
From: Charles Harrison <info_email.actionnetwork.org>
Sent: Wednesday, October 18, 2023 3:12 PM
To: Ellis, Paige
Subject: Oppose the i35 expansion

External Email - Exercise Caution

Council Member Paige Ellis,

We need to focus on vision zero which basically requires reducing vmt in Austin. Expanding i35 will increase pollution and make our environmental goals harder to achieve. We need to focus on sustainable transit, and expanding highways is exactly the wrong thing to do.

Charles Harrison

2105 Brooklyn St
Austin, Texas 78704

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From: Benjamin Weller <info_email.actionnetwork.org>
Sent: Wednesday, October 18, 2023 3:04 PM
To: Ellis, Paige
Subject: Reject I-35 Expansion

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Council Member Paige Ellis,

Mr. Mayor and Council Members,

I'm writing with regard to the proposed expansion of I-35. I feel it will be environmentally disastrous and will negatively impact residents and small businesses who will be displaced.

For me, the calculus is a matter of risk vs. reward. If the expansion moves forward, how long will it drag on? How will traffic be impacted on the I-35 corridor be impacted for the duration? What silt and other debris will be washed into our beautiful lakes?

And so, what is the actual reward?

Respectfully,
Benjamin Weller

Benjamin Weller

703 Harris Ave Apt C
Austin, Texas 78705

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From: Jose Gomez <info_email.actionnetwork.org>
Sent: Wednesday, October 18, 2023 2:59 PM
To: Ellis, Paige
Subject: Stop the 35 widening project

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Council Member Paige Ellis,

I am a resident of Austin and I support agenda item 45 and urge council members to oppose I35 widening project. I oppose this project because it will bring more pollution, congestions, and affect the quality of life of the area. I work downtown and will have to find alternate directions if this project goes through. One more lane is not the solution. My health will be impacted by this and make climate change worse. While I do have a car, it's not my main method of transportation. I use my bike more often because I'm within 20 minutes of work, grocery store, and activities. I am completely for making sh 130 non toll and have commuters take that highway since the majority of them aren't stopping in Austin. Give us alternatives like a boulevard with public transportation lanes and bike lanes. Together we can make our future better.

Thank you.

Jose Gomez

2506 Manor Rd
Austin, Texas 78722

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From: Regine Malibiran <info_email.actionnetwork.org>
Sent: Wednesday, October 18, 2023 2:54 PM
To: Ellis, Paige
Subject: URGENT: City Council should oppose I35 expansion

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Council Member Paige Ellis,

I live in Southeast Austin in an apartment complex right next to I-35. I oppose expanding the interstate because it will further congest traffic in the area where I live and beyond. I would love to use public transportation especially since I work in Central East Austin but because my apartment is right next to the highway there isn't a safe, walkable way for me to get to a convenient bus stop, making me rely on a car. Every time I visit a city with a more robust public transportation system (Bangkok, New York City) I wish that there were feasible public transportation options in my home.

A bigger highway will also mean more cars and more pollution. I support solutions like the Rethink35 or any proposals that prioritize public transportation.

Regine Malibiran

8001 S Interstate 35 Apt 1723
Austin, Texas 78744

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From: Travis Glenn <info_email.actionnetwork.org>
Sent: Wednesday, October 18, 2023 2:35 PM
To: Ellis, Paige
Subject: Oppose the I35 expansion

External Email - Exercise Caution

Council Member Paige Ellis,

I am a resident of Austin, use 35 regularly for work and to get around town, and I unequivocally oppose the proposed expansion of I35 through downtown Austin.

Over the more than 70 years of major highway construction we have seen in this country, the evidence overwhelmingly demonstrates that the vast majority of these projects *do not* improve traffic conditions. In fact, most of the projects only make traffic worse.

I ask you to oppose this expansion, and support the alternative proposals for improving Austin mobility - including mass transit. This could be an opportunity for a huge investment in Austin's future, let's make sure we are looking for 21st century solutions rather than 20th century ones.

Travis Glenn

649 Mairo Street
Austin, Texas 78748

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From: Marcela Gomez <info_email.actionnetwork.org>
Sent: Wednesday, October 18, 2023 2:27 PM
To: Ellis, Paige
Subject: Please reconsider what this expansion would do to our environment

External Email - Exercise Caution

Council Member Paige Ellis,

We cannot continue to pass the cost of our vehicle emissions over to our children. Now is the time for sustainable and scalable transit solutions, and expanding I35 is not one of them.

Marcela Gomez

8002 Talferd Trl.
Austin, Texas 78744

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From: Amir Downing <info_email.actionnetwork.org>
Sent: Wednesday, October 18, 2023 2:06 PM
To: Ellis, Paige
Subject: Alison Alter

External Email - Exercise Caution

Council Member Paige Ellis,

I am a resident of Rosedale here in Austin and I'm writing to inform you of my support for agenda item 45. I urge you to stand in opposition to the I-35 expansion.

If the problem is traffic congestion, highway expansion is no solution. Due to the "induced demand" phenomenon, expansion will worsen congestion in Austin, including where we live in the center of town. This effect is well studied and replicated far too often in places like Katy, whose highway expansion not only made things look worse, but made the traffic problem itself worse.

Furthermore, it's important to stress the historical legacy of the highway boundary. Despite recent gentrification, the highway still serves as a barrier to community integration. Austin is the most racially segregated city in America, in no small part due to the disparate policies and regimes on separate sides of the highway. We should be connecting the community, not widening the scars of generations past.

For these reasons I specifically support the Rethink35 proposal and any proposal that centers on public transportation. It's imperative that we invest our dollars wisely and not put good money after bad. This is a single-issue for me and will affect my voting behaviors going forward. I place this higher than party affiliation, meaning I would happily vote for a Republican opposed to highway expansion rather than a Democrat who supported it.

Please consider this when voting tomorrow.

Amir Downing

1303 W 40th St
Austin, Texas 78756

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Balderrama, Guillermo

From: Parke Gregg <
Sent: Wednesday, October 18, 2023 1:40 PM
To: Watson, Kirk
Subject: Agenda Item #45 - In Favor

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External Email - Exercise Caution

Dear Mayor, Mayor Pro Tem, and Members of Council,

Please pass resolution #45 on the 10/19 Council agenda to ensure the City of Austin's commitment to the environment and desire for the Interstate project to be designed as smart as possible.

As a 24 year resident of the Cherrywood neighborhood, which will be significantly impacted by the IH-35 project, I support this resolution.

Thanks,
Parke Gregg
3207 Dancy St, Austin, TX 78722

.....
Parke Gregg
Colorist/Editor/Project Finisher
Stuck On On
www.stuckonon.com
512.535.4760
.....

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From: Franky Mabalatan <info_email.actionnetwork.org>
Sent: Wednesday, October 18, 2023 1:15 PM
To: Ellis, Paige
Subject: I oppose I-35 expansion because of the damage it will to Austin and its residents

External Email - Exercise Caution

Council Member Paige Ellis,

Hello,

I'm a resident of East Austin and I heavily oppose I-35 expansion and support agenda item 45 and urge all Council Members to oppose I-35 expansion.

The expansion of I-35 will be extremely detrimental to the residents of Austin while bringing no traffic congestion relief to the corridor, and even more so, will worsen congestion in the area. Expansion prioritizes space and health of concrete and asphalt over that of Austin families. The land and expenses it will take for expansion are being stolen away from the Austin residents and communities that make it the vibrant hub that it is today. Those in favor of I-35 expansion are admonishing that value and importance and are misidentifying what will truly help develop Austin. While being detrimental to Austin and those whom live and work here, I-35 expansion will also have severe consequences of harmful environmental impact, accelerating the damage of climate change on our communities with the estimated emissions the expansion is projected to unleash into the air we breathe.

I am in complete support of the Rethink35 for its innovative and human-centered thinking and its proper support of Austin's residents, families, communities, and visitors. We need to greatly expand public transit access and service our city so that we may shine to the rest of the world as a glowing example of how much Texas cares for its own and serves all of its residents.

Franky Mabalatan

2910 E 17th St
Austin, Texas 78705

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From: Mirabella Chauvin <info_email.actionnetwork.org>
Sent: Wednesday, October 18, 2023 1:13 PM
To: Ellis, Paige
Subject: Opposition of I-35 Expansion

External Email - Exercise Caution

Council Member Paige Ellis,

The expansion of I-35 is a hazardous and undeniably wrong step in the profession of Austin. The annihilation of small businesses, and the expansion of a car dependent city is a misstep in our growth. Our goal should be to expand walkability, public transit, and encourage less use of personal automotives instead of funding a gross increase in our cities car dependency and carbon footprint. Austin should try to live up to its name, and to our green spaces, and in the midst of a climate emergency not be expanding our highways. In addition the destruction of multiple small businesses and places of work for Austinites in favor of a highways is unconscionable. I plead the city to reconsider.

Mirabella Chauvin

9508 Doliver Dr
Austin, Texas 78748

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From: Sharon Love <info_email.actionnetwork.org>
Sent: Wednesday, October 18, 2023 1:03 PM
To: Ellis, Paige
Subject: Definition of insanity

External Email - Exercise Caution

Council Member Paige Ellis,

More lanes do not resolve congestion. Every city has tried. Every city has failed. Once this project is completed nothing will change for the good. We'll have more cars. More pollution. More disruption. More division.

We should rethink I35.

Sharon Love

Sharon Love

1003 E 8th St
Austin , Texas 78702

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From: Mark Redmond <info_email.actionnetwork.org>
Sent: Wednesday, October 18, 2023 1:00 PM
To: Ellis, Paige
Subject: Please do not expand the interstate

External Email - Exercise Caution

Council Member Paige Ellis,

Time after time, any instance of a city reclaiming car space in order to generate more citizen space, citizen satisfaction rises. We should be creating more public transportation infrastructure (and providing more incentives for local businesses which have the option for their employees to work from home permanently to provide that option), not pretending like we are one lane away from ending congestion as if we're all new credit card away from financial security. Rethink it!

Mark Redmond

5601 WOODROW AVE, Apt 115
AUSTIN, Texas 78756

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From: Chet Gresham <info_email.actionnetwork.org>
Sent: Wednesday, October 18, 2023 12:39 PM
To: Ellis, Paige
Subject: Please stop I-35 expansion

External Email - Exercise Caution

Council Member Paige Ellis,

This will worsen congestion in our entire region, including where I live. Expanding highways never improves and often worsens congestion, as we saw from the Katy Freeway expansion. Building more clean energy transportation is needed instead of adding more cars to the roads.

Chet Gresham

2306 Loyola Ln
Austin, Texas 78723

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Balderrama, Guillermo

From: Ben Hamill <
Sent: Wednesday, October 18, 2023 11:30 AM
To: Ellis, Paige
Subject: Oppose I-35 Expansion

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Council Member Paige Ellis,

I'm an Austin resident and have relied on biking and public transit for my main commute for about a decade now. Expanding I-35 runs counter to every goal I have for Austin's urban design in the future. Please support agenda item 45. If we want to improve travel along the I-35 corridor between San Antonio and Dallas, we should be looking at rail. Those cities and Austin should also ask for an receive state funds to improve their local public transit so that people using a train to get to Dallas can also reasonably get around without a car.

Even if all of that is a no-go from the state government, we can't countenance more cars in Austin brought by the induced demand an expanded I-35 would represent. There will be knock-on effects from that which would incentivize the city to spend even more on car infrastructure and make it harder and harder to justify spending money on other modes of transportation like local bus, rail or cycling infrastructure.

TXDOT's incentives are perverse. They're rewarded based on the number of cars driving on their roads, which means they'd be penalized for creating a usable intercity rail system. This needs to be fixed, but in the mean time, it means they need to be resisted when they propose projects that are bad for cities, bad for Texans and bad for the environment.

Ben Hamill

7505 St. Phillip St.
Austin, Texas 78757

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From: Charles Boothby <info_email.actionnetwork.org>
Sent: Wednesday, October 18, 2023 11:06 AM
To: Ellis, Paige
Subject: I-35 Expansion

External Email - Exercise Caution

Council Member Paige Ellis,

I am strongly urging council members to listen to the public and oppose the plan to expand I-35. I believe an expansion of the highway will make living in Austin significantly worse.

Speaking from personal experience, I have only seen negative effects from highway construction. The construction phase itself slows down traffic, frustrates drivers, and is dangerous to both drivers and construction workers. After construction is complete, results are hardly beneficial to traffic, if at all. So all those years of construction and annoyance were basically a waste. There is also research that shows adding lanes to highways, like what the expansion of I-35 plans to do, does not actually improve traffic flow.

My personal belief is that we should be moving away from car-dependency overall. Austin is a beautiful, weird city filled with wonderful people, and it's infrastructure should reflect that (walkability, public transit, parks, etc). Car dependency also heavily contributes to carbon emissions/climate change, as well as injuries and deaths from accidents. And anyone who cannot afford or doesn't own a car is left with very little options.

I understand it is difficult to implement these kinds of changes given the systems already in place. What we can do now is avoid making the wrong decisions that will make things worse, which is what the expansion of I-35 would do. And I believe it is worth it to invest in more people-centered infrastructure that will benefit quality of life and general well-being.

Thank you for hearing my and other's thoughts on the matter.

Charles Boothby

1702 Palo Duro Rd
Austin, Texas 78757

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From: Lea McAuley <info_email.actionnetwork.org>
Sent: Wednesday, October 18, 2023 10:31 AM
To: Ellis, Paige
Subject: Please Stop the I-35 deadly expansion!

External Email - Exercise Caution

Council Member Paige Ellis,

I'm a Austin resident and home owner in both South Austin and Cherrywood neighborhood. I strongly oppose expanding I-35 because of the impact on my family and our communities health and safety. During rush hours I can no longer work in or enjoy sitting in my yard due to the worsening air conditions in the city.

This will worsen congestion in our entire region, including where I live. Expanding highways never improves and often worsens congestion, as we saw from the Katy Freeway expansion. This will be bad for my health and that of my family because of worse air quality.

This project will worsen climate change the estimated emissions are the equivalent of a coal plant

It will make it harder to get around without a car. The project is expected to bring an additional 100,000 cars a day into the city which will require more car infrastructure at the expense of other modes.

I am FOR The Rethink35 proposal, redesignating another highway such as SH-130 as an interstate, a boulevard going through town, a public transit-first project.

Lea McAuley

509 Clarke St
Austin, Texas 78745

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Balderrama, Guillermo

From: Amber Novak <
Sent: Wednesday, October 18, 2023 10:20 AM
To: Watson, Kirk; Ellis, Paige; Harper-Madison, Natasha; Fuentes, Vanessa; Velasquez, Jose; Vela, Jose "Chito"; Alter, Ryan; Kelly, Mackenzie; Pool, Leslie; Qadri, Zo; Alter, Alison; Garza, Jesús; Lawler, John; Morales, Sofia; Melendez, Lizette; Bray, Timothy; Leffler, Ben; McGregor, Thomas; Brinsmade, Louisa; Montgomery, Julie; Beeler, Melissa; Richardson, Ashley; Alexander, Kate
Subject: Item #45

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Dear Mayor, Mayor Pro Tem, and Members of Council,

I support Item #45 on the 10/19 Council agenda. Please pass this resolution to ensure the City of Austin's commitment to climate action and reducing greenhouse gas emissions.

Thank you,
Amber Novak
4805 Eilers Ave., Austin TX 78751

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From: Karinne Berstis <info_email.actionnetwork.org>
Sent: Wednesday, October 18, 2023 10:20 AM
To: Ellis, Paige
Subject: Oppose I35 Expansion

External Email - Exercise Caution

Council Member Paige Ellis,

I'm a long time Austin resident and I urge you to oppose the expansion of I35. This expansion will have disastrous effects in terms of increasing pollution and will lead to a future of increased health issues for everyone living in that corridor. Why, in a time where extreme weather events and a variety of other clear indicators make clear that the climate crisis is already upon us, would you opt to drive more traffic and thus pollution through the heart of our city? Not only that, but the construction of the expansion will in itself be a huge producer of pollution and waste that will undoubtedly drag on for years to come. We need to shift towards making our city more friendly to non-driving and away from encouraging use of fossil fuels, NOW, because while it may already be too late, it will certainly be too late soon. If you care at all about this city and the health and safety of its residents you will oppose this expansion.

Karinne Berstis

904 Stark St
Austin, Texas 78756

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Balderrama, Guillermo

From: Carol Wagner <
Sent: Wednesday, October 18, 2023 10:16 AM
To: Ellis, Paige
Subject: I35

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Council Member Paige Ellis,

I urge all city council to vote against this! This will make traffic worse.

Not to mention all the displaced businesses and the impact on nearby neighborhoods.

Carol Wagner

4702 Ramsey Ave
Austin, Texas 78756

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From: Steve Wilson <info_email.actionnetwork.org>
Sent: Wednesday, October 18, 2023 10:14 AM
To: Ellis, Paige
Subject: I Oppose I-35 Expansion

External Email - Exercise Caution

Council Member Paige Ellis,

Hi. I'm a 20+-year homeowner in Austin's Cherrywood neighborhood, and I support agenda item 45 in opposition of the I-35 expansion. Expanding the highway flat-out stinks on every level, as I'm sure you're well aware.

Thanks,

Steve Wilson

Steve Wilson

3311 LAFAYETTE AVE
AUSTIN, Texas 78722-2238

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From: Victor Maestas <info_email.actionnetwork.org>
Sent: Wednesday, October 18, 2023 10:01 AM
To: Ellis, Paige
Subject: Oppose i35 expansion

External Email - Exercise Caution

Council Member Paige Ellis,

I am a resident of District 5 and I oppose i35 expansion. It will worsen congestion, and worsen our climate. It runs counter to our goals as a city. Please seek solutions that incentivize use of S-130 and put the mobility of Austin residents over the mobility of cars and trucks.

Victor Maestas

3401, S Lamar Blvd
Austin, Texas 78704

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From: William Edwards <info_email.actionnetwork.org>
Sent: Wednesday, October 18, 2023 9:58 AM
To: Ellis, Paige
Subject: I-35 Expansion

External Email - Exercise Caution

Council Member Paige Ellis,

I'm writing this letter because I oppose the I-35 expansion. The expansion will do very little to address congestion and will displace people from their homes. The project will get bogged down and take years causing lots of traffic problems in the process just as the addition of the toll road to Mopac did. The city should be focusing on creating ways to get around the city without a car.

William Edwards

1006 Charlotte street
Austin , Texas 78703

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From: Kelsey Wick <info_email.actionnetwork.org>
Sent: Wednesday, October 18, 2023 9:56 AM
To: Ellis, Paige
Subject: Expansion of I35

External Email - Exercise Caution

Council Member Paige Ellis,

Hello,

I am a resident in the Franklin Park neighborhood. I use I35 for most of my routines. I love going to Patrízis on Manor road, I love going to Try Hard coffee on 11th st., I love visiting my friends off of 183 and off of Oltorf. I use I35 frequently. I recognize the frustration of traffic and still I highly oppose the expansion of I35. The number of businesses and homes that are along the skirts of frontage road will be severely impacted. Multiple studies show that expansion of highways does not eliminate but rather exacerbates congestion. There is a name for this: the induced travel effect. What we want is less people on the roads, and building more roads does not actually help this.

I am for public transport. I am for using other highways like SH-130 for folks traveling through Austin. They can go around it rather than driving through the city. Expansion will be beneficial in the short term only. Think about the long term and address solutions in that manner.

Do not do this to Austin.

Kelsey Wick

2201 Deadwood Dr # A
Austin, Texas 78744

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From: Cristopher Richiez <info_email.actionnetwork.org>
Sent: Wednesday, October 18, 2023 9:50 AM
To: Ellis, Paige
Subject: I OPPOSE expanding I-35

External Email - Exercise Caution

Council Member Paige Ellis,

I am a resident of Austin, who owns a home in Council District 2 and works in Council District 9.

I support agenda item 45 and urge Council Members to stand in opposition to the I-35 expansion.

I OPPOSE expanding I-35 because it will worsen congestion in our entire region, including where I live.

Expanding highways never improves and often worsens congestion, as we saw from the Katy Freeway expansion, and everywhere in LA.

This will be bad for my health and that of my family and neighbors because of worse air quality.

I am FOR, the Rethink35 proposal, designating another highway such as SH-130 as an interstate, and overall a public transit-first strategy for transportation in Austin.

Cristopher Richiez

928 Bodark Lane
Austin, Texas 78745

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From: Audrey Ross <info_email.actionnetwork.org>
Sent: Wednesday, October 18, 2023 9:37 AM
To: Ellis, Paige
Subject: Don't like I-35 Take Over Austin

External Email - Exercise Caution

Council Member Paige Ellis,

Hello, I am a current resident of Austin and a long-time visitor.

From 2010 to now, so much of Austin has changed, and not always for the better. Beloved small businesses, places for communities to gather together, and historic homes have been lost to Austin's rapid expansion. Austin prides itself on being different than the average US city, for being more community-based and for preserving its green spaces and wildlife. The expansion of I-35 feels like the final axe blow cleaving this city in half and forgetting what has always made Austin, Austin.

I urge the city council members of Austin to put the people first. This means I am for the Rethink35 proposal, I am for a public transportation and walkable city mindset, and I am for preservation of the environment that makes this city great. Expansions of highways make congestion worse as they invite more people onto the roadways. Do you want Austin to look like Houston and Katy freeway? The expansion of I-35 will destroy beautiful historic buildings and homes and lower property values around it. Construction will destroy habitats for wildlife and pollute our city, not to mention the air pollution it invites into the center of our town.

Why do you love Austin? Will 100,000 more cars running through it everyday make it better? Safer? More beautiful?

I support agenda item 45 and urge Council Members to stand in opposition to the I-35 expansion. I hope you agree with me and listen to the PEOPLE of Austin.

Audrey Ross

9415 McNeil Dr, Apt 735, MB # 172

Austin, Texas 78750

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From: Bianca Beylcin <info_email.actionnetwork.org>
Sent: Wednesday, October 18, 2023 9:08 AM
To: Ellis, Paige
Subject: In opposition to the I-35 Expansion

External Email - Exercise Caution

Council Member Paige Ellis,

Hello,

I am a resident of central Austin and I support agenda item 45 and urge Council Members to stand in opposition to the I-35 expansion.

I OPPOSE expanding I-35 because this will worsen congestion in our entire region, including where I live. Expanding highways never improves and often worsens congestion, as we saw from the Katy Freeway expansion.

This will be bad for the health of me and my friends because of worse air quality.

This project will worsen climate change, the estimated emissions are the equivalent of a coal plant.

I ride a bike and it will make it harder to get around without a car. The project is expected to bring an additional 100,000 cars a day into the city which will require more car infrastructure at the expense of other modes.

I am FOR the Rethink35 proposal, redesignating another highway such as SH-130 as an interstate, a boulevard going through town, a public transit-first project, just less car centric ideas for the city in general.

Thanks,
Bianca

Bianca Beylcin

2106 Cullen Ave

Austin, Texas 78757

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Balderrama, Guillermo

From: Candyce L Rusk <
Sent: Wednesday, October 18, 2023 9:01 AM
To: Watson, Kirk; Ellis, Paige; Harper-Madison, Natasha; Fuentes, Vanessa; Velasquez, Jose; Vela, Jose "Chito"; Alter, Ryan; Kelly, Mackenzie; Pool, Leslie; Qadri, Zo; Alter, Alison; Garza, Jesús; Lawler, John; Morales, Sofia; Melendez, Lizette; Bray, Timothy; Leffler, Ben; McGregor, Thomas; Brinsmade, Louisa; Montgomery, Julie; Beeler, Melissa; Richardson, Ashley; Alexander, Kate
Subject: Item #45

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I support Item #45 on the 10/19 Council agenda. Please pass this resolution to ensure the City of Austin's commitment to climate action and reducing greenhouse gas emissions.

Thank you.

Candyce L Rusk
5115 Avenue G
Austin, TX 78751

--

Austin playwright, lyricist & poet

My plays can be found at: <https://newplayexchange.org/users/4278/candyce-rusk>

Member of the Dramatists Guild, Playwrights' Center, ScriptWorks, International Centre for Women Playwrights and Writers League of Texas.

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Balderrama, Guillermo

From: R. Gordon Huth <
Sent: Wednesday, October 18, 2023 7:00 AM
To: Watson, Kirk; Ellis, Paige; Harper-Madison, Natasha; Fuentes, Vanessa; Velasquez, Jose; Vela, Jose "Chito"; Alter, Ryan; Kelly, Mackenzie; Pool, Leslie; Qadri, Zo; Alter, Alison; Garza, Jesús; Lawler, John; Morales, Sofia; Melendez, Lizette; Bray, Timothy; Leffler, Ben; McGregor, Thomas; Brinsmade, Louisa; Montgomery, Julie; Beeler, Melissa; Richardson, Ashley;
Subject: Item #45

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Dear Mayor, Mayor Pro Tem, and Members of Council,

I support Item #45 on the 10/19 Council agenda. Please pass this resolution to ensure the City of Austin's commitment to climate action and reducing greenhouse gas emissions."

Gordon Huth

Beautiful young people are accidents of nature, but beautiful old people are works of art. -Eleanor Roosevelt, diplomat and writer (11 Oct 1884-1962)

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From: Andrea Carroll <info_email.actionnetwork.org>
Sent: Wednesday, October 18, 2023 12:38 AM
To: Ellis, Paige
Subject: Please Find Alternatives to I-35 Expansion

External Email - Exercise Caution

Council Member Paige Ellis,

I am a resident of Austin and support agenda item 45. Please oppose the I-35 expansion. It has been proven that expanding highways never improves and often worsens congestion, one example being the Katy Freeway expansion in Houston.

This will worsen air quality and increase noise pollution & stress. I applaud the changes in the plan to add affordable housing around the expansion. However, those future residents and existing ones near I-35 will have serious risks to their health with the added traffic & congestion (damage to the lungs, heart, and brain from air pollution, as well as stress related illnesses, high blood pressure, hearing loss, cognitive impairment in children, and sleep disruption from noise pollution). People should not have to trade their health for affordable housing or to be able to get around the city.

This project is expected to bring an additional 100,000 cars a day into the city which will require more car infrastructure at the expense of other modes. Austinites & Texans just like me would love to see a public transit first project which would also be better for our environment.

Please strongly consider other plans, such as the Rethink35 proposal, re-designating another highway as an interstate for through-traffic.

Thank you

Andrea Carroll

5310 Joe Sayers Ave, # 109
Austin, Texas 78756

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From: Raven Garuda <info_email.actionnetwork.org>
Sent: Wednesday, October 18, 2023 12:24 AM
To: Ellis, Paige
Subject: Support for Agenda Item 45

External Email - Exercise Caution

Council Member Paige Ellis,

Hello,

I am a resident of Austin, TX in the zip code of 78722. I live off of Manor road close to I-35, where I understand that there is to be an expansion of I-35. I have several major concerns about this.

I am particularly concerned about two things: one, what will be the environmental effect of this on air quality in central Austin? All indications point to this being very detrimental. As one of the people who live close to this, I feel very personally about how this will effect me and all those in the vicinity, and how the increase in traffic will contribute to inter-city congestion and noise pollution... never mind the effect that this will also have displacing homes and businesses along I-35, some of which affect people I know personally too. I really am not looking forward to potentially six years of round-the-clock interstate construction in this area.

Secondly, the research I have seen on whether expanding major highways *actually* improves congestion is inconclusive, given that a wider interstate will also increase demand for usage on that particular roadway, potentially resulting in no significant change in traffic density over time. In fact, I feel very diffident about how this will turn out having seen the consequences of the Katy Freeway expansion, in which the congestion worsened rather than improved.

I am in favor of any viable and beneficial plan which could improve traffic and mobility within and through our city, given that the impact of the plan has been sufficiently determined to be beneficial and non-harmful. To be quite frank, the idea of having an up to 22 lane highway running straight through the middle of Austin to be INSANE. I see re-designating a state

highway to serve the purpose of an interstate - such as SH-130, as outlined by Rethink I35 (<https://rethink35.org/>) to be a much more sane alternative which will help to preserve the beauty, environment, and culture of Austin while helping to improve the flow of traffic. And of course, I also support measures to improve public transportation, but I would like to focus this message on this for now -

I strongly encourage Austin city mayor Kirk Watson and Austin city council members (in particular, Natasha Harper-Madison, who represents my district) to support agenda item 45 and to oppose I-35 expansion.

Sincerely,

Raven Garuda

Raven Garuda

2500 E 22nd St #208
Austin, Texas 78722

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From: Angela Calvert <info_email.actionnetwork.org>
Sent: Wednesday, October 18, 2023 12:03 AM
To: Ellis, Paige
Subject: I-35 Expansion Opposal

External Email - Exercise Caution

Council Member Paige Ellis,

I am a resident of South Austin, and am opposing the expansion of I-35. Highway expansions are proven to be ineffective, and can even worsen traffic congestion. The cost of expansion and the displacement of Austin homes and businesses will be losses without any benefit.

I instead support the Rethink35 proposal, as well as the implementation of a loop around the city, and the expansion of Austin's public transport.

Angela Calvert

500 E Stassney Lane Apt 1211
Austin, Texas 78745

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From: Grace Anderson <info_email.actionnetwork.org>
Sent: Tuesday, October 17, 2023 11:19 PM
To: Ellis, Paige
Subject: NO I-35 EXPANSION

External Email - Exercise Caution

Council Member Paige Ellis,

Hello, my name is Grace Anderson. I am a resident of the Cherrywood neighborhood in east Austin which borders I-35. The expansion of I-35 would be disastrous. It would be years of horrible, noisy construction. And worst of all— it wouldn't solve the problem. At least not for long. Have we learned nothing from Houston and Dallas who have endlessly expanded their highways only to see equal/worsening traffic on them due to increased demand? We can't let that happen to our beloved Austin. The nightmare of construction for years to come is reason enough to oppose expansion. Please consider other alternatives that have been proposed and studied by groups like Rethink I-35 and others. Rerouting out of town traffic by lowering cost of toll roads surrounding Austin or burying I-35 between downtown to Dean Keeton (although this would also mean difficult construction) are ALL better options than the current TDOT plan. I am passionate about this issue, as is almost every austin resident I talk to! I have yet to meet one person in favor of the expansion and that is not an exaggeration. Please think very very carefully before embarking on a project that is so expensive, will disrupt our quality of life, has little to no proof that it will be a long-term solution, and has better alternatives!

Thank you,

Grace Anderson-

A very concerned Cherrywood resident.

Grace Anderson

3302A Hemlock Ave
Austin, Texas 78722

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From: Evan Stroh <info_email.actionnetwork.org>
Sent: Tuesday, October 17, 2023 11:10 PM
To: Ellis, Paige
Subject: Be a leader in urban development

External Email - Exercise Caution

Council Member Paige Ellis,

I do not want an expansion project for I-35 and I support agenda item 45.

There are numerous examples of wider highways not giving a reprieve from traffic congestion. Look at Houston. Instead of trying to pave everything in sight for more cars, why don't we spend our city's resources on infrastructure that makes it more like a city - more non-car travel options. Add more bike lanes and create a robust mass transit system like Chicago.

Investing in our city this way will make Austin an attractive city for businesses to invest in, enable our city to scale to support the increase in population, and reduce ugly urban sprawl that increases car dependency and destroys our beautiful Texas frontier.

Evan Stroh

4601 Lyons Rd, Unit B
Austin, Texas 78702

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From: Brynna Abel <info_email.actionnetwork.org>
Sent: Tuesday, October 17, 2023 11:00 PM
To: Ellis, Paige
Subject: Opposition to I-35 expansion

External Email - Exercise Caution

Council Member Paige Ellis,

Hello, I am a resident of Austin, TX that has happily made a Mueller my home. While I was not born here, I have been in Austin since 2014 and have seen this city grow! I'm so appreciative of all the the opportunities this city has and want to voice my opposition to the I-35 expansion plans.

I believe the expansion of I-35 will very negatively impact the residents and wildlife in the area. Studies have repeatedly shown that congestion does not improve with additional lanes. The expansion of I-35 will be an unnecessary, extreme cost and won't ease any congestion concerns at hand. Additionally, the project will worsen climate change due to the estimated emissions and encouraged car use once the project is completed. I am concerned the health of myself, my peers, and my other Austinites because of this proposal. Lastly, the expansion will make navigating the city without a car even more difficult than it is now. We should be looking to more transformative transit ideas and break away from what has been done so many times with ill effects. The expansion project is not the answers to Austin's transit problems.

Because of the above, I support agenda item 45 and ask that council members stand in opposition to the expansion. Please look to ReThink35 or consider other ways of improving already existing public transit for our beloved city.

Brynna Abel

4600 Mueller Blvd, 2114
Austin, Texas 78723

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From: Celia Israel <info_email.actionnetwork.org>
Sent: Tuesday, October 17, 2023 10:49 PM
To: Ellis, Paige
Subject: IH35 hold your horses

External Email - Exercise Caution

Council Member Paige Ellis,

Every major infrastructure project we plan and build should be thoroughly reviewed for environmental impacts; TxDOT is not doing enough when comes to air quality and planning for future transit throughout central Texas.

Celia Israel

7107 tawny circle
Austin, Texas 78745

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From: Pedro Hernandez, Jr <info_email.actionnetwork.org>
Sent: Tuesday, October 17, 2023 10:11 PM
To: Ellis, Paige
Subject: Oppose I35 Expansion

External Email - Exercise Caution

Council Member Paige Ellis,

I implore you to request that TXDOT put the brakes on their plan of expanding I-35 given that expansion only harms our city, your constituents, and the environment, and widening freeways has been found in numerous studies not to help alleviate traffic! I beg you to dive into the Final Environmental Impact Study that TXDOT wrote, to find if their plan is or is not good for us at this critical juncture. I've read through the FEIS and I have several questions, I hope you have given it that same amount of thought and consideration given that this is about to impact our city for decades to come. Never forget that I-35 was built to segregate our city and that sinister plan began with TXDOT, don't be the council that greenlights their plans for expansion when you know that's not what is best for Austin.

Pedro Hernandez, Jr

6812 Suena Dr
Austin , Texas 78741

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From: tamara dunn <info_email.actionnetwork.org>
Sent: Tuesday, October 17, 2023 9:44 PM
To: Ellis, Paige
Subject: support agenda item 45 and urge Council Members to stand in opposition to the I-35 expansion.

External Email - Exercise Caution

Council Member Paige Ellis,

I am writing to express my strong opposition to the proposed expansion of Interstate 35 (I-35) in Austin, Texas. While I understand the need for infrastructure improvements, I firmly believe that expanding the highway is not the right approach for our beautiful city. Instead, I urge you to consider a more sustainable and forward-thinking solution that prioritizes the well-being of our citizens and the environment.

One of the primary concerns I have regarding the expansion of I-35 is the adverse impact it will have on the health of our community. Research has consistently shown that the exhaust from heavy traffic is a major source of air pollution, leading to a host of health problems, including respiratory issues, cardiovascular diseases, and even premature death. As responsible stewards of our city, we cannot afford to disregard these health risks.

Moreover, the environmental implications of expanding the highway cannot be underestimated. The increased traffic, emissions, and pollution associated with a wider I-35 will undoubtedly contribute to the degradation of our natural surroundings, undermining the very essence of Austin's unique charm and vitality. We must consider the long-term consequences of our actions and strive for a sustainable future.

Expanding I-35 is not the solution we need. Other cities around the world have recognized this and are leading the way in transforming their transportation systems into efficient, eco-friendly, and reliable public transit networks. Cities like Prague, Tokyo, and Berlin have invested in public transportation systems that are a delight for their citizens, reducing traffic

congestion, emissions, and improving the overall quality of life. These cities are examples of what Austin can achieve if we shift our focus towards public transport.

As "Keep Austin Weird" is our city's beloved slogan, why not take this opportunity to redefine what it means to be weird in the best way possible? Let Austin be the most outstanding city in America, not for its quirky charm alone, but also for having the most amazing public transport system. Imagine a city where residents and visitors can effortlessly traverse Austin while reducing their carbon footprint, saving time, and enjoying a healthier environment.

I urge you to reconsider the proposed expansion of I-35 and redirect the allocated resources toward enhancing public transportation in Austin. Let us take inspiration from the success stories of other cities, and invest in a brighter, more sustainable future for Austin. By doing so, we can astonish the world with our commitment to the well-being of our citizens, the preservation of our environment, and our innovative approach to urban development.

Thank you for your time and consideration. I hope you will prioritize the health, environment, and future of Austin in your decisions.

Sincerely,

tamara dunn

1401 art dilly drive
austin, Texas 78702

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Balderrama, Guillermo

From: Tara Chapman <
Sent: Tuesday, October 17, 2023 8:37 PM
To: Watson, Kirk; Ellis, Paige; Harper-Madison, Natasha; Fuentes, Vanessa; Velasquez, Jose; Vela, Jose "Chito"; Alter, Ryan; Kelly, Mackenzie; Pool, Leslie; Qadri, Zo; Alter, Alison; Garza, Jesús; Lawler, John; Morales, Sofia; Melendez, Lizette; Bray, Timothy; Leffler, Ben; McGregor, Thomas; Brinsmade, Louisa; Montgomery, Julie; Beeler, Melissa; Richardson, Ashley; Alexander, Kate
Subject: Item #45

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Dear Mayor, Mayor Pro Tem, and Members of Council,

I support Item #45 on the 10/19 Council agenda. Please pass this resolution to ensure the City of Austin's commitment to climate action and reducing greenhouse gas emissions.

Tara Chapman

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From: Natalie Boverman <info_email.actionnetwork.org>
Sent: Tuesday, October 17, 2023 8:33 PM
To: Ellis, Paige
Subject: We can't keep doing this

External Email - Exercise Caution

Council Member Paige Ellis,

Hi there and thanks for taking the time to read this! I am a UT Austin alum, a deep Austin lover, and happy to be an urban planner ! I myself have worked in City government and understand the complexities (and labor!) of a council meeting let alone an agenda item such as this. I write support agenda item 45 and urge Council Members to stand in opposition to the I-35 expansion.

As you well know Austin is an incredible city and, despite redlining, the construction of I35, and disinvestment, east Austin has thrived over the last decades. This of course has caused displacement and problems of its own , but the opportunity to strengthen Austin as a place of distinct yet connected neighborhoods is at hand. Expanding I-35 will have only the opposite effect and will build on unfortunate legacies of urban renewal, prioritization of irresponsible transit, and a blatant disregard for social fabric. We— people of government, planners, residents, Austinites— have learned our lesson. Highway expansions are unhealthy for the environment, people, and cities— all three living and stretching and dynamic elements. They should not be disregarded for the DOT. It is 2023. Please consider other alternatives and take the time to listen to residents and experts calling for further study and other prioritizations. We cannot keep doing this.

Natalie Boverman

121 Richdale ave
Cambridge , Massachusetts 02140

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From: Dawnetta Hodge <info_email.actionnetwork.org>
Sent: Tuesday, October 17, 2023 8:25 PM
To: Ellis, Paige
Subject: Alternatives make more sense...

External Email - Exercise Caution

Council Member Paige Ellis,

....for our climate and our pocketbooks! Designating SH-130 as an interstate highway makes more sense than filling Austin with more pollution. People passing through won't mind a slight detour in order to avoid congestion.

Dawnetta Hodge

2307 Manana St.
Austin , Texas 78730

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Balderrama, Guillermo

From: Holly Hodge <
Sent: Tuesday, October 17, 2023 8:02 PM
To: Ellis, Paige
Subject: Harvard Urban Planning Student and Austin Native against I-35 Expansion

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Council Member Paige Ellis,

I am an Austin native and UT alumni. I grew up in district 10 and my family still lives there. I am currently a Master's of Urban Planning student at Harvard and plan to move back to Austin when I graduate.

I support agenda item 45 and urge Council Members to stand in opposition to the I-35 expansion. The I-35 expansion will not only cause air quality issues but will be harmful to the economy, aesthetics, and social fabric of the city. Highway construction has been proven for decades to harm cities and the City Council should support agenda item 45 and do everything in their power to stop the highway expansion.

Please reach out if you have questions.

Thank you,
Holly Hodge

Holly Hodge

2307 Manana St
Austin, Texas 78730

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From: Chris Pasch <info_email.actionnetwork.org>
Sent: Tuesday, October 17, 2023 7:22 PM
To: Ellis, Paige
Subject: Support 45

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Council Member Paige Ellis,

I support agenda item 45 and urge Council Members to stand in opposition to the I-35 expansion.

Chris Pasch

704 Josephine St
Austin , Texas 78704

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From: Lauren Maher <info_email.actionnetwork.org>
Sent: Tuesday, October 17, 2023 7:14 PM
To: Ellis, Paige
Subject: Agenda Item 45

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Council Member Paige Ellis,

Hello,

My name is Lauren Maher. I am a student at UT Austin majoring in Urban Studies and a resident of 201 East 21st Street. I want to bring your attention to the agenda item 45 for the next council meeting on October 19th.

I have been putting off writing this email because I become overwhelmed with dread when I think about the I-35 expansion. As a young Austinite, I feel trapped by the prospects of the expansion project not just because its environmental impacts but also its ability to displace residents and businesses. A larger highway is not an aspect of the future Austin I want to live in. No one wants to live in a concrete landscape, it's plain and simple. I understand the urgent need to improve transportation as our city population skyrockets, but this is not the solution. It has been proven over and over again that induced traffic occurs every time an extra lane is added to a highway. This project will dump a ridiculous amount of our resources on a highway that won't support our needs.

I urge you to support agenda item 45 at the next council meeting. We must think critically about this project before blindly diving into it. This money could be used for Project Connect or Rethink35's proposal. I also understand that TxDOT is required to use 97% of its funding for highways, but perhaps we need to reconsider that policy and recognize that money could be used productively elsewhere.

Thank you for your time. I hope to see you representing the young people of Austin like me on October 19th by supporting agenda item 45.

Lauren

Lauren Maher

201 East 21st Street, Room M350

Austin, Texas 78705

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From: Shelby Donner <info_email.actionnetwork.org>
Sent: Tuesday, October 17, 2023 6:42 PM
To: Ellis, Paige
Subject: City Council Agenda

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Council Member Paige Ellis,

Leslie, I am a constituent in your district and am urging you to SUPPORT AGENDA ITEM 45. I oppose the I-35 expansion strongly. I am a new homer and plan to live in Austin for several decades. I want this city to be sustainable to my continuing to live here for that time period. Expanding I-35 directly affects me because I only live a few streets west of it. Please vote in favor of young, new homeowners who want a brighter and more sustainable future for Austin.

Shelby Donner

11405 circle bend drive
Austin, Texas 78758

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From: Hudson Gaines-Ross <info_email.actionnetwork.org>
Sent: Tuesday, October 17, 2023 5:58 PM
To: Ellis, Paige
Subject: I35 is going to ruin our city!

External Email - Exercise Caution

Council Member Paige Ellis,

move the 35 around Austin like Providence -- removes carbon emissions, makes room for housing/parks and connects the city! USE THIS MONEY FOR PUBLIC TRANSPORTATION.

we will live with regrets for LIFE if we don't make this change!

Hudson Gaines-Ross

406 S Park Dr
Austin, Texas 78704-6364

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From: Richard Dietz <info_email.actionnetwork.org>
Sent: Tuesday, October 17, 2023 5:26 PM
To: Ellis, Paige
Subject: Oppose I-35 Expansion

External Email - Exercise Caution

Council Member Paige Ellis,

I have been a resident of Austin for over 30 years and have seen traffic go from bad to worse. Widening highways isn't the solution; not now, not historically, and not in the future. We need better public transit and we need it, well, 20 years ago, but the second best time is now.

I support agenda item 45 and urge Council Members to stand in opposition to the I-35 expansion.

I oppose expanding I-35 because...

This will worsen congestion in our entire region, including where I live. Expanding highways never improves and often worsens congestion, as we saw from the Katy Freeway expansion. This will be bad for my health and that of my family because of worse air quality.

This project will worsen climate change the estimated emissions are the equivalent of a coal plant

It will make it harder to get around without a car. The project is expected to bring an additional 100,000 cars a day into the city which will require more car infrastructure at the expense of other modes.

Please hear our voices and help us put in the effort that will result in Austin being a great place for people of all income brackets, races, orientations, religions, and backgrounds for years to come!

Thank you.

Richard Dietz

2301 Rodeo Dr
Austin, Texas 78727

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From: Max Gardner <info_email.actionnetwork.org>
Sent: Tuesday, October 17, 2023 5:14 PM
To: Ellis, Paige
Subject: A defeated Austinite

External Email - Exercise Caution

Council Member Paige Ellis,

Admittedly, I've only been in Austin for 7 years now, but even in that time, I've seen it change so much. When I first arrived here, Rainey Street was still a block of old, single-story houses converted into bars and shops. The tallest building downtown was the Chase Tower. East 6th street was full of single-story dive bars that were moderately spaced out. There's been a lot of changes, and I've rolled with the punches because for the most part, it hasn't radically transformed the feel of Austin (though that feel definitely has shifted a bit, inevitably I think).

However, expanding 35 will radically transform that feel. I'm originally from Houston, and I don't want to live in another highway-ridden city that looks like an urban hellscape, destroying the landscape, dividing communities and making the areas surrounding it even louder and more unfriendly, and worst of all, doing the exact opposite of what it's promised to do. Because, let's be honest, the data shows it absolutely will NOT improve traffic; as someone who saw the Katy Freeway get expanded in Houston and saw traffic get worse, I know this anecdotally as well.

