



Project Connect Update

Blue Line Bridge

December 2021



Project Components

PROJECT CONNECT – PROGRAM COMPONENTS

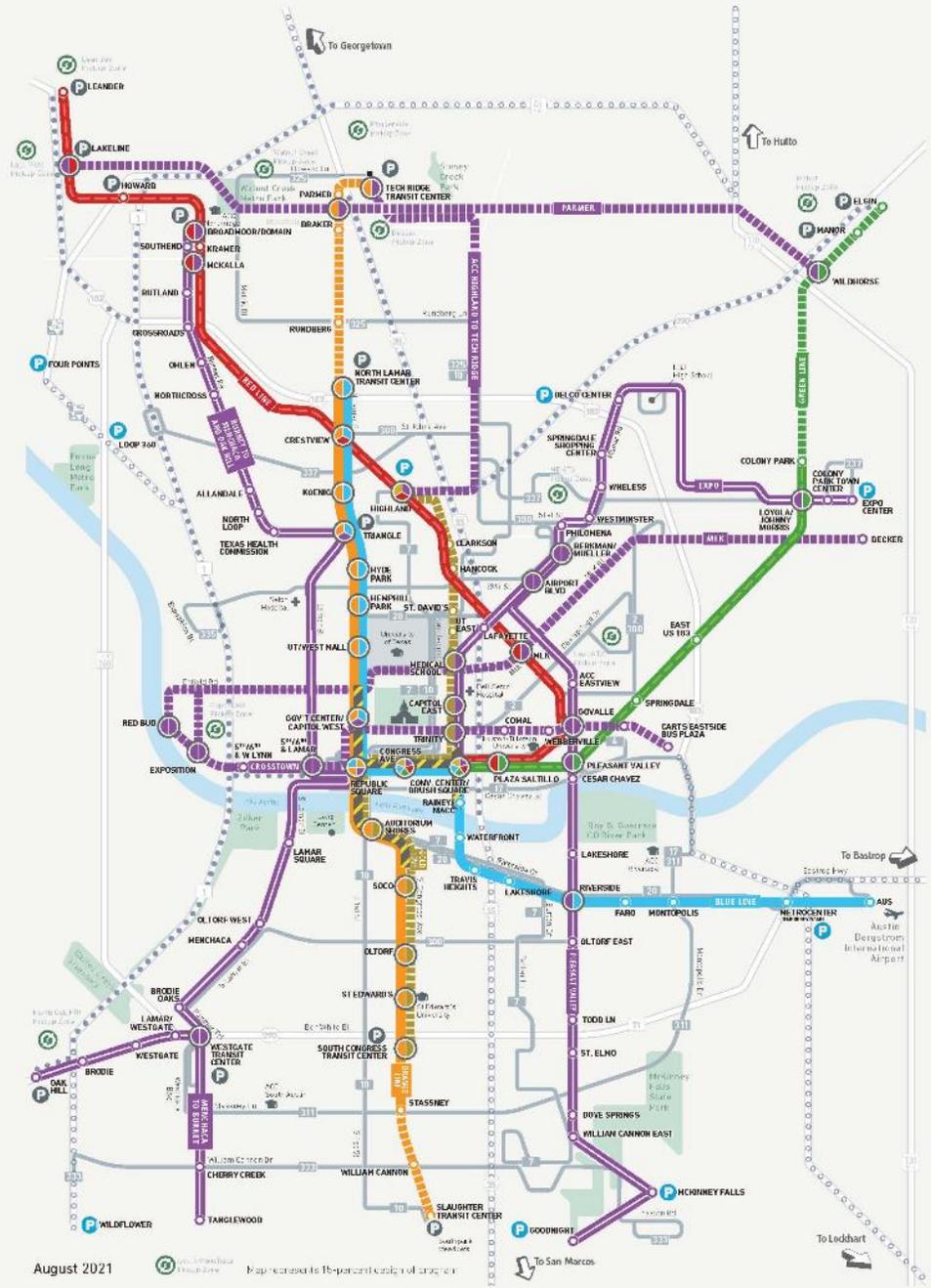
- Orange Line – NLTC to Stassney Phase 1 (LRT), Enhanced MetroRapid
- Blue Line – Riverside Corridor (LRT)
- Gold Line – MetroRapid, NEPA completion for LRT
- Downtown Tunnel (Orange, Blue Lines)
- MetroRapid – Expo, Pleasant Valley, Burnet to Menchaca/Oak Hill
- Green Line to Colony Park – NEPA, Final Design, Construction
- Red Line Improvements
- MetroExpress, Park & Rides, Transit Centers (3 New Routes, 9 P&R, 1 TC)
- Neighborhood Circulators (15 New Zones / Vehicles)
- Maintenance Facility Improvements
- Customer Technology Systems
- Anti-Displacement Investments

