Austin Groups Call for Improvements to San Jacinto

Organizations unified in support of a safer street design

A number of Austin organizations are calling for changes to San Jacinto Boulevard in response to the tragic death of bicyclist Anthony Diaz. Mr. Diaz was killed as a result of being struck by the driver of a Capital Metro bus on January 28th, while riding his bike on San Jacinto by the Darrell K Royal–Texas Memorial Stadium.

Many UT students, faculty, and alumni ride on this street every day. Many commuters, like Mr. Diaz, ride this route daily to get to and from downtown.

The University of Texas owns and controls San Jacinto Boulevard between Martin Luther King Jr. Boulevard and Dean Keeton Street. Unlike other parts of San Jacinto Boulevard, the stretch through campus currently has no bike lanes.

UT's own campus master plan, approved in 2013, calls for removing all parking from San Jacinto and installing a separated bike path. More recently, the University has made changes to Speedway, a parallel corridor running through campus, with the expectation of diverting many cyclists to San Jacinto. But the University has not yet made any improvements to San Jacinto.

Austin's 2014 Bicycle Plan identifies this stretch of San Jacinto as part of a core network of bike routes intended to be suitable for riders of all ages and abilities.

We urge the University of Texas at Austin to consider immediate implementation of protected bike lanes on San Jacinto. This change could be achieved quickly and inexpensively on a temporary basis, and more permanent improvements could then be installed over time. The result would be a far safer street, and a more bike-friendly campus.