As a resident of south central Austin, I already dislike having to travel to visit my friends on the east side. Of course the traffic is a pain point, but you know what I would do in a heartbeat if it was more accessible and frequent? Take the bus, or take a metro train (if it covered more areas). I would LOVE to not have to drive when my friend really only lives 10 miles away and the restaurants and shops I frequent are within a 10-mile radius as well. And I doubt I'm the only person who feels this way. You want to improve the experience of commuting in Austin? Invest in public transportation that will get people living in the central area off the roads so that the majority of people on the roads are those who actually do have to drive because they live 30+ minutes outside of Austin proper. Don't expand 35 so that my

20-30-minute commute to my friend's house 10 minutes away (with no traffic) will now take 30-40 minutes because I have to navigate a 6-lane highway jam-packed with cars on my way there. This will only make congestion worse while forcing me to continue relying on my car when I am DESPERATE for y'all to provide more convenient and frequent options for me to not have to use my car. And expanding 35 will look ugly and ruin the areas around the highway, and it also will hurt the air quality.

Please, please reconsider expansion. I don't know if Austin will still feel like a place worth calling home if this goes through.

Max Gardner

2301 S MoPac Expy #604
Austin, Texas 78746

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From: Susan Pantell <info_email.actionnetwork.org>
Sent: Tuesday, October 17, 2023 5:00 PM
To: Ellis, Paige
Subject: Item 45 - Letter to TxDOT to Delay I-35 Central Project

External Email - Exercise Caution

Council Member Paige Ellis,

I strongly encourage you to vote in favor of Item 45. We are in a climate crisis, and we should not move forward with a major, multi-generational project like the I-35 Central expansion without clearly evaluating the alternatives. The construction of the expansion and the vehicle miles traveled will have significant impacts on Austin's climate change emissions. We are already falling seriously behind our goals to reduce climate change emissions from the transportation sector. We can't ignore the significant impacts from this project.

I oppose the I-35 Central expansion project. In addition to climate change emissions, it will result in air pollution, noise pollution, displacement of businesses, further division of the city, and cost billions of dollars. TxDOT predicts that there will not be a significant increase in vehicle traffic as a result of the project, so the primary benefit appears to be to increase the speed of the vehicles that use it. We need to come together as a community and plan how best to address our mobility while reducing the negative environmental and societal impacts.

Susan Pantell

1016 Camino La Costa, #1008
Austin, Texas 78752

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From: Julio Rojas-Aguilar <info_email.actionnetwork.org>
Sent: Tuesday, October 17, 2023 3:52 PM
To: Ellis, Paige
Subject: Wider won't work

External Email - Exercise Caution

Council Member Paige Ellis,

I am a resident of District 5.

I support agenda item 45 and urge Council Members to oppose the I-35 expansion.

I OPPOSE expanding I-35 because

- it will worsen congestion in our entire region
- Expanding highways has never solved the issue, it is just an expensive bandaid that allows the wound to fester , and puts our county and city on the hook for future astronomical maintenance. The idea that we are one lane away from solving traffic, is the equivalent of thinking we are one credit card away from financial freedom.
- The resulting air pollution will worsen your health, the health of your family, and our community.
- more lanes equals more cars equals bringing us back to square one

I am FOR redesigning another highway, such as SH-130 as an interstate, a boulevard going through town, and public transit-first projects. There are better, more environmentally and fiscally sustainable ways of improving our methods of transportation. I invite you to support the growing wave pushing towards a better community for all.

Wider Won't Work

Julio Rojas-Aguilar

8709 Dittmar Oaks Dr
Austin, Texas 78748

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From: Christopher Haley <info_email.actionnetwork.org>
Sent: Tuesday, October 17, 2023 3:05 PM
To: Ellis, Paige
Subject: Please support item 45

External Email - Exercise Caution

Council Member Paige Ellis,

I am a resident of central Austin and I support agenda item 45 and urge all Council Members to stand in opposition to the I-35 expansion through the heart of our city. Please do your best to advocate for an alternative route, such as a loop around the city.

Thank you, Chris Haley

Christopher Haley

4711 Avenue G
Austin, Texas 78751

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Balderrama, Guillermo

From: Catherine Chiodo <
Sent: Tuesday, October 17, 2023 3:05 PM
To: Ellis, Paige
Subject: Please oppose the I-35 expansion

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Council Member Paige Ellis,

As an Austin resident living along the I-35 corridor, I'm horrified by the planned expansion. I'm horrified at the idea of my two-year-old breathing the exhaust of an ever-increasing number of cars and trucks traveling through Austin. I'm horrified that our walk to the grocery store is increasing from 0.5 miles to over a mile with the currently-planned circuitous crossings. I'm horrified that the excellent work the city has done to improve bike corridors is going to be undercut by I-35 becoming an even-worse barrier to foot and bike traffic than it is now. I recognize that council has limited power here, but please do what you can to oppose the expansion and to push for designs that are less disaster for Austin residents, such as more direct and level crossings.

Catherine Chiodo

1200 Norwood Rd
Austin, Texas 78722

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From: Zach Boemer <info_email.actionnetwork.org>
Sent: Tuesday, October 17, 2023 2:56 PM
To: Ellis, Paige
Subject: Please Oppose i-35 expansion

External Email - Exercise Caution

Council Member Paige Ellis,

I strongly oppose the expansion of i-35. I think it is vital to our city and communities that we explore better alternatives to deal with congestion. I believe funding more projects to make biking more safe and convenient in and around the city would be a great start. I also believe that expanding the commuter rail's hours would be a great way to encourage more people to travel downtown.

This is an issue I care deeply about and will remember your actions during the next election cycle.

Zach Boemer

206 E Lisa Dr
Austin, Texas 78752

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From: John Bengson <info_email.actionnetwork.org>
Sent: Tuesday, October 17, 2023 2:55 PM
To: Ellis, Paige
Subject: Support Item #45 on the 10/19 Council agenda

External Email - Exercise Caution

Council Member Paige Ellis,

Dear Mayor, Mayor Pro Tem, and Members of Council,

I am writing in strong support of Item #45 on the 10/19 Council agenda. Please pass this resolution to ensure the City of Austin's commitment to climate action and reducing greenhouse gas emissions. By voting to pass this resolution, you will have the support and trust of the communities — especially the children — you serve and represent.

My family lives in Cherrywood, and I am a government employee: both my wife and I teach at UT-Austin, while my two kids attend Maplewood Elementary (just a few blocks from I-35). So I am invested in the local community and the people of Texas more broadly. That is why I feel compelled to voice my support for Item #45 and convey my opposition to I-35 expansion.

My kids are sometimes distracted by the noise or smell of I-35 as we walk to/from Maplewood, or simply stroll around the neighborhood. They wonder aloud, "Why does anyone want more cars here? Aren't they worried about the environment?" These are good questions.

As someone who works in a data-based field, I believe we should follow the evidence. Research shows that children suffer health problems in a way that is directly linked to highways and cars/trucks. Research also shows that widening highways does not relieve traffic congestion, contrary to TXDOT's wishful thinking. Rather, it induces demand. Plus it has numerous clear negative environmental effects (such as increased emissions near residential neighborhoods, particulate matter pollution from tire wear, noise pollution, rising temperatures, etc.), decreases safety, and negatively impacts all transportation options beyond driving. All the data tells against I-35 expansion. Widening I-35 won't solve the

challenges we are facing. Instead, it will exacerbate existing problems while creating new ones.

I favor investments in public transportation options, bike lanes, walkable sidewalks, and crosswalks. Austin harbors so much potential for these alternatives!

Many cities redirect long-distance car/truck traffic around (rather than through) their urban centers. This strikes me as a great option for Austin. Many cities have also taken the further step of completely removing highways that funnel traffic through their central neighborhoods, roaring and fuming at all hours. I am in favor of removing I-35 south of 290 (or Airport), turning it into a boulevard that contributes to Austin's beauty (unlike the eyesore that is I-35). Of course, I realize this is not on the agenda. But I want you to know there are many of us out there who strongly support this idea. I also favor designating SH-130 a highway to reroute traffic that is not Austin-bound. And I strongly support developing public transit for travel within the city. I believe that we can make real progress to improve the lives of those traveling through, to, and in Austin by pursuing the many viable alternatives to I-35 expansion.

Please support Item #45 on the 10/19 Council agenda! The health and well-being of our children and communities hang in the balance.

Sincerely,
John Bengson

John Bengson

1510 Edgewood Avenue
Austin, Texas 78722

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Balderrama, Guillermo

From: John Bengson <
Sent: Tuesday, October 17, 2023 2:53 PM
To: Watson, Kirk; Ellis, Paige; Harper-Madison, Natasha; Fuentes, Vanessa; Velasquez, Jose; Vela, Jose "Chito"; Alter, Ryan; Kelly, Mackenzie; Pool, Leslie; Qadri, Zo; Alter, Alison; Garza, Jesús; Lawler, John; Morales, Sofia; Melendez, Lizette; Bray, Timothy; Leffler, Ben; McGregor, Thomas; Brinsmade, Louisa; Montgomery, Julie; Beeler, Melissa; Richardson, Ashley; Alexander, Kate
Subject: Support Item #45 on the 10/19 Council agenda

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Dear Mayor, Mayor Pro Tem, and Members of Council,

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As someone who works in a data-based field, I believe we should follow the evidence. Research shows that children suffer health problems in a way that is directly linked to highways and cars/trucks. Research also shows that widening highways does not relieve traffic congestion, contrary to TXDOT's wishful thinking. Rather, it induces demand. Plus it has numerous clear negative environmental effects (such as increased emissions near residential neighborhoods, particulate matter pollution from tire wear, noise pollution, rising temperatures, etc.), decreases safety, and negatively impacts all transportation options beyond driving. All the data tells against I-35 expansion. Widening I-35 won't solve the challenges we are facing. Instead, it will exacerbate existing problems while creating new ones.

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Please support Item #45 on the 10/19 Council agenda! The health and well-being of our children and communities hang in the balance.

Sincerely,

John Bengson

1510 Edgewood Ave, Austin, TX, 78722

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From: Rebecca Schwarz <info_email.actionnetwork.org>
Sent: Tuesday, October 17, 2023 2:53 PM
To: Ellis, Paige
Subject: Please stand up for your neighbors and oppose the current I-35 expansion

External Email - Exercise Caution

Council Member Paige Ellis,

I am a resident of Cherrywood neighborhood and will be directly effected by this poorly thought out expansion. This expansion will not improve the traffic issues around downtown, is destroying businesses, and is bad for the environment.

I am angry and heartbroken that it is going forward, destroying so many homes and businesses along the way.

Sincerely,
Rebecca Schwarz
Dancy Street

Rebecca Schwarz

2906 Dancy St
Austin, Texas 78722

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From: Srikar Nalluri <info_email.actionnetwork.org>
Sent: Tuesday, October 17, 2023 2:28 PM
To: Ellis, Paige
Subject: Please Oppose I-35 Expansion

External Email - Exercise Caution

Council Member Paige Ellis,

Hello Council Members,

My name is Srikar Nalluri, I am a resident of District 9 and have been living here for about 8 years. Please support item 45 and oppose I-35 expansion. Recently I have enjoyed walking around downtown Austin and the central east side and an expanded I-35 would impact businesses during construction and result in more pollution and air emissions when there's a lot of places where people walk outside and need to breathe clean air around there. Thank you for considering my letter.

Srikar Nalluri

300 Bowie St, APT 1108
Austin, Texas 78703

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From: Ellis Mumford-Russell <info_email.actionnetwork.org>
Sent: Tuesday, October 17, 2023 2:19 PM
To: Ellis, Paige
Subject: I am opposed to the I-35 expansion

External Email - Exercise Caution

Council Member Paige Ellis,

I am a resident of Austin for the last 8 years

I support agenda item 45 and urge Council Members to stand in opposition to the I-35 expansion.

I OPPOSE expanding I-35 because:

This will worsen congestion in our entire region, including where I live. Expanding highways never improves and often worsens congestion, as we saw from the Katy Freeway expansion.

This project will worsen climate change the estimated emissions are the equivalent of a coal plant. Funds should, rather, be used to increase access to greener means of transportation such as public transit and active transportation. Many other similarly-sized cities, such as Kansas City and Charlotte, are ahead of Austin when it comes to public transportation.

This project will exacerbate inequality and solidify the racist divides in our city by reinforcing barriers between communities.

The City of Austin has an opportunity to be forward thinking instead of falling for the same old scam of highway expansion. Cities around the nation and the world are TEARING DOWN their ill-conceived highways and rejuvenating their communities in doing so. Does Austin want to be progressive, a leader in the fight against climate change? Or does Austin want to be behind the times, regressive, increasing carbon emissions, and furthering racial and economic divides?

The choice is simple. Oppose the I-35 expansion.

Ellis Mumford-Russell

2506 Little John Ln

Autin, Texas 78704

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From: Anna Gressett <info_email.actionnetwork.org>
Sent: Tuesday, October 17, 2023 2:17 PM
To: Ellis, Paige
Subject: Please vote YES to agenda item 45 and oppose I-35 expansion!

External Email - Exercise Caution

Council Member Paige Ellis,

I am a resident of West Campus as well as an employee of the City of Austin and I OPPOSE expanding I-35 because...

- This will worsen congestion in our entire region, including where I live.
- Expanding highways never improves and often worsens congestion, as we saw from the Katy Freeway expansion.
- This will be bad for public health because of worse air quality.
- This project will worsen climate change. The estimated emissions are the equivalent of a coal plant!
- It will make it harder to get around without a car. The project is expected to bring an additional 100,000 cars a day into the city which will require more car infrastructure at the expense of other modes.

I ask you to honestly represent the beliefs of Austinites who know that TxDOT highway expansions are BAD FOR THE CITY and a WASTE OF MONEY that could be better spent on public transportation like Project Connect!

Thank you for your time!

Best,
Anna Gressett

Anna Gressett

34 MEADOWCREEK DR
Melissa, Texas 75454

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From: Jeffrey Russell <info_email.actionnetwork.org>
Sent: Tuesday, October 17, 2023 2:14 PM
To: Ellis, Paige
Subject: I-35 Expansion

External Email - Exercise Caution

Council Member Paige Ellis,

I support agenda item 45 and urge Council Members to stand in opposition to the I-35 expansion. This highway is already a blight on the center city, and enlarging it would redouble the insult to humanity it already offers. I hope you will consider any additional means available to block it, including but not limited to mechanical sabotage. Thank you.

Jeffrey Russell

2506 Little John Ln
Austin, Texas 78704

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From: Sinan Dogramaci <info_email.actionnetwork.org>
Sent: Tuesday, October 17, 2023 1:58 PM
To: Ellis, Paige
Subject: DO NOT EXPAND I35

External Email - Exercise Caution

Council Member Paige Ellis,

Do not expand I-35. Listen to the voice of science and reason. Funding more highway infrastructure during an existential climate crisis is beyond insane.

Sinan Dogramaci

1906 E 10th St
Austin, Texas 78702

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Balderrama, Guillermo

From: john lawyer <
Sent: Tuesday, October 17, 2023 1:36 PM
To: Watson, Kirk; Ellis, Paige; Harper-Madison, Natasha; Fuentes, Vanessa; Velasquez, Jose; Vela, Jose "Chito"; Alter, Ryan; Kelly, Mackenzie; Pool, Leslie; Qadri, Zo; Alter, Alison; Garza, Jesús; Lawler, John; Morales, Sofia; Melendez, Lizette; Bray, Timothy; Leffler, Ben; McGregor, Thomas; Brinsmade, Louisa; Montgomery, Julie; Beeler, Melissa; Richardson, Ashley; Alexander, Kate
Subject: Support for Item #45

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External Email - Exercise Caution

Dear Mayor, Mayor Pro Tem, and Members of Council,

I support Item #45 on the 10/19 Council agenda. Please pass this resolution to ensure the City of Austin's commitment to climate action and reducing greenhouse gas emissions.

John Lawyer
4300 Avenue F, Austin TX 78751

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Balderrama, Guillermo

From:
Sent: Tuesday, October 17, 2023 1:36 PM
To: Watson, Kirk; Harper-Madison, Natasha; Fuentes, Vanessa; Velasquez, Jose; Vela, Jose "Chito"; Alter, Ryan; Kelly, Mackenzie; Pool, Leslie; Qadri, Zo; Alter, Alison; Garza, Jesús; Lawler, John; Morales, Sofia; Melendez, Lizette; Bray, Timothy; Leffler, Ben; McGregor, Thomas; Brinsmade, Louisa; Montgomery, Julie; Beeler, Melissa; Richardson, Ashley; Alexander, Kate; Ellis, Paige
Subject: Please pass Item 45 on 10/19

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Dear Mayor, Mayor Pro Tem, and Members of Council,

I support Item 45 on the 10/19 Council agenda. Please pass this resolution to ensure the City of Austin's commitment to climate action and reducing greenhouse gas emissions.

Regards,
Clara Bradbury

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Balderrama, Guillermo

From: Katie Vignery <
Sent: Tuesday, October 17, 2023 1:33 PM
To: Watson, Kirk; Ellis, Paige; Harper-Madison, Natasha; Fuentes, Vanessa; Velasquez, Jose; Vela, Jose "Chito"; Alter, Ryan; Kelly, Mackenzie; Pool, Leslie; Qadri, Zo; Alter, Alison; Garza, Jesús; Lawler, John; Morales, Sofia; Melendez, Lizette; Bray, Timothy; Leffler, Ben; McGregor, Thomas; Brinsmade, Louisa; Montgomery, Julie; Beeler, Melissa; Richardson, Ashley; Alexander, Kate
Subject: Support for Item 45

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External Email - Exercise Caution

Dear Mayor, Mayor Pro Tem, and Members of Council,

I support Item #45 on the 10/19 Council agenda. Please pass this resolution to ensure the City of Austin's commitment to climate action and reducing greenhouse gas emissions.

Katie Vignery
4300 Avenue F
78751

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From: Eugenia Harris <info_email.actionnetwork.org>
Sent: Tuesday, October 17, 2023 1:08 PM
To: Ellis, Paige
Subject: I-35 expansion

External Email - Exercise Caution

Council Member Paige Ellis,

I'm a voter and a resident of the Cherrywood neighborhood.

The expansion of I-35 through Austin has never made any sense to me. I have followed the proposals from the beginning and have been struck by the seeming absence of clear justification/goals for the project, and any willingness to even consider alternative approaches, much less actually study them.

Why does increasing the amount of car and truck traffic flowing directly through the center of downtown Austin and surrounding residential areas seem like a good idea? Who in Austin benefits from that aside from developers? Why hasn't there been serious consideration given to incentivizing through-traffic to go around Austin (via existing loop roadways built specifically for that purpose) rather than directly through it? And wouldn't that constitute a more sensible phase #1 to the overall project (i.e., divert through-traffic first, by flipping the tolling logic or even re-routing I-35 onto the loop roadways, and THEN study what, if any, expansion of the existing I-35 route is necessary)?

I am disturbed by the whole project and support greater involvement by elected officials at all levels in muscular efforts to convert the project from a liability into an asset for the residents of Austin, including voting in favor of the resolution being discussed as item #45 on City Council's October 19 agenda, to delay funding pending further input and analysis.

Thank you,
Eugenia Harris

Eugenia Harris

2902 French Place
Austin, Texas 78722

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From: Markus Armstrong <info_email.actionnetwork.org>
Sent: Tuesday, October 17, 2023 12:20 PM
To: Ellis, Paige
Subject: Support for Agenda Item 45

External Email - Exercise Caution

Council Member Paige Ellis,

I support agenda item 45. I oppose the proposed I-35 expansion. The research is clear that, long term, expansion will worsen congestion throughout Austin, especially where I live, 1,000 feet from I-35. This expansion will be bad for my health, bad for the health of my family, bad for the health of my friends and neighbors. The expansion will also worsen the climate crisis. As someone who has chosen to use public transit and a bicycle as a primary mode of transit, this expansion will make it more difficult for me to get around Austin. The expansion is expected to increase vehicle traffic by 100,000 cars a day. Please consider earth and people friendly alternatives such as rerouting commercial freight and other pass through traffic around Austin. We owe it to children and future generations to do better.

Markus Armstrong

1400 Concordia Ave
Austin, Texas 78722

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From: Lyndon Breckenridge <info_email.actionnetwork.org>
Sent: Tuesday, October 17, 2023 12:14 PM
To: Ellis, Paige
Subject: DO NOT EXPAND HIGHWAY I-35

External Email - Exercise Caution

Council Member Paige Ellis,

Hello,

I love the city of Austin and I urge council members to stand in opposition of i-35 expansion.

Highway expansion will make my health and the health of those nearby worse off.

Study after study shows that highway expansion does not decrease traffic. In order to have a vibrant downtown we need to think very carefully as to how we can use all the information available to make the best choice for Austin; furthermore the choice we make will impact generations to come.

We know the NEGATIVE legacy of highway expansion projects in cities already. We also know the POSITIVE and vibrant legacy of cities that opposed highways (such as NYC & San Fransisco) So I ask the question: how will our city councils legacy be looked upon after this decision?

I oppose forcing businesses to close (thus loss of tax revenue) because of highway expansion.

I support the Rethink35 proposal. I support public transit first projects.

I am FOR redesignating another highway such as SH-130 as an interstate.

Lyndon Breckenridge

1109 regan terr
Austin, Texas 78704

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From: Logan Daum <info_email.actionnetwork.org>
Sent: Tuesday, October 17, 2023 12:02 PM
To: Ellis, Paige
Subject: Oppose I35 expansion through Austin

External Email - Exercise Caution

Council Member Paige Ellis,

This proposed project will have negative effects to a significant number of Austinites. Not only is this dividing much of the city further, it will also lead to worse health effects to many with increased brake and tire dust, soot, and noise near residents home, schools, and workplaces.

Logan Daum

1703 Norris Drive
Austin, Texas 78704

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From: Neal Ehardt <info_email.actionnetwork.org>
Sent: Tuesday, October 17, 2023 12:01 PM
To: Ellis, Paige
Subject: Support item 45

External Email - Exercise Caution

Council Member Paige Ellis,

I support agenda item 45 and urge Council Members to stand in opposition to the I-35 expansion.

I am a resident of Houston fighting TxDOT's Interstate 45 expansion thru Downtown Houston. We (Houston-area advocates) stand in solidarity with you in opposition to _bad_ TxDOT projects like the I-35 expansion thru Downtown Austin.

I support the removal of urban freeways like I-35. We should rebuild these corridors with ****transit boulevards**** that prioritize walking, biking, and rapid transit. If Texas cities choose transit boulevards instead of freeways, we will enjoy economic growth and opportunity for people at all income levels. We will enjoy health, safety, and shared prosperity!

Neal Ehardt

1213 Andrews St
Houston , Texas 77019

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From: Lara Bridger <info_email.actionnetwork.org>
Sent: Tuesday, October 17, 2023 11:39 AM
To: Ellis, Paige
Subject: Please rethink 35 expansion

External Email - Exercise Caution

Council Member Paige Ellis,

Austin is at a turning point. Please don't turn it into Houston. Please rethink alternatives to choking the heart of Austin with 20 lanes of traffic. I support agenda item 45.

Lara Bridger

4500 Crestway Drive
Austin, Texas 78731

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From: jill lacour <info_email.actionnetwork.org>
Sent: Tuesday, October 17, 2023 11:30 AM
To: Ellis, Paige
Subject: IH-35 Expansion

External Email - Exercise Caution

Council Member Paige Ellis,

I support item 45 on your upcoming agenda. The planned IH-35 expansion through the center of Austin is a terrible plan. Please use what powers you have to stop this construction so other more sane options have time to be considered and reconsidered. As my city representatives, I implore you to do the right thing for our city and our residents and vote yes on item 45.

Jill Bredthauer LaCour

jill lacour

1613 Ashberry dr.
austin, Texas 78723

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From: Juan Basualdo <info_email.actionnetwork.org>
Sent: Tuesday, October 17, 2023 11:25 AM
To: Ellis, Paige
Subject: Support agenda item 45!

External Email - Exercise Caution

Council Member Paige Ellis,

I am a college-aged Austinite concerned with making smart decisions for building a better future for our city. Please oppose expansion of I-35 as it will continue to increase the congestion levels and make it more and more difficult to travel around without a car. I take the bus or train every day from home (Round Rock area!) to go to school and believe that concentrating on bettering these alternatives will be far more beneficial and sustainable for myself and future generations to come. We will be the ones who will suffer the most from the increase in car infrastructure issues and increased congestion. I really just want a closer community and I think that making it necessary for everyone to have a car to move around creates greater distance and impediments to coming together as a community. So please support agenda item 45 and Rethink35!

Juan Basualdo

3421 Ruby Red Dr
Austin, Texas 78728

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From: James Warren <info_email.actionnetwork.org>
Sent: Tuesday, October 17, 2023 11:17 AM
To: Ellis, Paige
Subject: Please reconsider I-35 expansion

External Email - Exercise Caution

Council Member Paige Ellis,

Hello,

I recently heard of TXDOTs plans to expand the I-35 highway through Austin. This is very disappointing, as this expansion would ultimately account for nothing outside of a waste of money, time, and resources.

I see Austin as a unique gem in the Texas landscape. An economic and cultural powerhouse that is experiencing nothing short of a renaissance.

Of course, we are a quickly growing city and certainly need to appropriately prepare our infrastructure for future decades. However, there are two routes we as a city can explore to achieve this. The first is to follow our sister cities, Dallas and Houston. Through caution to the wind, expand for the sake of expansion, pave over every square-inch of the hill country, and fill our air and waterways with pollution. Or, as a second option, we can reconsider. We can explore ways to build this city that both support its PEOPLE and it's cars. We can approach this with goals of sustainability and practicality, rather than blind growth.

Again, this is a crossroads for the future of Austin. I urge you to consider what will make this city what is truly is meant to be.

James Warren

3517 N Hills Dr, Apt J201
Austin, Texas 78731

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Balderrama, Guillermo

From: Felicity Maxwell <
Sent: Tuesday, October 17, 2023 11:19 AM
To: Ellis, Paige
Subject: Vote in support of Item 45 on 10/19

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External Email - Exercise Caution

Council Member Paige Ellis,

As a resident of D5, I support agenda item 45 and urge Council Members to stand in opposition to the I-35 expansion because it will worsen congestion in our entire region. This project will worsen climate change the estimated emissions are the equivalent of a coal plant It will make it harder to get around without a car. The project is expected to bring an additional 100,000 cars a day into the city which will require more car infrastructure at the expense of other modes.

Please support the work of MPT Ellis and approve item 45!

Felicity Maxwell

2100 MELRIDGE PL Unit 2121
Austin, Texas 78704

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From: Sally Mercer <info_email.actionnetwork.org>
Sent: Tuesday, October 17, 2023 10:59 AM
To: Ellis, Paige
Subject: thank you!

External Email - Exercise Caution

Council Member Paige Ellis,

Your vote at the CAMPO meeting on 8/14 meant a lot to me. I appreciate your support and listening to the concerns of Austin citizens.

Sally Mercer

1506 Forest Trail, Unit 104
Austin, Texas 78703

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From: Tracey Wallace <info_email.actionnetwork.org>
Sent: Tuesday, October 17, 2023 10:51 AM
To: Ellis, Paige
Subject: Oppose I-35 Expansion—support agenda item 45

External Email - Exercise Caution

Council Member Paige Ellis,

I am a resident of Austin, in the North Loop area. I OPPOSE expanding I-35 because...

— This will worsen congestion in our entire region, including where I live. Expanding highways never improves and often worsens congestion, as we saw from the Katy Freeway expansion.

— This will be bad for my health and that of my family because of worse air quality.

This project will worsen climate change the estimated emissions are the equivalent of a coal plant

— It will make it harder to get around without a car. The project is expected to bring an additional 100,000 cars a day into the city which will require more car infrastructure at the expense of other modes.

I am for expanding public transportation options, redirecting traffic to the other highways built around Austin, building more green space and space for affordable living, and not investing in city planning and highway infrastructure that was popular in the 1970s. We know better now. Y'all know better!

Tracey Wallace

925 E 49th St
Austin, Texas 78751

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From: Jessica Wardley <info_email.actionnetwork.org>
Sent: Tuesday, October 17, 2023 10:39 AM
To: Ellis, Paige
Subject: I oppose the expansion

External Email - Exercise Caution

Council Member Paige Ellis,

Hi! The traffic is horrible but studies show adding more lanes just increased traffic. However, public transportation and access to bike lanes and such decrease traffic. Please don't expand but instead spend money on public transportation.

Jessica Wardley

10808 long summer
Austin, Texas 78746

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From: Natalie Stevens <info_email.actionnetwork.org>
Sent: Tuesday, October 17, 2023 10:30 AM
To: Ellis, Paige
Subject: Support Agenda Item 45

External Email - Exercise Caution

Council Member Paige Ellis,

The I-35 expansion will negatively impact businesses and people living in that area directly, and at large will not improve traffic for Austin citizens. Published research on highway expansions shows that larger highways do not actually relieve traffic congestion, so I would love to see our city focus on options that improve quality of life via more public transit or smarter, safer, integrated roadway improvements.

Natalie Stevens

3014 W William Cannon Dr
Austin, Texas 78745

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From: Diego Ramirez <info_email.actionnetwork.org>
Sent: Tuesday, October 17, 2023 10:26 AM
To: Ellis, Paige
Subject: I-35 Expansion

External Email - Exercise Caution

Council Member Paige Ellis,

Why would you guys approve something like this. Literally Katy freeway is a couple hours away and we see the results. I know you guys see the repercussions of climate change all around us. Central Texas is in a drought and still this is the best we can do? Can someone please do the right thing. I am tired of politicians going against the best interest of the citizens. This is an opportunity to be different. To pave the way for the cities of tomorrow. Please take it.

Diego Ramirez

1316 Town Center Drive
Pflugerville, Texas 78660

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From: katy huff <info_email.actionnetwork.org>
Sent: Tuesday, October 17, 2023 10:09 AM
To: Ellis, Paige
Subject: Stop the I35 expansion please I am begging

External Email - Exercise Caution

Council Member Paige Ellis,

You all have the chance to do something so incredibly transformational and historic by stopping the I35 expansion. It's going to be a huge mess, further destroy our environment, and be a massive waste of money. Instead let's use the funds to have better public infrastructure. More trains, dedicated bus lanes bike lanes sidewalks etc. No one has ever visited a city and remarked about how awesome it was to see so many highways. Instead they say "wow the public transportation was amazing, I could walk everywhere!". I know y'all have been to Europe and know what I'm talking about.

Thank you

katy huff

7400 Guadalupe st
austin, Texas 78752

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From: Dillon Olsen <info_email.actionnetwork.org>
Sent: Tuesday, October 17, 2023 10:02 AM
To: Ellis, Paige
Subject: October 19th City Council Item: I35 Expansion

External Email - Exercise Caution

Council Member Paige Ellis,

Please do not vote in favor of expanding I35. The expansion creates health and environmental risks we cannot afford to take.

By TxDOT's own estimates, expanding the highway will increase the number of cars driving through Austin from 200,000 a day to 330,000 - that's a 59% increase
More cars means more air pollution - which is especially harmful for children who live or go to school near highways, where they are much more likely to develop childhood asthma.
Automobile air pollution - especially particulate matter - also cause lung cancer, cardiovascular disease, respiratory disease and early death. This is true even for electric cars, which emit more particulate matter (primarily through tire wear) than traditional cars.

The amount of pollution and heat added to the heat island effect of our city would be counter to all previous goals set by City departments/agencies.

TxDOT approved its own environmental review — This is an obvious conflict of interest.
Further, TxDOT skirted around federal environmental law by splitting the project into three pieces, masking the overall negative impact of the full project.

Dillon Olsen

3019 East 13th Street
Austin, Texas 78702

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Balderrama, Guillermo

From: Eileen McGinnis <
Sent: Tuesday, October 17, 2023 9:55 AM
To: Watson, Kirk; Ellis, Paige; Harper-Madison, Natasha; Fuentes, Vanessa; Velasquez, Jose; Vela, Jose "Chito"; Alter, Ryan; Kelly, Mackenzie; Pool, Leslie; Qadri, Zo; Alter, Alison; Garza, Jesús; Lawler, John; Morales, Sofia; Melendez, Lizette; Bray, Timothy; Leffler, Ben; McGregor, Thomas; Brinsmade, Louisa; Montgomery, Julie; Beeler, Melissa; Richardson, Ashley; Alexander, Kate
Cc:
Subject: North Loop Neighborhood Association support for Item 45 on this Thursday's Council agenda
Categories: Agenda

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External Email - Exercise Caution

Dear Mayor, Mayor Pro Tem, and Council Members,

I am writing on behalf of the North Loop Neighborhood Association to share our position of support for Item #45 on this Thursday's council agenda. Text of our letter is pasted below; a version on letterhead can be accessed [here](#).

Thank you in advance for your time and attention to our letter!

Sincerely,

Eileen McGinnis (North Loop Neighborhood Association Climate Committee)

October 17, 2023

Dear Mayor, Mayor Pro Tem, and Council Members,

We, the North Loop Neighborhood Association, are writing in support of Item #45 on the Oct. 19th City Council agenda.

As members of the North Central I-35 Neighborhood Association (NCINC), we voted to approve NCINC's Oct. 16th letter on this topic. However, the urgency of this issue warrants a separate statement from North Loop.

We are also writing to express agreement with the Texas County Commissioners Court September 2023 letter to TxDOT, which reiterates the need for environmental and air-quality studies before proceeding with the expansion. We appreciate that both the Commissioners Court and the City Council Mobility Commission

highlight **the need to slow down the I-35 build to further study the climate and public health impacts of this project**, which will affect generations of Austinites.

In October 2021, we passed [a Climate Resolution](#) committing our Association, “as part of its core mission, to supporting efforts to reduce greenhouse emissions and to mitigate the effects of climate change.” The recent statements of both the Commissioners Court and the Mobility Committee are **closely aligned with our values and highest priorities as a neighborhood**.

We are alarmed by the statistic from a [2018 TxDoT study](#) that Texas drivers account for nearly ½ of 1% of global carbon emissions. We recognize that transportation accounts for [36% of our emissions](#) as a City, and that halting freeway expansions and investing in sustainable infrastructure is a key factor in reducing emissions. In the shorter term, we are concerned about how dust and debris from the highway construction as well as increased traffic emissions once the highway is widened will impact the respiratory health of children, seniors, and other vulnerable groups in our community.

Please see also our [March 2023 letter](#) in response to TxDOT’s Draft Environmental Impact Statement. In that letter, we stated **our preference for a no-build option** and outlined our concerns about the lack of east-west connections that a widened highway would exacerbate. We also condemned the legacy of racist city planning that has divided our city for decades.

Thank you for fighting for the public health, equitable connectivity, and climate future of current and future Austinites.

Sincerely,

The members of the North Loop Neighborhood Association and our friends in Skyview and Ridgetop

cc: Travis County Commissioner Brigid Shea

Eileen McGinnis, Ph.D.
Adjunct Professor, Writing & Rhetoric
St. Edward's University
Founder, [The Parents' Climate Community](#)

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Balderrama, Guillermo

From: Tuesday, October 17, 2023 9:56 AM
Sent:
To: Watson, Kirk; Ellis, Paige; Harper-Madison, Natasha; Fuentes, Vanessa; Velasquez, Jose; Vela, Jose "Chito"; Alter, Ryan; Kelly, Mackenzie; Pool, Leslie; Qadri, Zo; Alter, Alison; Garza, Jesús; Lawler, John; Morales, Sofia; Melendez, Lizette; Bray, Timothy; Leffler, Ben; McGregor, Thomas; Brinsmade, Louisa; Montgomery, Julie; Beeler, Melissa; Richardson, Ashley; Alexander, Kate
Subject: Item #45 10/19/23 agenda
Categories: Agenda

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External Email - Exercise Caution

Dear Mayor, Mayor Pro Tem, and Members of Council,

I support Item #45 on the 10/19 Council agenda. Please pass this resolution to ensure the City of Austin's commitment to climate action and reducing greenhouse gas emissions.

Mary Ann Osborne
512 E 39th St, 78751-5102
210-885-9438

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From: Adam Hite <info_email.actionnetwork.org>
Sent: Tuesday, October 17, 2023 9:54 AM
To: Ellis, Paige
Subject: SUPPORT agenda item 45 and OPPOSE I-35 expansion

External Email - Exercise Caution

Council Member Paige Ellis,

I write to you as a dedicated resident of Colony Park in District 1 with a deep concern for the future development of our beloved community. In light of the pressing issue regarding agenda item 45, I am compelled to express my fervent support for the stance opposing the expansion of I-35.

The expansion of I-35 stands as a direct contradiction to our shared commitment to combat the worsening impacts of climate change. It is imperative that we seize this critical moment to prevent irreversible damage that could be inflicted upon our environment for generations to come. This pivotal decision holds the key to preserving the ecological integrity of our community for our children and their children.

As a resident facing the challenges of navigating our transportation system, I can attest to the insufficiencies that plague our current infrastructure. Despite my profound dislike for vehicular travel, I find myself compelled to resort to car commuting due to the limited and unreliable public transportation options. The perilous nature of cycling, coupled with the scorching temperatures we endure, further compounds the challenges faced by residents. I can only begin to imagine the additional hardships that our low-income neighbors must endure in light of these transportation limitations.

Compelling evidence from metropolitan areas such as Houston, Dallas, Miami, and Los Angeles overwhelmingly supports the conclusion that the expansion of highways does not alleviate traffic congestion. It is indisputable that a comprehensive public transportation network represents the most viable solution to address our city's growing transit challenges. I implore you to consider the substantial data highlighting the ineffectiveness of expanding

highways and to champion the implementation of sustainable and efficient public transportation alternatives.

The distressing displacement of homes and businesses, juxtaposed with the escalating affordability crisis, paints a grim picture of the potential repercussions of prioritizing traffic over the well-being of our community. We must take proactive measures to avoid the pitfalls experienced by cities like San Francisco and actively work towards fostering an inclusive and sustainable environment that supports the needs of all residents.

Recognizing the viable alternatives available, such as the utilization of routes like 130, 183, 290, and 71, provides an avenue to alleviate the strain on I-35 while promoting efficient traffic flow around our city center. By prioritizing the well-being and safety of our residents, we can foster a more conducive environment for the growth of vibrant local businesses and sustainable housing solutions.

Furthermore, it is essential to address the fundamental principles guiding the decisions of the TxDOT board. Their current focus on prioritizing monetary gains over the well-being of our community is a cause for great concern. The evident disregard for safety, exemplified by the perilous bike lane on 183, underscores the urgent need for a shift in our approach to transportation planning and infrastructure development.

I wholeheartedly endorse the transformation of I-35 into a boulevard that embodies the values of inclusivity, sustainable living, and community well-being. By emulating the successful strategies adopted by progressive cities worldwide, we have the opportunity to create a city that not only prioritizes efficient transportation but also fosters affordable housing, public transportation, walkability, bikability, and the prosperity of local businesses.

I have persistently advocated for these principles through consistent correspondence with your esteemed office. I am resolute in my commitment to this cause, and I am dedicated to continuing this pursuit until we achieve a transformative vision that aligns with the aspirations of our vibrant and inclusive community.

Thank you for your unwavering commitment to serving the best interests of our community. I trust in your wisdom and foresight as you deliberate on this critical matter that impacts the future of our city.

Adam Hite

7105 Asbury Dr
Austin, Texas 78724

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Balderrama, Guillermo

From: Victoria Carpenter Holmes <
Sent: Tuesday, October 17, 2023 9:47 AM
To: Watson, Kirk; Ellis, Paige; Harper-Madison, Natasha; Fuentes, Vanessa; Velasquez, Jose; Vela, Jose "Chito"; Alter, Ryan; Kelly, Mackenzie; Pool, Leslie; Qadri, Zo; Alter, Alison; Garza, Jesús; Lawler, John; Morales, Sofia; Melendez, Lizette; Bray, Timothy; Leffler, Ben; McGregor, Thomas; Brinsmade, Louisa; Montgomery, Julie; Beeler, Melissa; Richardson, Ashley; Alexander, Kate

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External Email - Exercise Caution

Dear Mayor, Mayor Pro Tem, and Members of Council,

I support Item #45 on the 10/19 Council agenda. Please pass this resolution to ensure the City of Austin's commitment to climate action and reducing greenhouse gas emissions.

Thank you for continually advocating for our city and its communities during the I-35 expansion project.

Sincerely,

- Victoria Carpenter Holmes
Resident owner at 3909 Becker Ave Austin, TX 78751
District 9

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From: Riley Hamilton <info_email.actionnetwork.org>
Sent: Tuesday, October 17, 2023 9:23 AM
To: Ellis, Paige
Subject: Agenda Item 45

External Email - Exercise Caution

Council Member Paige Ellis,

My name is Riley Hamilton. I'm a resident of district 9 writing to request you all stand in support of agenda item 45, supporting opposition to I-35 expansion. This Highway expansion project goes in direct opposition to what could be (and should be) a bright future for Austin. Highway expansions don't work. This will worsen local environmental concerns, harm pedestrian mobility, and displace hundreds of residents and businesses. We are counting on you to speak and act in opposition to TXDOT. And I don't think it is at all dramatic to say the future of this city, and by our local impact the future of this world, depend on you. Thank you for supporting agenda item 45.

Riley Hamilton

2803 Lafayette Ave
Austin, Texas 78722

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From: Wendy Heckler <info_email.actionnetwork.org>
Sent: Tuesday, October 17, 2023 9:23 AM
To: Ellis, Paige
Subject: Support Agenda Item 45

External Email - Exercise Caution

Council Member Paige Ellis,

I support agenda item 45 and urge Council Members to stand in opposition to the I-35 expansion.

I OPPOSE expanding I-35 because of the environmental and community impact. I do not want Austin to become another Houston. I lived there 1 year and it was terrible. Increase public transportation options

Expanding highways never improves and often worsens congestion, as we saw from the Katy Freeway expansion. This will be bad for my health and that of my family because of worse air quality. This project will worsen climate change the estimated emissions are the equivalent of a coal plant

It will make it harder to get around without a car. The project is expected to bring an additional 100,000 cars a day into the city which will require more car infrastructure at the expense of other modes.

This makes me want to leave Austin.

Wendy Heckler

13000 Sherbourne st
Austin , Texas 78729

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Balderrama, Guillermo

From: Lindsey Derrington <
Sent: Tuesday, October 17, 2023 9:21 AM
To: Watson, Kirk; Ellis, Paige; Harper-Madison, Natasha; Fuentes, Vanessa; Velasquez, Jose; Vela, Jose "Chito"; Alter, Ryan; Kelly, Mackenzie; Pool, Leslie; Qadri, Zo; Alter, Alison; Garza, Jesús; Lawler, John; Morales, Sofia; Melendez, Lizette; Bray, Timothy; Leffler, Ben; McGregor, Thomas; Brinsmade, Louisa; Montgomery, Julie; Beeler, Melissa; Richardson, Ashley; Alexander, Kate
Subject: Support for Item #45 on 10/19

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External Email - Exercise Caution

Dear Mayor Watson, Mayor Pro Tem Ellis, and Members of Council,

I support Item #45 on the 10/19 Council agenda. Please pass this resolution to ensure the City of Austin's commitment to climate action and reducing greenhouse gas emissions. I want a safe and healthy future for my family here in Texas. Addressing climate change is the single most important thing we can be doing as a community.

Thank you for your service to our city,

Lindsey Derrington
4507 Depew, 78751

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From: Lindsey Futrell <info_email.actionnetwork.org>
Sent: Tuesday, October 17, 2023 8:36 AM
To: Ellis, Paige
Subject: I Oppose I-35 Expansion

External Email - Exercise Caution

Council Member Paige Ellis,

I am a resident of District 4.

I support agenda item 45 and urge Council Members to stand in opposition to the I-35 expansion.

This expansion will displace beloved businesses and multifamily housing options that currently surround the highway, exacerbating Austin's current housing pains. Many studies in urban planning have shown that adding lanes to current urban highway systems only increases traffic, congestion, and public safety concerns.

This project will deepen the divide between the east and west communities of Austin and prevent/delay meaningful public transit options. If expansion moves forward, the I-35 corridor will increase traffic within the city, reduce safe pedestrian paths, and increase pollution in our most populated neighborhoods.

I wholeheartedly oppose I-35 expansion and support agenda item 45. I implore you to do everything in your power to oppose this project.

Sincerely,
Lindsey Futrell

Lindsey Futrell

2903 Northeast Dr.
Austin , Texas 78723

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Balderrama, Guillermo

From: Anne Hebert <
Sent: Tuesday, October 17, 2023 8:28 AM
To: Watson, Kirk; Ellis, Paige; Harper-Madison, Natasha; Fuentes, Vanessa; Velasquez, Jose; Vela, Jose "Chito"; Alter, Ryan; Kelly, Mackenzie; Pool, Leslie; Qadri, Zo; Alter, Alison; Garza, Jesús; Lawler, John; Morales, Sofia; Melendez, Lizette; Bray, Timothy; Leffler, Ben; McGregor, Thomas; Brinsmade, Louisa; Montgomery, Julie; Beeler, Melissa; Richardson, Ashley; Alexander, Kate
Subject: I-35: support item 45

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External Email - Exercise Caution

Dear Mayor, Mayor Pro Tem, and Members of Council,

I support Item #45 on the 10/19 Council agenda. Please pass this resolution to ensure the City of Austin's commitment to climate action and reducing greenhouse gas emissions.

