



# AUSTIN LIGHT RAIL UPDATE

Community Development Commission

July 11, 2023

# AUSTIN LIGHT RAIL IMPLEMENTATION PLAN

**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
- HIGH FREQUENCY BUS
- RED LINE
- 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**

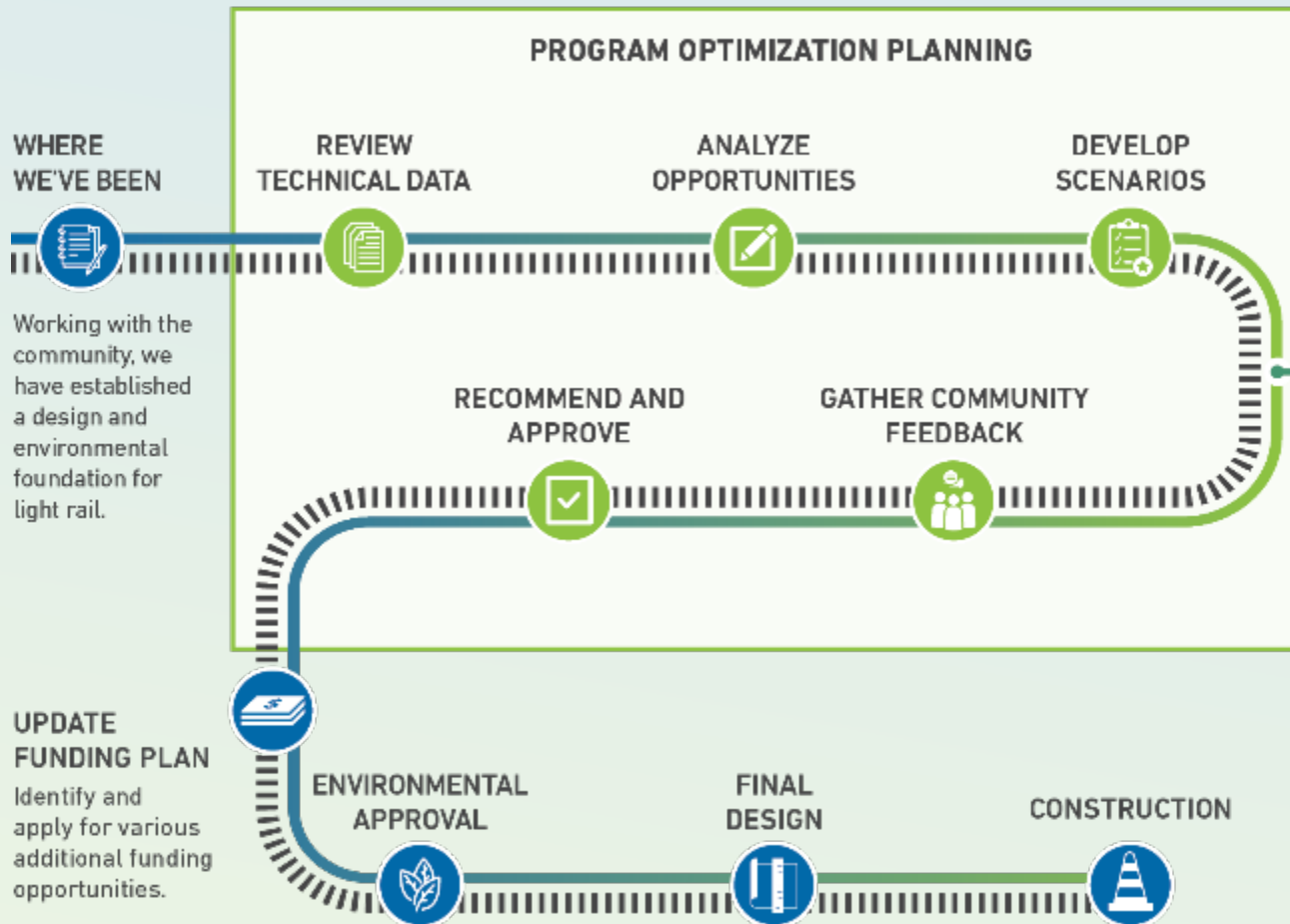
**136,000+** CURRENT JOBS

**200,000+** FUTURE JOBS

**ANTICIPATED CAPITAL COST** (CURRENT DOLLARS)

**\$4.5-\$4.8B** LOCAL AND FEDERAL DOLLARS

# PROGRAM