



CORRIDOR  
PROGRAM  
OFFICE

# I-35 CAP AND STITCH PROJECT

*City of Austin*

January 20, 2022

*Mike Trimble, PFMP, CNUA - Director, Corridor Program Office*



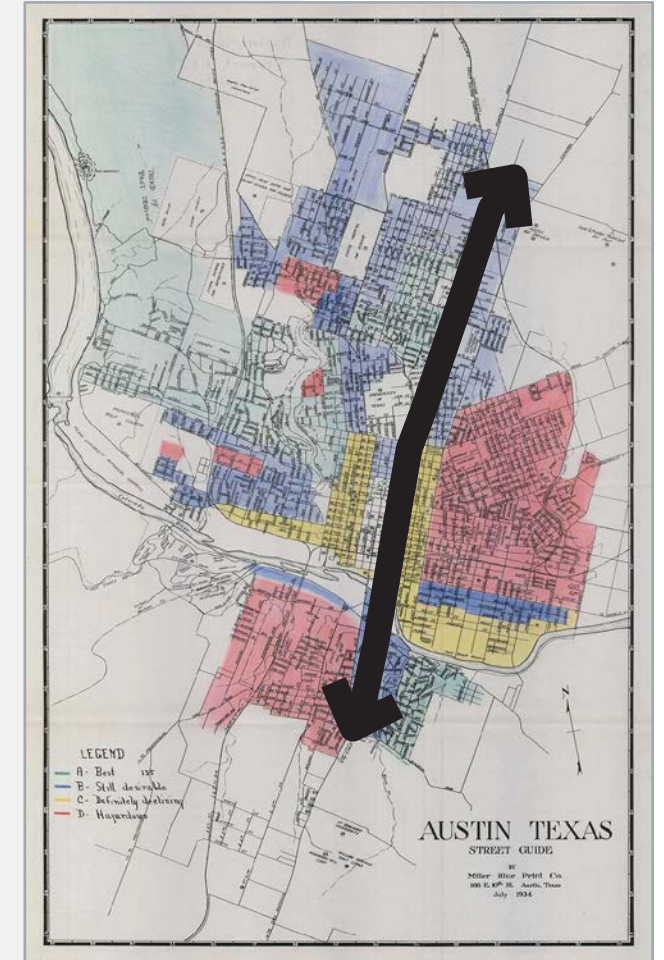
# A LEGACY OF COMMUNITY DIVISION



AUSTIN HISTORY CENTER



AUSTIN HISTORY CENTER



# I-35 TODAY: EAST/WEST DIVIDE CON'T

I-35 at 5<sup>th</sup> Street



I-35 Upper and Lower Decks



# THE OPPORTUNITY: CAP & STITCH

## Highway Cap



- Large deck over a highway that runs north to south
- Caps have the potential for multipurpose use

## Highway Stitch



- Widened bridge over a highway that runs east to west
- At a minimum, stitches include travel lanes and protected paths
- Stitches may also include landscaping and additional buffers
- A wider stitch reduces sound pollution and makes a crossing more inviting

# BENEFITS OF CAP & STITCH

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- Celebrate and connect all Austinites
- Remove segregation-era barrier
- Improve east Austin and downtown connectivity
- Enhance safety and mobility for all
- Positively impact environment
- Support the local economy



