AUSTIN TRANSIT PARTNERSHIP

IN PARTNERSHIP WITH

CapMetro

Austin Light Rail: Recommendation

May 30, 2023



AUSTIN LIGHT RAIL IMPLEMENTATION PLAN





















NORTH LAMAR TRANSIT CENTER
CRESTVIEW
KOENIG
45TH ST
38TH ST
29TH ST
UT
15TH ST
CONGRESS
CESAR CHAVEZ
WATERFRONT
SOCO
OLTORF
ST EDWARD'S
SOUTH CONGRESS TRANSIT CENTER
STASSNEY
TRAVIS HEIGHTS
LAKESHORE
PLEASANT VALLEY
FARO
MONTOPOLIS
YELLOW JACKET
AIRPORT

LEGEND

- AUSTIN LIGHT RAIL PHASE I
- AUSTIN LIGHT RAIL PHASE I PRIORITY EXTENSION
- FUTURE AUSTIN LIGHT RAIL
- MAJOR TRANSFER POINT
- PARK & RIDE

9.8 MILES OF NEW LIGHT RAIL

15 LIGHT RAIL STATIONS

TRANSIT CONNECTIONS

- METRORAPID
- RED LINE
- HIGH FREQUENCY BUS
- PROPOSED GREEN LINE

ESTIMATED TRAVEL TIME

23 MINS 38TH - OLTORF

31 MINS 38TH - YELLOW JACKET

ESTIMATED AVG. # OF DAILY RIDERS SERVED (2040)

28,500

20,000+ AFFORDABLE HOUSING UNITS SERVED (SUBSIDIZED)

ACCESS TO

136,000+ CURRENT JOBS

200,000+ FUTURE JOBS

ANTICIPATED CAPITAL COST (CURRENT DOLLARS)