PROCESS



## COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT



# 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 ATPX.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.





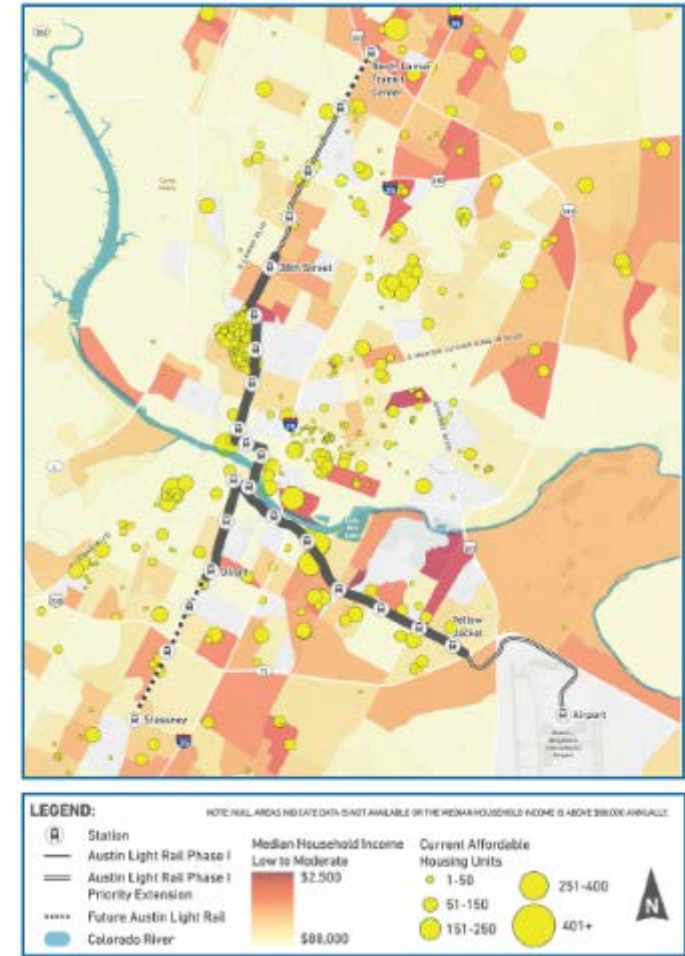
## PRIORITIZE MOBILITY SOLUTIONS FOR HISTORICALLY UNDERINVESTED COMMUNITIES

- 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

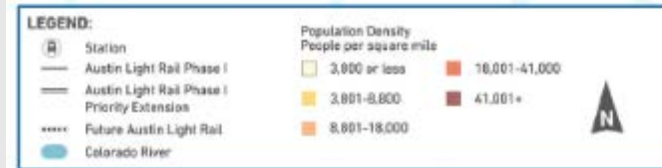
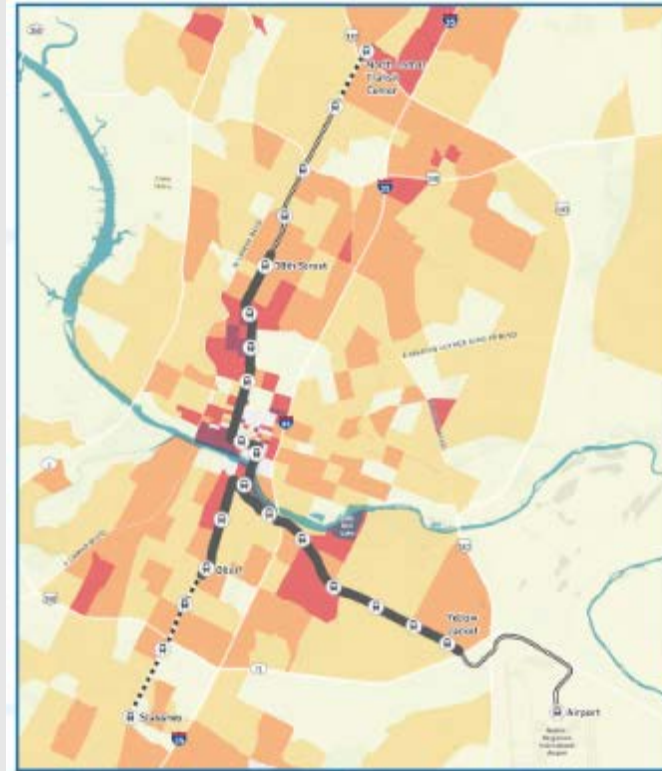