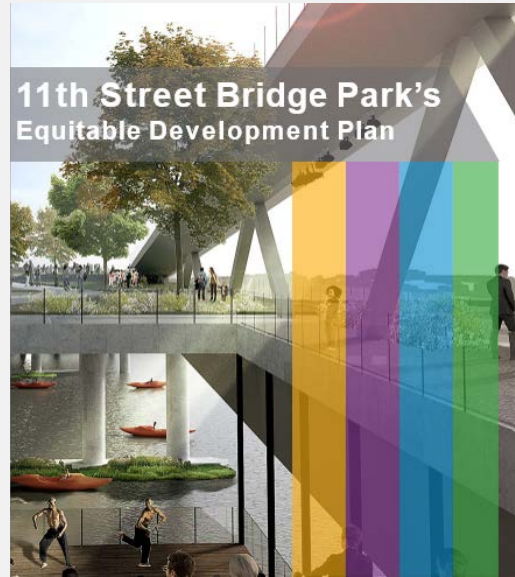
# ULI/DAA STUDY: SPRING 2020

## COCREATE THE CORRIDOR



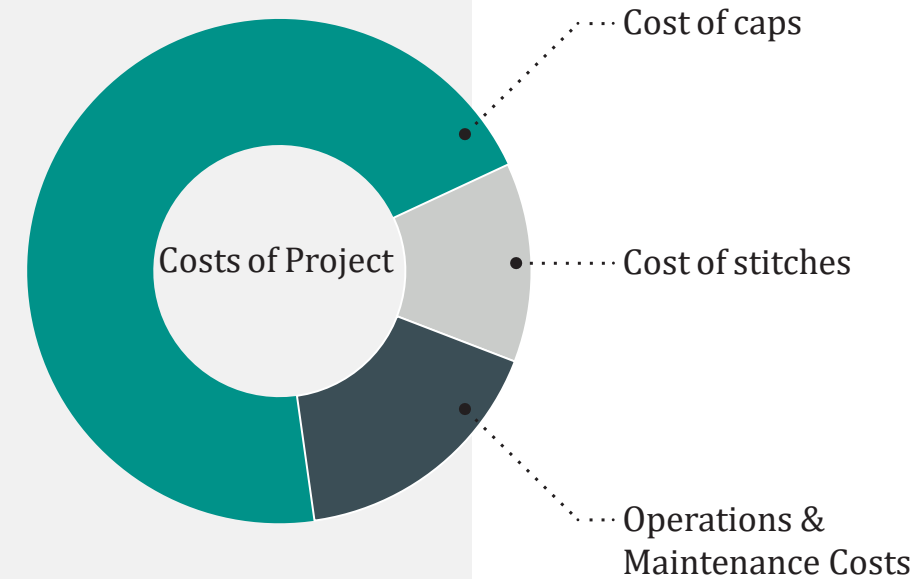
Panel recommended a model where the community cocreates the future of the I-35 caps and stitches with the city and partners

## PUT EQUITABLE GROWTH STRATEGIES IN PLACE NOW



Called for the community/city to work together to get ahead of displacement and plan for inclusive economic growth

## DEVELOP A FUNDING PLAN AND OPERATIONS STRATEGY



The Urban Land Institute Panel identified rough costs and potential funding mechanisms, but this needs a lot more study

# PROJECT PARTNERSHIPS



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**DOWN**  
**AUSTIN TOWN**  
**ALLIANCE**