LEGEND

LIGHT RAIL	Orange Line	Potential Future Extension	Blue Line
METRORAIL	Red Line	Green Line	Potential Future Extension
METRORAPID	Gold Line	Enhanced MetroRapid Route	Potential Future Extension

METROBUS	Current Frequent Local Routes
METROEXPRESS	Current MetroExpress
	Future MetroExpress
ADDITIONAL AVAILABLE SERVICES	MetroAccess
	MetroBike
	CURRENT PARK & RIDE
	PROPOSED PARK & RIDE
	CIRCULATOR
	TUNNEL

SCHEMATIC MAP NOT TO SCALE



INTEGRATED PROGRAM DELIVERY PARTNERSHIP



**Orange Line
Blue Line
Tunnel
Green Line – Phase 1
Facilities**



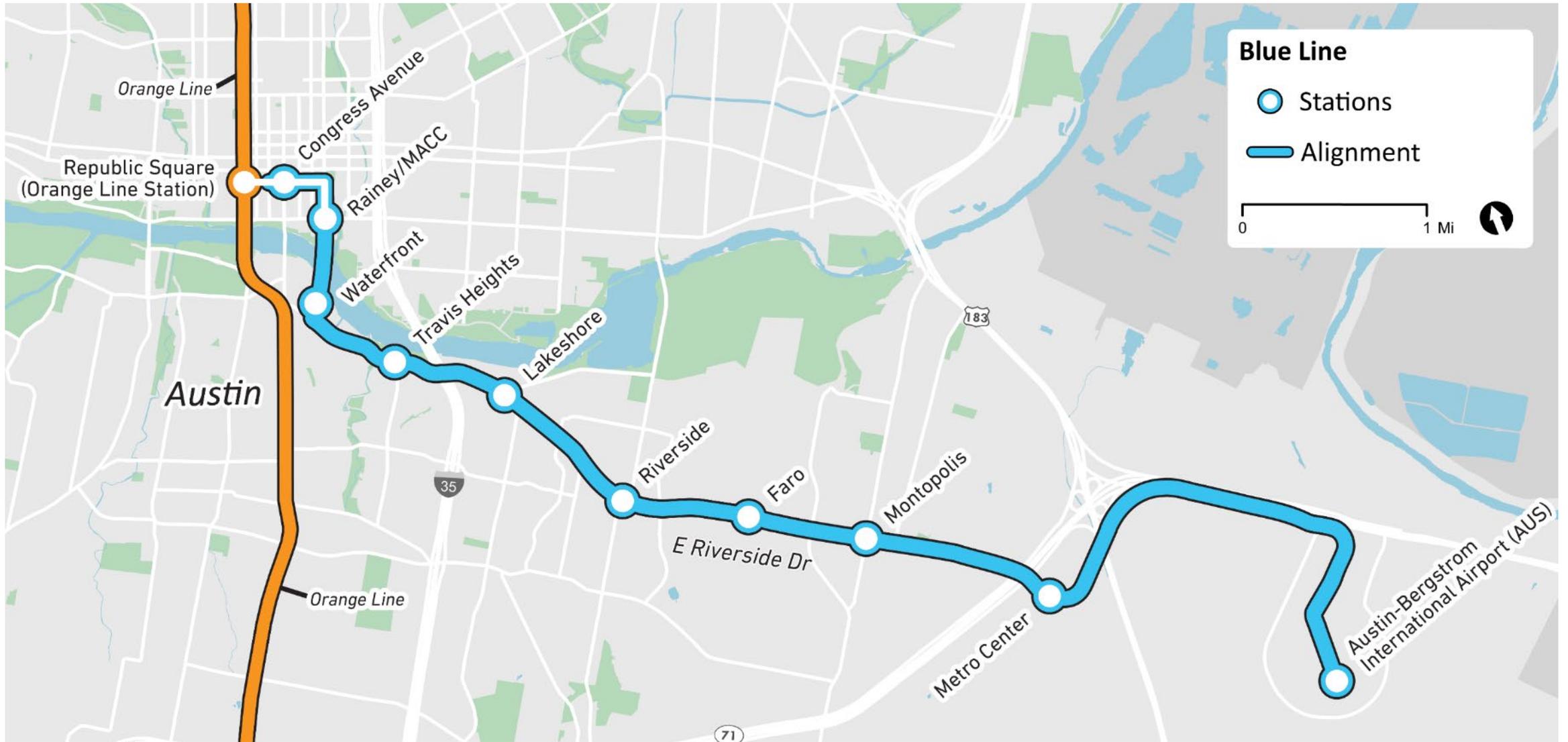
**MetroRapid
MetroExpress
Neighborhood Circulators
Customer Tech
Red Line – Phase 1**



**Permitting
Right of Way Coordination
Utility Design and Coordination
Active Transportation
and Traffic Coordination
Anti-Displacement
Investments**