## CONNECTING PEOPLE TO WHERE THEY NEED AND WANT TO GO

- 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

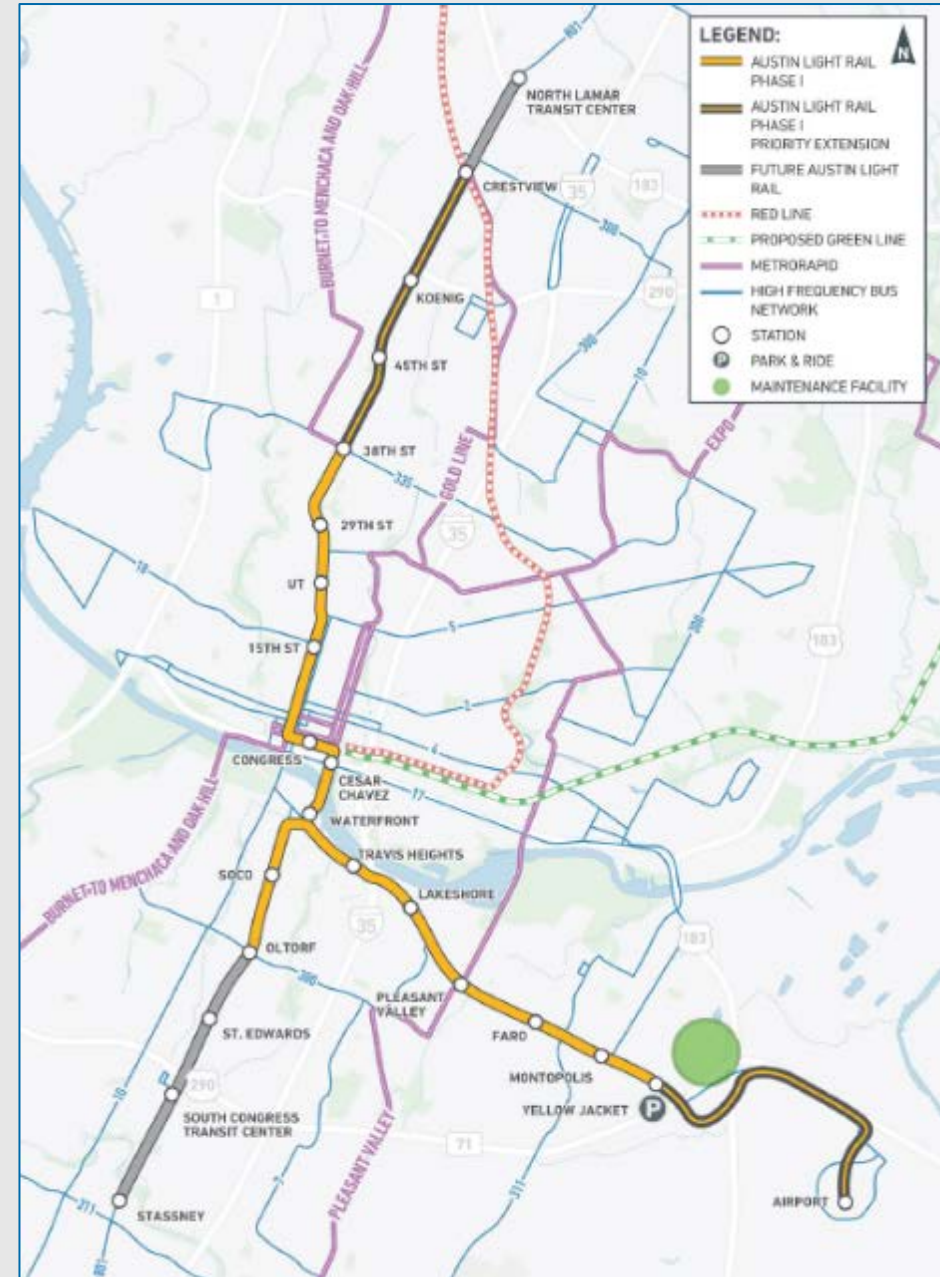




## PROVIDE AN EXPANDABLE INTERCONNECTED REGIONAL TRANSIT NETWORK

- 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

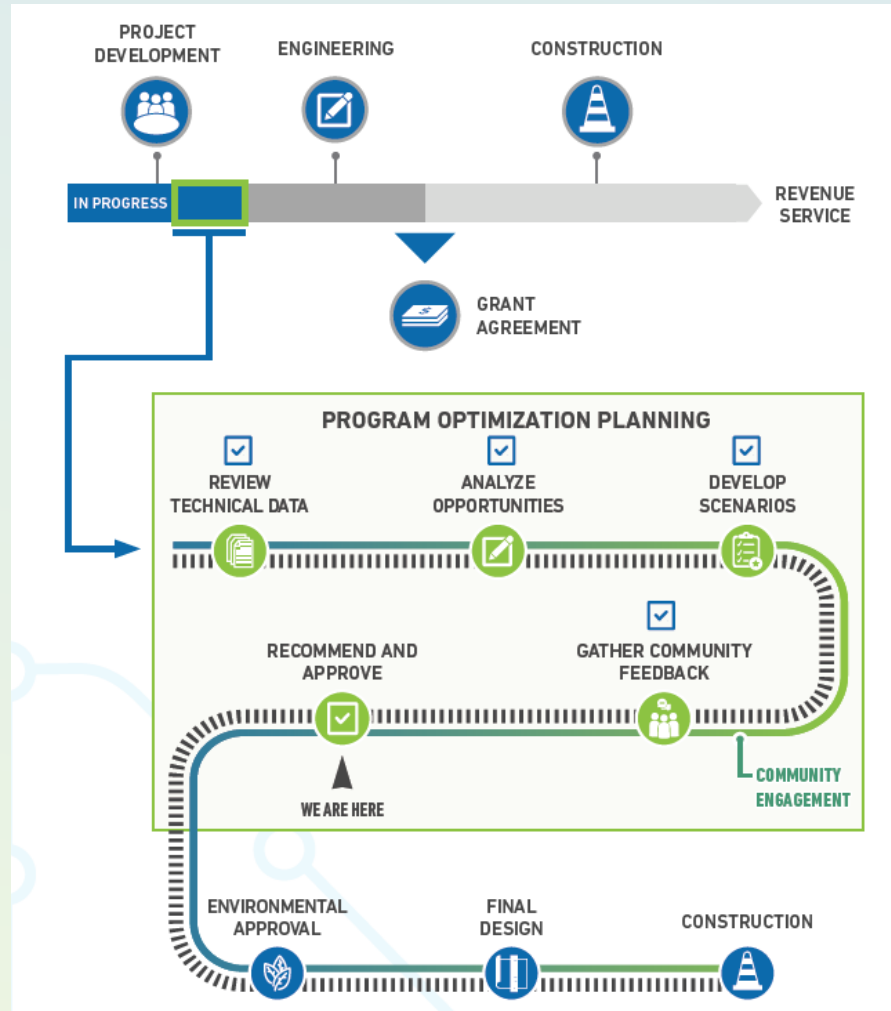
## Transit Connections





# MOVING FORWARD – GRANT PROCESS

## Federal Capital Investment Grant Process



The CIG program will constitute the majority of federal assistance to construct the light rail project.

ATP is seeking approximately 50% of capital project costs from the federal government through the CIG program.

Upon adoption of the Austin Light Rail Implementation Plan, ATP will progress through a multi-year process of continuing project development, environmental review, and coordination with FTA on federal grant funding.