**COMMUNITY**



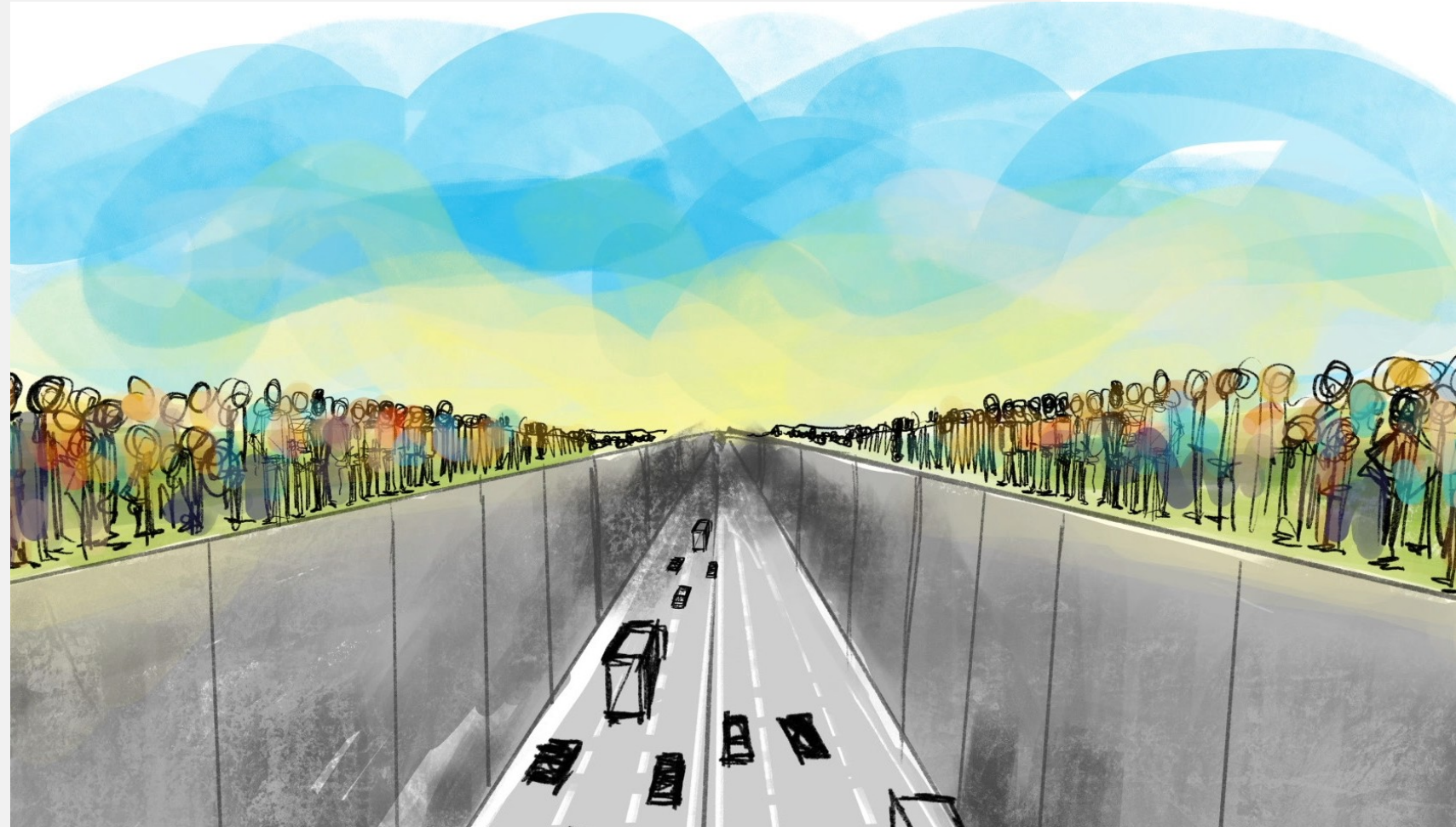
# AFTER THE ULI/DAA STUDY: OUR FUTURE 35

COMMUNITY CONVERSATIONS:  
JULY - NOVEMBER 2020

Downtown Austin Alliance  
partnership with KAZI, City of  
Austin, TxDOT, and community  
stakeholders

SCOPING WORKING GROUP  
LAUNCH: NOVEMBER 2020 -  
TODAY

Community partnership body  
Co-Chairs:  
Dr. Collette Pierce Burnette, Linda  
Guerrero



# SEIZING THE OPPORTUNITY: STATUS



## Potential Cap Locations\*:

- Cesar Chavez to 8th Street
  - 11th to 12th Street
  - 4th to 6th Street
  - Airport Boulevard
- = 21 Acres of Highway Cap Opportunity

\*Cap locations subject to change based on CapEx Central design



- Widened crossings already included, paid for by TxDOT at all locations downtown
- Opportunity for further widened crossings at multiple locations
- Potential for enhanced amenities through TxDOT Aesthetics Program

