GETTING THERE TOGETHER ASMP

Recommendations for a Transit Priority Policy

Mobility Committee | 03.01.17
Austin Transportation Department

Resolution No. 20160414-007

The City Manager was directed to **develop recommendations for a Transit Priority Policy** that would provide guidance for the provisions of various types of transit priority treatments on city streets and roadways.

- potential **goals and metrics** for transit priority, including improved safety, increased person-carrying capacity of existing streets, and efficiency and reliability of transit service;
- potential **criteria and conditions** to identify corridors for which transit priority should be considered;
- potential **agreements with Capital Metro** for transit service level commitments on corridors for which transit priority is provided;
- alignment with **existing plans and policies**

The recommendations for a Transit Priority Policy should include a process for how the community shall be **informed and engaged** when application of a transit priority treatment is proposed

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Resolution No. 20160414-007

Furthermore, the City Manager was directed to **collaborate with Capital Metro**, **engage relevant city boards and commissions, and stakeholder groups** in the development of recommendations for a Transit Priority Policy.

Working through the **Transit Priority Working Group** (TPWG), a collaboration between City of Austin (COA) Transportation Department and Capital Metro (CMTA) Planning, Safety and Operations, we presented to the following stakeholders:

- **Alliance for Public Transportation**
- **Planning Commission**
- **Urban Transportation Commission**
- **Austinites for Urban Rail Action (AURA)**

Recommendation

ATD and Capital Metro staff recommend that a Transit Priority Policy be **developed as part of the Austin Strategic Mobility Plan** (ASMP) process.

- **Will include goals and metrics** for transit priority, including improved safety, increased person-carrying capacity of existing streets, and efficiency and reliability of transit service;
- **Will include criteria and conditions** to identify corridors for which transit priority should be considered;
- **Will include agreements with Capital Metro** for transit service level commitments on corridors for which transit priority is provided;
- **Will align** with **existing plans and policies**

The recommendations for a Transit Priority Policy **will include** a process for how the community shall be **informed and engaged** when application of a transit priority treatment is proposed

Transit Priority Elements

Varying degrees of transit priority elements are seen across the nation

- Transit Priority Policy
- Transit Priority Programs
- Transit Priority Network
- Transit Priority Projects

The ASMP will include all of these Transit Priority Elements

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Transit Priority Elements

Transit Priority Policy

A Transit Priority Policy can be used to endorse transit priority treatments.

Example: Appendix A - San Francisco Transit-First Policy

"The **following principles** shall constitute the City and County's transit-first policy and shall be incorporated into the General Plan of the City and County. All officers, boards, commissions, and departments shall implement these principles in conducting the City and County's affairs:

.....

4. **Transit priority improvements**, such as designated transit lanes and streets and improved signalization, **shall be made** to expedite the movement of public transit vehicles (including taxis and vanpools) and to improve pedestrian safety."

Transit Priority Elements

Transit Priority Policy

"give transit priority" - **Imagine Austin**

- Transit Only Lanes and Transit Queue Jumps on Guadalupe and Lavaca Streets

- Transit Signal Priority technology along the MetroRapid routes

- Express Buses on the MoPac Managed Lanes and access to downtown

- 2016 Mobility Bond funding to support transit improvements along major corridors

Transit Priority Elements

Transit Priority Programs

A Transit Priority Program can build capital projects and implement programs to improve transit performance.

Example: Appendix B – King County Metro's Speed and Reliability Program working with Seattle Department of Transportation (SDOT)

"King County Metro's Speed and Reliability program **identifies and prioritizes projects to improve transit performance**. The program focuses on **working with** our **partner cities** to increase the operating efficiency of existing bus service by improving transit speed and reliability in highly congested corridors."

Transit Priority Elements

Transit Priority Programs

- Transit Priority Working Group (TPWG) meets every other week to develop and implement projects

- Smart Trips Program

Transit Priority Elements

Transit Priority Network

A Transit Priority Network can be used to identify corridors to receive priority treatments.