Blue Line – Corridor Overview

Note: Station locations and names subject to change



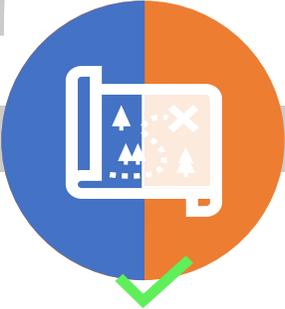
ORANGE & BLUE LINE – KEY MILESTONES (2021 – 2022)

April 2021

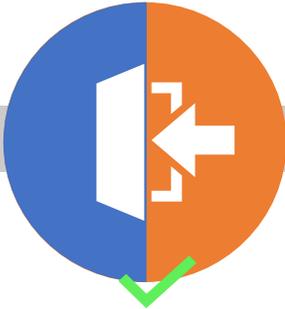


National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) Notice of Intent

Summer 2021

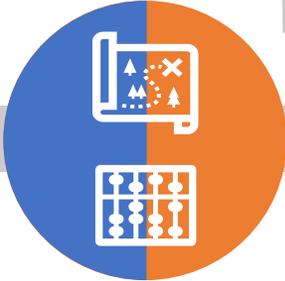


Complete 15% Design



Enter FTA Project Development

Spring 2022



Draft Environmental Impact Statement (DEIS), Draft 30% Design and Cost Estimates

Spring – Summer 2022



Initial FTA Rating



Complete 30% Design and Cost Estimate

Summer 2022



End of EIS and 30% Design Comment Phase

Winter 2022



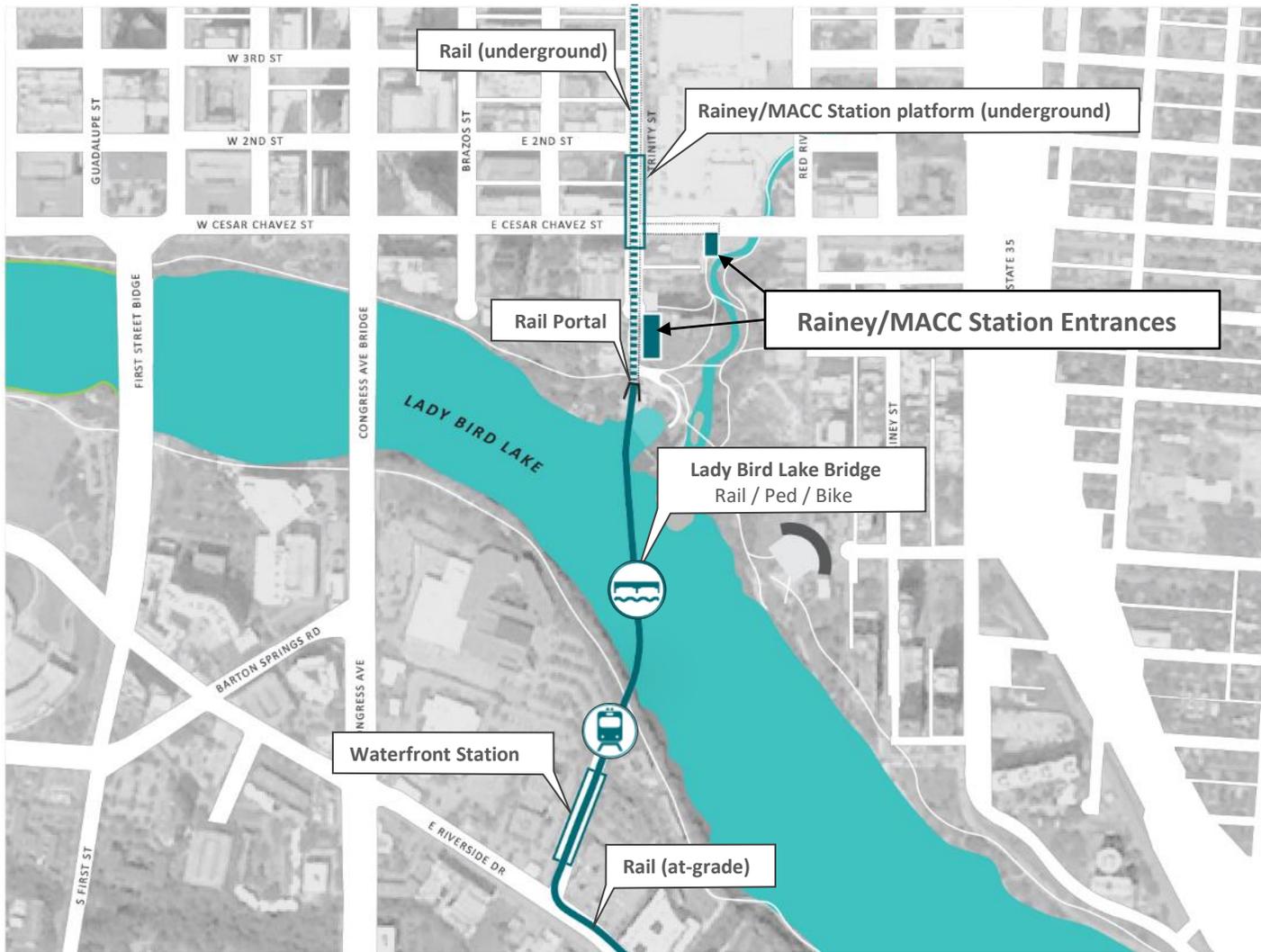
Final EIS (FEIS) Complete



FTA NEPA Record of Decision (ROD)

