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# AUSTIN LIGHT RAIL UPDATE

APRIL 6, 2023

## AUSTIN TRANSIT PARTNERSHIP

Jen Pyne, *EVP Planning & Risk Management- ATP*

Lindsay Wood, *EVP Engineering & Construction - ATP*

Peter Mullan, *EVP Architecture and Urban Design - ATP*

Sharmila Mukherjee, *EVP Strategic Planning and Development - CapMetro*

Annick Beaudet, *Mobility Officer - City of Austin*

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# IMAGINE AUSTIN & PROJECT CONNECT

## AUSTIN IS MOBILE AND INTERCONNECTED

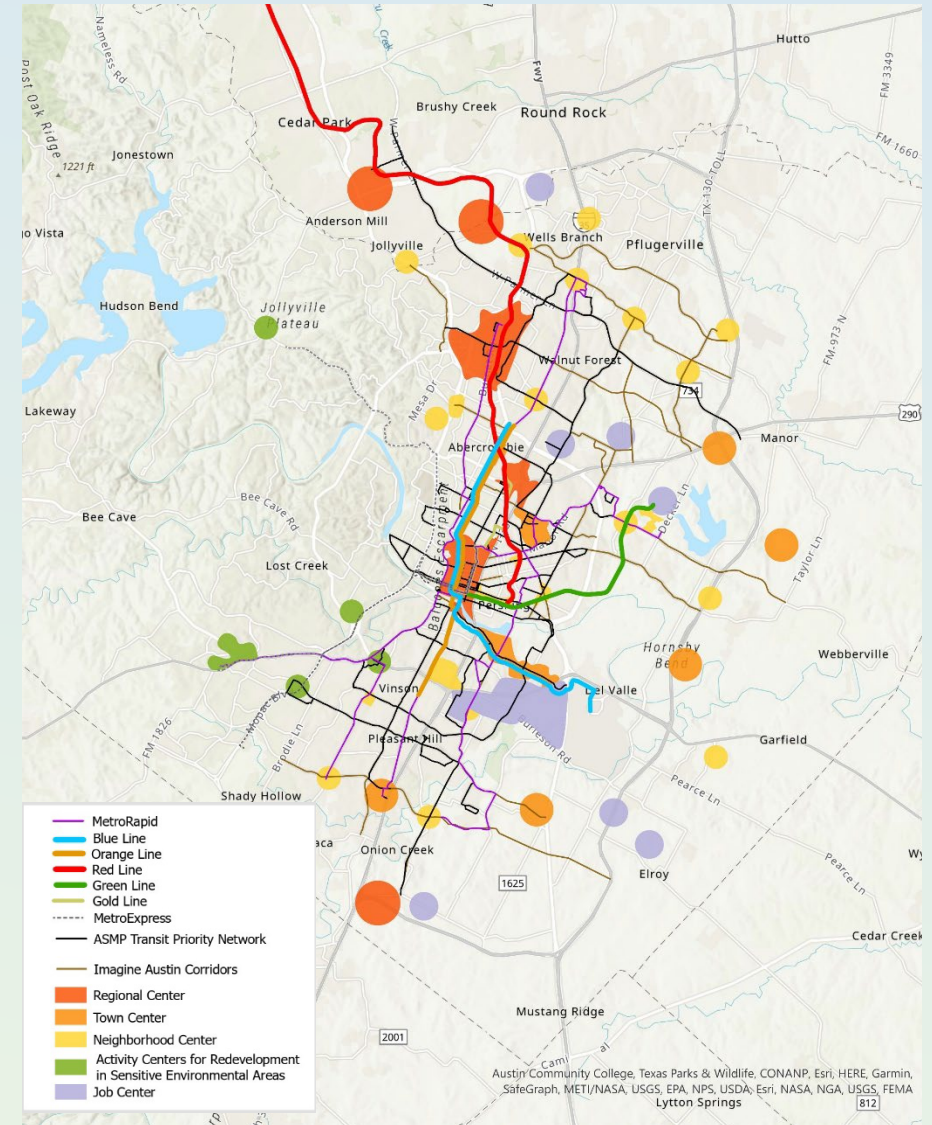
Austin is accessible. Our transportation network provides a wide variety of options that are efficient, reliable, and cost-effective to serve the diverse needs and capabilities of our citizens. Public and private sectors work together to improve our air quality and reduce congestion in a collaborative and creative manner. - *Imagine Austin Comprehensive Plan*

- IACP recommends creation of the Austin Strategic Mobility Plan
- ASMP calls for Austin to invest in a high-capacity transit system

***“Move more people by investing in public transportation***

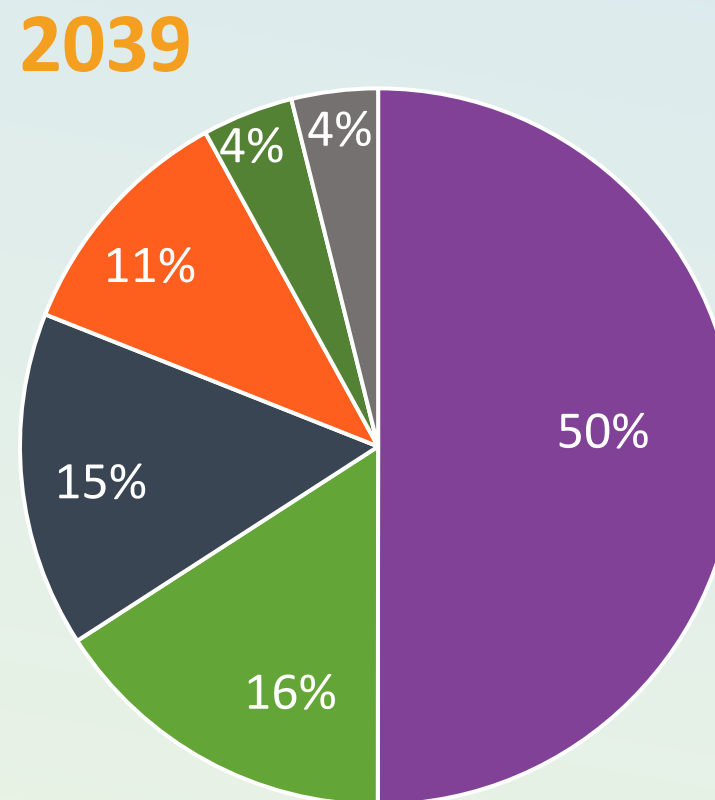
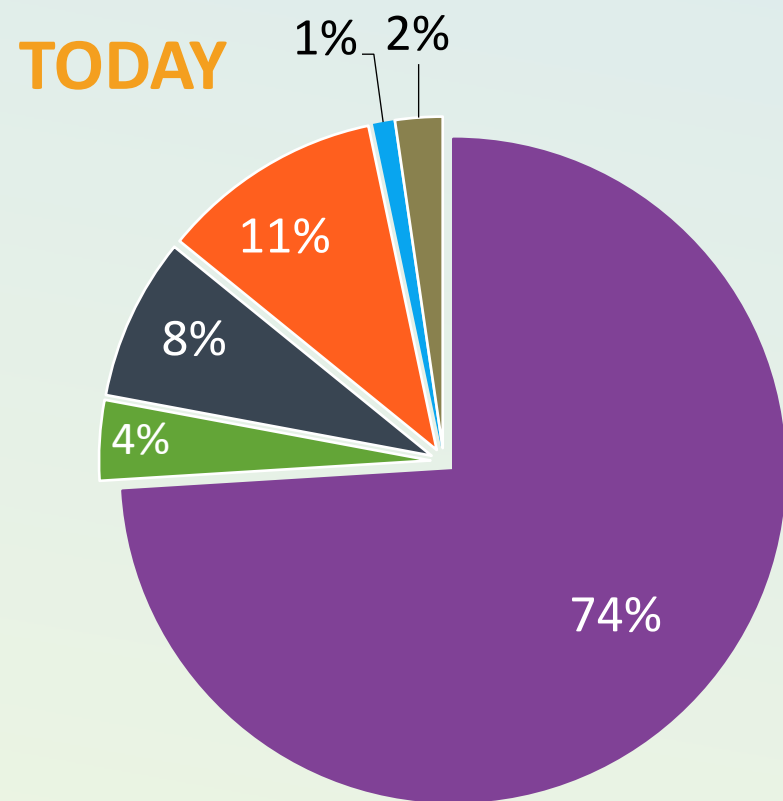
*We should invest in a complete public transportation system, with high-capacity vehicles in dedicated transit pathways, because it has the ability to move the most people in the region and through the core of Austin.”*

- Project Connect supports the IACP Growth Concept



# AUSTIN STRATEGIC MOBILITY PLAN

74% drive alone to work in 2019 vs. 50% in 2039



# HOW LIGHT RAIL FITS INTO THE TRANSIT NETWORK

## What Light Rail needs to be:

- Transit **workhorse** that feeds, collects, distributes to the rest of the transit network
- Enables **mode shift**
- Includes critical **access** to and from the line (first/last mile, ped, bike)
- Creates a **core** for system for future expansion
- Light Rail is **One** large piece of Project Connect