Example: Appendix C – Los Angeles Transit Enhanced Network Map

"The following map depicts a **network of streets prioritized for transit**. The Transit Enhanced Network is described in Policy 2.5 of this Plan and sample treatments are presented in the Complete Streets Design Guide."

Transit Priority Elements

Transit Priority Network

- MetroRail
- Transit Priority Lanes
- Transit Queue Jumps
- Managed Lanes
- Transit Signal Priority
- Improved Access to Transit
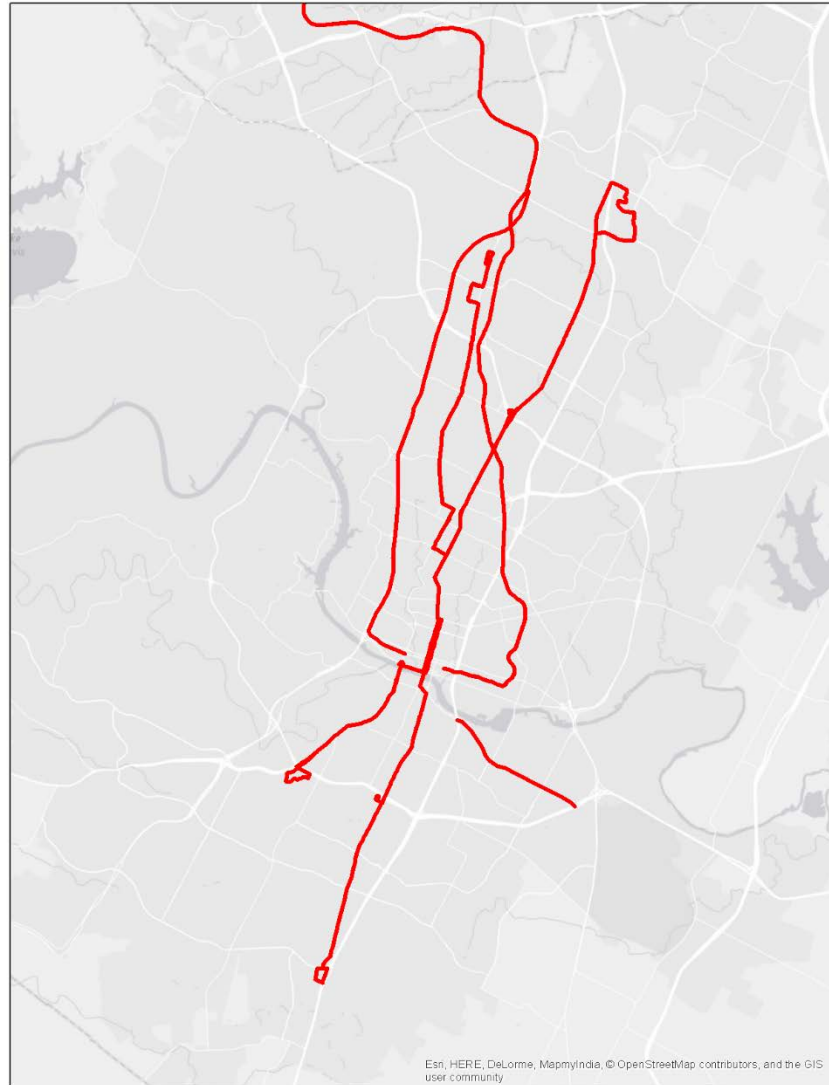
Esri, HERE, DeLorme, MapmyIndia, © OpenStreetMap contributors, and the GIS user community

Transit Priority Elements

Transit Priority Projects

Transit Priority Projects can be identified for specific streets and intersections.

