



Project Connect Update

Waller Creek LGC

November 2021



AGENDA

1. **Introductions**
2. **Implementing the Project Connect vision**
 - Project Components
 - Sequence Plan
 - Austin Transit Partnership
 - Project Connect Office
3. **Reimagining the Public Realm**
 - Central Alignment / 4th Street
 - Blue Line Bridge



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

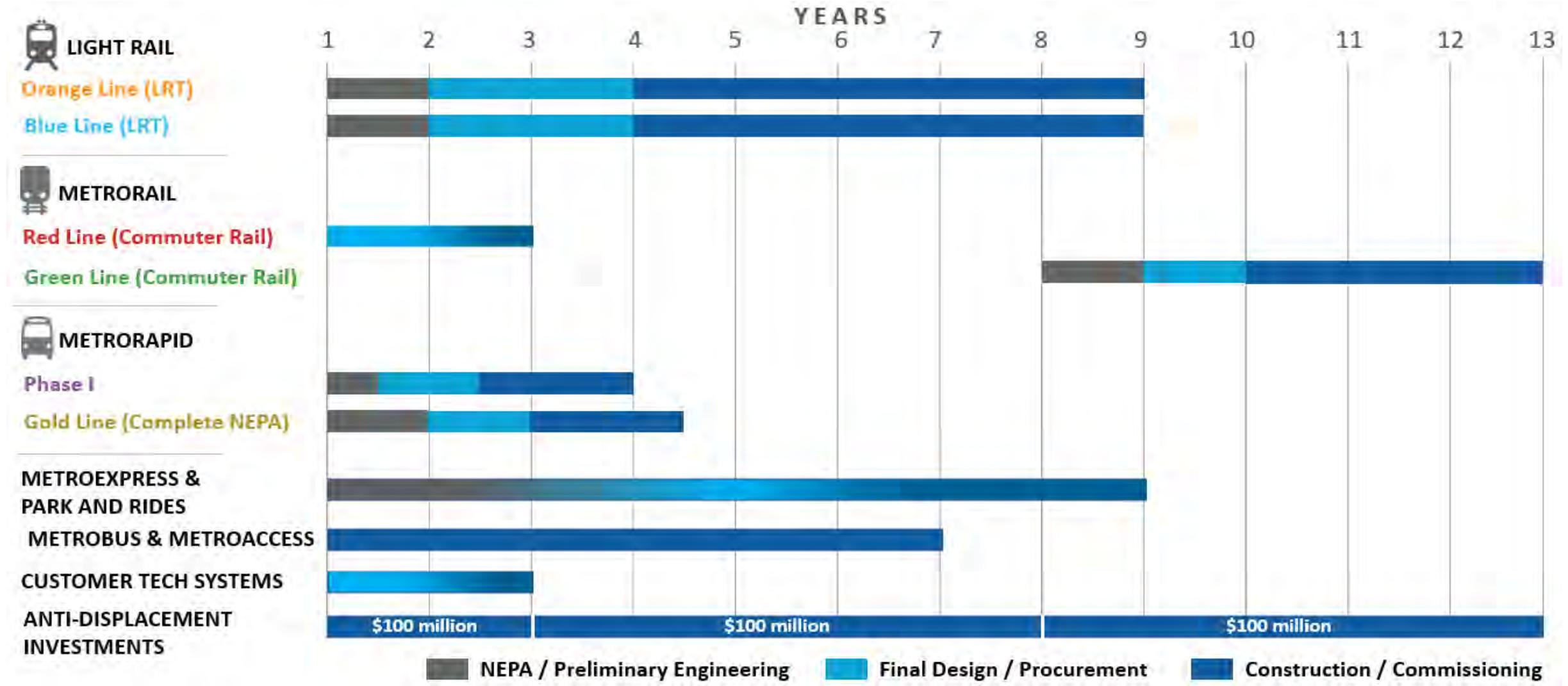
LIGHT RAIL	Orange Line	Potential Future Extension	Blue Line
METRORAIL	Red Line	Green Line	Potential Future Extension
METRORAPID	Gold Line	Enhanced MetroRapid Route	Potential Future Extension

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



Program Sequence Plan





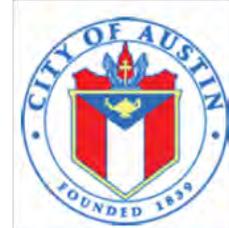
INTEGRATED PROGRAM DELIVERY PARTNERSHIP



Orange Line
 Blue Line
 Tunnel
 Green Line - Phase 1
 Facilities



MetroRapid
 MetroExpress
 Neighborhood
 Circulators (Pickup)
 Customer Tech
 Red Line - Phase 1



Transit Supportive
 Anti-Displacement
 Investments
 Utilities Relocations
 Permitting
 Right of Way

