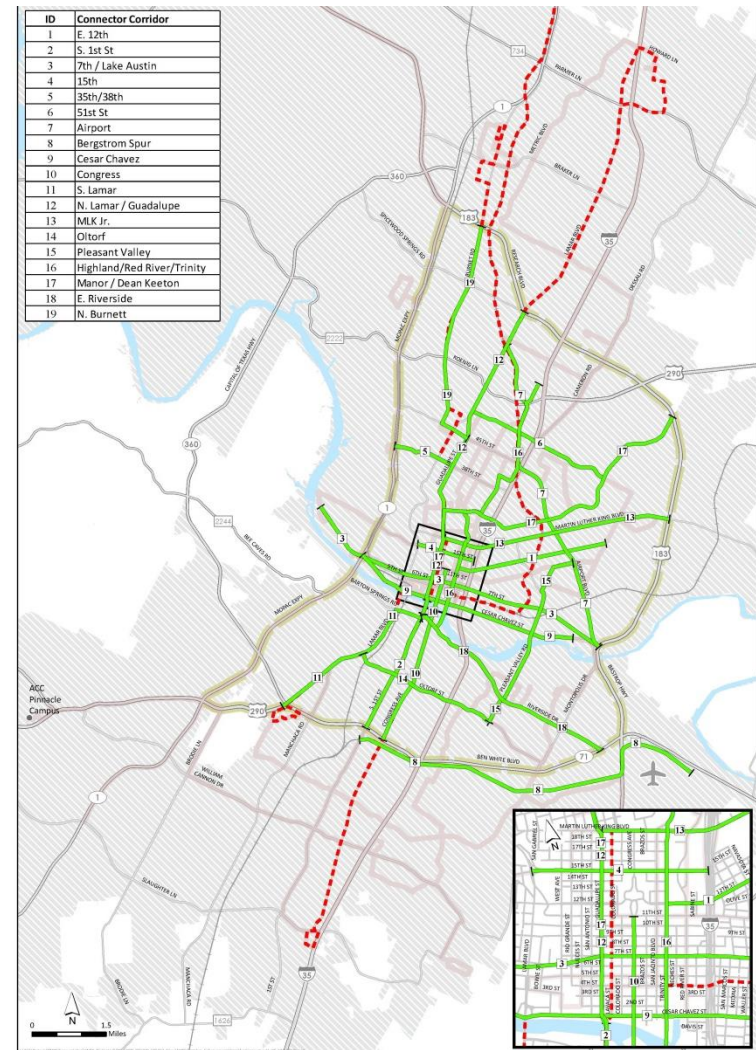


(all corridors considered mode neutral in Phase 1)

Draft Investment Corridors

Connector Corridors

- Provide access to, from & within the Focus Area (Central Austin)
- Major roadways & travel corridors
- Serve major activity centers



(all corridors considered mode neutral in Phase 1)

Draft Investment Corridors

Circulator Corridors

- Distribute Commuter & Connector transit users
- Serve the activity centers of Central Business District
- Provide first / last mile connectivity



(all corridors considered mode neutral in Phase 1)

Draft Enhancement Projects

What is an Enhancement Project?

- Short implementation period
- Has potential to be locally funded

Purpose: improve existing high-capacity transit.

- MetroRail
- MetroRapid
- MetroExpress



MetroRail

- Station upgrades, passing sidings, & park & ride spaces



MetroRapid

- Station upgrades, transit priority lanes, signal & intersection improvements



MetroExpress

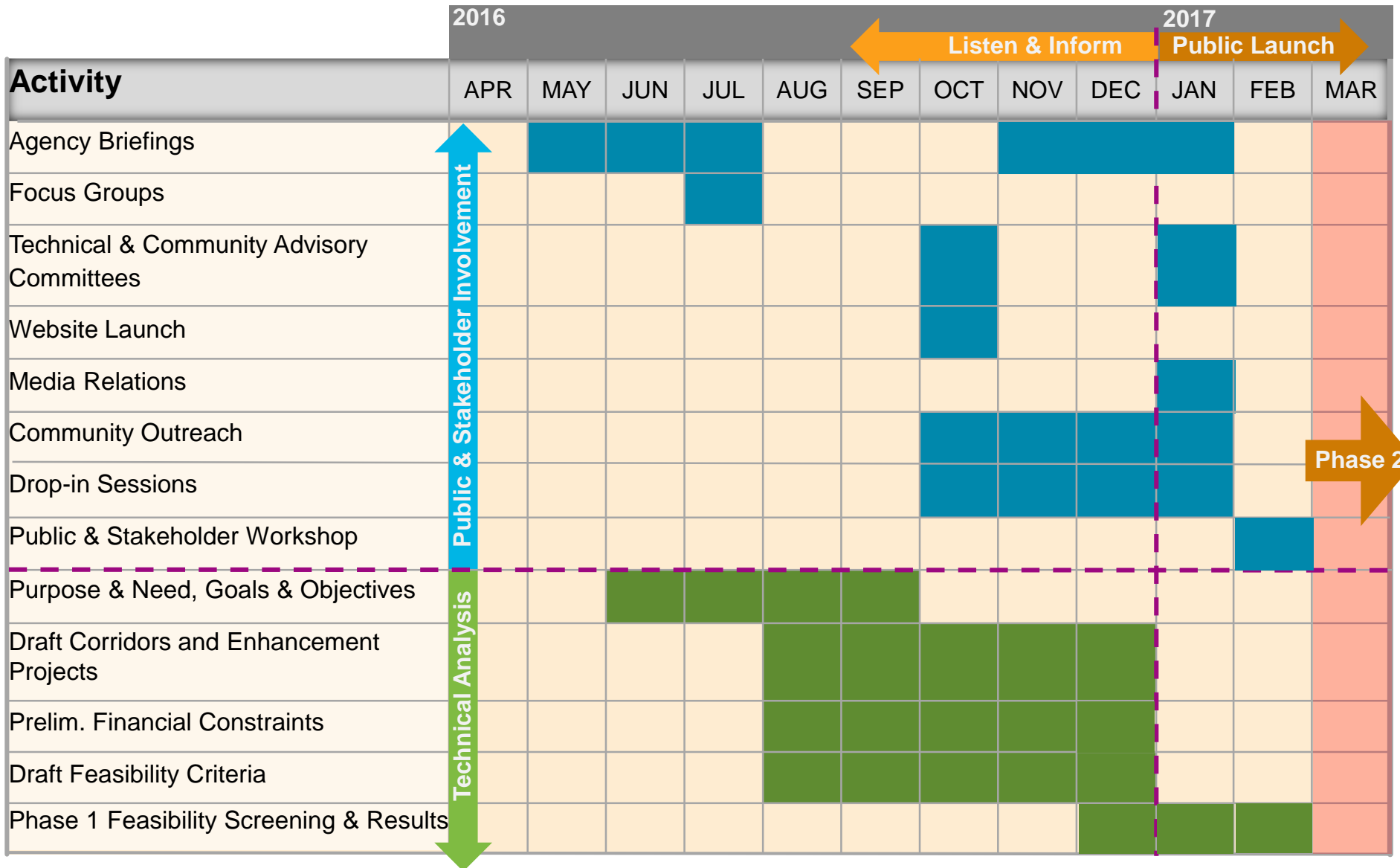
- Managed lane access, park & ride spaces, & transit priority lanes



Public Involvement



Phase 1 Milestone Schedule





Q & A

www.projectconnect.com

