City of Austin Mobility Outcome Report

Presented by Assistant City Manager Gina Fiandaca April 2022



Monthly Highlights

Airport Boulevard Pedestrian Hybrid Beacons

Three new pedestrian hybrid beacons (PHBs), also known as mid-block signalized crosswalks, are underway on Airport Boulevard. Crews have been working hard to build new signal infrastructure at the Airport Boulevard intersections of Harvey Street, Oak Springs Drive and Gunter Street. Once complete, pedestrians will be able to safely cross Airport Boulevard in these high traffic areas, moving City three steps closer to our Vision Zero goals!

Copperfield Connector Trail

In coordination with Pflugerville ISD, Austin Public Works will begin construction of a 12-15-foot-wide concrete trail in the Copperfield neighborhood, from Thompkins Drive to Shropshire Boulevard eventually connecting to the Walnut Creek Trail. The new connector trail will provide a shorter, safer, and more accessible route for many students and families walking and biking to Copperfield Elementary. The project also includes new sidewalk construction, installation of curb ramps, and repair of a collapsed culvert creek crossing.



The trail is made possible with Mobility Bond funding from the Urban Trails and Safe Routes to School Programs, as well as District 1 Quarter-Cent funding. Trail and sidewalk construction has already begun and will be managed by the Sidewalk Program.







East Riverside Drive Corridor



Construction on East Riverside Drive between Montopolis Drive and US 71 is underway. This project will address critical safety, mobility, and connectivity needs in the area for all modes of transportation. Improvements include new traffic signals at Vargas Road and Frontier Valley Road, median closure at Lawrence Street/Thrasher Lane, hooded median at Yellow Jacket Lane, improved curb ramps and sidewalks and relocated bus stops in coordination with Capital Metro.

Safe Routes to School: River Oaks Elementary School

Public Works' Sidewalk Program is constructing a sidewalk on Willow Wild Drive as part of the Safe Routes to School Program. The crew completed the first segment of the sidewalk from Parmer Lane to Cardinal Hill Drive. The full sidewalk connection along Willow Wild will make for a great connection for students of River Oaks Elementary, as well as Walnut Creek Metropolitan Park users, and neighbors in the area. The project is expected to be completed by this summer.

Cameron Road and Ferguson Lane Intersection Set for Upgrades

Austin Transportation is improving safety and mobility at the intersection of Cameron Road and Ferguson Lane. The proposed improvements include high-visibility pedestrian crossing striping, new and upgraded ADA-compliant ramps, modified signal timing and new signage and pavement markings. The Cameron Road and Ferguson Lane project is funded by the 2018 Mobility Bond Transportation Safety funds.





Sidewalk Robots Making Deliveries in Austin



This spring, Austinites traveling along city sidewalks may see a new device moving alongside them. Coco, a food delivery service, has partnered with local Austin restaurants to deliver orders to customers using Coco's sidewalk delivery robots. The robots began operating in Austin in February.

The robots, which travel at speeds of up to five miles per hour, weigh less than 100 pounds and are big enough to fit an 18-inch pizza box flat. When a restaurant receives a delivery order

through its usual channels, the merchant scans a QR code and drops the order into a Coco robot. The device, which a human operates remotely, then carries the order to the customer. Local restaurant partners in Austin include Bamboo Bistro, Clay Pit, DeSano Pizzeria, Tuk Tuk Thai, and Aviator Pizza.

Spirit Airlines Announces New Service: Austin to Monterrey, Mexico

Just in time for summer travel, Spirit Airlines is offering the only nonstop flight to Monterrey starting June 22, 2022. This is a new destination in a series of new nonstop services that AUS is proud to offer ahead of the summer travel season and to satisfy Austin's growing demand for new routes, new experiences, and new connections.

Looking Ahead

Austin Core Transportation Plan

The Austin Core Transportation (ACT) planning effort for all downtown is restarting community engagement in June/July 2022 in coordination with the Downtown Austin Alliance (DAA). The ACT Plan will incorporate the recommendations from Project Connect, I-35, and the Congress Avenue Urban Design Initiative and focus on all roadways downtown that don't have a project development process under way. It will serve as an update to the Downtown Austin Plan's Transportation Framework and will provide examples for how to adjust the Great Streets standards to fit our mobility needs that have changed since they were created in 2000.





Partner Recap

Texas Department of Transportation – Capital Express Central Project

As the Texas Department of Transportation (TxDOT) goes through its federally mandated environmental review for its \$4.9 billion redesign of I-35 through Central Austin, TxDOT is holding a series of meetings to periodically receive feedback from the community throughout the design process.

A meeting for the Capital Express Central project was held Tuesday, April 12. This was the first meeting since TxDOT made significant design changes in January to Alternative 3 in response to feedback from the community and city staff. The April 12 meeting focused on options for widened bridges over the highway as well as bicycle and pedestrian bridges and intersection options at Airport Boulevard and Riverside Drive.

Project Connect – Blue and Orange Light Rail Lines

The community was invited to participate in meetings held the last week of March to show how designs of the routes are incorporating community feedback. Breakout sessions delve into environmental considerations, how transit services will connect communities, traffic impacts and anti-displacement efforts. Materials from these meetings, and previous presentations, can be found in the Project Connect C

Capital Area Metropolitan Planning Organization – Transportation Options Survey

The Capital Are Metropolitan Planning Organization (CAMPO) is developing a program to improve mobility and reduce congestion in the Austin region by getting people out of their cars and using alternate transportation methods.

The organization is developing a Transportation Demand Management (TDM) program that will address congestion in the region using strategies such as carpooling, using transit, implementing flexible work schedules and more to address congestion during peak travel times and give travelers more options.

As CAMPO develops this TDM plan, the organization is looking to hear from Central Texas residents via a short survey. The feedback will help the organization understand the challenges businesses and travelers face and how it can make the system work better for everyone.

Take the survey here.

Community Resources

Weekly Mobility Newsletter Sign Up Upcoming Sidewalk Projects

<u>2016 Bond Programs and Projects</u> <u>Absent Sidewalk Map and Prioritization</u>

<u>Capital Projects Explorer</u> <u>Street Preventative Maintenance</u>

<u>Austin Mobility Data and Performance Hub</u>
<u>Safe Ride Home Resources</u>

Austin-Bergstrom International Airport Special Event Road Closures