

City of Austin Mobility Outcome Report

Presented by James Snow, Interim Director of Public Works
November 2022



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Monthly Highlights

Neighborhood Partnering Program Project Wins 3CMA Award of Excellence



The Neighborhood Partnering Program team won an Award of Excellence in the Resident Participation Category through the 2022 3CMA (City-County Communications & Marketing Association) Savvy Awards competition!

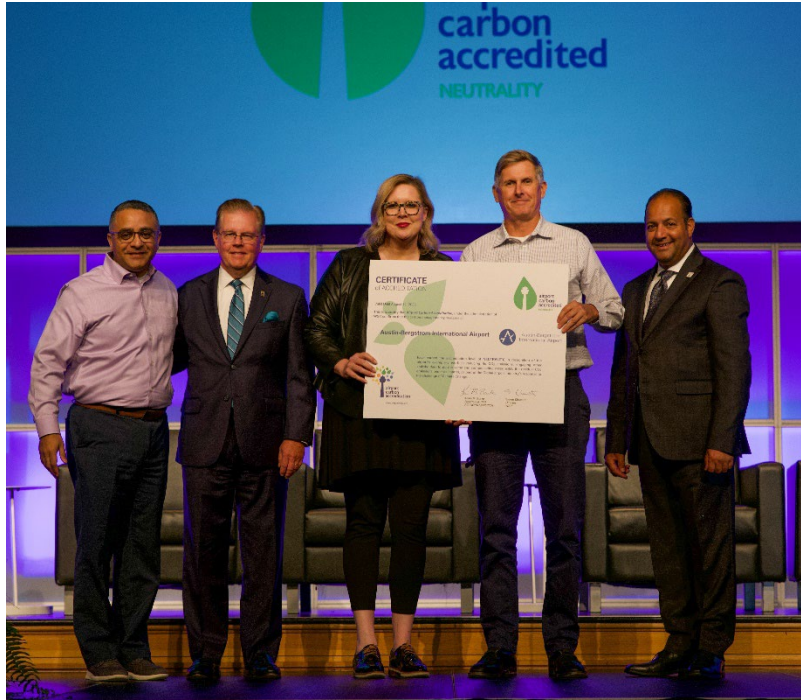
The award recognizes their work on the [Buffalo Pass Mural project](#), created in partnership with the Southern Oaks Neighborhood Association. The mural brought together more than 200 volunteers, who worked over 2,500 hours to complete the project. Individual tiles

were designed, painted, and glazed by local residents and display their favorite things about the community.

Savvy Awards winners are selected by a panel of judges through 3CMA, and they recognize outstanding local government achievements in communications. Of this project, one judge remarked, “We often hope that our public outreach and engagement efforts garner this much attention and enthusiasm within our community, but I have rarely seen it happen to such an extent. This is the essence of collaboration, innovation, and creative placemaking!”

AUS Achieves Carbon Neutrality for Second Year in a Row

Austin-Bergstrom International Airport (AUS) has been recognized as one of two airports in North America to achieve carbon neutrality for 2021 airport operations, with a level 3+ accreditation through [Airports Council International's \(ACI\) Airport Carbon Accreditation Program \(ACA\)](#). This is the second year in a row for receiving this distinction, with the first distinction announced in 2021 for 2020 operations. AUS joins six other North American airports for achieving a Level3+ or greater accreditation for 2021, a year notably marked by a dramatic increase in passenger travel following the COVID-19 pandemic.



The combined efforts of the airlines, Department of Aviation and other on-airport partners have led to a carbon neutral operation for AUS's Department of Aviation, whose carbon footprint is calculated from the fuel burned in departmental vehicles and the natural gas used to heat buildings.

AUS has been participating in Airports Council International – Airport Carbon Accreditation (ACA) Program, an airport industry-specific, internationally recognized carbon accreditation program since 2017. The ACA Program empowers airports to make further strides in managing and reducing their carbon footprint to achieve alignment with global climate targets.

To learn more about AUS's sustainability efforts, visit the [Department of Aviation's environmental affairs webpage](#).