Example: Appendix D – District of Columbia 2-Year Action Plan

	Action	Description	Related moveDC Recommendations (Element/Recommendation)
1.7	Complete bus priority improvements on key corridors	DDOT will install dedicated bus lanes on Georgia Avenue from Florida Avenue to Barry Place, Transit Signal Priority on 16th Street, and real-time arrival information in shelters citywide. DDOT will work with the Washington Metropolitan Area Transit Authority (WMATA) to identify and implement signal improvements in at least 10 locations on high-ridership corridors to reduce bus delay.	Transit Element A.3 and A.4

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Transit Priority Elements

Transit Priority Projects

- Austin Street Design Guide Pilot
- Connections 2025
- Project Connect

Dedicated Transit Lanes

Bus Stop Placement

Transit Queue Jumps

Source: Joshua Guerra - capmetro.org

Enhanced Boarding Environment

Source: downtownaustin.org

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Austin Strategic Mobility Plan

Integrated Planning Approach

Preferred High-Capacity Transit Investments

Austin Transportation Network Investments

Quick win solutions

Future Service Planning

Future funding opp's

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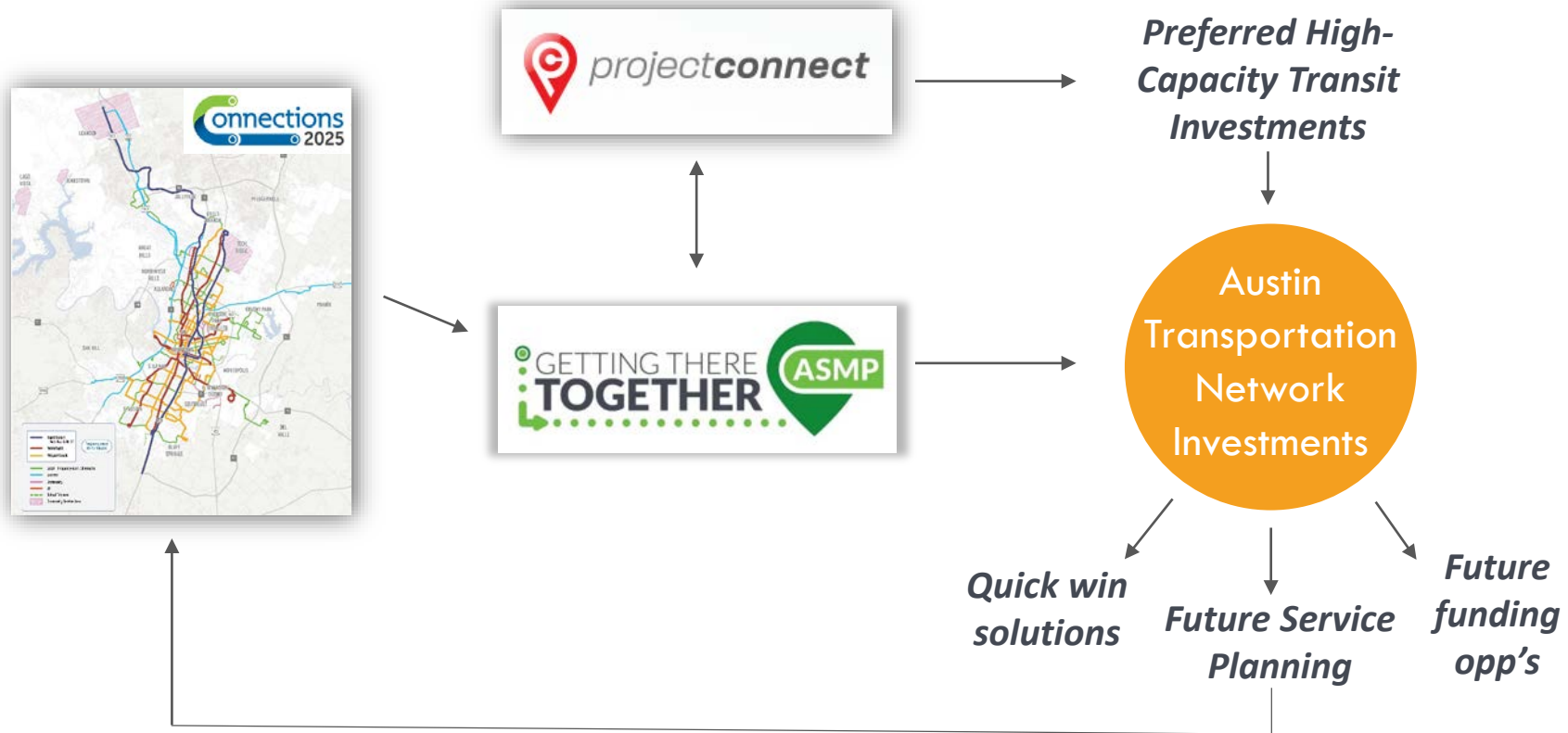
Austin Strategic Mobility Plan

