

OUR FUTURE 35

Austin's Cap and Stitch Program



CORRIDOR
PROGRAM
OFFICE

Urban Transportation Commission

January 10, 2023 | 5:00 – 7:00 pm

Austin City Hall

Austin, TX, 78701

HISTORY OF I-35 IN AUSTIN

A Legacy of Community Division

Tillotson Convocation on East Avenue – 1930's

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35



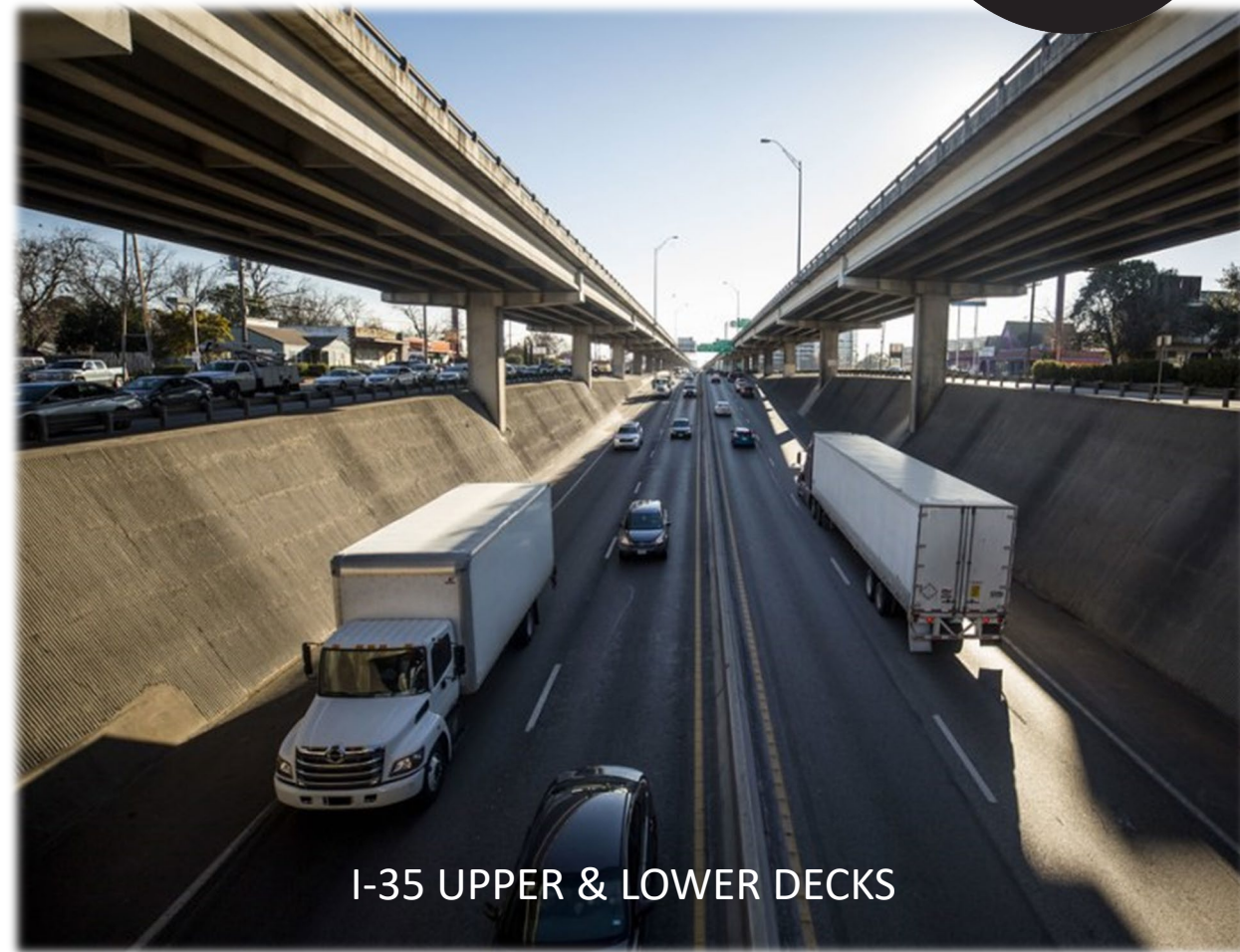
I-35 TODAY

The East/West Divide

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35



I-35 AT 5TH STREET