Thank you,

Anne Hebert
Hancock resident

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From: Chloe DeMars <info_email.actionnetwork.org>
Sent: Tuesday, October 17, 2023 8:28 AM
To: Ellis, Paige
Subject: "YES" for agenda item 45!

External Email - Exercise Caution

Council Member Paige Ellis,

I vote "YES" for agenda item 45.

-Chloe DeMars

Chloe DeMars

1501 Inglewood St Unit 1
Austin, Texas 78741

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Balderrama, Guillermo

From: Larayne Dallas <
Sent: Tuesday, October 17, 2023 8:05 AM
To: Ellis, Paige
Subject: Please do what you can to block I-35 expansion

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External Email - Exercise Caution

Council Member Paige Ellis,

Expansion of I-35 means doing what other cities are trying to un-do. Major highways should be moved away from the center of cities. Highways divide us and, in the case of I-35, bring pass-through trucks and cars into Austin.

Thank you for your help in opposing I-35 expansion,
Larayne

Larayne J. Dallas
8118 Cardin Drive
Austin, Texas 78759

Larayne Dallas

8118 Cardin Drive
Austin, Texas 78759

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Balderrama, Guillermo

From: Leila Levinson <
Sent: Tuesday, October 17, 2023 7:58 AM
To: Watson, Kirk; Ellis, Paige; Harper-Madison, Natasha; Fuentes, Vanessa; Velasquez, Jose; Vela, Jose "Chito"; Alter, Ryan; Kelly, Mackenzie; Pool, Leslie; Qadri, Zo; Alter, Alison; Garza, Jesús; Lawler, John; Morales, Sofia; Melendez, Lizette; Bray, Timothy; Leffler, Ben; McGregor, Thomas; Brinsmade, Louisa; Montgomery, Julie; Beeler, Melissa; Richardson, Ashley; Alexander, Kate
Subject: Item 45

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Dear Mayor, Mayor Pro Tem, and Members of Council,

I support Item #45 on the 10/19 Council agenda. Please pass this resolution to ensure the City of Austin's commitment to climate action and reducing greenhouse gas emissions.

I live three blocks from I35, and the noise and pollution already greatly diminish our neighborhood's quality of life. The planned expansion will be deeply destructive for us in many ways. .

Thank you,

**Leila Levinson
800 Park Blvd
Austin 78751**

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From: Rebecca Feronti <info_email.actionnetwork.org>
Sent: Tuesday, October 17, 2023 6:20 AM
To: Ellis, Paige
Subject: Support Agenda Item 45

External Email - Exercise Caution

Council Member Paige Ellis,

I am a resident of council district 8 in North Austin. I support agenda item 45 and urge Council Members to stand in opposition to the I-35 expansion. The expansion will bring more traffic, congestion, and pollution to our community. All of these problems will lower the quality of lives of Austinites.

Please focus instead on designating the money for public transit. The Rethink35 proposal and a boulevard option going through downtown would make our citizens happier and healthier.

Thank you,
Rebecca Feronti

Rebecca Feronti

12345 Lamplight Village Ave Apt 923
Austin, Texas 78758

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From: Kara Chavez <info_email.actionnetwork.org>
Sent: Tuesday, October 17, 2023 4:48 AM
To: Ellis, Paige
Subject: Dear Austin city council

External Email - Exercise Caution

Council Member Paige Ellis,

I live in 78753.

I support agenda item 45 and urge Council Members to stand in opposition to the I-35 expansion.

I OPPOSE expanding I-35 because...

This will worsen congestion in our entire region, including where I live. Expanding highways never improves and often worsens congestion, as we saw from the Katy Freeway expansion.

This will be bad for my health and that of my family because of worse air quality.

This project will worsen climate change the estimated emissions are the equivalent of a coal plant

It will make it harder to get around without a car. The project is expected to bring an additional 100,000 cars a day into the city which will require more car infrastructure at the expense of other modes.

Kara Chavez

9004 Slayton
Austin, Texas 78753

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From: daniel nguyen <info_email.actionnetwork.org>
Sent: Tuesday, October 17, 2023 3:51 AM
To: Ellis, Paige
Subject: OPPOSE I-35 expansion.

External Email - Exercise Caution

Council Member Paige Ellis,

I am a resident of Austin, TX in the Holly district of East Austin. I-35 has been a major impediment in the movement between East Austin and Downtown. Any expansion will make this worst. I would love to see a cap and a reconnecting of these two parts of town. I am for any type of project that connects the city with a non car centric first urban plan.

daniel nguyen

2304 santa rosa st
austin, Baden-Württemberg 78702

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From: Michael Reed <info_email.actionnetwork.org>
Sent: Tuesday, October 17, 2023 3:22 AM
To: Ellis, Paige
Subject: Please Oppose I-35 Expansion

External Email - Exercise Caution

Council Member Paige Ellis,

I am a resident of Austin, Texas, in the 78749 zip code. My workplace is in the 78751 zip code, and I regularly use I-35 to commute to work.

I am strongly opposed to any and all expansion of our highways within city limits. I am particularly strongly opposed to any expansion of I-35.

I support agenda item 45 and urge Council Members to stand in opposition to the I-35 expansion.

I am for more public transit (busses, light-rail, trams, etc.), bike infrastructure, pedestrian infrastructure, and denser development with mixed use zoning.

Michael Reed

5001 Convict Hill Rd Apt 301
Austin, Texas 78749

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From: Kelsey Spencer <info_email.actionnetwork.org>
Sent: Tuesday, October 17, 2023 12:57 AM
To: Ellis, Paige
Subject: No wider, no higher.

External Email - Exercise Caution

Council Member Paige Ellis,

Hello. I'm a born and raised Austinite and homeowner just east of I-35. It infuriates me that expanding I-35 is even being entertained. There are studies proving it doesn't alleviate traffic long term. Austin loves to pay lip service to the ideas of environmentalism and low impact on exactly the population that lives and works close to I-35 that are being given, what, *90 days* to get out of the pathway of this new monstrosity? In Austin, Texas they're supposed to find new places of business in that amount of time? When SO many Austinites oppose this idea to begin with? Don't turn Austin into a heat island concrete hell, I am begging you, it's already on its way quick enough.

I support agenda item 45. Listen to your constituents.

Kelsey Spencer

6108 N Hampton Dr
Austin, Texas 78723

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Balderrama, Guillermo

From:
Sent: Tuesday, October 17, 2023 12:54 AM
To: Watson, Kirk; Ellis, Paige; Harper-Madison, Natasha; Fuentes, Vanessa; Velasquez, Jose; Vela, Jose "Chito"; Alter, Ryan; Kelly, Mackenzie; Pool, Leslie; Qadri, Zo
Cc: Montgomery, Julie; Leffler, Ben; Pritchard, Caleb; Bray, Timothy; Brinsmade, Louisa
Subject: please support item 45 -- expanding I-35 is a huge mistake

Categories: Agenda

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Mayor, Mayor Pro Tem, and Councilmembers:

I want to urge all of you to vote in support of [item 45](#) on this week's agenda, and strongly state your opposition to expanding I-35.

Enabling more high-speed car traffic through the heart of our city is a bad idea for so many reasons: the climate, air quality, safety, and the urban environment in general. We all share visions of a thriving, healthy city that supports local businesses. That vision would be well-served by doing everything we can to stop this project.

Many thanks for your service, and for your consideration of this input.

Best regards,

Chris Riley
1310 San Antonio #1
District 9

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From: Ian Johnson <info_email.actionnetwork.org>
Sent: Monday, October 16, 2023 11:54 PM
To: Ellis, Paige
Subject: Regarding the I-35 Expansion

External Email - Exercise Caution

Council Member Paige Ellis,

Dear Councilmembers

My name is Ian, and while I live in the neighboring city of Houston, I have been to Austin several times and have always enjoyed it. Each time however, I have gotten stuck in traffic on I-35 and can't help but wish that this giant highway wasn't in the middle of the city.

We're currently having our own battles against TxDOT of trying to stop them from widening I-45, I-10, SH99 - the list goes on. I'm sure you are all aware of induced demand, and know that this widening project will not fix the congestion problem, but likely make it even worse. For example, since they widened I-10 here around a decade ago, travel times have increased according to Houston Transtar. And now they want to do it again.

I urge all of you to do everything in your power to oppose this project. Help set a precedent that Texas cities no longer want freeways running through them. That we don't want to have to fit the bill to try and salvage the mess that TxDOT makes (as I understand it, there's a compromise of some kind that part of the freeway would go underground, but the city of Austin would have to pay for the greenspace / costs of displaced buildings on top of it. Apologies if this is inaccurate).

The level of disconnect TxDOT has with continuously trying to make car infrastructure grow as more people move to cities and with a climate crisis happening should motivate all of us to reject this plan with all of the tools at our disposal.

Thank you.

Ian Johnson

6565 Hollister Street
Houston, Texas 77040

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From: Will Branch <info_email.actionnetwork.org>
Sent: Monday, October 16, 2023 11:26 PM
To: Ellis, Paige
Subject: No to I-35 Expansion

External Email - Exercise Caution

Council Member Paige Ellis,

Simply put, expanding I-35 through Central Austin is a terrible idea. It will not solve our transit issues, and will only serve to throw traffic in the I-35 corridor into chaos for the foreseeable future. Move I-35 to the outskirts where it has room for growth, and plan for intra-urban mobility in Central Austin instead.

Will Branch

2309 Trafalgar Dr
Austin, Texas 78723

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From: YORGOS Economos <info_email.actionnetwork.org>
Sent: Monday, October 16, 2023 11:02 PM
To: Ellis, Paige
Subject: Transit First Corridor

External Email - Exercise Caution

Council Member Paige Ellis,

Please make a stand for something better than another highway expansion. We can't continue to grow car dependent suburbs while facing a climate catastrophe.

We need a better solution than expanded frontage roads and more highway lanes.

Stand up for a transit first solution. Let's get txdot to go back to the drawing board with a train that connects central-south texas and an interstate that loops around our city limits.

YORGOS Economos

1403 Alameda dr.
austin, Texas 78704

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From: MACIEJ A KAMINSKI <info_email.actionnetwork.org>
Sent: Monday, October 16, 2023 10:43 PM
To: Ellis, Paige
Subject: Please oppose I-35 expansion through our beautiful city

External Email - Exercise Caution

Council Member Paige Ellis,

Please

Please by all means oppose I-35 expansion through heart of downtown Austin. As Austin resident (Towers of Town Lake condominium association), I urge to support agenda item 45 and beg to stop I-35 expansion.

It is harmful to our health, noise can be heard all day and night by everyone in my household and even my guests notice it. With expansion it's gonna get worse.

Air pollution is bad and with expansion it's gonna be unbearable. TX DOT lies to us about environmental costs being acceptable - they are gonna be way worse vs what their flawed analysis makes us believe.

On top of that green house gas emissions are gonna be increased from encouragement of car traffic while Texas is already worst state in the country in terms of greenhouse gas emissions

Distances to cross to east Austion will be increased, worsening divide, harming economy and culture, harming safety of pedestrians and cyclists.

I urge City Council and the Mayor to use all means possible to stop this harmful project, which is not only terrible waste of taxpayer money (as Austin homeowner I am personally impacted by it) but also that literally makes everyones lives worse.

Please don't let TX DOT sacrifice health and safety of Austin residents in name of Governors project which doesn't serve the local community.

Thank you in advance

Maciej A Kaminski

40 N Interstate 35

Unit 11D4

Austin, TX, 78701

MACIEJ A KAMINSKI

40 n interstate 35, AUS

Austin, Texas 78701

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From: Andrew Horton <info_email.actionnetwork.org>
Sent: Monday, October 16, 2023 10:41 PM
To: Ellis, Paige
Subject: Please oppose I-35 expansion

External Email - Exercise Caution

Council Member Paige Ellis,

I'm a lifelong citizen of Austin, born here in the 80's. Despite its constant growth and change, I still love the city.

Traffic has been bad as long as I've been driving, but widening I-35 is not a reasonable solution. Studies in other major metropolitan areas have shown new capacity only induces more traffic [1], until cars are again at a standstill. The I-35 expansion would be no different, and Austin would suffer because of it. City leadership is doing wonderful work in developing more pedestrian and cyclist friendly corridors, parks, and friendly spaces where people can enjoy life. This is what makes world class cities, not more cars. Stronger public transport is needed, and improvements there could lead to sustainable decrease in traffic. It would be cheaper, too.

Please stand up to TxDOT and oppose this shortsighted boondoggle.

- Andrew Horton

[1] <https://www.nber.org/papers/w15376>

Andrew Horton
hortonnn+
Marathon Blvd
Austin, Texas 78756

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Balderrama, Guillermo

From: Omar Vasquez-Alpizar <
Sent: Monday, October 16, 2023 10:34 PM
To: Ellis, Paige
Subject: Support for Agenda Item 45 and Opposition to I-35 Expansion

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Council Member Paige Ellis,

Dear Elected representative,

I hope this email finds you well. As a proud resident of West Austin, I am writing to express my strong support for Agenda Item 45, and I urge you and your fellow Council Members to stand in opposition to the proposed I-35 expansion project.

I oppose expanding I-35 for several reasons:

1. ****Worsening Congestion:**** History has shown that expanding highways does not alleviate congestion but often exacerbates it. We have seen this from the Katy Freeway expansion, and I fear that a similar fate awaits our region if we proceed with the I-35 expansion. It is essential to find sustainable solutions that address our growing transportation needs without perpetuating congestion.
2. ****Health Concerns:**** The expansion of I-35 is likely to result in worse air quality, which could have detrimental effects on the health of myself and my family. Poor air quality is a significant concern, and we should prioritize initiatives that improve our environment and overall well-being.
3. ****Climate Change:**** The estimated emissions associated with this project are equivalent to that of a coal plant, which is deeply concerning in our current climate crisis. We must make responsible choices that align with our city's commitment to reducing greenhouse gas emissions and mitigating climate change.

4. ****Dependence on Cars:**** Expanding I-35 will encourage more car usage and add an additional 100,000 cars a day to our city's roads. This increase in automobile traffic will divert resources away from other transportation modes and make it even harder for residents to get around without a car. We should prioritize projects that promote alternative transportation options and reduce our dependence on automobiles.

While I am opposed to the I-35 expansion, I am in favor of exploring alternative solutions such as the Rethink35 proposal, redesignating another highway like SH-130 as an interstate, or investing in public transit-first projects. These options offer more sustainable and forward-thinking solutions to our transportation challenges.

I implore you and your fellow Council Members to consider the long-term consequences of the I-35 expansion and to prioritize the well-being of our community, the environment, and the future generations who will inherit the decisions we make today.

Thank you for your attention to this critical issue. I look forward to hearing about your stance on Agenda Item 45 and your commitment to finding sustainable transportation solutions for our city.

Sincerely,

Omar Vasquez-Alpizar
9404 Caracas Dr
Austin TX 78733

Omar Vasquez-Alpizar

9404 caracas drive
austin, Texas 78733

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From: Nikki Scheinost <info_email.actionnetwork.org>
Sent: Monday, October 16, 2023 10:12 PM
To: Ellis, Paige
Subject: I35 Expansion.

External Email - Exercise Caution

Council Member Paige Ellis,

Hello, I am a long time resident of the Cherrywood neighborhood which is very close to I35. I would like to ask you to please vote "YES" for agenda item 45! I feel that the TxDOT I35 expansion plan will ruin our neighborhood that has been here since the 1940s. Our livelihoods will be drastically impacted by TxDOTs plan and we will be forced to move because of it. The encroachment, reduced air quality and noise will severely impact our neighborhood. I am in favor of removing the upper decks but expanding the interstate into the Cherrywood neighborhood is unacceptable, especially knowing it won't even relieve traffic. Also there are no concrete plans to cap and stitch the interstate. The expansion of I35 will ruin our neighborhood and Austin. Please listen to to residents of Austin and do something to stop TXDOTs plans. Thank you for your time.

Nikki Scheinost

1407 E 34th
Austin, Texas 78722

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From: Andres Orona Jr <info_email.actionnetwork.org>
Sent: Monday, October 16, 2023 9:34 PM
To: Ellis, Paige
Subject: I 35

External Email - Exercise Caution

Council Member Paige Ellis,

Austin belongs to US not to TXDOT. PLEASE do not let this project go through as TXDOT is planning -- IT must be changed to be better for the long term future of OUR city. Thanks to all of you for what you have done but there is much more you can do.

Andres O'Rona Jr.

Andres Orona Jr

515 E Slaughter Lane
Austin, Texas 78744

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From: Aaron Franklin <info_email.actionnetwork.org>
Sent: Monday, October 16, 2023 9:12 PM
To: Ellis, Paige
Subject: No 35 expansion!!!

External Email - Exercise Caution

Council Member Paige Ellis,

I've been here for almost thirty years and own a handful of mom and pop businesses right east of I-35, restaurants with lines and a festival that entertains almost 20,000...

The expansion is such a terrible idea.

This city is already clogged with traffic and won't be seeing less, ever. A reroute of through traffic with more usable green space and local commerce along with parking and public transit could easily help right wrongs in city planning's past. While helping our city's cultural continuity and creating a more healthy balance of tourism.

Other cities have had great success rerouting interstates and utilizing boulevards to increase quality of life and local business.

Aaron Franklin

Aaron Franklin

1001 E 3rd street
Austin, Texas 78702

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From: Ambra Cangemi <info_email.actionnetwork.org>
Sent: Monday, October 16, 2023 9:03 PM
To: Ellis, Paige
Subject: Make Austin Walkable

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Council Member Paige Ellis,

As a high school senior, I am appalled by the allowance of TxDOT's expansion plan. These kinds of projects have been proven to not work (I mean just look at Houston). Not only would congestion get worse, but people will lose their businesses, homes, and recreational areas. Why are we focusing on cars and not the people? I live on the outskirts of Austin with no facilities I am capable of safely walking to. I don't expect my part of Austin to become walkable, but as you get deeper into the city, there is truly no excuse for the lack of consideration towards citizens. I oppose the I-35 expansion and I hope you find it in your heart to care about the people and not the metal death machines on wheels.

Ambra Cangemi

9301 Old Bee Caves Rd
Austin, Texas 78735

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From: Monica Sanchez <info_email.actionnetwork.org>
Sent: Monday, October 16, 2023 8:14 PM
To: Ellis, Paige
Subject: Oppose I-35 Expansion - hurts Austin!

External Email - Exercise Caution

Council Member Paige Ellis,

Dear Council members,

I implore you to request that TXDOT put the brakes on their plan of expanding I-35 given that expansion only harms our city, your constituents, and the environment, and widening freeways has been found in numerous studies not to help alleviate traffic! I beg you to dive into the Final Environmental Impact Study that TXDOT wrote, to find if their plan is or is not good for us at this critical juncture. I've read through the FEIS and I have several questions, I hope you have given it that same amount of thought and consideration given that this is about to impact our city for decades to come. Never forget that I-35 was built to segregate our city and that sinister plan began with TXDOT, don't be the council that greenlights their plans for expansion when you know that's not what is best for Austin.

Monica Sanchez

1906 Saint Albans Blvd
Austin, Texas TX

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From: Angela DeSantis <info_email.actionnetwork.org>
Sent: Monday, October 16, 2023 8:23 PM
To: Ellis, Paige
Subject: I35 expansion

External Email - Exercise Caution

Council Member Paige Ellis,

I am a resident of central Austin. I strongly oppose the 35 expansion project and support agenda item 45. If I 35 is expanded the disastrous effects will be notable for generations to come. Including poor air quality, increased traffic, a requirement to drive everywhere with less alternatives (ie walking, transit). As a physician in this community I know my patients will be the most affected by increasing their commutes, requiring they need a car, and increasing stress associated with driving. This expansion is not forward thinking and will leave Austin and texas far behind any other state or country when it comes to mobility and reduction of carbon emissions. I hope you will stand up to this expansion and not allow the embarrassment of this expansion to be associated with your leadership for years to come.

Angela DeSantis

2024 Emma Long st
Austin, Texas 78723

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From: Ronan Chatterjee <info_email.actionnetwork.org>
Sent: Monday, October 16, 2023 8:05 PM
To: Ellis, Paige
Subject: Keep your promises to constituents on agenda item 45

External Email - Exercise Caution

Council Member Paige Ellis,

I am a born and raised Austinite who has always found it shameful that highways seem to dominate our lives. And as a young person, I am also forced to contend with a climate crisis I played little part in creating. 2023 is on track to be the hottest year ever recorded. In what universe would it make sense to look such a catastrophe head on and say, "we should plan for more car traffic"?

I ask the City Council to avoid this blunder by supporting agenda item 45.

An expansion of I-35 flies in the face of reality. TXDOT's project denies abundant research which shows congestion is not relieved- and in fact is often intensified- by more lanes. It denies the enormous opportunity cost and the uncountable social, environmental, and health consequences for every decade we continue to push car-centric infrastructure.

It denies a right to environmental justice for people with disabilities and racially marginalized communities, who stand to disproportionately shoulder the impacts of the pollution, heat, and inaccessibility this project is poised to generate.

On that front, the Council is clearly aware that these burdens are not shared equally across all Austinites: since 2021, you have publicly committed to "Climate Equity". I simply call on council members to prove these were not just nice words.

As a comparison of the segregational 1929 city plan and a map of urban heat in Austin will show you, I-35 is already a tool of climate injustice. To support its expansion would plainly violate your commitment.

I therefore urge you to oppose this expansion, and only to pursue options which can demonstrate tangible benefit to our collective climate, public health, and environmental equity goals. I believe the Rethink35 proposal provides a starting point for this sort of solution.

Ronan Chatterjee

5803 Kaelan Cv
Austin, TX, Texas 78730

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From: Matthew Carey <info_email.actionnetwork.org>
Sent: Monday, October 16, 2023 7:57 PM
To: Ellis, Paige
Subject: opposition to the I-35 expansion

External Email - Exercise Caution

Council Member Paige Ellis,

As a resident of District 8, I support agenda item 45 and urge Council Members to stand in opposition to the I-35 expansion. I OPPOSE expanding I-35 because it will increase the physical barrier between the east and west parts of downtown Austin. It will increase traffic and air pollution, and require more car infrastructure at the expense of other modes. I encourage the council to find other solutions that avoid routing drivers through our downtown on their way to destinations outside the downtown area.

Matthew Carey

6532, Taylorcrest Dr
Austin, Texas 78749

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Balderrama, Guillermo

From: Nickoll Garcia <
Sent: Monday, October 16, 2023 7:51 PM
To: Ellis, Paige
Subject: I oppose I-35 Expansion

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Council Member Paige Ellis,

I recently heard the phrase, “history does not start when we pay attention to it.” The city Council has a huge responsibility to Austinites, as well as to future UT Austin students, future employees who live or work in Austin, and to future generations. Expanding I-35 requires one to think as though they are in middle school, and their prefrontal cortex has not yet developed fully. I do not mean this with offense, but I am offended that my position in this city would be taken for granted and thrown away in favor of a years-long, annoying, disruptive project that wouldn’t even solve the problem it was intended to solve. For me, someone who was pulled to live in Austin due to its culture, location, educational opportunities, and plethora of job and internship opportunities, I fear that if I had known of the expansion of I-35, I would not have made the decision I made two years ago to move here. I love to use the public transportation system in Austin even though I acknowledge its many, many faults. Expanding I-35 is throwing away my future and erasing any possibility that future generations will be pulled to Austin in the same way that I was pulled here. Instead, they will be pushed away by endless traffic, endless construction, and a new generation of city council members who do not listen to their constituents when they shout loudly at what they want to see in the city that they call home.

Please go against expanding I-35. History is watching, and history has put Austin on the map. Don’t use this prestige and attention to start a trend for the worse, by a city that focuses more on automobiles than it does individuals.

Thank you.

Nickoll Garcia

201 E 21st St
Austin , Texas 78705

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From: Connor Gibson <info_email.actionnetwork.org>
Sent: Monday, October 16, 2023 7:49 PM
To: Ellis, Paige
Subject: Opposition to I-35 Expansion

External Email - Exercise Caution

Council Member Paige Ellis,

Dear Councilmember Zo Qadri,

My name is Connor Gibson, a resident of Austin's west campus neighborhood, and I am writing in support of agenda item 45, which will call upon CAMPO and TxDOT to postpone funding for an expansion of I-35 through downtown Austin.

Prior to living in Austin, I lived in the Houston area for 18 years, during which time I witnessed the harms of car-dependence and urban freeways firsthand. During my time in Houston, I saw how the Katy freeway expansion, intended to reduce traffic in the Houston area, actually lead to an increase in freeway congestion, as well as an increase in greenhouse gas emissions. Now, as a resident of Austin, I am disturbed by the fact that we are about to repeat the mistakes of my former city. I therefore urge you and the other councilmembers to vote YES on agenda item 45, so that we can delay the expansion of I-35 indefinitely.

I also want to stress that voting YES on agenda item 45 should not be the end of fighting I-35 expansion, but the beginning. My preferred solution to the congestion problem posed by I-35 would be to redesignate state highway 130 as intersate 35, and replace the current path of I-35 through downtown with an urban boulevard. This in turn would route through traffic around downtown Austin, as opposed to through it, and would greatly improve pedestrian safety near the current path of I-35. I would also like to see improved transit throughout Austin's metropolitan area, in order to incentivize more environmentally-friendly transit use and disincentivize car ridership, which is far more polluting.

In short, I urge you and the other council members to vote YES on agenda item 45, as well as to continue fighting car dependence by improving Austin's public transit infrastructure rather than expanding I-35.

Thank you,
Connor Gibson

Connor Gibson

2707 Rio Grande Street
Austin, Texas 78705

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From: Cj Judd <info_email.actionnetwork.org>
Sent: Monday, October 16, 2023 7:30 PM
To: Ellis, Paige
Subject: Stop it.

External Email - Exercise Caution

Council Member Paige Ellis,

Displacing poor people and small businesses is just weird.

WTF is this?

Planning for the future takes a forward view. More lanes that are not being provided is just silly. Who's getting rich here? Who's bought property that will benefit in the future?

Carl Judd

I live in the affected area.

I have no place to go. And no one even aware of the "sheltered homeless"

I'm now again shelter insecurity. As well as food insecurity.

Take a look at the inflated property values of the properties to be taken down. One place had their value go from 1.4 million two years ago to 4.7 million.

Who's getting rich?

Come on.

Cj Judd

4800 n. lh35
Austin , Texas 78751

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From: Michael Sanchez <info_email.actionnetwork.org>
Sent: Monday, October 16, 2023 6:30 PM
To: Ellis, Paige
Subject: Halt the expansion of I35

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Council Member Paige Ellis,

My name is Michael and I live in Austin. I strongly urge you to support agenda item 45 and oppose the I-35 expansion. This project is harmful for the following reasons:

- Expanding I-35 will not solve the traffic problem in Austin. Studies have shown that highway expansion increases driving and congestion. Houston's Katy freeway expansion is an infamous example of this.
- The expansion will destroy many small businesses in Austin that will be replaced by more concrete and asphalt. Austin's small businesses are the engine of the city's growth and identity, not highways.
- The project will take away more space for cars and make it even more unsafe to walk, bike, or use public transit in the city.
- I favor other solutions that can improve mobility and livability in Austin, such as expanding mass transit, eliminating single family zoning, and eliminating parking minimums.

Michael Sanchez

1127 Pearl Retreat Lane
Austin, Texas 78753

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Balderrama, Guillermo

From: Sharon Lynch <
Sent: Monday, October 16, 2023 5:38 PM
To: Watson, Kirk; Ellis, Paige; Harper-Madison, Natasha; Fuentes, Vanessa; Velasquez, Jose; Vela, Jose "Chito"; Alter, Ryan; Kelly, Mackenzie; Pool, Leslie; Qadri, Zo; Alter, Alison; Garza, Jesús; Lawler, John; Morales, Sofia; Melendez, Lizette; Bray, Timothy; Leffler, Ben; McGregor, Thomas; Brinsmade, Louisa; Montgomery, Julie; Beeler, Melissa; Richardson, Ashley; Alexander, Kate
Subject: Agenda Item #45 of 10/19/2023 Austin City Council Regular Meeting

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Dear Mayor, Mayor Pro Tem, and Members of Council,

I support Item #45 on the 10/19 Council agenda. Please pass this resolution to ensure the City of Austin's commitment to climate action and reducing greenhouse gas emissions.

Sharon Lynch
1303 E 28th St.
Austin, TX 78722

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From: Alex Schuessler <info_email.actionnetwork.org>
Sent: Monday, October 16, 2023 5:36 PM
To: Ellis, Paige
Subject: Opposition of I35 Expansion

External Email - Exercise Caution

Council Member Paige Ellis,

I am writing out of Leslie Pool's district 7 to voice my support for agenda item 45 and my general opposition to I35 expansion. I don't want my family or neighbors breathing polluted air. A 160% increase in I-35's lane miles through Austin mean a massive, increase in air pollution right in the middle of town: 50,000 metric tons of CO2 per year, microplastics from tires, and god knows what else. In addition to the air pollution issues, this expansion will not fix congestion within Austin and will almost certainly make congestion worse. This would be an absolute waste of 5 billion taxpayer dollars. On some of the city's most valuable and important land, 184 new lane miles of pure liability for the city. 184 lane miles that will pay no property taxes, cost an incredible amount of taxpayer money to maintain, require the destruction of already existing buildings, and pollute the air for everything around it.

Alex Schuessler

804 mountain view drive
pflugerville, Texas 78660

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From: Kendall Kibby-Deck <info_email.actionnetwork.org>
Sent: Monday, October 16, 2023 4:59 PM
To: Ellis, Paige
Subject: Yes on item 45

External Email - Exercise Caution

Council Member Paige Ellis,

Hello, my name is Kendall Kibby-Deck, and I live near I-35 and 183. I oppose the expansion of I-35 because it will make my neighborhood louder and worsen air quality. Studies show that widening highways doesn't decrease congestion. I would rather see an investment in public transportation and parks, which would add to the quality of life in our city.

Thank you

Kendall

Kendall Kibby-Deck

307 Oertli Ln
Austin, Texas 78753

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From: Tristan King <info_email.actionnetwork.org>
Sent: Monday, October 16, 2023 4:54 PM
To: Ellis, Paige
Subject: Support Agenda 45

External Email - Exercise Caution

Council Member Paige Ellis,

I have been living in Austin since I was born, and I wanted to write with the intent of encouraging you to support Agenda 45 and oppose the expansion of I-35. In all the times I have used I-35, I have never found it to be efficient or useful to travel on. Despite this, I know, as well as many other Austinites know, that expanding I35 will only make things worse, and we can look at the Katy freeway as an example to avoid becoming. Not only will it make traffic worse, but it will also ruin the environment, the air quality, and ruin several businesses in the area. Instead, I would like to ask you to pursue alternative solutions that so many people such as myself are in strong support of, such as expanding and improving public transportation further out of Austin, reducing car dependency throughout all of Austin, pursuing the ReThink35 proposal, or anything that allows for alternative ways around Austin to reduce the amount of cars that travel around Austin.

Tristan King

1702 San Juan Dr
Austin, TX, Texas 78733

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From: Harry Swinney <info_email.actionnetwork.org>
Sent: Monday, October 16, 2023 3:45 PM
To: Ellis, Paige
Subject: I-35 Capital Express Central Project

External Email - Exercise Caution

Council Member Paige Ellis,

I have lived for 23 years on 42nd St, 1/2 mile west of I-35, and I strongly OPPOSE the proposed I-35 Capital Express Central Project. The noise and pollution levels are already much too high, and the scar cut by I-35 makes my frequent crossings of I-35 on foot or bicycle difficult and dangerous. The proposed expansion of I-35 capacity is a crime against citizens who live and work here. My family moved into 1017 E 44th in 1945, when it was a quiet neighborhood, and my parents and I had a pleasant morning walk to Lee Elementary (just west of Red River St & north of 32nd St). I strongly support designating another highway such as SH-130 as an interstate and also an increase in public transit. (I regularly take the Austin Transit #7 and #10 buses, and am delighted with the service). An expansion of I-35 will worsen congestion in our entire region, and the noise and air pollution will be bad for the health of me and my extended family and our neighbors, as well as for the many others who live within Austin along the I-35 corridor. Again, I strongly OPPOSE the proposed I-35 Capital Express Central Project be killed.

Harry Swinney

722 Park Blvd
Austin, Texas 78751

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From: Luis Osta Lugo <info_email.actionnetwork.org>
Sent: Monday, October 16, 2023 4:43 PM
To: Ellis, Paige
Subject: The I-35 Expansion Is Completely Unacceptable

External Email - Exercise Caution

Council Member Paige Ellis,

I'm a resident of District 8, living in Crested Butte Hillside. I urge you to vote against the proposed expansion of I-35. This project is costly and harmful to our community, and it will not solve the traffic congestion problem it is designed to address.

Expanding highways has never been shown to improve traffic congestion, in fact, it often worsens it. This is because adding more lanes simply induces more demand, and people start driving longer distances. The Katy Freeway expansion is a perfect example of this. The project cost \$2.5 billion and added 10 lanes to the highway, but traffic congestion has only gotten worse.

The I-35 expansion project will also have a negative impact on our air quality and climate change. The estimated emissions from the project are the equivalent of a coal plant. This will exacerbate the already poor air quality in our region, which is a major health concern for residents.

In addition, the project will make it harder to get around without a car. The project is expected to bring an additional 100,000 cars a day into the city, which will require more car infrastructure at the expense of other modes of transportation. This is bad news for people who walk, bike, or take public transportation.

I'm for exploring a multi-modal boulevard approach that will more effectively and efficiently move people across that corridor

Luis Osta Lugo

115 Sandra Muraida Way Apt 601
Austin, Texas 78703

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From: Francisco Javier Martinez Cavazos <info_email.actionnetwork.org>
Sent: Monday, October 16, 2023 4:34 PM
To: Ellis, Paige
Subject: Rethink

External Email - Exercise Caution

Council Member Paige Ellis,

We need to think out of the box about the traffic and pollution problem. It's time to give long term solutions and stop building bridges that only are worsening the problem.

Francisco Javier Martinez Cavazos

12925 Ring Drive
Manor , Texas 78653

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From: Hollie Jenkins <info_email.actionnetwork.org>
Sent: Monday, October 16, 2023 4:29 PM
To: Ellis, Paige
Subject: I-35

External Email - Exercise Caution

Council Member Paige Ellis,

Vote "YES" for agenda item 45. I am an Austin voter, and I oppose the expansion of I-35.

Hollie Jenkins

2032 Northridge Drive
Austin, Texas 78723

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Balderrama, Guillermo

From: J Emil Hunziker <
Sent: Monday, October 16, 2023 4:26 PM
To: Ellis, Paige
Subject: Please approve the October 19, 2023, Agenda Item 45.

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External Email - Exercise Caution

Council Member Paige Ellis,

I live in North Loop, 3000 feet from I-35. We badly need to improve the obsolete and inefficient corridor through the central of Austin, but expanding I-35 as proposed by TxDOT is not an improvement.

The Mobility Committee has correctly identified the long term air quality impact of the proposed design to be unacceptable.

We should use the investment in the I-35 corridor to correct the damages of replacing West Street with I-35 in the last century and unify central Austin with 21st Century mobility options that support a livable downtown.

I need not repeat all that is wrong with the proposed expansion; you are all well aware of the shortsightedness of this project's direction. The thousands of Travis County families living and working in Austin, including three generations of my family living in North Loop and Hyde Park, deserve a better vision and a better solution.

Please vote to approve the resolution proposed by the Mobility Committee in October 19, 2023, Agenda Item 45.

J Emil Hunziker

5506 Duval St.
Austin , Texas 78751

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From: Skyler Silcott <info_email.actionnetwork.org>
Sent: Monday, October 16, 2023 4:24 PM
To: Ellis, Paige
Subject: Natasha Harper-Madison

External Email - Exercise Caution

Council Member Paige Ellis,

Hi I'm Skyler and I completely oppose expanding I-35 because it has **never** helped to expand. I don't know how this project even got funded in the first place when we saw how useless the mopac expansion was. It damages the environment, our city, and our community much more than it could ever "benefit" traffic. When I went to Japan earlier this year I saw just how **easy** it could all be-with a population much larger than austin- WITHOUT more cars and WITH better public infrastructure. As a disabled person I find it incredibly hard to deal with driving a hour & a half to get anywhere and allowing MORE CARS does not fix the problem, AT ALL. Accessible, widespread, easy public transit DOES. Think about the amount of space 50 cars on the road takes up versus 50 people sitting in a single subway car or bus. And of course the emissions, pollutions and poor air quality as well. I support agenda item 45 and it is imperative council members listen to the people they serve and take action to oppose the expansion of I-35.

Skyler Silcott

1602 Catalan Rd
Austin, Texas 78748

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From: Skyler Silcott <info_email.actionnetwork.org>
Sent: Monday, October 16, 2023 4:23 PM
To: Ellis, Paige
Subject: Alison Alter

External Email - Exercise Caution

Council Member Paige Ellis,

Hi I'm Skyler and I completely oppose expanding I-35 because it has *never* helped to expand. I don't know how this project even got funded in the first place when we saw how useless the mopac expansion was. It damages the environment, our city, and our community much more than it could ever "benefit" traffic. When I went to Japan earlier this year I saw just how *easy* it could all be-with a population much larger than austin- WITHOUT more cars and WITH better public infrastructure. As a disabled person I find it incredibly hard to deal with driving a hour & a half to get anywhere and allowing MORE CARS does not fix the problem, AT ALL. Accessible, widespread, easy public transit DOES. Think about the amount of space 50 cars on the road takes up versus 50 people sitting in a single subway car or bus. And of course the emissions, pollutions and poor air quality as well. I support agenda item 45 and it is imperative council members listen to the people they serve and take action to oppose the expansion of I-35.

Skyler Silcott

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Austin, Texas 78748

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From: Skyler Silcott <info_email.actionnetwork.org>
Sent: Monday, October 16, 2023 4:23 PM
To: Ellis, Paige
Subject: Zo Qadri

External Email - Exercise Caution

Council Member Paige Ellis,

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Skyler Silcott

1602 Catalan Rd
Austin, Texas 78748

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From: Skyler Silcott <info_email.actionnetwork.org>
Sent: Monday, October 16, 2023 4:22 PM
To: Ellis, Paige
Subject: Chito Vela

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Council Member Paige Ellis,

Hi I'm Skyler and I completely oppose expanding I-35 because it has **never** helped to expand. I don't know how this project even got funded in the first place when we saw how useless the mopac expansion was. It damages the environment, our city, and our community much more than it could ever "benefit" traffic. When I went to Japan earlier this year I saw just how **easy** it could all be-with a population much larger than austin- WITHOUT more cars and WITH better public infrastructure. As a disabled person I find it incredibly hard to deal with driving a hour & a half to get anywhere and allowing MORE CARS does not fix the problem, AT ALL. Accessible, widespread, easy public transit DOES. Think about the amount of space 50 cars on the road takes up versus 50 people sitting in a single subway car or bus. And of course the emissions, pollutions and poor air quality as well. I support agenda item 45 and it is imperative council members listen to the people they serve and take action to oppose the expansion of I-35.

Skyler Silcott

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Austin, Texas 78748

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From: Skyler Silcott <info_email.actionnetwork.org>
Sent: Monday, October 16, 2023 4:23 PM
To: Ellis, Paige
Subject: Paige Ellis

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Council Member Paige Ellis,

Hi I'm Skyler and I completely oppose expanding I-35 because it has **never** helped to expand. I don't know how this project even got funded in the first place when we saw how useless the mopac expansion was. It damages the environment, our city, and our community much more than it could ever "benefit" traffic. When I went to Japan earlier this year I saw just how **easy** it could all be-with a population much larger than austin- WITHOUT more cars and WITH better public infrastructure. As a disabled person I find it incredibly hard to deal with driving a hour & a half to get anywhere and allowing MORE CARS does not fix the problem, AT ALL. Accessible, widespread, easy public transit DOES. Think about the amount of space 50 cars on the road takes up versus 50 people sitting in a single subway car or bus. And of course the emissions, pollutions and poor air quality as well. I support agenda item 45 and it is imperative council members listen to the people they serve and take action to oppose the expansion of I-35.

Skyler Silcott

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Austin, Texas 78748

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From: Skyler Silcott <info_email.actionnetwork.org>
Sent: Monday, October 16, 2023 4:21 PM
To: Ellis, Paige
Subject: Vanessa Fuentes

External Email - Exercise Caution

Council Member Paige Ellis,

Hi I'm Skyler and I completely oppose expanding I-35 because it has **never** helped to expand. I don't know how this project even got funded in the first place when we saw how useless the mopac expansion was. It damages the environment, our city, and our community much more than it could ever "benefit" traffic. When I went to Japan earlier this year I saw just how **easy** it could all be-with a population much larger than austin- WITHOUT more cars and WITH better public infrastructure. As a disabled person I find it incredibly hard to deal with driving a hour & a half to get anywhere and allowing MORE CARS does not fix the problem, AT ALL. Accessible, widespread, easy public transit DOES. Think about the amount of space 50 cars on the road takes up versus 50 people sitting in a single subway car or bus. And of course the emissions, pollutions and poor air quality as well. I support agenda item 45 and it is imperative council members listen to the people they serve and take action to oppose the expansion of I-35.

Skyler Silcott

1602 Catalan Rd
Austin, Texas 78748

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From: Skyler Silcott <info_email.actionnetwork.org>
Sent: Monday, October 16, 2023 4:22 PM
To: Ellis, Paige
Subject: Ryan Alter

External Email - Exercise Caution

Council Member Paige Ellis,

Hi I'm Skyler and I completely oppose expanding I-35 because it has **never** helped to expand. I don't know how this project even got funded in the first place when we saw how useless the mopac expansion was. It damages the environment, our city, and our community much more than it could ever "benefit" traffic. When I went to Japan earlier this year I saw just how **easy** it could all be-with a population much larger than austin- WITHOUT more cars and WITH better public infrastructure. As a disabled person I find it incredibly hard to deal with driving a hour & a half to get anywhere and allowing MORE CARS does not fix the problem, AT ALL. Accessible, widespread, easy public transit DOES. Think about the amount of space 50 cars on the road takes up versus 50 people sitting in a single subway car or bus. And of course the emissions, pollutions and poor air quality as well. I support agenda item 45 and it is imperative council members listen to the people they serve and take action to oppose the expansion of I-35.

Skyler Silcott

1602 Catalan Rd
Austin, Texas 78748

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From: Skyler Silcott <info_email.actionnetwork.org>
Sent: Monday, October 16, 2023 4:23 PM
To: Ellis, Paige
Subject: Leslie Pool

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Council Member Paige Ellis,

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Skyler Silcott

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Austin, Texas 78748

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From: Skyler Silcott <info_email.actionnetwork.org>
Sent: Monday, October 16, 2023 4:23 PM
To: Ellis, Paige
Subject: Mackenzie Kelly

External Email - Exercise Caution

Council Member Paige Ellis,

Hi I'm Skyler and I completely oppose expanding I-35 because it has **never** helped to expand. I don't know how this project even got funded in the first place when we saw how useless the mopac expansion was. It damages the environment, our city, and our community much more than it could ever "benefit" traffic. When I went to Japan earlier this year I saw just how **easy** it could all be-with a population much larger than austin- WITHOUT more cars and WITH better public infrastructure. As a disabled person I find it incredibly hard to deal with driving a hour & a half to get anywhere and allowing MORE CARS does not fix the problem, AT ALL. Accessible, widespread, easy public transit DOES. Think about the amount of space 50 cars on the road takes up versus 50 people sitting in a single subway car or bus. And of course the emissions, pollutions and poor air quality as well. I support agenda item 45 and it is imperative council members listen to the people they serve and take action to oppose the expansion of I-35.

Skyler Silcott

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Austin, Texas 78748

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From: Skyler Silcott <info_email.actionnetwork.org>
Sent: Monday, October 16, 2023 4:22 PM
To: Ellis, Paige
Subject: José Velásquez

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Council Member Paige Ellis,

Hi I'm Skyler and I completely oppose expanding I-35 because it has **never** helped to expand. I don't know how this project even got funded in the first place when we saw how useless the mopac expansion was. It damages the environment, our city, and our community much more than it could ever "benefit" traffic. When I went to Japan earlier this year I saw just how **easy** it could all be-with a population much larger than austin- WITHOUT more cars and WITH better public infrastructure. As a disabled person I find it incredibly hard to deal with driving a hour & a half to get anywhere and allowing MORE CARS does not fix the problem, AT ALL. Accessible, widespread, easy public transit DOES. Think about the amount of space 50 cars on the road takes up versus 50 people sitting in a single subway car or bus. And of course the emissions, pollutions and poor air quality as well. I support agenda item 45 and it is imperative council members listen to the people they serve and take action to oppose the expansion of I-35.