PROGRAM TOTAL - \$7.1 BILLION



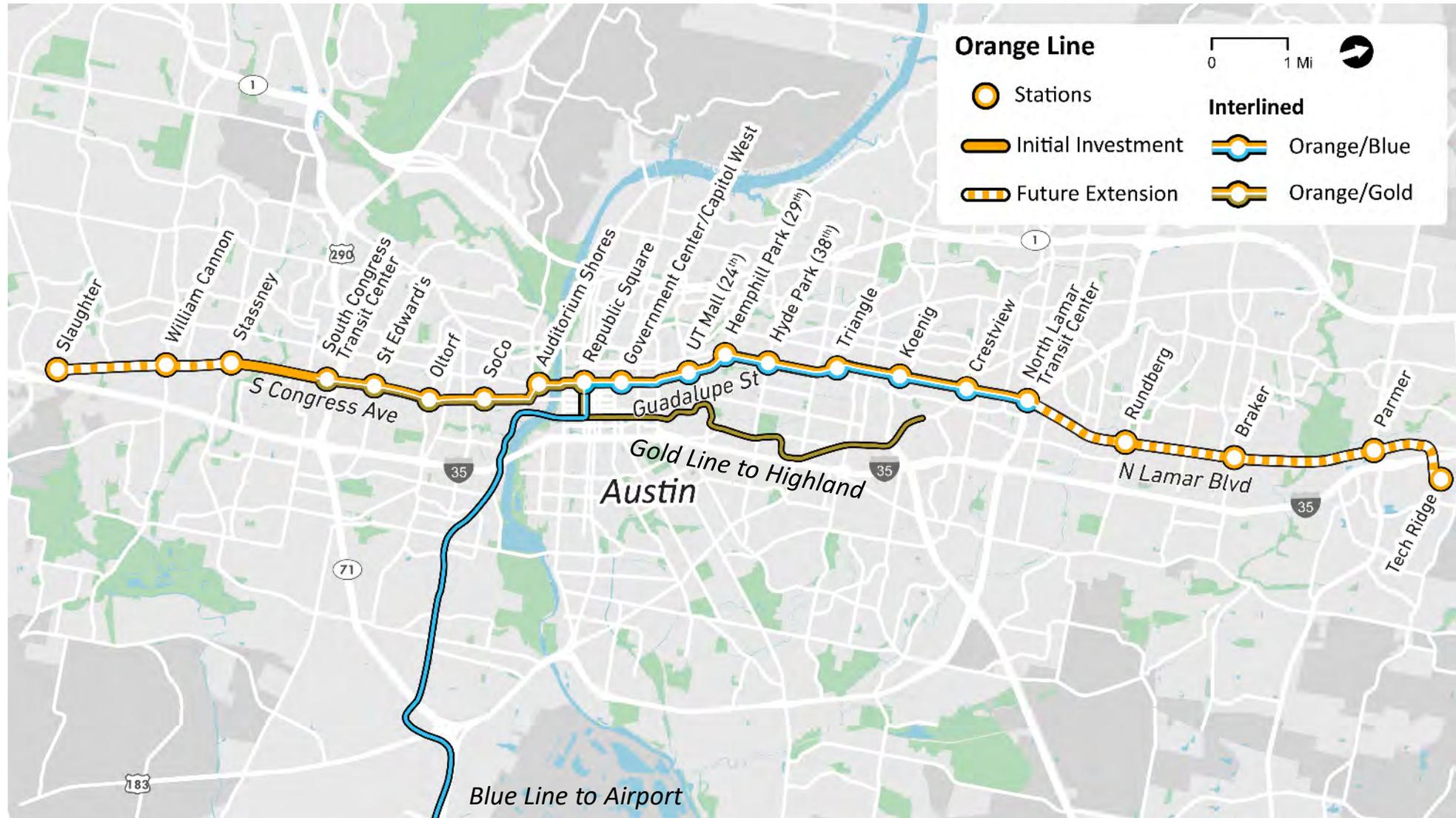
City of Austin Project Connect Office

- **Within Management Services Dept, reporting to ACM Gina Fiandaca (Mobility Outcome Portfolio)**
- **FY22 Budget approved – 18 FTEs (12 new) for the office to expand coordination efforts**
- **Mission:** To connect communities by supporting the delivery of the city’s high-capacity transit system with a focus on collaboration, innovation, technical excellence and efficiency.
- **Goals:**
 - Build a team that unifies City departments to support, facilitate and approve technical aspects of Project Connect within the City of Austin’s purview to support overall project schedule
 - Identify and improve utility criteria, in partnership with City of Austin utility departments
 - Identify and improve capital project permitting processes, in partnership with the Development Services Department and other departments
 - Coordinate the City of Austin National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) participating agency process and monitor its implementation



