

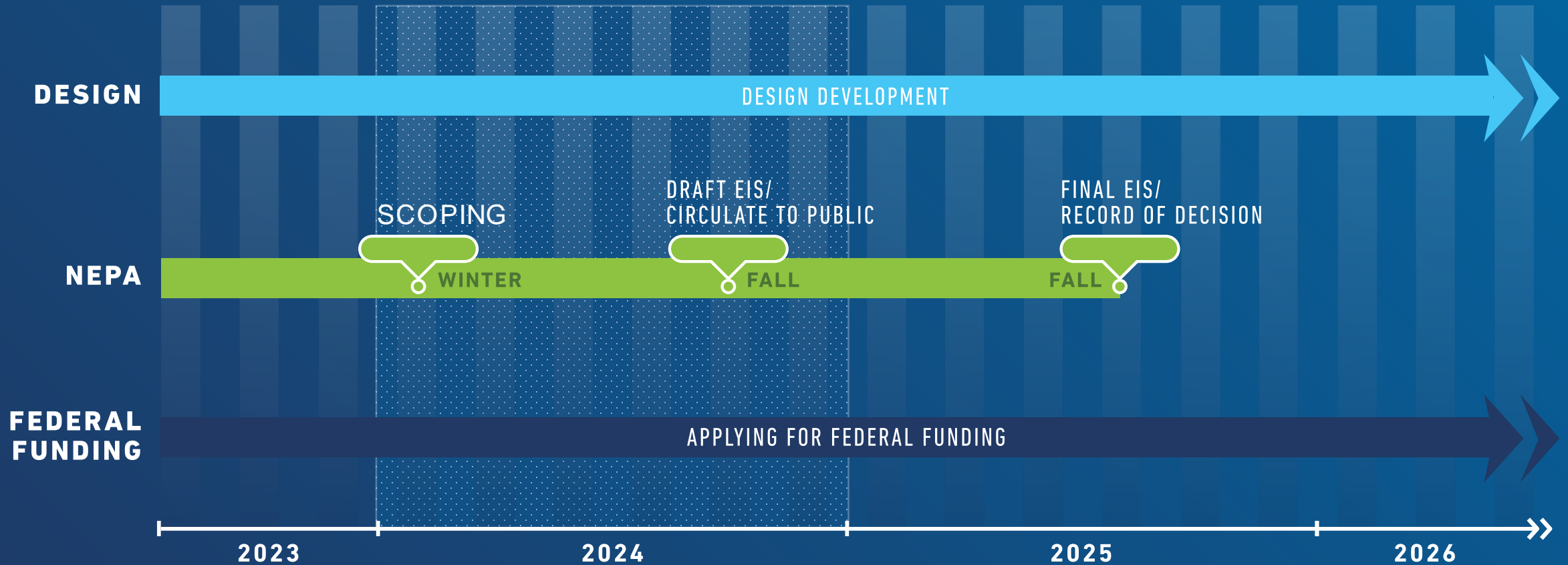


Austin Light Rail Update

Environmental Commission

FEBRUARY 21, 2024

PROGRAM IMPLEMENTATION & INTEGRATED APPROACH WORK EFFORTS



Upcoming Public Outreach

Federal Process: NEPA

MEETING LOCATION	DATE/TIME
University of Texas, Eastwoods Room, 2 nd floor (ground level), Texas Union 2308 Whitis Ave, Austin, TX 78712	Thursday, February 1, 2024 11 a.m. – 2 p.m.
Montopolis Recreation and Community Center 1200 Montopolis Dr., Austin, TX 78741	Saturday, February 10, 2024 10 a.m. – 2 p.m.
League of Women Voters, Cafetorium 3908 Avenue B, Suite 105, Austin, TX 78751	Monday, February 12, 2024 5 p.m. – 8 p.m.
Virtual Open House	Thursday, February 22, 2024 5:30 p.m. – 7 p.m.
Twin Oaks Library, Rooms 1 & 2 1800 S. 5th St., Austin, TX 78704	Tuesday, February 27, 2024 4:30 p.m. – 7:30 p.m.
St. David's Episcopal, Sumners Hall 301 E. 8th St., Austin, TX 78701	Thursday, February 29, 2024 7:30 a.m. – 9 a.m.

AUSTIN LIGHT RAIL

PHASE 1- BASE DESIGN

- + 9.8-mile Light Rail Transit (LRT) branched line, including 15 stations located north, south, and east of downtown Austin
- + Light rail embedded in center of street

PRIORITY EXTENSIONS

- + Not included in the NEPA analysis
- + Could be accelerated if additional funding becomes available