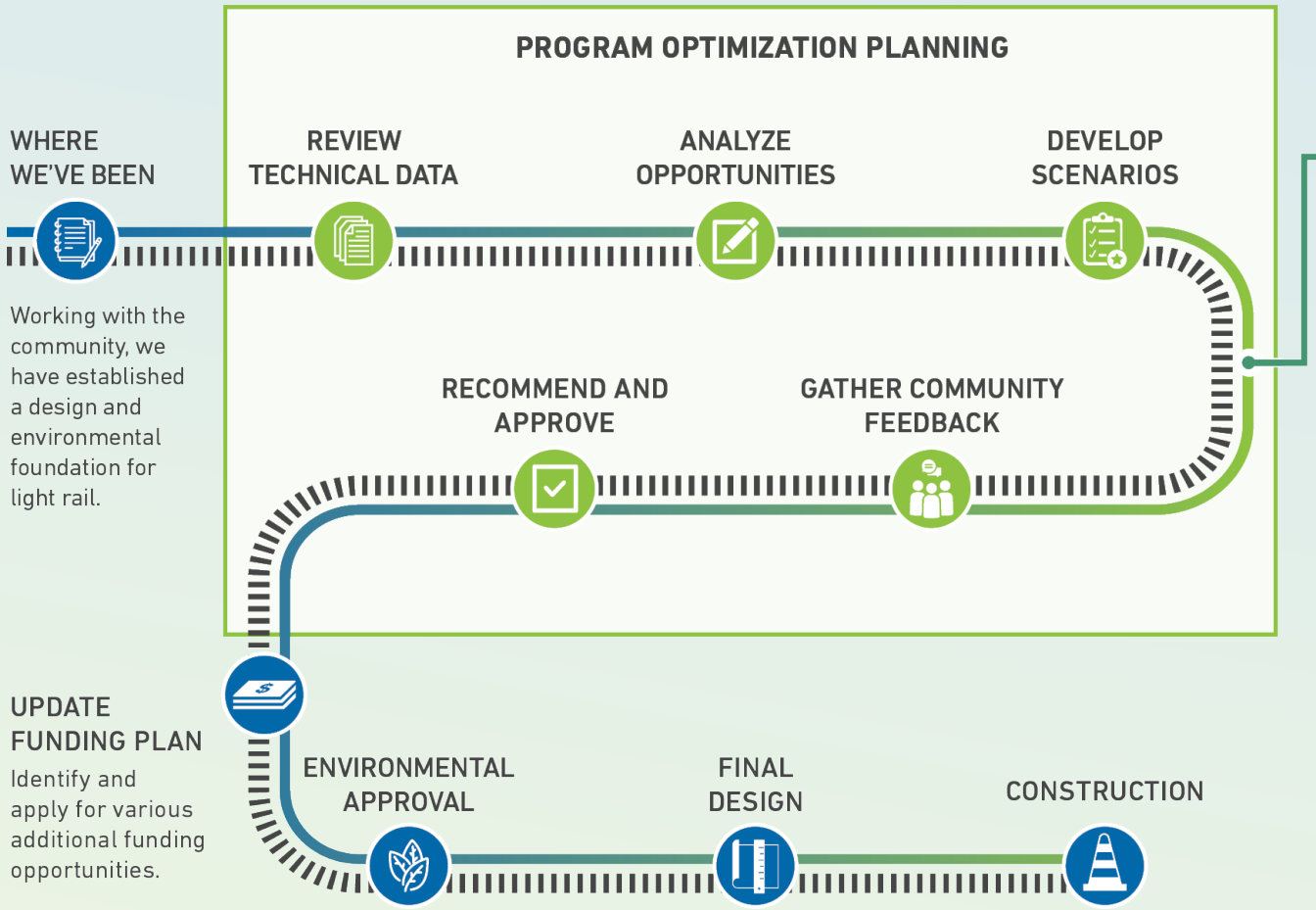
$4.5-$4.8B

LOCAL AND FEDERAL DOLLARS

MAY 2023

AUSTIN TRANSIT PARTNERSHIP

PROGRAM PROCESS



COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT





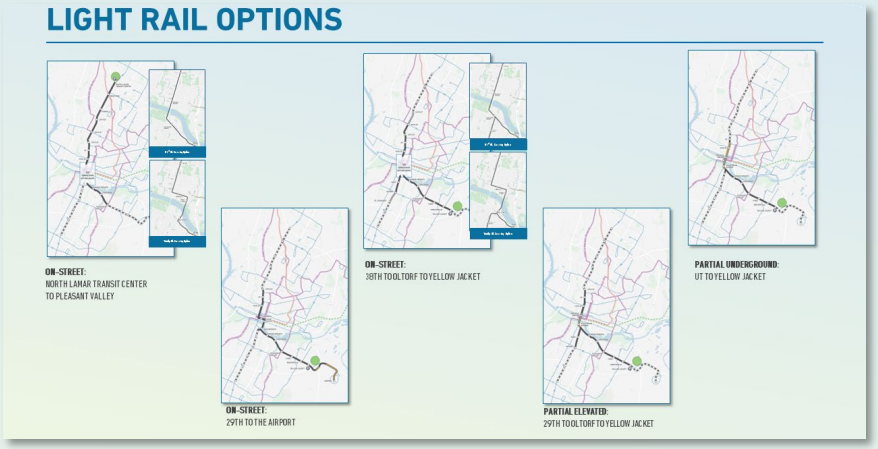




AUSTIN TRANSIT PARTNERSHIP
CapMetro

COMMUNITY DIALOGUE

LIGHT RAIL OPTIONS



MULTILINGUAL COMMUNICATIONS









IN-PERSON ENGAGEMENT

8,000+ PEOPLE ENGAGED

5,600+ TOTAL COMMENTS

91 ACTIVE ENGAGEMENT ACTIVITIES

45 BUS STATION AND TRAIN STATION OUTREACH LOCATIONS

WEBSITE

19,397 VIEWS (ENGLISH+SPANISH)

2,017 PARTICIPANTS (ENGLISH+SPANISH)

5,049 COMMENTS (ENGLISH+SPANISH)

