



I-35 Capital Express Program

COA Mobility Committee

September 8, 2022

CAPITAL EXPRESS CENTRAL PROJECT

Tommy Abrego, P.E. | Mobility35 Program Manager

About Tommy Abrego



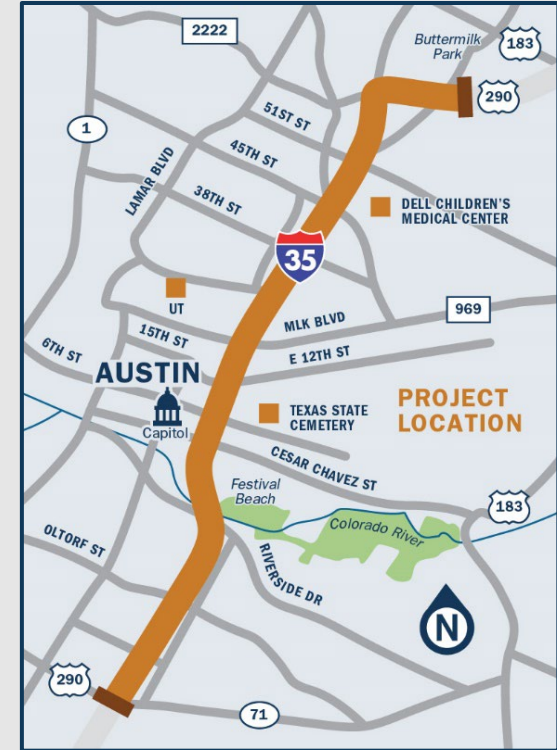
- Born and raised in Austin, TX.
 - Grew up in North Austin.
 - Now lives in South Austin.
- Driven both directions on I-35 daily.
- Experienced Austin's growth.
- Recognizes the need for a safe transportation solution for I-35.
- True motivation is his son, Javi.
- He wants to get I-35 right so Javi can drive on I-35 and experience the true enhancement in mobility along the corridor.
- Javi loves to watch the Longhorns play (Hook 'Em!).

"I look forward to our enhanced and safe pedestrian facilities through central Austin. End of the day I am a true Austinite, driven to deliver a project that the people of Austin, TX want to see!"

I-35 Capital Express Central Project Scope



- **Limits:** US 290 East to SH 71/Ben White Boulevard, with additional flyovers at I-35 and US 290 East.
- **Length:** 8 miles.
- **Project details:**
 - Construct two non-tolled managed lanes in each direction.
 - Managed lanes, such as high-occupancy vehicle (HOV) lanes, are a set of lanes within a highway that are separated from the mainlanes. Access is controlled by placing restrictions on use.
 - Reconstruct ramps, bridges and intersections.
 - Improve frontage roads.
 - Enhance bicycle and pedestrian paths.
 - Accommodate transit routes.
- **Estimated construction cost:** \$4.9 billion
- **Anticipated construction start:** 2025





TOTAL IN-PERSON & VIRTUAL
MEETING PARTICIPANTS

18,000+



AGENCY COORDINATION
MEETINGS & WORKSHOPS

63



MEETINGS WITH COMMUNITY
MEMBERS & LEADERS

112



VOICE MEETINGS

7



ORGANIZATIONS REPRESENTED IN
PUBLIC MEETINGS

50+



PUBLIC MEETINGS
WITH A VIRTUAL OPTION

3

Engagements included:

- Business and property owners
- Community members
- Elected officials
- Neighborhood associations
- Nonprofit organizations
- Professional organizations
- Public agencies

Pop-up Meetings

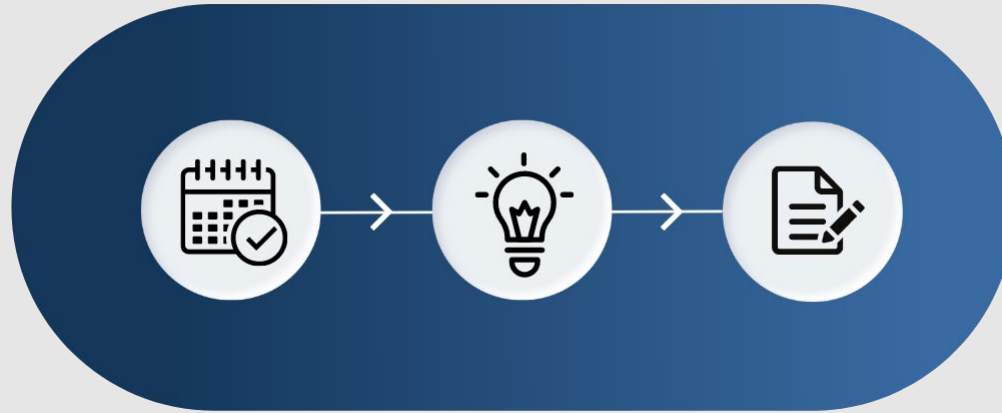
- 07/28/21** Pop-up Meeting #1 at East Communities YMCA.
- 07/30/21** Pop-up Meeting #2 at South Congress Transit Center.
- 08/02/21** Pop-up Meeting #3 at North Lamar Transit Center.
- 08/06/21** Pop-up Meeting #4 at Rainbow Shops (Capitol Plaza).
- 03/22/22** Pop-up Meeting #5 at Citi Trends.
- 03/23/22** Pop-up Meeting #6 at Goodwill Central Texas on Riverside.
- 03/24/22** Pop-up Meeting #7 at Goodwill Central Texas on Airport Blvd.
- 04/10/22** Pop-up Meeting #8 at the Mueller Farmer's Market.
- 04/23/22** Pop-up Meeting #9 at the Spring Fling in the Branch Park Pavilion.
- 06/01/22** Pop-up Meeting #10 at the Future of Downtown at Waterloo Amphitheater.
- 06/18/22** Pop-up Meeting #11 at the Juneteenth Festival.