LEGEND

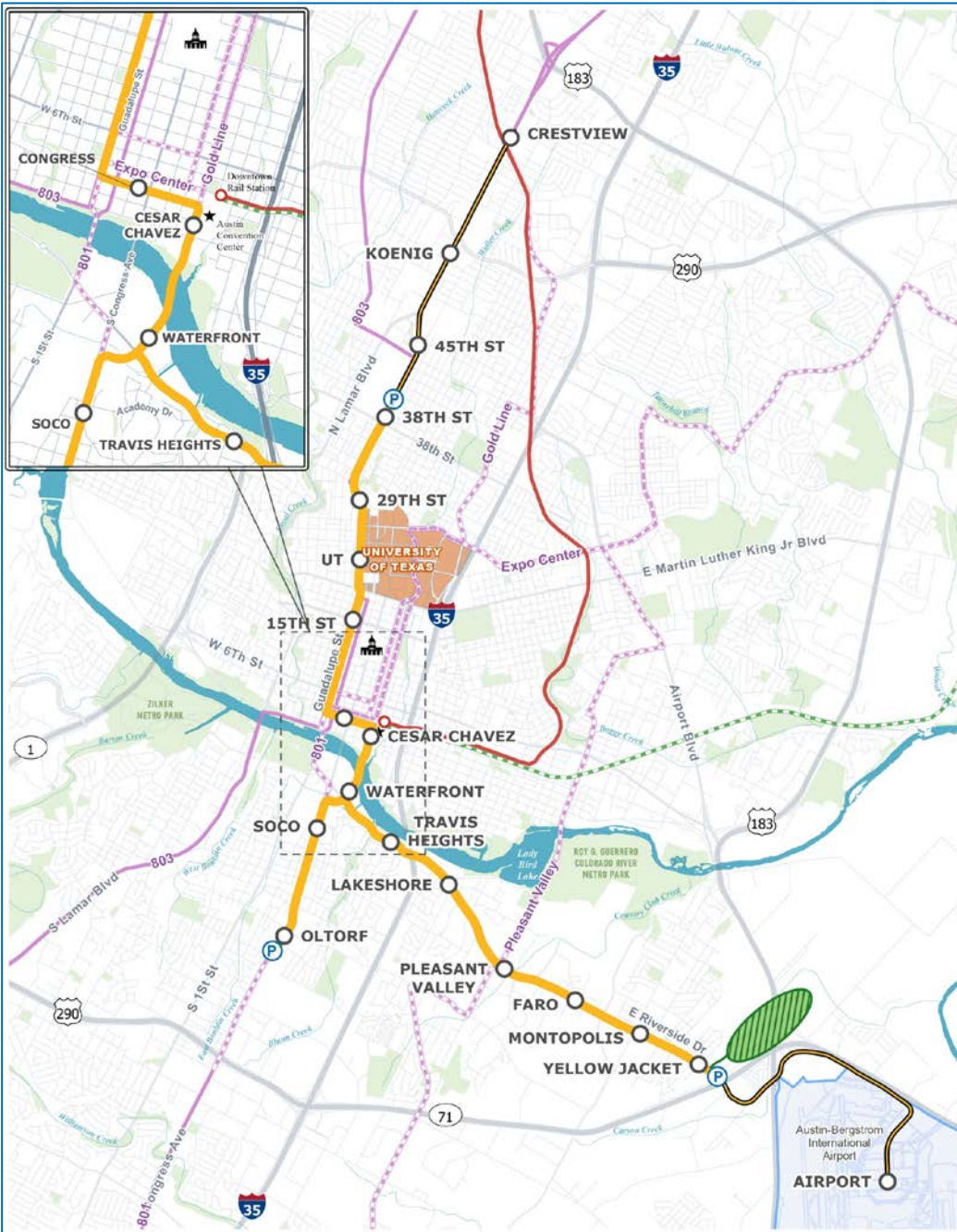
- Light Rail Station
- Light Rail - Phase 1
- Light Rail - Priority Extension
- ▭ Operations & Maintenance Facility (OMF) Study Area
- Ⓟ Park & Ride Study Area
- 🏛️ Texas State Capitol

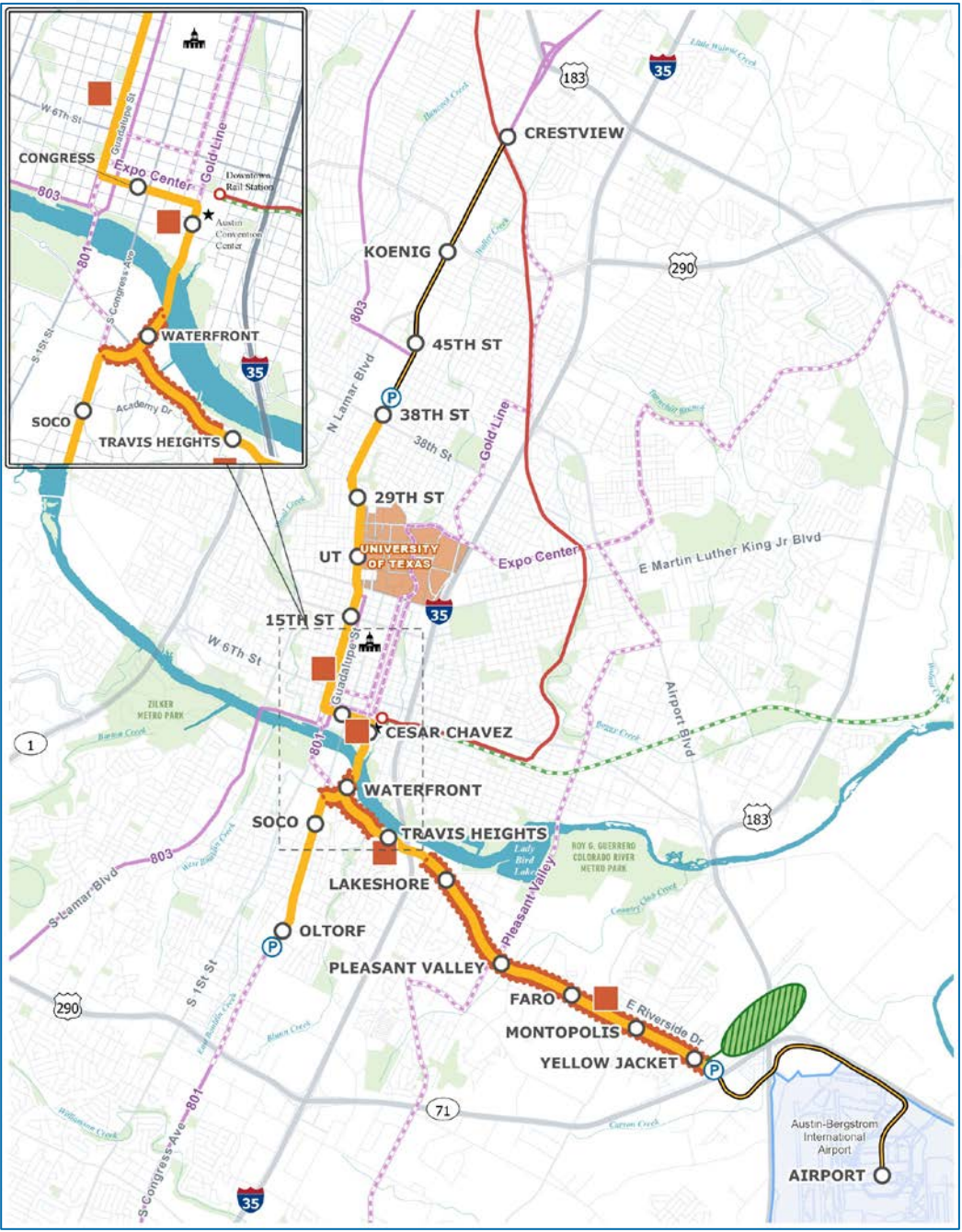
Source: CapMetro 2024, Project Connect 2021