### ADDITIONAL PROJECT CONNECT COMPONENTS

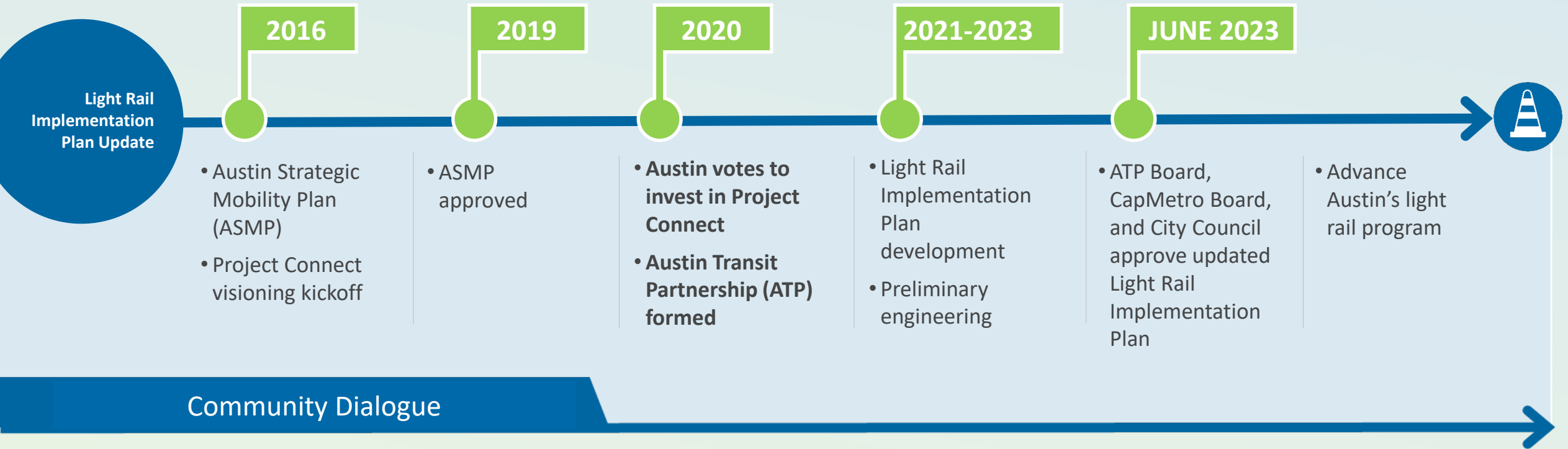
- Red Line Commuter Rail Improvements
- Green Line Commuter Rail
- MetroRapid (bus rapid transit) expansion
- Express commuter bus lines
- Park & Rides and Transit Centers
- \$300 million for anti-displacement initiatives
- New Pickup neighborhood zones
- Customer Technology System enhancements