# PRELIMINARY COST PROFILE



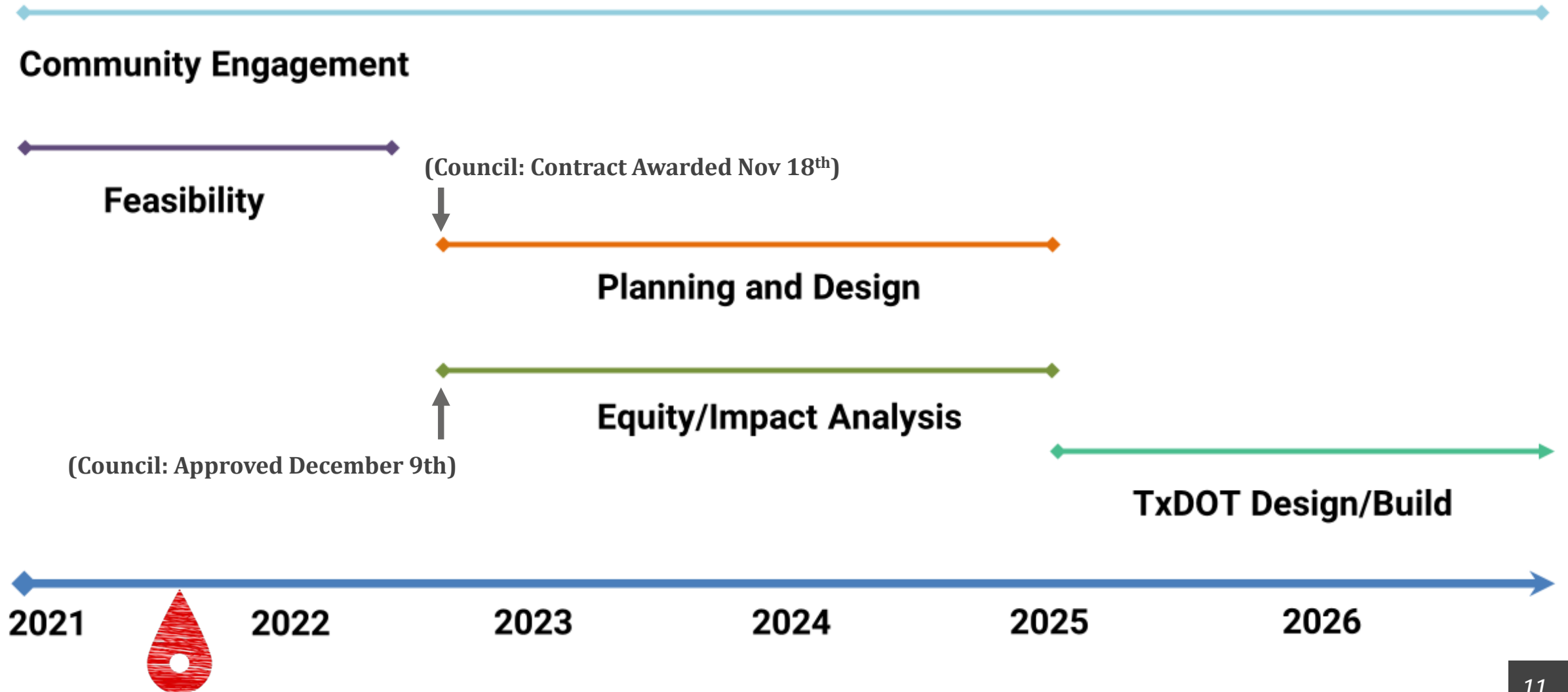
**~\$450-500M for Cap Structures  
and systems**

**~\$250-300M for Surface  
amenities, facilities**

**\*Cost profile does not include ongoing Operations &  
Maintenance costs for surface amenities or  
subsurface structures after construction.**