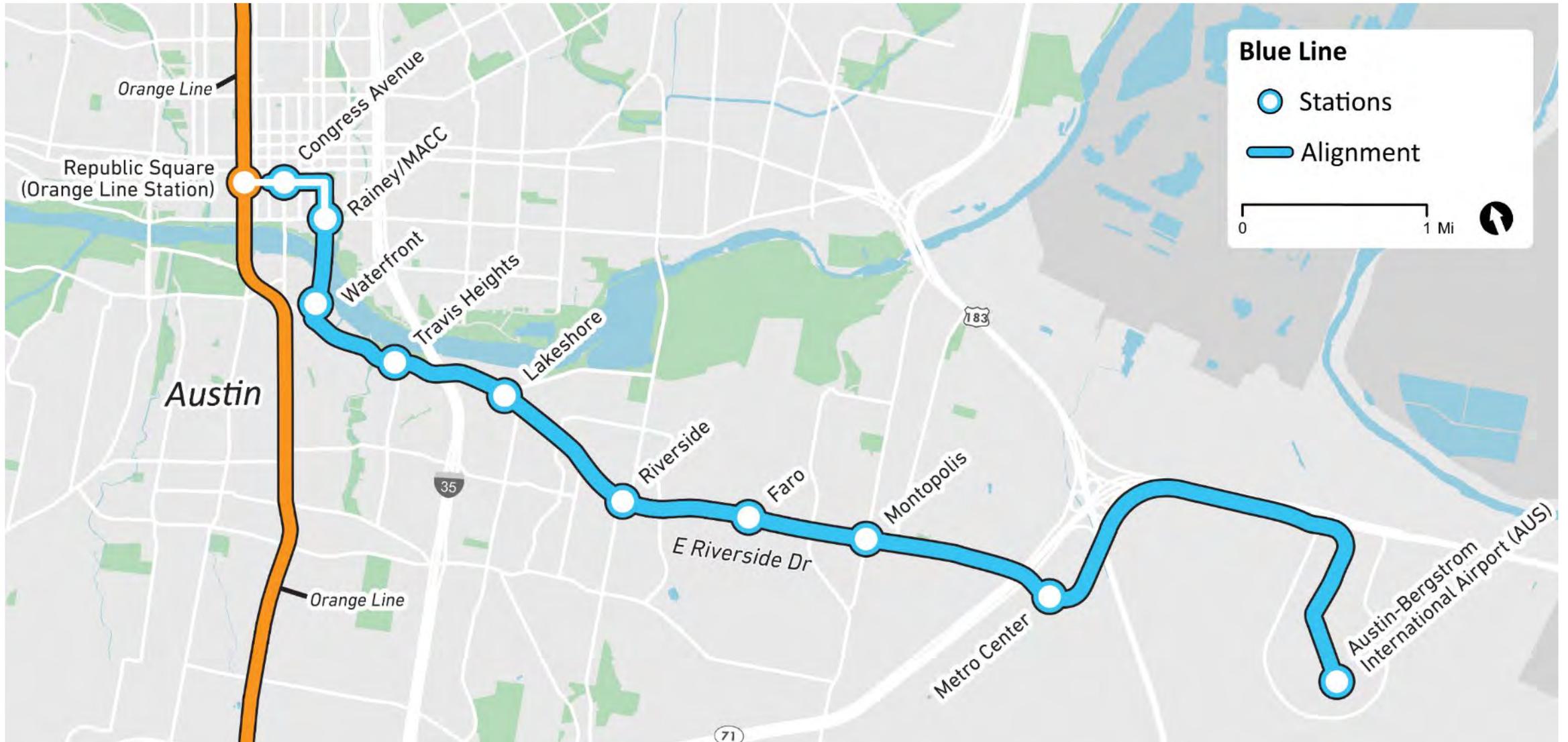
Orange Line – Corridor Overview

Note: Station locations and names subject to change

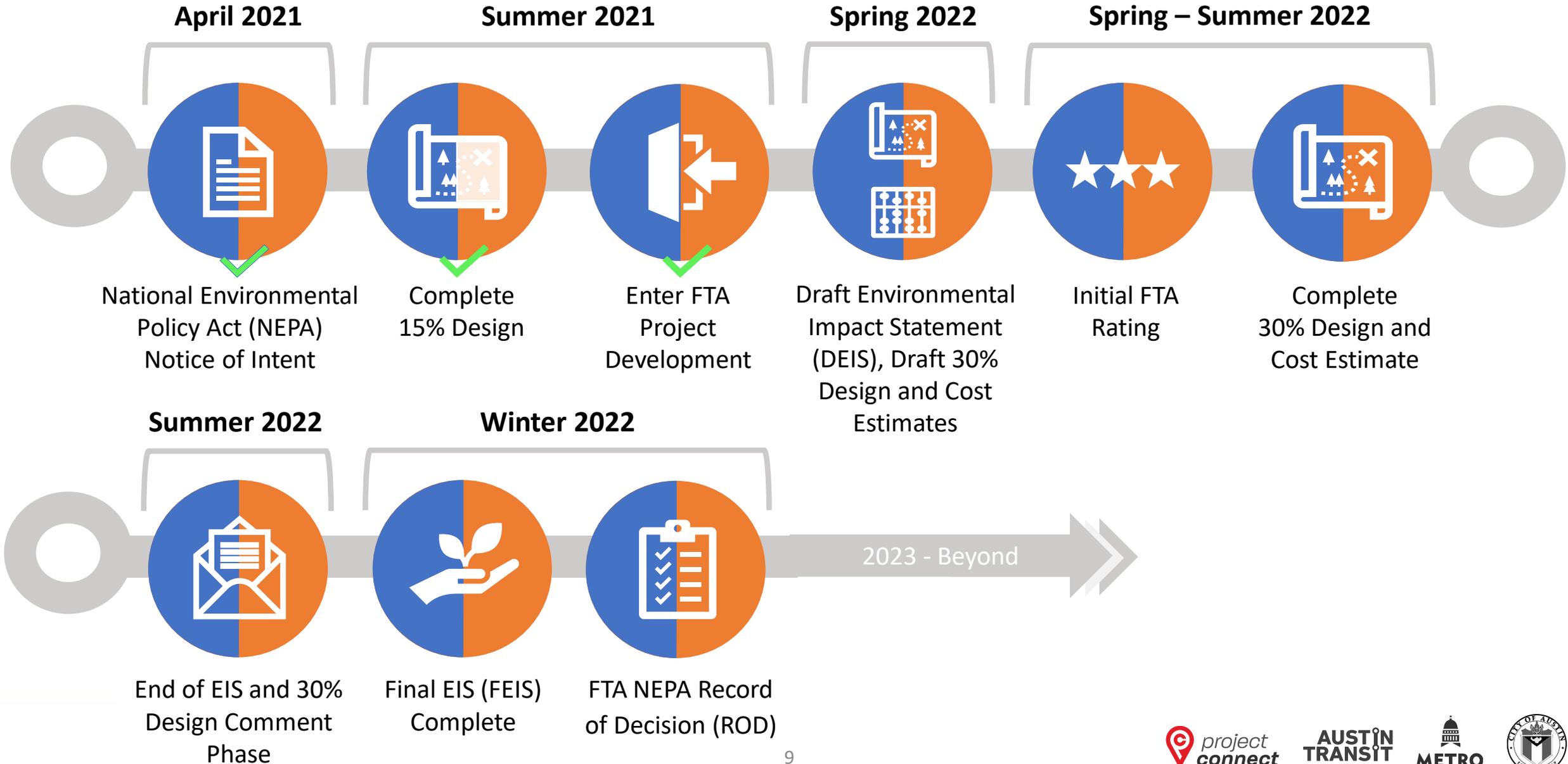


Blue Line – Corridor Overview

Note: Station locations and names subject to change



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



Reimagining the Public Realm



Transit & Placemaking



Transit & Placemaking

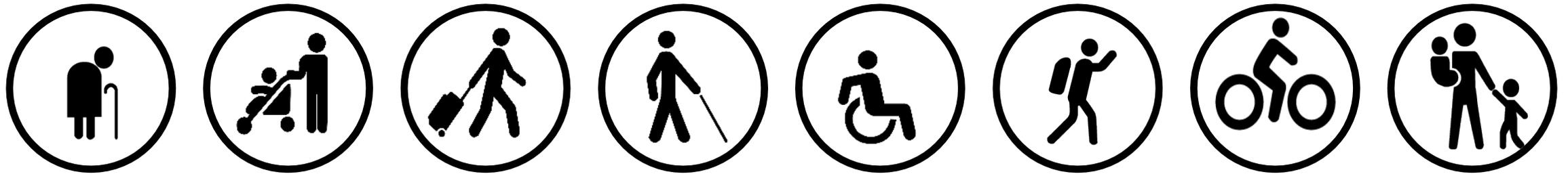
LEED Certified Facilities – Julia Carson Transit Center (IndyGo)



Art in Station Design – Hollywood / Highland (LA Metro)