More on the way.....



North Lamar Transit Center in Summer 2021

Community Input = Community Changes



INPUT

In-person events with virtual options held in fall 2021.

Attendance at community events in diverse and underserved areas to garner feedback.



CHANGES

TxDOT presented changes to Alternative 2 and revealed Modified Alternative 3.



WHAT WE'VE HEARD



- No higher, no wider.
- More east-west crossings for better connectivity.
- More bicycle and pedestrian enhancements.
- Encourage transit.
- Maintain Holly Street connection.
- Urban feel to downtown.
- Use TxDOT right of way to create land for development.
- Reduce impacts to homes and businesses.



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NEW BIKE-PED BRIDGES

- Proposed new bicycle and pedestrian bridges would provide four new bridges for both Alternative 2 and Modified Alternative 3.

- New widened bridges will be along the I-35 Capital Express Central Corridor for both Alternative 2 and Modified Alternative 3.

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NEW WIDENED BRIDGES





ENVIRONMENTAL PROCESS

Sonya Hernandez, P.G. | **TxDOT Environmental Program Manager**



Environmental Process - National Environmental Policy Act



- National Environmental Policy Act requires agencies:
 - consider the significant environmental consequences of proposed actions
 - inform the public about decision making

- TxDOT is preparing an Environmental Impact Statement (EIS)

Where We Are in the Process



TxDOT encourages feedback throughout the duration of the project. In addition to the official comment periods listed above, feedback may also be submitted via workshops, neighborhood meetings and stakeholder outreach. These events will take place throughout the process, and public comments submitted will be documented and incorporated as the project is developed.



Topics Addressed in the Environmental Studies

TxDOT is undertaking the most rigorous level of environmental analysis with the development of an Environmental Impact Statement. Currently under evaluation are potential impacts on the human and natural environment that would result from the proposed build alternatives and the no-build alternative. Topics include:



**WATER
RESOURCES**



AIR QUALITY



**TRAFFIC
NOISE**



**COMMUNITY
IMPACTS**



**VEGETATION &
WILDLIFE**



**CLIMATE
CHANGE**



**INDIRECT & CUMULATIVE
IMPACTS**



**THREATENED &
ENDANGERED SPECIES**



**HISTORICAL & ARCHEOLOGICAL
RESOURCES**



**HAZARDOUS
MATERIAL SITES**



**LAND USE &
PARKLAND**



- A community impacts assessment involves understanding the needs of communities and documenting the existing and anticipated social environment of a community with and without the proposed project.
- This study is being conducted in compliance with:
 - National Environmental Policy Act.
 - Title VI of the Civil Rights Act.
 - Executive Order on Environmental Justice.
 - Uniform Relocation Assistance and the Real Property Acquisitions Policies Act.
 - Executive Order on Limited English Proficiency.



- TxDOT evaluates potential impacts resulting from the proposed project to protected lands and historic sites.
- This process is being conducted in compliance with:
 - Section 4(f) of the U.S. Department of Transportation Act.
 - Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act and the Antiquities Code of Texas.
 - Section 6(f) of the Land and Water Conservation Fund Act.



- The major objectives of a traffic noise analysis are to:
 - Identify noise-sensitive areas where predicted noise impacts may occur for each alternative.
 - Consider and evaluate abatement measures (i.e. noise barriers) to mitigate identified impacts.
 - Propose implementation of feasible and reasonable abatement measures.
 - Communicate the results to the public and local officials.
- This analysis is being conducted in compliance with the National Environmental Policy Act and the Federal Aid Highway Act.



- TxDOT evaluates the potential effects caused by this project on air quality in compliance with the Clean Air Act.
- Air quality studies being conducted:
 - Carbon Monoxide.
 - Mobile Source Air Toxics.

