



# DOWNTOWN AUSTIN PLAN

*Background and  
Implementation*

**Downtown  
Commission**  
September 19, 2018

CITY OF AUSTIN  
URBAN DESIGN



# DOWNTOWN AUSTIN PLAN BOUNDARIES

## Boundaries

- NORTH: Martin Luther King Jr. Blvd.
- SOUTH: Lady Bird Lake
- WEST: Lamar Blvd.
- EAST: IH 35



# WHAT IS THE DOWNTOWN AUSTIN PLAN (DAP)?

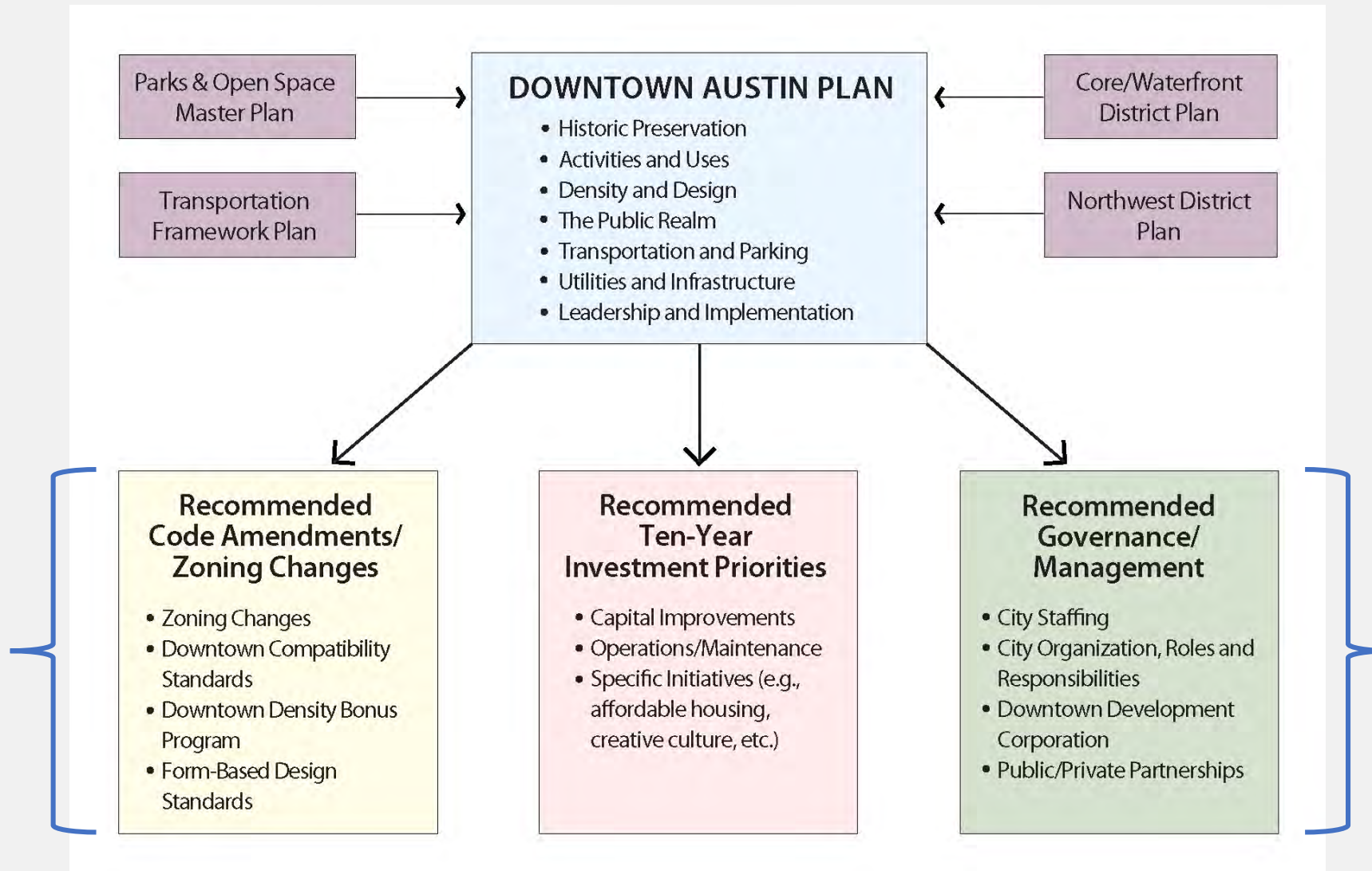
- A reflection of the community's vision, values, and priorities for Downtown;
- A 20-30 year action plan for Downtown;
- A 183 page action plan for Downtown containing over 100 implementation recommendations for improving Downtown;
- A key element in realizing the Imagine Austin (comprehensive plan) vision for the city.