Transit Routes

- Red Line
- Green Line (future)
- CapMetro Rapid
- CapMetro Rapid (future)

0 0.75 1.5 Miles





AUSTIN LIGHT RAIL ADVANCING DESIGN

Evaluating design options identified through previous public engagement, technical and design opportunities



STATION LOCATIONS

- + Evaluating and optimizing proposed station locations



MULTIMODAL INTEGRATION

- + Study area to extend light rail bridge south of Lady Bird Lake
- + Study area to locate bike and pedestrian facilities next to light rail, east of I-35 (center-running) along Riverside Drive



Evaluate proposed end of line facilities and site locations

LEGEND

- Design Option
- Design Option (Study Area)

- Light Rail Station
- Light Rail - Phase 1
- Light Rail - Priority Extension

- Park & Ride Study Area
- Texas State Capitol
- Operations & Maintenance Facility (OMF)

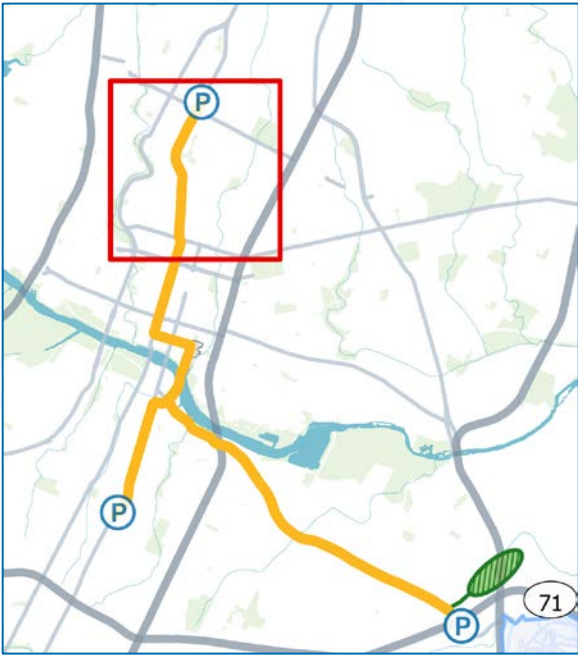
- Transit Routes
- Red Line
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0 0.75 1.5 Miles