67K+ WEBSITE PAGE VIEWS (COMBINED ACROSS ALL PAGES ON ATPTX.ORG)

OVERALL E-NEWSLETTER STATS

42K+ TOTAL RECIPIENTS REACHED

806 TEXT MESSAGE RECIPIENTS

57.2% AVERAGE UNIQUE OPEN RATE

OVERALL SOCIAL MEDIA STATS

19K PAGE REACH ON ATP SOCIAL MEDIA ACCOUNTS

54K POST IMPRESSIONS

15K USERS REACHED

WHAT WE HEARD

> *[...] Affirms that surface-running light rail is a good option to address the cost estimates for the Project Connect light rail plan.*
>
> -Urban Transportation Commission

> *RECA recommends ATP staff to choose the 38th to Oltorf to Yellow Jacket option.*
>
> -Real Estate Council of Austin (RECA)

> *TTC encourages ATP to have the light rail line cross Lady Bird Lake at the Trinity Street location.*
>
> -The Trail Conservancy

> *While all options are undoubtedly better than the current lack of any light rail, the working group has recommended the 38th to Oltorf to Yellow Jacket option because it lays the best foundation for the city overall.*
>
> -AURA - Austin for Everyone

Top Community Feedback Themes

- Supported the advancement of a light rail project that moves Austinites where they need and want to go
- Prioritized Mobility, Customer Service, and Access to Opportunities
- Focused on greater coverage, seamless integration with other transportation options, expandability of the system and affordably reaching key destinations including schools, medical centers, job centers, as well as areas around Austin including the airport, downtown, and the University of Texas
- Explored endpoint alternatives, expressed sentiments related to environmental impacts and benefits, and land use and housing

Community Advisory Committee (CAC)

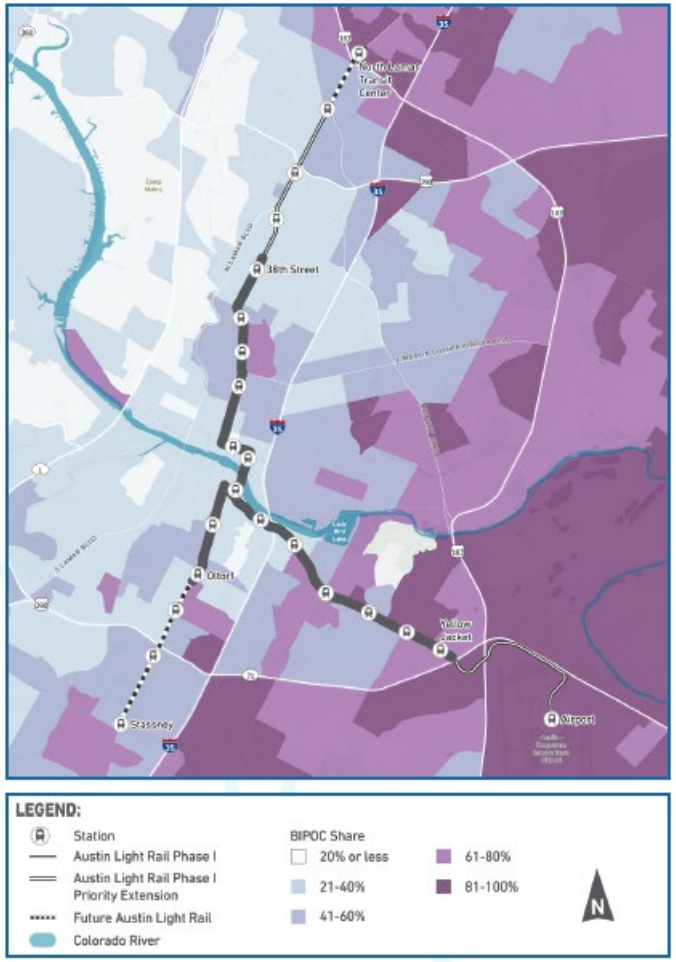
The Austin Light Rail Implementation Plan is consistent with the CAC recommendation based on community feedback, conversations with stakeholders and staff, data analysis, and alignment with System-Wide Design Principles.