# AUSTIN'S PATH TO LIGHT RAIL



# MEASURES AND VALUES



Multimodal Connectivity



Accessibility / Universal Design



Healthcare Facilities



Education



Greenhouse Gas Emissions reductions



Environmental Benefits / Impacts

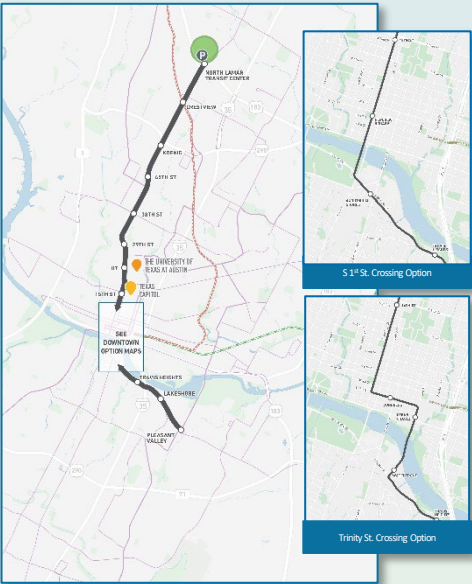


Affordable Housing

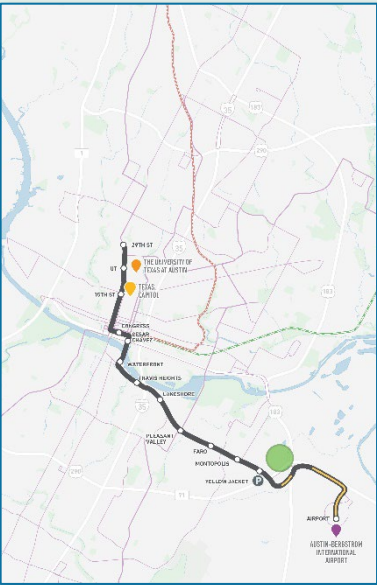




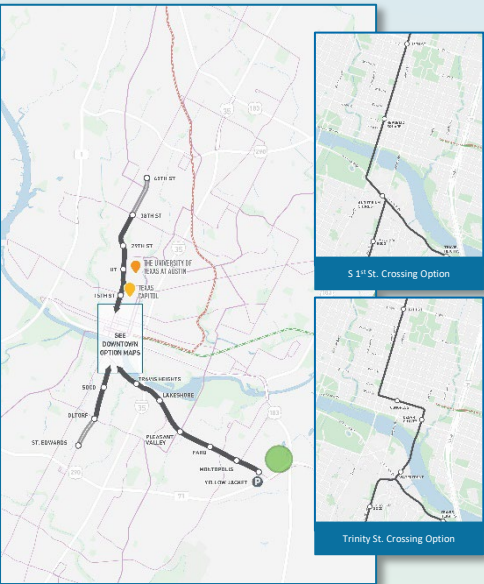
# LIGHT RAIL CORE SYSTEM OPTIONS



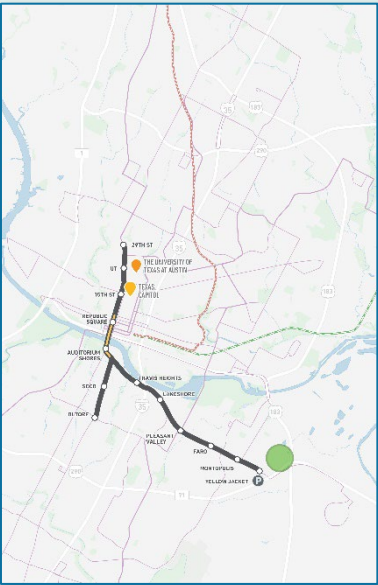
**ON-STREET:**  
NORTH LAMAR TRANSIT CENTER  
TO PLEASANT VALLEY



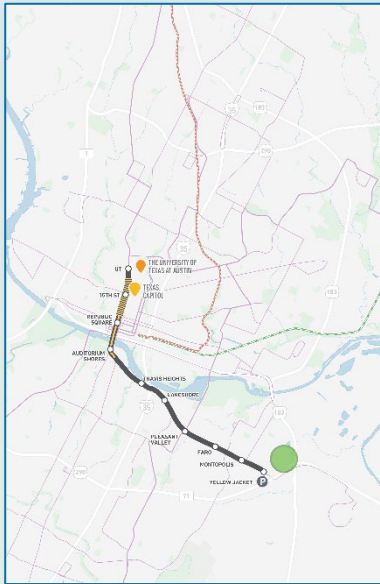
**ON-STREET:**  
29TH TO THE AIRPORT



**ON-STREET:**  
38TH TO OLTORF TO YELLOW JACKET



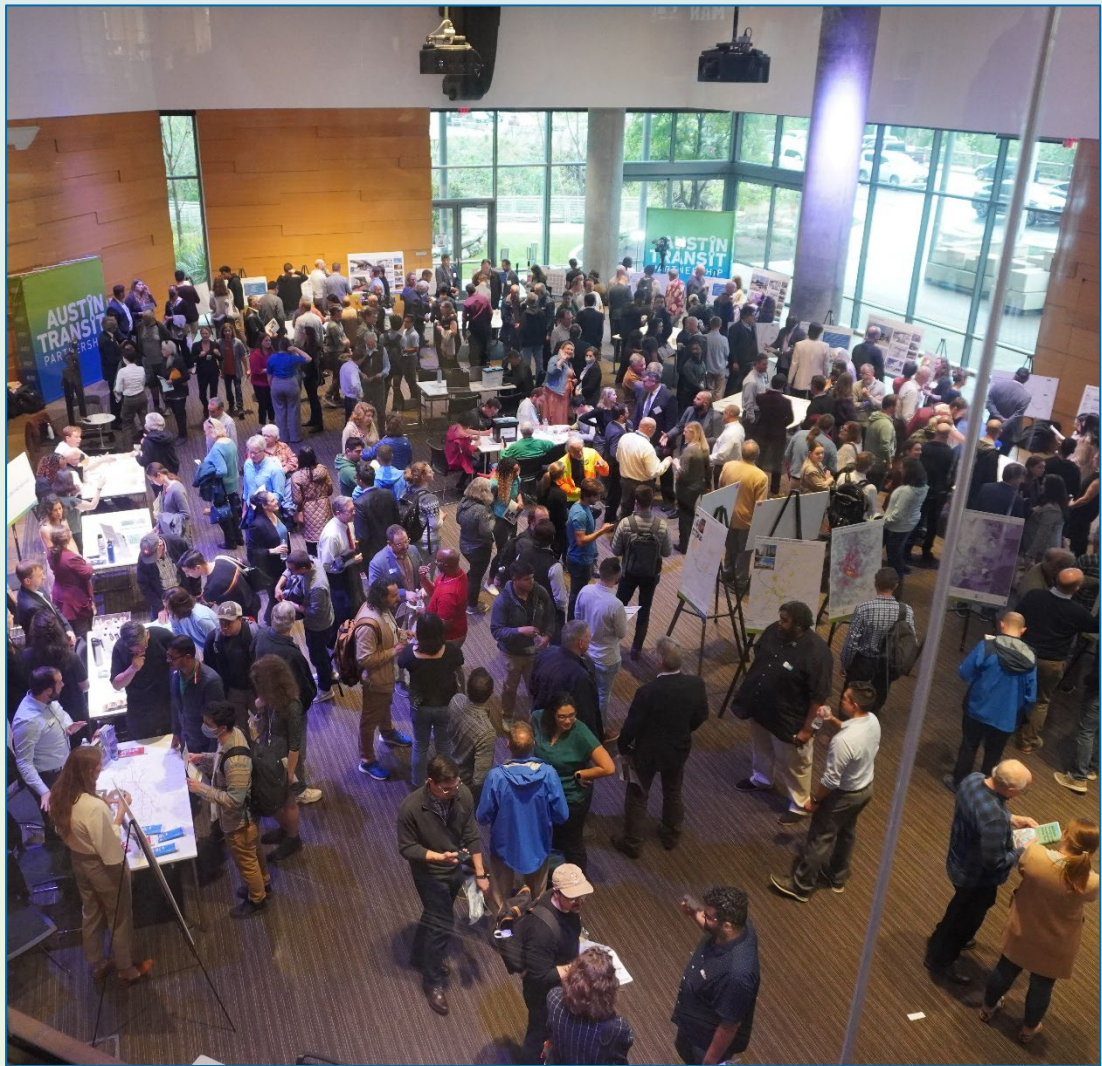
**PARTIAL ELEVATED:**  
29TH TO OLTORF TO YELLOW JACKET



**PARTIAL UNDERGROUND:**  
UT TO YELLOW JACKET



# COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT



## COMMENT PERIOD OPEN 3/21/23-5/2/2023

### Virtual Open House

- Visit VOH at [ProjectConnect.com/Get-Involved](https://ProjectConnect.com/Get-Involved)
- VOH Stats (as of 4/5/23 @ 4PM):

IEWS	PARTICIPANTS	COMMENTS
8,441	732	1,787

### Additional Comments

- 65 written comments - via 3/21 in-person open house comment forms
- 93 email comments



### Upcoming Engagement

- 4/6 Live Virtual Meeting

**TONIGHT**  
5-7 PM  
VIRTUAL LIGHT RAIL  
COMMUNITY UPDATE

# WHAT ARE WE HEARING

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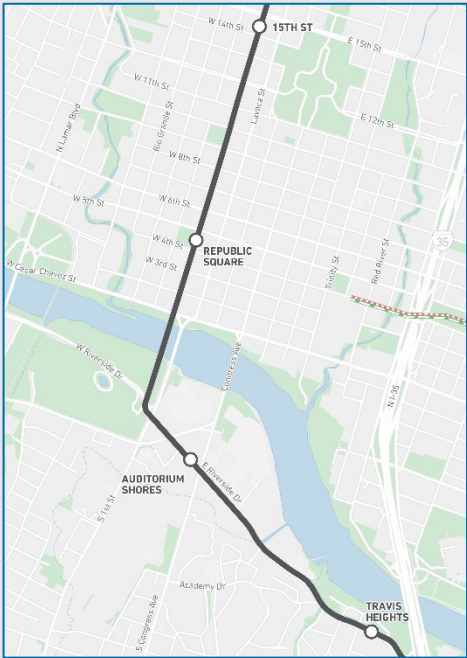
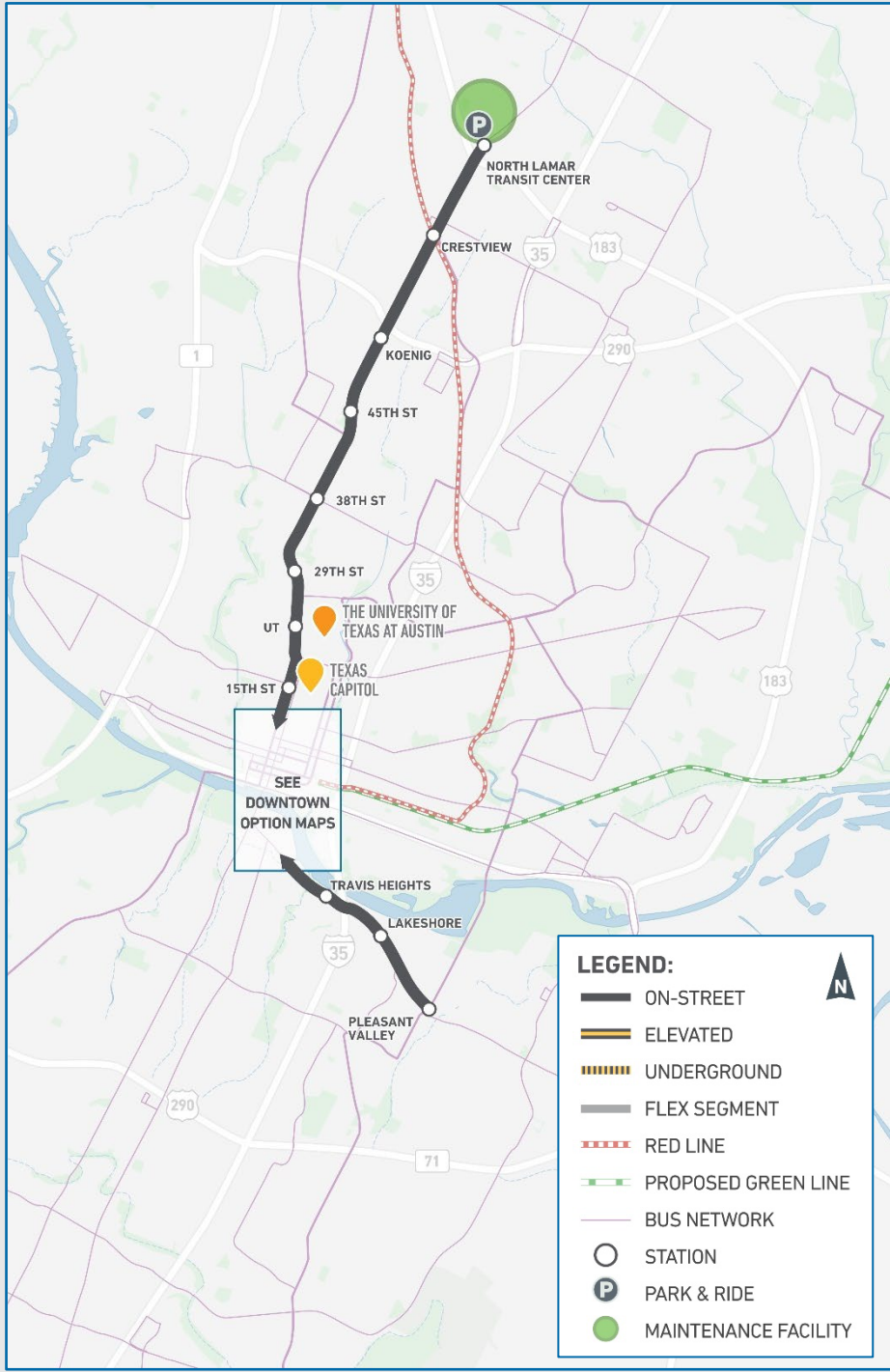
-  Support for ATP to build light rail as soon as possible
-  Questions about length and value of underground segment
-  Desire to reach farther north and south
-  Questions about timeline and budget
-  Questions about elevated options downtown
-  How light rail connects with other modes of transportation
-  Mixed feedback about reaching airport
-  Questions about traffic operations and impacts, and reliability of options downtown



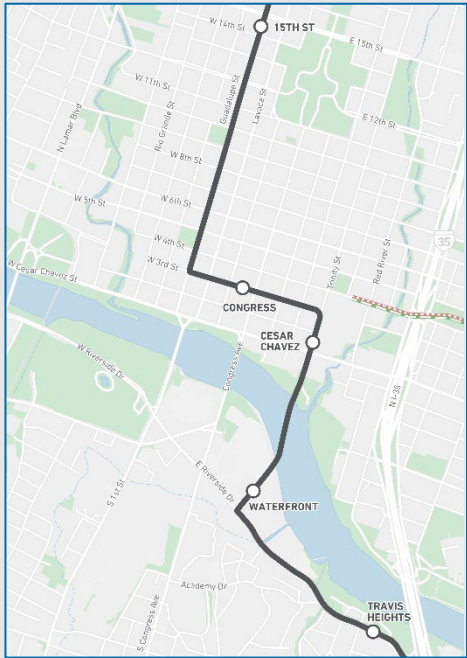
# ON-STREET: N. LAMAR TRANSIT CENTER TO PLEASANT VALLEY

- On-street from North Lamar Transit Center to Pleasant Valley Rd. on E. Riverside Dr.
- Lady Bird Lake crossing options at Guadalupe/S. 1st St. OR Trinity St.