I-35 UPPER & LOWER DECKS

GUIDING OUR VISION

Policies and Plans

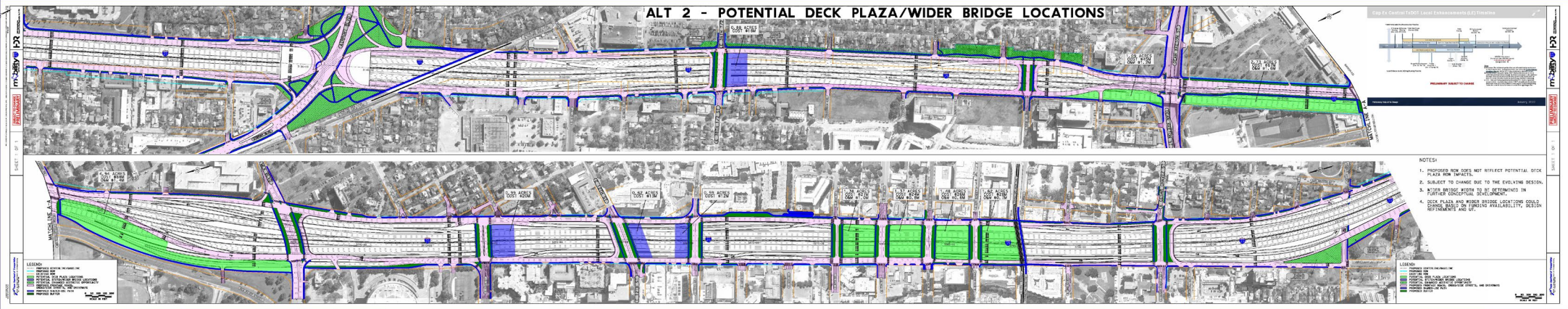


- Imagine Austin
- Strategic Direction 2023
- Austin Strategic Mobility Plan
- Austin Climate Equity Plan
- Justice40 Equity Initiative
- Transportation Improvement Programs
- Electric Vehicle Infrastructure Plans

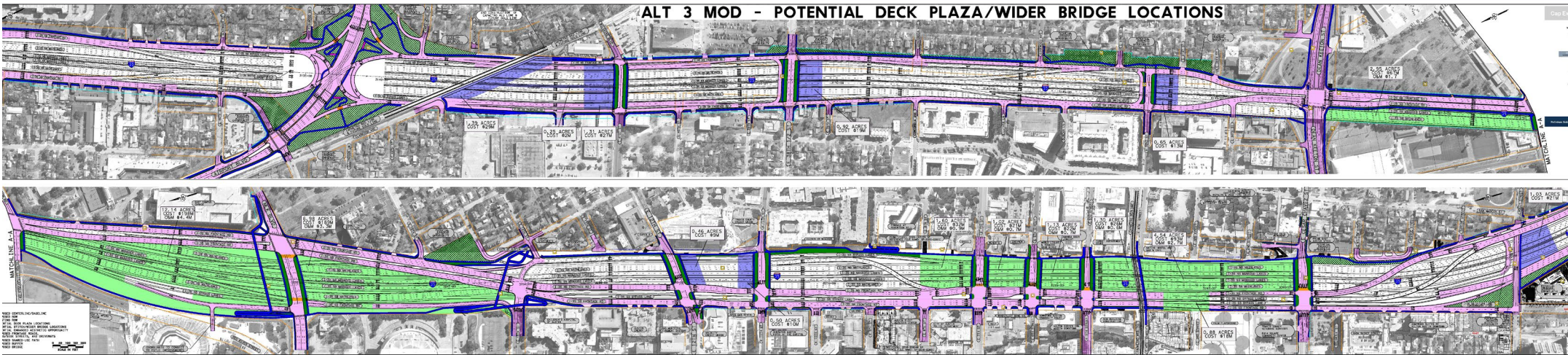
TXDOT IDENTIFIED CAP AND STITCH OPPORTUNITIES

An Input for Our Future 35

Alternative 2:



Modified Alternative 3 (Preferred Alternative):