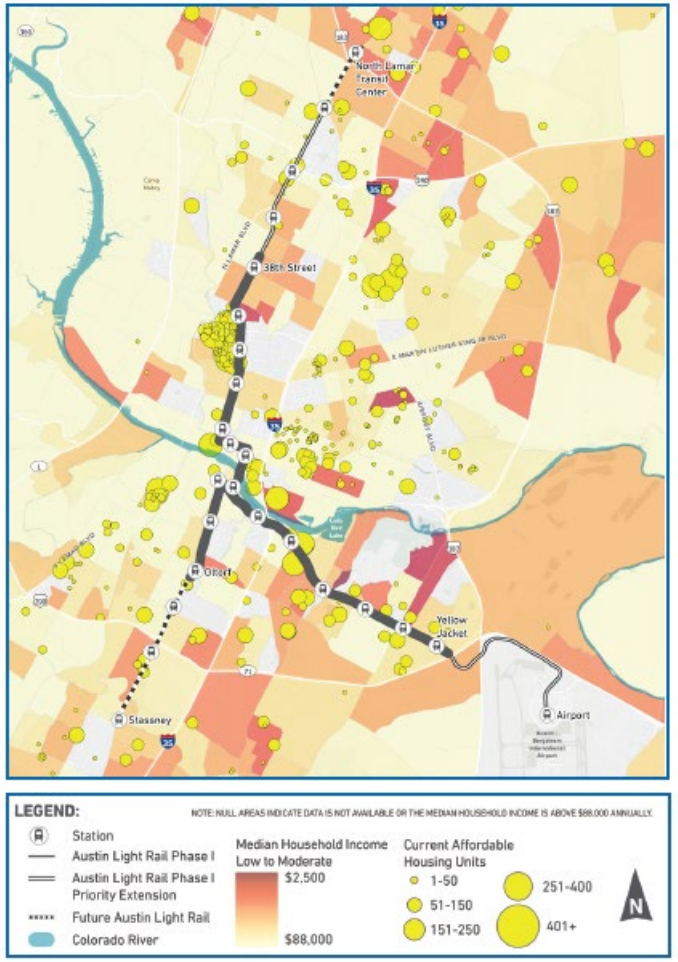
PRIORITIZE MOBILITY SOLUTIONS FOR HISTORICALLY UNDERSERVED COMMUNITIES

- Builds new infrastructure to serve historically underinvested areas
- Serves Black, Indigenous, & People of Color (BIPOC) communities, affordable housing units, lower income areas, and households that are more dependent on public transportation
- Connects communities with job centers and destinations throughout Austin