Scenario Planning

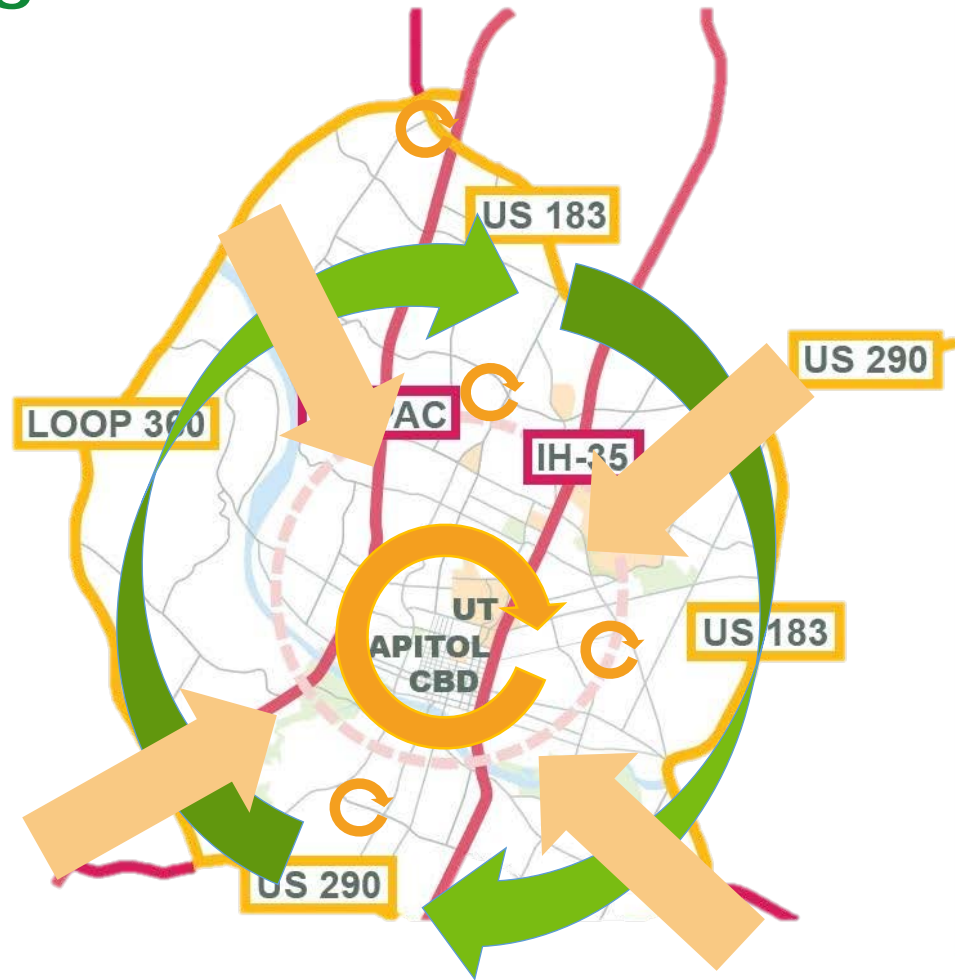**Three overarching travel needs the ASMP will address:**

- Through and around
- In and out of the core
- Within activity centers and neighborhoods

Final Products

At the end of the ASMP process we will have:

- A Plan adopted by City Council, amending Imagine Austin

- A coordinated transportation strategy for all modes that supports the growth concept of Imagine Austin

ASMP

Transit Priority Policies

Transit Priority Programs

Transit Priority Projects

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Public Engagement

- Project Website
- Social Media & Online Survey
- Community Events
- Town Hall Meetings
- Quality of Life Initiatives
- Multimodal Community Advisory Committee
- Community Work Sessions