2023

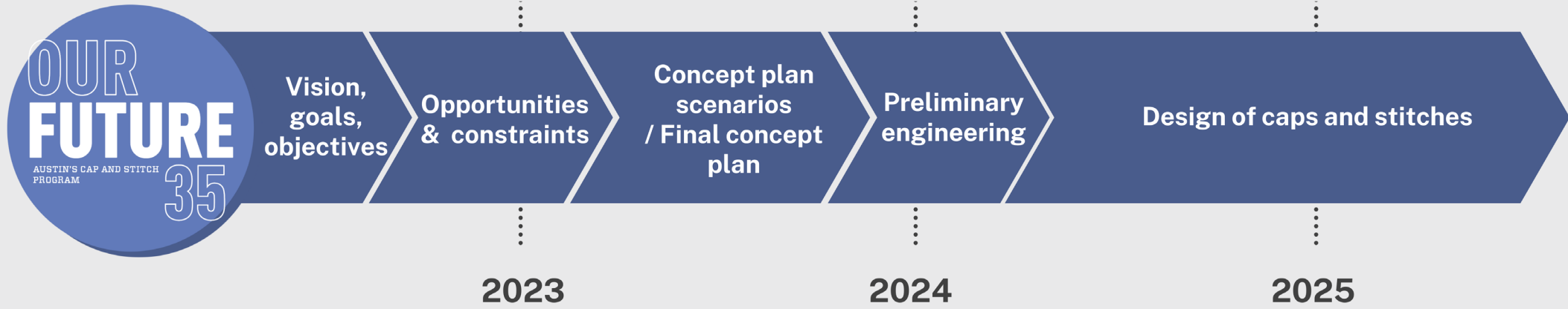
2024

2025

TxDOT Capitol Express Central Timeline



Our Future 35 - Cap and Stitch Design Timeline

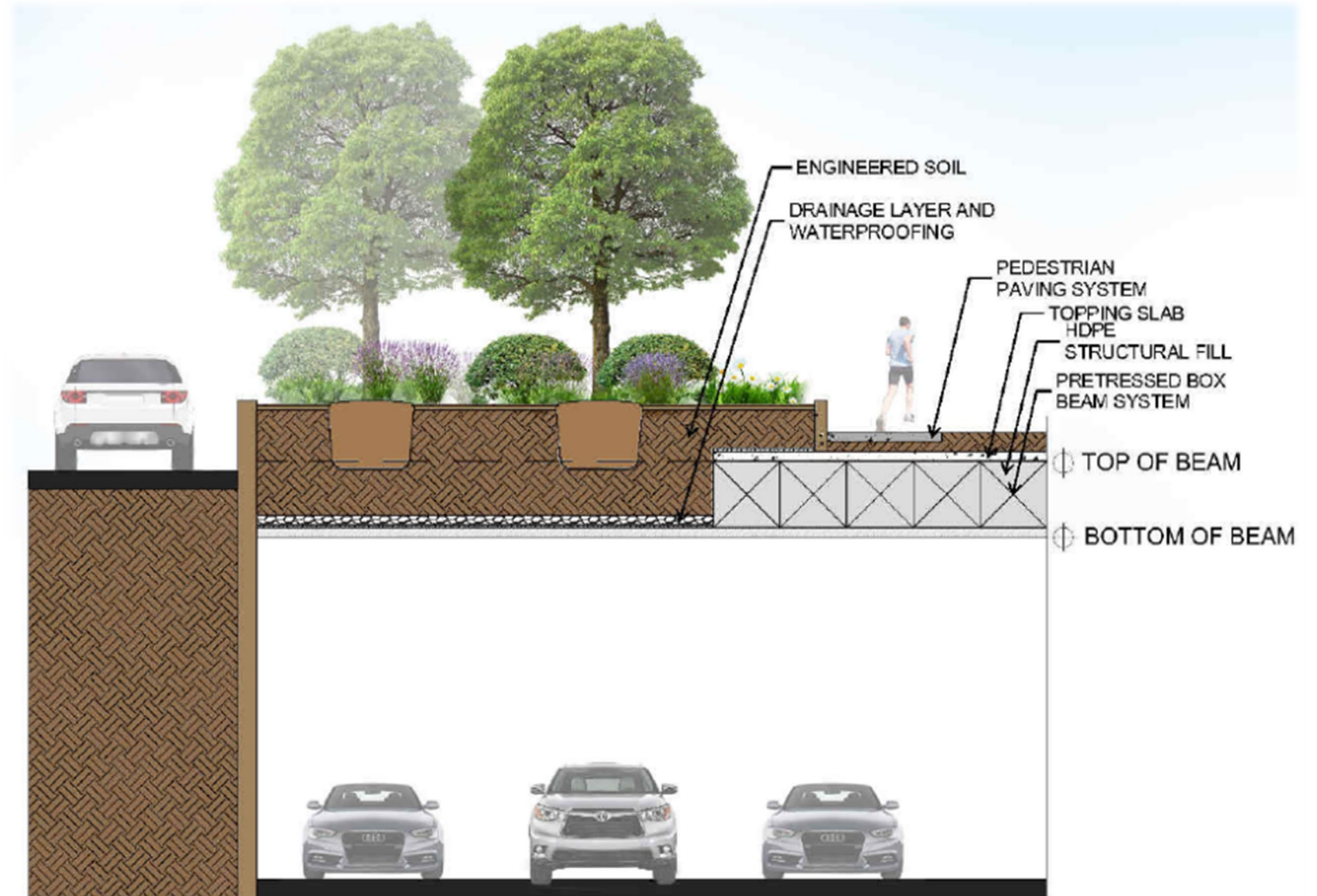


HOW DID WE GET HERE?

Engineering Feasibility Study

INITIAL FINDINGS:

- One/two story structures appear to be feasible near cap edges
- Various activity and open space features are feasible on freeway caps



CAP AND STITCH DESIGN

Key Components



PHASE 1 PRE-DESIGN (IN-PROGRESS)

- Working from Summer 2022 Atkins Feasibility Study
- Develop project vision and goals
- Community engagement
- Opportunities and constraints

PHASE 2 PRE-DESIGN - CONCEPT ALTERNATIVES