AVG. NUMBER OF DAILY RIDERS SERVED	38,600 - 39,300
MILES OF NEW LIGHT RAIL	9.6 - 9.8



Guadalupe/ S. 1<sup>st</sup> St. Crossing Option



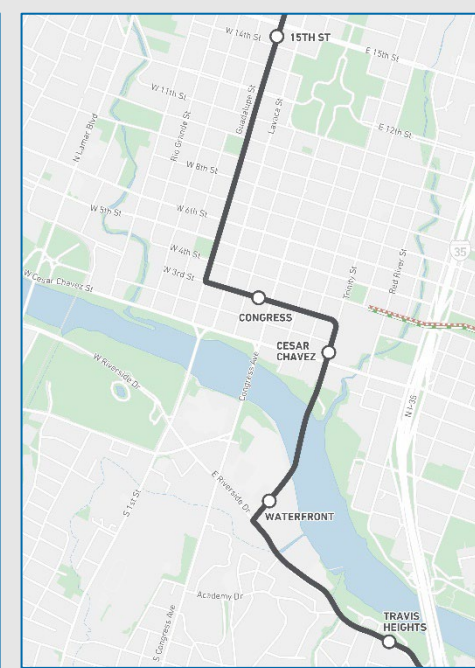
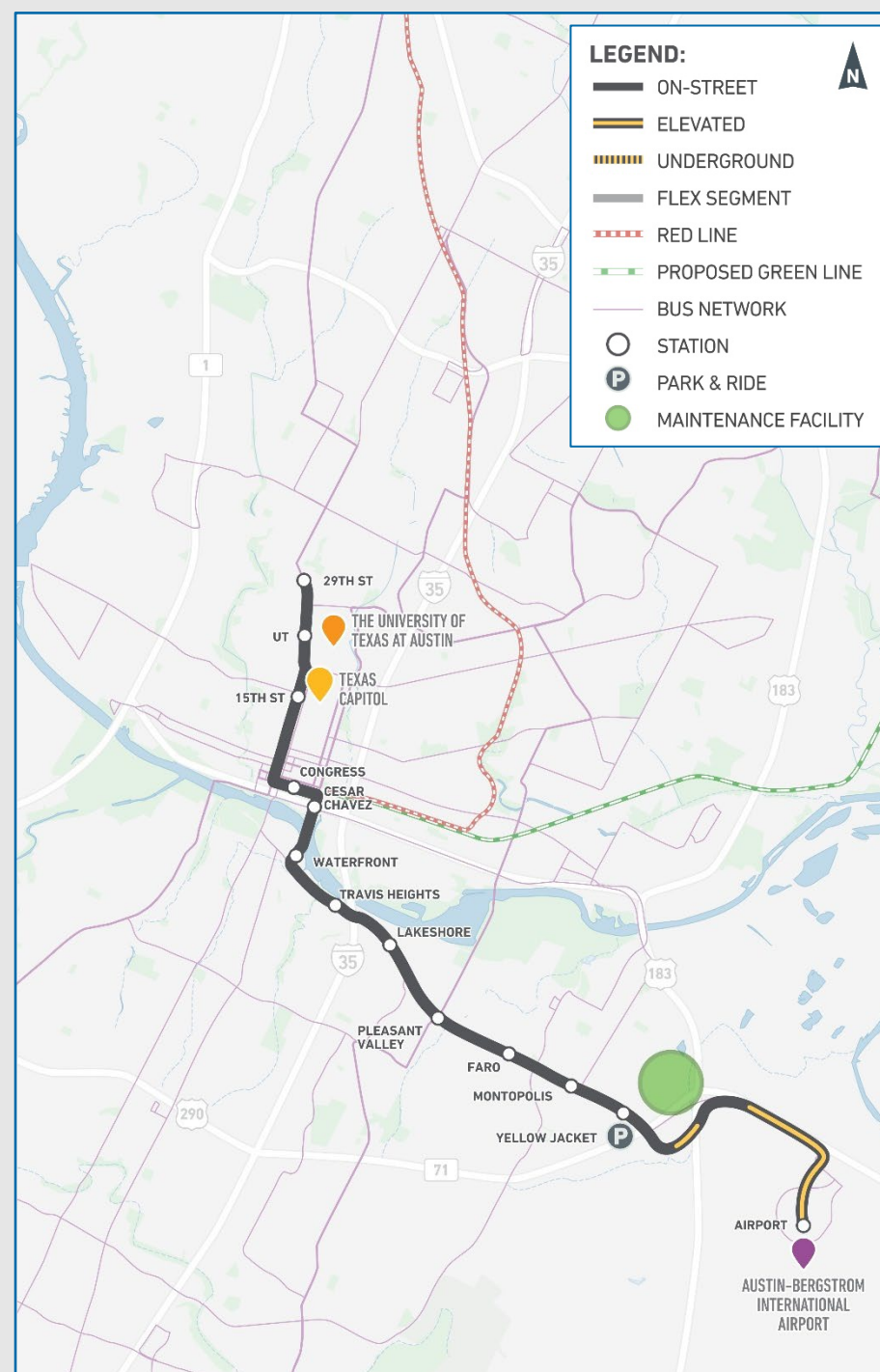
Trinity St. Crossing Option



## ON-STREET: 29TH TO THE AIRPORT

- On-street from 29th St. on Guadalupe St. to east of Yellow Jacket Ln. on E. Riverside Dr.
- Mainly elevated from SH 71 to Austin-Bergstrom International Airport
- Lady Bird Lake crossing on new bridge at Trinity St.

AVG. NUMBER OF DAILY RIDERS SERVED	28,100
MILES OF NEW LIGHT RAIL	10.1

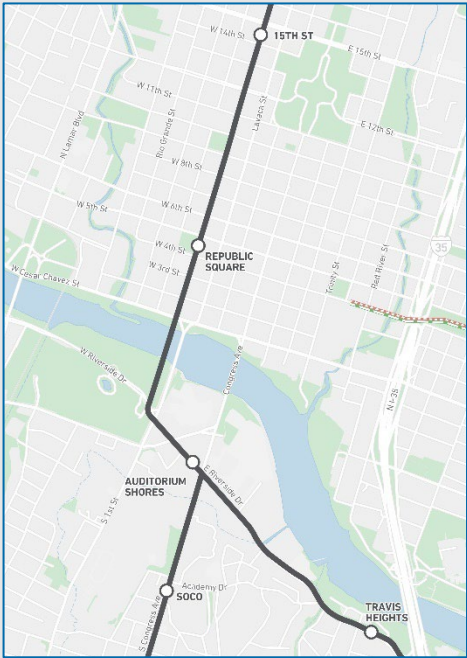
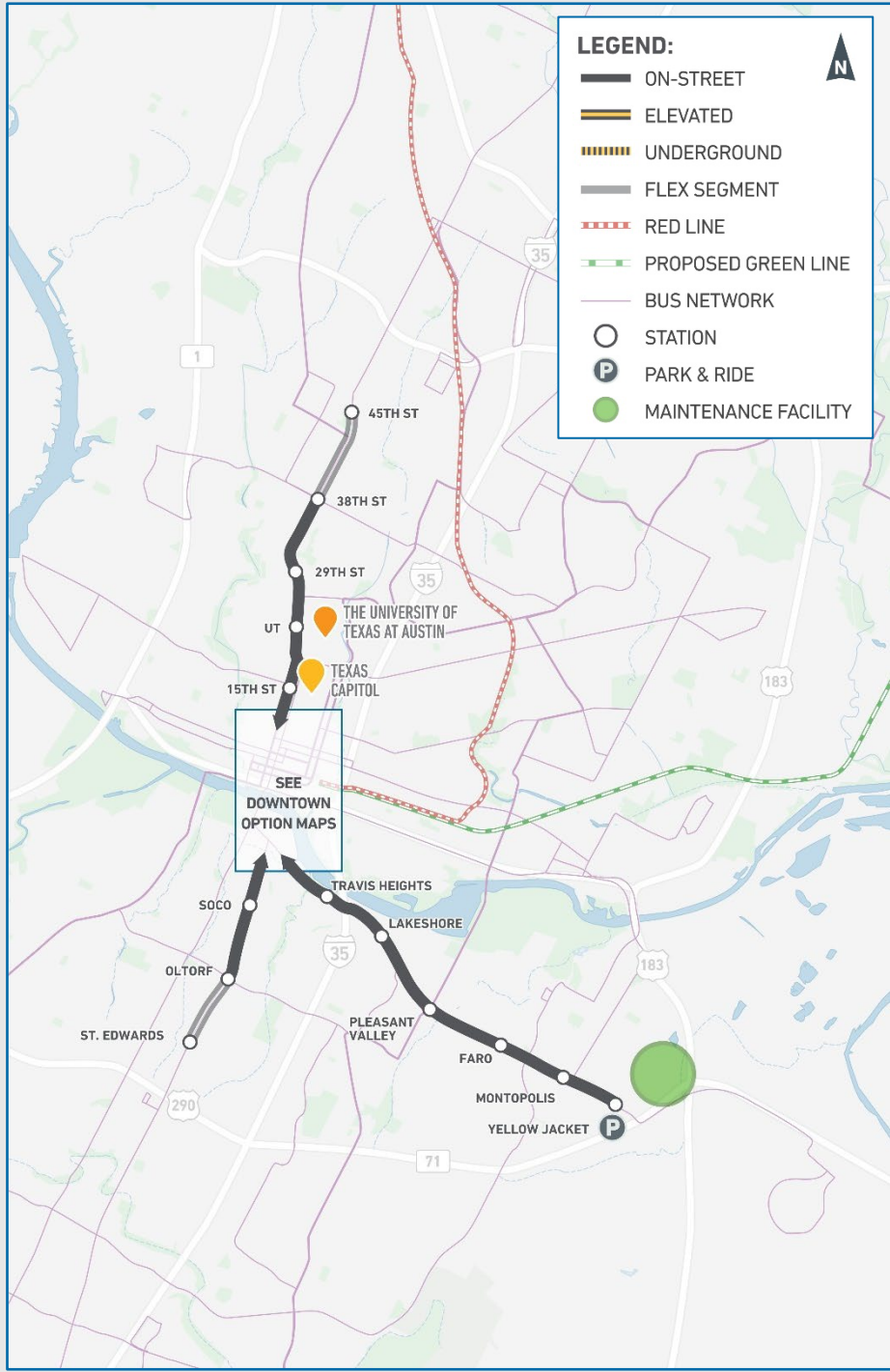