Skyler Silcott

1602 Catalan Rd
Austin, Texas 78748

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From: Skyler Silcott <info_email.actionnetwork.org>
Sent: Monday, October 16, 2023 4:19 PM
To: Ellis, Paige
Subject: Kirk Watson

External Email - Exercise Caution

Council Member Paige Ellis,

Hi I'm Skyler and I completely oppose expanding I-35 because it has **never** helped to expand. I don't know how this project even got funded in the first place when we saw how useless the mopac expansion was. It damages the environment, our city, and our community much more than it could ever "benefit" traffic. When I went to Japan earlier this year I saw just how **easy** it could all be-with a population much larger than austin- WITHOUT more cars and WITH better public infrastructure. As a disabled person I find it incredibly hard to deal with driving a hour & a half to get anywhere and allowing MORE CARS does not fix the problem, AT ALL. Accessible, widespread, easy public transit DOES. Think about the amount of space 50 cars on the road takes up versus 50 people sitting in a single subway car or bus. And of course the emissions, pollutions and poor air quality as well. I support agenda item 45 and it is imperative council members listen to the people they serve and take action to oppose the expansion of I-35.

Skyler Silcott

1602 Catalan Rd
Austin, Texas 78748

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From: thomas lovett <info_email.actionnetwork.org>
Sent: Monday, October 16, 2023 4:12 PM
To: Ellis, Paige
Subject: opposition to I-35 expansion

External Email - Exercise Caution

Council Member Paige Ellis,

I oppose expansion of I35 for car traffic and I urge you to do the same. I am a resident of east Austin and I believe highway expansion will add more noise, air pollution, construction delays, and traffic through the heart of our city. I do not believe that it will meaningfully reduce congestion, it will only induce demand. I support mass transit as the only meaningful solution to get more people access to more places.

thomas lovett

1120 Shady Ln APT 3327
austin, Texas 78722

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Balderrama, Guillermo

From: Rosana Carroll <
Sent: Monday, October 16, 2023 4:17 PM
To: Ellis, Paige
Subject: Agenda item # 45

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Dear City Councilmember,

I support Item #45 on the 10/19 Council agenda. Please pass this resolution to ensure the City of Austin's commitment to climate action and reducing greenhouse gas emissions.

Regards,
Rosana Galán Carroll

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From: Ali Bagheri <info_email.actionnetwork.org>
Sent: Monday, October 16, 2023 4:04 PM
To: Ellis, Paige
Subject: Opposing I-35 expansion

External Email - Exercise Caution

Council Member Paige Ellis,

I urge our city council to strongly oppose expansion of I-35. This is a plan that will absolutely worsen quality of life for residents and will not improve traffic. Please do what you can!

Ali Bagheri

1606 Ridgehaven Dr.
Austin, Texas 78723

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From: Allison Moseley <info_email.actionnetwork.org>
Sent: Monday, October 16, 2023 3:53 PM
To: Ellis, Paige
Subject: opposing I-35 expansion

External Email - Exercise Caution

Council Member Paige Ellis,

I live in north Hyde Park. 51st Street is near our house, and it is already a nightmare at commute hours. Adding more traffic is the definition of insanity. We cannot keep piling up more and bigger highways--it's madness in this day and age, with climate change. People have to get out of their cars. Cities must be re-thought. Has everyone already forgotten the 80 days of triple-degree temperatures we had this summer? And how last summer was also incredibly hot? And the summer before that? Only Texas would be shortsighted enough to keep building highways instead of finally making the leap to other forms of transportation. We are already biking and walking and taking the bus. We need more centralized neighborhoods and easier ways to get around the already wide, heavily traveled roads without sidewalks. Kudos to the city for the bike trails. Now do the same for walkers.

Allison Moseley

4907 Rowena Ave
Austin, Texas 78751

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From: Kira McCool <info_email.actionnetwork.org>
Sent: Monday, October 16, 2023 3:46 PM
To: Ellis, Paige
Subject: Oppose funding for I-35 expansion

External Email - Exercise Caution

Council Member Paige Ellis,

Hi Austin City Council,

I am a lifelong Austin resident and care deeply about our city and its future. I am asking that you OPPOSE the I-35 expansion funding—and any future measures that will further this project. My goal living here (and I would hope your goal, as council members!) is to do what I can to make Austin a nice place for everyone. There are so many investments we can make to further this goal. From funding our public schools so teachers can live and work in Austin, to building and supporting affordable housing, to the ambitious transit projects that voters supported and are looking forward to ... our money should not and cannot go to a harmful highway expansion. We don't want to turn into a parking lot city like others in Texas. There are other options to reduce congestion on I-35 that cost WAY less and are MUCH less harmful to our communities. Please do not support funding this project, and please work for us to ensure it doesn't happen. We can't let old ways of thinking drive the future of our city.

Thanks so much.

Kira

Kira McCool

1207 Enfield Rd
Austin, Texas 78703

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Balderrama, Guillermo

From: Rich Heyman <
Sent: Monday, October 16, 2023 3:36 PM
To: Watson, Kirk; Ellis, Paige; Harper-Madison, Natasha; Fuentes, Vanessa; Velasquez, Jose; Vela, Jose "Chito"; Alter, Ryan; Kelly, Mackenzie; Pool, Leslie; Qadri, Zo; Alter, Alison; Garza, Jesús; Lawler, John; Morales, Sofia; Melendez, Lizette; Bray, Timothy; Leffler, Ben; McGregor, Thomas; Brinsmade, Louisa; Montgomery, Julie; Beeler, Melissa; Richardson, Ashley; Alexander, Kate
Subject: Agenda Item #45
Categories: Agenda

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External Email - Exercise Caution

Dear Mayor, Mayor Pro Tem, and Members of Council,

I support Item #45 on the 10/19 Council agenda. Please pass this resolution to ensure the City of Austin's commitment to climate action and reducing greenhouse gas emissions.

Thank you,
Richard Heyman
3503 Lafayette Ave

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From: Anat Schechtman <info_email.actionnetwork.org>
Sent: Monday, October 16, 2023 3:33 PM
To: Ellis, Paige
Subject: Support for agenda item 45

External Email - Exercise Caution

Council Member Paige Ellis,

Hello,

I'm writing to express my support for agenda item 45, and to urge council members to oppose the proposed I-35 expansion. The expansion would be a historical mistake, worsening health problems and climate conditions in Austin for generations. As a Cherrywood resident and a parent of young children, I find it to run against everything that attracted me to more to Austin. Please oppose it!

Thank you,
Anat Schechtman

Anat Schechtman

1510 Edgewood Ave
Austin, Texas 78722

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From: William Tetrud <info_email.actionnetwork.org>
Sent: Monday, October 16, 2023 3:22 PM
To: Ellis, Paige
Subject: Please do not expand I-35!

External Email - Exercise Caution

Council Member Paige Ellis,

I support the agenda item 45 to ask TxDOT to postpone funding the project.

I oppose the expansion to I-35 because it is a horrible waste of valuable city land. So much better to increase density so people don't have to drive so far or as much. The population density of downtown Austin is strangely low.

Beyond that, I-35 will worsen air quality. 80-90% of pollution comes from vehicles on the road, and pollution kills more than double the number of people per year that car accidents do. 100,000 people per year in the US die from pollution.

The expansion won't solve the traffic problem. The freeway will be jammed up regardless of how many lanes are added within just a few years after the expansion, as is the norm with every other freeway expansion project. But it will put more pressure on the roads in the city to cater to cars instead of alternative modes of transportation like biking which is far more cost-effective in every dimension: infrastructure cost, cost for the rider, land usage cost, pollution, etc.

Please don't spend any city money helping them expand I-35 and oppose the expansion wherever possible.

William Tetrud

1900 Barton Springs Rd
Austin, Texas 78704

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From: Ricardo Gonzalez <info_email.actionnetwork.org>
Sent: Monday, October 16, 2023 3:15 PM
To: Ellis, Paige
Subject: A Better Future for Our City: Rethinking I-35 Expansion

External Email - Exercise Caution

Council Member Paige Ellis,

Dear Council Members and Mayor,

I hope this message finds you well. As a resident of Austin Texas, I am writing to express my strong support for agenda item 45 while urging you to oppose the expansion of Interstate 35. I firmly believe that reevaluating our approach to this project is essential for the future of our city and the well-being of its residents.

I OPPOSE expanding I-35 because:

Worsening Congestion: Expanding highways rarely, if ever, alleviates congestion. History has shown us that, as exemplified by the Katy Freeway expansion, increased road capacity often leads to more traffic and gridlock.

Impact on Health: The expansion will worsen air quality in our region, posing a direct threat to the health of our community and my family.

Climate Change: This project's estimated emissions are staggering, akin to those of a coal plant. This is contrary to our global and local commitments to combat climate change.

Over-reliance on Cars: The additional 100,000 cars a day projected to enter the city will further strain our dependence on cars, sidelining other modes of transportation, and hindering our city's progress toward a more sustainable and accessible future.

I AM FOR a new vision of transportation for our city, including:

1. Redesignating SH-130 as the New I-35: By transforming SH-130 into the new Interstate 35, we can alleviate the burden on the current I-35, allowing us to reimagine its use for the betterment of our city.

2. A Boulevard with Light Rail for the Old I-35: Turning the old I-35 into a boulevard with a light rail system would create an accessible and environmentally friendly urban corridor, enhancing mobility for our community and reducing the impact on our environment.

I implore you to consider this alternative approach as we move forward. The "Rethink35" proposal aligns with the values of our community and paves the way for a more sustainable, healthy, and efficient future for our city. Let us stand together in opposition to the I-35 expansion and explore these alternative solutions that will benefit us all.

Thank you for your time and consideration of these crucial issues. I look forward to the positive changes we can bring about for our beloved city.

Sincerely,

Ricardo A. Gonzalez

Ricardo Gonzalez

7731 Menchaca Rd #3411
Austin, Texas 78745

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From: Trevor Hackett <info_email.actionnetwork.org>
Sent: Monday, October 16, 2023 3:15 PM
To: Ellis, Paige
Subject: Item 45 and i35 expansion

External Email - Exercise Caution

Council Member Paige Ellis,

My name is Trevor Hackett I live on E 44th St merr blocks from i35. I oppose it's expansion outside and support Item 45. The highway will increase car traffic, bring more pollutants into the air I'm breathing daily (and my kids will breathe when I take that next step). I love living here and want it to continually get better for pedestrians, biking, and public transit, not for cars.

Best,
Trevor

Trevor Hackett

908 E 44th St
Austin, Texas 78751

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From: Braxton Ray <info_email.actionnetwork.org>
Sent: Monday, October 16, 2023 3:11 PM
To: Ellis, Paige
Subject: Agenda Item 45: I-35 Expansion

External Email - Exercise Caution

Council Member Paige Ellis,

Hello!

My name is Braxton Ray and I am a resident of North Austin. I'm writing to you today to urge you to vote yes on agenda item 45. While I oppose the widening of I-35 for many reasons, such as the increase to congestion that it will inevitably bring as well as the destruction of existing homes and businesses, I am writing to you today to express my concern for our public health. As you are aware, the governor recently signed a bill into law banning mandatory state vehicle inspections. This means that any expansion of traffic into Austin would mean that more potentially unsafe vehicles would come through our city. Additionally, as most counties do not require emissions testing, increasing our city's capacity for traffic means that we are greatly increasing the capacity for emissions. This will be especially the case during the construction phase, which will inevitably lead to massive traffic jams. As someone who pays close attention to the health of our environment, I have watched with concern as smog becomes worse and worse each summer. Our city prides itself on our stewardship of the environment - please vote yes on agenda item 45 to ensure that we continue to stand up for its health.

Thank you,
Braxton Ray

Braxton Ray

2600 Gracy Farms Ln #531
Austin, Texas 78758

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From: Julie Bracken <info_email.actionnetwork.org>
Sent: Monday, October 16, 2023 3:06 PM
To: Ellis, Paige
Subject: Please support agenda item 45

External Email - Exercise Caution

Council Member Paige Ellis,

Hi! I live in District 1 and work downtown in District 9. This freeway expansion is going to be terrible, locking the heart of Austin into decades of noise, emissions, dangerous crossings, and a hideous scar down the middle of our beautiful city. I urge you to use any tool at your disposal to postpone this project. Thank you.

Julie Bracken

6609 Willamette Dr
Austin, Texas 78723

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From: Matt Plotz <info_email.actionnetwork.org>
Sent: Monday, October 16, 2023 2:46 PM
To: Ellis, Paige
Subject: rethink 35

External Email - Exercise Caution

Council Member Paige Ellis,

I support agenda item 45 and urge Council Members to stand in opposition to the I-35 expansion.

I OPPOSE expanding I-35 because...

This will worsen congestion in our entire region, including where I live. Expanding highways never improves and often worsens congestion, as we saw from the Katy Freeway expansion.

This will be bad for my health and that of my family because of worse air quality.

This project will worsen climate change the estimated emissions are the equivalent of a coal plant

It will make it harder to get around without a car. The project is expected to bring an additional 100,000 cars a day into the city which will require more car infrastructure at the expense of other modes.

I am for the Rethink35 proposal, predesignating another highway such as SH-130 as an interstate, a boulevard going through town, a public transit-first project, etc.

Matt Plotz

7233 Bayberry Ln
Dallas, Texas 75249

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From: Robert Boler <info_email.actionnetwork.org>
Sent: Monday, October 16, 2023 2:43 PM
To: Ellis, Paige
Subject: No I-35 expansion (support agenda item 45)

External Email - Exercise Caution

Council Member Paige Ellis,

Austin City Council,

I'm a homeowner, a 12-year Austinite, and lifelong Texas.

I support agenda item 45, and urge Council Members to stand in opposition to the I-35 expansion.

I strongly oppose I-35 expansion.

Expanding highways doesn't work.

It doesn't relieve traffic.

It doesn't bring financial prosperity.

It makes our air and water quality worse.

It further ruins property values not just beside the highway, but within 1mi of it.

And perhaps most stupidly, it waste over a thousand acres of valuable city land that could be used for local businesses, homes, dedicated transit lanes, safe bike lanes, and yes—still car lanes. (Just not 20 car lanes... good grief.)

I am strongly in favor of making TxDOT divert the highway, developing I-35 into a beautiful mixed use boulevard, and turning the tide on Austin losing more local gems and becoming a concrete jungle.

Thank you.

Robert Boler

5209 Knight Cir, Austin TX 78723
Austin, Texas

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From: Carlos Corona <info_email.actionnetwork.org>
Sent: Monday, October 16, 2023 2:39 PM
To: Ellis, Paige
Subject: STOP THE HIGHWAY

External Email - Exercise Caution

Council Member Paige Ellis,

I support agenda item 45 and urge Council Members to stand in opposition to the I-35 expansion. It's bad for the environment! We need more public transportation in this city and state! We need to be an example to the rest of this country and listen to its residents rather than big companies!

Carlos Corona

1409 Maryland Street
Houston, Texas 77006

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From: Bridget Hyde <info_email.actionnetwork.org>
Sent: Monday, October 16, 2023 2:33 PM
To: Ellis, Paige
Subject: Jose Velasquez

External Email - Exercise Caution

Council Member Paige Ellis,

Please oppose the expansion of I-35! The extra exhaust fumes will poison the hike and bike trail at Lady Bird Lake, and risk the health of the children at Sanchez Elementary, and make our whole neighborhood polluted with dirty air and noxious noise. Please stand against this brutal assault on our city!

Sincerely,

Bridget Houston Hyde
1210 Garden Street
Unit A
Austin 78702

Bridget Hyde

1210 Garden St, Unit A
Austin, Texas 78702

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Balderrama, Guillermo

From: Jules Elkins <
Sent: Monday, October 16, 2023 2:27 PM
To: Ellis, Paige
Subject: I support agenda item 45 and urge Council Members to stand in opposition to the I-35 expansion.

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Council Member Paige Ellis,

As an Austin resident and Professor of Environmental Health and Urban Planning, I wish to submit the following comments on the planned expansion of I35.

1. Health Assessment.

Expanding I35 will significantly increase the levels of pollution to which residents of Austin will be exposed. There is a robust body of scientific evidence that shows that traffic-related air pollution (TRAP) is one of the major sources of exposure in urban areas and has been associated with a wide range of adverse human health effects. These include higher rates of asthma onset and aggravation, cardiovascular disease, impaired lung development in children, preterm and low-birthweight infants, childhood leukemia, and premature death. Emerging evidence links TRAP with neurotoxicity and the alteration of neurobehavioral function.

The human health effects of the expansion of I35 have not been adequately assessed nor have they been communicated in any substantive or meaningful way to the public. Asking for public comment, and then basing decisions upon those comments, is misleading when the basic scientific information has not been presented.

2. Analyze real alternatives to expansion

I encourage the analysis of a range of alternatives that make better use of existing pavement and take into account changing traffic patterns. Specifically, analyze an alternative that divert

traffic from traveling through the heart of Austin.

3. “Cap” is an excellent idea; “Stitch” is not

Capping the existing highway is an excellent idea. Sinking and capping I35 in its entirety through downtown Austin will allow the important reconnection of east and west Austin. It has the potential to remove a source of pollution that exposes Texas students, downtown residents, and downtown employees to high levels of dangerous chemicals. It can create important green spaces that will alleviate the ever-increasing density of Austin's downtown, making it a healthy, livable city for the future

4. Include the climate implications as a primary concern in the I35 plans.

The transportation sector is the greatest contributor to US carbon emissions—and just as important as vehicles are the roads and highways they travel on. The State Highway Induced Frequency of Travel (SHIFT) calculator, developed by the Rocky Mountain Institute, shows that the impact of 8 additional lanes for 10 miles will induce up to 1,456 million vehicle miles travelled per year, which is about 15 million metric tons of CO2 emissions by 2050.

5. Engage the public in a robust and meaningful conversation about what kind of Austin we as a community want for the future.

The average citizen's understanding of the impacts of infrastructure is more nuanced than it was fifty years ago. There is a broad coalition of people in Austin — neighbors concerned with continued negative impacts from a highway or people who are interested in different forms of mobility — that are pushing innovative options for transit that do not include cars and expanded roadways. We need to continue and expand this community conversation and ask again and again: Who is the greater good that benefits from a “utilitarian infrastructure project”? If the answer doesn't prioritize the planet, public health and safety for everyone — including people who cannot or do not drive — or the vitality of our precious public spaces, then we must fight for an alternative that does.

Moving transit away from highways and cars is happening all over America. If we look in our backyard to Houston and the proposed expansion of I-45, there is tremendous public outcry over this proposed project because the impacts on the community are intense and the benefits questionable. In a 2019 Houston Chronicle editorial, urban planner and academic, Jeff Speck, wrote that the NHHIP “can be described as having significant costs and significant benefits. The costs are best understood as tremendous, and the benefits are best understood as false.”

We live on a rapidly warming planet. We know what kind of infrastructure projects are going to help, and which are going to hurt our chances of survival. These are not just roads, but questions of collective action. Most people want access to safe places to walk and bike where they live. Most people say they would like to reduce greenhouse gas emissions. However, the infrastructure that will allow us to do this requires tradeoffs, such as losing a traffic lane to put in a bike lane or muscling through a few months of construction near neighborhoods in order to build a new transit stop.

In Conclusion

Breaking free of the status quo will require creativity and a commitment on the part of transportation officials. It will require a clear mandate from voting citizens that they want to see funding go towards green spaces, bus service, and fixing inadequate sidewalk facilities, with less towards asphalt and road widening. It will require elected officials to show political courage and boldness and implement the will of a representative democracy — not just the squeakiest wheels with the largest campaign donations.

Let's slow down and have this vitally important community conversation about our future as Austinites and the future of Austin.

Jules Elkins

16 N Peak Rd

Westlake Hills, Texas 78746

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Balderrama, Guillermo

From: Patrick Goetz <
Sent: Monday, October 16, 2023 2:25 PM
To: Ellis, Paige
Subject: The IH-35 Expansion as planned is a mistake; do what you can to stop it

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Council Member Paige Ellis,

Hi -

My "we're not going to continue to deny climate change any longer, are we?" heuristic for roadway projects is simple: if it means widening the road, it's an automatic fail. Wider roads increase impervious cover, increase the distance between destinations (making harder to bike or walk), create a car-centric, human-hostile environment, and generally don't solve any problems, as evidenced by decades of highway expansion and commensurate increases in traffic congestion. Facts and science: embrace them. Don't like traffic congestion? Then we just need to rethink urban land use to make alternative forms of transportation more viable and desirable. Maybe not push all the working class people out to Taylor, Liberty Hill, Manor, and Elgin because they can't afford housing in Austin.

We're really going to shut down 300 Austin businesses so that TxDOT can engage in this pointless anachronism? Have we learned nothing from 70+ years of post WWII history? It would seem not. Since I have no intention of leaving my children with a steaming pile of sh*t to deal with once I'm gone, I am opposed to measures -- like this highway expansion -- which guarantee that it will be so.

Patrick Goetz

503 Nelray Blvd
Austin, Texas 78751

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From: Dorothy White <info_email.actionnetwork.org>
Sent: Monday, October 16, 2023 2:24 PM
To: Ellis, Paige
Subject: Oppose the expansion of I-35

External Email - Exercise Caution

Council Member Paige Ellis,

Hello,

I am a resident of district 7 in Austin and

I support agenda item 45 and urge Council Members to stand in opposition to the I-35 expansion. Expanding I-35 will set Austin back decades; it will be detrimental to health and environmental safety as well as cohesion of Austin as a city. I-35 has historically been a dividing line within Austin between white/wealthy neighborhoods and black/brown poor neighborhoods. The implications of this division still impacts Austin today and I urge you not to undo any progress that has been made by strengthening the divide. Black and brown communities will bear the brunt of the impact of expanding I-35. Even more so, black and brown children will be disproportionately impacted because of the health implications of expanding. Please do anything and everything in your power to prevent the expansion.

Dorothy White

1712 piedmont ave
Austin, Texas 78756

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From: Caroline Wright <info_email.actionnetwork.org>
Sent: Monday, October 16, 2023 2:15 PM
To: Ellis, Paige
Subject: Please don't expand I-35

External Email - Exercise Caution

Council Member Paige Ellis,

I can only imagine you are in agreement that I-35 expansion will hurt our city. My children are at the bilingual daycare Escuelita del Alma, which will have to shut down. I long for a day when east and west austin are cohesive and we can access both sides safely. Let's push for a train along that corridor, a boulevard, safe bike & walking, and have the truck/travel traffic use 183 to go around.

Caroline Wright

4905 Caswell Ave.
Austin, Texas 78751

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From: Kelsey Huse <info_email.actionnetwork.org>
Sent: Monday, October 16, 2023 2:13 PM
To: Ellis, Paige
Subject: I oppose I-35 expansion

External Email - Exercise Caution

Council Member Paige Ellis,

Climate change, road fatalities, noise, asthma and other health effects, heat, tire particle pollution, lack of public transit, the reasons against expanding I-35 are endless. Please do the right thing and support Item 45! (And oppose Item 40 - cap and stitch is lipstick on a pig).

I would like to cross from west to east Austin without navigating a massive 22-lane interstate highway.

Kelsey Huse

800 West 38th St Apt 2308 Austin TX 78705
Austin, Texas

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From: Allison Landry <info_email.actionnetwork.org>
Sent: Monday, October 16, 2023 2:12 PM
To: Ellis, Paige
Subject: Opposing I-35 expansion

External Email - Exercise Caution

Council Member Paige Ellis,

Hello, my name is Allison and I live in Austin, 78757. I support city council agenda item 45 and urge Council Members to stand in opposition to the I-35 expansion. We can't just keep building more highway. It would be an ecological disaster that could never be reversed. We desperately need serious, big-boy investment in real public transit. This expansion would change the character of the city and worsen existing inequities. Please, let's not do this.

Allison Landry

6444 Burnet Rd Unit 409
Austin, Texas 78757

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From: Ashley Ross <info_email.actionnetwork.org>
Sent: Monday, October 16, 2023 2:07 PM
To: Ellis, Paige
Subject: Don't Make our Air Quality Worse

External Email - Exercise Caution

Council Member Paige Ellis,

Even if traffic improves with expansion of I35, the air quality in this city will suffer. We saw air quality alerts from the EPA day after day during our hot summer, warning us that people with sensitivities should avoid being outside. I can't imagine how much worse that will be with increased traffic running through our city. It sounds like a nightmare. Please do the right thing, and tell TxDot their plan is not a solution, but rather a death sentence for the people and trees living in Austin.

I support agenda item 45 and urge Council Members to stand in opposition to the I-35 expansion.

Ashley Ross

3105 Loyola Ln
Austin, Texas 78723

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From: Alexis Kraus <info_email.actionnetwork.org>
Sent: Monday, October 16, 2023 2:02 PM
To: Ellis, Paige
Subject: 20 year resident and tax payer

External Email - Exercise Caution

Council Member Paige Ellis,

I am a resident and new homeowner of District 1, but have lived all over Austin. I support agenda item 45 and urge Council Members to stand in opposition to the I-35 expansion. I am frustrated that Kirk Watson did virtually nothing to help us in opposition of TXDOT's plan. Make no mistake, a widened highway through central Austin will lead to loss of life. Your names will be remembered as the council that did nothing to stop the destruction of a once great city. Do something.

Alexis Kraus

2103 E 18th St Unit B
AUSTIN, Texas 78702

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From: Logan Ott <info_email.actionnetwork.org>
Sent: Monday, October 16, 2023 1:45 PM
To: Ellis, Paige
Subject: Oppose I35 expansion

External Email - Exercise Caution

Council Member Paige Ellis,

Please oppose I35's expansion. We don't want more division in our city!

Logan Ott

19117 sotogrande dr
Pflugerville , Texas 78660

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From: Bryan White <info_email.actionnetwork.org>
Sent: Monday, October 16, 2023 1:44 PM
To: Ellis, Paige
Subject: Rethink expanding 35

External Email - Exercise Caution

Council Member Paige Ellis,

I support agenda item 45 and urge Council Members to stand in opposition to the I-35 expansion.

Bryan White
Austin 78704

Bryan White

614 Peacock Lane
Austin , Texas 78704

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From: Julia Ward <info_email.actionnetwork.org>
Sent: Monday, October 16, 2023 1:36 PM
To: Ellis, Paige
Subject: I oppose I-35 expansion

External Email - Exercise Caution

Council Member Paige Ellis,

Hello! I am a longtime Austin resident and happen to live just east of the I-35 corridor near UT Austin in the beautiful Cherrywood neighborhood. I've watched our city grow and change tremendously over the last 23 years that I've made Austin home. Some of these changes have been welcome- the food is waaaaay better, for example. However, much of the change in this city has been difficult to witness. The cost of living is so high! The very qualities that made Austin so special like our creative culture welcoming to musicians, artists, and service workers is harder to find.

Among the things I find so hard to understand is why we would invest so heavily in our highways and not put that money into our public transportation. I often use public transportation and deal with the frustrations of irregular and delayed busses, bizarre meandering routes, etc. I SUPPORT A PUBLIC-TRANSPORT FIRST model. Let's make it easier to get around without a car!

Expanding I-35 will only worsen traffic. Have we learned nothing?! Moreover, it will increase pollution and contribute to climate change. After this past summer we cannot deny how important it is to do everything in our power to combat climate change.

I urge you to support agenda item 45 and ask that you PLEASE stand in opposition to I-35 expansion. Our small businesses, our health, and our environment demand better. We can do better.

Thank you for your time,
Julia Ward

Julia Ward

3400 Clarkson Ave
Austin, Texas 78722

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From: Doug Alles <info_email.actionnetwork.org>
Sent: Monday, October 16, 2023 1:34 PM
To: Ellis, Paige
Subject: Support for agenda item 45 and opposition to expansion of 35

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Council Member Paige Ellis,

Hi,

I'm a resident of Austin in the 78731 zip code. I oppose the expansion of 35 because it will worsen congestion, impact the trail around Towne lake, and will worsen climate change.

Thanks,

Doug Alles

Doug Alles

3456 North Hills Dr.
Austin, Texas 78731

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From: Bobby Levinski <
Sent: Monday, October 16, 2023 1:32 PM
To: Ellis, Paige
Subject: Please Help Fight Highway Expansions

External Email - Exercise Caution

Council Member Paige Ellis,

Austin needs to act boldly. Please, don't sit idle.

Bobby Levinski

4701 Westgate Blvd, D-401

Austin, Texas, Texas 78745

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From: Anthony Murray <info_email.actionnetwork.org>
Sent: Monday, October 16, 2023 1:30 PM
To: Ellis, Paige
Subject: Adding more lanes means more traffic

External Email - Exercise Caution

Council Member Paige Ellis,

Please pull any stops ya can to stall or tank or even drive up the cost of this project. TxDot and the state of Texas are not inline with our cities and are devastating our futures by creating more traffic and making us more dependent on cars.

Anthony Murray

6831 William Wallace Way
Austin, Texas 78754

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From: Kayla Fontenot <info_email.actionnetwork.org>
Sent: Monday, October 16, 2023 1:30 PM
To: Ellis, Paige
Subject: Please vote YES on agenda item 45

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Council Member Paige Ellis,

I'm a resident in Round Rock who, like many others, commutes daily down 35. The proposed expansion will inevitably make traffic congestion worse according to all of the studies done on highway expansion, and be downright awful for air quality and the environment. I urge the council to focus instead on the public transit motion that was voted on with much support from the city back in 2019. Thank you for your time.

Kayla Fontenot

420 W Slaughter
Austin, Texas 78748

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From: Nicholas Carroll <info_email.actionnetwork.org>
Sent: Monday, October 16, 2023 1:29 PM
To: Ellis, Paige
Subject: Vote yes on item 45 to stop I-35 expansion

External Email - Exercise Caution

Council Member Paige Ellis,

I am a resident of 78741 and I oppose the I-35 expansion, I'm asking you to oppose it as well. I support agenda item 45 and urge Council Members to stand in opposition to the I-35 expansion.

I OPPOSE expanding I-35 because...

This will worsen congestion in our entire region, including where I live. Expanding highways never improves and often worsens congestion, as we saw from the Katy Freeway expansion. This will be bad for my health and that of my family because of worse air and water quality. This project will worsen climate change; the estimated emissions are the equivalent of a coal plant.

It will make it harder to get around without a car. The project is expected to bring an additional 100,000 cars a day into the city which will require more car infrastructure at the expense of other modes.

It will also further divide the city and have a negative impact on local businesses and communities.

I am FOR the Rethink35 proposal, redesignating another highway such as SH-130 as an interstate, a boulevard going through town, a public transit-first project, or any of the better options available today.

Nicholas Carroll

2239 Cromwell Cir Apt 701
Austin, Texas 78741

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From: Alyssa Hutchinson <info_email.actionnetwork.org>
Sent: Monday, October 16, 2023 1:26 PM
To: Ellis, Paige
Subject: I support Agenda Item 45 and Oppose I-35 Expansion

External Email - Exercise Caution

Council Member Paige Ellis,

To my representatives:

I am a resident of Austin for 3 years, and a lifelong neighbor to I-35. Today, I am writing to support agenda item 45 and urge Council Members to stand in opposition to the I-35 expansion.

I am a resident within District 1 and was a proud supporter of CM Harper-Madison in this last election cycle. Before I moved to Austin, I lived and grew up in DFW. We have I-35 in Dallas and Fort Worth, well known for its traffic. In Dallas, we also have more large highways than you can count. Having grown up through that construction and traffic for 26 years, I am uniquely qualified to speak to the fact that more lanes only add to the traffic. Please do your research. Highway 635 in Dallas has 6 lanes of traffic and has been known for years as "the parking lot" because that's exactly what is happening in rush hour in Dallas.

Texas, and the urban triangles within, are growing at fast rates. It is absolutely true that we need big change to our transportation to support that fast growth. However, I understand a lot of these conversations about I-35 expansion and approval happened 15 years ago. 15 years ago, I was 11 and in a completely different part of the state. And now, as a young professional in the city of my dreams at 26, I'm told that in order to fix the traffic, we are going to spend 8 more years in even worse traffic for the hope that when it is all done, we have less traffic?

I understand this sort of thing takes a lot of planning, and is not fully in the city's hands, but its impacts are in the city's hands. This is not some train that is set off or unstoppable. It is not built yet. There are small business owners just now receiving 6 month notices to vacate.

There are even more generations of people who will be impacted by this decision on an environmental health level. We need to do everything we can to delay the construction and demand as much data collection and study before it begins to make sure the impacts really are measurable when we look back on this generations from now asking: Why?

Thank you,
Alyssa 'Hutch' Hutchinson
D1 - 78724

Alyssa Hutchinson

5301 Decker Ln
Austin, Texas 78724

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From: Eric Gustafson <info_email.actionnetwork.org>
Sent: Monday, October 16, 2023 1:20 PM
To: Ellis, Paige
Subject: as a biker and resident looking for more accessible, walkable city..

External Email - Exercise Caution

Council Member Paige Ellis,

I live in downtown Austin and this will worsen congestion in our entire region, including where I live. Expanding highways never improves and often worsens congestion, as we saw from the Katy Freeway expansion.

This will be bad for my health and that of my family because of worse air quality.

This project will worsen climate change the estimated emissions are the equivalent of a coal plant

It will make it harder to get around without a car. The project is expected to bring an additional 100,000 cars a day into the city which will require more car infrastructure at the expense of other modes.

Eric Gustafson

1501 Inglewood St, #1
AUSTIN, Texas 78741

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From: sophia van swol <info_email.actionnetwork.org>
Sent: Monday, October 16, 2023 1:14 PM
To: Ellis, Paige
Subject: DONT EXPAND I-35

External Email - Exercise Caution

Council Member Paige Ellis,

I am a resident of Austin in Travis County and I support agenda item 45 and urge Council Members to stand in opposition to the I-35 expansion.

I OPPOSE expanding I-35 because this will worsen congestion in our entire region, including where I live. Expanding highways never improves and often worsens congestion, as we saw from the Katy Freeway expansion.

This will be bad for my health and that of my family because of worse air quality.

This project will worsen climate change the estimated emissions are the equivalent of a coal plant

It will make it harder to get around without a car. The project is expected to bring an additional 100,000 cars a day into the city which will require more car infrastructure at the expense of other modes.

If you care about human lives than you know this cause many people to give up where they live and cause displacement of those who are homeless.

This is a money grab and this is not what Austin needs right now. Our highway is big enough and expanding it won't reduce traffic or solve any of our issues. We have this evidence for the katy freeway expansion. What Austin needs is better public transport, more affordable housing, and better road conditions. In the roads by my apartment I could count about 5 pot holes in my 8 minute drive to work down one main road. Those are many options we could use our tax payer money, OUR MONEY NOT THE GOVERNMENTS, to help better our living conditions. Expanding I-35 will not solve any of these issues and will make them worse.

sophia van swol

915 E 41st St.
Austin, Texas 78751

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From: James McLeod <info_email.actionnetwork.org>
Sent: Monday, October 16, 2023 1:10 PM
To: Ellis, Paige
Subject: Please reroute I-35 through traffic

External Email - Exercise Caution

Council Member Paige Ellis,

I am a resident of D9.

I support agenda item 45 and urge Council Members to stand in opposition to the I-35 expansion.

I OPPOSE expanding I-35 because...

This will worsen congestion in our entire region, including where I live in D9 which makes feel unsafe riding my bike as my primary mode of transit. Expanding highways never improves and often worsens congestion, as we saw from the Katy Freeway expansion.

This will be bad for my health because of worse air quality as I live next to I35 and don't want to see our beautiful city caked in smog like Southern California.

This project will worsen climate change the estimated emissions are the equivalent of a coal plant

It will make it harder to get around without a car. The project is expected to bring an additional 100,000 cars a day into the city which will require more car infrastructure at the expense of other modes.

I am FOR...The Rethink35 proposal, redesignating another highway such as SH-130 as an interstate, and a boulevard going through town.

James McLeod

700 E 11th St Apt 605
Austin, Texas 78701

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From: Jakin Cordova <info_email.actionnetwork.org>
Sent: Monday, October 16, 2023 1:05 PM
To: Ellis, Paige
Subject: Stop Expanding I-35

External Email - Exercise Caution

Council Member Paige Ellis,

As an Austin resident, I oppose I-35 expansion. I support agenda item 45 and support the Rethink35 proposal. As a former resident of Houston, I can say that highway expansions do not fix traffic. We need to invest more into public transport and building sustainable infrastructure instead of urban sprawl.

Jakin Cordova

2529 Rio Grande St Apt 49
Austin, Texas 78705

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From: Jordyn Middlebrooks <info_email.actionnetwork.org>
Sent: Monday, October 16, 2023 1:04 PM
To: Ellis, Paige
Subject: Support agenda item 45 and oppose I35 expansion!

External Email - Exercise Caution

Council Member Paige Ellis,

I am a resident of District 4 and live next to I35 today.

I support agenda item 45 and urge Council Members to stand in opposition to the I-35 expansion.

I OPPOSE expanding I-35 because...

This will worsen congestion in our entire region, including where I live. Expanding highways never improves and often worsens congestion, as we saw from the Katy Freeway expansion.

This will be bad for my health and that of my family because of worse air quality.

This project will worsen climate change the estimated emissions are the equivalent of a coal plant

It will make it harder to get around without a car. The project is expected to bring an additional 100,000 cars a day into the city which will require more car infrastructure at the expense of other modes.

Please OPPOSE the expansion of I35!

Jordyn Middlebrooks

7010 Deborah Dr
Austin, Texas 78752

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From: William Mederski <info_email.actionnetwork.org>
Sent: Monday, October 16, 2023 12:58 PM
To: Ellis, Paige
Subject: Cherrywood resident voicing my STRONG OPPOSITION to I35 Expansion.

External Email - Exercise Caution

Council Member Paige Ellis,

I'm writing to voice support for Agenda Item 45, and urge Council Members to stand in opposition to the I-35 expansion. More Lanes = More Traffic.

And as someone who lives in Cherrywood, just blocks away from the highway, myself and my family will be seriously affected by both the construction and the expansion of the highway. City centers are NO PLACE for 10-lane highways! Seriously.

Either bury the interstate or re-route traffic on SH130, which was built for just this purpose. Yes, I understand that the COA has little leverage in the situation, but PLEASE stand up and mobilize for your citizens: petition the Federal Govt to step in in either halt Gov Abbott's vindictive plan, or pay for the capping of the highway.

Please do something before we send this city backwards for the next 50 years.

William Mederski

2322 Lafayette Ave
Austin, Texas 78722

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From: Austin Ortiz <info_email.actionnetwork.org>
Sent: Monday, October 16, 2023 12:41 PM
To: Ellis, Paige
Subject: Want to not become LA? Halt the I-35 Expansion

External Email - Exercise Caution

Council Member Paige Ellis,

Council members look at LA they waste billions maintaining and expanding roads while traffic remains the same. How expensive it is to live when land in cities are taken up for cars not people. Or what about how many people die or are injured from car crashes in the U.S.? Peoples lives permanently altered by our dependence on cars for transportation. LA is the city Austin will turn into if you do not reverse course. Choose alternatives like what you see in Europe. Add lots of public transit options. I used the bus in San Antonio it worked well to get around. If they added more it could have been perfect. Add cycling paths, sidewalks and more to help get around the city rather than depending on a car. What a wonderful city life it could be to be like Barcelona rather than a soulless hub of tarmac like every CA city. - Austin

Austin Ortiz

11102 Cherry Park Dr
San Antonio, Texas 78249

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From: Preston Tyree <info_email.actionnetwork.org>
Sent: Monday, October 16, 2023 12:35 PM
To: Ellis, Paige
Subject: IH 35 Expansion through Austin is a terrible mistake.

External Email - Exercise Caution

Council Member Paige Ellis,

I am a resident of the Mueller Neighborhood and have been an active participant in Austin since 1987. I served on two traffic safety task forces and two different commissions, Public Safety and now the Commission on Aging.

I support agenda item 45 and urge Council Members to stand in opposition to the I-35 expansion.

I OPPOSE expanding I-35 because...

This will worsen congestion in our entire region, including where I live. Expanding highways never improves and often worsens congestion, as we saw from the Katy Freeway expansion. It will make it harder to get around without a car. The project is expected to bring an additional 100,000 cars a day into the city which will require more car infrastructure at the expense of other modes.

I am FOR... The Rethink35 proposal, designating another highway such as SH-130 as an interstate, and spending money on rail instead of highways for travel between cities.

Preston Tyree

4909 Camacho Street
Austin, Texas 78723

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From: Marsha Fatino <info_email.actionnetwork.org>
Sent: Monday, October 16, 2023 12:34 PM
To: Ellis, Paige
Subject: We must rethink I 35 expansion

External Email - Exercise Caution

Council Member Paige Ellis,

This is an environmental nightmare that begs for better ideas. It further discriminates by disconnecting and uprooting east side west side. There are numerous ways from around the world that are solutions we could all be happy with- look at Houston and memorial parkway! Why are we rolling over to this atrocity? Tx dot just got billion in federal dollars that you should demand go towards greener infrastructure in Austin that joins communities. Do something!

Marsha Fatino

2307 W 9
Austin , Texas 78703

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From: Lizana Villman <info_email.actionnetwork.org>
Sent: Monday, October 16, 2023 12:31 PM
To: Ellis, Paige
Subject: YES to Item 45

External Email - Exercise Caution

Council Member Paige Ellis,

Hello,

I am a resident of Round Rock, TX and commute into the city five days a week. As such, I greatly oppose the expansion of i-35 as proposed by TXDOT. This expansion will not only worsen traffic, but cause obscene amounts of green house gas emissions which will worsen public health and expedite the effects of climate change. Such effects have already been detrimental to Texans statewide as seen in the winter storm of 2021.

Expanding i-35 is not going to help anyone and, as a member of the greater Austin area, I urge your consideration for more eco-friendly alternatives and to PLEASE vote YES on Item 45 which would postpone funding to the expansion project.

Thank you for your time

Lizana Villman

1100 Hidden Valley Dr, Apt 5208
Round Rock, Texas 78665

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From: Andrew Martin <info_email.actionnetwork.org>
Sent: Monday, October 16, 2023 12:28 PM
To: Ellis, Paige
Subject: Oppose I-35 Expansion (Yes on Action 45)

External Email - Exercise Caution

Council Member Paige Ellis,

I am a resident of the Arboretum neighborhood in Austin, and while I love living in this community, I don't love the feeling of being boxed in by highways. (Mopac & 183)

One example of how this affects me personally, is that while I only live .8 miles from The Domain, the walk would take up to 2 miles, along an highway frontage and across a bridge, with narrow walking paths and fast-moving traffic. So the only attractive option I have is to drive, even when the destination is pedestrian-friendly.

Time and time again, we fail to learn the lesson that building large freeways through city centers causes more damage than benefits.

Because of the well-understood principle of Induced Demand, adding more lanes will not reduce traffic, and will increase the amount of motorists, especially when it is the only viable transportation option.

We NEED to invest in high-quality Public Transit if we are going to make any progress decreasing our CO2 emissions, and making our community more livable and equitable.

The current plan for I-35 by TxDOT takes us backwards, to the 1950's when we did not know the perils of destroying communities with highways, and does not do enough to provide quality Public Transit and alternative modes of transport (cycling/walking).

Austin also has a history of racist red-lining to the east of I-35, and used the highway as a tool to separate communities. This plan would only deepen that divide.

We need viable alternatives, like a downtown Boulevard with fewer lanes, to encourage traffic around the city center, and to bridge communities that have been historically segregated.

I urge the members to vote YES on Action Item 45, which recognizes the failure of the TxDOT plan to adequately address the increase in greenhouse gas emissions, and delay funding until these issues can be addressed with feedback from the public.

Thank you for your time and dedication to public service!

Andrew Martin

9801 Stonelake Blvd, Apt 322
Austin, Texas 78759

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From: Emily Klenotic <info_email.actionnetwork.org>
Sent: Monday, October 16, 2023 12:28 PM
To: Ellis, Paige
Subject: Protect Austin, its residents and its future

External Email - Exercise Caution

Council Member Paige Ellis,

I am adamantly against the I35 expansion. Agenda item 45 protects Austin, everyone in Austin, and everything for which Austin stands. I35 has been a blight on Austin since it's inception, let's not double down. The division in the center of the city is destructive to residents, businesses, economy and culture. Now is our chance to be the change we want to see and work together to find a better way.

Additions/expansions of highways in highly populated areas have a history of reducing quality of life through worsening air quality, noise pollution and increased danger to residents. This in turn creates economic downtown as people and businesses leave the area, leaving behind the most vulnerable who are unable to leave, further worsening economic divides in the community.

In addition, the increased through traffic and trucks will only make local traffic worse and increase the danger for residents on the road.

There are other options to be considered such as considering a reroute for non local traffic in an area that doesn't have the population density, reducing both displacement for a new/larger road and the cost of land. If we work together we can take this opportunity to improve our community.

Lastly, study after study shows that traffic is like a goldfish and will only expand to fit it's container. More lanes means more traffic and congestion, not less. Let's not be short sighted and ignorant. Please support agenda item 45 and do what needs to be done to protect Austin.

Emily Klenotic

402 W 3rd st
Austin, Texas 78701

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From: Lauren Hood <info_email.actionnetwork.org>
Sent: Monday, October 16, 2023 12:26 PM
To: Ellis, Paige
Subject: I35 expansion divides our city more

External Email - Exercise Caution

Council Member Paige Ellis,

Hi, I am Texan and resident of Austin on the eastside. I'm writing because I know there is a City Council Vote coming up this week, and I support agenda item 45 and urge Council Members to stand in opposition to the I-35 expansion.

There are SO MANY other solutions to accommodate the congestion on I35 and an expansion is not the way. It has environmental consequences that will actually deplete Austin of it's natural beauty that attracts folks, further divides our city and makes it hard to get around, and most importantly WILL CAUSE MORE TRAFFIC! (have you ever been to Houston??)