2023 - Beyond

Blue Line Bridge



Key Rail Connections:

- South Shore: Above-ground station (“Waterfront”)
- North Shore: underground station (“Rainey/MACC”)

Bridge modes:

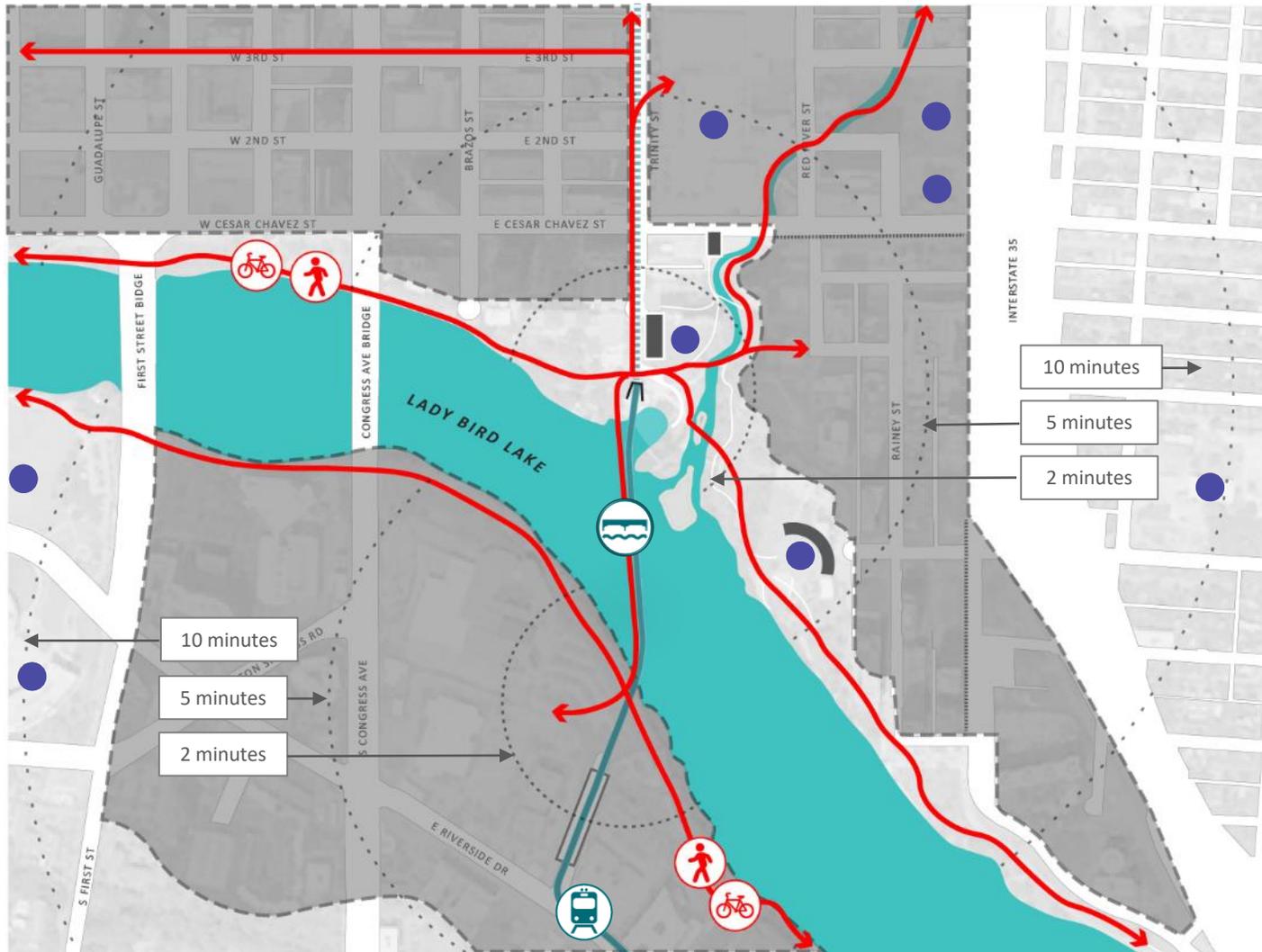
1. Light rail (Blue Line) – electric vehicles
2. Cyclists
3. Pedestrians