- Develop and evaluate Cap & Stitch design and engineering concept alternatives
- Develop conceptual cost estimates
- Continue community co-creation
- Select preferred concept alternative

PHASE 3 – 30% DESIGN/ENGINEERING

COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

Proposed Community Engagement Structure

2022

2023

2024



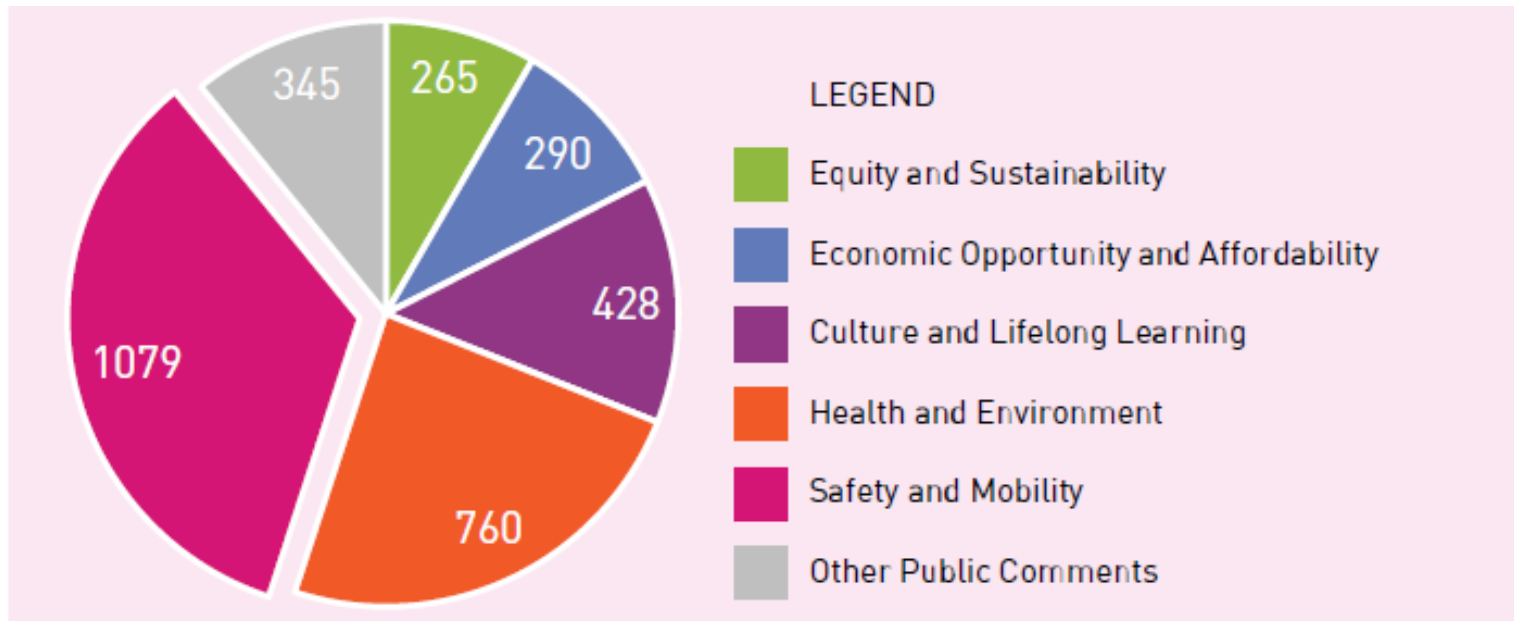
CAP AND STITCH DESIGN

Vision/Goals – August Public Open House



CAP AND STITCH DESIGN

Vision/Goals – August Public Open House & September Survey



- Working with Community Steering Committee to refine project goals, vision and themes
- Moving forward with Opportunities and Constraints analyses