Please oppose the I-35 expansion and do your duty to represent the interests of your constituents.

Lauren Hood

2001 Chestnut Ave
Austin, Texas 78722

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From: Adria Escalante <info_email.actionnetwork.org>
Sent: Monday, October 16, 2023 12:26 PM
To: Ellis, Paige
Subject: Revisit I35 Expansion's Environment Impact

External Email - Exercise Caution

Council Member Paige Ellis,

Please consider the environmental impacts of the I 35 expansion before approving. We need to ensure that this project is completed in a manner that is safe and does not create additional unnecessary environmental burdens, specifically around the emission of greenhouse gases.

Adria Escalante

1101 Manlove Street
Austin, Texas 78741

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From: Jennifer Spencer <info_email.actionnetwork.org>
Sent: Monday, October 16, 2023 12:25 PM
To: Ellis, Paige
Subject: No to I-35 Expansion

External Email - Exercise Caution

Council Member Paige Ellis,

I am an Austin resident living in Clarksville and I encourage you to vote against the expansion of I-35 as it will unnecessarily increase greenhouse gas emissions, displace businesses and residents, and likely not help traffic. Thank you for your consideration.

Jennifer Spencer

1511 Palma Plz
Austin, Texas 78703

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From: James Dusek <info_email.actionnetwork.org>
Sent: Monday, October 16, 2023 12:21 PM
To: Ellis, Paige
Subject: I-35 expansion is unacceptable!

External Email - Exercise Caution

Council Member Paige Ellis,

As a lifelong citizen of Austin and proud resident of the East Side, I am writing today to express my disapproval of the I-35 expansion due to, among other reasons, the unacceptable greenhouse gas emissions involved. As our planet suffers, Austin has the opportunity to be a vibrant, creative, and progressive light in our nation when it comes to climate damage. Instead, this expansion threatens our planet by adding 420,000 metric tons of carbon dioxide equivalent each year.

I urge you to vote YES on agenda item 45 this Thursday, asking TxDOT and CAMPO to postpone funding for the project and explore other alternatives.

Thank you for your time.

Sincerely,
James Dusek

James Dusek

1705 New York Ave.
Austin, Texas 78702

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From: Miguel Soria <info_email.actionnetwork.org>
Sent: Monday, October 16, 2023 12:11 PM
To: Ellis, Paige
Subject: Opposition of expansion of i35

External Email - Exercise Caution

Council Member Paige Ellis,

Hello,

I am writing as I want to voice my opinion regarding the expansion of i35. I have lived in Texas my whole life and while 35 has been helpful, i do not see the expansion as a positive change.

Living in Dallas I saw the I 35 expansions and drawn out times and traffic this caused over the last 10 years.

Living as an Austin resident for 7 yrs, I do not want to see the city divided by lanes of traffic. One of the worst and clear examples is Houston, TX where they have a massive highway. Traffic still occurs and is worse, driving feels like the unsafest as people swerve between lanes to get to their exit. It is horrendous.

Our downtown is so vital to our city's pulse that creating this abomination will only move further the vision of a greater Austin and we should view what a great Texan city can be not use what we have previously done. It is lazy and unambitious and that is not what we need to help move the city forward

Miguel Soria

1901 Rinker ranch Dr
Austin, Texas 78725

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From: Gretchen Otto <info_email.actionnetwork.org>
Sent: Monday, October 16, 2023 12:09 PM
To: Ellis, Paige
Subject: Oppose I-35 Expansion

External Email - Exercise Caution

Council Member Paige Ellis,

I am a resident of Austin. I live near I-35. I support agenda item 45 and urge Council Members to stand in opposition to the I-35 expansion.

I OPPOSE expanding I-35 because this will worsen congestion in our entire region, including where I live. Expanding highways never improves and often worsens congestion, as we saw from the Katy Freeway expansion. This will be bad for my health and that of my family because of worse air quality.

It will make it harder to get around without a car. The project is expected to bring an additional 100,000 cars a day into the city which will require more car infrastructure at the expense of other modes.

I am FOR redesignating another highway such as SH-130 as an interstate and REDUCING 35 through downtown.

Thank you!
Gretchen Otto

Gretchen Otto

512 E Mary St
Austin, Texas 78704

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From: Carol Goodwin <info_email.actionnetwork.org>
Sent: Monday, October 16, 2023 12:09 PM
To: Ellis, Paige
Subject: Please Vote "YES" on Agenda Item 45 on October 19

External Email - Exercise Caution

Council Member Paige Ellis,

As an Austin District 9 resident, I was excited to read about Item #45 on the October 19 City Council Agenda. I urge each of you to vote YES on this resolution to postpone I-35 expansion funding until additional work can be done to reassess how the expansion will impact greenhouse gas emissions and to allow time to work in tandem with other efforts to reduce greenhouse gases in our city and state.

As an older adult who cares deeply about how our current actions will affect future generations, I urge you to attack the climate crisis from every possible angle, including reducing our dependence on fossil fuels and on cars as our primary means of transportation. Expanding I-35 will do just the opposite. And it will create additional hardship for residents and businesses along the I-35 corridor who will have to relocate and/or who will be subjected to years of construction noise and pollution.

I applaud our city leaders for setting laudable goals in reducing greenhouse gas emissions. Halting plans to expand I-35 is a crucial part of this effort. Please "Re-think I-35!"

Thank you for your public service.

Carol Goodwin

1509 Newton Street, Apt. B
Austin, Texas 78704

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From: Aslan French <info_email.actionnetwork.org>
Sent: Monday, October 16, 2023 12:05 PM
To: Ellis, Paige
Subject: Austin can't keep doing this

External Email - Exercise Caution

Council Member Paige Ellis,

To whom it may concern,

I am writing to you as a resident of the Cherrywood neighborhood in east Austin to express my strong opposition to the proposed expansion of Interstate 35 (I-35) and my full support for agenda item 45. I urge you to stand in opposition to this expansion project and consider alternative solutions to address our transportation challenges.

I OPPOSE expanding I-35 for the following reasons:

Worsening Congestion: History has shown us that expanding highways, such as the Katy Freeway, often exacerbates congestion rather than alleviating it. I am deeply concerned that the I-35 expansion will worsen congestion not only in our neighborhood but in the entire region.

Health Implications: The increased traffic and congestion resulting from this expansion will lead to poorer air quality, which poses a significant threat to the health of my family and me. Prolonged exposure to polluted air can have severe health consequences, and I believe that we should prioritize public health in our decisions.

Climate Change Impact: The estimated emissions associated with the I-35 expansion are equivalent to those of a coal plant. In a time when we should be actively combating climate change, supporting such a project is a step in the wrong direction. We must consider the environmental impact of our decisions for the sake of future generations.

Overreliance on Cars: The expansion is expected to bring an additional 100,000 cars a day into the city, which will inevitably require more infrastructure to accommodate them. This will

only perpetuate our dependence on cars and hinder progress towards more sustainable transportation options.

I am in favor of exploring alternative solutions, such as the Rethink35 proposal or the redesignation of another highway like SH-130 as an interstate. These alternatives could potentially offer more sustainable, transit-focused, and environmentally friendly options to address our transportation needs. A boulevard running through town or a public transit-first project also deserve serious consideration as they promote multi-modal transportation and reduce the reliance on individual vehicles.

I believe that it is crucial for us to prioritize the long-term well-being of our community and our environment when making decisions about transportation infrastructure. I urge you to carefully consider the detrimental effects of the I-35 expansion and explore alternative solutions that will benefit our city and its residents.

Thank you for your time and attention to this matter. I trust that you will make the best decision for our community and our future.

Sincerely,

David Aslan French

Aslan French

2823 MLK Jr Blvd
Austin, Texas 78702

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From: Jude Byrd <info_email.actionnetwork.org>
Sent: Monday, October 16, 2023 12:03 PM
To: Ellis, Paige
Subject: Do not expand I-35!!!

External Email - Exercise Caution

Council Member Paige Ellis,

All the resources that would go towards making that highway more expansive would be much better going towards improvements in the bus network, more safe bike lanes, wider and more connected sidewalks, and more light rail lines. If we decide to expand I-35 instead of improving other modes of transit, it will prove that the past has taught us nothing and we are doomed to repeat history once more (Katy freeway expansion). Please consider voting yes on Agenda 45.

Jude Byrd

12814 Quail Creek Drive
Pearland, Texas 77584

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From: Michael Tsapos <info_email.actionnetwork.org>
Sent: Monday, October 16, 2023 11:59 AM
To: Ellis, Paige
Subject: Support for Agenda item 45 & opposition of widening of I-35

External Email - Exercise Caution

Council Member Paige Ellis,

I am a resident of District 9 in Austin and I support agenda item 45 and urge Council Members to stand in opposition to the I-35 expansion. I support the rethink 35 proposal of re-routing traffic around the city and turning 35 into a boulevard, allowing for public transportation, walking, and biking to be viable ways of getting around in austin.

Agenda item #45 notes unacceptable greenhouse gas creation as a reason to urge TXDOT and CAMPO not to fund the project, but there are MANY other reasons the expansion is not a good idea, including but not limited to:

- Worse air quality, even if highway caps are installed (especially with the increase in VOC's emitted by electric vehicles due to more tire wear)
- As noted, greenhouse gas emissions will increase in the HEART of our city.
- Austin's beloved trail system will be shut down for YEARS
- Displacement of community members/ businesses for expansion
- It will bring in more vehicles into the city, requiring more car infrastructure at the expense of other modes of transportation.
- 35 is a vestige of racism in Austin, and expanding it further divides our city (even with highway caps, they are a way of greenwashing a highway expansion)

I hope that the councilmembers and the mayor stand with the community members on this issue, and dont force TXDOT's vision of 35 onto Austin.

Michael Tsapos

1503 W 9th st
Austin, Texas 78703

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Balderrama, Guillermo

From: NCINC Administrator <
Sent: Monday, October 16, 2023 11:57 AM
To: Watson, Kirk; Ellis, Paige; Harper-Madison, Natasha; Fuentes, Vanessa; Velasquez, Jose; Vela, Jose "Chito"; Alter, Ryan; Kelly, Mackenzie; Pool, Leslie; Qadri, Zo; Alter, Alison
Cc: Garza, Jesús
Subject: NCINC Support for Item #45
Attachments: 231016-NCINC Support for Item #45.pdf

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External Email - Exercise Caution

Dear Mayor, Mayor Pro Tem, and Members of Council.

On behalf of the North Central I-35 Neighborhood Coalition (NCINC), please see our letter of support for Item #45 below and attached.

Thank you for your attention to this important project.

Brendan Wittstruck
Chair, North Central I-35 Neighborhood Coalition

The North Central I-35 Neighborhood Coalition (NCINC) **supports Item #45 on the October 19th City Council agenda** on a vote from the member neighborhoods present at our October meeting.

By TxDOT's own estimates, this project will increase greenhouse gas emissions by nearly 13%, or more than 50,000 metric tons of carbon dioxide equivalent per year over the 20-year project lifecycle. Our position is that the greenhouse gas emissions from the project will, in fact, be substantially greater, given that TxDOT's modeling method obscures the project's addition of greenhouse gasses by unrealistically inflating "projected vehicle miles traveled in the "no build" scenario.

There is no population in Austin that will be more profoundly affected by the reach of this project than we are. Our families—most importantly our children—will be subjected to a disproportionate burden of air pollution and unregulated airborne particulates from I-35 while simultaneously negotiating the global climate impacts of greenhouse gas emissions.

We agree that all funding for the I-35 Capital Express Central project should be immediately halted pending the completion and analysis of the CAMPO Regional Mobile Emission Reduction Plan and the Austin MSA Climate Plan. We also agree that any CAMPO vote on funding for this project should be taken publicly by the full Transportation Policy Board.

We additionally call for an immediate moratorium on TxDOT engaging in the land acquisition of properties affected by this project, at least until the above climate plans can be responsibly addressed by the project.

NCINC acknowledges the need for investing in I-35 and the complexities therein, but the very least we can do is our collective due diligence in seeing that the project does not create more harm than it does good. Investing in a robust climate future for Austin is the best place to start.

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From: camille sico <info_email.actionnetwork.org>
Sent: Monday, October 16, 2023 11:56 AM
To: Ellis, Paige
Subject: Oppose I-35 Expansion

External Email - Exercise Caution

Council Member Paige Ellis,

I am a resident of Austin, TX and support agenda item 45 and urge Council Members to stand in opposition to the I-35 expansion.

The expansion of I-35 will hinder the progression of better transit in Austin by bringing in more cars. It will make the air quality worse and make for more car needs to be met instead of more non-car transport methods being met.

camille sico

505 W 18th St, Unit G
Austin, Texas 78701

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From: John Lewis <info_email.actionnetwork.org>
Sent: Monday, October 16, 2023 11:55 AM
To: Ellis, Paige
Subject: Yes on agenda item 45

External Email - Exercise Caution

Council Member Paige Ellis,

Please vote yes on agenda item 45. Request that more thought is put in to redesigning I35.
We don't need more lanes and a legacy that divides Austin. Thanks

John Lewis

1808 Cullen Ave
Austin, Texas 78757

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From: Eric Pinzur <info_email.actionnetwork.org>
Sent: Monday, October 16, 2023 11:47 AM
To: Ellis, Paige
Subject: Protect Our Community: Oppose the I-35 Expansion

External Email - Exercise Caution

Council Member Paige Ellis,

As a resident of 78702, I want to voice my strong opposition to the I-35 expansion on the 10/19 Austin City Council Agenda. I support agenda item 45 and urge Council Members to do the same.

Expanding I-35 won't solve congestion; it'll make it worse, as we've seen with the Katy Freeway in Houston. Additionally, this project threatens air quality and public health in our community.

The environmental cost is too high. The estimated emissions are akin to adding a coal plant to our city. This will also make life more difficult for those who don't rely on cars, as it's expected to bring an additional 100,000 cars a day into Austin.

Instead, let's focus on sustainable alternatives like the Rethink35 proposal or public transit-first projects.

Thank you for considering my opposition to the I-35 expansion.

Sincerely,
-- Eric Pinzur

Eric Pinzur

2007 e 9th st
Austin , Texas 78702

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From: Caren Floyd <info_email.actionnetwork.org>
Sent: Monday, October 16, 2023 11:45 AM
To: Ellis, Paige
Subject: Please vote for Item 45

External Email - Exercise Caution

Council Member Paige Ellis,

Please vote to oppose expansion of I-35 through downtown Austin. I support item 45 on the agenda. Thank you for your attention to this matter.

Sincerely, Caren Floyd

Caren Floyd

5008 doss road
Lakeway, Texas 78734

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From: Sarah Beck <info_email.actionnetwork.org>
Sent: Monday, October 16, 2023 11:44 AM
To: Ellis, Paige
Subject: Austinite Against I-35 Expansion

External Email - Exercise Caution

Council Member Paige Ellis,

Hi, my name is Sarah. I am a current resident of Austin, born and raised here.

I support agenda item 45 and urge Council Members to stand in opposition to the I-35 expansion.

Austin needs better infrastructure than just bigger and more roads. Highways are dangerous, especially within the city and create hazardous conditions for people.

I oppose expanding I-35 for many other reasons. It is using resources in a way that are not long-term solutions. We need public transit like effective train routes and safe biking/walking infrastructure, and multi-use buildings, and less strict zoning.

With worsening weather events, people need closer, more accessible resources instead of having to drive all over town for things that could be around the corner.

Austin is becoming more and more car-centric and it is an eye sore and bad for health. Air quality conditions are harmful from emissions and tire pollution. Pedestrians and bikers (people) are killed by drivers frequently. Traffic is disruptive . Please oppose the IH-35 expansion and focus on alternate, long-term strategies.

We have giant highways, adjacent to wide access roads, adjacent to parking lots, adjacent to strip malls. Everything is for the cars... what about the people??

Thank you

Sarah Beck

7707 7 IH 35 APT 1230

Austin, Texas 78744

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From: Vive Griffith <info_email.actionnetwork.org>
Sent: Monday, October 16, 2023 11:33 AM
To: Ellis, Paige
Subject: Please Support Agenda Item 45 on 10/19

External Email - Exercise Caution

Council Member Paige Ellis,

Dear Mayor Watson and Council Members,

I am a 24-year Austin resident, and my husband and I have owned our home at 1500 Inglewood Street, just east of I-35 and south of Riverside Drive, since 2005. I am writing to ask you to support Agenda Item 45 and to stand in opposition to the I-35 expansion.

The environmental and community impacts of the expansion project are out of alignment with the benefits of the project. The dozen or so years the project will take to complete will be highly disruptive to the central city and will cut off connections between the east and the west for both car traffic and bike traffic. Our neighborhood runs adjacent to I-35 and will lose its primary east-west connection, and the widening of the highway will make bike and pedestrian movement more challenging.

Beyond the personal cost, the larger environmental impact of the project is detrimental to those within and beyond our state. If there's anything the past few years have shown us, it's that we must be making decisions with an eye toward slowing and minimizing greenhouse emissions, not increasing them, as this project would do. Austin has the opportunity to be a leader in this area, and Agenda Item 45 can be part of that.

Thank you,
Vivé Griffith
1500 Inglewood Street
(District 9)

Vive Griffith

1500 Inglewood St
Austin, Texas 78741

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From: Stephanie Amack <info_email.actionnetwork.org>
Sent: Monday, October 16, 2023 11:28 AM
To: Ellis, Paige
Subject: Rethink I-35 for the health and happiness of your citizens

External Email - Exercise Caution

Council Member Paige Ellis,

I am a longterm resident of Austin, Tx.

I support agenda item 45 and urge Council Members to stand in opposition to the I-35 expansion.

I OPPOSE expanding I-35 because:

1. This will worsen congestion in our entire region, including where I live. Expanding highways never improves and often worsens congestion, as we saw from the Katy Freeway expansion.
2. This will be bad for my health and that of my family because of worse air quality.
3. This project will worsen climate change the estimated emissions are the equivalent of a coal plant

It will make it harder to get around without a car. The project is expected to bring an additional 100,000 cars a day into the city which will require more car infrastructure at the expense of other modes.

I am FOR:

1. The Rethink35 proposal
2. redesignating another highway such as SH-130 as an interstate
- 3 boulevard going through town
4. a public transit-first project - increase public transportation should be PRIORITY!!!

Stephanie Amack

2201 E. 14th St.
Austin, Texas 78702

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From: Parker Blackiston <info_email.actionnetwork.org>
Sent: Monday, October 16, 2023 11:24 AM
To: Ellis, Paige
Subject: I live in east Austin and oppose I35 expansion

External Email - Exercise Caution

Council Member Paige Ellis,

I live off 12th and airport and strongly oppose the expansion of I-35 to bring more cars and car infrastructure into central Austin. It's going to make problems worse and not better. I strongly urge the council to work on expanding bike lanes, pedestrian access and public third spaces for communities to meet and connect without having to rely on cars.

I support agenda item 45 and urge Council Members to stand in opposition to the I-35 expansion

I am a biker in Austin and often don't feel safe trying to get around on my bike (I even saw a biker get hit on 12th street less than a month ago. He was ok but was scary and could have been worse). The boggy creek green belt is great for bikes and the bike lanes on 4th street into downtown have also been a great addition to the city. Let's continue investing in this type of infrastructure and reduce car use!

Cheers

Parker

Parker Blackiston

3406 e 17th
Austin, Texas 78721

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From: Jason Suggs <info_email.actionnetwork.org>
Sent: Monday, October 16, 2023 11:22 AM
To: Ellis, Paige
Subject: Multipath is the Way!

External Email - Exercise Caution

Council Member Paige Ellis,

When there is only 1 artery, all traffic must flow to and from it, increasing congestion everywhere in the process.

I-35 needs to split into multiple high capacity paths when it moves through Austin, to minimize local congestion due to traffic going to and from it. As a city expands, additional arteries must be added to spread the load unless you want gridlock.

Don't expand I-35, take over I-130 and other such roads and integrate them to spread the load.

Jason Suggs

1001 Whelk Loop
Hutto, Texas 78634

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From: Aaron Schmelzer <info_email.actionnetwork.org>
Sent: Monday, October 16, 2023 11:17 AM
To: Ellis, Paige
Subject: Oppose I-35 expansion

External Email - Exercise Caution

Council Member Paige Ellis,

I oppose expanding I-35. Urban freeways are bad enough for our city, personal and public health, and economy. Expanding would deepen the scar created by this highway.

I urge City Council to oppose TXDOT on any measure that doesn't support exploring alternatives. Plenty of cities tear down, reroute, or otherwise mitigate the damage caused by urban freeways and enjoy citizen health, economic boons, and reduced dependency on motor vehicles.

Personally, I find that I'm less willing to drive, walk, or bike to areas that are near or on the other side of I-35. This lack of willingness applies to all of Austin's urban freeways. There are park spaces, recreational facilities, and businesses I would like to visit without driving, but I-35 creates an environment where driving is the only way to get there, and even when I drive, traffic is often backed up and I rarely feel safe on I-35. On another note, when my wife and I were choosing where to move, we said no to a number of great homes because they were close to freeways, especially I-35, because of the noise, traffic, and particulate pollution.

Expanding freeways induces more traffic, and freeways don't belong in cities.

Aaron Schmelzer

7609 Tisdale Drive
Austin, Texas 78757

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From: Jeff Riesenmy <info_email.actionnetwork.org>
Sent: Monday, October 16, 2023 11:15 AM
To: Ellis, Paige
Subject: I-35 Expansion (Agenda Item 45)

External Email - Exercise Caution

Council Member Paige Ellis,

I live in District 6 and I am writing in support of Agenda Item 45. I ask that my Councilmember Mackenzie Kelly and all other members of the Council take any measures available to oppose the state's planned expansion of I-35.

The proposed expansion will only make air quality, traffic congestion, road safety, and car dependency even worse than it already is in our city. We should strive to be an example for the rest of the state to follow - moving away from car-first infrastructure and instead toward human-focused modes of transportation throughout downtown.

Other highways in the area like SH-130 are much better suited as an interstate highway since they can connect Austin to other major cities without creating a massively destructive footprint that bisects the city. Please resist the state's outdated and destructive approach to infrastructure and steer Austin toward a cleaner, more vibrant city design that puts people first.

Best regards,
Jeff Riesenmy

Jeff Riesenmy

12111 Shetland Chase
Austin, Texas 78727

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From: Daniel Ronan <info_email.actionnetwork.org>
Sent: Monday, October 16, 2023 11:14 AM
To: Ellis, Paige
Subject: Please invest in alternatives to Highway Expansion

External Email - Exercise Caution

Council Member Paige Ellis,

This is redoing what was done in the 1950s. Stop this highway expansion - talk to the Sec. of Transportation and have him put his money where his mouth is and fund public transportation projects in lieu of this expansion - including the commuter rail just profiled in the Austin Business Journal.

Daniel Ronan

Daniel Ronan

3820 duval st
Austin, Texas 78751

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From: Paul Gier <info_email.actionnetwork.org>
Sent: Monday, October 16, 2023 11:07 AM
To: Ellis, Paige
Subject: Please help to stop the expansion of I-35

External Email - Exercise Caution

Council Member Paige Ellis,

Hi,

I've been a resident of the Northern part of Austin for the past 15 years. I'm writing to encourage you to prevent the expansion of I-35. Adding more cars to Austin at the expense of businesses and residences is a massive mistake at this time. The expansion will create more noise, more pollution, and reduce the tax base. Instead of funneling all traffic into one or two overcrowded corridors, we should be building a more well connected city with multiple transportation options and a variety of route options. We should not allow new developments to build unconnected neighborhoods with only one or two entrances/exits. Making neighborhoods more interconnected allows drivers/riders/walkers to find shorter routes to their destinations and takes load off of the main thoroughfares.

The massive amount of money planned for the I-35 expansion could be much better spent making Austin better instead of further damaging it. Traffic going through Austin, e.g. from San Antonio to Dallas, should be routed around the city instead of right through the middle.

Thank You

Paul Gier

15401 PRESTANCIA DR
Austin, Texas 78717

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From: Marina Royston <info_email.actionnetwork.org>
Sent: Monday, October 16, 2023 11:06 AM
To: Ellis, Paige
Subject: Oppose I-35 expansion

External Email - Exercise Caution

Council Member Paige Ellis,

I am a resident of Austin, living off Riverside less than a block from I-35.

I support agenda item 45 and urge Council Members to stand in opposition to the I-35 expansion.

I OPPOSE expanding I-35 because...

- This will worsen congestion in our entire region, including where I live.
- Expanding highways never improves and often worsens congestion, as we saw from the Katy Freeway expansion.
- This will be bad for my health and that of my community because of worse air quality.
- This project will worsen climate change the estimated emissions are the equivalent of a coal plant
- It will make it harder to get around without a car. The project is expected to bring an additional 100,000 cars a day into the city which will require more car infrastructure at the expense of other modes.

I am FOR The Rethink35 proposal, redesignating another highway such as SH-130 as an interstate, a boulevard going through town, and a public transit-first project.

Marina Royston

1500 E Riverside Dr, Apt 403
Austin, Texas 78741

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From: Elyse Watts <info_email.actionnetwork.org>
Sent: Monday, October 16, 2023 11:01 AM
To: Ellis, Paige
Subject: NO HIGHWAY EXPANSION

External Email - Exercise Caution

Council Member Paige Ellis,

Hello, I'm a homeowner resident in 78723 very close to the area of effect of the proposed I-35 expansion.

I am a native of Harlingen TX, but I have also lived through a similar real life scenario in CA where I was for ~15 years. Widening lanes and designating HOV lanes pushed "rush hour" to extend literally to start at 4 or 5 am, lasting through 10 or 11 am, starting back up around 3 pm, and ending again at 7pm.

Highway expansion and HOV lanes are NOT a solution to traffic congestion. Studies show this clearly and my own experience confirms it. Furthermore we KNOW we need to keep greenhouse gas emissions in check- I don't care who thinks who caused them or how natural they are- science has been telling us what I am currently living through since I was just a kid. Hotter drier summers, more extreme weather- we literally cannot live here in central TX if we do not take drastic measures to stop global warming.

I bought my home in TX because I loved my time in Austin while attending UT. One big thing I remember loving about Austin is that I could bike and take the bus. Even after my mom helped me buy my first car, I only really used it for road-trips to see her- or here and there a big shopping haul. Mostly I just rode my bike happily evading the awful traffic.

I completely support agenda item 45 and urge all Council Members including my rep Natasha who I know is on the same page, to stand in opposition to the I-35 expansion.

I support comprehensive pedestrian, bike, bus, and rail infrastructure to connect Austin and to connect Austin to the rest of the state including DFW, Denton, San Antonio, RGV. I would like

to see transit through the existing highway instead of more lanes for private vehicles. I would like to see traffic routed around the city rather than increasingly coming through my own community.

I do not want to depend on a car to get around, no matter whether it is gas or electric!! I want a safe and clean environment with minimal noise and particulate matter. I want to grow my garden lush, not watch it scorch and wither in another brutal summer with water restrictions as average temperatures continue to rise unchecked due to poor policy decisions.

Austin CAN be healthy and beautiful if care is taken.

Let's please use our compassion and intelligence and massive monetary spend to ensure that we are laying the infrastructure for human, plant, and animal populations to thrive well into the future. Expanding highway with more lanes right through our community is NOT the way to spend this time and money. It's not just the east side which has a history of being sacrificed and relegated for unwanted and marginalized communities that will be affected. ALL of us will be affected by increased traffic and increased pollution, and the effects of neglecting to control emissions and do everything we can to curb global temperature rise.

Elyse Watts

3011Cedarlawn Cir
Austin, Texas 78723

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From: Vivian Venish <info_email.actionnetwork.org>
Sent: Monday, October 16, 2023 10:59 AM
To: Ellis, Paige
Subject: Please vote YES on agenda item 45 (10/19/2023)

External Email - Exercise Caution

Council Member Paige Ellis,

Good day, I am Vivian Venish, a resident of District 7, and a very strong opponent of all i35 expansion. It is not in the best interests of the city, and is dangerous to people like me, those without cars trying to participate in society.

It is paramount to express as a city that the i35 expansion is NOT the path forward for our city, and will be a detriment for decades to come.

The environmental catastrophe of the highway will wreak havoc on the air, surrounding homes, and water of the city. More lanes means more traffic, which means more carbon in the air at a time where we are taking all other methods to reduce our output of dangerous GHGs and stall these devastating summers across the state. More cars also means more parking needs, microplastics, pedestrian and driver injuries, and more traffic.

The expansion of the highway will bring in more car demand, and we know experimentally that the elastic demand of vehicles will only be worsened with this massive highway increase. I, and many, many others, do not have reliable access to a vehicle, and this will worsen my ability to participate in society without a car.

I encourage the council to support serious changes to the transportation models of Austin and Central Texa, including: investment in our Public Transit and multimodal access, the plans outlined by Rethink35, and the rerouting of interstate traffic along SH130.

Thank you for your time and attention, and please vote for agenda item 45 to tell TxDOT and CAMPO that this expansion plan is not right for our city, state, or people.

Vivian Venish

5106 North Lamar Boulevard
Austin, Texas 78751

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From: Lily Coffman <info_email.actionnetwork.org>
Sent: Monday, October 16, 2023 10:56 AM
To: Ellis, Paige
Subject: Opposition of the I35 expansion

External Email - Exercise Caution

Council Member Paige Ellis,

This project will worsen climate change and negatively impact the health of individuals in surrounding areas.

By expanding 35, traffic will not change and so many issues will arise from becoming yet another city intertwined with highways and infrastructure that do not take people into account.

Lily Coffman

1720 Woodward street
Austin , Texas 78741

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From: Tori Sylvester <info_email.actionnetwork.org>
Sent: Monday, October 16, 2023 10:52 AM
To: Ellis, Paige
Subject: In support of agenda item 45.

External Email - Exercise Caution

Council Member Paige Ellis,

I live in the zip code of 78704. I live just a few hundred feet from where I-35 currently stands. I'm in extremely strong opposition to the expansion of I-35 and want to express my support of agenda item 45 while we work on resolutions that better serve the people of Austin than expanding the highway.

Expanding 35 will bring nothing but pollution. The the air quality where I live is already abysmal. I often wonder what living here does to me and the expansion of 35 will only exacerbate that.

We know that expanding the highway is not going to help. We have a terrible traffic problem often taking 20 plus minutes for a drive. That should only take two or three when it comes to getting on the highway here at this Riverside intersection.

The construction on the highway will do nothing except worse than pollution and cause more traffic for years to come and once the construction is finished it will not do anything to help traffic, pollution ,or carbon emissions. The data prove that adding more lanes does not help traffic. The only thing I can imagine that would maybe help I-35 is the extension and alterations of the on and off ramps allowing drivers to have enough time to prepare to get on and off the highway.

And on top of that, adding a HOV lane does nothing except add lanes that will not get you used. Most car drivers are only single occupancy , and most HOV lanes go empty because people don't understand how to use them and they don't have enough exits for people to use them.

Austin's want public transit. I myself even though I have a car favor public transit, I would much rather take the bus into the city or take the bus to get my groceries that have to drive. Austin wants more public transit. We should give it them.

I also think the fact that so much of Austin's traffic is through traffic with people not stopping

here that it makes much more sense to try and divert these drivers around the city on a different highway than through the city. It would better the quality of air in Austin and it would certainly make traffic better and would probably even save those drivers some time.

I genuinely hope you put a serious effort into stopping this highway expansion. We do not need it. We do not want it. It serves no purpose for people of Austin.

There are better solutions out there

Thank you for taking the time to read this message

Tori Sylvester

1824 s ih 35

Austin, Texas 78704

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From: Lorn MacDougal <info_email.actionnetwork.org>
Sent: Monday, October 16, 2023 10:49 AM
To: Ellis, Paige
Subject: Vote YES for agenda item 45

External Email - Exercise Caution

Council Member Paige Ellis,

TxDOT has apparently not heard the citizens of Austin nor learned from the Katy Freeway expansion in Houston, that adding lanes only results in Induced Demand, i.e. more traffic, pollution, land waste, business destruction and discouragement, noise, and dangerous city conditions. Let's have Austin join leaders from certain cities around the nation by sending non-local traffic around our great City (onto SH 130) rather than expanding the division I 35 makes now. Rather let's create a local boulevard! Businesses would flourish, people could walk and cycle hence improving their health, Nature would thrive from the plantings with birds and insects returning, and traffic would reduce with Austin residents often finding alternative routes. In short it would be a win-win for our City, becoming a peaceable place for the Mental/Physical/Spiritual well-being of the population.

Please do the Right Thing.

Lorn MacDougal

Lorn MacDougal

2603 Rae Dell Ave
Austin, Texas 78704

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From: garret nick <info_email.actionnetwork.org>
Sent: Monday, October 16, 2023 10:49 AM
To: Ellis, Paige
Subject: I35 expansion - NO

External Email - Exercise Caution

Council Member Paige Ellis,

i support any effort by the city council to avoid widening I35 through town. i thought that was why we built the 130 toll loop??? i would hope there are enough creative people working on this issue to come up with something other than widening i35, evicting residents and businesses, and cutting down dozens of trees all to encourage even MORE traffic passing through the middle of austin.

for the price of this project we could just pay the tolls for people to use 130 and then place a toll on i35 for anyone that uses the stretch between the on/off ramps of 130.

i'm not opposed to sinking 35 through town and capping it as much as possible but i DO NOT support widening it at all; especially without adding any sort of mass transit option. we are only inviting more traffic and more pollution into the center of the city.

garret nick

2010 Holland Ave
Austin, Texas 78704

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From: Bonnie Thompson <info_email.actionnetwork.org>
Sent: Monday, October 16, 2023 10:46 AM
To: Ellis, Paige
Subject: Please Vote yes for agenda item 45 and against the I-35 expansion.

External Email - Exercise Caution

Council Member Paige Ellis,

We live at 44 East, at the bottom of Rainey Street, and we are very opposed to the expansion of I-35. This will NOT solve the problem of traffic in Austin -- we think it will only make it worse in the long run. Expanding a freeway only postpones the problem, it doesn't address the need for alternative ways to get around other than by private car. There are more thoughtful and forward-thinking solutions, and better ways to spend this money. The beauty of Lady Bird Lake, the joy of seeing the wildlife and water while walking the Trail, the oasis of nature in the middle of Austin -- this will all be disrupted and damaged by running thousands more cars over the bridge each day. Keep Austin unique and interesting -- find a beautiful way to think about this that will add character and charm -- not just an ugly wider expanse of concrete. Thank you!

Bonnie Thompson

44 East Ave, Unit 3501
Austin, Texas 78701

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From: Amy Walker <info_email.actionnetwork.org>
Sent: Monday, October 16, 2023 10:40 AM
To: Ellis, Paige
Subject: 10/19 agenda 45

External Email - Exercise Caution

Council Member Paige Ellis,

I strongly oppose expansion of I35, this is the exact opposite of what we should be doing transportation wise at the crucial time. I live in cherrywood and this project will directly impact my quality of life due to environmental outcomes. Most importantly this project will do nothing to alleviate traffic and safety concerns, it's is time to rethink a giant interstate running through the middle of our city. I expect my representatives to oppose this expansion and fight TXDOT for the good of all austin citizens.

Amy Walker

1725 East 38th 1/2 St
Austin, Texas 78722

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From: kimberly smith <info_email.actionnetwork.org>
Sent: Monday, October 16, 2023 10:36 AM
To: Ellis, Paige
Subject: Stop the Expansion of I-35

External Email - Exercise Caution

Council Member Paige Ellis,

Hello, I support agenda item 45 and urge Council Members to stand in opposition to the I-35 expansion. I am a resident of 78724 in District 1. I believe that expanding I-35 brings more traffic, displaces residents and businesses, and will worsen the impact of climate change with an increase in traffic and fossil fuels. We have an opportunity to invest in public transportation in lieu of more car lanes. I DO NOT ever want to drive a car. I would much rather ride my bike, take the bus, or walk. Not only are these things good for mental health, they are good for getting likeminded people off of the road (driving) and clearing up traffic. I live in Colony Park. Currently, we have NO viable public transportation. Bus routes are lengthy, inconsistent, and are not direct to the downtown area (the best bus for me sits on Tannehill for 50 minutes daily, making that option over 2 hours), bike lanes are full of trash and nails with big trucks that ride right over the barriers, and walking without crosswalks puts my life at risk. This means that until you all advocate for better public transportation, residents from my community will continue to have many vehicles, will always opt to drive, and will further congest major corridors like I-35. I have lived in and around Austin long enough to understand that my community is not unique in this way - reliable means of public transportation is inaccessible. Invest in public transportation (NOW, not 20 years from now) and I guarantee you can many of your residents off of I-35 leaving room for the through interstate traffic.

kimberly smith

7105 Asbury Dr
Austin, Texas 78724

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From: Perron Denais <info_email.actionnetwork.org>
Sent: Monday, October 16, 2023 10:36 AM
To: Ellis, Paige
Subject: I Oppose I-35 Expansion!

External Email - Exercise Caution

Council Member Paige Ellis,

I am a District 5 resident of Austin, and I oppose I-35 expansion. I support agenda item 45 on the council's 10/19 agenda, and I urge Council Members to stand in opposition to the I-35 expansion.

I oppose the expansion because it will not fix the congestion on and around I-35 in the slightest, rather it will only enable more people to live farther and farther away from downtown while still driving all the way into Austin everyday. We should not encourage this kind of suburban behavior given what we know about commuting and its effect on the environment today. I oppose it because the pollutants from the added cars will be worse for the health of mine and of my fellow Austin citizens; it will also worsen climate change.

Expanding I-35 is altogether a doubling down on the failure that is car-oriented infrastructure, a building pattern that has doomed Austin's residents to live too far from the city center and deal with traffic every time they drive. It has made it less safe for those who move around the city without a car. We should be taking every action to incentivize those who move about the city without a car, by making their trips safer and faster and cleaner and more pleasant, and we should be taking every action to disincentivize those who insist on moving about the city with a car. The money that is spent on car infrastructure simply goes so much farther when spent on other modes of transportation, while naturally improving the tax base every step of the way.

I understand that cars can serve as a valuable tool for intercity travel, and I-35 is good for that, but we don't need I-35 to run straight through the middle of our city. It sets a bad example. We should redesignate SH-130 as an interstate for traffic to use if Austin is not their end destination, and we should rebuild I-35 as an accessible transit-first boulevard with shops

and parks along with it, reconnecting east austin to central austin and creating a new economic hub of activity.

Perron Denais

3816 S Lamar Blvd APT 3613
Austin, Texas 78704

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From: April Porter <info_email.actionnetwork.org>
Sent: Monday, October 16, 2023 10:35 AM
To: Ellis, Paige
Subject: Please vote "YES" for agenda item 45!

External Email - Exercise Caution

Council Member Paige Ellis,

I urge you to vote yes on agenda item 45. As we have seen in multiple other cities (the Katy Freeway being one example), widening the freeway will just add more congestion, not clear it up. The result of all that congestion will be an even greater amount of pollution. Also, it will even further increase Austin's already considerable reliance on cars. Please, we need much more reliable public transit, not a bigger freeway! Also, look at The Rethink35 proposal.

Thank you for your time.

April Porter

925 Fortrose Ter
Pflugerville, Texas 78660

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From: Nikko Castaneda <info_email.actionnetwork.org>
Sent: Monday, October 16, 2023 10:34 AM
To: Ellis, Paige
Subject: Stop I35 Expansion

External Email - Exercise Caution

Council Member Paige Ellis,

My name is Nikko Castaneda. I've been a longtime resident of the Austin area (I lived in Round Rock), but now I live in central Austin. I always had to depend on I35 to get around, but that's not a good thing. The fact that I had very few alternatives to move around or get to Austin is a insight on how limited and terrible our transportation situation is. Now, I live really close to downtown, in a fairly affordable apartment complex. I can bike to work and now have some buses to take me to destinations. However, I35 is still something that I **have** to use to move about, but it's always full of traffic, a hassle to get to and move around on, and is a scar on an otherwise amazing city. I35 is also the symbol of the segregation we have in Austin, which is an even bigger scar that Austin is trying to heal. I also found out that the highway was planning to be expanded, and billions of dollars are going to be poured into this project. A small stretch of road that will worsen traffic and carbon emissions, and also demolish many businesses and residential areas. At first, my partner and I were dismayed to find it would happen right outside our apartment complex. It didn't take long to find out that **our** apartment complex, our home, was planned to be demolished with the project. That is unacceptable. Not necessarily that we would need to find a new place to live, but that **anyone** would have to move to make way for this project that will only make Austin more unbearable to travel around in. This is why I implore you to please say "yes" to agenda item 45 and do what you can to stop this expansion. We can use the funding for this project to better Austin's public transportation or improve infrastructure for pedestrians or cyclists. We want to be free to go wherever we please, however we please. I don't want to be chained to only driving and worsen the condition of the planet, all while risking my life on the road. So again, support agenda item 45 and oppose the I35 expansion.

Nikko Castaneda

1800 S Interstate 35
Austin, Texas 78704

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From: Perron Denais <info_email.actionnetwork.org>
Sent: Monday, October 16, 2023 10:33 AM
To: Ellis, Paige
Subject: I Oppose I-35 Expansion!

External Email - Exercise Caution

Council Member Paige Ellis,

I am a District 5 resident of Austin, and I oppose I-35 expansion. I support agenda item 45 on the council's 10/19 agenda, and I urge Council Members to stand in opposition to the I-35 expansion.

I oppose the expansion because it will not fix the congestion on and around I-35 in the slightest, rather it will only enable more people to live farther and farther away from downtown while still driving all the way into Austin everyday. We should not encourage this kind of suburban behavior given what we know about commuting and its effect on the environment today. I oppose it because the pollutants from the added cars will be worse for the health of mine and of my fellow Austin citizens; it will also worsen climate change.

Expanding I-35 is altogether a doubling down on the failure that is car-oriented infrastructure, a building pattern that has doomed Austin's residents to live too far from the city center and deal with traffic every time they drive. It has made it less safe for those who move around the city without a car. We should be taking every action to incentivize those who move about the city without a car, by making their trips safer and faster and cleaner and more pleasant, and we should be taking every action to disincentivize those who insist on moving about the city with a car. The money that is spent on car infrastructure simply goes so much farther when spent on other modes of transportation, while naturally improving the tax base every step of the way.

Perron Denais

3816 S Lamar Blvd APT 3613
Austin, Texas 78704

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From: Alfredo Salinas <info_email.actionnetwork.org>
Sent: Monday, October 16, 2023 10:32 AM
To: Ellis, Paige
Subject: I35 Expansion

External Email - Exercise Caution

Council Member Paige Ellis,

As a resident of the Skyview area, I completely oppose the expansion of I35. Increased air pollution is high up on the long list of terrible side effects if we expand. We cannot become a concrete metropolis like Houston or Dallas. Please make choices that will actually help Austin residents. Vote for better public transportation and bike infrastructure. These are simpler, more cost effective, cleaner, more efficient methods of transporting people where they need to go.

Alfredo Salinas

5700 Link Ave
Austin, Texas 78752

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From: Eric Schultz <info_email.actionnetwork.org>
Sent: Monday, October 16, 2023 10:31 AM
To: Ellis, Paige
Subject: Pause downtown I-35 project

External Email - Exercise Caution

Council Member Paige Ellis,

I would encourage you to do whatever you can to pause the expansion of I-35 downtown so that we can rethink the plan and come up with some design that burys I-35 the most and reunites East Austin with downtown Austin.

Eric Schultz

1900 Barton Pkwy
Austin, Texas 78704

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From: Ashley McGraw <info_email.actionnetwork.org>
Sent: Monday, October 16, 2023 10:31 AM
To: Ellis, Paige
Subject: Yes to agenda 45 and no to I-35 expansion!!

External Email - Exercise Caution

Council Member Paige Ellis,

I support agenda item 45 and urge Council Members to stand in opposition to the I-35 expansion.

I OPPOSE expanding I-35 because...

This will worsen congestion in our entire region, including where I live. Expanding highways never improves and often worsens congestion, as we saw from the Katy Freeway expansion.

This will be bad for my health and that of my family because of worse air quality.

This project will worsen climate change the estimated emissions are the equivalent of a coal plant

It will make it harder to get around without a car. The project is expected to bring an additional 100,000 cars a day into the city which will require more car infrastructure at the expense of other modes.

I am FOR the Rethink35 proposal, redesignating another highway such as SH-130 as an interstate.

Ashley McGraw

5811 Whitebrook Drive
Austin, Texas 78724

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Balderrama, Guillermo

From: Ruth Casarez <
Sent: Monday, October 16, 2023 10:29 AM
To: Ellis, Paige
Subject: Expansion of I-35; In favor of 10/19/23 Agenda Item 45

You don't often get email from [REDACTED] [Learn why this is important](#)

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Council Member Paige Ellis,

Pls vote in favor of Agenda Item 45 on Thursday! I oppose the expansion of I-35 as I believe it will result in higher vehicle traffic on I-35 and consequently in more harmful emissions into Austin and Travis Hts environment. I believe council should approve alternate ways to redirect or reduce vehicle traffic, e.g., to Hwy 130 and enhance public transit options, such as light rail. Adding more lanes to I-35 would simply add more traffic to our already-congested hwy that cuts through central Austin. Pls Rethink I-35!!!