### Trinity St. Crossing Option

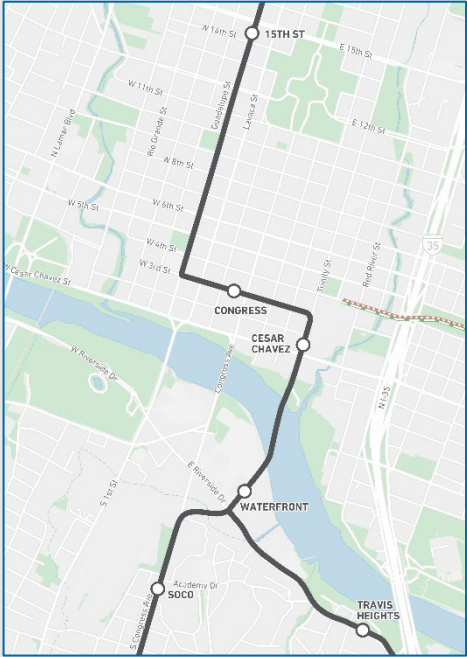
# ON-STREET: 38TH TO OLTORF TO YELLOW JACKET

- On-street from 38<sup>th</sup> St. on Guadalupe St. to Oltorf St. on S. Congress Ave. and to Yellow Jacket Ln. on E. Riverside Dr.
- Potential to extend endpoints to 45th St. to the north or St. Edwards to the south
- Lady Bird Lake crossing options at Guadalupe/S.1st St. OR Trinity St.

AVG. NUMBER OF DAILY RIDERS SERVED	28,500 - 29,900
MILES OF NEW LIGHT RAIL	9.4 - 9.8



Guadalupe/ S. 1<sup>st</sup> St. Crossing Option



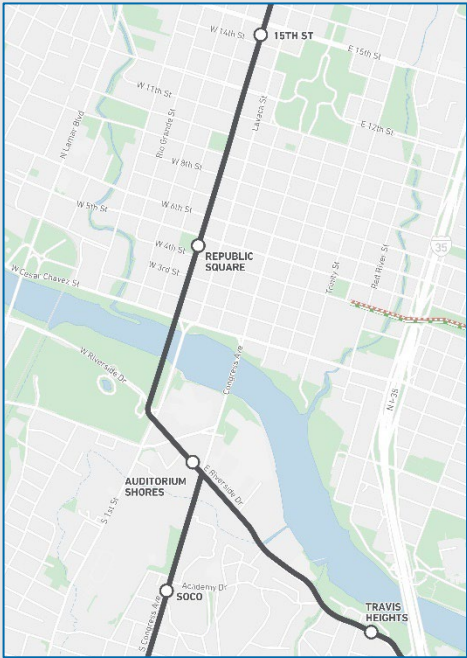
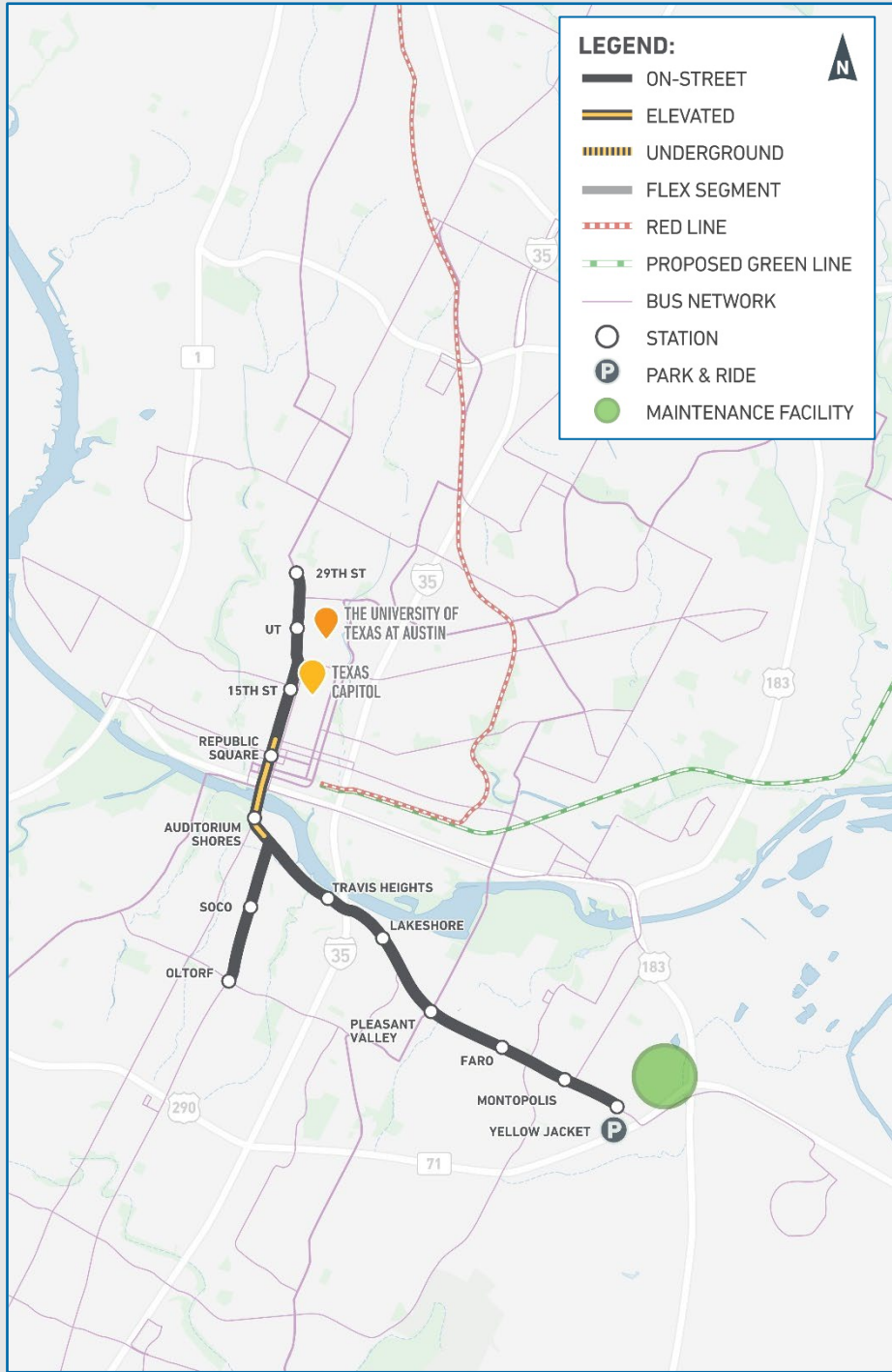
Trinity St. Crossing Option



# PARTIAL ELEVATED: 29TH TO OLTORF TO YELLOW JACKET

- On-street on Guadalupe from 29th St. to 8th St.
- Elevated from 8th St. on Guadalupe to east of Auditorium Shores with (2) elevated stations
- On-street on Riverside Dr. from east of Auditorium Shores to Yellow Jacket Ln. and on S. Congress Ave. from Riverside to Oltorf St.