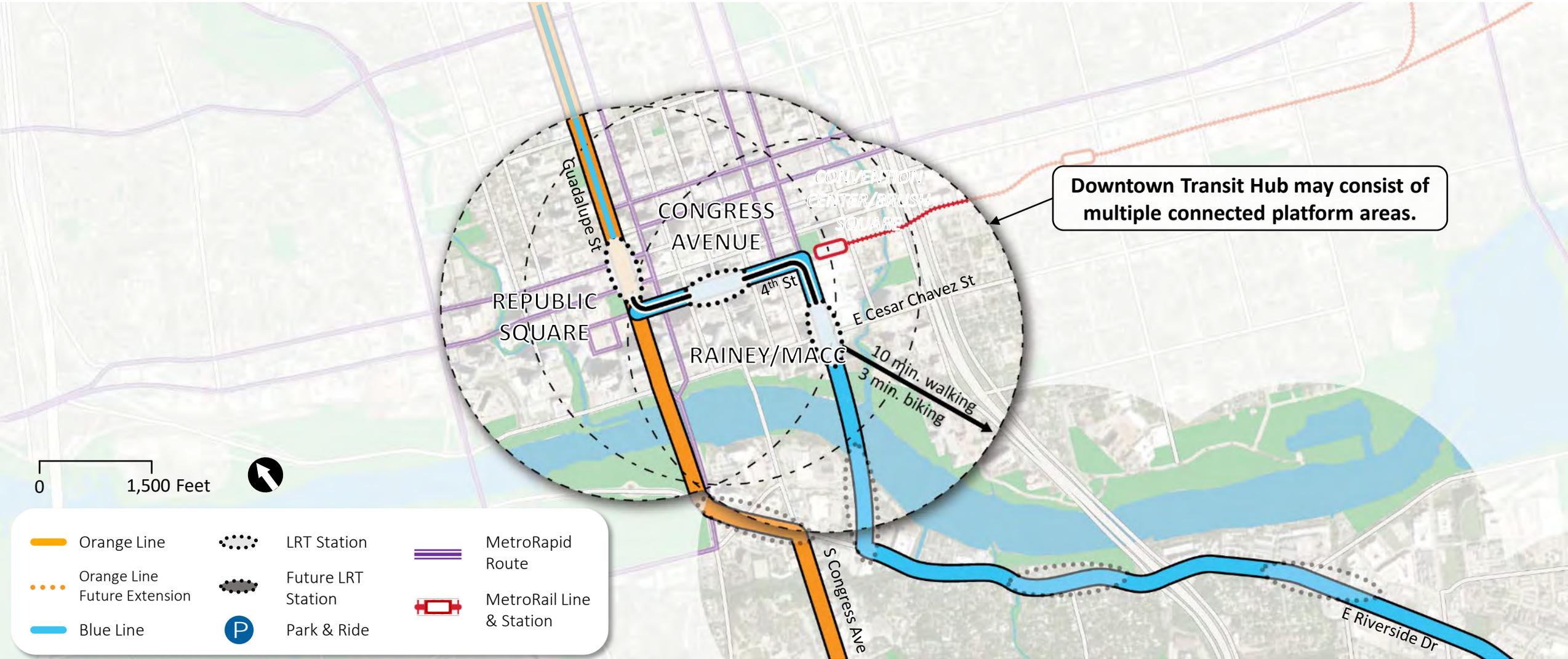


A HIGH-QUALITY MOBILITY EXPERIENCE FOR ALL

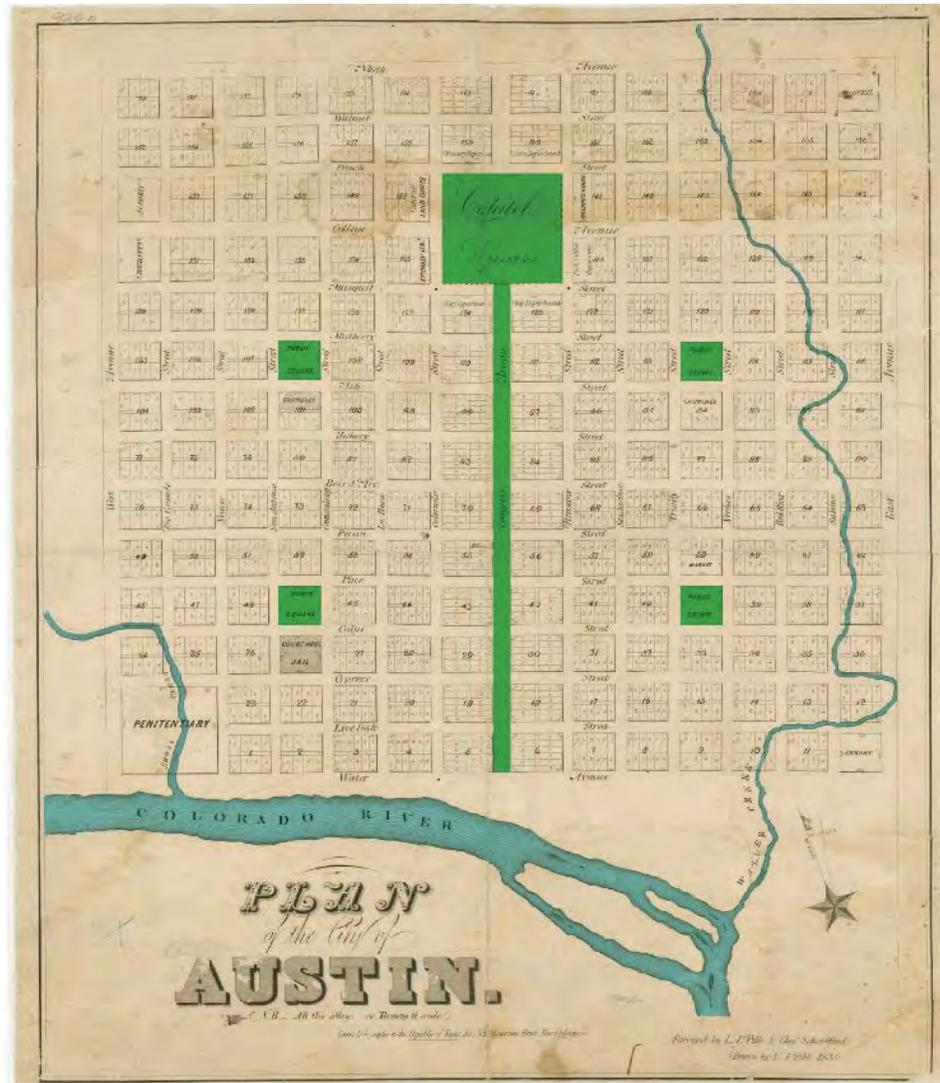


Downtown Station Locations

Note: Station locations and names subject to change



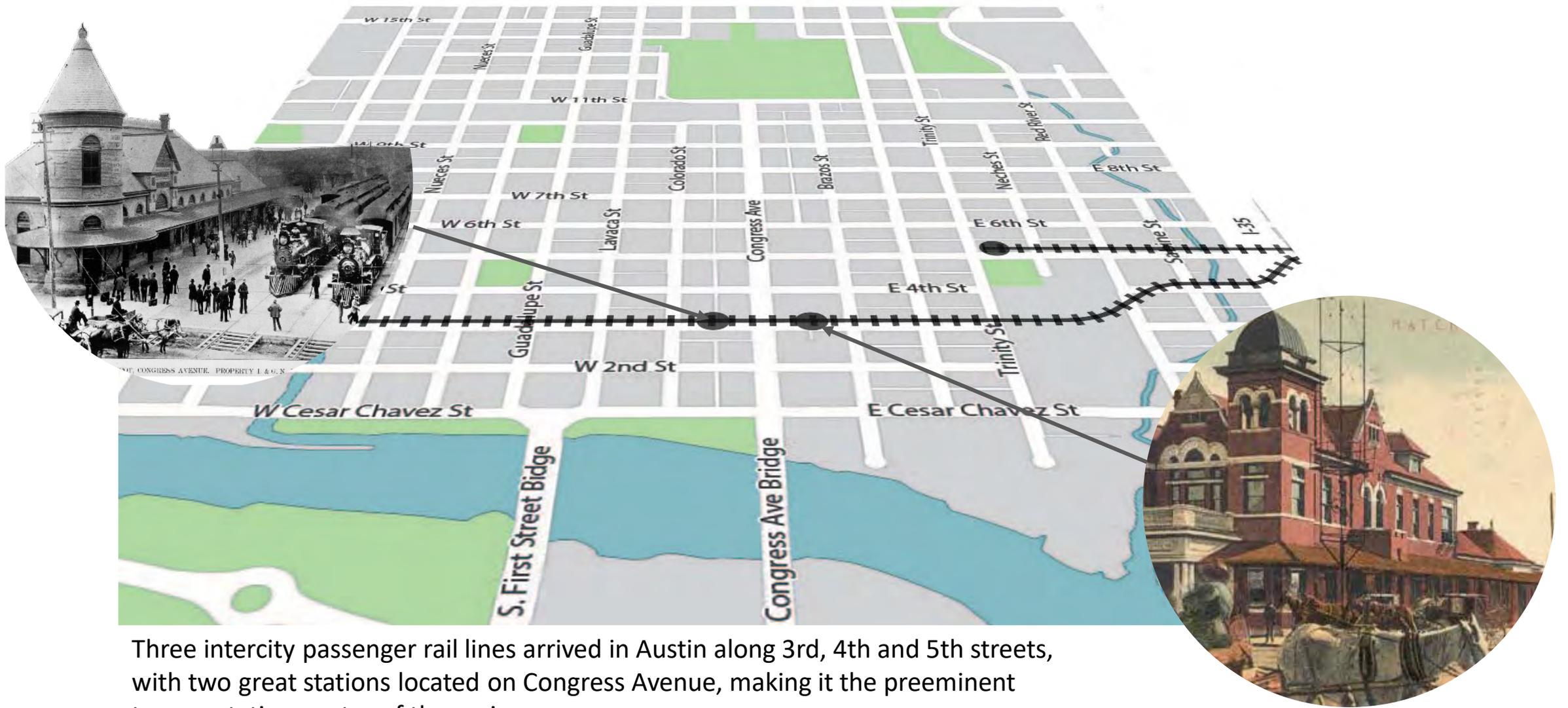
THE 1839 WALLER PLAN: THE ORIGINAL PLAN FOR AUSTIN



The original Austin plan positioned the new city between Shoal and Waller creeks, fronting the Colorado River — laying out a clear grid of streets and four public squares – Republic, Brush, Wooldridge, and Hamilton - and organized around the central spine and civic axis of Congress Avenue.



HISTORY OF RAIL DOWNTOWN



Three intercity passenger rail lines arrived in Austin along 3rd, 4th and 5th streets, with two great stations located on Congress Avenue, making it the preeminent transportation center of the region.