Ruth Casarez

1805 Alta Vista Ave.
Austin, Texas 78704

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From: Erika Haren <info_email.actionnetwork.org>
Sent: Monday, October 16, 2023 10:29 AM
To: Ellis, Paige
Subject: I support agenda item 45 and urge Council Members to stand in opposition to the I-35 expansion.

External Email - Exercise Caution

Council Member Paige Ellis,

I support agenda item 45 and urge Council Members to stand in opposition to the I-35 expansion.

Thank you,
Erika

Erika Haren

12332 Zeller Ln
Austin, Texas 78753

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From: Claudia Janes <info_email.actionnetwork.org>
Sent: Monday, October 16, 2023 10:28 AM
To: Ellis, Paige
Subject: Opposed to I-35 Expansion

External Email - Exercise Caution

Council Member Paige Ellis,

I have been a resident of Austin my entire life. I support agenda item 45 and urge Council Members to stand in opposition to the I-35 expansion. I am also a college graduate with a degree in urban planning and this expansion would worsen congestion and air quality. It would also rip the fabric of our city apart by adding more lanes, which will destroy communities and neighborhoods of Austin. I urge the Council Members to consider sustainable solutions such as public transportation that would support future growth in Austin whole considering our climate and community.

Claudia Janes

1515 Palma Plaza
Austin, Texas 78730

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From: Drew Schaffer <info_email.actionnetwork.org>
Sent: Monday, October 16, 2023 10:25 AM
To: Ellis, Paige
Subject: I-35 Expansion

External Email - Exercise Caution

Council Member Paige Ellis,

Hello,

I am a resident of District 9, one of the districts that will be most affected by I-35 expansion, and I am writing you to support agenda item 45 and to wholeheartedly oppose all expansion attempts. This expansion project will bring pollution to my neighborhood and reinforce the hostile concrete barrier that has divided our city. I-35 is a scar on the face of Austin, and I support rerouting interstate traffic on SH 130 and rebuilding I-35 downtown as a walkable urban boulevard appropriate to the downtown location. We need to drastically reimagine our car-centric transportation system in favor of walking, biking and public transit.

Best,

Drew Schaffer

Drew Schaffer

3014 WASHINGTON SQ, Austin Zen Center
Austin, Texas 78705

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From: Andrew Gaudet <info_email.actionnetwork.org>
Sent: Monday, October 16, 2023 10:20 AM
To: Ellis, Paige
Subject: I-35 alternatives necessary

External Email - Exercise Caution

Council Member Paige Ellis,

I support agenda item 45 and urge Council Members to stand in opposition to the I-35 expansion.

I live in Brentwood, in North Austin, and commute to UT-Austin every day with my wife and two kids. We drive to child care every day on I-35, so are familiar with the highway - including its benefits and issues.

Revising the highway as planned will be a boondoggle. 10 years of construction will snarl traffic through the city, just to create one additional lane each way. As it stands, the traffic on I-35 isn't all that bad! Let's be honest. And one more lane 10 years from now is not the solution we need. If we just added a lane in the absence of other transit solutions, then the traffic would overwhelm the additional lanes immediately and we'd just be stuck with more traffic.

Two other negative impacts include the community and the environment. I bike across I-35 each day - crossing under or over the highway as a cyclist or pedestrian is dangerous. I-35 creates a scar across Austin that limits health and mobility of people that live around it. Obviously, the environment is negatively affected by building giant roads, including paving over green space and enabling cars and trucks to emit pollution.

If this highway were being built in a vacuum, or in the middle of nowhere, maybe adding a lane and expanding the highway would make sense. But the highway is in the middle of a vibrant city. We need to demand creative alternatives that support transport, but also the health, connectedness, and success of the community of Austin.

Andrew Gaudet

6405 Goodnight Lane
Austin, Texas 78757

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From: Natalie Weston <info_email.actionnetwork.org>
Sent: Monday, October 16, 2023 10:16 AM
To: Ellis, Paige
Subject: 10 Year Austin Resident OPPOSES I-35 Expansion

External Email - Exercise Caution

Council Member Paige Ellis,

My name is Natalie Weston and I have been an Austin resident since 2013. I received my bachelor's in civil engineering, master's degree in biomedical engineering, and MD all from the University of Texas and now work in the city as a pediatrician. Though I realize listing my resume probably creates a pompous impression, I do so to emphasize myself to be one of the people who are most uniquely qualified to discuss the negative impact expanding I-35 would have on the health and wellness of our city.

The proposed expansion will not improve traffic congestion, have enormous negative financial and environmental impact (that TXDOT is trying to hide by breaking up their long-term plan into three parts), will displace many families and businesses, and will only make Austin less accessible. It is well established that adding lanes does not improve drive times. It induces MORE traffic, creates MORE dangerous driving conditions, and leads to MORE harmful environmental impact. That doesn't even include the traffic, dangerous driving conditions, and harmful environmental impact that will be caused by the construction process itself. In addition to the increased car emissions, we would also be decreasing the amount of permeable land in central Austin. This will worsen flooding, and just push us one step closer to becoming a concrete landscape like Houston.

In addition to these harms, the proposed expansion will worsen accessibility to key parts of the city. The highway has always served as a dividing scar in the city and will only make it more difficult for people to access the resources they need most. All of the hospitals downtown are West of the I-35. It is already difficult and dangerous to reach them if you are traveling by any means, but especially so if you do not have access to a car. Those who

primarily travel by walking, biking, mobility aid (i.e. wheelchair) or public transportation will see their daily routines become significantly disrupted and more burdensome.

Finally, I was appalled to learn the financial conflicts of interest of the Texas Transportation Commission who approved this expansion. When the commission is composed of a Bank CEO, former Toyota group CEO, and two separate Petroleum company heads, it is obvious that it is acting only in the interest of profits instead of people.

I am FOR finding alternative solutions. I am really impressed by the work Rethink35 has done around this issue, and am hopeful the state takes their proposal seriously. We could also Redesignate SH-130 as an interstate, provide incentives for business to allow their employees to work remotely, or use the money slotted for the expansion to make public transport projects such as project connect happen more quickly.

Thank you for your time,

Natalie Weston

Natalie Weston

106 East 30th st apartment 308
Austin, Texas 78705

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From: Twila Willis <info_email.actionnetwork.org>
Sent: Monday, October 16, 2023 10:15 AM
To: Ellis, Paige
Subject: I35 expansion.

External Email - Exercise Caution

Council Member Paige Ellis,

I am a resident of Austin Texas.

I support agenda item 45 and urge Council Members to stand in opposition to the I-35 expansion

I OPPOSE expanding I-35 because...

This will worsen congestion in our entire region, including where I live. Expanding highways never improves and often worsens congestion, as we saw from the Katy Freeway expansion.

This will be bad for my health and that of my family because of worse air quality.

This project will worsen climate change the estimated emissions are the equivalent of a coal plant

It will make it harder to get around without a car. The project is expected to bring an additional 100,000 cars a day into the city which will require more car infrastructure at the expense of other modes.

I am FOR the Rethink35 proposal, redesignating another highway such as SH-130 as an interstate, a boulevard going through town, a public transit-first project, etc. Requiring through traffic to use SH130 and giving 18 wheelers free use will go far to help with the congestion.

We do not need this expansion

Twila Willis

6514 Pevensey Dr
Austin, Texas 78745

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From: Kelsie Phelps <info_email.actionnetwork.org>
Sent: Monday, October 16, 2023 10:15 AM
To: Ellis, Paige
Subject: Supporting Agenda Item 45

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Council Member Paige Ellis,

Hello,

I was born at Seton Northwest Hospital and raised in Barton Hills, and I greatly oppose the expansion of I-35. Austin was, of course, significantly smaller when I was growing up, and watching the traffic grow with the population and the infrastructure refusing to grow and change with it over the last few decades has been infuriating and heartbreaking. The I-35 expansion project is expected to bring an additional 100,000 cars a day into the city which will require more car infrastructure at the expense of other modes. I support an expansion of public transportation instead in order to protect the health of the citizens of Austin and the future of our city.

I support agenda item 45 and urge Council Members to stand in opposition to the I-35 expansion.

Thank you,

Kelsie

Kelsie Phelps

504 westmorland dr
Austin, Texas 78745

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From: Ann Haraguchi <info_email.actionnetwork.org>
Sent: Monday, October 16, 2023 10:13 AM
To: Ellis, Paige
Subject: In Support of Agenda Item 45

External Email - Exercise Caution

Council Member Paige Ellis,

My husband and I are homeowners of 1106 Manlove Street, in Austin. Our house is located alongside I-35, near Riverside Drive, and overlooks the access road and freeway. We are very concerned about the proposed expansion of I-35, which is sure to create intolerable levels of noise, light and pollution during construction and beyond. I believe the expansion project will worsen traffic problems in the area, contribute greater emissions, and lower quality of life for Austinites. My husband and I are prepared to move to avoid all the negative consequences of the expansion project, even though we like our house and neighborhood and would rather not have to do so. I have been unsuccessful in reaching anyone at TxDOT to get specific information about a construction timeline so we can relocate if necessary. This has been very frustrating and stressful for us. I think there must be a better alternative to the proposed expansion project, such as designating a different, existing road as a thruway or using funds to improve public transit options in and around Austin. I support Agenda Item 45 and hope you will oppose the I-35 expansion project.

Ann Haraguchi

1106 Manlove Street
Austin, Texas 78741

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From: Greg King <info_email.actionnetwork.org>
Sent: Monday, October 16, 2023 10:13 AM
To: Ellis, Paige
Subject: Enough highway

External Email - Exercise Caution

Council Member Paige Ellis,

I am against the expansion of I35. The congestion we have today is much less from preCovid levels when this project was planned due to work from home. We dont need more highways and cars. We need to develop our city center with dense retail commercial and housing not yet another lane.

I support agenda item 45 and urge Council Members to stand in opposition to the I-35 expansion.

Greg King

1812 Crooked Lane
Austin, Texas 78741

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From: Eric Kaufman <info_email.actionnetwork.org>
Sent: Monday, October 16, 2023 10:10 AM
To: Ellis, Paige
Subject: No to I-35 Expansion

External Email - Exercise Caution

Council Member Paige Ellis,

Council,

Please follow the science. Induced demand is real and more lanes doesn't mean less traffic. Please demand TXDOT route through traffic around Austin's urban core so we can prioritize a connected urban multi-modal environment connecting downtown and the east side. Thank you.

Eric Kaufman

1406 Bouldin Ave
Austin, Texas 78704

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From: Emma Guevara <info_email.actionnetwork.org>
Sent: Monday, October 16, 2023 10:09 AM
To: Ellis, Paige
Subject: I-35 Expansion

External Email - Exercise Caution

Council Member Paige Ellis,

I am a resident of Austin, TX.

I support agenda item 45 and urge Council Members to stand in opposition to the I-35 expansion.

I OPPOSE expanding I-35 because...

- This will worsen congestion in our entire region, including where I live. Expanding highways never improves and often worsens congestion, as we saw from the Katy Freeway expansion.
- This will be bad for my health and that of my family because of worse air quality.
- This project will worsen climate change the estimated emissions are the equivalent of a coal plant
- It will make it harder to get around without a car. The project is expected to bring an additional 100,000 cars a day into the city which will require more car infrastructure at the expense of other modes.

I am FOR the restructuring of I-35 into a public transportation metro or train for people to use to get around the city without adding more greenhouse gases to the air.

Emma Guevara

1553 E 38 1/2 St
Austin, Texas 78722

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From: Andrew Glazenr <info_email.actionnetwork.org>
Sent: Monday, October 16, 2023 10:08 AM
To: Ellis, Paige
Subject: I Oppose I-35 Expansion

External Email - Exercise Caution

Council Member Paige Ellis,

By now I am sure you all realize the harmful impacts of I-35 expansion. I won't bother using a logical appeal to convince you to reconsider advancing the proposed expansion.

Simply consider the things you love about Austin. Internalize that expanding I-35 will adversely impact most, if not all, of those beautiful qualities.

Accept you are not acting in the best (non-monetary) interests of anyone you represent if you choose to support any expansion of I-35.

I hope a multi-model, human-centric alternative can be explored to promote mobility and high-quality access to jobs, family, and destinations for ALL Austinites in an ecologically-minded manner.

Good day,

Andrew Glazenr

7205 Montana Norte
Austin, Texas 78731

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From: Alan Hecht <info_email.actionnetwork.org>
Sent: Monday, October 16, 2023 10:08 AM
To: Ellis, Paige
Subject: I Oppose I35 Expansion

External Email - Exercise Caution

Council Member Paige Ellis,

Hi - On Oct 19, please vote yes to postpone I35 expansion funding. I35 expansion will worsen congestion, and worsen pollution. Please put more money into better public transit.

Thanks

Alan Hecht

Alan Hecht

403 Nelray Blvd. Unit A
Austin, Texas 78751

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From: Evyn Fallon <info_email.actionnetwork.org>
Sent: Monday, October 16, 2023 10:04 AM
To: Ellis, Paige
Subject: More lanes = More Traffic

External Email - Exercise Caution

Council Member Paige Ellis,

Hello,

I am an Austin resident and UT student who is incredibly disturbed by the proposal to expand the I-35.

First of all, this country has proven time and time again that wider doesn't work. More lanes induces demand, and I-35 is already one of the deadliest highways in the country. The only way to reduce traffic is by reducing single-commuter transport, which can be accomplished with better, more accessible public transport. I am a daily bus rider, and even after using it for months it can still be confusing and inaccessible! The CapMetro app is dreadfully inaccurate and difficult to use. It is almost worthless to plan a route with. Simply fixing this app would be ridiculously cheaper than a highway expansion, and would allow more commuters to use the buses confidently. There are already plans in place to expand rail access in Austin. Spend the time, money, and energy to accelerate that project instead!

Additionally, more protections and enforcement for bikes and scooters would make a two-wheeled commute much safer. A bike lane is half the size of a car lane, and could transport so many people in a much safer manner (you're not driving thousands of pounds of metal around at deadly speeds on a bike!) Finally, as a UT student and member of the Longhorn band, the proposal to widen the I-35 currently cuts right over a large portion of UT's athletics complex. I use this complex almost everyday, and to have it stand in the shadow - or even be demolished for - this dystopian highway fills me with sadness.

To see more of my beautiful home of Texas destroyed, the air polluted, the fields of wildflowers destroyed, or my beautiful campus overshadowed would be an incredible tragedy.

Please do not let this already deadly highway become a dystopian horror story. This city should be built for people, not silly machines.

Thank you.

Evyn Fallon

159 William Court
Austin, Texas 78737

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From: Jourdan Wooden <info_email.actionnetwork.org>
Sent: Monday, October 16, 2023 9:59 AM
To: Ellis, Paige
Subject: YES on agenda item 45

External Email - Exercise Caution

Council Member Paige Ellis,

I am a resident of North Loop, living between Airport and I-35.

I support agenda item 45 and urge Council Members to stand in opposition to the I-35 expansion.

I OPPOSE expanding I-35 for many reasons.

The air quality where I live is already terrible. According to the Environmental Protection Agency and the Health Effects Institute, the area near highways carries much higher levels of air pollution than other areas. Expanding I-35 will only increase the pollution.

This will worsen congestion in our entire region, including where I live. Expanding highways never improves and often worsens congestion, as we saw from the Katy Freeway expansion.

As it currently stands, I-35 is one of the worst parts of Austin. Even driving from North Loop to East Austin involves navigating the traffic from the persistent bottleneck created by the highway. (Which, again, will not be improved with expansion.) There are a number of shops and restaurants on the other side of I-35; if I want to go there, instead of a 5 minute walk, it's a 2 mile round trip by car.

It will make it harder to get around without a car. The project is expected to bring an additional 100,000 cars a day into the city which will require more car infrastructure at the expense of other modes. My wife and I recently downsized to one car, in an effort to reduce our emissions. I have been shocked at how difficult it is to function in this city without a car (and for socioeconomically disadvantaged people, the forced cost of car ownership makes everything else harder.)

I am FOR the Rethink35 proposal. Redesignate SH-130 as an interstate and route all the through traffic around the city. Replace the Austin stretch of I-35 with a boulevard going through town. This could be an opportunity for a modern, public transit-first approach to the problem.

Jourdan Wooden

909 Reinli St Unit 102
Austin, Texas 78751

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From: Taran Johnston <info_email.actionnetwork.org>
Sent: Monday, October 16, 2023 9:59 AM
To: Ellis, Paige
Subject: Please oppose 35 expansion

External Email - Exercise Caution

Council Member Paige Ellis,

Dear Council Member Qadri,

Please use your position on our City Council to join with our community in opposing the proposed expansion of I 35 through Austin. There are good alternatives; we should look at them. I'm already thinking of moving away from the City I love. An expansion of 35 could be a deciding factor in favor of finding a more humane place to live.

Taran Johnston

505, W. 7th Street
Austin, Texas 78701

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From: Janet Bernson <info_email.actionnetwork.org>
Sent: Monday, October 16, 2023 9:57 AM
To: Ellis, Paige
Subject: I-35 expansion is a poor idea.

External Email - Exercise Caution

Council Member Paige Ellis,

I am a resident of the Cherrywood neighborhood here in Austin.

I'm writing to express my

support for agenda item 45 and urge Council Members to stand in opposition to the I-35 expansion.

There are so many reasons for my opposition to expanding I-35.

Not only will this expansion worsen the congestion in our entire region but it is an unsound idea when considering moving people in and around our city.

Expanding highways never improves and often worsens congestion, as we saw from the Katy Freeway expansion and elsewhere around our state.

But this is not all the reasons for my opposition.

I regularly travel to Europe, and have seen the efficacy of increased rail transportation. And how that eliminates congestion within a community, plus benefiting all rather than those who own cars.

The money spent on expansion could be better used to increase our metro rail which in turn will benefit many more people and reduce pollution accidents,& parking!

It has been documented the world over that increased public transportation decreases the health risks from pollution caused by gas powered vehicles.

Moreover....Do we, as a city, want to worsen climate change by contributing, through the expansion of I35? The estimated emissions are the equivalent of a coal plant!

Plus, the proposed expansion will make it harder to get around without a car.

What are we going to do with an additional 100,000 cars a day into the city? This will require more car infrastructure at the expense of other transportation modes.

I am FOR... increased metro rail, metro buses, small shuttles, that service areas in and around downtown and surrounding neighborhoods plus rideshare.

Of course, we are a growing city and we need to think the way other big cities think. Look at Paris. Look at London. Look at Berlin. Look at San Francisco. Look at New York. Etc. Let's quit thinking like we are Cowboys in the Wild West! Let's start to consider the healthy future of the residents of our city and surrounding communities by planning and implementing consciously.

Janet Bernson

3400 Clarkson Ave.
Austin , Texas 78722

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From: Katie Magner <info_email.actionnetwork.org>
Sent: Monday, October 16, 2023 9:57 AM
To: Ellis, Paige
Subject: Oppose I-35 Expansion

External Email - Exercise Caution

Council Member Paige Ellis,

Hello,

My name is Katie and I am a resident of the Coronado Hills neighborhood in District 1. I support agenda item 45 and urge Council Members to stand in opposition to the I-35 expansion. I OPPOSE expanding I-35 because I use I-35 every day to get to work, and the construction and traffic and congestion for this proposal is incalculable. I worry my entire commute will be upended and I'd have to find another job on the north side of the river. This proposal will worsen congestion in our entire region, including where I live. Expanding highways never improves and often worsens congestion, as we saw from the Katy Freeway expansion.

Additionally, the project will make it harder to get around without a car. The project is expected to bring an additional 100,000 cars a day into the city which will require more car infrastructure at the expense of other modes.

I am FOR The Rethink35 proposal, and redesignating another highway such as SH-130 as an interstate. I dream of a day where I share 35 with my fellow Austinites who are just trying to get across town to work, play, drop off their children, and not the thousands of semi trucks that are just trying to get from Dallas to San Antonio and elsewhere.

Katie Magner

7300 Sevilla dr
Austin, Texas 78752

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From: Dela Richter <info_email.actionnetwork.org>
Sent: Monday, October 16, 2023 9:55 AM
To: Ellis, Paige
Subject: Rethink 35

External Email - Exercise Caution

Council Member Paige Ellis,

I support agenda item 45 and urge Council Members to stand in opposition to the I-35 expansion.

Dela Richter

905 E 51 St, Apt 204
Austin, Texas 78751

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From: Forrest Aderholt <info_email.actionnetwork.org>
Sent: Monday, October 16, 2023 9:54 AM
To: Ellis, Paige
Subject: Support Agenda Item 45

External Email - Exercise Caution

Council Member Paige Ellis,

I am a resident of Austin district 8. I am in support of item agenda 45 and urge council members to stand against I35 expansion! Highway expansion only leads to more congestion, will destroy businesses, and will be a disaster for the environment. The only true option for traffic congestion is viable alternatives to driving cars such as more bike paths and public transit.

Forrest Aderholt

5216 mccarty ln apt 6
Austin, Texas 78749

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From: Philip Fuller <info_email.actionnetwork.org>
Sent: Monday, October 16, 2023 9:54 AM
To: Ellis, Paige
Subject: Full of Regret

External Email - Exercise Caution

Council Member Paige Ellis,

If the I-35 expansion project could find one example where massively increasing a highway to also massively increase traffic, where further isolating neighborhoods, where bifurcating a city, where increasing air and noise pollution was a success, where anyone, five years later, was still happy without it, they should proudly point to it. But we know this project has no evidential backing. There's nothing saying this will alleviate the strain. There's only speculation and the brute, and flawed, logic of "just make it bigger."

For something this consequential, we need thoughtful and future-looking solutions. What will our children be proud of us for having accomplished? What will we have done to inspire them?

Philip Fuller

6310 Dorchester Dr
Austin , Texas 78723

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From: Eduardo Viramontes <info_email.actionnetwork.org>
Sent: Monday, October 16, 2023 9:53 AM
To: Ellis, Paige
Subject: I oppose i-35 expansion and support item 45 on city council agenda

External Email - Exercise Caution

Council Member Paige Ellis,

I am Eduardo Viramontes, resident of Austin. I support agenda item 45 and urge Council Members to stand in opposition to the I-35 expansion. I believe the expansion of highways within a city is wrong for many reasons including health and the environment. My family and I live near Mopac, a significantly smaller highway and we already see impacts to our health, i-35 expansion could be catastrophic for people living close, particularly children, elders and people with respiratory conditions. Austin should also be committed to fighting climate change, and adding several square miles of concrete does not show this, it will be bad news for our environment and the already extremely hot temperatures in our city.

I support redirecting highway traffic around the city rather than through it, there are already existing highways that could be repurposed this way. I also support limiting the size of the section of i-35 crossing through the city to a smaller boulevard with a linear park of some sort. This would achieve the important goal of improving the quality of life around the east side of Austin, a community that has long been cast aside.

Eduardo Viramontes

4315 Triboro Trail
Austin, Texas 78749

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From: Grace Morrissey <info_email.actionnetwork.org>
Sent: Monday, October 16, 2023 9:51 AM
To: Ellis, Paige
Subject: Rethink I-35

External Email - Exercise Caution

Council Member Paige Ellis,

I am a resident of East Austin and have fallen in love with this city since 2019. I support agenda item 45 and urge Council Members to stand in opposition to the I-35 expansion. I am a huge advocate of cutting greenhouse gas emissions and this project will only worsen climate change. The estimated emissions are the equivalent of a coal plant! In addition, I see how congested this city has become and how much worse it's going to get with the expansion. We need a reliable public transportation system, more safe bike lanes, and walkable neighborhoods with sidewalks and necessities within reach. Please consider our plea to avoid Austin turning into a highway city. Our future can be communal and eco-friendly by taking steps to create a more connected transport system and more connected neighborhoods.

Thank you,
Grace

Grace Morrissey

1175 Springdale Road
Austin, Texas 78721

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From: Dale Scutti <info_email.actionnetwork.org>
Sent: Monday, October 16, 2023 9:51 AM
To: Ellis, Paige
Subject: We need a partner to improve transit in Austin, not an adversary

External Email - Exercise Caution

Council Member Paige Ellis,

Austinites bear the burden of increased share of travel on dangerous, polluting, inefficient, expensive, noisy, and ugly I-35. Instead of behaving as a department of "Transportation" TXDOT is behaving like the department of "Cars". They are trying to drag us along in the wrong direction.

I think we can all agree that some share of I-35 traffic serves critical purposes, but let's not pretend that doubling down on a design pattern of ever further reaching exurbs and super commutes is working for us or the environment. There is already plenty of capacity on i35 for critical traffic. What Austin needs is investment in safer, cleaner, faster, more efficient alternatives for commuters.

How long will TXDOT insist on pursuing legacy infrastructure instead of embracing alternatives like local and regional rail? There are so many more useful ways to put their money and effort to work for Austinites and Texans.

Dale Scutti

1001 Bodgers Dr
Austin, Texas 78753

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From: Soledad Favela <info_email.actionnetwork.org>
Sent: Monday, October 16, 2023 9:50 AM
To: Ellis, Paige
Subject: I35

External Email - Exercise Caution

Council Member Paige Ellis,

I DO NOT SUPPORT 1-35 EXPANSION. THIS PROJECT WILL WORSEN CLIMATE CHANGE, OUR SUMMERS ARE ALREADY OVER 106 AND THIS YEAR WAS THE HOTTEST YEAR ON RECORD. I AM FOR THE RETHINK 135 PLAN. EXPANSION ONLY MAKES THINGS WORSE

Soledad Favela

7042 Cheshire Park Rd
Houston, Texas 77088

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From: Timothy McCool <info_email.actionnetwork.org>
Sent: Monday, October 16, 2023 9:49 AM
To: Ellis, Paige
Subject: Oppose I-35 Expansion for the good of the city and it's residents

External Email - Exercise Caution

Council Member Paige Ellis,

Dear Council Members and Mayor: please do the right thing for our families and our future by supporting Agenda Item 45. We have to join together to take a strong stance against the needless expansion of I-35. Expanding the highway at this point in our history, knowing what we know about our warming climate and how much this highway building project will contribute to the pollution of our overall environment, will be one of the biggest mistakes this city ever makes. I know it's a difficult decision because Austin has traffic issues and people need a way to get into the city and travel around it. However, we have to think long term about the real implications of a project like this. Highway expansion projects such as this one never actually resolve congestion problems, so we'll be spending all this time and money and degrade our environment even further with little to no positive result. This will make the city worse off for its future inhabitants as well. I'm at a point now along with my partner (a native Austinite) where we are planning to have children soon. But we have to be realistic about what kind of city we want to raise our children in. We don't want to subject them to a city plagued with the noise, pollution, and congestion that comes with a super highway. We already know people who have moved north for climate reasons. This construction project will cause a lot of people besides us to rethink the places where they want to raise children. Everyone is aware that this project is being rushed through with little concern to how many greenhouse gases it will contribute to the environment and with little concern as to how it will affect other aspects of our city life. Please do the right thing by supporting Agenda Item 45 and telling TxDOT that they need to take seriously the concerns of Austin residents when it comes to pollution.

Timothy McCool

1207 Enfield Road
Austin, Texas 78703

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Balderrama, Guillermo

From: Sid Jain <
Sent: Monday, October 16, 2023 9:48 AM
To: Ellis, Paige
Subject: I support Agenda item 45

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External Email - Exercise Caution

Council Member Paige Ellis,

I am writing to express my strong support for agenda item 45 and to urge you and your fellow Council Members to stand in opposition to the proposed expansion of I-35. As a resident of Hyde Park, I believe that this project, if pursued, will have a detrimental impact on our community and the region as a whole.

I oppose expanding I-35 for several compelling reasons, which I believe should be seriously considered:

Worsening Congestion: Expanding highways has consistently shown that it often exacerbates congestion rather than alleviating it. A prime example of this is the Katy Freeway expansion, which ultimately failed to improve traffic flow. Expanding I-35 is likely to lead to similar results, making our region's traffic issues even worse.

Health Implications: One of my main concerns is the adverse effects on the health of myself and my family. The increased traffic and congestion resulting from the I-35 expansion will lead to worse air quality, putting our well-being at risk. The health of our community should be a top priority.

Climate Change Impact: The environmental consequences of this project are deeply concerning. The estimated emissions from the expanded I-35 are equivalent to those of a coal plant, which is alarming given the urgent need to combat climate change. We should be focusing on sustainable transportation options rather than projects that contribute to environmental harm.

Overreliance on Cars: Expanding I-35 is likely to further promote car dependence in our city. With an additional 100,000 cars expected to be introduced into the city daily, it's clear that

this project will divert resources away from alternative modes of transportation and make it more challenging for residents to get around without a car.

While I am opposed to the I-35 expansion, I would like to express my support for alternative proposals that prioritize sustainable, community-friendly solutions. I am in favor of exploring options such as the Rethink35 proposal, redesignating another highway, such as SH-130, as an interstate, or developing a boulevard that runs through our town. Furthermore, I strongly believe in the importance of investing in public transit-first projects that provide efficient and eco-friendly transportation options for our community.

I urge you to carefully consider the impact of the I-35 expansion on our community and our environment. By supporting alternative solutions and opposing this ill-conceived expansion, we can work towards creating a more sustainable, healthy, and accessible city for all residents.

Thank you for your attention to this matter, and I appreciate your dedication to our community.

Sid Jain

4305 Duval St 130
Austin, Texas 78751

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From: Dana Hegar <info_email.actionnetwork.org>
Sent: Monday, October 16, 2023 9:46 AM
To: Ellis, Paige
Subject: Please Oppose the I35 Expansion

External Email - Exercise Caution

Council Member Paige Ellis,

Thank you all Council members who stand against the expansion.

There are so many reasons this is a terrible, backwards idea. It is racist and environmentally unsound. Yes, TxDOT is a Goliath but we must push for what's right.

I30 was built to combat I35 congestion. Why did we spend all that money? TxDOT itself promoted I30 as an alternate route.

As Adam Greenfield said, "This project is so behind the times. We're in the middle of a heat dome. We are scorching hot in a heat dome and TxDOT is proposing to lay more heat-trapping asphalt and cause more climate change that will produce even longer heat domes."

This is not good for East Austin. It's not good for small businesses along I35. It will create more chaos in our city. Let's do everything we can to stop it.

I'm proud of you Council Members!

Dana Hegar
Presently in D5

Dana Hegar

2303 Westway Circle
Austin , Texas 78704

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From: Torry Kesi <info_email.actionnetwork.org>
Sent: Monday, October 16, 2023 9:46 AM
To: Ellis, Paige
Subject: Support Agenda item 45

External Email - Exercise Caution

Council Member Paige Ellis,

I am a resident of district 8 and strongly oppose the expansion of I-35. Austin will continue to grow and expanding the highway through the middle of downtown will not solve anything and only make things worse. Instead I advocate for alternative modes of transportation. Such as project connect which has yet to get going years after voting on it. I moved to this city years ago due to the nature it provided along urban skyline, which is something truly unique. The construction would ruin that for all residents for years to come. Additionally, it is hard to get away from the sound of cars while on Austin's trails or parks and a major highway will only make things worse. I oppose this for many reasons and these are just a few, please do your part to stop the destruction of our beautiful city.

Torry Kesi

1781 , Spyglass Dr
Austin, Texas 78746

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From: Kam McEvoy <
Sent: Monday, October 16, 2023 9:45 AM
To: Watson, Kirk; Harper-Madison, Natasha; Fuentes, Vanessa; Vela, Jose "Chito"; Alter, Ryan; Pool, Leslie; Ellis, Paige; Qadri, Zo; Qadri, Zo; Alter, Alison; Kelly, Mackenzie
Cc: Alexander, Kate; Lawler, John; Bray, Timothy; Lopez, Jason; Leffler, Ben; Phillips, Atha; Montgomery, Julie; Pritchard, Caleb; Mendoza, Richard [TPW]; Joanna Wolaver; Ted Siff
Subject: Re: Austin Outside's support for Item 45 on October 19's Council Agenda...

External Email - Exercise Caution

Dear Mayor Watson, Mayor Pro Tem Ellis, and Council Members,

Good morning! As a followup to Austin Outside's request for Item #45 on October 19th's agenda, here's a list of Austin Outside's [member organizations](#), in case you're unfamiliar with our coalition:

Active Towns
Active Transportation Advocates Cedar Park
asakura robinson
AURA
Austin EcoNetworking
Austin Parks Foundation
Austin Ridge Riders Mountain Bike Club
Austin Sunshine Camps
Austin Youth River Watch
Barton Springs Conservancy
Black + Vernooy Architects & Urban Design
Blunn Creek Partnership
Chioco Design
Colorado River Alliance
Contract Work for a Better Planet
Creating Common Ground
Defenders of Wildlife
Dovetail Studio
Downtown Austin Alliance Foundation
Environment Texas
Explore Austin
Farm & City
Forklift DanceWorks
Friends of Balcones Canyonlands National Wildlife Refuge
Friends of Barton Springs Pool
Friends of Woolridge Square
Fruitful Commons
Generation Serve
Great Springs Project
Hancock Conservancy
HealthCode

Hike Austin
Hill Country Alliance
Hill Country Conservancy
Institute for Community MicroMobility
JW Consulting
KOM Trails
LBJ Wildflower Center
Mend Collaborative
Pease Park Conservancy
Reconnect Austin
Red Line Parkway Initiative
RVi Planning + Landscape Architecture
Safe Streets Austin
Save Barton Creek Association
Second Spatial
Shield Ranch
Shoal Creek Conservancy
Siglo Group
Skate Ecosystems
Studio Balcones
Texas Children in Nature
The Expedition School
The Leander Foundation
The Nature Conservancy
The Trail Conservancy
The Trust for Public Land
Travis County Parks Foundation
TreeFolks
Umlauf Sculpture Garden
Waterloo Greenway
Westcave Outdoor Discovery Center
WTRSHD
Zilker Botanical Garden Conservancy

We look forward to Thursday's meeting.

Thanks so much,
Kam McEvoy

On Thu, Oct 12, 2023 at 3:58 PM Kam McEvoy <

wrote:

Please see the attached letter (or read below) detailing Austin Outside's support for Item 45 on October 19's council agenda.

Sincerely,
Kam McEvoy
Membership Director
she/her/hers



Dear Mayor Watson, Mayor Pro Tem Ellis, and Council Members,

[Austin Outside](#) supports [Item #45](#) on your October 19th agenda. The mission of Austin Outside's 65 member organizations is to champion vibrant and thriving outdoor places for all in Greater Austin.

Austin Outside agrees that decisions around the I-35 Cap Ex Central project would be better informed by, and benefit from, the upcoming CAMPO Regional Mobile Emission Reduction and the Austin MSA Climate Plans. We support delaying funding on this impactful project until those studies are complete. We also agree that any CAMPO votes on this project should be taken publicly, by the full Transportation Policy Board (TPB), as was done with the first two rounds of I-35 amendments to the Transportation Improvement Program (TIP).

After multiple summers of record-breaking heat and increasingly dangerous storms, it is imperative that elected officials at all levels of government work together to prioritize reducing greenhouse gas emissions.

We appreciate your attention to this matter.

Sincerely,
Joanna Wolaver
Austin Outside, Board Chair

--
Kam McEvoy
Membership Director
she/her/hers

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From: Milan Thomas <info_email.actionnetwork.org>
Sent: Monday, October 16, 2023 9:43 AM
To: Ellis, Paige
Subject: Oppose I-35

External Email - Exercise Caution

Council Member Paige Ellis,

Hello, I would like to say as an Engineer In Training working on a roadway engineering team and having experience on highway design, I support agenda item 45 and urge Council Members to stand in opposition to the I-35 expansion. Not only does it not fix traffic due to induced demand, it creates an unethical amount of CO2. The plan is egregious and unnecessarily wide. This highway is running through a major city yet is planned like it is not. A similar expansion was attempted for the Katy Freeway in Houston and it lead to higher emissions and longer transit times. Please delay this project.

Milan Thomas

13108 Indigo Bay Ct
Pearland, Texas 77584

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From: Laura Carbonneau <info_email.actionnetwork.org>
Sent: Monday, October 16, 2023 9:40 AM
To: Ellis, Paige
Subject: More lanes = more traffic

External Email - Exercise Caution

Council Member Paige Ellis,

I am a native Austinite and remember as a kid going to Bull Creek before 2222 and 360 existed. My mom and grandmother told me stories of the Dallas Highway, before I35. Of course, times change and we are now a large city. That said, we need large city options, not more of the 1950s same car-centric approach. That has ended in extreme sprawl and car traffic everywhere. We need options like more transit and better cycling and pedestrian infrastructure.

I live on Duval St which parallels 35 and we will experience so much more traffic during construction as well. And I fear that we will not see any relief of cut-through traffic even as we get to the end (if we last that long and don't give up and move out of Austin). If people don't have options they will continue to only use cars and fill up those lanes that get built. More suburbs with less expensive homes will spring up and the cycle will never end.

Even if everyone switched to electric vehicles, we are still enabling sprawl into the hill country and other natural areas. And cycling and transit will still be behind and second class / red headed step child level. With the sprawl and the enabling of land conversion to sodded lawns we see decreased ability of the landscape to help with carbon sinks - which is VERY important for combatting climate change.

This is SUCH an important issue and we really need to stand up for the future of Austin and our world.

Laura Carbonneau

4534 Duval St
Austin, Texas 78751

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From: Shannon Turner <info_email.actionnetwork.org>
Sent: Monday, October 16, 2023 9:39 AM
To: Ellis, Paige
Subject: Oppose the I-35 expansion through Austin

External Email - Exercise Caution

Council Member Paige Ellis,

I live in District 1 in northeast Austin and am writing to urge you to oppose the I-35 expansion through Austin. This expansion will create an even greater scar through the city with accompanying pollution and increased car-dependence in the region. The city will lose tax revenue from properties being seized for the expansion and have the huge financial burden of paying for and maintaining any caps placed on the highway. We cannot continue to expand highways in perpetuity. We cannot continue to subsidize cars for all our transportation needs. They are the most expensive, least efficient, most dangerous, most mentally and physically unhealthy, and most environmentally damaging form of transit. Instead, as a growing city, Austin needs meaningful transit options which will make the city healthier, happier, and more prosperous, not ever-growing costly and damaging highways.

Thank you,
Shannon Clark
District 1

Shannon Turner

6601 CARISBROOKE LN
Austin, Texas 78754-5701

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From: Veronica Carrillo <info_email.actionnetwork.org>
Sent: Monday, October 16, 2023 9:38 AM
To: Ellis, Paige
Subject: Strong Opposition to I-35 Expansion

External Email - Exercise Caution

Council Member Paige Ellis,

To the Austin City Council Members,

I am writing to express my firm opposition to the proposed expansion of I-35. While I may not reside in Austin, I believe it is imperative to address the broader implications of this project that extend far beyond the city limits. As someone deeply concerned about the environment and its impact on our world, I urge you to consider the far-reaching consequences of this endeavor.

Expanding I-35 is not just a local issue; it's a matter that affects our entire region and contributes to the worldwide problem of environmental degradation. Here are my concerns:

Worsening Congestion: History has shown that expanding highways does not alleviate congestion; instead, it often exacerbates it. The Katy Freeway expansion is a glaring example of this. I fear that widening I-35 will bring similar results, causing more gridlock on the roads, which is detrimental to our community's quality of life.

Health Implications: Poor air quality resulting from increased vehicular traffic is a significant concern. It not only affects the residents of Austin but also neighboring areas. This project could lead to a decline in air quality, posing health risks to everyone.

Climate Change: Perhaps the most pressing issue of our time is climate change. The estimated emissions from this expansion are alarming, equivalent to that of a coal plant.

Dependency on Cars: Expanding I-35 will encourage more car use, making it even harder for people to explore alternative modes of transportation. An influx of 100,000 more cars a day

into the city is a step in the wrong direction, diverting resources from sustainable transportation solutions.

I strongly advocate for alternative approaches, such as the Rethink35 proposal or prioritizing public transit and other sustainable modes of transportation. It's crucial that our leaders and government agencies address local traffic concerns but also contribute positively to our global environment.

In conclusion, I implore you to consider the lasting consequences of the I-35 expansion. The world is facing a climate crisis, and we must make responsible choices that align with our shared commitment to a healthier, more sustainable future.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,

Vero Ann Carrillo

Veronica Carrillo

1026 E. California Ave.
El Paso, Texas 79902

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From: Robyn Hendrix <info_email.actionnetwork.org>
Sent: Monday, October 16, 2023 9:36 AM
To: Ellis, Paige
Subject: I-35 Expansion

External Email - Exercise Caution

Council Member Paige Ellis,

I am a resident of Travis County and a car owner. I support agenda item 45 and urge Council Members to stand in opposition to the I-35 expansion. Historically, it has been shown time and time again that adding additional lanes does nothing to decrease the amount of congestion and, in fact, only increases the amount of traffic. The issue at hand is not the number of available lanes, but the number of cars on the road as mass public transportation is borderline nonexistent throughout the state. This plan does nothing for citizens of Texas who cannot or do not wish to rely on driving and car ownership as their primary source of transportation, whether that be because of age, disability, or affordability. Council Members should not waste taxpayer money on solutions that have already been shown to exacerbate the very problem they are intended to solve.

Additionally, increasing the number of cars on the road and destroying surrounding greenery is hazardous to the environment. The increased pollution will add to the climate crisis we are already facing and negatively affect the air quality of the surrounding area. After the abnormally hot and dry summer we just had, which is set to become almost unlivably hotter and dryer in coming years if we keep up this pace, Texas should be looking towards more ecologically sound transportation options wherever possible. Council Members should instead implement a plan that heavily emphasizes mass transit, bikeability, and walkability, which would not only be more ecologically sound, but more accessible to all citizens, not just the ones with cars.

Robyn Hendrix

2508 W 12th St
Austin, Texas 78703

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From: Merrell Foote <info_email.actionnetwork.org>
Sent: Monday, October 16, 2023 9:35 AM
To: Ellis, Paige
Subject: Oppose the I-35 Expansion Project

External Email - Exercise Caution

Council Member Paige Ellis,

I am a resident of the Mueller neighborhood, which is adjacent to I-35 and will be significantly impacted by TxDOT's proposed expansion project. I am opposed to this project and I believe there are other better alternatives. Please vote for agenda item 45 in opposition to the I-35 expansion.

I am against expanding I-35 because it will further tear our city apart by creating an even bigger physical, economic and cultural divide in our increasingly vibrant, cohesive downtown area. Traffic will be a nightmare for years to come and congestion, pollution and noise will increase significantly if this project goes forward.

Instead TxDOT should remove the toll on SH-130 and expand it as necessary to accommodate traffic currently traveling through Austin to north and south destinations. When built, 130 was presented as an alternative route for trucks and cars traffic traveling through Austin. But the toll has discouraged drivers, especially commercial vehicles, from using this route. This weekend we took I-35 South to Schertz to view the eclipse and traffic there was hell. We took 130 back, which was a breeze but cost about \$11 in tolls one way.

I-35 has been a danger and a curse for our community ever since it was built. I would like to see the hazardous upper deck removed and the lower road redesigned to improve safety. I also like the proposal to add more east-west boulevards with pedestrian and bicycle lanes above the highway to reconnect the east and west communities that were separated when I-35 was original built. Adding a toll to I-35 through downtown would pay for these improvements and encourage drivers to take 130 instead if the toll on 130 is removed.

Thank you,
Merrell Foote
2628 Tom Miller Street
Austin, Texas 78723

Merrell Foote

2628 Tom Miller Street
Austin, Texas 78723

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From: Carly Boland <info_email.actionnetwork.org>
Sent: Monday, October 16, 2023 9:32 AM
To: Ellis, Paige
Subject: POSTPONE TxDOT and CAMPO funding

External Email - Exercise Caution

Council Member Paige Ellis,

I am a resident of East Austin (78723) and I support agenda item 45 and urge Council Members to stand in opposition to the I-35 expansion.

I OPPOSE expanding I-35 because this project will worsen climate change the estimated emissions are the equivalent of a coal plant. It will also make it more difficult to get around an already pedestrian unfriendly city without a car as the project is expected to bring an additional 100,000 cars a day into the city.

Please POSTPONE TxDOT and CAMPO funding for this project.

Carly Boland

5110 Ravensdale Lane
Austin, Texas 78723

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From: Trevor Akin <info_email.actionnetwork.org>
Sent: Monday, October 16, 2023 9:31 AM
To: Ellis, Paige
Subject: Against I-35 Expansion

External Email - Exercise Caution

Council Member Paige Ellis,

Hello! My name is Trevor Akin. I live in Leander and work in North Austin. I'm writing in support of Agenda item 45 and against I-35 expansion. The biggest reason to oppose I-35 expansion is the little known but well documented fact that highway expansion makes traffic worse, while at the same time increasing emissions, harming respiratory health for residents, displacing businesses and vulnerable people, dividing communities, and increasing long-term maintenance and infrastructure costs. Quite a lot of negative effects! On the positive side, after a long time of slow downs due to construction, Austin would experience about 1-2yrs of better connectivity before traffic resumed previous terrible levels, but with greater emissions, less small businesses, and worse health for Austinites. This happens because the presence of a bigger highway attracts more drivers and car-oriented development, and ultimately a highway moves few people for the amount of space it takes up. What has been proven to be better for cities around the world is to limit highways going into the heart of a city, and work to provide multiple modes of transportation, especially high-density transportation like trains, busses, biking and walking. There's no question that we should ask CAMPO and TxDOT to pause funding on the expansion while we find a solution that will actually connect people for the long term without harming our air and creating more traffic. Thank you for your time and service on the city council.