East Riverside Drive Corridor from Montopolis Dr. to SH 71 Now Complete

The East Riverside Drive roadway improvement project from Montopolis Drive to SH 71 is now complete! Among these improvements were sidewalk and ramp upgrades to achieve continuous, ADA-compliant pedestrian facilities along the northside of this segment, bus stop improvements, a median closure at Lawrence Street and Thrasher Lane and a left hooded turn at Yellow Jacket Lane. Median adjustments such as these reduce conflict points and improve safety for all modes of transportation.

Intersection improvements at Wickersham Lane, Coriander Drive, Vargas Road and Frontier Valley Drive will also be completed in the coming months as part of the 2016 Mobility Bond-funded Corridor Construction Program (CCP).



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Check out www.austintexas.gov/corridormobility for more information about other improvements planned through the Corridor Construction Program. For additional information about the East Riverside Drive corridor, please visit AustinTexas.gov/Riverside or contact the East Riverside Drive Corridor Liaison at RiversideCorridor@AustinTexas.gov or 512-974-7904.



North Lamar Sidewalk Improvements

The Corridor Program Office is finalizing plans to construct a Shared Use Path for people walking and biking along both sides of North Lamar Boulevard between Parmer Lane and Howard Lane.

Presently, sidewalks are missing in some areas and people biking must ride adjacent to vehicle lanes. The new Shared Use Path will be separated from vehicle lanes by a minimum 4 foot-wide shoulder and an open drainage channel. Separated facilities decrease the likelihood of crashes between cars, bikes and pedestrians, improving safety and mobility for everyone.

The initial phase of work on these improvements is expected to be completed by Summer 2023. Phased construction of additional multi-modal mobility and safety improvements along North Lamar Boulevard will be sequenced over the next few years.

Once complete, the improvements are expected to facilitate safer, more efficient travel for everyone, including people walking, biking, driving and accessing transit.

Artboxes Honor East Austin Education Leader



Friendly Rice spent the entirety of his four-decade career fighting to give Black children access to education in Jim Crow-era Austin when discrimination was the law of the land. A new art project from [Austin Transportation](#) and nonprofit organization [Creative Action](#) aims to honor the East Austin education leader.

Rice moved to Austin in 1931 to become assistant principal at then-Gregory Elementary School, which was renamed Blackshear Elementary School in 1936. He became supervising principal a few years later and led Blackshear until his retirement in 1972.

A few years before Rice moved to Austin, the City passed its 1928 Master Plan creating a "negro district." When he retired, segregation was still prevalent in Austin schools. The district closed two all-Black schools, Kealing Junior High School and L.C. Anderson High School and started busing minority students to all-white schools in 1971 after the federal government found the district to be in violation of the Civil Rights Act.

In this environment, Rice delivered groundbreaking achievements for the students of Blackshear. In 1934, he established one of the first school libraries at an African American school in the Southwest. He also led an effort to institute a hot lunch program at schools in the district and started an outdoor garden at Blackshear.

Three new pieces of artwork on Austin Transportation's traffic signal cabinets along Airport Boulevard honor Rice and his contributions to the community. Each of the murals, part of the City's [Artbox program](#), features images of butterflies – a nod to the coffee mug Rice carried each day with butterflies on it. The new artboxes are located at:

- Airport Boulevard and Goodwin Avenue
- Airport Boulevard and Oak Springs Drive



- Airport Boulevard and 12th Street

A bike tour of murals throughout Austin, including the three artboxes, will be part of [Creative Action's Homecoming event Nov. 11-13](#). Austin Transportation and Creative Action will also host a celebration with the Blackshear Elementary School community at a date to be announced. Explore these artboxes and more than 20 others on an [interactive story map](#).

AUS Makes History with Record-Breaking Day



Partner Recap

New Traffic Changes Coming in the “Y” Intersection

The Texas Department of Transportation is in the midst of construction on the [Oak Hill Parkway](#) project in Southwest Austin, which will bring new bridges, flyover ramps, intersections and more to the roadway along US 290 and SH 71.

As part of the project, there will be a new right-turn configuration from US 290 to SH 71. Westbound US 290 traffic will shift to a temporary signalized right-turn lane to access SH 71 and the Center of the Hills



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shopping center, allowing crews to begin bridge construction in the area.



Construction is also occurring on new frontage roads in the area of Ascension Seton Southwest Hospital, which will prompt new traffic patterns to access the hospital for about a year. Beginning this month, travelers will use El Rey Boulevard at US 290 to access the hospital on the newly built two-way frontage road.