DOWNTOWN TRANSIT HUB: HIGH-QUALITY MOBILITY EXPERIENCE

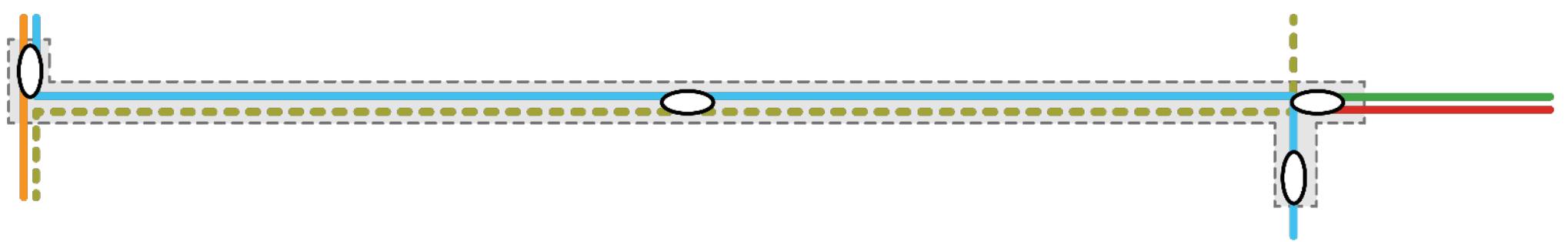


4TH STREET MOBILITY CORRIDOR

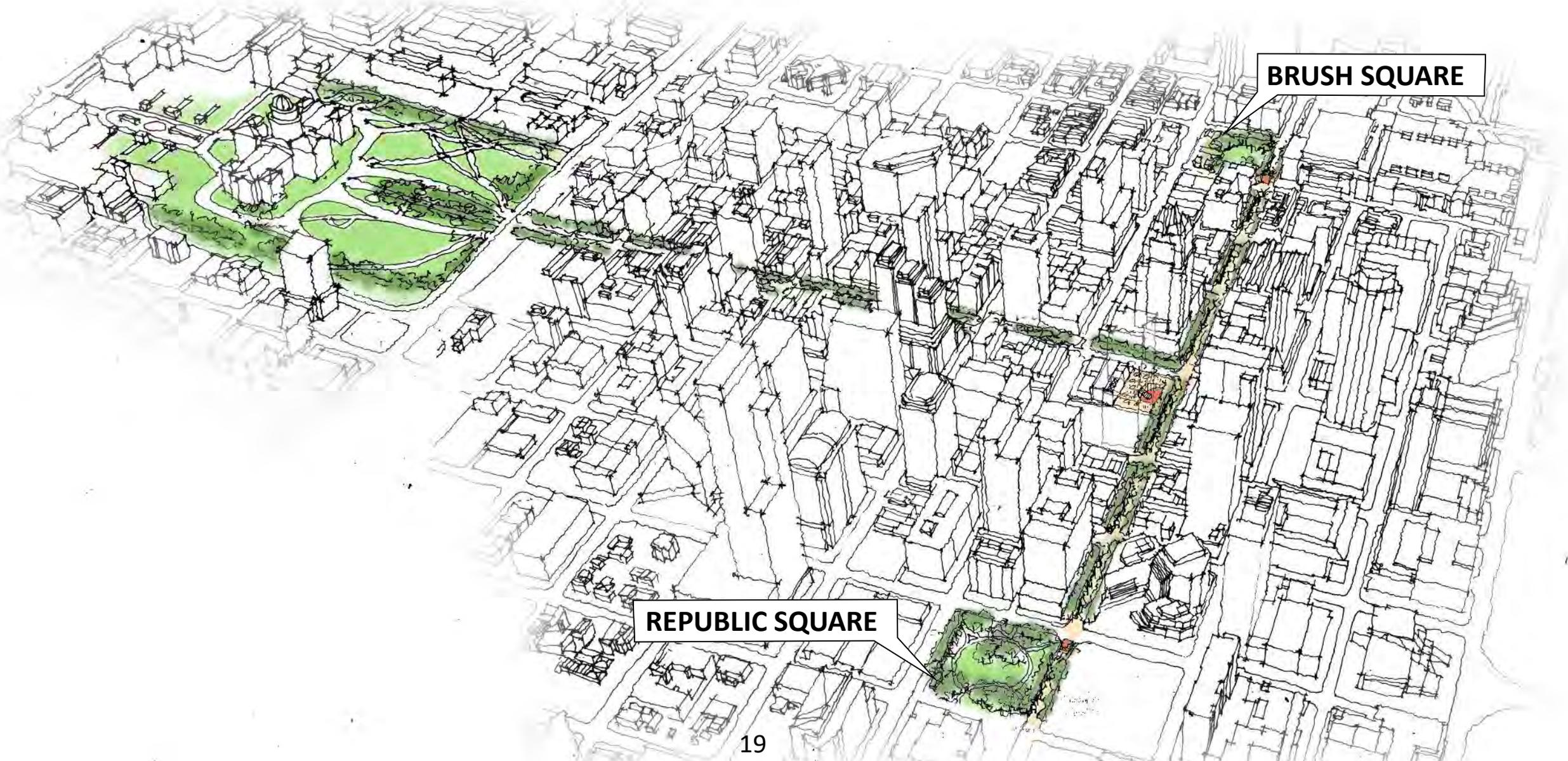
4th Street will be the heart of a new **multi-modal transit hub** for Austin, with signature urban design.



- Blue Line
- Orange Line
- Red Line
- Green Line
- Gold Line
- Buses



4TH STREET CORRIDOR: GREEN SPINE



BRUSH SQUARE

REPUBLIC SQUARE

4TH STREET TODAY



4th Street at San Jacinto Boulevard, looking west

ASPIRATION



16th Street Mall, Denver, CO

Blue Line Bridge



Key Rail Connections:

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

Bridge modes:

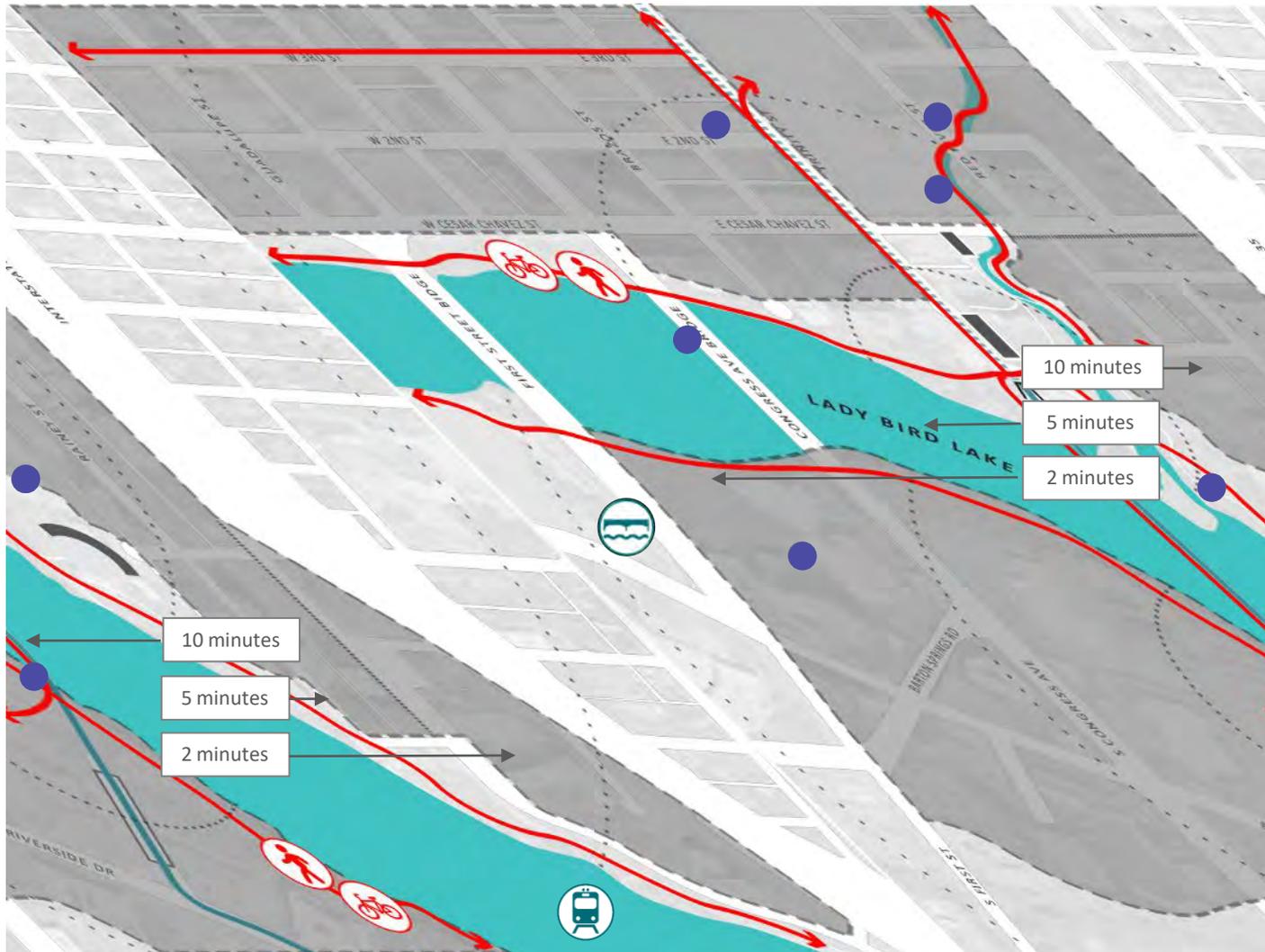
1. Light rail (Blue Line) – electric vehicles
2. Cyclists
3. Pedestrians