# HUG



A people-centered approach

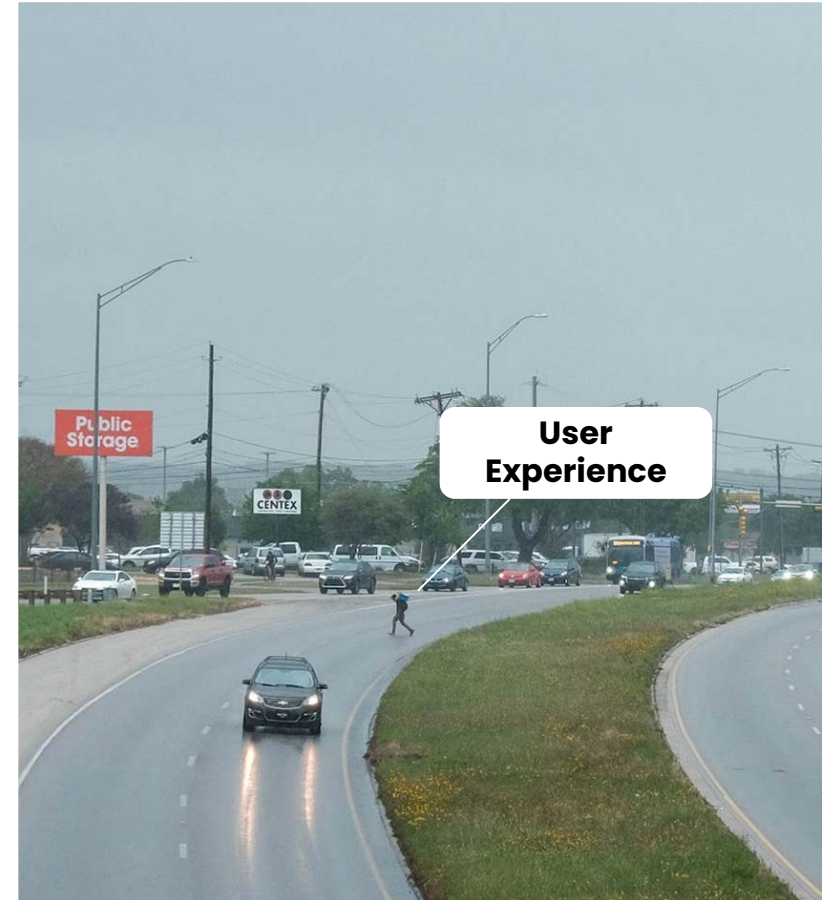


“People-centered” means designing for how people *actually* behave

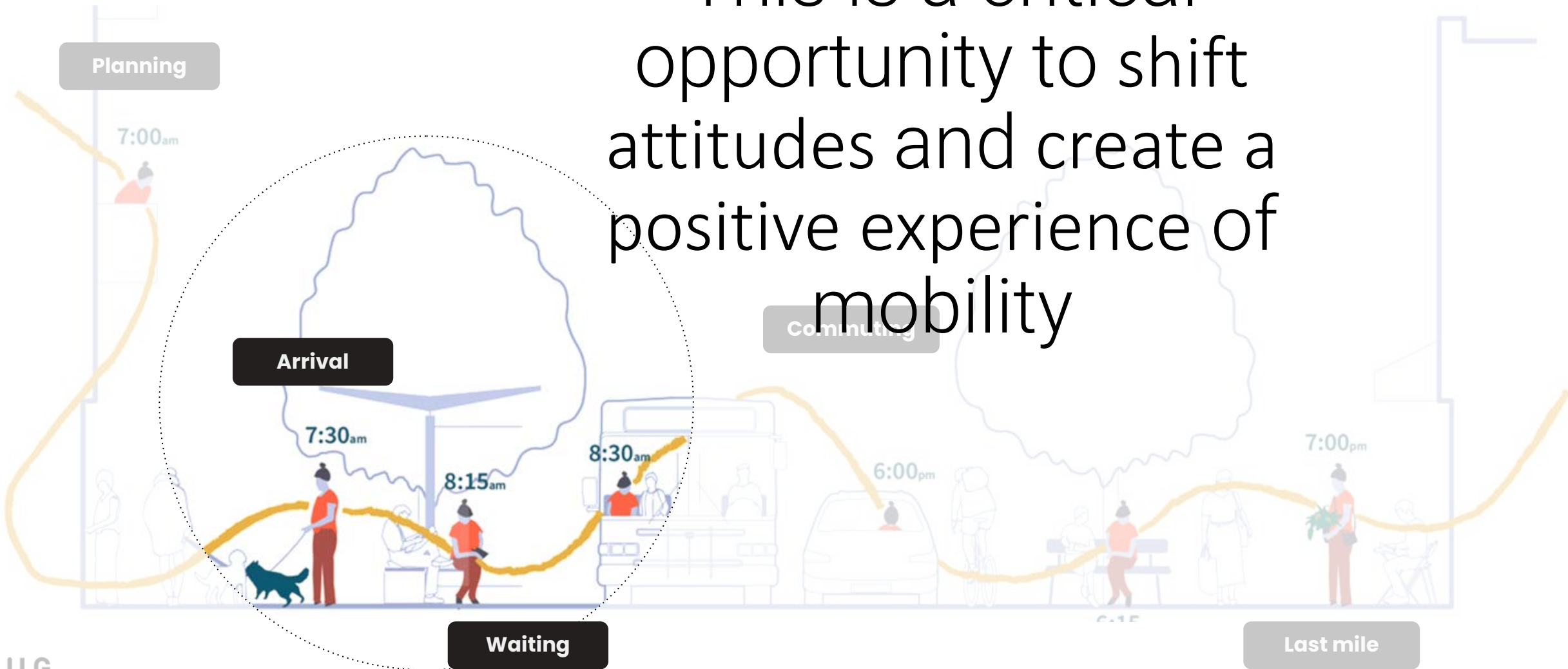
**We don't behave as computer models predict**