COMMUNITY STEERING COMMITTEE

Kicked Off in October 2022



- Convening through Summer 2023. Comprised of community leaders, local business owners, and industry experts.
- Community Steering Committee provides feedback and guidance on:
 - Project Vision, Goals and Objectives
 - Public Outreach and Marketing
 - Program Scope and Process
- For member/co-chair bios and photos visit <https://www.ourfuture35.com/community-steering-committee>

EQUITABLE DEVELOPMENT STRATEGY

Kicked Off in November 2022

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The Equitable Development Strategy will result in an **action plan** for key program partners and community stakeholders to **help ensure that new civic amenities create positive benefits for the surrounding community.**


- Off-corridor community benefit
- Housing/anti-displacement
- Small business/workforce incubation
- Community development
- Arts, history, and culture opportunities
- Equitable development project opportunities
- Policy Recommendations



Credit: Six Square Facebook

MOVING THE PROGRAM FORWARD

Funding Strategy



**WE NEED YOUR HELP
WRITING A LETTER OF SUPPORT**

OUR FUTURE 35

**AUSTIN'S CAP AND STITCH PROGRAM:
CONNECTING EQUITABLY MOBILITY STUDY**

The City of Austin is pursuing a Reconnecting Communities Planning Grant from the U.S. Department of Transportation to fund the "Connecting Equitably Mobility Study" for the Our Future 35: Austin's Cap and Stitch Program.

The City and its strategic partners need your help in submitting letters of support for the grant opportunity that will help fund this important study. This document provides you with pertinent information on the project to assist in your letter writing and continued advocacy efforts.

By passing the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law that includes the Reconnecting Communities program, the federal government has made the biggest investment in transportation in decades.



Now is the Austin community's opportunity to move the City forward by ensuring that infrastructure connects our community, rather than dividing it.

OUR FUTURE 35 IS A COMMUNITY-CENTERED INITIATIVE TO BUILD NEW CITY INFRASTRUCTURE AND CO-CREATE PUBLIC SPACES OVER THE I-35 HIGHWAY.

Because the Texas Department of Transportation (TxDOT) is proposing to lower portions of I-35 through CapEx Central project (my35capex.com), the City has an opportunity to re-connect East and West Austin through new Caps and Stitches that make important strides toward unifying and mending the divide created by the original construction of I-35. Our Future 35 will replace the divide with amenities that celebrate and connect all Austinites.

AUSTIN'S CONNECTING EQUITABLY MOBILITY STUDY WILL:

- ANALYZE** the design of the CapEx Central project and potential cap and stitch locations and determine options to maximize equitable, multimodal connectivity and mobility.
- IDENTIFY** how to best maximize these connections created by the CapEx Central project, caps, and stitches to support mobility options for all in the community, make viable mobility options to support housing, jobs and communities most impacted by I-35 historically.
- ADVANCE** our understanding of transit needs and priorities for serving the new destinations created with caps and stitch amenities over I-35.
- EVALUATE** the environmental justice and health impacts of transportation investments on local residents, including improved air quality, increased shade, easy access to active transportation, and connectivity to healthy food options.

 **CORRIDOR PROGRAM OFFICE** 

DEVELOP FUNDING STRATEGY

- Capital Improvements, Operations/Maintenance
- **PRIORITY: Cap Structures**

ASSESS ALTERNATE FUNDING

- Value capture
- P3, private/public partnerships
- Naming rights, Sponsorships

EXPLORE FEDERAL FUNDING, GRANTS

- USDOT Reconnecting Communities (Submitted 10/13/22)
- Other programs/opportunities
- USDOT Build America Bureau Technical Assistance

COMMUNITY PROJECT FUNDING \$1.5M

- Sponsored by Representative Lloyd Doggett
- Scoping and RFQ process currently underway

THANK YOU TO OUR PARTNERS!



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**DOWN
AUSTIN TOWN
ALLIANCE**



COMMUNITY

OURFUTURE35

Austin's Cap and Stitch Program



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