Trevor Akin

2239 Calvert Dr.
Leander, Texas 78641

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Balderrama, Guillermo

From: Leo Anderson <
Sent: Monday, October 16, 2023 9:31 AM
To: Ellis, Paige
Subject: Please support agenda item 45

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Council Member Paige Ellis,

Hi Councilwoman Alter,

I am one of your constituents who rides my bike every day. Please oppose I35 expansion by supporting clean air agenda item 45. I look at the air quality index daily and decide whether to ride in the middle of the day. I generally ride in the morning when the air is slightly cleaner.

Please oppose the expansion of I35. My health is at stake. Most every ride takes me to the I35 vicinity, where the traffic and loss of decent air quality is appalling.

Please support your constituent humans by supporting a traffic move to SH130. Let's make our city more livable for humans. Thank you, Leo Anderson, 11312 Yucca Dr 78759 512 545 0241

Leo Anderson

11312 Yucca Dr
Austin, Texas 78759

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From: Eric Benavides <info_email.actionnetwork.org>
Sent: Monday, October 16, 2023 9:30 AM
To: Ellis, Paige
Subject: vote "YES" for agenda item 45

External Email - Exercise Caution

Council Member Paige Ellis,

Hi Natasha,

As a resident of your district, I wanted to let you know that I support agenda item 45 and urge you as my Council Member and all others to stand in opposition to the I-35 expansion.

Its obvious from other major cities like LA that expanding doesn't solve the congestion and appears to invite more. Besides that, this is a very clean city with great air quality that will drastically change as a result of the additional traffic. We have seen some of the worst summers the last two years and know that greenhouse gases directly expound this as does additional black asphalt - more of which will be introduced through this project. Not only does this project not improve the situation but it will also decrease the quality of life in this city.

Please vote YES!

Eric Benavides

1132 Lott Ave # A
Austin, Texas 78721

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From: Gregory Bertrand <info_email.actionnetwork.org>
Sent: Monday, October 16, 2023 9:29 AM
To: Ellis, Paige
Subject: Against I-35 expansion.

External Email - Exercise Caution

Council Member Paige Ellis,

I urge you to stand with Rethink-35 in our opposition to the I-35 expansion. Expanding the highway will not work. More lanes means more traffic, more air and noise pollution, and will further divide our city. Please stop it.

Gregory Bertrand

5453 Burnet Rd
Austin, Texas 78756

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From: Andrew Woodward <info_email.actionnetwork.org>
Sent: Monday, October 16, 2023 9:27 AM
To: Ellis, Paige
Subject: I-35 Expansion

External Email - Exercise Caution

Council Member Paige Ellis,

I support agenda item 45 and urge Council Members to stand in opposition to the I-35 expansion.

I OPPOSE expanding I-35 because this will worsen congestion in our entire region, including where I live. Expanding highways never improves and often worsens congestion, as we saw from the Katy Freeway expansion.

Andrew Woodward

795 Two Creeks Lane
Austin, Texas 78737

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From: Natasha Nguyen <info_email.actionnetwork.org>
Sent: Monday, October 16, 2023 9:27 AM
To: Ellis, Paige
Subject: Stop I 35 Expansion

External Email - Exercise Caution

Council Member Paige Ellis,

Expanding I 35 will not solve traffic problems. Please consider investing in public transportation instead

Natasha Nguyen

620 west 51st apt 107
Austin, Texas 78751

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From: Neo Jang <info_email.actionnetwork.org>
Sent: Monday, October 16, 2023 9:26 AM
To: Ellis, Paige
Subject: I oppose I-35 expansion and support agenda item 45

External Email - Exercise Caution

Council Member Paige Ellis,

The way to fight traffic congestion is not building more roadways and widening highways. It is providing safe & practical alternative to driving, so that people aren't obligated to drive, where driving is the only option. Having many viable options will improve the quality of life for everyone in the community.

Neo Jang

3221 Caterina Ln,
College station, Texas 77845

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From: Noah Lawrence <info_email.actionnetwork.org>
Sent: Monday, October 16, 2023 9:25 AM
To: Ellis, Paige
Subject: Save our city

External Email - Exercise Caution

Council Member Paige Ellis,

It is with great concern that I send this message to you. It has been proven that impending expansion of I-35 will not reduce congestion, which is the primary goal of the project. Instead it will further fracture communities, increase the dependency on costly vehicles on citizens already stretched thin, and negatively impact the climate. Now is the time to invest in tried-and-true solutions. It is time to bring adequate public transit accessible to all Austinites. It is time to invest in dense housing projects that enable individuals to walk or bike to their frequent nearby destinations. I have seen that many roads have been retrofitted with bike lanes, but how can they be expected to be used if riders have nowhere to go, or they are in constant fear of being severely injured by a machine many times heavier than they are? These questions need to be the focus of our city. More than ever, the future of the city depends on it. Oppose the expansion of I-35; hear the voices of your constituents.

Noah Lawrence

6500 Champion Grandview Way Apt 8112
Austin, Texas 78750

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Balderrama, Guillermo

From: Sylvia Moore <
Sent: Monday, October 16, 2023 9:24 AM
To: Ellis, Paige
Subject: Stop I35 expansion

You don't often get email from [\[redacted\]](#) [Learn why this is important](#)

External Email - Exercise Caution

Council Member Paige Ellis,

I strongly urge you to stop the I35 expansion plan! I live in the Cherrywood neighborhood and have for over 10 years. I am VERY concerned about the environmental impact to our neighborhood that is adjacent to I35 in central East Austin. Expanding I35 will cause even MORE pollution and congestion in our and other central neighborhoods that are close to I35 and worsen climate change! PLEASE stop this plan before it is too late. I AM FOR changing I35 to a boulevard and redesigning SH-130 to be the interstate... there is no reason for I35 to continue to go through central Austin!

Sylvia Moore

3305 Cherrywood Rd.
Austin, Texas 78722

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From: Bonnie Cox <info_email.actionnetwork.org>
Sent: Monday, October 16, 2023 9:24 AM
To: Ellis, Paige
Subject: Please consider our environmental future

External Email - Exercise Caution

Council Member Paige Ellis,

I support agenda item 45 and urge Council Members to stand in opposition to the I-35 expansion on behalf of my unborn son, who deserves to breathe safe, clean air.

Bonnie Cox

7237 Ellington Cir
Austin , Texas 78724

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From: marie camino <info_email.actionnetwork.org>
Sent: Monday, October 16, 2023 9:24 AM
To: Ellis, Paige
Subject: Support agenda item 45

External Email - Exercise Caution

Council Member Paige Ellis,

Hello,

My name is Marie Camino and I live off Oltorf and I-35. My life would be directly impacted by the expansion in more ways than one. In addition to creating horrific traffic conditions and taking some of our most beautiful green space to build this expansion, the GHG emissions and impervious cover created by this expansion would negatively impact the lives of all Austinites. Please support Item 45 and stand in opposition to this expansion as a whole. In fact, a resolution is not strong enough and I urge the Council to create the most binding laws within Austin jurisdiction to prevent the expansion.

Thank you,
Marie Camino

marie camino

501 east oltorf st. apt 113
Austin, Texas 78704

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From: Sarah Gerson <info_email.actionnetwork.org>
Sent: Monday, October 16, 2023 9:22 AM
To: Ellis, Paige
Subject: I35 mess

External Email - Exercise Caution

Council Member Paige Ellis,

Hello! I support agenda item 45 and am in full support of alternative studies and plans for I 35! Do not expand! Send it underground! Create a park! Get more metro rail stops. Think like a conservationist and think weird! Please don't expand and destroy houses. Please support agenda item 45.

Sarah Gerson

4725 Red River Street
Austin, Texas 78751

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From: Rylee Ross <info_email.actionnetwork.org>
Sent: Monday, October 16, 2023 9:22 AM
To: Ellis, Paige
Subject: Opposed I-35 expansion, support item 45

External Email - Exercise Caution

Council Member Paige Ellis,

I am a resident of South Austin for over 25 years, expanding I-35 like this will only worsen the congestion we already face. This creates an even more dangerous environment for all those that travel this area without a car. It's nearly impossible to travel safely as it is and this will diminish the little opportunity we have for crossing over. This will be a detriment to the small pieces of nature we have left around I-35, especially considering any greenery proposed in the project that would help to cool the oppressive heat caused by this expansion is not funded, not planned, and not "important" enough to be factored in. This will destroy any microclimate of cooling in Austin's heat bubble and cause me personal health problems with the worsening air quality. The last thing we want is for Austin to become known not only for its weird weather but for its weird air. I support agenda item 45 and urge you to do the same for the benefit of everyone living in, around, studying in, and visiting this city.

Rylee Ross

7709 Islander Dr
Austin, Texas 78749

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From: Karen Browning <info_email.actionnetwork.org>
Sent: Monday, October 16, 2023 9:22 AM
To: Ellis, Paige
Subject: Proposed I-35 Expansion through Austin

External Email - Exercise Caution

Council Member Paige Ellis,

I am a resident of Austin, a parent and home owner. I support agenda item 45 and urge Council Members to stand in opposition to the I-35 expansion.

I OPPOSE expanding I-35 because this will worsen congestion in our entire region, including where I live. Expanding highways never improves and often worsens congestion, as we saw from the Katy Freeway expansion. This will be bad for my health and that of my family because of worse air quality. We live near 183 and regularly travel I-35 to reach our work, schools, friends, family and entertainment destinations. Traffic is terrible and this plan does not solve the issue - instead it's just making room for more traffic.

This project will worsen climate change the estimated emissions are the equivalent of a coal plant. It will make it harder to get around without a car. The project is expected to bring an additional 100,000 cars a day into the city which will require more car infrastructure at the expense of other modes.

I am FOR projects that will increase the availability and frequency of public transit and better routes around Austin and BETWEEN our Metro areas. Having high speed trains between Houston, San Antonio, Austin and Dallas would be a huge benefit to Texans and would alleviate traffic within our state. I am FOR projects that would look at routing out-of-town traffic around the dense, downtown area (to 130 or 45 for example). I am FOR projects that look at ways to decrease the amount of exhaust concentrated in our central, downtown area. Both of my children's schools are located near I-35 and I worry about the pollution reaching their school yards.

Please push back against this project and counter with proposals that consider Austin residents and not big developers.

Karen Browning

1519 Desert Quail Lane
Austin, Texas 78758

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From: Caleigh Sowder <info_email.actionnetwork.org>
Sent: Monday, October 16, 2023 9:21 AM
To: Ellis, Paige
Subject: Oppose I-35 Expansion

External Email - Exercise Caution

Council Member Paige Ellis,

I am a resident of Austin, located in the 78759 zip code. I support agenda item 45 and implore Council Members to oppose I-35 expansion.

I OPPOSE I-35 expansion because it won't improve traffic. It will bring more and more cars through the heart of the city, which will make it even more difficult for residents like myself to go about our daily lives. I avoid the highway already because of the numerous accidents, and the accidents will only get worse as more and more cars come through the city. Avoiding the highway like other residents do has also led to more congestion on our streets, making it difficult to access local businesses.

Not only that, but the air quality will greatly decrease and the influx of emissions will contribute to climate change. These intense winters and summers already make living in Texas, especially Austin, a challenge. I have experienced being without power because of the freezes twice now, and I have only lived in Austin for two and a half years.

I am FOR a public transit-first project. The public transportation that we have now is not enough. More people will continue to move to the city, and we must focus on other ways to alleviate traffic while also providing equitable access to all that this city has to offer. I have multiple experiences of buses never coming, waiting at a bus stop with no shelter on a blistering hot day, and having to walk on the side of the road instead of a sidewalk to get to a bus stop. We must rethink the broken infrastructure we already have.

Caleigh Sowder

9617 Great Hills Trl, Apt 1713
Austin, Texas 78759

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From: Drew Turney <info_email.actionnetwork.org>
Sent: Monday, October 16, 2023 9:21 AM
To: Ellis, Paige
Subject: I oppose I35 Expansion

External Email - Exercise Caution

Council Member Paige Ellis,

As a resident of Austin and one concerned with responsible public works projects I oppose the expansion of I35.

First, there is too much evidence that shows highest expansion does not reduce traffic. If you want to reduce traffic make public transit more desirable and keep locals off the highways.

This expansion project will also displace businesses and residents. This does a disservice to locals and will force people to travel more to access similar amenities or find places to live.

This is a wholly unnecessary project that only serves to put money in the pockets of state government officials and construction executives while damaging local Austin culture and environment.

We don't need a Katy Freeway in the middle of Austin. That's not who we are and it's not who we want to be.

Drew Turney

12005 Gaelic Drive
Austin, Texas 78754

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From: Alexander Pasch <info_email.actionnetwork.org>
Sent: Monday, October 16, 2023 9:21 AM
To: Ellis, Paige
Subject: I-35 Expansion

External Email - Exercise Caution

Council Member Paige Ellis,

Hello Council-members,

I am a member of District 5 and am strongly against I-35 expansion for numerous reasons. Chief among them are the noise and particulate pollution it would bring; the economic value it would destroy by forcing valuable land to be turned into highway; the reduction in walkability/bikability, safety, and quality of life for people who want to be and live in the area; and the fact that the money could be best used elsewhere.

Instead, we should explore alternatives, like putting a toll on I-35 and removing the toll on 130. I-35 should be more expensive to drive on than any highway in the area that avoids downtown Austin. Ideally downtowns should be highway free but the fact that a large free highway goes through the heart of the city, while 183 and 130 go around downtown and are tolled is INSANE! (Talk about perverse incentives) We should encourage people to do their driving on the outside of the city as much as possible for safety, pollution, congestion, economic, and other reasons.

Please do anything you can to prevent this foolish and harmful highway expansion.

Your fellow Austinite,
Alexander Pasch

Alexander Pasch

704 Josephine St
Austin, Texas 78704

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From: Brittany Woedl <info_email.actionnetwork.org>
Sent: Monday, October 16, 2023 9:20 AM
To: Ellis, Paige
Subject: Do better for Austin

External Email - Exercise Caution

Council Member Paige Ellis,

I live in Hancock neighborhood, but previously lived in Anderson Mill and Crestview neighborhoods. From anywhere in Austin, taking I-35 makes no sense. Austin needs to think long term about the health of the city and the people within it, which should never include a highway right down the middle of the city. The East side is vibrant and bustling, and we deserve to be connected to it instead of having to cross a freeway.

I support agenda item 45 and urge Council Members to stand in opposition to the I-35 expansion.

The city needs to explore better alternatives. Using SH-130 as the new interstate seems like an easy choice and that would remove non-local traffic. Let's route local traffic to Mopac, or, like in many cases, just with an arterial or boulevard instead of I-35. I often have local drives that are only 5-10 min away where I need to get on the highway just to get to Mueller for example. It makes absolutely no sense, it's dangerous, and it's not befitting a city of our size trying to plan for the next stage.

Austin has already suffered losses of many vibrant small businesses due to the affordability crisis. To support the businesses that actually make our city a great place to live, we need traffic & people to be moving at a pace where they can see, stop, and visit. We need to do better than routing people via a highway using our most valuable land. Especially because it's just going to lead to MORE bumper to bumper traffic instead of any real solution to congestion. There is hardly anyone that supports this project, but most have given up in the ability to actually do anything about it. Please, for the sake of our city and those of us who live here, do the hard thing and give us a solution to actually make things better for us.

Brittany Woedl

822 Harris Ave

Austin, Texas 78705

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From: Michael McNoldy <info_email.actionnetwork.org>
Sent: Monday, October 16, 2023 9:19 AM
To: Ellis, Paige
Subject: Vote YES on item 45.

External Email - Exercise Caution

Council Member Paige Ellis,

Dear City of Austin Council Members,

The proposed I-35 expansion is a slow rolling disaster in the making.

The cost to Austin will be significant, and I do not speak in terms of dollars only. Congestion, pollution and the loss of important local businesses are but a few examples of the negative consequences of this project.

Pollution will become far worse than it already is along the I-35 corridor. Families and businesses will be negatively affected for decades to come. This will also impact Austin's commitment to a sustainable future.

As a resident of the Boggy Creek neighborhood, which runs parallel along the east side of 35, I am dreading this expansion. Many of my neighbors will be affected as well.

I am also a vulnerable road user, and use my bicycle to get to work and to run errands daily. More cars in my immediate area is a direct threat to my safety and the safety of others like me.

As a long time Austin resident and voter, I strongly urge every member of the city of Austin council to vote YES on item 45. We must explore other solutions.

Thank you for your time and attention to this matter.

Cordially,
Michael McNoldy
District 9 Constituent

Michael McNoldy

1410 Ashwood Rd
Austin, Texas 78724

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Balderrama, Guillermo

From: David Hunter <
Sent: Monday, October 16, 2023 9:19 AM
To: Ellis, Paige
Subject: Proposed expansion of IH-35 in Central Austin

You don't often get email from [redacted] [Learn why this is important](#)

External Email - Exercise Caution

Council Member Paige Ellis,

Dear Council Members, I'm an owner-resident in the Parker Ave area of south-east Austin. I strongly oppose the expansion of IH-35 due to the increase in noise, atmospheric pollution, and other environmental degradations. Please support agenda item 45 and oppose the I-35 expansion to the fullest extent possible.

Thanks

David Hunter

2004 Teagle Dr
Austin, Texas 78741

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From: Michael Meihaus <info_email.actionnetwork.org>
Sent: Monday, October 16, 2023 9:17 AM
To: Ellis, Paige
Subject: OPPOSE I-35 expansion - agenda item 45

External Email - Exercise Caution

Council Member Paige Ellis,

As a resident of district 9 and living within 100 yards of i-35 I am very concerned for the impact on my families health for a multitude of reasons including increased emissions and reduced air quality. I urge our council member Qadri and all members of city council to support agenda item 45 and to stand in opposition to this project. Thank you.

Michael Meihaus

1200 Norwood Road
AUSTIN, Texas 78722

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From: Mikaela Lewandowski <info_email.actionnetwork.org>
Sent: Monday, October 16, 2023 9:16 AM
To: Ellis, Paige
Subject: Say 'NO' to I-35 expansion

External Email - Exercise Caution

Council Member Paige Ellis,

I am a resident of the Eleven by Windsor Apartments.

I support agenda item 45 and urge Council Members to stand in opposition to the I-35 expansion.

I OPPOSE expanding I-35 because...

This will worsen congestion in our entire region, including where I live. Expanding highways never improves and often worsens congestion, as we saw from the Katy Freeway expansion.

This will be bad for my health and that of my family because of worse air quality.

This project will worsen climate change the estimated emissions are the equivalent of a coal plant

It will make it harder to get around without a car. The project is expected to bring an additional 100,000 cars a day into the city which will require more car infrastructure at the expense of other modes.

Mikaela Lewandowski

13535 Lyndhurst St
Tredyffrin Twp, Texas 78717

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From: Elizabeth Farris <info_email.actionnetwork.org>
Sent: Monday, October 16, 2023 9:16 AM
To: Ellis, Paige
Subject: Wider is insanity

External Email - Exercise Caution

Council Member Paige Ellis,

I'm 74 yo, lived in Austin since 1969. I cannot believe anyone would think widening I35 through downtown is a good idea. I spend a lot of time in Boston visiting my daughter, and I'm struck by the beauty of the Rose Kennedy Parkway. I'm incredulous that a multi-lane freeway once plowed through this historic part of the town and it's lovely harbor. Surely Austin can also do better and reclaim this part of downtown.

I support agenda item 45 and urge Council Members to stand in opposition to the I-35 expansion.

Elizabeth Farris

5410 Aurora Drive
Austin, Texas 78756

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From: Ann Landeros <info_email.actionnetwork.org>
Sent: Monday, October 16, 2023 9:16 AM
To: Ellis, Paige
Subject: Oppose IH35 Expansion through Central Austin

External Email - Exercise Caution

Council Member Paige Ellis,

TXDOT's current design to expand IH35 through Central Austin is untenable. If built, the expanded highway will be an ecological disaster, adversely impacting air and water quality, increasing noise pollution, and creating flooding issues. Worse, it is unlikely to alleviate traffic congestion. Through traffic can and should be diverted around Austin. For much less cost, TXDOT could arrange to remove or reduce IH130 tolls to encourage through traffic to avoid IH35 in Central Austin. Please vote in favor of the resolution to pause the IH35 expansion. Thank you for your attention to this matter.

A. Landeros

Ann Landeros

1507alta vista
Austin, Texas 78704

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From: Carmen Romano <info_email.actionnetwork.org>
Sent: Monday, October 16, 2023 9:15 AM
To: Ellis, Paige
Subject: Oppose I-35 Expansion

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Council Member Paige Ellis,

I'm a resident of North Austin and believe i-35 expansion will only worsen congestion. I lived in Houston and have seen that these highway expansions aimed at reducing congestion end up worsening it (example Katy Freeway).

I also think DoT should focus more on improving public transportation and making Metro rails and buses more reliable so people actually feel confident in using them.

Austin is still small enough to make an example in Texas of a well-connected city, and I don't see how increasing car dependency would help.

Thanks!

Carmen

Carmen Romano

11009 Alterra Pkwy
Austin, Texas 78758

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From: Jonathan Zelazo <info_email.actionnetwork.org>
Sent: Monday, October 16, 2023 9:13 AM
To: Ellis, Paige
Subject: Rethink 35

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Council Member Paige Ellis,

Good morning. I am writing again to oppose TXDot's existing plan to expand I-35. I beg the city and txdot to analyze any other possible solution to connecting our city and creating more useable land downtown. Houston and Los Angeles should be a clear examples that adding lanes doesn't alleviate congestion. I would also like to see a wide driver education campaign about friendly merging when lanes end and at highway ramps. More courtesy in the average driving style would also alleviate a lot of issues.

Jonathan Zelazo

7416 South Glenn Street
Austin, Texas 78744

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From: Anthony Whiting <info_email.actionnetwork.org>
Sent: Monday, October 16, 2023 9:13 AM
To: Ellis, Paige
Subject: No Plan, No I-35 Expansion - Vote YES on Item 45

External Email - Exercise Caution

Council Member Paige Ellis,

Hello City Council,

I am a resident of District 2 here in Austin and I am voicing my support of agenda item 45 at the October 19 meeting. We just endured an unprecedented summer heatwave in our community and across the globe. Austin does not need to be stuck with 20th century ideas of transportation that will just carve deeper into the heart of our city making our people sicker and less mobile in the process. There are better alternatives that can be brought to the table that do not exacerbate greenhouse emissions.

Anthony Whiting

11613 Gemmer St
Del Valle, Texas 78617

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Balderrama, Guillermo

From: Mike Mount <
Sent: Monday, October 16, 2023 9:13 AM
To: Ellis, Paige
Subject: I Oppose the I-35 Central Expansion Project

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Council Member Paige Ellis,

Hello. I am a resident of the East Riverside area and I would like to voice my opposition for the I-35 expansion project. The project goals are inappropriate for a central city as thru traffic should be diverted around the city as TxDOT does elsewhere. The project goes against many city goals including pollution, climate, mode shift, safety, inclusion and general quality of life. It is imperative that the city council pushes CAMPO to repeal funding for the project. Thank you all for your continued support for Austinites.

Mike Mount

11725 Eragon dr
Austin, Texas 78754

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From: James Seppi <info_email.actionnetwork.org>
Sent: Monday, October 16, 2023 9:13 AM
To: Ellis, Paige
Subject: Please Support Agenda Item 45 and Stand Opposed to I-35 Expansion

External Email - Exercise Caution

Council Member Paige Ellis,

I'm a resident of District 4, and I urge you all to support agenda item 45. TXDOT's current I-35 expansion plan will have generationally lasting deleterious impacts on the heart of Austin, environmentally and economically.

I would welcome exploration of other alternatives, like re-designating SH-130 or the Rethink35 proposal.

James Seppi

5413 Evans Ave
Austin , Texas 78751

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From: Drew Solyt <info_email.actionnetwork.org>
Sent: Monday, October 16, 2023 9:12 AM
To: Ellis, Paige
Subject: Please reconsider I35

External Email - Exercise Caution

Council Member Paige Ellis,

I am a resident of East Austin. I-35 runs right through the heart of where I live. I support agenda item 45 and strongly urge Council Members to stand in opposition to the I-35 expansion. It will make traffic worse, pollute the air I breathe and make it much harder for me to use my bike to commute to work and get around town. We need to reconsider this project and think about what's best for Austin residents, not what's best for construction companies

Drew Solyt

2001 Ed. Bluestein Blvd, Apt. 2314
Austin, Texas 78721

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Balderrama, Guillermo

From: Colin Keeley <
Sent: Monday, October 16, 2023 9:12 AM
To: Ellis, Paige
Subject: I OPPOSE I-35 expansion

You don't often get email from [REDACTED] [Learn why this is important](#)

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Council Member Paige Ellis,

I OPPOSE I-35 expansion

Colin Keeley

76 Julius St
Austin, Texas 78702

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From: Daniel Stine <info_email.actionnetwork.org>
Sent: Monday, October 16, 2023 9:11 AM
To: Ellis, Paige
Subject: I live one block from 35

External Email - Exercise Caution

Council Member Paige Ellis,

Please make I-35 corridor in Austin a mixed use transit corridor without cars/roads. I ride my bike to work every day and I almost die every time because we prioritize cars over everything else.

Daniel Stine

1203 cloverleaf dr
Austin , Texas 78723

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From: Mari Russ-Wolf <info_email.actionnetwork.org>
Sent: Monday, October 16, 2023 9:10 AM
To: Ellis, Paige
Subject: Opposed to I35 Expansion + Negative Health/Environmental Impacts

External Email - Exercise Caution

Council Member Paige Ellis,

I am a resident of Cherrywood and I oppose the expansion of I35 through the central core of Austin. I support agenda item 45 and urge Council Members to stand in opposition to the I-35 expansion.

This will worsen traffic, will be detrimental to meeting our climate goals, worsen health impacts, and make it more difficult to move around town without a car as it will further divide the city with an even wider gash.

I am for the Rethink35 Austin plan. Please stand up to TXDoT and tell them NO

Mari Russ-Wolf

1111 E 31st St
Austin, Texas 78722

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From: Jimmie Burnett <info_email.actionnetwork.org>
Sent: Monday, October 16, 2023 9:09 AM
To: Ellis, Paige
Subject: I35 expansion

External Email - Exercise Caution

Council Member Paige Ellis,

I am opposed to the expansion of I 35. I live one block from I 35 behind the fiesta store. adding more lanes will not reduce or help the traffic. it will only make the congestion worse. It will also reduce the air quality for people living near I 35. there are other solutions. rerouting traffic especially large trucks around Austin is one possibility. there are so many cars that are forced to travel through Austin to get to their final destination. They should also be rerouted. The expansion of I 35 through downtown Austin will disrupt the lives of so many people, and so many businesses. please reconsider and come up with a different solution. Thank you.

Jimmie Burnett

1300 Bradwood Rd
Austin, Texas 78722

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From: Megan Raby <info_email.actionnetwork.org>
Sent: Monday, October 16, 2023 9:09 AM
To: Ellis, Paige
Subject: Please stand in opposition to the I-35 expansion

External Email - Exercise Caution

Council Member Paige Ellis,

I am a resident of Windsor Park, Austin, and I oppose TxDOT's plans for I-35. I oppose expansion of I-35 because it will make my city less livable, increasing congestion, pollution, and—above all—climate chaos. This project will worsen climate change, negating the city's plans for decarbonization. The I-35 expansion will produce emissions that are the equivalent of adding a coal plant.

Highway expansions DON'T work. They worsen congestion (as we saw with the Katy Freeway); create air, noise, and water pollution; and emit carbon that makes climate change worse. TxDOT's process ignores induced demand, construction impacts, particulate matter pollution from tire wear, the failure of almost all highway expansions, the success of freeway removals, and its traffic modeling is flawed. All this construction for just a few years of potential congestion relief does not make sense—we need to think long term about how to create sustainable, clean, equitable transit. I support alternatives like ReThink I-35's proposal, redesignating another highway such as SH-130 as an interstate, and, most of all, a public transit-first project.

Megan Raby

1303 Ridgemont Dr
Austin, Texas 78723

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From: Macy Cotton <info_email.actionnetwork.org>
Sent: Monday, October 16, 2023 9:09 AM
To: Ellis, Paige
Subject: 10/19 Agenda--Support for Agenda Item 45

External Email - Exercise Caution

Council Member Paige Ellis,

I live on the east side of town next to 35. I am worried about the air quality impact of an I-35 expansion. In addition, I have been grateful for the recent changes to the east side, such as bike lanes on e. 12th and Manor Road, and I feel like these changes will be for naught if 35 is expanded--it will make pedestrian and bike travel much more difficult from the east side to central Austin.

I am urging you to support agenda item 45 on October 19 to postpone any funding of the I-35 expansion. Thank you for your time!

Macy Cotton

1707 Clifford Avenue
Austin, Texas 78702

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From: Hannah Neel <info_email.actionnetwork.org>
Sent: Monday, October 16, 2023 9:08 AM
To: Ellis, Paige
Subject: Vote YES on agenda item 45

External Email - Exercise Caution

Council Member Paige Ellis,

Dear councilors,

Thank you for your hard work and dedication to the city of Austin. I know you care about our city and want to make it a wonderful place for everyone who lives here and visits. Please vote yes on agenda item 45. The I-35 expansion proposed by the Texas Department of Transportation will only worsen traffic in our city and choke our neighborhoods with pollution. We have to explore alternatives to this enormous waste of tax payer money. That money would be much better spent putting in more public transportation options to give people alternatives to driving! Nearly every major city in America has a rail option and we have been slow on the uptake. It's time to make a good decision for future generations. This highway expansion will devastate our city. Please please please vote YES on agenda item 45!

Sincerely yours,
Hannah & Collin Neel

Hannah Neel

732 Adler Way
San Marcos , Texas 78666

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From: Mayra Cerda-Gomez <info_email.actionnetwork.org>
Sent: Monday, October 16, 2023 9:07 AM
To: Ellis, Paige
Subject: I-35 expansion

External Email - Exercise Caution

Council Member Paige Ellis,

I am district 10 resident and oppose the I-Expansion because it will increase the traffic, pollution and climate change. Look for solutions that don't have as many negative effects.

Analyze carefully Rethink 35 proposal! It has more to offer the population and ecology.

Mayra Cerda-Gomez

Mayra Cerda-Gomez
Austin, Texas 78759

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From: Julian Munoz <info_email.actionnetwork.org>
Sent: Monday, October 16, 2023 9:06 AM
To: Ellis, Paige
Subject: Against expanding i35

External Email - Exercise Caution

Council Member Paige Ellis,

I have seen this happen in other cities. They think expanding the highway will help with congestion, but it just makes traffic worse, separates residents from amenities, and worse of all generates more CO2 emissions.

Please pass the motion to postpone the expansion of i35. For Austin to be a leading city of the 21st century we need more robust transport options, like public transit and bike roads. The city has been making great progress, and expanding the highway would erase a lot of it.

Consider designating a different road as interstate, if possible, and making the current i35 a transit corridor, with a bus rapid system and bike lanes. You can bike almost year round in Austin, let's take advantage of that!

Julian Munoz

300 Bowie St
Austin, Texas 78703

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From: Paige Hoffer <info_email.actionnetwork.org>
Sent: Monday, October 16, 2023 9:06 AM
To: Ellis, Paige
Subject: Stop the I-35 Expansion

External Email - Exercise Caution

Council Member Paige Ellis,

As a constituent and urban Studies major at the University of Texas, I am disappointed in TXDOT's environmental assessment. It's outdated and flat out wrong. This highway project needs to be taken seriously because it will not only affect our generation, but generations to come. I strongly support agenda item 45 and urge Council Members to stand in opposition to the I-35 expansion.

Paige Hoffer

2400 Seton Ave Austin, TX 7870
Austin, Texas 78705

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From: Leah Norman <info_email.actionnetwork.org>
Sent: Monday, October 16, 2023 9:05 AM
To: Ellis, Paige
Subject: Oppose I-35 Expansion

External Email - Exercise Caution

Council Member Paige Ellis,

I am a resident of Central East Austin and live within a mile and some change of I-35. It's a thoroughfare that I utilize and impacts my travel on the day to day.

I support agenda item 45 and urge Council Members to stand in opposition to the I-35 expansion.

I OPPOSE expanding I-35 because this will worsen congestion in our entire region, including where I live. Additionally, widening highways never improves and often worsens congestion, as we saw from the Katy Freeway expansion. This will be bad for my health and that of my family because of worse air quality.

This project will worsen climate change the estimated emissions are the equivalent of a coal plant. It will make it harder to get around without a car. The project is expected to bring an additional 100,000 cars a day into the city which will require more car infrastructure at the expense of other modes.

I support a variety of other proposals, including an investment in bike infrastructure, the Rethink35 proposal, redesignating another highway such as SH-130 as an interstate, a boulevard going through town, a public transit-first project, and more. There are plenty of creative alternatives to expanding a highway and worsening the public health of our community.

Thank you for your consideration,
Leah

2107 E 10th St

Leah Norman

2107 E 10th Street
Austin, Texas 78702

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From: Denise Kleinman <info_email.actionnetwork.org>
Sent: Sunday, October 15, 2023 9:17 PM
To: Ellis, Paige
Subject: Vote for item 45

External Email - Exercise Caution

Council Member Paige Ellis,

I'm following up my voice mail to ask Alison Alter to vote for the council's agenda item regarding the greenhouse gas emission impacts of the I35 expansion. I am a resident of District 10.

Let's do everything possible to stop a project with the potential to harm our children's air quality and health.

Given your political start on expanding parks and green spaces, I sincerely hope that you are on the right side of this issue. Even though our district isn't adjacent to the highway, we cannot allow a project to move forward that is antithetical to the type of transportation planning the future requires.

I support agenda item 45 and urge Council Members to stand in opposition to the I-35 expansion.

I OPPOSE expanding I-35 because This will worsen congestion in our entire region, including where I live. Expanding highways never improves and often worsens congestion, as we saw from the Katy Freeway expansion.

This project will worsen climate change the estimated emissions are the equivalent of a coal plant

It will make it harder to get around without a car. The project is expected to bring an additional 100,000 cars a day into the city which will require more car infrastructure at the expense of other modes.

I am FOR... redesignating another highway such as SH-130 as an interstate, a boulevard going through town, and a public transit-first project.

Denise Kleinman

8705 Mountainwood Cir
Austin, Texas 78759

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Balderrama, Guillermo

From: RUSSELL TAYLOR <
Sent: Sunday, October 15, 2023 8:42 PM
To: Ellis, Paige
Subject: IH35 Must Not Grow

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External Email - Exercise Caution

Council Member Paige Ellis,

The plan to expand IH35 is a backwards and harmful scheme that you must oppose, presently and specifically by supporting agenda item 45. Supporting TxDOT's retrograde and disastrous project is a morally bankrupt position that shows utter disregard for the health of your fellow Austinites, the integrity of our air, water, and soil, not to mention the stability of the global climate. If the thought of voting for any measure that fails to oppose the expansion should flit through your mind, remember that this summer's heat was fueled by the spew from the exhausts of the cars that have motored down IH35 for the past 50-plus years, and that your legacy will be stained irreparably by such a disgusting choice. Resolve all you please that Trees Are Good or Tacos Rule or Listen to Live Music, but right now you can make a real change for the better simply by not buckling to a very obviously bad plan.

Given your select power, you can protect your fellow Austinites - our lungs, our daily movements through our city, and our ability to connect with each other - by moving decisively with all of the considerable resources at your disposal to stymie the monstrous momentum of a century of inhumane highways ripping through the hearts of cities. If you need a place for cars to go, 130 is right there - fast, far from most pedestrians, and without many neighboring homes and businesses full of lungs to destroy.

I hope you will choose the people and the future over the cars and the past.

RUSSELL TAYLOR

1905 Rainy Meadows Dr
Austin, Texas 78758

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From: Parker Welch <info_email.actionnetwork.org>
Sent: Sunday, October 15, 2023 8:41 PM
To: Ellis, Paige
Subject: Support For Item 45

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Council Member Paige Ellis,

Hello,

I am writing in support of Item 45 because TXDOT's proposed I-35 expansion will dramatically increase carbon emissions, worsen air quality, increase vehicle collisions, and work directly counter to the city's investment in a modern transit system. At a minimum, TXDOT must accommodate the project design to the findings of CAMPO's emission reduction plan and the Austin MSA Climate Plan.

The searing temperatures of this summer demonstrate that we have lost the luxury of ignoring climate change. We can and must do whatever is within our power to prevent unchecked increases in emissions like those resulting from current plans for I-35.

Thank you,
Parker Welch

Parker Welch

4424 JACKSON AVE APT 492
AUSTIN, Texas 78731

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From: Katie Morrison <info_email.actionnetwork.org>
Sent: Saturday, October 14, 2023 7:55 PM
To: Ellis, Paige
Subject: I oppose widening 1-35

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Council Member Paige Ellis,

I have lived in Austin since 1988.

A lot has changed ! I enjoy many of the new things here, but traffic and constant construction are two things that I've seen many people leave because of .

I don't believe that widening I35 through town will have any positive effect on our city. I support alternatives for through-traffic. We can do better than this. This freeway project will create massive headaches for years in terms of commuting, create more pollution in the form of exhaust, tire debris, noise and environmental destruction that nobody I know wants.

I'd like to see and support some serious investments in better walkability, bike infrastructure, public transportation like trains or trams and busses. Nothing about this freeway expansion project provides any quality of life improvements to this city. It's an enormous waste of money.

Please oppose this destructive , polluting , giant scar and consider alternatives to putting MORE cars on the road through our beautiful city.

Katie Morrison

4515 S. 2nd St.
Austin, Texas 78745

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From: Lyman Labry <info_email.actionnetwork.org>
Sent: Friday, October 13, 2023 4:34 PM
To: Ellis, Paige
Subject: Support Agenda Item No. 45

External Email - Exercise Caution

Council Member Paige Ellis,

Hello,

As a constituent of Council District 7, I am writing to urge my Council Member Leslie Pool, and all Council Members, and Mayor Kirk Watson to Vote FOR Agenda item 45!

As you know, item 45 pertains to the greenhouse gas emissions impacts of expanding I-35. I want my City Council to oppose any project that worsens pollution and climate change.

In previous correspondence, I have urged alternative approaches to expanding I-35 such as those proposed by Re-Connect Austin and Re-Think Austin. In my honest opinion, these proposals are viable alternatives to TxDOT's current default approach of simply expanding the highway. Widening expressways to alleviate traffic does not work! The problem is exacerbated as the increased traffic that surely follows worsens pollution and climate change.

I want to see the money, time, and effort better spent. Let's try something different that will address Austin's traffic needs while at the same time promoting health, safety, and welfare and the quality of life for all of Austin's citizens rather cater to those who are just trying to pass through Austin as quickly as possible.

Won't you stand with me?

Thank you!

Lyman Labry

Lyman Labry

4614 Shoal Creek
Austin, Texas 78756

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From: Edgar Handal <info_email.actionnetwork.org>
Sent: Friday, October 13, 2023 2:26 PM
To: Ellis, Paige
Subject: Oppose I-35 expansion

External Email - Exercise Caution

Council Member Paige Ellis,

I live in Govalle neighborhood in District 3, and I oppose expanding I-35 because of the traffic, pollution, carbon emissions, and safety problems that will result from a widened highway. My family, especially my two little children, could be negatively impacted by the pollution and climate impacts of TxDOT's plan.

We should be supporting projects that put transit and alternate modes of transportation first and don't work against our mobility and climate goals.

Edgar Handal

1003 Linden St Unit A
Austin, Texas 78702

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From: Jack Spence <info_email.actionnetwork.org>
Sent: Friday, October 13, 2023 12:34 PM
To: Ellis, Paige
Subject: Please oppose I35 expansion

External Email - Exercise Caution

Council Member Paige Ellis,

Traffic is a problem in Austin. I35 expansion will make traffic worse. No highway expansion project anywhere has ever reduced congestion. This is a known fact.

Widening this highway will increase (already bad) pollution, causing many more unnecessary deaths of residents. Widening this highway will increase the (already high) number of car crashes, causing many more unnecessary deaths of residents. Worst of all, widening this highway will accelerate (already occurring) climate change, causing many more unnecessary deaths among residents and the global population.

Please put this money and energy toward known solutions to traffic congestion, such as frequent, reliable transit, and safe, protected bike lanes.

Jack Spence

8607 Green Valley
Austin, Texas 78759

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From: Robert Czajka <info_email.actionnetwork.org>
Sent: Friday, October 13, 2023 6:54 AM
To: Ellis, Paige
Subject: Widening is a Mistake

External Email - Exercise Caution

Council Member Paige Ellis,

Hi Leslie,

I advocate that it would be in the best interests of Austin residents to not widen I-35 through the city given the incomplete information we have now and current infrastructural circumstances the city is facing.

As TxDOT's Final Environmental Impact Statement currently states, widening the freeway wouldn't have a measurable impact on greenhouse gas emissions. However, it goes into no detail about how this conclusion is made.

Having just faced two of our three hottest summers ever (2022 and 2023) and being in a deepening drought, it's safe to say that we need more information before we can conclusively say expanding this highway is okay for the planet and Austin residents.

Furthermore, so much progress has been made on walkability and safety for pedestrians in the last decade since I've moved here, that it would be a shame to roll back a lot of that progress. Might a better solution be to re-designate another highway highway as I-35 through Austin that has less traffic, such as 183 or 130? These highways are comparatively very empty, only because people are dissuaded from using them since they have to pay tolls to do so and I-35 is free to drive on.

Thanks for reading my letter.

I hope the feedback I and others have given if helpful for making the decision to cast a vote for the better future of Austin and our planet.

Robert Czajka

7314 Wildcat Pass
Austin, Texas 78757

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From: Peggy Cope <info_email.actionnetwork.org>
Sent: Thursday, October 12, 2023 9:41 PM
To: Ellis, Paige
Subject: Agenda Item 45 and I-35 Expansion

External Email - Exercise Caution

Council Member Paige Ellis,

I'm a constituent of District 10, and I'm urging the Council to Vote for Agenda item 45 regarding the greenhouse gas emissions impacts of expanding I-35. I want City Council to oppose any project that worsens pollution and climate change. Anyone who has ever tried to drive down a Service Road with their window down knows the smell, taste, and lingering unpleasantness of traffic congestion on I-35. This will not help us improve our city's health and climate adaptation. I am in support of redesignating another highway, such as SH-130, as an Interstate, to get the worst of the pollution outside of the city proper.

Peggy Cope

10306 Morado Cove #265
Austin, Texas 78759

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From: Mayra Cerda-Gomez <info_email.actionnetwork.org>
Sent: Thursday, October 12, 2023 7:53 PM
To: Ellis, Paige
Subject: I-35 expansion

External Email - Exercise Caution

Council Member Paige Ellis,

I oppose expanding I-35 because it is NOT going to solve the traffic problems. On the contrary, it will increment it exponentially. Furthermore, it will make our climate change worse and it will also affect negatively Travis county ecology. Personally, it will worsen my health and my family's because of the air's poor quality.

I am for public-transit first project and the Rethink 35 proposal.

Mayra Cerda-Gomez

Mayra Cerda-Gomez
Austin, Texas 78759

CAUTION: This is an EXTERNAL email. Please use caution when clicking links or opening attachments. If you believe this to be a malicious or phishing email, please report it using the "Report Message" button in Outlook or forward to

From: Allison Watkins <info_email.actionnetwork.org>
Sent: Thursday, October 12, 2023 4:33 PM
To: Ellis, Paige
Subject: Item 45

External Email - Exercise Caution

Council Member Paige Ellis,

I support agenda item 45 and urge Council Members to stand in opposition to the I-35 expansion. I am a resident of 78753 and District 4.

I OPPOSE expanding I-35 because this will worsen congestion in our entire region, including where I live. Expanding highways never improves and often worsens congestion, as we saw from the Katy Freeway expansion.

This will be bad for my health and that of my family because of worse air quality.

This project will worsen climate change the estimated emissions are the equivalent of a coal plant

It will make it harder to get around without a car. The project is expected to bring an additional 100,000 cars a day into the city which will require more car infrastructure at the expense of other modes.

Allison Watkins

209 E Longspur Blvd
Austin, Texas 78753

CAUTION: This is an EXTERNAL email. Please use caution when clicking links or opening attachments. If you believe this to be a malicious or phishing email, please report it using the "Report Message" button in Outlook or forward to

From: Kam McEvoy <
Sent: Thursday, October 12, 2023 3:59 PM
To: Watson, Kirk; Harper-Madison, Natasha; Fuentes, Vanessa; Vela, Jose "Chito"; Alter, Ryan; Pool, Leslie; Ellis, Paige; Qadri, Zo; Qadri, Zo; Alter, Alison; Kelly, Mackenzie
Cc: Alexander, Kate; Lawler, John; Bray, Timothy; Lopez, Jason; Leffler, Ben; Phillips, Atha; Montgomery, Julie; Pritchard, Caleb; Mendoza, Richard [TPW]; Joanna Wolaver; Ted Siff
Subject: Austin Outside's support for Item 45 on October 19's Council Agenda...
Attachments: AO Letter of Support for Item 45 on 10-19 Council Agenda.pdf

External Email - Exercise Caution

Please see the attached letter (or read below) detailing Austin Outside's support for Item 45 on October 19's council agenda.