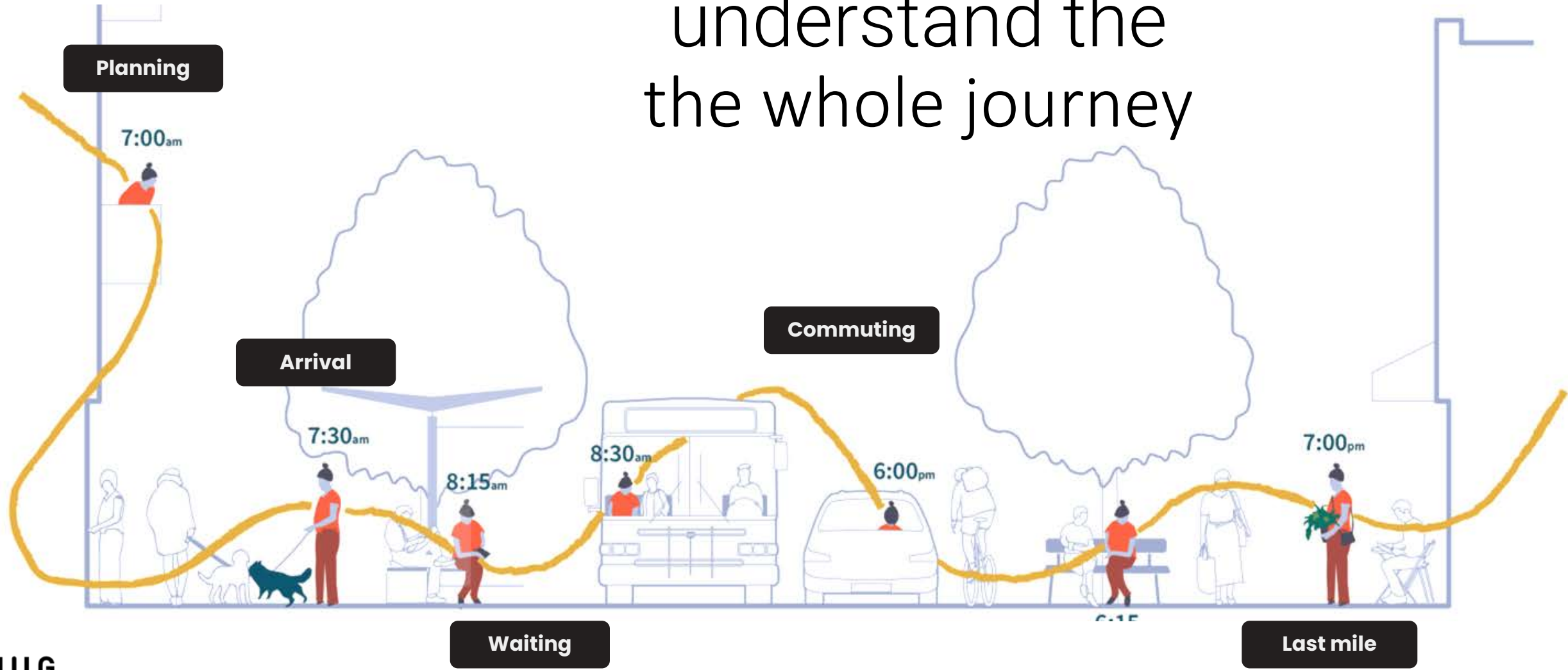
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This is a critical opportunity to shift attitudes and create a positive experience of mobility