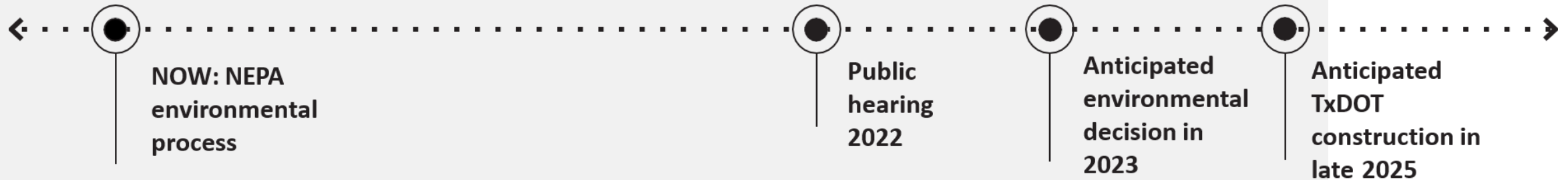
# PROJECT SCHEDULE OVERVIEW



# TXDOT PROJECT INTEGRATION



## TXDOT I-35 CAPITAL EXPRESS CENTRAL TIMELINE

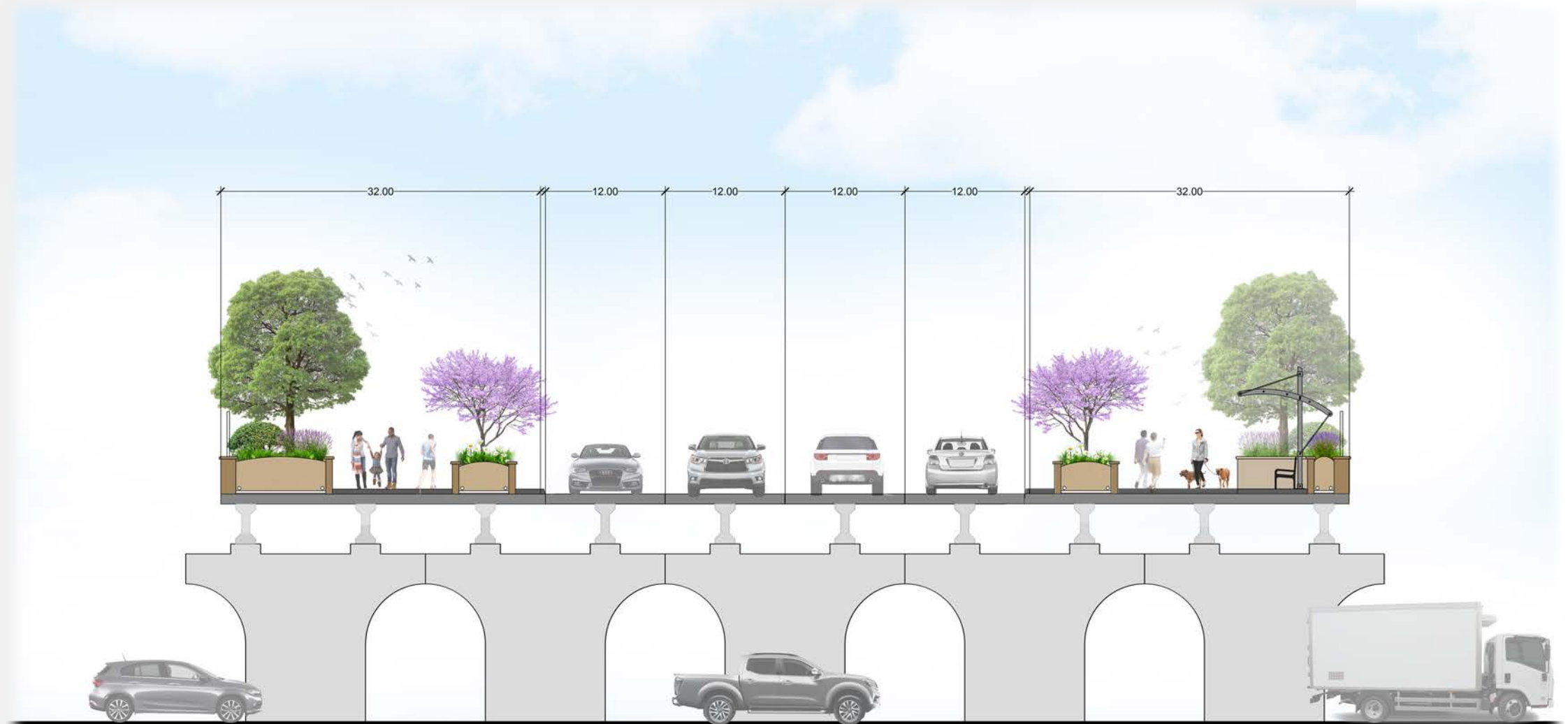


- Cap/Stitch locations included in TxDOT CapEx Project NEPA process
- Cap/Stitch structures part of TxDOT Design/Construction Contract if funded