Other considerations:

- Connections to Butler Hike and Bike Trail and Waterloo Greenway
- Waller Creek Tunnel outfall structure
- Waller Creek Boathouse impacts



Blue Line Bridge: Connections



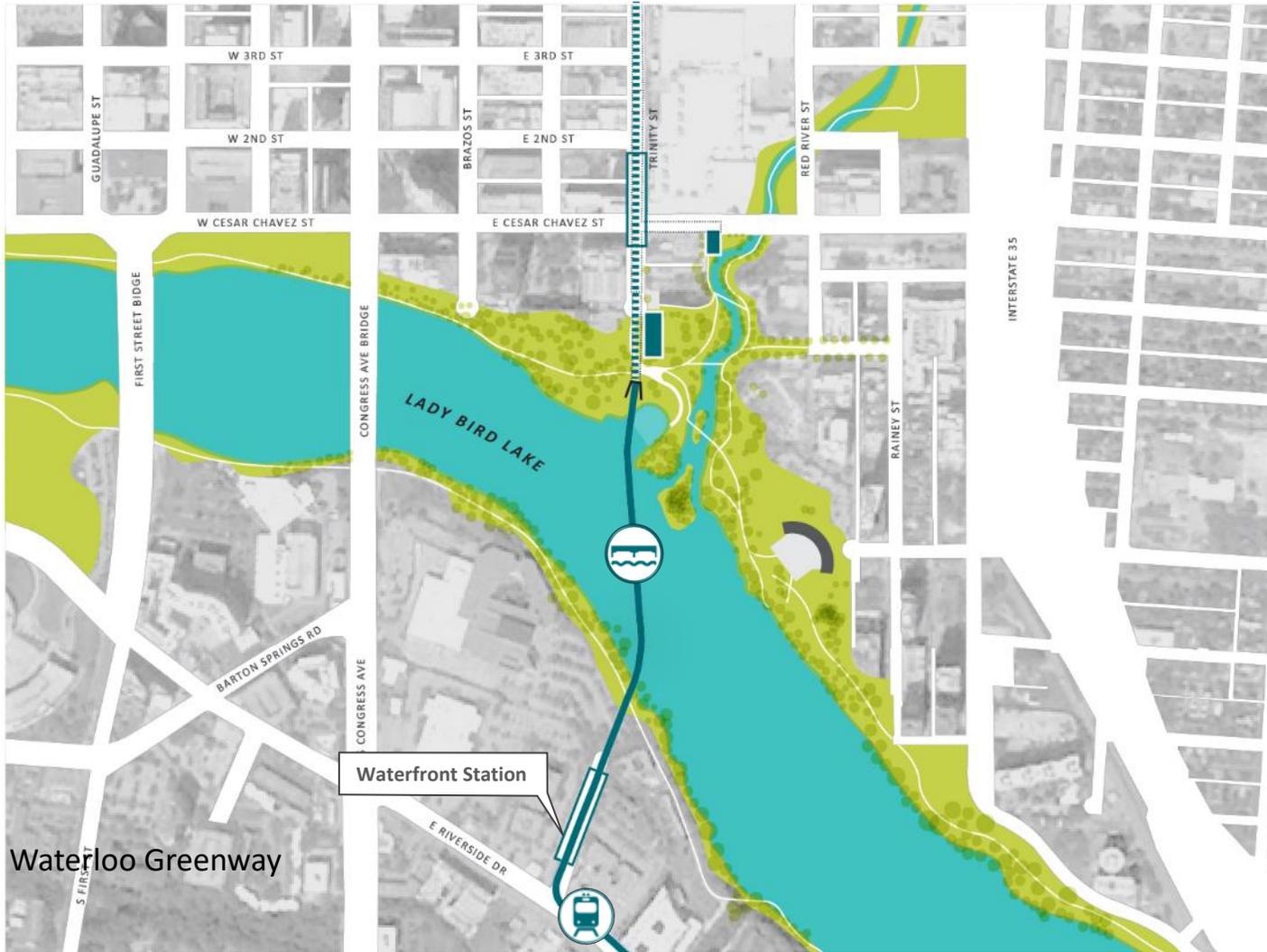
Pedestrian Connections

Walking time across the bridge: **<5 minutes**

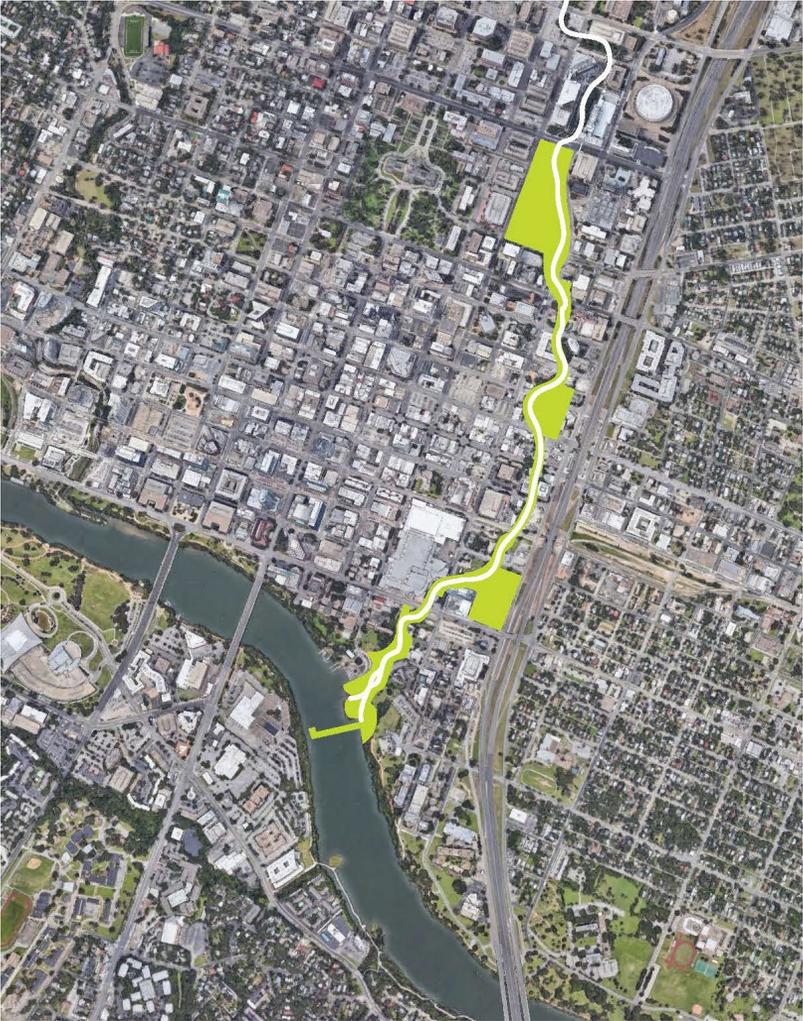
- Within 2 minutes walking distance from bridge:
 - Rainey/MACC & Waterfront Station Entrances
 - South Central Waterfront
 - Waterloo Greenway Trails
 - Butler Hike/Bike Trail
- Within 5 minutes walking distance from bridge:
 - ESB-MACC
 - Rainey Street District
 - Convention Center
 - Palm School
- Within 10 minutes walking distance from bridge:
 - Long Center
 - Auditorium Shores
 - Sanchez Elementary School
 - City Hall
 - Downtown Jobs and Retail
 - 6th Street & Congress Avenue



Blue Line Bridge: Landscape



Context: Waterloo Greenway and Pontoon Bridge*



*included in Council Approved Waller Creek Design Plan



Opportunity



- In addition to being an important mobility corridor connecting north and south Austin, this new bridge can be a community connector - an inclusive PLACE serving the community broadly.
- A rare chance to create a new symbol for our community and our community's values.



History: Lady Bird Lake



Congress & Drake Bridges (1981)



Downtown Austin Flood (1935)



Town Lake Hike & Bike Trail (1972)



Context: Natural Elements



Context: Human Use



Context: Bats!