# THE VISION FOR DOWNTOWN

- A **dense and livable pattern of development** that supports a vibrant day and nighttime environment.
- An **interconnected pattern of streets, parks, and public spaces** that instill a unique sense of place and community.
- A **multi-modal transportation system** that is convenient, sustainable, affordable, and a viable alternative to the automobile
- A beloved fabric of **historic places, buildings, and landscapes** that celebrate the unique journey Austin has taken over the past 200 years.
- A **variety of districts and destinations** that support the creative expression of its citizenry through art, music, theater, dance, and performance.
- A **green “necklace” of trails** extending from Lady Bird Lake, and along Waller and Shoal Creeks into surrounding neighborhoods.
- A wide **range of housing choices** for individuals and families with diverse social and economic backgrounds.
- An **array of innovative businesses** – small and large – that are attracted to the Downtown by its rich human capital and unique sense of place.

# DOWNTOWN AUSTIN PLAN ORGANIZATION





# DOWNTOWN AUSTIN PLAN

*Transformative Actions over 10 years*



Initiate a new generation of  
Downtown signature parks

Amend the Land  
Development Code



Provide permanent supportive housing

Invest in Downtown  
infrastructure and water quality



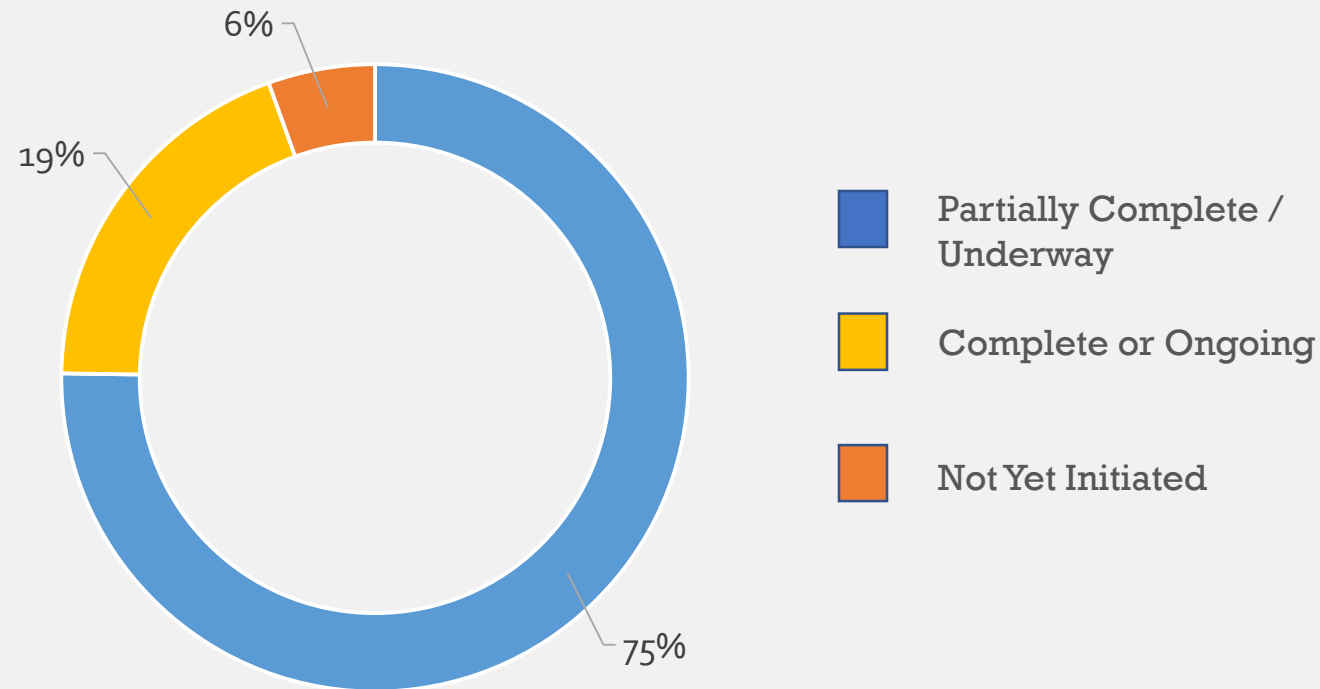
# DOWNTOWN AUSTIN PLAN ADOPTION

The City Council adopted the Downtown Austin Plan (DAP) as an amendment to the comprehensive plan in December of 2011 and directed the City Manager to undertake the following implementation actions including:

- A regulating plan that implements downtown-specific development standards;
- Creation of new zoning districts
- A downtown density bonus program; and
- A downtown-specific compatibility framework.

# IMPLEMENTATION UPDATES

## *Task Status*



**94%** of the DAP recommendations are complete, ongoing, partially complete, or planned.



# IMPLEMENTATION UPDATES

1

## Activities and Uses



2

## Public Realm



3

## Mobility



4

## Utilities and Infrastructure



# IMPLEMENTATION UPDATE

## *Activities and Uses – Seaholm District & Central Library*

### City Public/Private Projects:

- Mixed Use Development, including:
  - Residential, Office, and Retail
- Multimodal Transportation Infrastructure
- Public Parking
- Open/Green Space
- Public Art

### Central Library (Fall 2017)

#### Community focused building and services:

- Traditional library services
- Cafes
- Rooftop Gardens



# IMPLEMENTATION UPDATES

## *Activities and Uses – Permanent Supportive Housing*



CAPITAL STUDIOS  
24 September 2012

DICK CLARK ARCHITECTURE  
(512) 475-4888 dclark.com



Capital Studios

### Capital Studios (Foundation Communities)

#### 11<sup>th</sup> and Trinity Streets

- 135 housing units available to extremely and very low-income individuals, including 27 units of permanent supportive housing
- Provided Great Streets Improvements