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



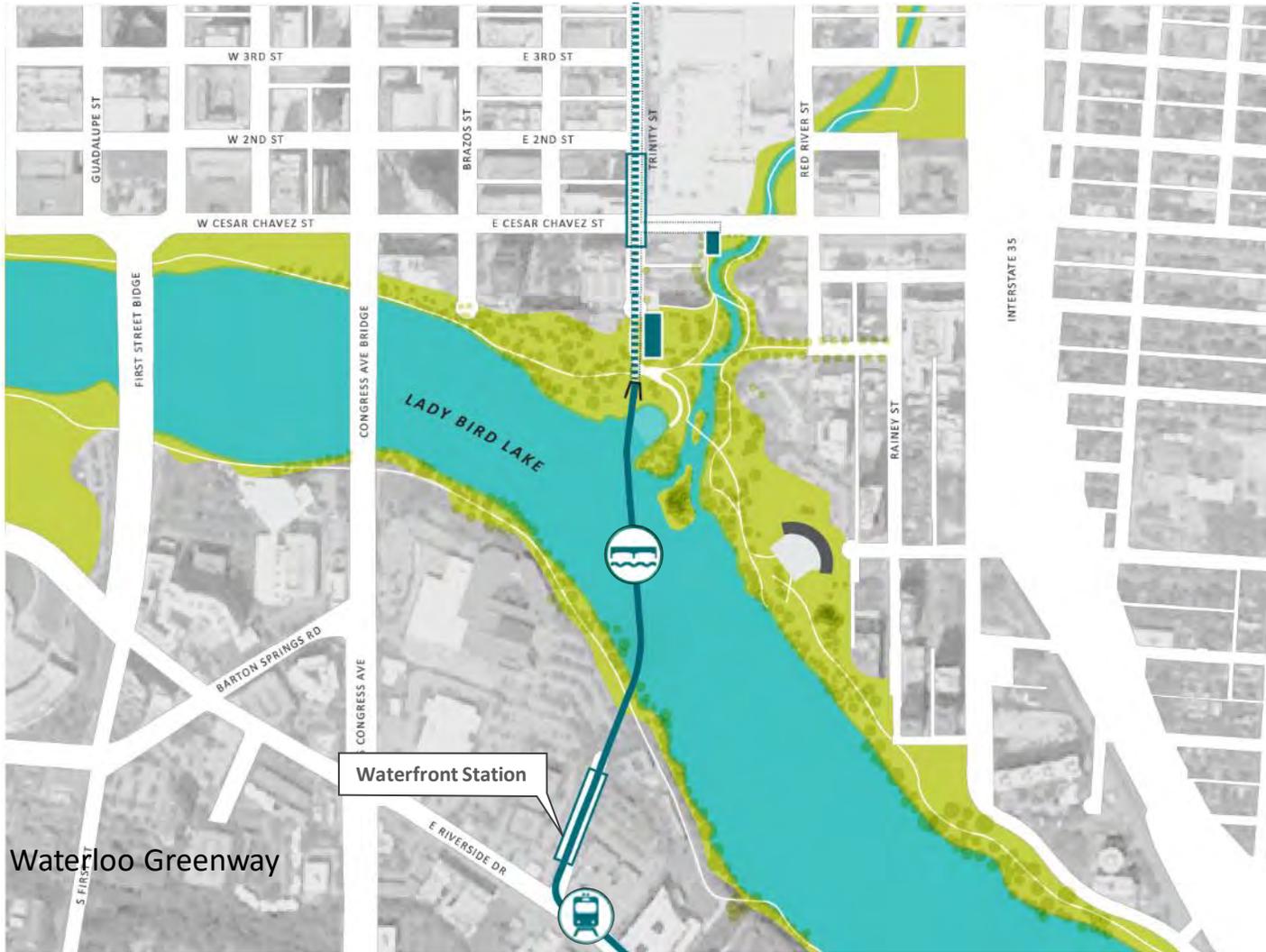
Pedestrian Connections

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

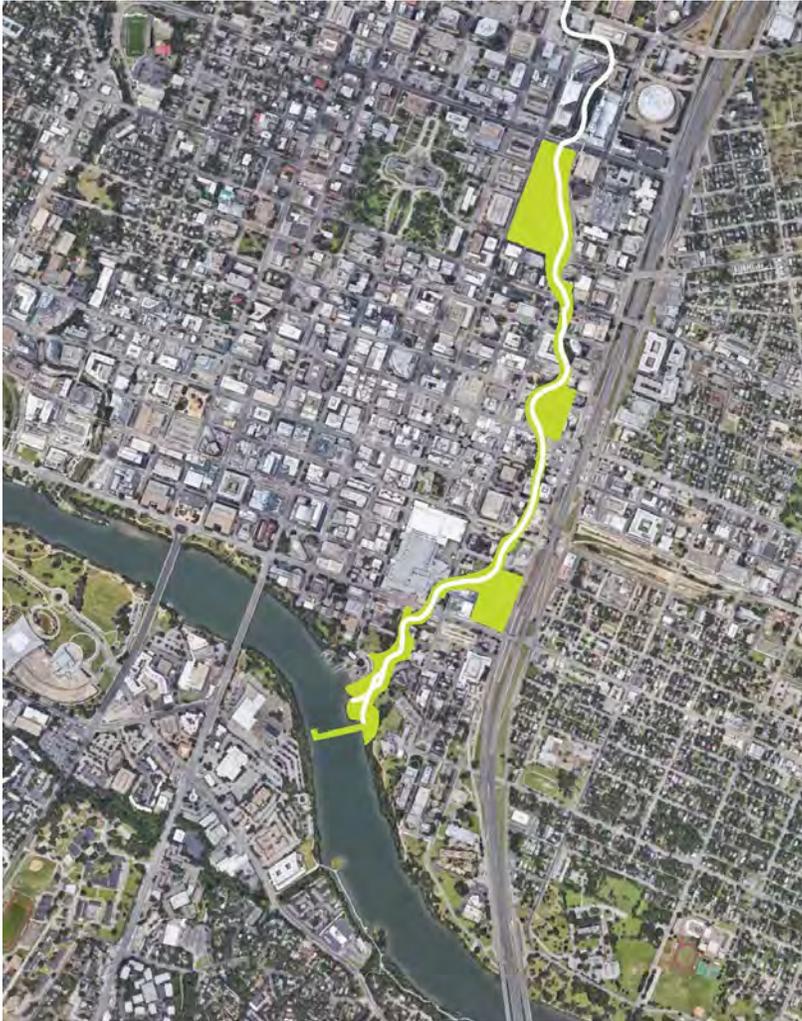
- Within 2 minutes walking distance from bridge:
 - Rainey/MACC & Waterfront Station Entrances
 - South Central Waterfront
 - Waterloo Greenway Trails
 - Butler Hike/Bike Trail
- Within 5 minutes walking distance from bridge:
 - ESB-MACC
 - Rainey Street District
 - Convention Center
 - 6th Street &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