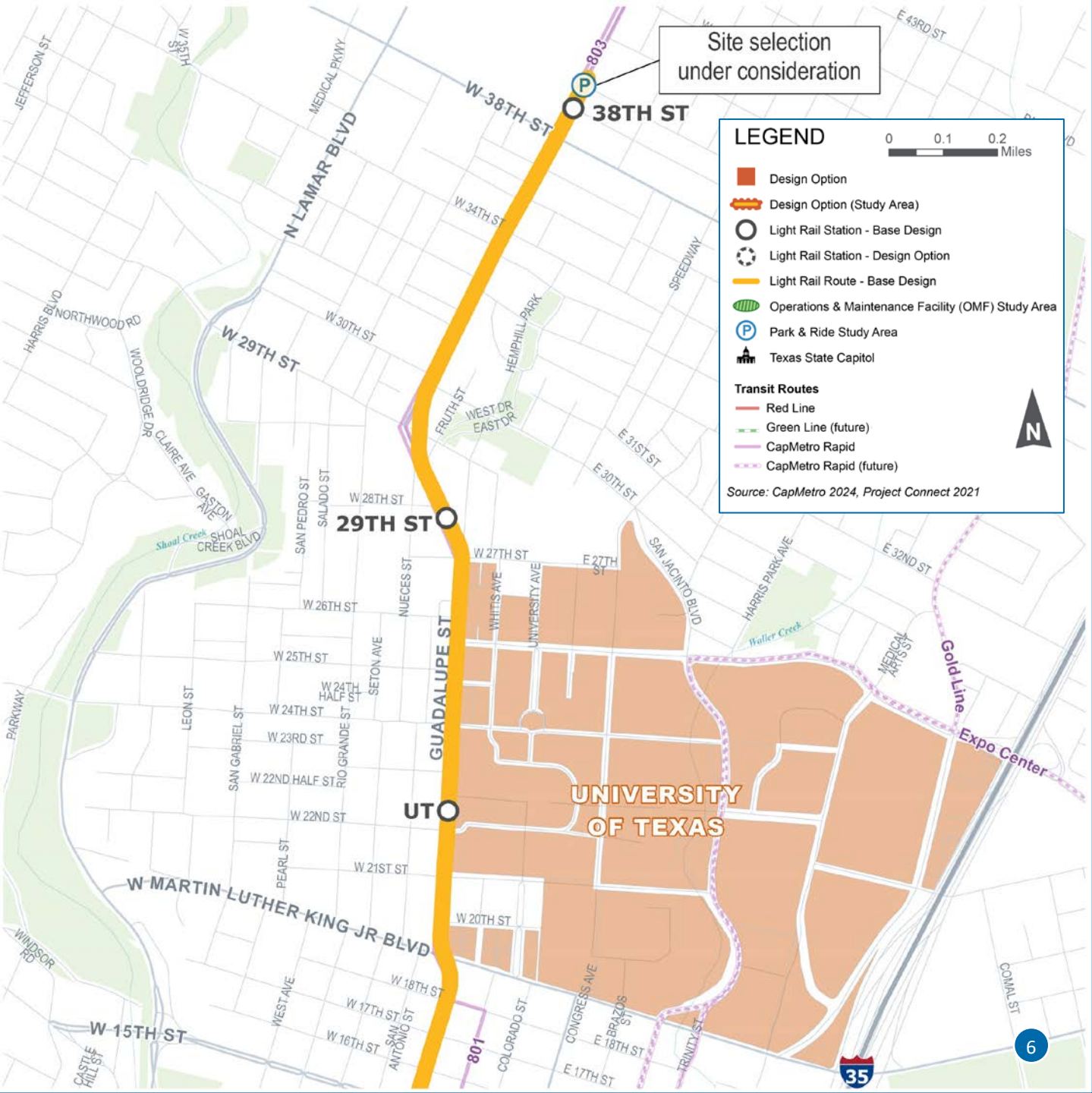


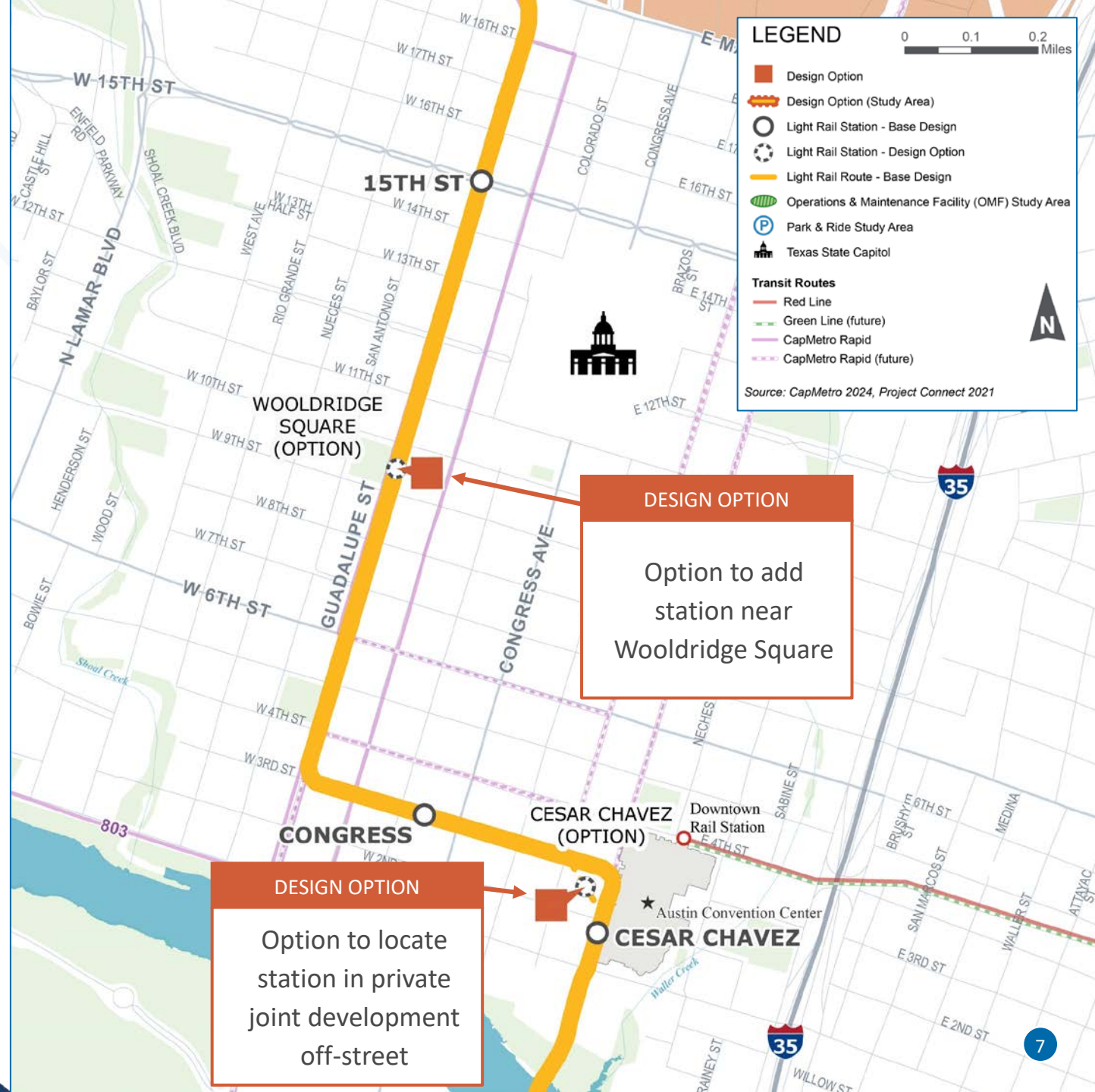
Source: CapMetro 2024, Project Connect 2021