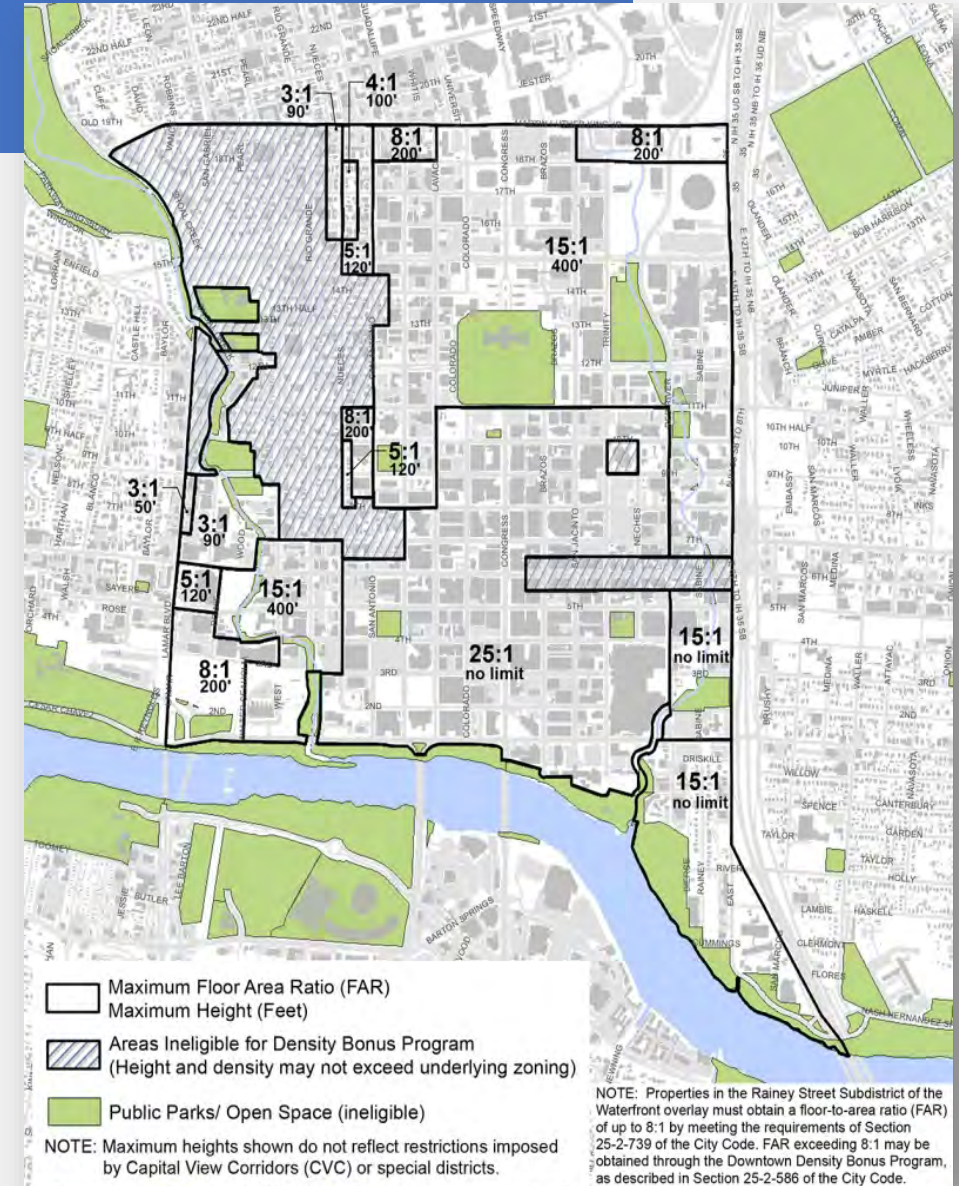
# IMPLEMENTATION UPDATE

## *Activity and Uses – Downtown Density Bonus Program*

- Approved by City Council (Ord. 20140227-054)
- Pathway to achieve community benefits including: affordable housing and streetscape improvements
- 9 of projects have received administrative approval, 8 more are under review
- \$850,000+ collected in density bonus fees



Third + Shoal





# IMPLEMENTATION UPDATE

## *Activities and Uses – Red River Cultural District*

### **Red- River Cultural District**

- Recognized as a nationally acclaimed area with a unique historic, economic, and cultural heritage
- Designated by Council resolution: 20131017-036