Blue Line Bridge: Landscape



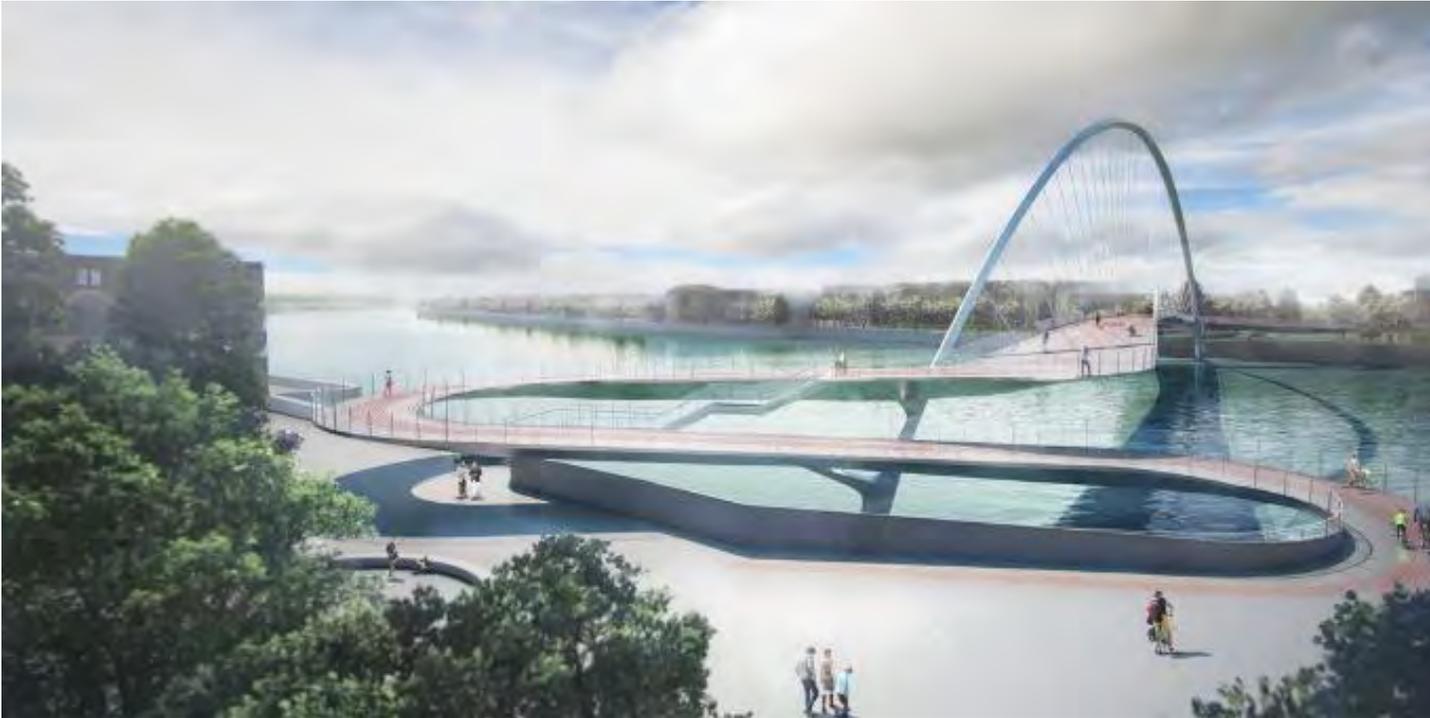
Context: Waterloo Greenway and Pontoon Bridge*