AUSTIN LIGHT RAIL NORTH SECTION

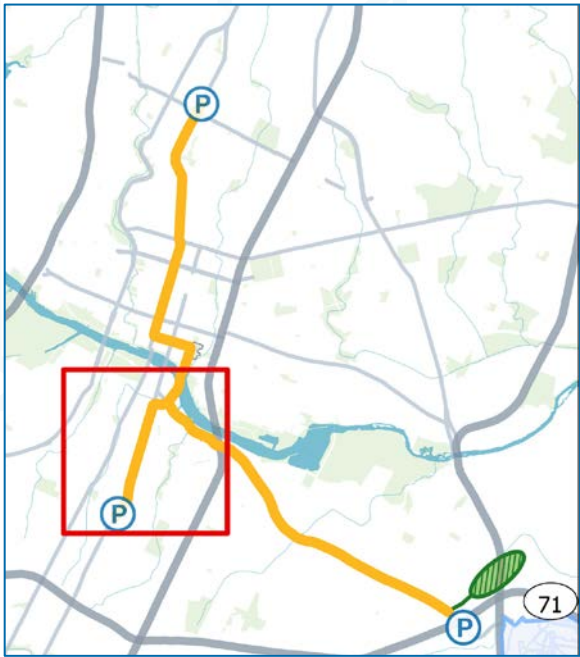


Evaluate proposed end of line facilities and site locations





AUSTIN LIGHT RAIL SOUTH SECTION



P Evaluate proposed end of line facilities and site locations



DESIGN OPTION (STUDY AREA)

Study area to extend light rail bridge south of Lady Bird Lake

DESIGN OPTION

Consider options with and without Travis Heights station

Site selection under consideration

LEGEND

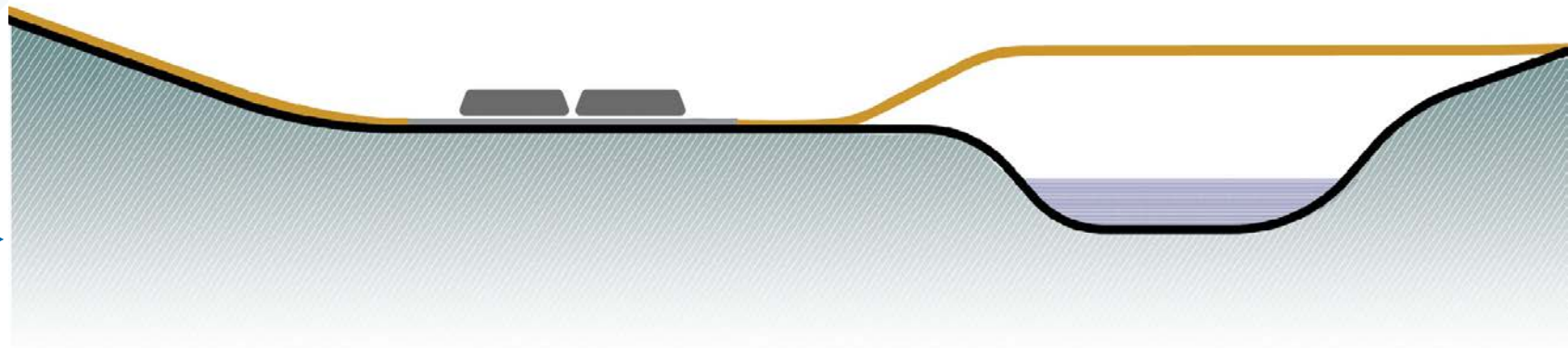
- Design Option
- Design Option (Study Area)
- Light Rail Station - Base Design
- Light Rail Station - Design Option
- Light Rail Route - Base Design
- Operations & Maintenance Facility (OMF) Study Area
- Park & Ride Study Area
- Texas State Capitol
- Transit Routes**
 - Red Line
 - Green Line (future)
 - CapMetro Rapid
 - CapMetro Rapid (future)