Context: Austin's Pedestrian Bridges



New Longhorn Dam Pedestrian Bridge



Pfluger Pedestrian Bridge



The Bridge: North Lake Shore Portal



The Bridge: North Shore Connections



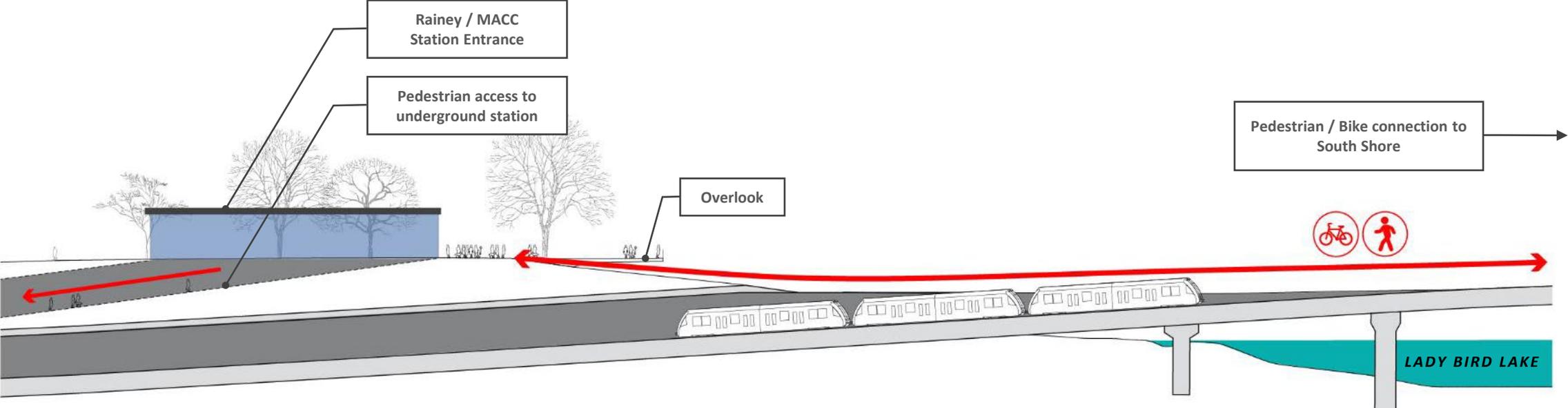
Butler Hike/Bike Trail



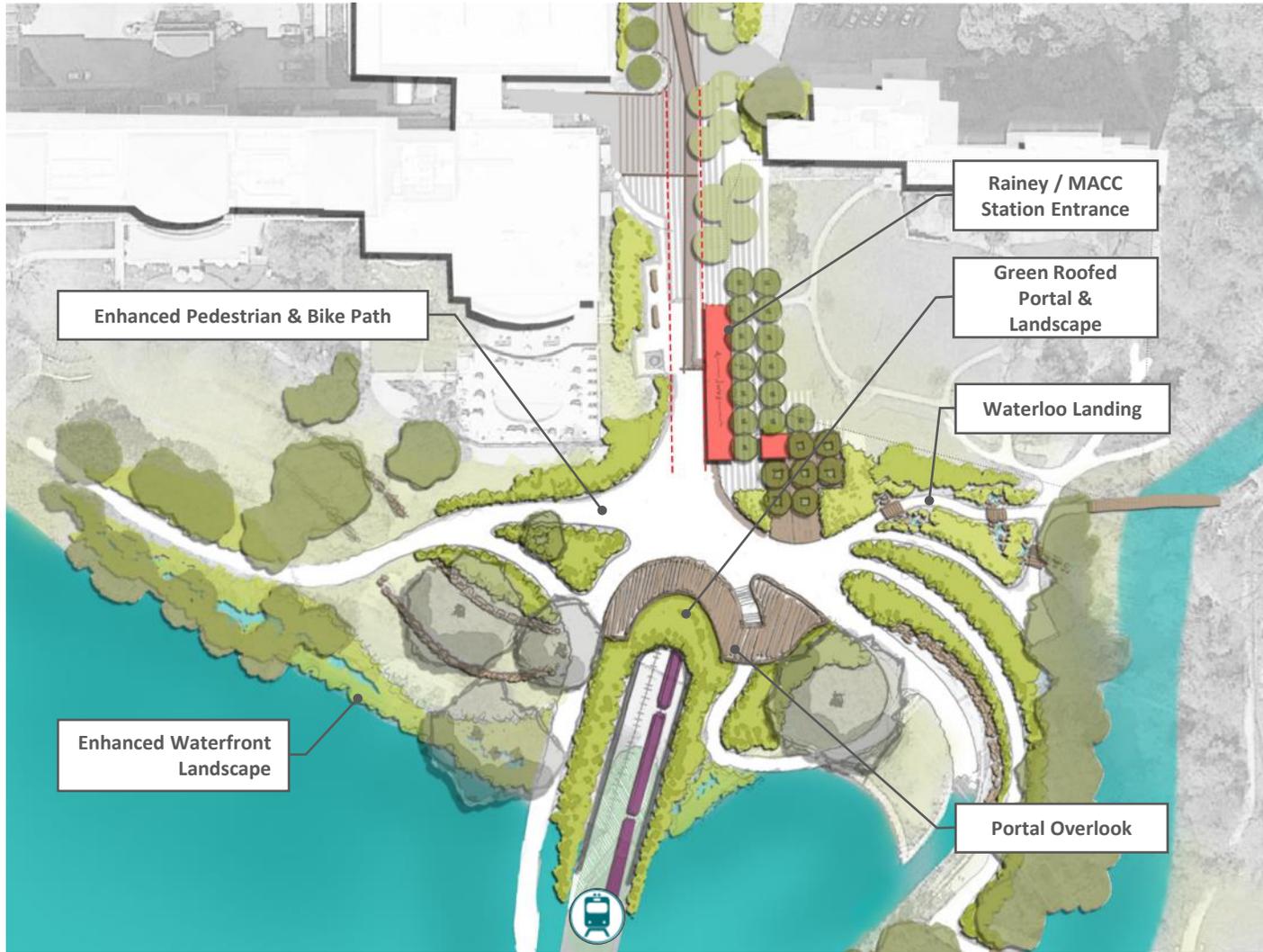
New Waterloo Greenway Bridge



The Bridge: North Portal



Landscape Opportunities: Overview



Precedents



Blue & Orange Line Working Groups

North: Orange Line

- North Line
- North Lamar
- North Guadalupe
- Drag

South: Orange Line

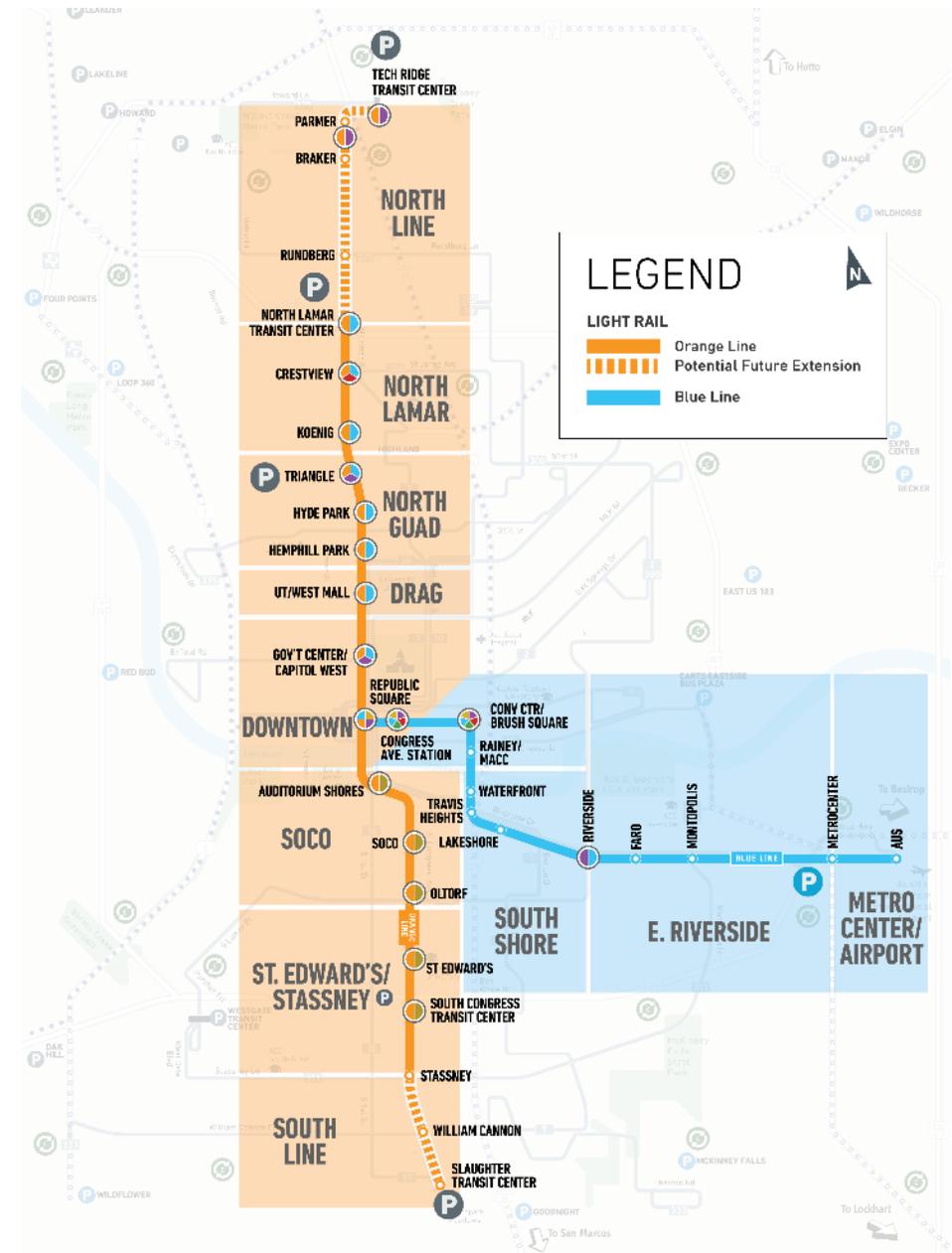
- St. Edward's to Stassney
- South Line

East: Blue Line

- South Shore
- East Riverside
- Metro Center/Airport

Central Alignment:

- Downtown (BL/OL)
- SoCo (OL)



Lady Bird Lake Bridge Workshop – High-level recap

- 10/12/21 from 5:30 – 7:00 p.m.
- Approximately 135 participants
- Many participants, including Austin Rowing Club members, expressed concerns about the Blue Line Project impact to the Waller Creek Boathouse and want more information about its potential relocation
- Other questions related to:
 - Use of buses on bridge
 - Congress Avenue Bridge bats
 - Noise level
 - Consideration of tunnel under Lady Bird Lake
 - Tunnel construction method and impacts
 - Parking availability
- Mapping exercise indicated that people would access the bridge using a variety of means, including by bicycle, on foot and by boat





Thank you!