AVG. NUMBER OF DAILY RIDERS SERVED	26,900
MILES OF NEW LIGHT RAIL	8.7



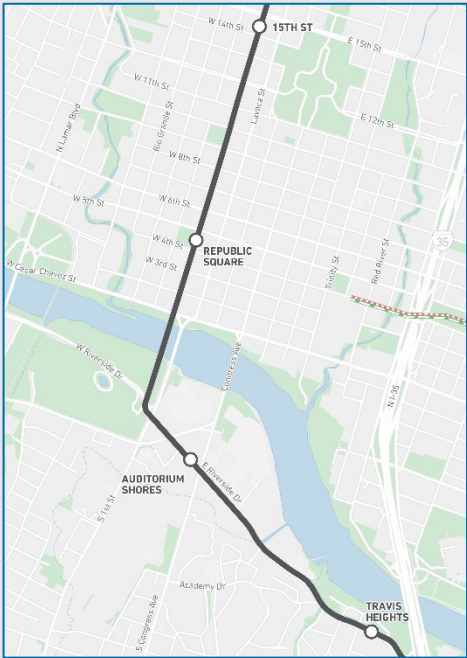
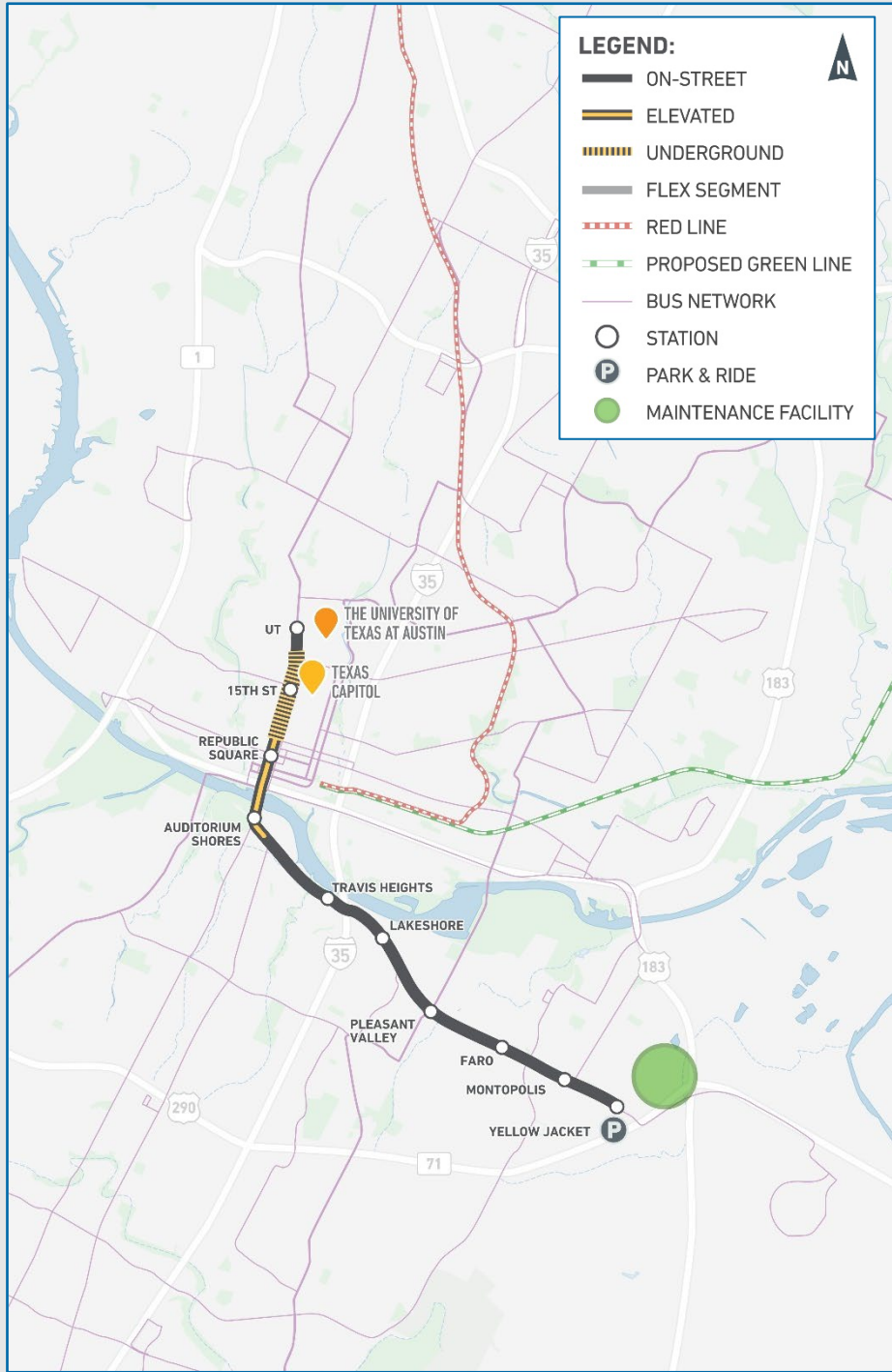
Guadalupe/ S. 1<sup>st</sup> St. Crossing Option



# PARTIAL UNDERGROUND: UT TO YELLOW JACKET

- Underground from 20th St. to 8th St. under Guadalupe with (1) underground station
- Elevated from 8th St. on Guadalupe St. to east of Auditorium Shores with (2) elevated stations
- On-street on Riverside Dr. from east of Auditorium Shores to Yellow Jacket Ln.

AVG. NUMBER OF DAILY RIDERS SERVED	20,000
MILES OF NEW LIGHT RAIL	6.6



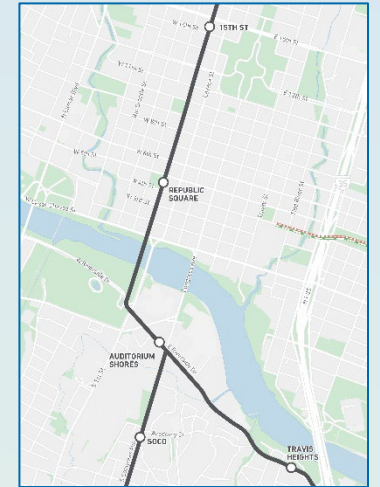
Guadalupe/ S. 1<sup>st</sup> St. Crossing Option

# ON-STREET DOWNTOWN

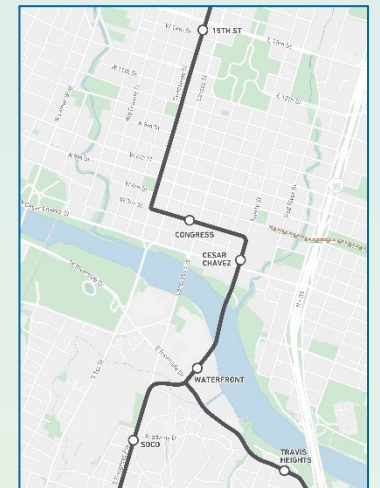
## ARTIST REPRESENTATION



East 3rd Street and San Jacinto Boulevard - Looking West



S 1st St. Crossing Option



Trinity St. Crossing Option



# ON-STREET DOWNTOWN

## ARTIST REPRESENTATION



Guadalupe Street at 4<sup>th</sup> Street / Republic Square - Looking Northwest

## PRECEDENTS



Sydney



Jerusalem



Paris



Portland

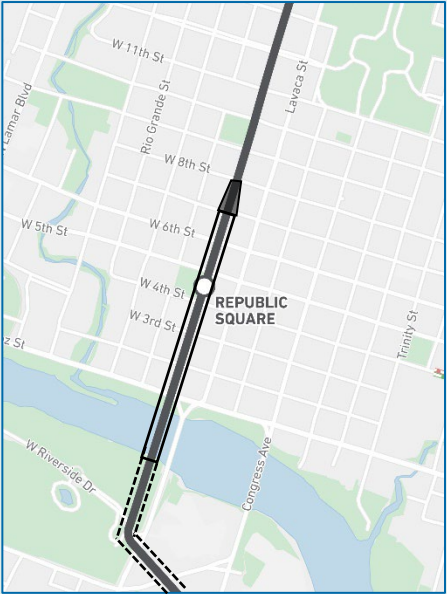


# PARTIAL ELEVATED DOWNTOWN

## ARTIST REPRESENTATION



Guadalupe Street at 4<sup>th</sup> Street / Republic Square - Looking Northwest



- EXTENTS OF ELEVATED STRUCTURE:  
(PARTIAL ELEVATED OPTION)
- Transition Zone: 8<sup>th</sup> St. to 7<sup>th</sup> St.
  - Elevated Structure: 7<sup>th</sup> St. to Lady Bird Lake
  - Elevated Structure possible extension south to Riverside/Barton Springs Road