# We want to understand the whole journey



# Research-based design approach



**Vision Workshops + Stakeholder Engagement**

**1 MORN**

**A X**

**2 Describe your journey**

**Mode & Sequence**

| Mode                 | 1st leg | 2nd leg | 3rd leg | 4th leg | 5th leg |
|----------------------|---------|---------|---------|---------|---------|
| Walk                 |         |         |         |         |         |
| Bike (by hand)       |         | X       | X       |         |         |
| Bike (rent)          |         |         |         |         |         |
| Map share (eg. Lyft) |         |         | X       |         |         |
| Generic Drive (rent) |         |         |         |         |         |
| Stroller (rent)      |         |         |         |         |         |
| Other                |         |         |         |         |         |

**Reflecting on Experience**

**The bus is crowded in the morning, so it can be hard to find space for my stroller.**

**My bus ran express and dropped me far from my daughter's school, so I had to take a taxi to make it to work on time**

**We ran into my daughter's friend on the way downtown — it was fun to catch up on our way into the city!**



**User Personas + Typical Journeys**



**Local Culture**

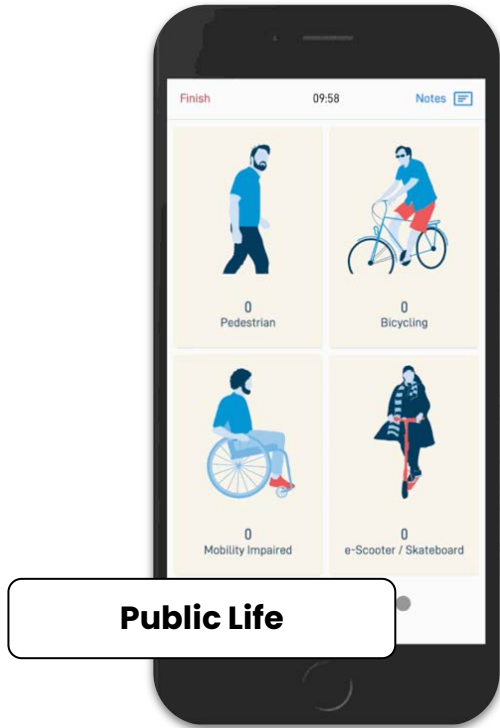
**DIRECTORY OF RESOURCES | Concrete**

**1. Icon - Vulcan Construction System**  
3D Printed Concrete  
On-Site and Pre-Fabricated Architectural and Structural Components  
<https://www.iconbuild.com/technology>

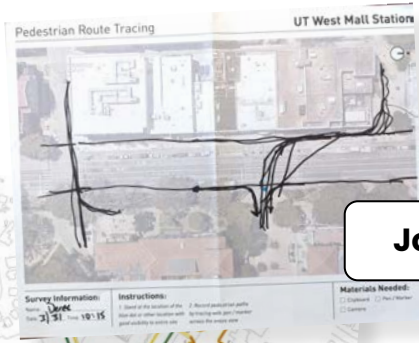
**5. Structural Hollow Core Concrete**  
3201 Veterans Drive  
Pearland, TX 77664  
Phone: (281) 485-3273  
<https://gateprecast.com>