CITY OF AUSTIN talks MOBILITY (Res. No. 20160211-017)
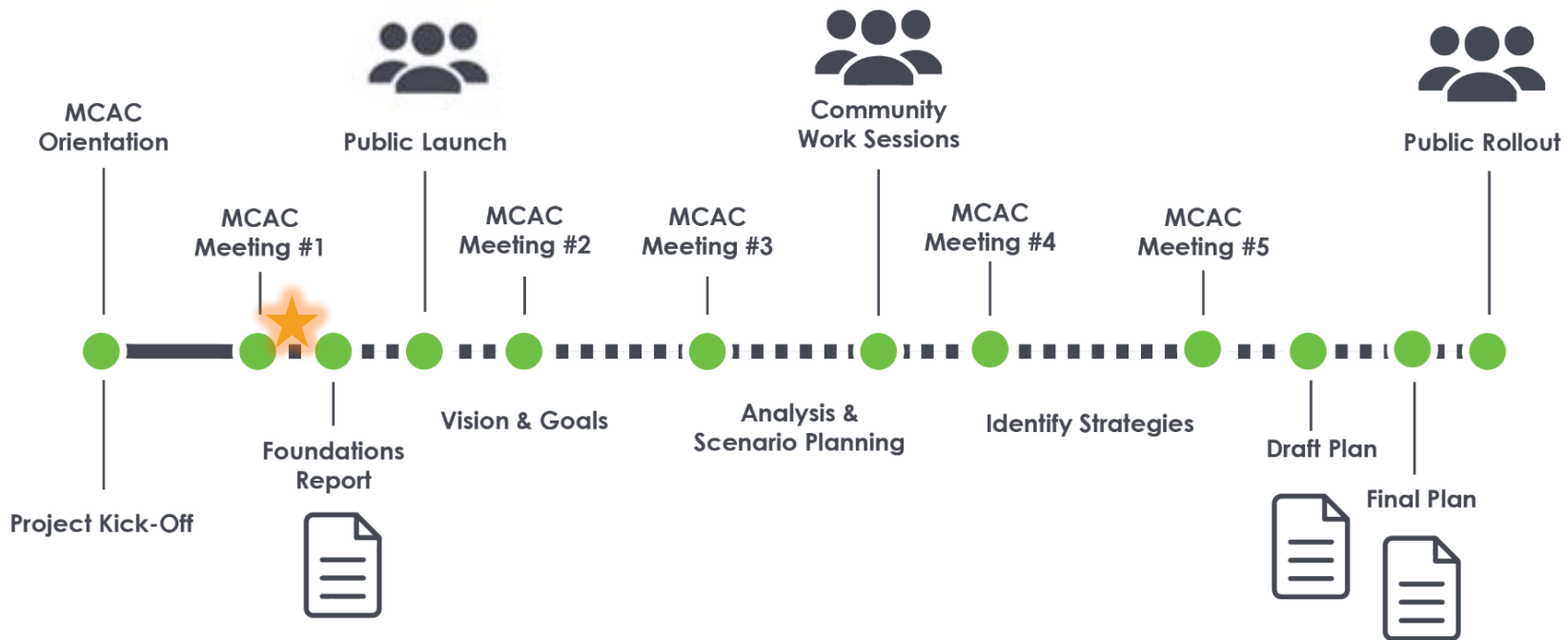
Questions?

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Louis Alcorn, Planner, Capital Metro

Get more info: **austintexas.gov/asmp**
Contact us: **asmp@austintexas.gov**

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ASMP Process

Project Kick-Off • MCAC Orientation • MCAC Meeting #1 • Foundations Report • Public Launch • Vision & Goals • MCAC Meeting #2 • MCAC Meeting #3 • Analysis & Scenario Planning • Community Work Sessions • MCAC Meeting #4 • Identify Strategies • MCAC Meeting #5 • Draft Plan • Final Plan • Public Rollout

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Public Kick-Off

March 4

8:30 am -1:00 pm

Bullock Texas State History Museum

Save the Date

Get more info: **austintexas.gov/asmp**
Contact us: **asmp@austintexas.gov**

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