Sincerely,
Kam McEvoy
Membership Director
she/her/hers



Dear Mayor Watson, Mayor Pro Tem Ellis, and Council Members,

[Austin Outside](#) supports [Item #45](#) on your October 19th agenda. The mission of Austin Outside's 65 member organizations is to champion vibrant and thriving outdoor places for all in Greater Austin.

Austin Outside agrees that decisions around the I-35 Cap Ex Central project would be better informed by, and benefit from, the upcoming CAMPO Regional Mobile Emission Reduction and the Austin MSA Climate Plans. We support delaying funding on this impactful project until those studies are complete. We also agree that any CAMPO votes on this project should be taken publicly, by the full Transportation Policy Board (TPB), as was done with the first two rounds of I-35 amendments to the Transportation Improvement Program (TIP).

After multiple summers of record-breaking heat and increasingly dangerous storms, it is imperative that elected officials at all levels of government work together to prioritize reducing greenhouse gas emissions.

We appreciate your attention to this matter.

Sincerely,
Joanna Wolaver
Austin Outside, Board Chair

CAUTION: This is an EXTERNAL email. Please use caution when clicking links or opening attachments. If you believe this to be a malicious or phishing email, please report it using the "Report Message" button in Outlook or forward to

From: Karina Gavin <info_email.actionnetwork.org>
Sent: Thursday, October 12, 2023 1:34 PM
To: Ellis, Paige
Subject: Please oppose the I-35 expansion!

External Email - Exercise Caution

Council Member Paige Ellis,

Many times over research has shown the ineffectiveness of expanding roads and highways. They only temporarily "improve" traffic, but induced demand always brings the traffic back. Just look at Los Angeles. Public transit is the only way to truly reduce traffic, as it lowers the amount of people who are driving on the road. Cars are also horrific for the environment. Not only because of their emissions, but also the particles from tires are incredibly bad for health and the environment. And of course, all of these things impact certain groups more than others, particularly the low income families who live near the roads. It's absolutely astounding that anyone could support this expansion. The ONLY reason I could see someone supporting it is if they worked for/with the automobile industry, as they are the ONLY people who benefit from these kinds of expansions. I have yet to see a single convincing argument for the expansion. I am a resident of district 7, and I support agenda item 4 5 and urge Council Members to stand in opposition to the I-35 expansion.

Karina Gavin

5609 Woodrow Ave, Apt 203
Austin, Texas 78756

CAUTION: This is an EXTERNAL email. Please use caution when clicking links or opening attachments. If you believe this to be a malicious or phishing email, please report it using the "Report Message" button in Outlook or forward to

From: Muhammad Hassan <info_email.actionnetwork.org>
Sent: Tuesday, October 10, 2023 5:05 PM
To: Ellis, Paige
Subject: Oppose I-35 Expansion

External Email - Exercise Caution

Council Member Paige Ellis,

I OPPOSE expanding I-35 because this will worsen congestion in our entire region and is a waste of taxpayer money. I don't want all of our hard earned tax dollars to subsidize out the lifestyle of people that choose to not make Austin their home. This taxpayer money would be better spent on public transportation as a bus or train will always carry more passengers than single occupancy vehicles while taking up much less space on the road and in parking garages.

Expanding highways never improves and often worsens congestion, as we saw from the Katy Freeway expansion, the largest freeway in the world and yet still has traffic. Car travel is simply last century method of transportation that is becoming increasingly expensive for the average American, costing upwards of \$10,000+ a year for car owners. Expanding I-35 will also worsen congestion in the city as more cars will come into the city center from suburbs and exurbs but ending their journeys on streets that will not be able to accommodate them.

Muhammad Hassan

14003 Levy Ln
Pflugerville, Texas 78660

CAUTION: This is an EXTERNAL email. Please use caution when clicking links or opening attachments. If you believe this to be a malicious or phishing email, please report it using the "Report Message" button in Outlook or forward to

From: Jack Sawyer <info_email.actionnetwork.org>
Sent: Monday, October 9, 2023 3:09 PM
To: Ellis, Paige
Subject: Oppose I35 Expansion

External Email - Exercise Caution

Council Member Paige Ellis,

Hello Mayor and Council Members,

I am writing to express my concerns over the expansion of highway I35 running directly through the city. Not only is it an eye & ear sore already, but it is responsible for emitting tons of dangerous emissions right into the downtown of our city. This is going to lead to increased expenses in healthcare, diminished quality of life and life expectancy, and overall abysmal health for all of our fellow residents. To put it morbidly, complacency in this matter would ruin the lives of hundreds of thousands of Austinites in the decades to come.

Not only does highway expansion statistically create more safety issues and increase traffic congestion, but it's an incredible waste of taxpayer money for something that our great city resoundingly opposes. By the time this expansion plan is predicted to finish, the entire world, along with all currently developing nations, will have moved on beyond the archaic roadways on to more modern and reasonable forms of transportation that actually scale with growing urban centers. Even if this plan passes and begins construction, any potential for improved traffic throughput will be gone as the highway lanes will never keep up with the increasing population it is intended to support.

I'm sure I speak for most of the residents and visitors of this city when I ask that you start at the problems that prompted this plan in the first place, and consider the alternative solutions. For instance, circumnavigating the city, burying I35 below in a tunnel, creating park and ride locations for commuters, and a more robust public transport system within the city, such as modern tram lines, more buses, and other light rail programs.

I'm sure you are all significantly more aware than I am of the powers that are restricting your ability to pass practical plans to scale transportation as a modern city should, and I would like to know how I, as well as every Austinite, can assist you in whatever capacity to help pass and implement the legislation you, as well as the people of Austin, desire. Whether it's data gathering, petitions, polling, or anything else, I would love to assist! Don't be afraid to dream either!

Have a great week,

Jack Sawyer

Jack Sawyer

78 Julius St
Austin, Texas 78702

CAUTION: This is an EXTERNAL email. Please use caution when clicking links or opening attachments. If you believe this to be a malicious or phishing email, please report it using the "Report Message" button in Outlook or forward to

From: City of Austin <noreply_coadigital.onbehalfof.austintexas.gov>
Sent: Wednesday, October 18, 2023 2:37 PM
To: District 8
Subject: Delay funding to the I-35 expansion!

This message is from Rosalind Faires. []

Dear Council Members,

I am writing to express my enthusiastic support for item 45 on this week's agenda!

As a lifelong resident of Austin who has already seen the profound effects of global warming on the city, I am alarmed that the proposed I-35 Central project, according to Appendix V of the FEIS/ROD, could contribute to an increase of over 50,000 metric tons of carbon dioxide equivalent per year over its 20-year project lifespan. While the project includes some transit-supportive elements and paths for active transportation, design issues hinder a meaningful shift toward sustainable modes of travel. Furthermore, the existing evidence suggests that the projected increase in vehicle miles traveled (VMT) may be significantly underestimated. This oversight could directly impact GHG emissions attributable to vehicle operations.

Given the urgency of addressing climate change and reducing GHG emissions, I believe that delaying funding for the construction of I-35 Central until the completion of the CAMPO Regional Mobile Emission Reduction Plan and the Austin MSA Climate Plan is VITAL. These initiatives can provide valuable recommendations for reducing transportation-related GHG emissions and unlocking federal funding opportunities for implementation projects to mitigate the highway expansion's environmental impacts.

As a concerned community member, I strongly urge you all to support this resolution and express my gratitude to the Mobility Committee for drafting it. It aligns with our city's commitment to environmental sustainability, resilience, and protecting the future well-being of our citizens.

Thank you for your dedication to our city and for considering the pressing issue of climate change.

Sincerely,
Rosalind Faires

Street address: 1507 Kinney Ave

Council District: 9

Note: A copy of this email was sent to all Council Members

From: City of Austin <noreply_coadigital.onbehalfof.austintexas.gov>
Sent: Wednesday, October 18, 2023 2:07 PM
To: District 8
Subject: Festival beach food forest and I35 expansion

This message is from Ally Trevino. []

I am expressing my strong support for item 45 on this week's agenda.

It's concerning that the proposed I-35 Central project, according to Appendix V of the FEIS/ROD, could contribute to an increase of over 50,000 metric tons of carbon dioxide equivalent per year over its 20-year project lifespan. While the project includes some transit-supportive elements and paths for active transportation, design issues hinder a meaningful shift toward sustainable modes of travel.

Furthermore, the existing evidence suggests that the projected increase in vehicle miles traveled (VMT) may be significantly underestimated. This oversight could directly impact GHG emissions attributable to vehicle operations. Given the urgency of addressing climate change and reducing GHG emissions, I believe that delaying funding for the construction of I-35 Central until the completion of the CAMPO Regional Mobile Emission Reduction Plan and the Austin MSA Climate Plan is prudent. These initiatives can provide valuable recommendations for reducing transportation-related GHG emissions and unlocking federal funding opportunities for implementation projects to mitigate the highway expansion's environmental impacts.

As a concerned community member, I strongly urge you to support this resolution. It aligns with our city's commitment to environmental sustainability, resilience, and protecting the future well-being of our citizens.

Thank you for your dedication to our city and for considering the pressing issue of climate change.

Street address: 1500 Royal Crest Dr. Apt #156

Council District: 3

Note: A copy of this email was sent to all Council Members

From: City of Austin <noreply_coadigital.onbehalfof.austintexas.gov>
Sent: Wednesday, October 18, 2023 1:06 PM
To: District 8
Subject: I-35 EXPANSION

This message is from Julie Gallagher. []

NO NO NO NO NO NO NO NO.

PLEASE DO NO ALLOW THIS EXPANSION. HAVENT' WE LOST ENOUGH LOCAL BUSINESSES IN THE "COVID" YEARS???

No district found for the address provided.

Street address:

Council District: 0

Note: A copy of this email was sent to all Council Members

From: City of Austin <noreply_coadigital.onbehalfof.austintexas.gov>
Sent: Wednesday, October 18, 2023 12:57 PM
To: District 8
Subject: Support for Item 45

This message is from Layne Ransom. []

Dear Austin City Council,

I hope this message finds you well. I am expressing my strong support for item 45 on this week's agenda.

It's concerning that the proposed I-35 Central project, according to Appendix V of the FEIS/ROD, could contribute to an increase of over 50,000 metric tons of carbon dioxide equivalent per year over its 20-year project lifespan. While the project includes some transit-supportive elements and paths for active transportation, design issues hinder a meaningful shift toward sustainable modes of travel.

Furthermore, the existing evidence suggests that the projected increase in vehicle miles traveled (VMT) may be significantly underestimated. This oversight could directly impact GHG emissions attributable to vehicle operations.

Given the urgency of addressing climate change and reducing GHG emissions, I believe that delaying funding for the construction of I-35 Central until the completion of the CAMPO Regional Mobile Emission Reduction Plan and the Austin MSA Climate Plan is prudent. These initiatives can provide valuable recommendations for reducing transportation-related GHG emissions and unlocking federal funding opportunities for implementation projects to mitigate the highway expansion's environmental impacts.

As a concerned community member, I strongly urge you to support this resolution. It aligns with our city's commitment to environmental sustainability, resilience, and protecting the future well-being of our citizens.

Climate change is a matter of urgent, needed action to preserve any kind of livable future for coming generations. Please take the responsibility you have for this land that Austin is located on seriously.

Sincerely,
Layne Ransom

Street address: 1201 E 28th St

Council District: 9

Note: A copy of this email was sent to all Council Members

From: City of Austin <noreply_coadigital.onbehalfof.austintexas.gov>
Sent: Wednesday, October 18, 2023 12:29 PM
To: District 8
Subject: Support for Item 45: Delay Funding for I-35 Expansion

This message is from Anna Derengowski. []

Dear City Council Members,

I am writing to express my strong support for item 45 on this week's agenda.

I am concerned about the environmental impacts of the proposed expansion of I-35. According to Appendix V of the FEIS/ROD, this project could contribute to an increase of over 50,000 metric tons of carbon dioxide equivalent per year over its 20-year project lifespan. Furthermore, the existing evidence suggests that the projected increase in vehicle miles traveled (VMT) may be significantly underestimated. This oversight could directly impact GHG emissions attributable to vehicle operations.

While the project includes some transit-supportive elements and paths for active transportation, it is not enough. We need bold action to promote sustainable transit, and expansion of highways will never deliver.

Given the urgency of addressing climate change and reducing GHG emissions, I believe that delaying funding for the construction of I-35 Central until the completion of the CAMPO Regional Mobile Emission Reduction Plan and the Austin MSA Climate Plan is prudent. These initiatives can provide valuable recommendations for reducing transportation-related GHG emissions and unlocking federal funding opportunities for implementation projects to mitigate the highway expansion's environmental impacts.

As a concerned community member, I strongly urge you to support this resolution. It aligns with our city's commitment to environmental sustainability, resilience, and protecting the future well-being of our citizens.

Thank you for your dedication to our city and for considering the pressing issue of climate change.

Sincerely,

Anna Derengowski

Street address: 4600 W Guadalupe St, Apt 420

Council District: 9

Note: A copy of this email was sent to all Council Members

From: City of Austin <noreply_coadigital.onbehalfof.austintexas.gov>
Sent: Wednesday, October 18, 2023 11:54 AM
To: District 8
Subject: Support for item 45

This message is from Annie Flom. []

Dear Austin City Council,

I hope this message finds you well. I am expressing my strong support for item 45 on this week's agenda.

It's concerning that the proposed I-35 Central project, according to Appendix V of the FEIS/ROD, could contribute to an increase of over 50,000 metric tons of carbon dioxide equivalent per year over its 20-year project lifespan. While the project includes some transit-supportive elements and paths for active transportation, design issues hinder a meaningful shift toward sustainable modes of travel.

Furthermore, the existing evidence suggests that the projected increase in vehicle miles traveled (VMT) may be significantly underestimated. This oversight could directly impact GHG emissions attributable to vehicle operations.

Given the urgency of addressing climate change and reducing GHG emissions, I believe that delaying funding for the construction of I-35 Central until the completion of the CAMPO Regional Mobile Emission Reduction Plan and the Austin MSA Climate Plan is prudent. These initiatives can provide valuable recommendations for reducing transportation-related GHG emissions and unlocking federal funding opportunities for implementation projects to mitigate the highway expansion's environmental impacts.

As a concerned community member, I strongly urge you to support this resolution. It aligns with our city's commitment to environmental sustainability, resilience, and protecting the future well-being of our citizens.

Thank you for your dedication to our city and for considering the pressing issue of climate change.

Sincerely,

Annie Flom

Street address: 4702 Finley Drive

Council District: 7

Note: A copy of this email was sent to all Council Members

From: City of Austin <noreply_coadigital.onbehalfof.austintexas.gov>
Sent: Wednesday, October 18, 2023 11:44 AM
To: District 8
Subject: Item 45

This message is from Grace. []

Dear City Council and to who ever else this may concern

I hope this message finds you well. I am expressing my strong support for item 45 on this week's agenda.

It's concerning that the proposed I-35 Central project, according to Appendix V of the FEIS/ROD, could contribute to an increase of over 50,000 metric tons of carbon dioxide equivalent per year over its 20-year project lifespan. While the project includes some transit-supportive elements and paths for active transportation, design issues hinder a meaningful shift toward sustainable modes of travel.

Furthermore, the existing evidence suggests that the projected increase in vehicle miles traveled (VMT) may be significantly underestimated. This oversight could directly impact GHG emissions attributable to vehicle operations. Given the urgency of addressing climate change and reducing GHG emissions, I believe that delaying funding for the construction of I-35 Central until the completion of the CAMPO Regional Mobile Emission Reduction Plan and the Austin MSA Climate Plan is prudent. These initiatives can provide valuable recommendations for reducing transportation-related GHG emissions and unlocking federal funding opportunities for implementation projects to mitigate the highway expansion's environmental impacts.

As a concerned community ally member, I strongly urge you to support this resolution. It aligns with the city's commitment to environmental sustainability, resilience, and protecting the future well-being of our citizens. Thank you for your dedication to our neighboring city and for considering the pressing issue of climate change.

Sincerely,
Grace Y.

No district found for the address provided.

Street address: Outside Austin, TX

Council District: 0

Note: A copy of this email was sent to all Council Members

From: City of Austin <noreply_coadigital.onbehalfof.austintexas.gov>
Sent: Wednesday, October 18, 2023 10:51 AM
To: District 8
Subject: Support & Protect Festival Beach Food Forest

This message is from Jenae Catbagan. []

Dear Counsel Members,

I hope this message finds you well. I am expressing my strong support for item 45 on this week's agenda.

It's concerning that the proposed I-35 Central project, according to Appendix V of the FEIS/ROD, could contribute to an increase of over 50,000 metric tons of carbon dioxide equivalent per year over its 20-year project lifespan. While the project includes some transit-supportive elements and paths for active transportation, design issues hinder a meaningful shift toward sustainable modes of travel.

Furthermore, the existing evidence suggests that the projected increase in vehicle miles traveled (VMT) may be significantly underestimated. This oversight could directly impact GHG emissions attributable to vehicle operations.

Given the urgency of addressing climate change and reducing GHG emissions, I believe that delaying funding for the construction of I-35 Central until the completion of the CAMPO Regional Mobile Emission Reduction Plan and the Austin MSA Climate Plan is prudent. These initiatives can provide valuable recommendations for reducing transportation-related GHG emissions and unlocking federal funding opportunities for implementation projects to mitigate the highway expansion's environmental impacts.

As a concerned community member, I strongly urge you to support this resolution. It aligns with our city's commitment to environmental sustainability, resilience, and protecting the future well-being of our citizens. Thank you for your dedication to our city and for considering the pressing issue of climate change.

Sincerely,
Jenae C.

No district found for the address provided.

Street address: Outside Austin, TX

Council District: 0

Note: A copy of this email was sent to all Council Members

From: City of Austin <noreply_coadigital.onbehalfof.austintexas.gov>
Sent: Wednesday, October 18, 2023 10:00 AM
To: District 8
Subject: I-35 Expansion Destroying Wildlife, Community Food Forest and the Lack of Environmental Consideration

This message is from Maggie. []

Dear City Council Members,

I hope this message finds you well. I am expressing my strong support for item 45 on this week's agenda.

It's concerning that the proposed I-35 Central project, according to Appendix V of the FEIS/ROD, could contribute to an increase of over 50,000 metric tons of carbon dioxide equivalent per year over its 20-year project lifespan. While the project includes some transit-supportive elements and paths for active transportation, design issues hinder a meaningful shift toward sustainable modes of travel.

Furthermore, the existing evidence suggests that the projected increase in vehicle miles traveled (VMT) may be significantly underestimated. This oversight could directly impact GHG emissions attributable to vehicle operations. Given the urgency of addressing climate change and reducing GHG emissions, I believe that delaying funding for the construction of I-35 Central until the completion of the CAMPO Regional Mobile Emission Reduction Plan and the Austin MSA Climate Plan is prudent. These initiatives can provide valuable recommendations for reducing transportation-related GHG emissions and unlocking federal funding opportunities for implementation projects to mitigate the highway expansion's environmental impacts.

As a concerned community member, I strongly urge you to support this resolution. It aligns with our city's commitment to environmental sustainability, resilience, and protecting the future well-being of our citizens.

Thank you for your dedication to our city and for considering the pressing issue of climate change.

Sincerely,

Maggie

Street address: 5629 N. Lamar Blvd

Council District: 4

Note: A copy of this email was sent to all Council Members

From: City of Austin <noreply_coadigital.onbehalfof.austintexas.gov>
Sent: Wednesday, October 18, 2023 9:10 AM
To: District 8
Subject: Item 45

This message is from Shaina Rico. []

Dear City Cousil members,

I hope this message finds you well. I am expressing my strong support for item 45 on this week's agenda.

It's concerning that the proposed I-35 Central project, according to Appendix V of the FEIS/ROD, could contribute to an increase of over 50,000 metric tons of carbon dioxide equivalent per year over its 20-year project lifespan. While the project includes some transit-supportive elements and paths for active transportation, design issues hinder a meaningful shift toward sustainable modes of travel.

Furthermore, the existing evidence suggests that the projected increase in vehicle miles traveled (VMT) may be significantly underestimated. This oversight could directly impact GHG emissions attributable to vehicle operations. Given the urgency of addressing climate change and reducing GHG emissions, I believe that delaying funding for the construction of I-35 Central until the completion of the CAMPO Regional Mobile Emission Reduction Plan and the Austin MSA Climate Plan is prudent. These initiatives can provide valuable recommendations for reducing transportation-related GHG emissions and unlocking federal funding opportunities for implementation projects to mitigate the highway expansion's environmental impacts.

As a concerned community member, I strongly urge you to support this resolution. It aligns with our city's commitment to environmental sustainability, resilience, and protecting the future well-being of our citizens.

Thank you for your dedication to our city and for considering the pressing issue of climate change.

Sincerely,
Shaina Rico

Street address: 3101 Crestvale Dr

Council District: 5

Note: A copy of this email was sent to all Council Members

From: City of Austin <noreply_coadigital.onbehalfof.austintexas.gov>
Sent: Wednesday, October 18, 2023 9:05 AM
To: District 8
Subject: I-35 expansion

This message is from Dante Williams . []

Dear City Council Members,

I hope this message finds you well. I am expressing my strong support for item 45 on this week's agenda.

It's concerning that the proposed I-35 Central project, according to Appendix V of the FEIS/ROD, could contribute to an increase of over 50,000 metric tons of carbon dioxide equivalent per year over its 20-year project lifespan. While the project includes some transit-supportive elements and paths for active transportation, design issues hinder a meaningful shift toward sustainable modes of travel.

Furthermore, the existing evidence suggests that the projected increase in vehicle miles traveled (VMT) may be significantly underestimated. This oversight could directly impact GHG emissions attributable to vehicle operations. Given the urgency of addressing climate change and reducing GHG emissions, I believe that delaying funding for the construction of I-35 Central until the completion of the CAMPO Regional Mobile Emission Reduction Plan and the Austin MSA Climate Plan is prudent. These initiatives can provide valuable recommendations for reducing transportation-related GHG emissions and unlocking federal funding opportunities for implementation projects to mitigate the highway expansion's environmental impacts.

As a concerned community member, I strongly urge you to support this resolution. It aligns with our city's commitment to environmental sustainability, resilience, and protecting the future well-being of our citizens.

Thank you for your dedication to our city and for considering the pressing issue of climate change.

Sincerely,

Dante

Street address: 1114 Camino la Costa

Council District: 4

Note: A copy of this email was sent to all Council Members

From: City of Austin <noreply_coadigital.onbehalfof.austintexas.gov>
Sent: Wednesday, October 18, 2023 8:07 AM
To: District 8
Subject: Halt I-35 Expansion

This message is from Natalie Evans. []

Dear City Council Members,

I hope this message finds you well. I am expressing my strong support for item 45 on this week's agenda.

It's concerning that the proposed I-35 Central project, according to Appendix V of the FEIS/ROD, could contribute to an increase of over 50,000 metric tons of carbon dioxide equivalent per year over its 20-year project lifespan. While the project includes some transit-supportive elements and paths for active transportation, design issues hinder a meaningful shift toward sustainable modes of travel.

Furthermore, the existing evidence suggests that the projected increase in vehicle miles traveled (VMT) may be significantly underestimated. This oversight could directly impact GHG emissions attributable to vehicle operations.

Given the urgency of addressing climate change and reducing GHG emissions, I believe that delaying funding for the construction of I-35 Central until the completion of the CAMPO Regional Mobile Emission Reduction Plan and the Austin MSA Climate Plan is prudent. These initiatives can provide valuable recommendations for reducing transportation-related GHG emissions and unlocking federal funding opportunities for implementation projects to mitigate the highway expansion's environmental impacts.

As a concerned Austin resident & small business owner here in Austin, I strongly urge you to support this resolution. It aligns with our city's commitment to environmental sustainability, resilience, and protecting the future well-being of our citizens.

Thank you for your dedication to our city and for considering the pressing issue of climate change.

Sincerely,
Natalie Evans

Street address: 1200 windsor rd

Council District: 9

Note: A copy of this email was sent to all Council Members

From: City of Austin <noreply_coadigital.onbehalfof.austintexas.gov>
Sent: Wednesday, October 18, 2023 7:37 AM
To: District 8
Subject: Supporting item 45

This message is from Leanne. []

Dear City Council,

I hope this message finds you well. I am expressing my strong support for item 45 on this week's agenda.

It's concerning that the proposed I-35 Central project, according to Appendix V of the FEIS/ROD, could contribute to an increase of over 50,000 metric tons of carbon dioxide equivalent per year over its 20-year project lifespan. While the project includes some transit-supportive elements and paths for active transportation, design issues hinder a meaningful shift toward sustainable modes of travel.

Furthermore, the existing evidence suggests that the projected increase in vehicle miles traveled (VMT) may be significantly underestimated. This oversight could directly impact GHG emissions attributable to vehicle operations. Given the urgency of addressing climate change and reducing GHG emissions, I believe that delaying funding for the construction of I-35 Central until the completion of the CAMPO Regional Mobile Emission Reduction Plan and the Austin MSA Climate Plan is prudent. These initiatives can provide valuable recommendations for reducing transportation-related GHG emissions and unlocking federal funding opportunities for implementation projects to mitigate the highway expansion's environmental impacts.

As a concerned community member, I strongly urge you to support this resolution. It aligns with our city's commitment to environmental sustainability, resilience, and protecting the future well-being of our citizens.

Thank you for your dedication to our city and for considering the pressing issue of climate change.

Sincerely,

-Leanne Smithers

Street address: 14701 Frankel loop Pflugerville 78660

Council District: 7

Note: A copy of this email was sent to all Council Members

From: City of Austin <noreply_coadigital.onbehalfof.austintexas.gov>
Sent: Wednesday, October 18, 2023 6:17 AM
To: District 8
Subject: Item 45

This message is from Elizabeth Barnes. []

Dear City Council,

I hope this message finds you well. I am expressing my strong support for item 45 on this week's agenda.

It's concerning that the proposed I-35 Central project, according to Appendix V of the FEIS/ROD, could contribute to an increase of over 50,000 metric tons of carbon dioxide equivalent per year over its 20-year project lifespan. While the project includes some transit-supportive elements and paths for active transportation, design issues hinder a meaningful shift toward sustainable modes of travel.

Furthermore, the existing evidence suggests that the projected increase in vehicle miles traveled (VMT) may be significantly underestimated. This oversight could directly impact GHG emissions attributable to vehicle operations.

Given the urgency of addressing climate change and reducing GHG emissions, I believe that delaying funding for the construction of I-35 Central until the completion of the CAMPO Regional Mobile Emission Reduction Plan and the Austin MSA Climate Plan is prudent. These initiatives can provide valuable recommendations for reducing transportation-related GHG emissions and unlocking federal funding opportunities for implementation projects to mitigate the highway expansion's environmental impacts.

As a concerned community member, I strongly urge you to support this resolution. It aligns with our city's commitment to environmental sustainability, resilience, and protecting the future well-being of our citizens.

Thank you for your dedication to our city and for considering the pressing issue of climate change.

Sincerely,
Elizabeth

Street address: 1616 W 6th St

Council District: 9

Note: A copy of this email was sent to all Council Members

From: City of Austin <noreply_coadigital.onbehalfof.austintexas.gov>
Sent: Tuesday, October 17, 2023 11:57 PM
To: District 8
Subject: Item 45

This message is from Meg Fernandez . []

Hi,
I hope this message finds you well. I am expressing my strong support for item 45 on this week's agenda.

It's concerning that the proposed I-35 Central project, according to Appendix V of the FEIS/ROD, could contribute to an increase of over 50,000 metric tons of carbon dioxide equivalent per year over its 20-year project lifespan. While the project includes some transit-supportive elements and paths for active transportation, design issues hinder a meaningful shift toward sustainable modes of travel.

Furthermore, the existing evidence suggests that the projected increase in vehicle miles traveled (VMT) may be significantly underestimated. This oversight could directly impact GHG emissions attributable to vehicle operations. Given the urgency of addressing climate change and reducing GHG emissions, I believe that delaying funding for the construction of I-35 Central until the completion of the CAMPO Regional Mobile Emission Reduction Plan and the Austin MSA Climate Plan is prudent. These initiatives can provide valuable recommendations for reducing transportation-related GHG emissions and unlocking federal funding opportunities for implementation projects to mitigate the highway expansion's environmental impacts.

As a concerned community member, I strongly urge you to support this resolution. It aligns with our city's commitment to environmental sustainability, resilience, and protecting the future well-being of our citizens.

Thank you for your dedication to our city and for considering the pressing issue of climate change.

Sincerely,
Meg

No district found for the address provided.

Street address:

Council District: 0

Note: A copy of this email was sent to all Council Members

From: City of Austin <noreply_coadigital.onbehalfof.austintexas.gov>
Sent: Tuesday, October 17, 2023 11:09 PM
To: District 8
Subject: I35 expansion

This message is from Lucy Tucker. []

Esteemed Council Members,

I imagine as members of the city council you care about people and you care about this city. Allowing I35 to expand goes against both of those values.

Not only will expanding I35 get rid of so many of the businesses that make Austin such a unique and wonderful place to live, it won't do anything to reduce traffic. It is just going to encourage more people to drive which is gonna generate more noise, more pollution and more traffic. You would be taking away the livelihoods of hundreds of Austinites and sullyng acres more of land to complete a project that will only perpetuate the very problem it is seeking to remedy.

Instead, I recommend you put that money towards where it will actually make a difference. Namely expanding sidewalks and the CapMetro system. This will encourage more people to walk and use public transit which will actually reduce traffic on I35 and boost businesses rather than running them out of an already tight real estate market.

Please, I implore you, for the good of the people and this city, do not expand I35.

-Lucy Tucker

Street address: 2505 Longview St

Council District: 9

Note: A copy of this email was sent to all Council Members

From: City of Austin <noreply_coadigital.onbehalfof.austintexas.gov>
Sent: Tuesday, October 17, 2023 10:49 PM
To: District 8
Subject: I35 Expansion

This message is from Constance SM. []

Howdy friends and fellow Austinites,

I hope this message finds you well. I am expressing my strong support for item 45 on this week's agenda.

It's concerning that the proposed I-35 Central project, according to Appendix V of the FEIS/ROD, could contribute to an increase of over 50,000 metric tons of carbon dioxide equivalent per year over its 20-year project lifespan. While the project includes some transit-supportive elements and paths for active transportation, design issues hinder a meaningful shift toward sustainable modes of travel.

Furthermore, the existing evidence suggests that the projected increase in vehicle miles traveled (VMT) may be significantly underestimated. This oversight could directly impact GHG emissions attributable to vehicle operations.

Given the urgency of addressing climate change and reducing GHG emissions, I believe that delaying funding for the construction of I-35 Central until the completion of the CAMPO Regional Mobile Emission Reduction Plan and the Austin MSA Climate Plan is prudent. These initiatives can provide valuable recommendations for reducing transportation-related GHG emissions and unlocking federal funding opportunities for implementation projects to mitigate the highway expansion's environmental impacts.

As a concerned community member, I strongly urge you to support this resolution. It aligns with our city's commitment to environmental sustainability, resilience, and protecting the future well-being of our citizens.

Thank you for your dedication to our city and for considering the pressing issue of climate change.

Sincerely,
Constance

Street address: 1901 Onion Creek Pkwy, Austin TX 78748

Council District: 5

Note: A copy of this email was sent to all Council Members

From: City of Austin <noreply_coadigital.onbehalfof.austintexas.gov>
Sent: Tuesday, October 17, 2023 10:46 PM
To: District 8
Subject: I35 Expansion

This message is from Constance SM. []

Howdy friends and fellow Austinites,

I hope this message finds you well. I am expressing my strong support for item 45 on this week's agenda.

It's concerning that the proposed I-35 Central project, according to Appendix V of the FEIS/ROD, could contribute to an increase of over 50,000 metric tons of carbon dioxide equivalent per year over its 20-year project lifespan. While the project includes some transit-supportive elements and paths for active transportation, design issues hinder a meaningful shift toward sustainable modes of travel.

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As a concerned community member, I strongly urge you to support this resolution. It aligns with our city's commitment to environmental sustainability, resilience, and protecting the future well-being of our citizens.

Thank you for your dedication to our city and for considering the pressing issue of climate change.

Sincerely,
Constance

No district found for the address provided.

Street address:

Council District: 0

Note: A copy of this email was sent to all Council Members

From: City of Austin <noreply_coadigital.onbehalfof.austintexas.gov>
Sent: Tuesday, October 17, 2023 10:19 PM
To: District 8
Subject: Support for Item 45

This message is from Michaela Hart. []

I hope this message finds you well. I am expressing my strong support for item 45 on this week's agenda.

It's concerning that the proposed I-35 Central project, according to Appendix V of the FEIS/ROD, could contribute to an increase of over 50,000 metric tons of carbon dioxide equivalent per year over its 20-year project lifespan. While the project includes some transit-supportive elements and paths for active transportation, design issues hinder a meaningful shift toward sustainable modes of travel.

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As a concerned community member, I strongly urge you to support this resolution. It aligns with our city's commitment to environmental sustainability, resilience, and protecting the future well-being of our citizens.

Thank you for your dedication to our city and for considering the pressing issue of climate change.

Sincerely,
Michaela Hart

Street address: 2206 Alta Vista Ave

Council District: 9

Note: A copy of this email was sent to all Council Members

From: City of Austin <noreply_coadigital.onbehalfof.austintexas.gov>
Sent: Tuesday, October 17, 2023 9:05 PM
To: District 8
Subject: Please support item 45

This message is from Maria R Patterson. []

Dear Mr. Vela,

I hope this message finds you well. I am expressing my strong support for item 45 on this week's agenda.

It's concerning that the proposed I-35 Central project, according to Appendix V of the FEIS/ROD, could contribute to an increase of over 50,000 metric tons of carbon dioxide equivalent per year over its 20-year project lifespan. While the project includes some transit-supportive elements and paths for active transportation, design issues hinder a meaningful shift toward sustainable modes of travel.

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As a concerned community member, I strongly urge you to support this resolution. It aligns with our city's commitment to environmental sustainability, resilience, and protecting the future well-being of our citizens.

Thank you for your dedication to our city and for considering the pressing issue of climate change.

Sincerely,

Maria Patterson

Street address: 8404 Whittman Cove

Council District: 4

Note: A copy of this email was sent to all Council Members

From: City of Austin <noreply_coadigital.onbehalfof.austintexas.gov>
Sent: Tuesday, October 17, 2023 8:55 PM
To: District 8
Subject: Delay 1-35 Central

This message is from Sarah Kai Parks . []

Dear Council members

I hope this message finds you well. I am expressing my strong support for item 45 on this week's agenda.

It's concerning that the proposed I-35 Central project, according to Appendix V of the FEIS/ROD, could contribute to an increase of over 50,000 metric tons of carbon dioxide equivalent per year over its 20-year project lifespan. While the project includes some transit-supportive elements and paths for active transportation, design issues hinder a meaningful shift toward sustainable modes of travel.

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As a concerned community member, I strongly urge you to support this resolution. It aligns with our city's commitment to environmental sustainability, resilience, and protecting the future well-being of our citizens.

Thank you for your dedication to our city and for considering the pressing issue of climate change.

Sincerely,
Sarah Kai Parks

No district found for the address provided.

Street address: 1724 Fort Grant Dr Round Rock 78665

Council District: 0

Note: A copy of this email was sent to all Council Members

From: City of Austin <noreply_coadigital.onbehalfof.austintexas.gov>
Sent: Tuesday, October 17, 2023 8:48 PM
To: District 8
Subject: In Support of Item 45

This message is from Ray DiBiasi. []

To City Council,

I hope this message finds you well. I am expressing my strong support for item 45 on this week's agenda.

It's concerning that the proposed I-35 Central project, according to Appendix V of the FEIS/ROD, could contribute to an increase of over 50,000 metric tons of carbon dioxide equivalent per year over its 20-year project lifespan. While the project includes some transit-supportive elements and paths for active transportation, design issues hinder a meaningful shift toward sustainable modes of travel.

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As a concerned community member, I strongly urge you to support this resolution. It aligns with our city's commitment to environmental sustainability, resilience, and protecting the future well-being of our citizens.

Thank you for your dedication to our city and for considering the pressing issue of climate change.

Sincerely,
Ray DiBiasi

Street address: 615 w 31st St

Council District: 9

Note: A copy of this email was sent to all Council Members

From: City of Austin <noreply_coadigital.onbehalfof.austintexas.gov>
Sent: Tuesday, October 17, 2023 8:30 PM
To: District 8
Subject: I-35 Expansion

This message is from Meagan Beattie . []

Dear Council Members

I am expressing my strong support for item 45 on this week's agenda.

It's concerning that the proposed I-35 Central project, according to Appendix V of the FEIS/ROD, could contribute to an increase of over 50,000 metric tons of carbon dioxide equivalent per year over its 20-year project lifespan. While the project includes some transit-supportive elements and paths for active transportation, design issues hinder a meaningful shift toward sustainable modes of travel.

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As a concerned community member, I strongly urge you to support this resolution. It aligns with our city's commitment to environmental sustainability, resilience, and protecting the future well-being of our citizens.

Thank you for your dedication to our city and for considering the pressing issue of climate change.

Sincerely,

Meagan Beattie

No district found for the address provided.

Street address:

Council District: 0

Note: A copy of this email was sent to all Council Members

From: City of Austin <noreply_coadigital.onbehalfof.austintexas.gov>
Sent: Tuesday, October 17, 2023 8:26 PM
To: District 8
Subject: Item 45 - Regarding I-35 Expansion

This message is from Michael Martinez. []

Dear Council Members,

I hope this message finds you well. I am expressing my strong support for item 45 on this week's agenda.

It's concerning that the proposed I-35 Central project, according to Appendix V of the FEIS/ROD, could contribute to an increase of over 50,000 metric tons of carbon dioxide equivalent per year over its 20-year project lifespan. While the project includes some transit-supportive elements and paths for active transportation, design issues hinder a meaningful shift toward sustainable modes of travel.

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As a concerned community member, I strongly urge you to support this resolution. It aligns with our city's commitment to environmental sustainability, resilience, and protecting the future well-being of our citizens.

Thank you for your dedication to our city and for considering the pressing issue of climate change.

Sincerely,

Michael Martinez

Street address: 4305 Duval Street

Council District: 9

Note: A copy of this email was sent to all Council Members

From: City of Austin <noreply_coadigital.onbehalfof.austintexas.gov>
Sent: Tuesday, October 17, 2023 8:08 PM
To: District 8
Subject: Approve Item 45— Reject, Delay, Dispute, Defeat I-35 Expansion for the Health of All Austinites

This message is from Ashley Lane. []

Dear Councilman Zo et. al.,
I hope this message finds you well. I am expressing my strong support for item 45 on this week's agenda.

I grew up in Dallas just a block from Grand Central Expressway, also known as I-75. I was diagnosed with childhood asthma, which I believe was a result of living so close to the highway as a young child. That's why it is so important to me that I-35 is built no taller and no wider, as TXDOT promised when they first went back to the drawing board. The health and well-being of all Austinites depends on it.

Because TXDOT has since reneged on their promise, I feel we must do everything we can as a community to reject, delay, dispute, and defeat the expansion of I-35. If we fail to do so, we will be saddling current and future generations with heavy burdens disproportionately born by the very young.

It's concerning that the proposed I-35 Central project, according to Appendix V of the FEIS/ROD, could contribute to an increase of over 50,000 metric tons of carbon dioxide equivalent per year over its 20-year project lifespan. While the project includes some transit-supportive elements and paths for active transportation, design issues hinder a meaningful shift toward sustainable modes of travel.

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As a concerned community member, I strongly urge you to support this resolution. It aligns with our city's commitment to environmental sustainability, resilience, and protecting the future well-being of our citizens.

Thank you for your dedication to our city and for considering the pressing issue of climate change.

Sincerely,
Ashley Lane

Street address: 5208 Evans Ave

Council District: 9

Note: A copy of this email was sent to all Council Members

From: City of Austin <noreply_coadigital.onbehalfof.austintexas.gov>
Sent: Tuesday, October 17, 2023 8:03 PM
To: District 8
Subject: IH 35 Expansion

This message is from Ana Chacon. []

Dear City Council Members,
I hope this message finds you well. I am expressing my strong support for item 45 on this week's agenda.

It's concerning that the proposed I-35 Central project, according to Appendix V of the FEIS/ROD, could contribute to an increase of over 50,000 metric tons of carbon dioxide equivalent per year over its 20-year project lifespan. While the project includes some transit-supportive elements and paths for active transportation, design issues hinder a meaningful shift toward sustainable modes of travel.

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Given the urgency of addressing climate change and reducing GHG emissions, I believe that delaying funding for the construction of I-35 Central until the completion of the CAMPO Regional Mobile Emission Reduction Plan and the Austin MSA Climate Plan is prudent. These initiatives can provide valuable recommendations for reducing transportation-related GHG emissions and unlocking federal funding opportunities for implementation projects to mitigate the highway expansion's environmental impacts.

As a concerned community member, I strongly urge you to support this resolution. It aligns with our city's commitment to environmental sustainability, resilience, and protecting the future well-being of our citizens.

Thank you for your dedication to our city and for considering the pressing issue of climate change.

Sincerely,
Ana Chacón

Street address: 910 Calico Dr

Council District: 5

Note: A copy of this email was sent to all Council Members

From: City of Austin <noreply_coadigital.onbehalfof.austintexas.gov>
Sent: Tuesday, October 17, 2023 9:12 AM
To: District 8
Subject: Item #45

This message is from Patricia Woolery-Price. []

Dear Mayor, Mayor Pro Tem, and Members of Council,

I support Item #45 on the 10/19 Council agenda. Please pass this resolution to ensure the City of Austin's commitment to climate action and reducing greenhouse gas. Thank you!

Street address: 3221 Duval St.

Council District: 9

Note: A copy of this email was sent to all Council Members

From: City of Austin <noreply_coadigital.onbehalfof.austintexas.gov>
Sent: Monday, October 16, 2023 3:13 PM
To: District 8
Subject: In Favor of item 45 for 10/19 Mtg.

This message is from Jessica Rodriguez Robertson. []

Hi CM Ellis and Team!

I am a resident of D7 but wanted to share the comments I sent to CM Pool:

I am excited to see a proposal on this week's council agenda regarding the expansion of I-35. I am incredibly in FAVOR of item 45 and encourage all council members who are believers in science and who witnessed the effects of extreme heat on our neighborhoods to vote YES.

This blistering summer, I was happy that our city responded with free bus rides and cooling shelters. Life-saving measures to be sure. But those will be mere patch fixes when we invite monstrous and unceasing levels of greenhouse gasses into our area.

Just a few of my questions are:

To what purpose are we increasing our city's bike and walkability if it's too dangerous to be outside?

What might these greenhouse gas emissions do to current green space maintenance and restoration projects?

How would that increased heat index impact water levels and rainfall?

How many uninsured people in Austin will be increasingly susceptible to heat-related illnesses?

Without strong and visionary leadership, unafraid to challenge the big industrial complex that is TXDot and our car-obsessed culture, Austin would be denying the effects of climate change we collectively experienced. Climate change is here; we've known it since the big freeze, and it showed us its other face this summer.

Street address: 2425 Ashdale Drive

Council District: 7

From: City of Austin <noreply_coadigital.onbehalfof.austintexas.gov>
Sent: Monday, October 16, 2023 12:16 PM
To: District 8
Subject: Austin's Environmental Future, Item 45

This message is from Sinclair Black. []

As a concerned citizen/taxpayer, I'm writing to request the City Council's vote to approve item 45 which deals with the future of the environmental quality for Austin in regard to the expansion of the I-35 corridor. TxDOT has avoided serious consideration of many environmental issues that will have long-lasting impacts on your health and your children's health. It's a fact that any money spent prior to knowing what the future holds is sheer folly.

Street address: 208 West Fourth Street Suite 3A

Council District: 9

Note: A copy of this email was sent to all Council Members

From: City of Austin <noreply_coadigital.onbehalfof.austintexas.gov>
Sent: Monday, October 16, 2023 10:49 AM
To: District 8
Subject: Item 45 on this Thursday's Council Agenda

This message is from Girard Kinney, AIA. []

Please support the Resolution in Item 45.

Street address: 5 Kern Ramble Street

Council District: 9

Note: A copy of this email was sent to all Council Members

From: City of Austin <noreply_coadigital.onbehalfof.austintexas.gov>
Sent: Monday, October 16, 2023 10:22 AM
To: District 8
Subject: Stop plan to widen I-35

This message is from Peter Hansen. []

The plan to widen I-35 is inherently flawed and is based on opinions from the 1940s not facts about how to actually reduce gridlock, or how to move people.

Look at Houston, Los Angeles, and see how more lanes will create a bleeding wound in the heart of the city producing MORE gridlock, pollution, and destroy the factors that create a livable attractive community.

Long distance I-35 traffic must be routed away from the heart of the city because the city is made for people not high volumes of vehicles.

What Austin needs is public transportation: trams, light rail and associated free/low cost parking for cars and bikes. All well functioning European and Asian cities has built a dense network of light rail and is one of the pillars of growth, prosperity and their quality of life.

Widening I-35 is madness, based on flawed thinking and will cost far more than its proponents will admit and make traffic worse. Please stop it!

Street address: 8800 S 1st Street

Council District: 2

Note: A copy of this email was sent to all Council Members