BIPOC Share of Population



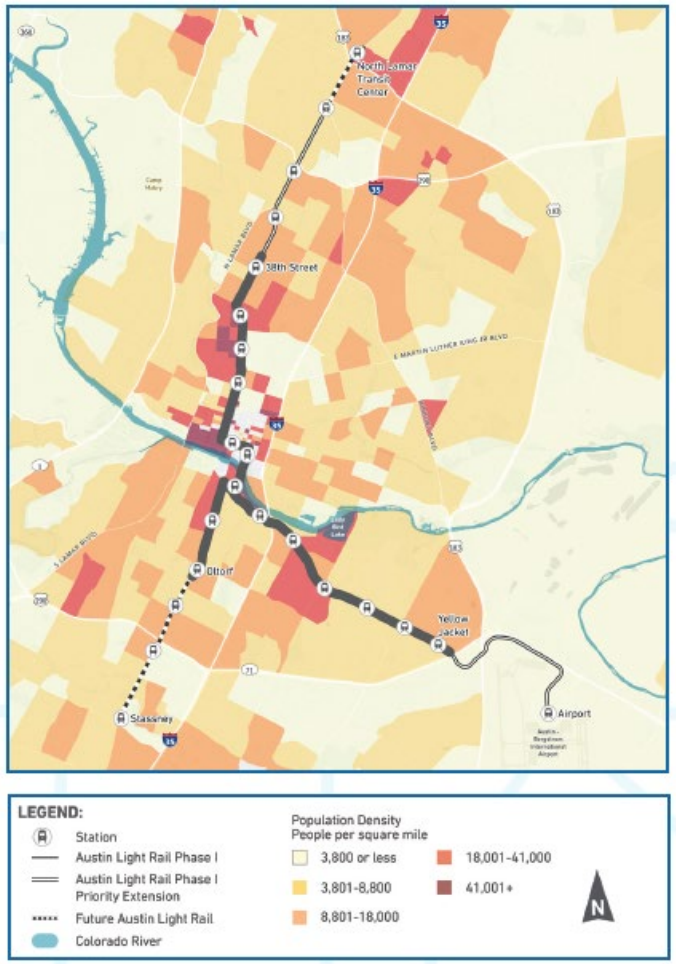
Affordable Housing & Income



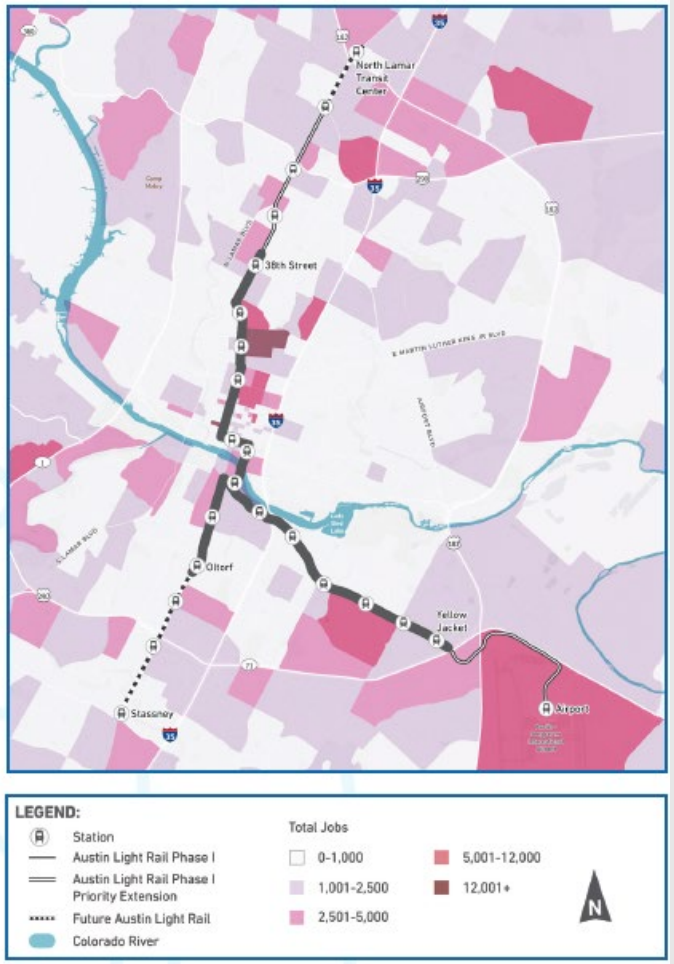
CONNECTING PEOPLE TO WHERE THEY NEED AND WANT TO GO

- Connects to job centers, education, medical centers, and downtown
- Provides access extending north, east, and south
- Generates strong ridership, and includes high ridership stations at UT, downtown, and Pleasant Valley/Riverside