# IMPLEMENTATION UPDATES

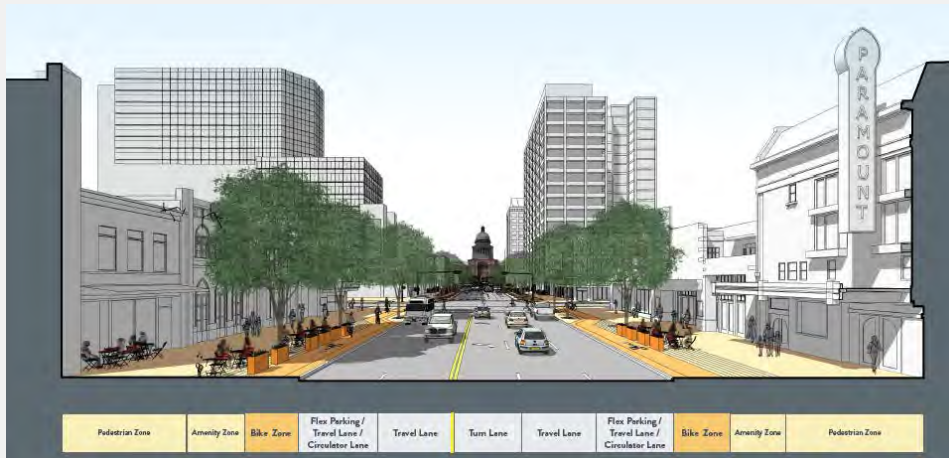
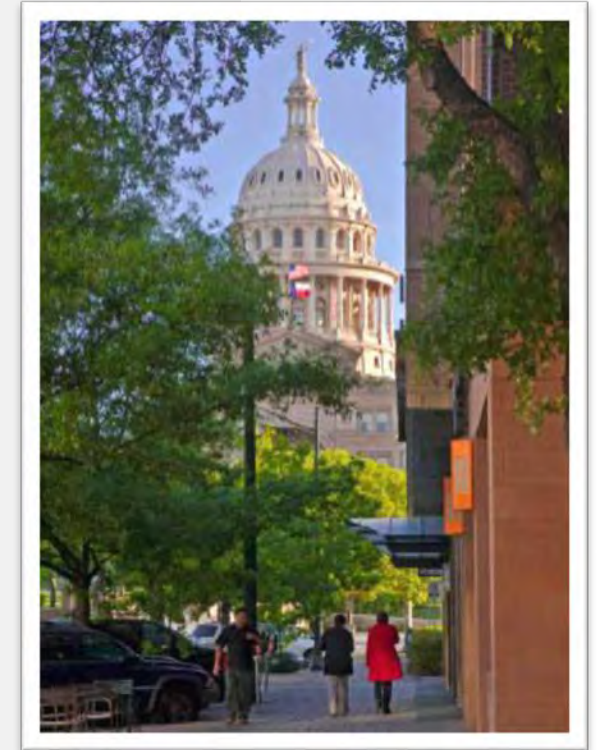
## *Public Realm – Downtown Parks*

### **Downtown Parks:**

- *Wooldridge Square improvements;*
- *Republic Square Phase II complete;*
- *Brush Square Master Plan is underway;*
- *Waterloo Park design is in for permit review.*

### **Congress Avenue Streetscape Project:**

- *Preferred concept is anticipated to be publicly presented early next year.*





# IMPLEMENTATION UPDATE

## *Public Realm – Great Streets*

The transformation of downtown's public realm through the implementation of Great Streets has been greatly advanced by the incorporation of street improvements as part of recently completed, under construction or planned COA Street Reconstruction Projects.

### **Public Projects:**

- *Cesar Chavez Esplanade, Colorado, Brazos, 2<sup>nd</sup>, 3<sup>rd</sup>, and 8<sup>th</sup> Streets.*

### **Private Projects:**

- Since the Program's inception in 2001, more than 50 private projects have been built, are under construction, or are in the design/planning phase.

The total number of Great Street block faces through public and private projects = 200+ block faces or almost 13 linear miles of Great Streets!



# IMPLEMENTATION UPDATES

## *Mobility – Transit Service*

### **MetroRapid Bus Service**

MetroRapid is a service that brings together a set of unique features to result in quick, more convenient service for the community.

- North Lamar/South Congress (Route 801)
- Burnet/South Lamar (Route 803).



### **Project Connect**

Connect people, places, and opportunities through a complete, congestion-proof system of reliable and frequent high-capacity transit services running in dedicated lanes or on tracks, away from other traffic.





# IMPLEMENTATION UPDATES

## *Mobility – Bike Share*

Austin B-cycle has brought bike sharing to the Austin public by launching service in December 2013.

- Started with 11 stations and 110 bikes
- Today expansion to 76 stations and 650 is underway.