Source: CapMetro 2024, Project Connect 2021

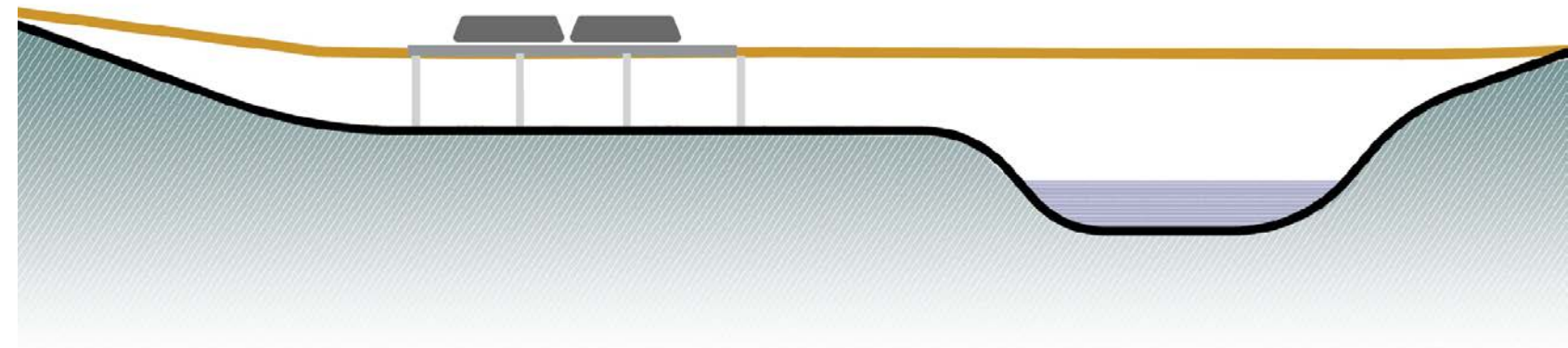
AUSTIN LIGHT RAIL SOUTH SECTION

DESIGN OPTION (STUDY AREA) FOR SOUTH OF LADY BIRD LAKE

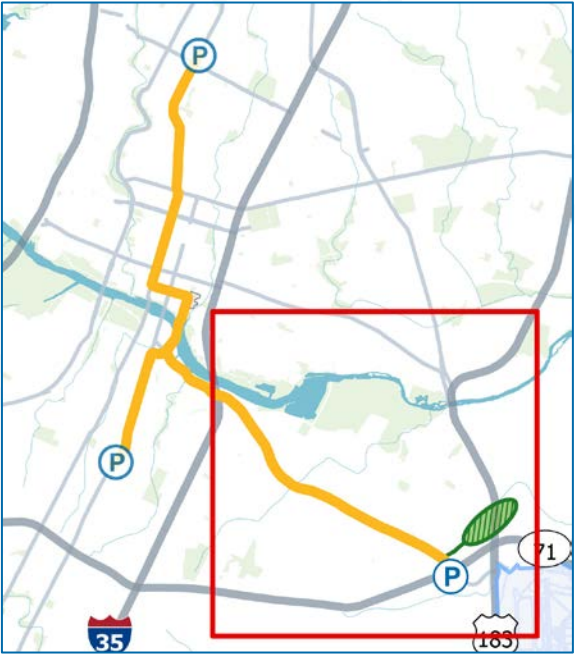
OPTION 1 —————→
Evaluating light rail running at street
level



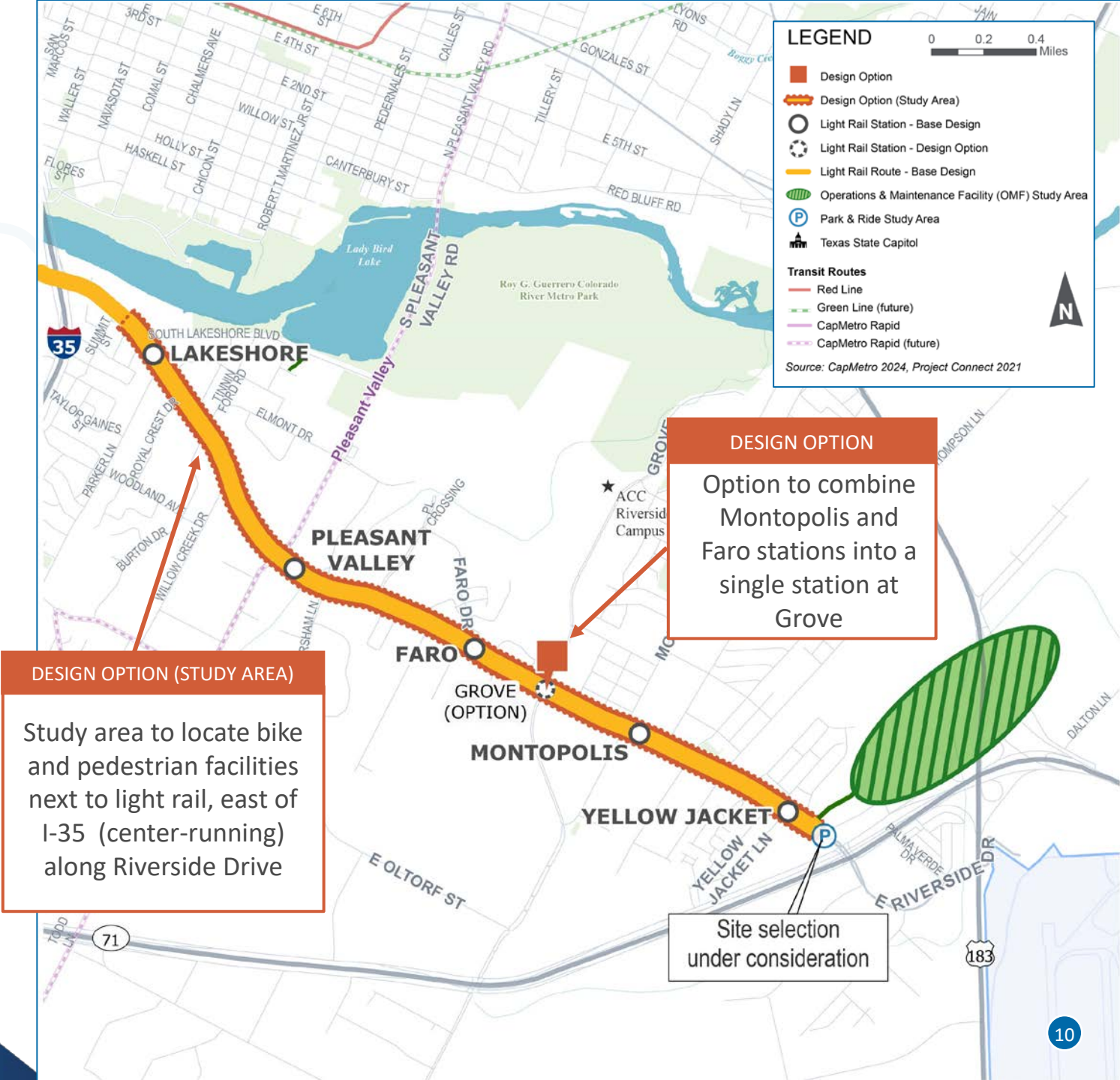
OPTION 2 —————→
Evaluating light rail running on extended
bridge