**Local Construction Trades Landscape + Urban Form Sustainability + Climate**

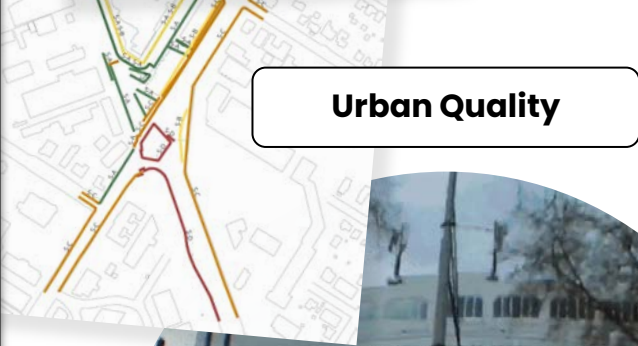
Research-based design approach



Public Life



Journey Mapping



Cognitive Experience

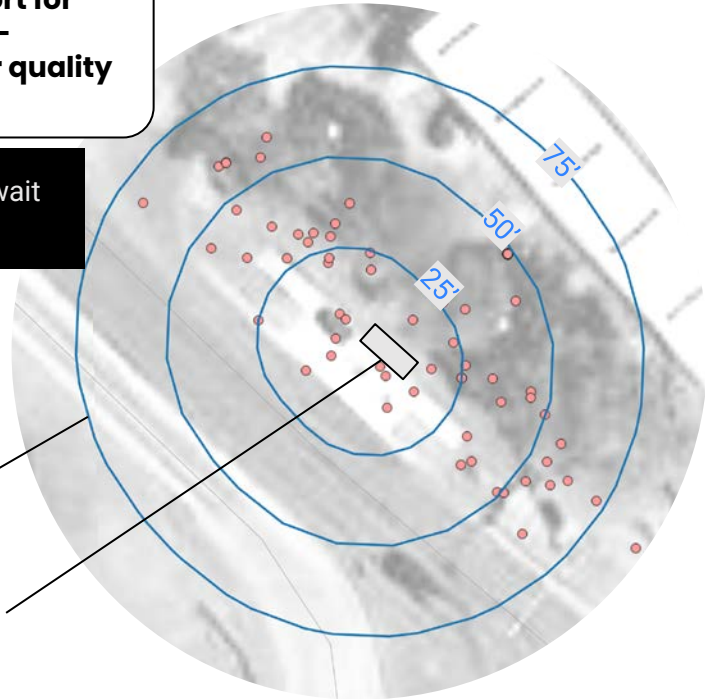


People forgo seating comfort for micro-climate protection — specifically to noise and air quality (Stationary Activity, Riverside)

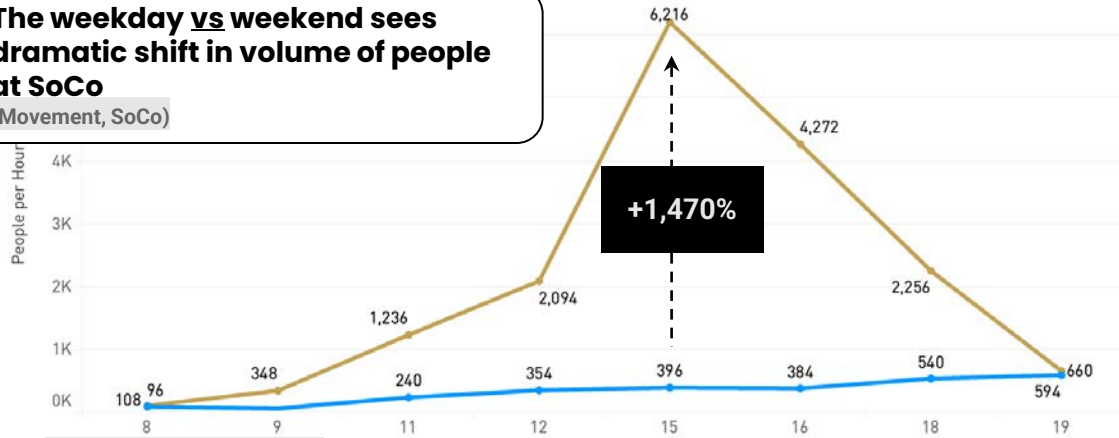
Less than a third of people wait within 25' of the shelter

75' radius

Bus shelter



The weekday vs weekend sees dramatic shift in volume of people at SoCo (Movement, SoCo)



Movement Flow Thursday vs. Saturday



Supporting transit means supporting public life



# CONTACT US

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**AUSTIN  
TRANSIT  
PARTNERSHIP**

**THANK YOU!**

[input@atptx.org](mailto:input@atptx.org)