# **City of Austin Mobility Outcome Report**

Presented by Assistant City Manager Gina Fiandaca September 2021



# **Monthly Highlights**

# **AUS Among Recipients of Airport Improvement Program Grants**

The FAA (Federal Aviation Administration) has announced that Austin-Bergstrom International Airport (AUS) has been awarded with two Airport Improvement Program (AIP) Grants to fund a variety of projects. These include \$3.6 million to improve Airport Drainage/Erosion Control (Cargo Ramp) as well as \$11.7 million to improve the terminal Building Multi-Year (BHS).

## Vision Zero Debuts Safe 2 Save

Vision Zero has created a public "Safest Driver" competition in partnership with a mobile app company as they continue to actively work to end traffic-related fatalities and serious injuries. The competition will launch this month for a multi-week period.

When the *Safe to Save* app is on, it monitors how often a phone is picked up or in use while the car is in motion (over 10 MPH). Through the app, users earn rewards redeemable at participating businesses. Additionally, *Safe 2 Save* has secured State Farm to provide monetary prizes directly for our competition, and a local nonprofit (Farm and City, led by Jay Blazek Crossley, which houses Vision Zero Texas) will distribute the funds.

## Neighborhood Partnering Program (NPP) Announces Four Community Projects

Through the Neighborhood Partnering Program (NPP) Austin residents can work together to enhance the places they live, work, and play. Over <u>60 community-initiated projects</u> have been completed since the program first launched in 2010.

The program encompasses several unique ways to help our community:

- Neighborhood Cost Share Program: The City helps local groups fund, develop, and construct their small to medium-sized projects on City-owned property. In turn, local groups help with "cost-sharing" and project maintenance. Cost-sharing can be made through cash, donated materials, labor, or with volunteer hours.
- Adopt-A-Median Program: Not just for medians anymore! Groups can enter into an agreement
  with the City to beautify, enhance and maintain a median, roadside, underpass, wall, or right of
  way. This program does not include funding.
- Grant Assistance Program: The City provides funds to help meet the matching requirements of
  a grant that you've received or are applying for with an outside entity other than the City of
  Austin.

Currently, four projects proposed by community groups have been selected to receive project assistance and cost-share funds through Austin Public Works' Neighborhood Partnering Program (NPP). The projects will benefit the local community by improving lighting, accessibility, and available resources on City-owned property.



## Release of Project Connect Equity Tool

In partnership with Capital Metro, the City has completed the Racial Equity Anti-Displacement Tool, an essential part of the implementation of Project Connect. The Tool—which was developed in part by community members with lived experience—uses community priorities and data to center racial equity in policy, planning, program, and funding decisions. The goal of the tool is to reduce potential negative impacts of transit development, including a rise in property values, taxes, and rents that tend to disproportionately result in the displacement of Black, Indigenous, and People of Color (BIPOC).

Capital Metro and ATP staff have indicated a separate process will occur to create a version of the tool for evaluating transit projects. Additionally, staff continues to have conversations with stakeholders, including the ATX Mobility Coalition, to determine a productive path forward for the use and testing of the tool and with the intention of gaining their support.

## **Looking Ahead**

#### **Pride Crosswalks**

The Pride Crosswalk Installation was rescheduled to take place in conformance to *National Coming Out Day* which will be celebrated on October 11<sup>th</sup>.

#### Crestview Gate Resolution

Council approved a resolution to begin a three-month pilot, proposed by Austin Transportation Department (ATD), which would essentially open the access gate that separates Easy Wind Drive at Morrow Street. Following the three-month study, ATD's City Traffic Engineer will make the final determination of whether to permanently open the gate based on the engineering evaluation.

## **Bond Program Updates**

### All Ages & Ability Bicycle Network's Milestone

Due to the overwhelming support from Austinites, the City Council's vision, and the mobility bond in 2020, we have hit a 50% completion milestone on its *All Ages and Abilities Bicycle Network (AAA bicycle Network)*, providing the community a choice on how they travel regardless of their age or ability.

Austin is more than halfway to its goal at 215 miles of network, despite the delays due to the global pandemic. This means that 64% of its residents are now living within a half-mile of a bikeway. Such monumental accomplishment has branded the City of Austin as being one of the few cities in North America to have reached such a milestone. We are now closer to providing additional choices in affordable, safe, carbon-free mobility across our growing city with the help of several partners, including Austin Transportation Department, Public Works, TxDOT, Parks and Recreation as well as the Central Texas Regional Mobility Authority —all which understand the importance of fostering a livable, affordable, and sustainable future for all Austinites.



### **Partner Recap**

### I-35 Cap & Stitch TxDOT Coordination Update

The Austin Transportation Department (ATD), in coordination with the Texas Department of Transportation (TxDOT), was pleased to have had the opportunity to present to council on September 2nd regarding the IH35 Cap & Stitch Project.

As the project seeks to create developable space and multi-modal connectivity over certain areas of planned IH-35 improvements in downtown and central Austin, the City remains a partner with TxDOT in multiple efforts. The overall goals to improve safety and mobility along the corridor as well as ensuring the public have ample amount of time for comment have been the latest joint efforts. The current comment period on the information presented at IH35 Capital Express Open House is open until September 24<sup>th</sup>.

# Mobility Departments Help Austin Energy Charging Stations at Seaholm

Austin Transportation (ATD) in conjunction with Public Works Department (PWD) assisted Austin Energy by completing the latest installation of electric vehicle charging stations at the Seaholm District, marking the latest addition and ongoing support of Electric Drive, part of the Seaholm Eco-District. This new electric vehicle infrastructure is the largest Austin Energy "DC Fast hub" to date and fittingly builds on our previous collaboration of Electric Drive, a sustainable mobility showcase for Austin.

The innovative and clean energy initiative to help the City of Austin secure its status as one of the nation's leading smart cities started with 113 stations and has now grown to a grand total of 620 throughout the community.

### Mobility Helps Austin Public Health on Latest Initiative

Austin Transportation Department assisted Austin Public Health's –Housing Focused Encampment Assistance Link (HEAL) Initiative by providing traffic control to ensure safe shuttle loading for the relocation of occupants from an encampment of people experiencing homelessness to City of Austin bridge shelters.

### **Community Resources**

Weekly Mobility Newsletter Sign Up

2016 Bond Programs and Projects

Capital Projects Explorer

Austin Mobility Data and Performance Hub

Austin-Bergstrom International Airport

**Upcoming Sidewalk Projects** 

**Absent Sidewalk Map and Prioritization** 

Street Preventative Maintenance

Safe Ride Home Resources

**Special Event Road Closures**