*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



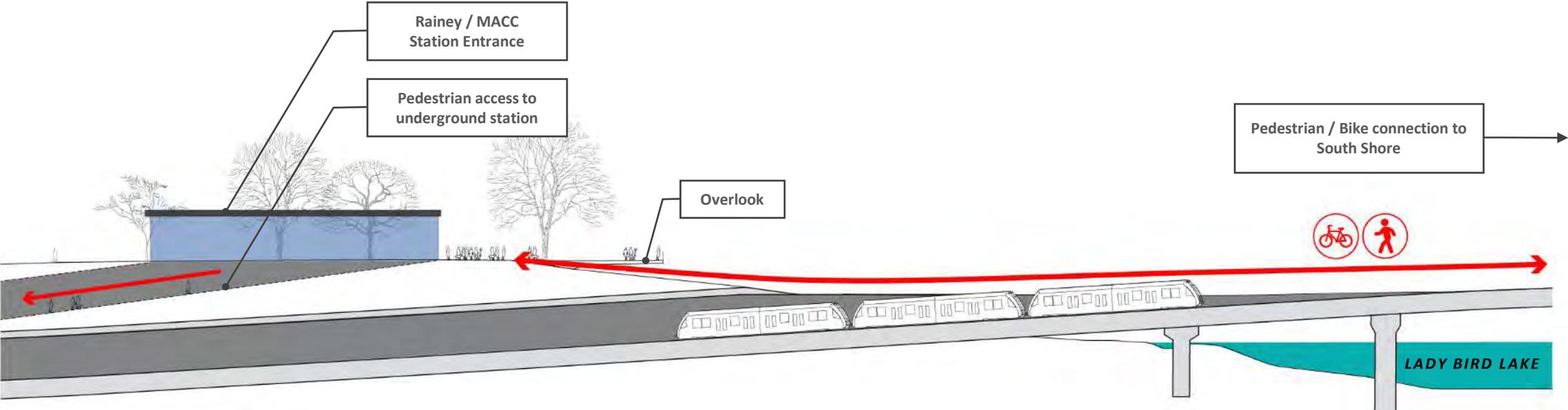
Butler Hike/Bike Trail



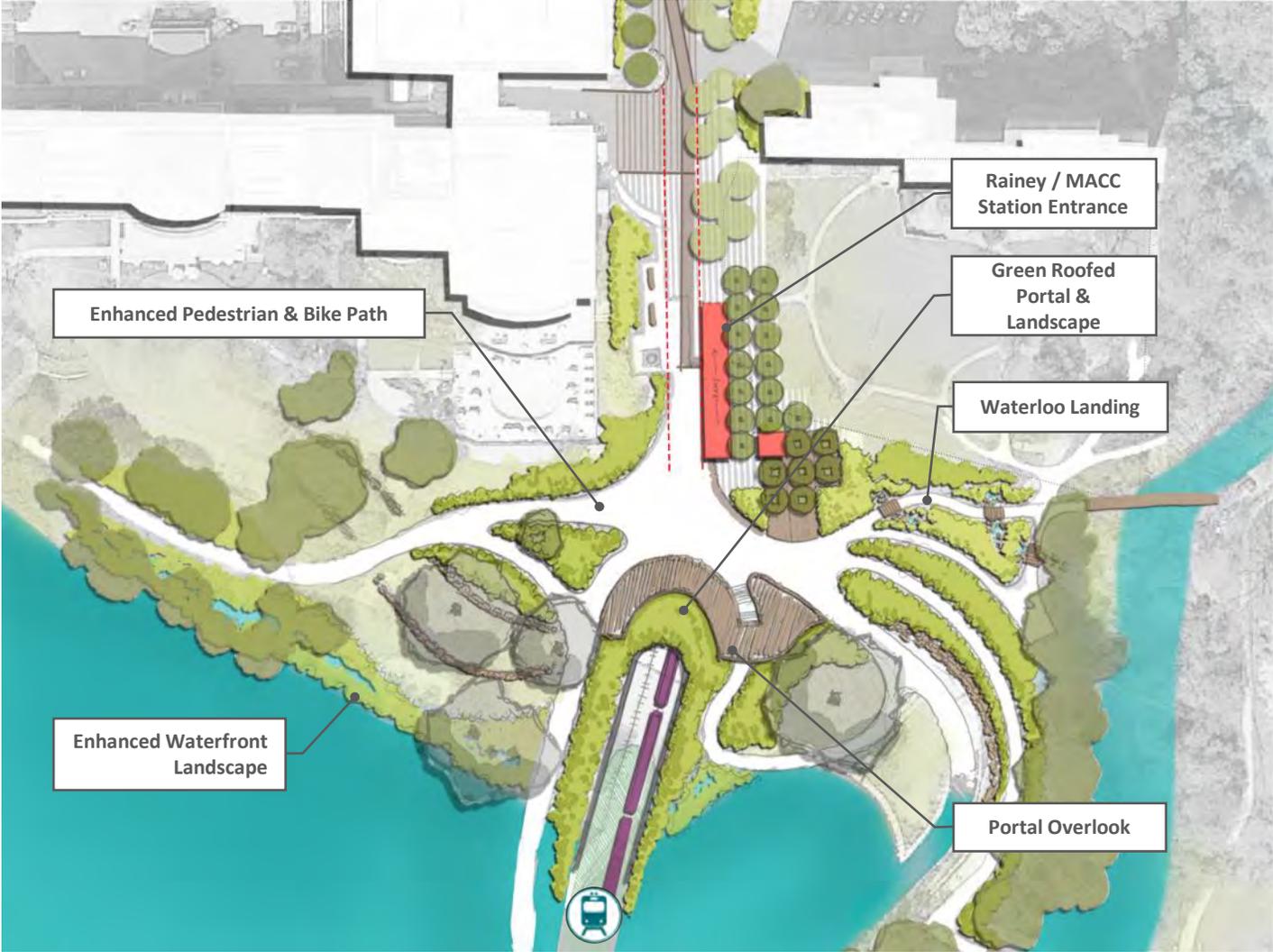
New Waterloo Greenway Bridge



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

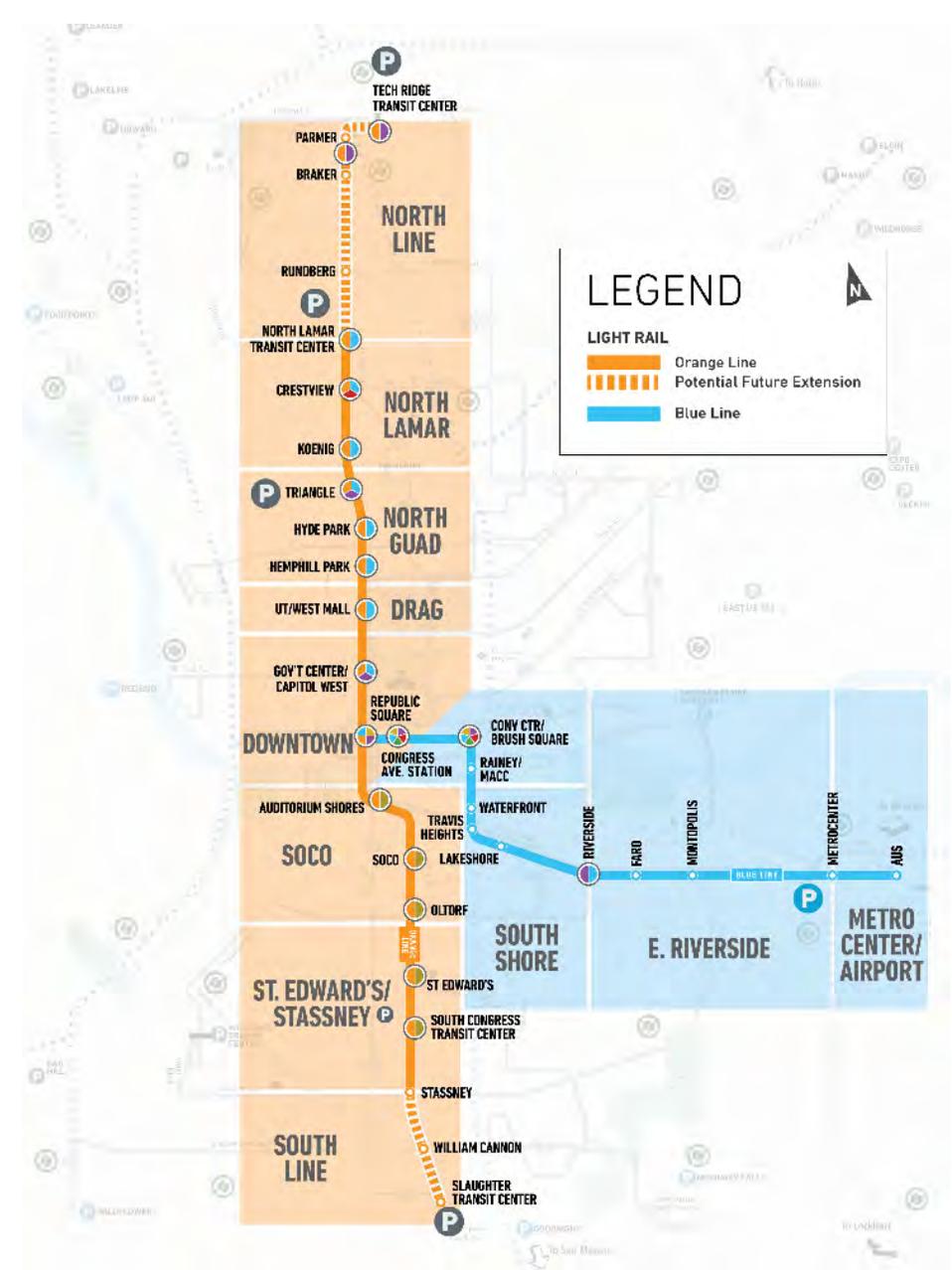
- St. Edward's to Stassney
- South Line

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!