Summary Report	In 2018
Total number of trips	265,000
Total number of miles	715,000
Total number of calories burned	28 million
Total Carbon Offset (lbs.)	676,000





# IMPLEMENTATION UPDATES

## *Mobility – 2-way street conversions*

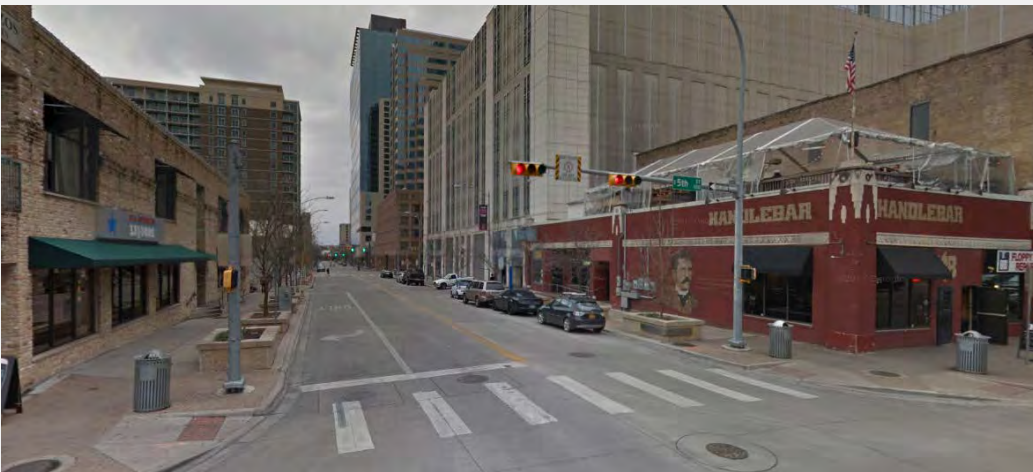