# PARTIAL ELEVATED DOWNTOWN

## ARTIST REPRESENTATION



Guadalupe Street and West 4th Street - Looking South

## PRECEDENTS



British Columbia, Canada



The Hague, Netherlands



The Hague, Netherlands



# PARTIAL ELEVATED SOUTH OF THE RIVER

## ARTIST REPRESENTATIONS



Aerial View South of River - Looking North



Station View at Auditorium Shores



Transition from elevated to on-street at West Riverside Drive



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# Q&A

**AUSTIN  
TRANSIT  
PARTNERSHIP**

**THANK YOU!**



# POPULATION DENSITY

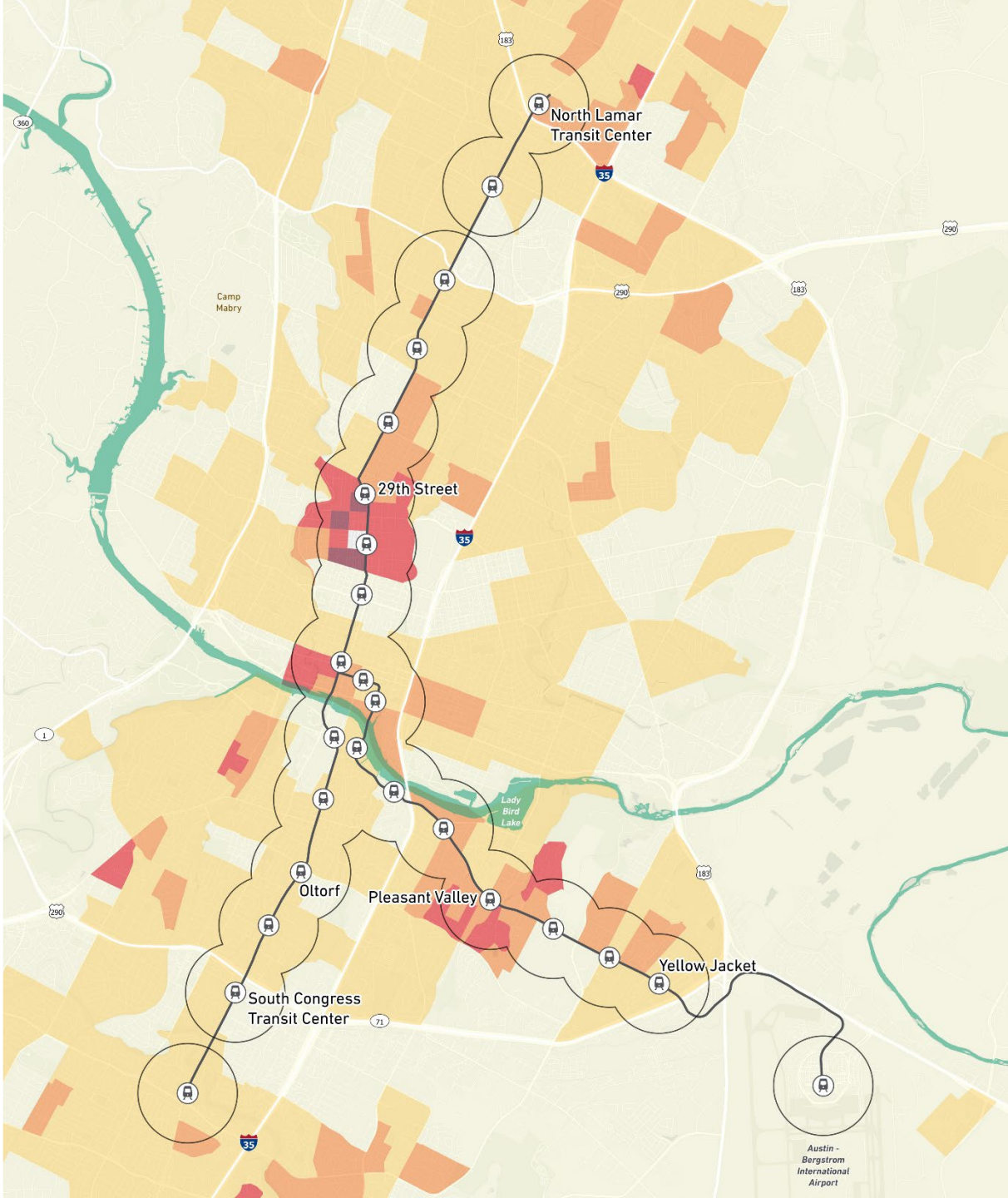
Census 2020

**LEGEND**

- Station
- 0.5 mi radius from station
- Study Area

People per square mile

	0 - 3,800
	3,801 - 8,800
	8,801 - 18,000
	18,001 - 41,000
	41,001 +





# BIPOC SHARE OF POPULATION


*Black, Indigenous, & People of Color*

Census 2020

## LEGEND

-  Station

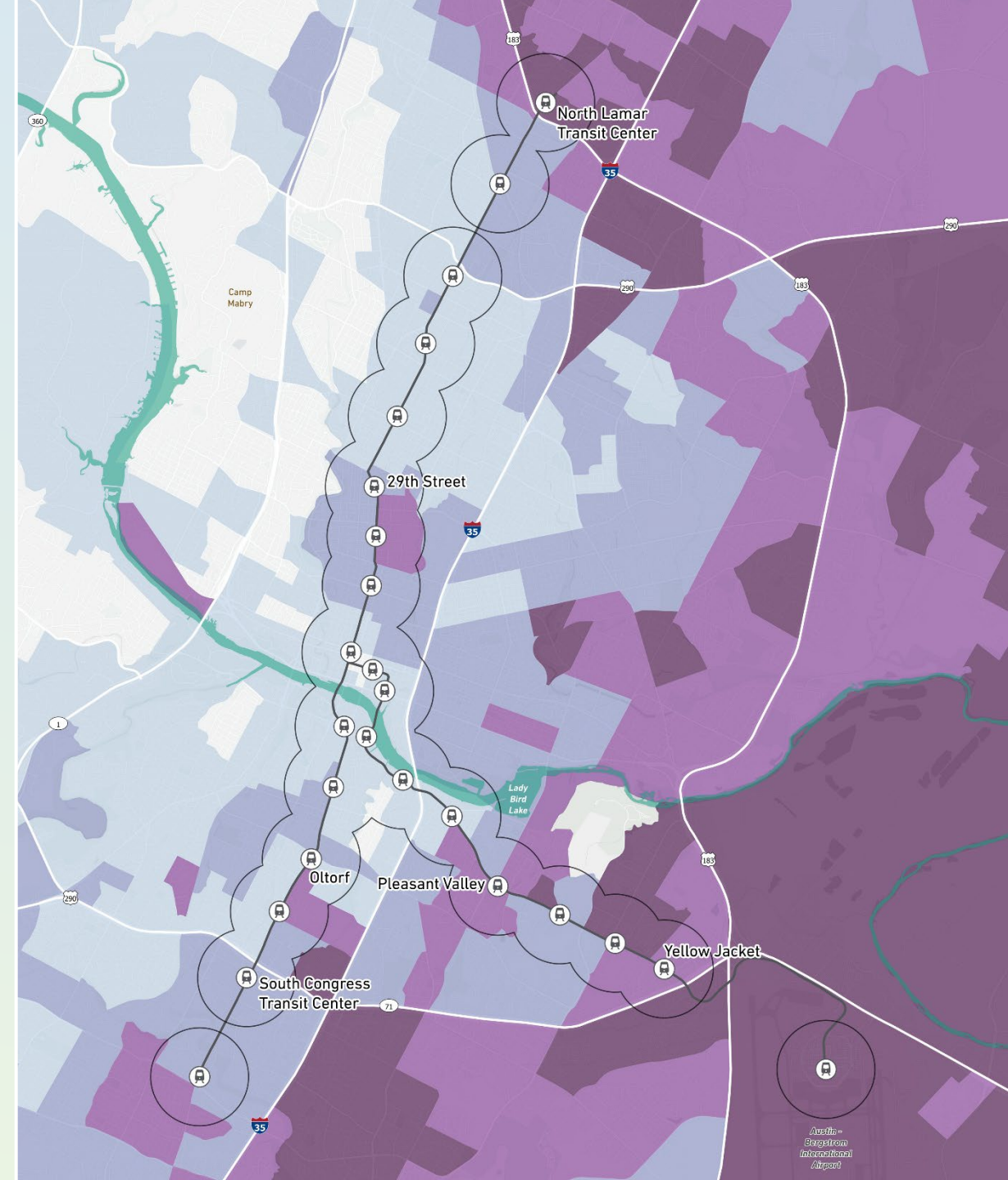
 0.5 mi radius from station

 Study Area
- BIPOC Share

1 - 20%

21 - 40%

-  41 - 60%
-  61 - 80%
-  81 - 100%