2045 Population Density



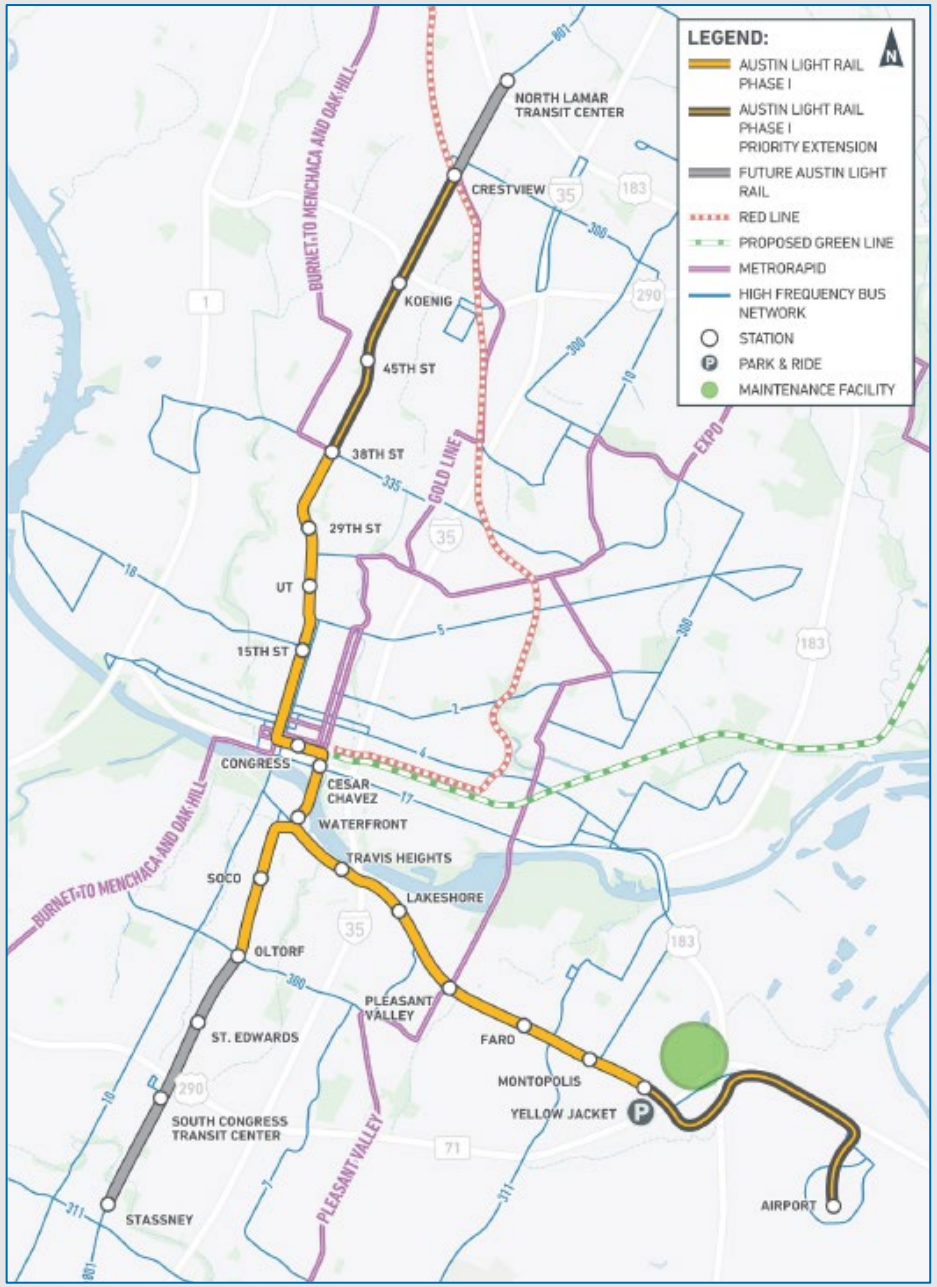
2045 Total Jobs



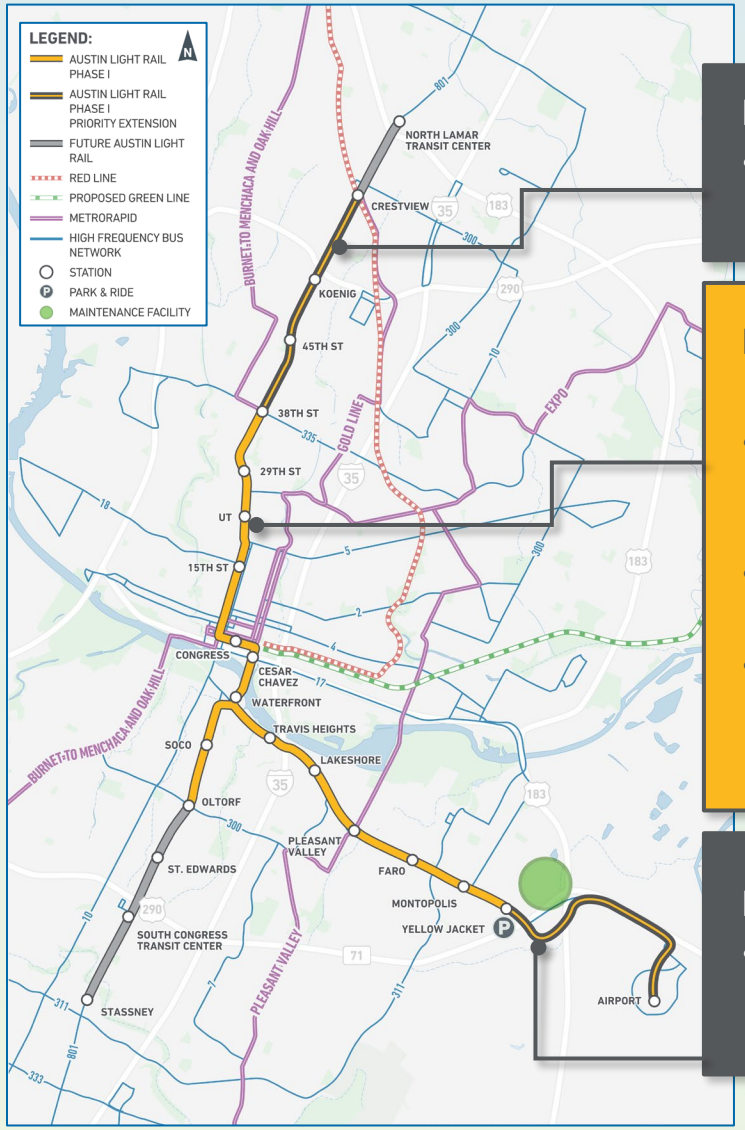
PROVIDE AN EXPANDABLE INTERCONNECTED REGIONAL TRANSIT NETWORK

- Connects with existing Red Line and future Green Line commuter rail at Downtown Station
- Connects with current and future MetroRapid service including Pleasant Valley and downtown
- Links with key high ridership and high frequency bus routes
- Supports the pursuit of 50/50 mode share goal in the ASMP by providing more high frequency transit options to more places
- Supports transit network expansion to the north, south, east and west

Transit Connections



AUSTIN LIGHT RAIL PHASE 1 AND PRIORITY EXTENSIONS



Priority Extension: 38th to Crestview

- Opportunity to partner with CapMetro to grade separate the Red Line, to improve conditions at the nearby traffic intersection for all users and enable an on-street light rail service

Phase 1: 38th to Oltorf to Yellow Jacket

- Provides north, south and east coverage that best lays foundation for future expansions/extensions
- Builds new infrastructure to serve historically underinvested areas
- Reaches BIPOC communities and lower income households
- High number of possible transit connections
- Includes high ridership stations
- Connects people to jobs and education
- Creates jobs with new maintenance facility
- Close to airport to facilitate connection
- Advances ASMP goals for mode shift
- Connects to east side of downtown via Trinity St. river crossing

Priority Extension: Yellow Jacket to Airport

- Coordination with Airport Expansion and Development Program on light rail connection and station at the airport; Opportunity to leverage other funding sources

NEXT STEPS

- **AUSTIN CITY COUNCIL MEETING |** June 1st, 2023
- **CAPMETRO BOARD WORKSESSION |** June 2nd, 2023
- **JOINT PARTNERSHIP MEETING |** June 6th, 2023

AUSTIN TRANSIT PARTNERSHIP

THANK YOU!