Streets should operate in both directions to provide a more understandable and convenient circulation pattern, calmer traffic flows, and enhanced retail.

### **Converted:**

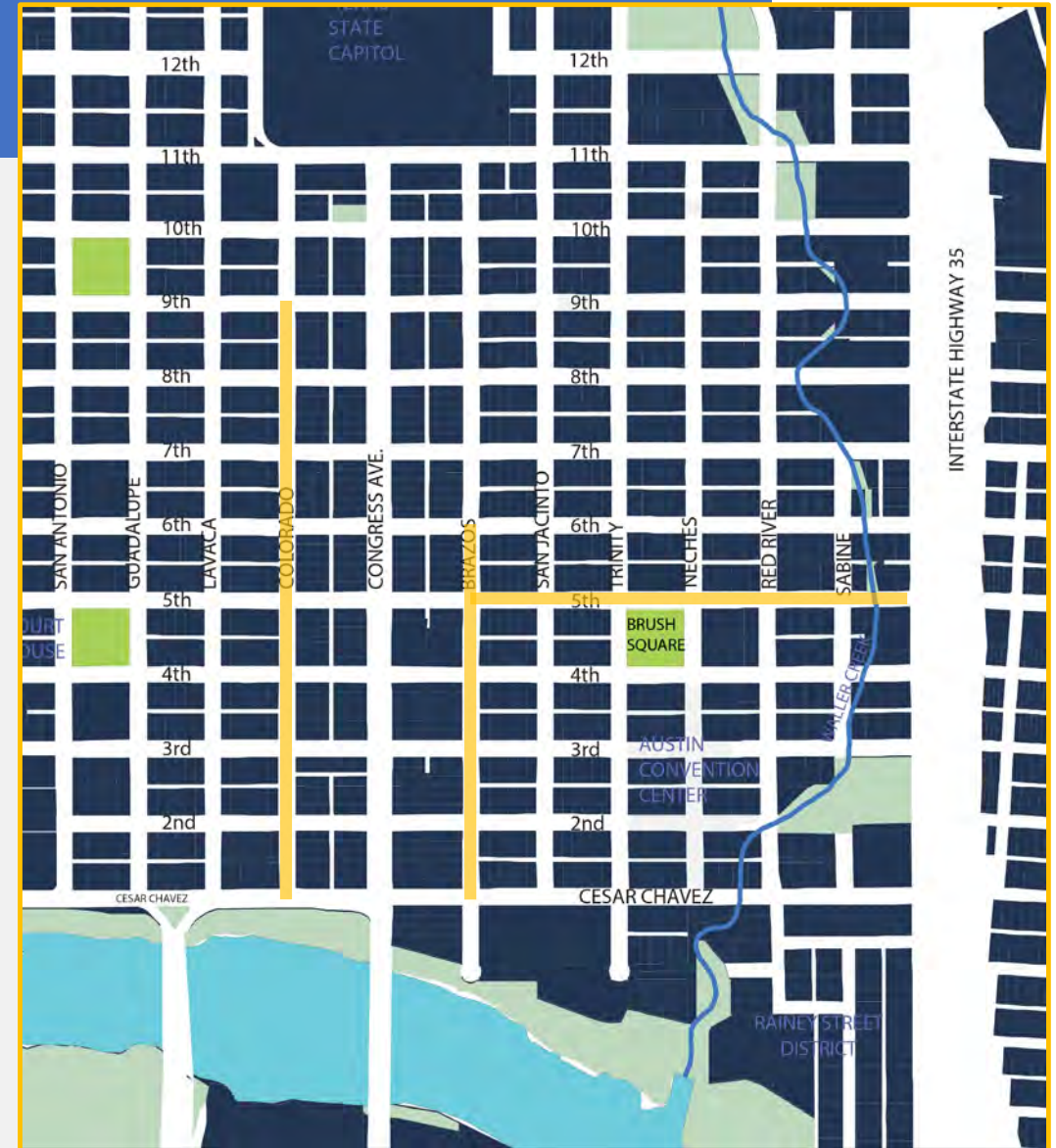
Brazos (Cesar Chavez to 6<sup>th</sup> Sts.)