# CURRENT EMPLOYMENT DENSITY

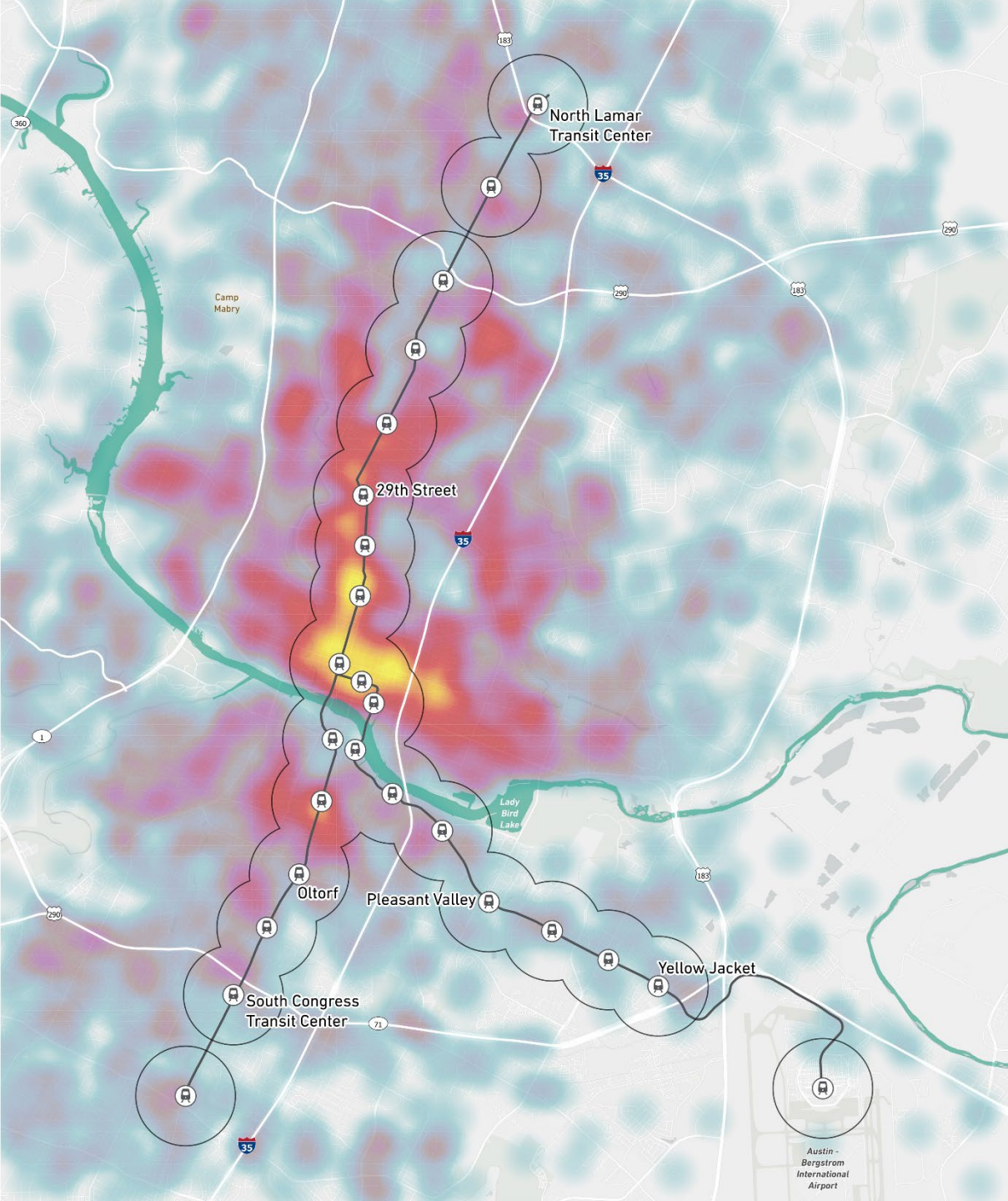
Longitudinal  
Employer-Household  
Dynamics (LEHD) 2019

**LEGEND**

- Station
- 0.5 mi radius from station
- Study Area

Employment

Sparse  
Dense











# AFFORDABLE HOUSING



## City of Austin Comprehensive Affordable Housing Directory

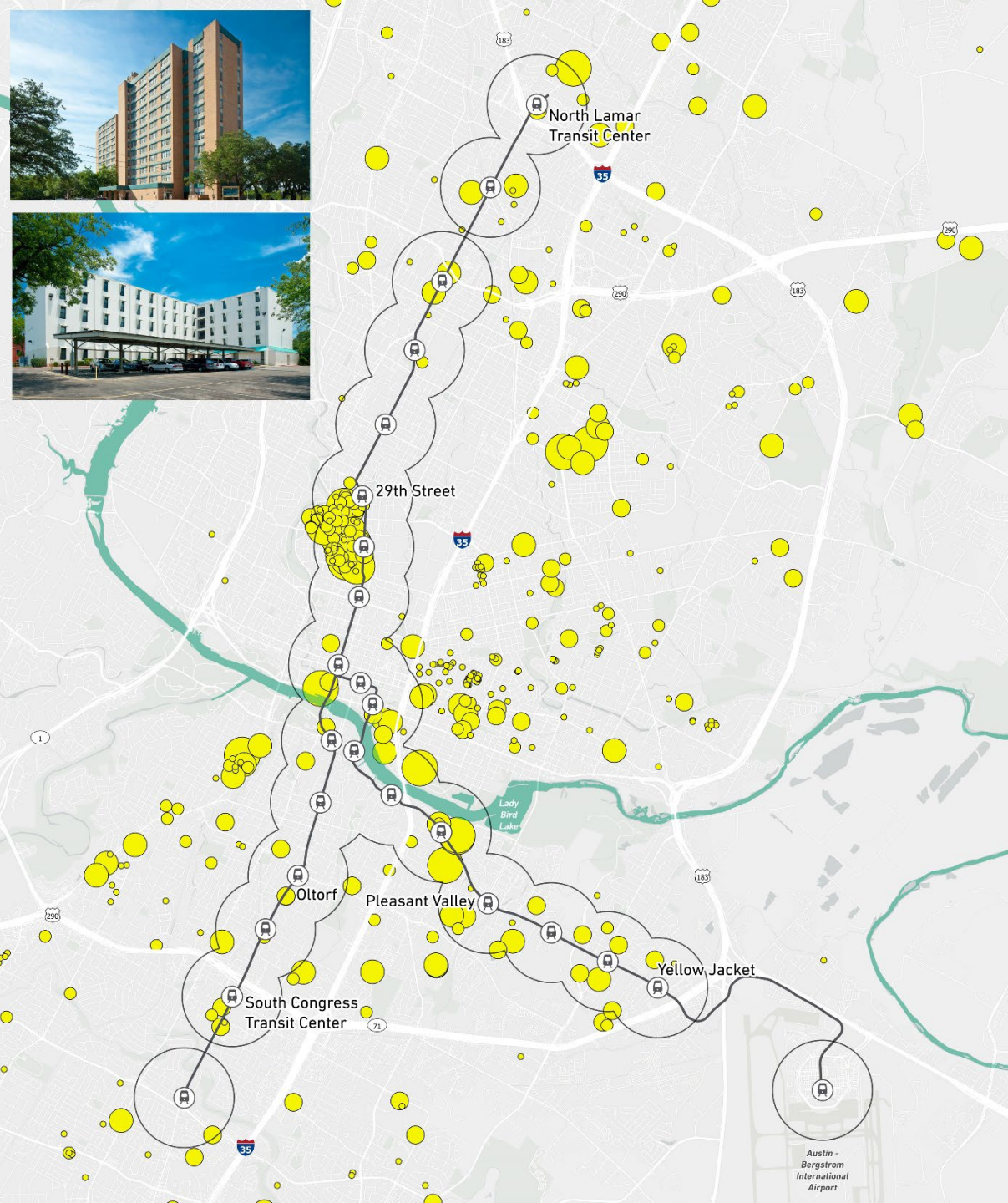
### LEGEND

-  Station
-  0.5 mi radius from station
-  Study Area

#### Affordable Housing Units

-  1 - 50
-  51 - 150
-  151 - 250

-  251 - 400
-  401 +





# TRANSIT CONNECTIONS

CapMetro

LEGEND

Station

0.5 mi radius from station

Study Area

Park & Ride

Transit Routes

Red Line

Green Line (proposed)

MetroRapid

High Frequency MetroBus

Pickup Service Zone

N

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TRANSIT  
PARTNERSHIP








CapMetro



# TRAILS AND BIKE PATHS

## City of Austin Austin Strategic Mobility Plan (ASMP)

### LEGEND

-  Station
-  0.5 mi radius from station
-  Study Area
-  Station Bikeshed (approx 2 mi)
-  Existing Bike Paths
-  Future Bike Paths
-  Trails