Ground broke on the Oak Hill Parkway project in 2021 and the project is expected to open to traffic in 2026. For more construction updates, [see the project website](https://oakhillparkway.com).



Safe and Mobility Improvements Coming to South Congress Intersections

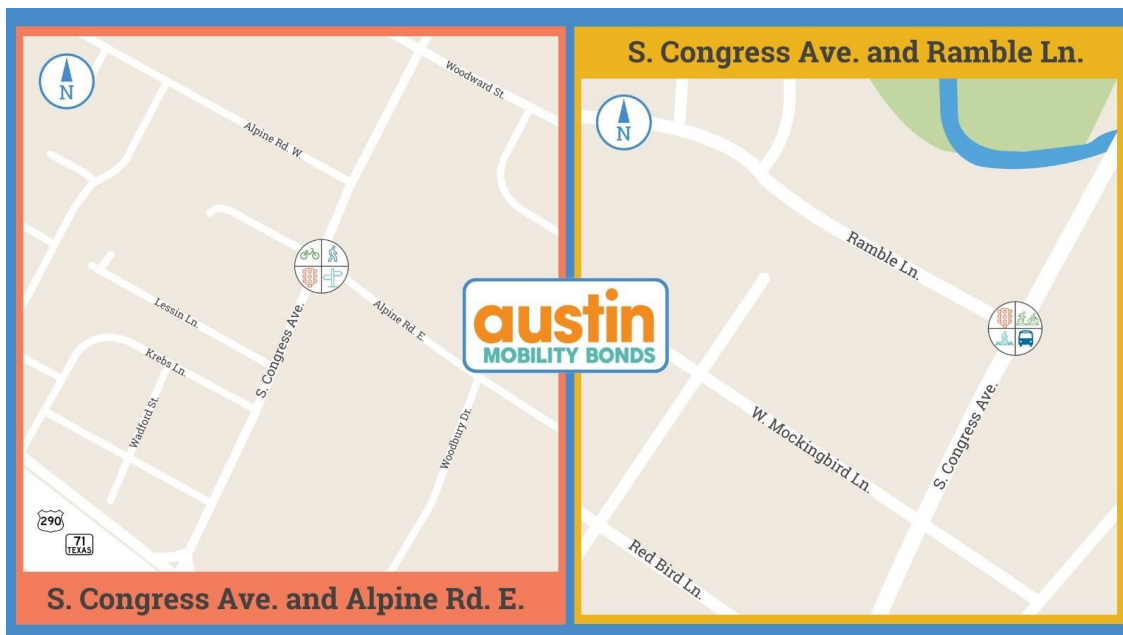
A pair of projects will start before the end of this year that aim to make intersections along South Congress Avenue safer and easier to move through for everyone using the roads.

First up is a project at the intersection of South Congress Avenue and Alpine Road East to add a new traffic signal, bike and pedestrian safety improvements and additional signage. The project is scheduled to begin in November and construction is expected to last about a month, barring weather delays or other unforeseen circumstances.

Another safety and mobility project at South Congress Avenue and Ramble Lane is set to begin in December with construction lasting approximately four months. Improvements include:

- A new traffic signal with three new high-visibility crosswalks
- New shared-use paths on both sides of South Congress Avenue to make the intersection easier to navigate for people riding bikes
- A new sidewalk on the south side of Ramble Lane
- New Americans with Disabilities ACT (ADA)-accessible curb ramps on all four corners
- A new CapMetro bus stop for northbound buses
- A new northbound left turn lane on the east side of South Congress Avenue
- A new raised median along South Congress Avenue south of Ramble Lane

[Austin Transportation](#) is leading the projects in partnership with the [Texas Department of Transportation](#). Funding comes from the [2018 Mobility Bond](#) and TxDOT's Highway Safety Improvement Program. For more information on these and other transportation safety projects, [visit the City's website](#).





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Community Resources

[Weekly Mobility Newsletter Sign Up](#)

[2016 Bond Programs and Projects](#)

[Capital Projects Explorer](#)

[Austin Mobility Data and Performance Hub](#)

[Austin-Bergstrom International Airport](#)

[Upcoming Sidewalk Projects](#)

[Absent Sidewalk Map and Prioritization](#)

[Street Preventative Maintenance](#)

[Safe Ride Home Resources](#)

[Special Event Road Closures](#)