# CAP CONCEPT 1

# STITCH CONCEPT





# CAP CONCEPT 2

# CONCEPTS FEEDBACK

**"I live in east Austin and would love a safer route to downtown."**

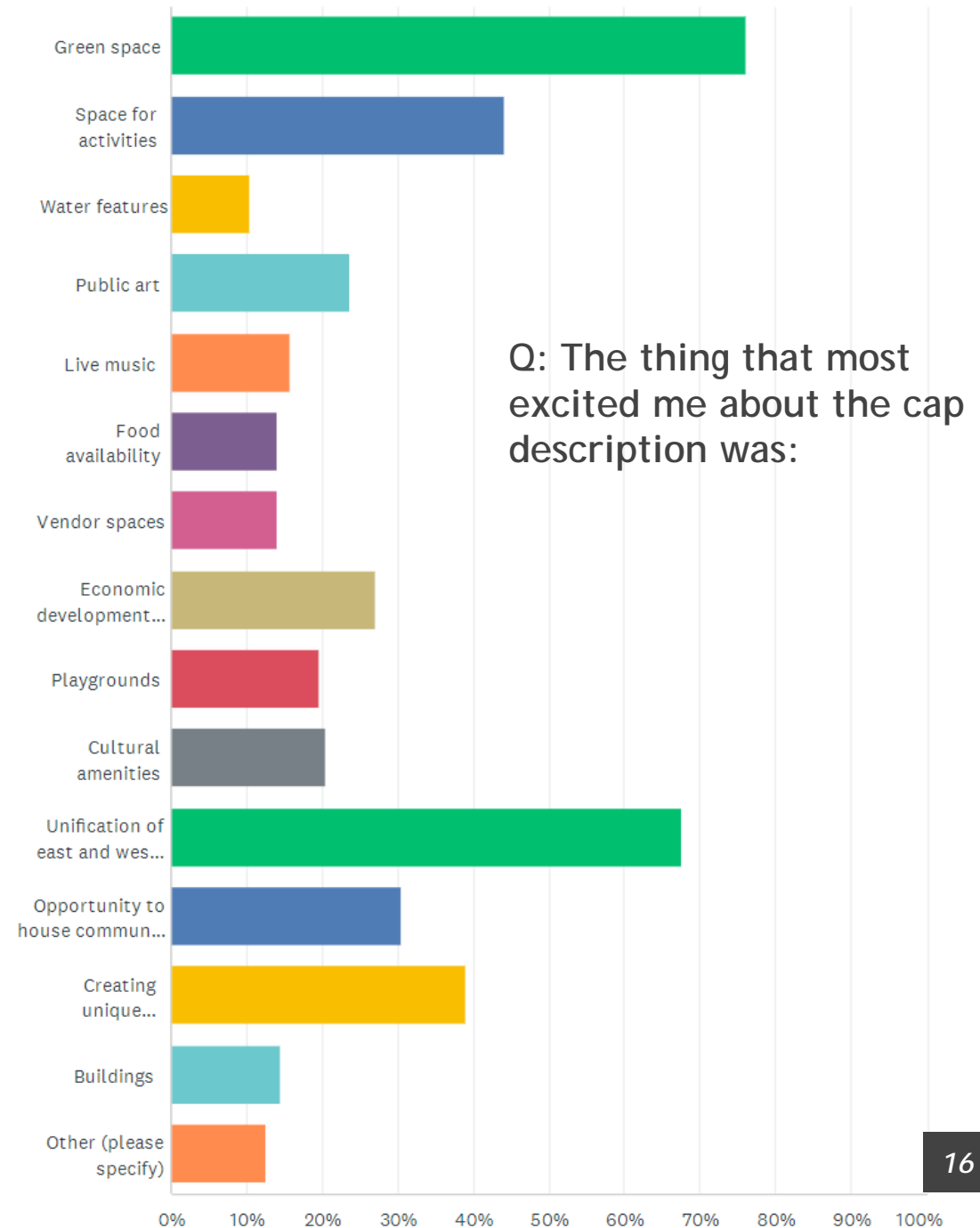
12/21/2021 7:12 AM

**"I live in the Blackland neighborhood blocks from I-35 and am eager to see improvements in the connectivity between east and west Austin."**

12/31/2021 4:26 PM

**"I worked at 5th and Waller for about a decade and crossed 35 along the tracks or 6th regularly for many years. I'm excited to see it lowered and capped in that area so that is no longer apparent you are crossing a divide that has separated our city for 70 years."**

12/16/2021 6:12 PM





# TX CASE STUDY: KLYDE WARREN PARK

Dallas Klyde Warren Park (Cap)



# CASE STUDY: I-70/71 COLUMBUS CROSSROADS

Columbus Crossroads (Stitch)



# CASE STUDY: CAP AT UNION STATION

Columbus, Ohio (Stitch)

# 2022 PRIORITIES



- **Launch design phase, refine concepts and cost estimates**
  - Robust community outreach and input phase
- **Develop funding strategy for Cap/Stitch Program**
  - Federal funding opportunities
  - Possible local funding scenarios
  - Partnership funding opportunities
  - \*Funding strategy for capital and long-term operations/maintenance
- **Analyze land use and economic development opportunities for community benefits**
  - “Connecting Equitably” Study by AEDC – integrated w/ design phase work
- **Continue coordination w/ TxDOT on Cap/Stitch design refinement, integration into Cap Express Central Project**





# QUESTIONS



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[AustinTexas.gov/CorridorMobility](https://austintexas.gov/CorridorMobility)

# THANK YOU

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Contact Corridor Program Office



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