5<sup>th</sup> St (Brazos to IH 35)

Colorado (Cesar Chavez to 9<sup>th</sup> Sts.)



Brazos St. at 5<sup>th</sup> St.



# IMPLEMENTATION UPDATES

## *Mobility – Downtown Wayfinding System*

- The “wayfinding” improvement project, an action item outlined in the DAP, aims to integrate a range of navigation tools for traversing the downtown area, such as signage and kiosks.
- Dynamic parking system installation currently underway
- Static directional signage anticipated to be installed early 2019.





# IMPLEMENTATION UPDATE

## *Utilities and Infrastructure*

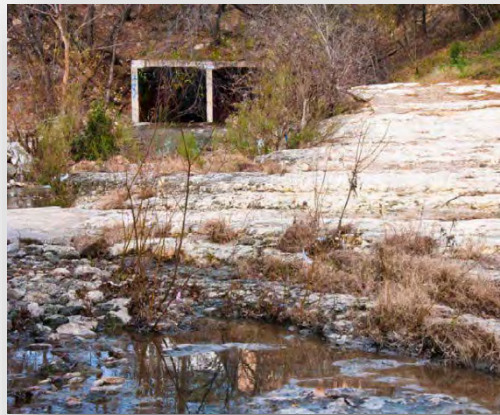
Waller Creek – flood control tunnel is complete and above ground improvements are underway

Little Shoal Creek Stormwater tunnel is complete

Ongoing replacement of aging wastewater infrastructure – often in conjunction with streetscape projects.



Waller Creek Tunnel



Little Shoal Creek



Street Infrastructure



# NEXT STEPS

- Coordinate with the future Land Development Code rewrite
- Continue coordination with multiple city departments and CapMetro on implementation actions.
- Coordinate with Commissions and stakeholders on potential DAP updates (as directed by Council)



An aerial architectural rendering of downtown Austin, Texas, showing a dense urban landscape with numerous skyscrapers, streets, and green spaces. The image is in grayscale and serves as a background for the text.

# THANK YOU

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🌐 <http://www.austintexas.gov/page/downtown-austin-plan>