AUSTIN LIGHT RAIL EAST SECTION



P Evaluate proposed end of line facilities and site locations

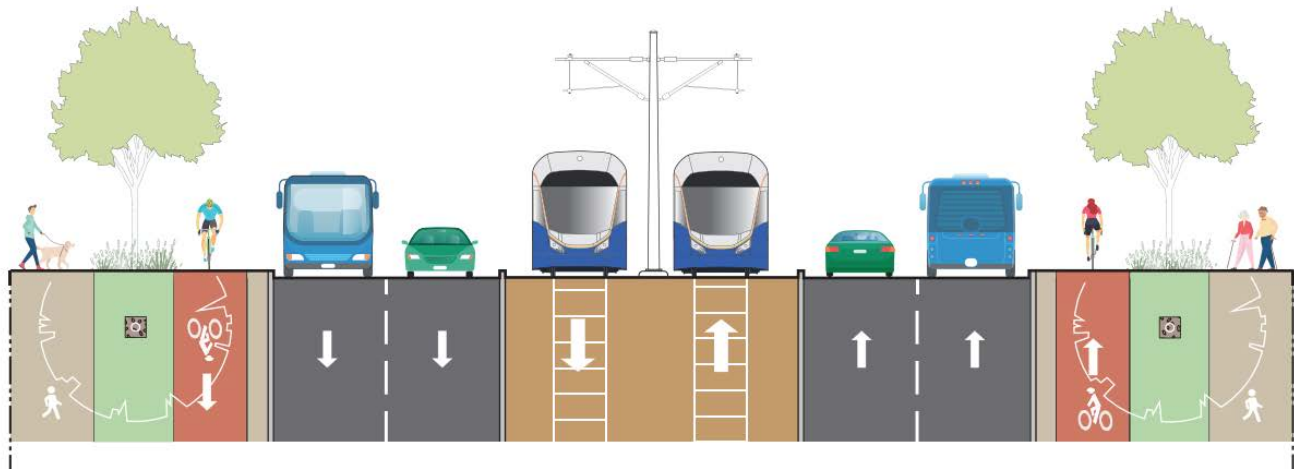


AUSTIN LIGHT RAIL EAST SECTION

DESIGN OPTION (STUDY AREA) FOR EAST RIVERSIDE DR.

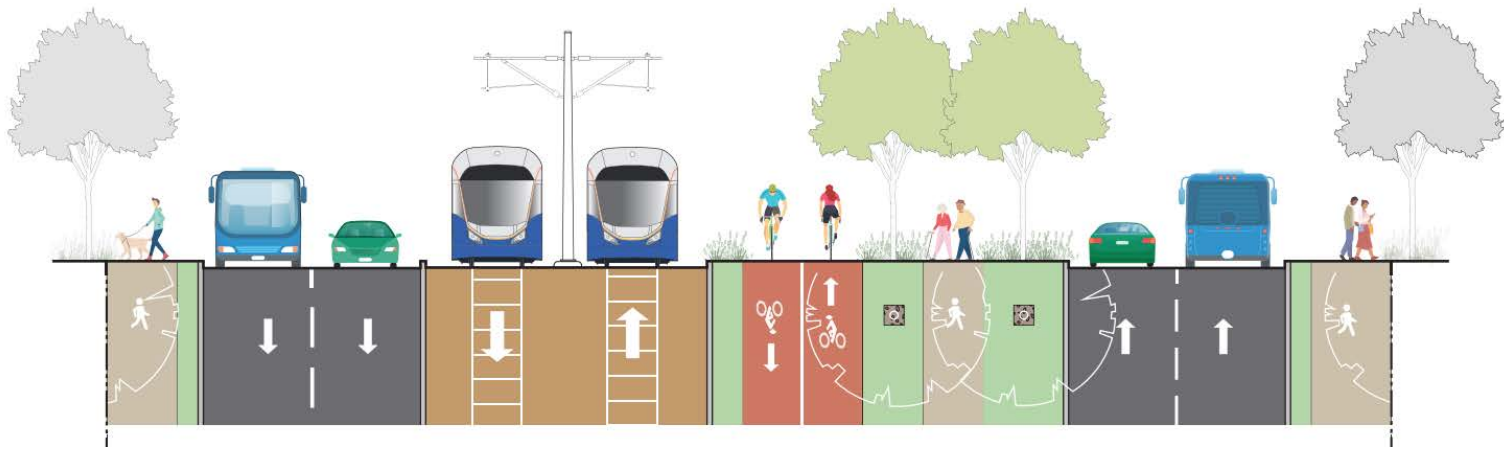
OPTION 1

Evaluating center-running light rail with outside bike & pedestrian facilities



OPTION 2

Evaluating bike & pedestrian facilities next to center-running light rail with outside shared use paths



AUSTIN LIGHT RAIL EAST SECTION



BIKE & PEDESTRIAN FACILITIES CONCEPT

PRECEDENTS:

PARIS, FRANCE



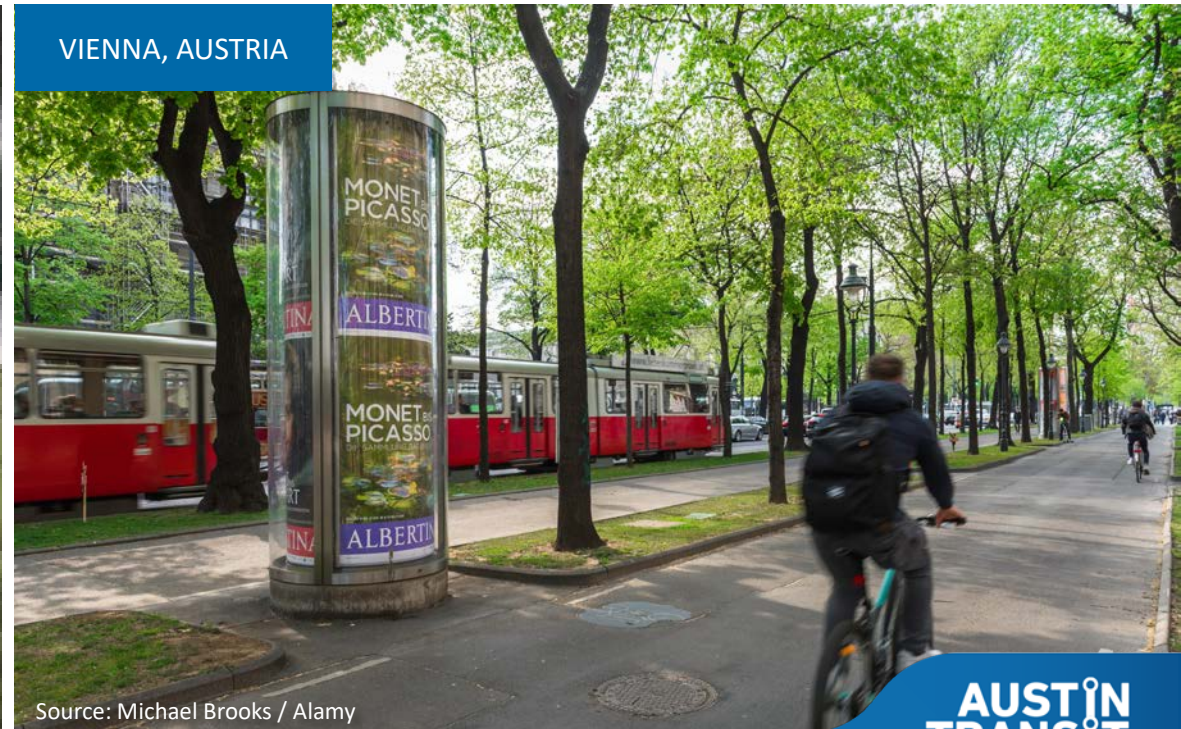
Source: H. Mason Hicks

SEATTLE, US



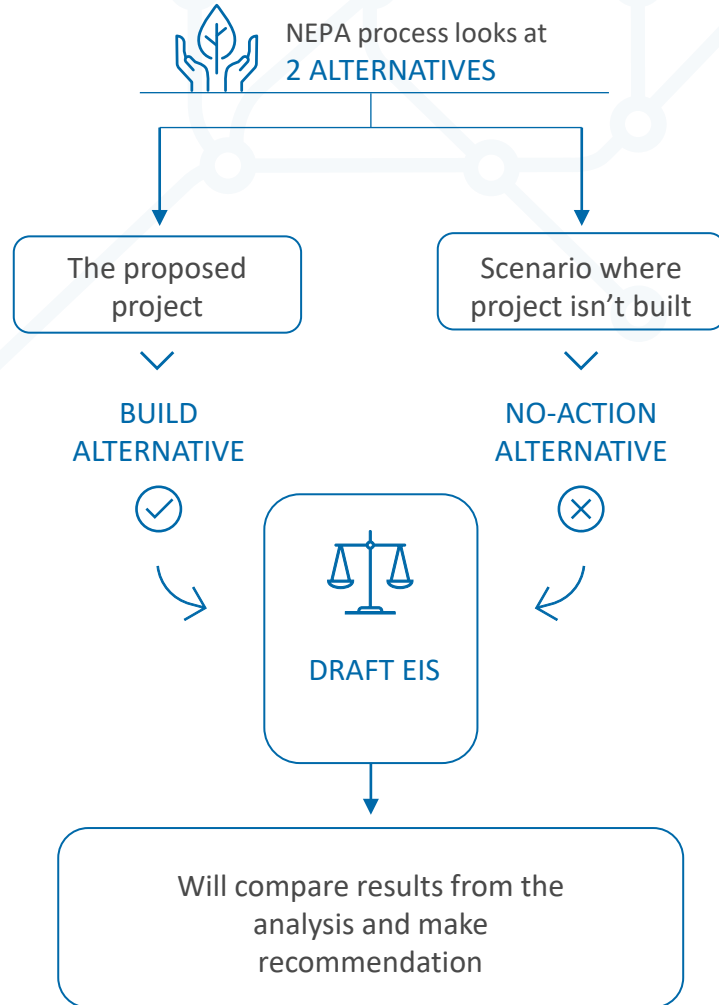
Source: Google Maps Streetview

VIENNA, AUSTRIA



Source: Michael Brooks / Alamy

WHAT DOES AN ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT STATEMENT (EIS) ANALYZE?



PHYSICAL & NATURAL ENVIRONMENT

- Air Quality
- Soils and Geology
- Water Quality
- Threatened and Endangered Species
- Energy
- Hazardous Materials
- Noise and Vibration
- Temporary Construction Impacts



HUMAN ENVIRONMENT

- Environmental Justice (EJ)
- Safety and Security
- Land Use and Zoning
- Socioeconomics and Economic Development
- Transportation
- Utilities
- Land Acquisitions and Displacements



CULTURAL ENVIRONMENT

- Cultural, Historic, and Archeological
- Parks and Recreational
- Visual Quality
- Neighborhood and Community Resources

FEDERAL PROCESS: NEPA



SCOPING

Provides an opportunity for the public and other agencies to provide input on the project



DRAFT EIS

Documents analysis and recommendations for the project



FEIS/ROD

Reflects changes from public comment and memorializes NEPA process



JAN-MAR 2024



Scoping

- Present items that will undergo environmental review

- Provide input on the issues and questions that we should consider in the environmental analysis



FALL 2024 – SPRING 2025



Public and Stakeholder Review for Draft EIS

ATP will share, through various methods, the Draft EIS for public and stakeholder review and comment for 45+ days



SUMMER 2025



FEIS/ROD Issued

Final document shows responses to all relevant comments received on the Draft EIS.

APR-JUNE 2024



Continuing Outreach (Post-Scoping)

Provide education and information on the NEPA and project development process



Address Draft EIS Input

ATP will review and address substantive comments on the analysis and design



Thank you!

AUSTIN
TRANSIT
PARTNERSHIP