

BOARD/COMMISSION RECOMMENDATION

Downtown Commission

**Recommendation Number 20250416-005: Cap and Stitch Initial Funding**

**Recommendation:**

**WHEREAS** the Texas Department of Transportation (TxDOT)'s I-35 Capital Express Central project will lower the highway's main lanes between Lady Bird Lake and Airport Boulevard; and

**WHEREAS** the City of Austin has identified a once-in-a-generation opportunity to change the landscape of Central Austin through the construction of "caps" and "stitches" over the highway ("Caps and Stitches"); and

**WHEREAS** the City of Austin has undertaken the Our Future 35 Austin project which is a community-centered initiative to create public spaces along the I-35 corridor caps and stitches that will reconnect East and West Austin; and

**WHEREAS** the Caps and Stitches, while being built and once completed, will directly impact the quality of life for those working and living in Downtown; and

**WHEREAS** the City of Austin is in the process of developing plans for constructing the Caps and Stitches; and

**WHEREAS** the City has identified phases of the Cap and Stitch Construction which are:

- Cesar Chavez to 4th Street
  - 4th Street to 7th Street
  - 11th Street to 12th Street
  - 38th Street to Airport Blvd. (Northern Cap);
- and

**WHEREAS** I-35 from Lady Bird Lake to Martin Luther King Jr Boulevard marks the eastern boundary of the Downtown Commission's jurisdiction; and

**WHEREAS** the Downtown Commission supports the timely and efficient planning and construction of the Caps and Stitches; and

**WHEREAS** the City of Austin is considering several funding and design options for the roadway elements of the Caps and Stitches; and

**WHEREAS** City staff has presented funding scenarios to the City Council for consideration; and  
**WHEREAS** the Our Future 35 project has included years of stakeholder engagement and visioning for building out each full cap; and

**WHEREAS**, the City of Austin has provided options for shortened (800') caps along the I-35 corridor; and

**WHEREAS** the 800' shortened caps scenario does not support the design and vision of the Our Future 35 project; and

**WHEREAS** neither funding scenario includes design and construction of the full-size caps envisioned in the Our Future 35 Austin project; and

**WHEREAS:** it is the considered opinion of the Downtown Commission that funding of the Our Future 35 roadway elements should include all full-size caps.

**NOW THEREFORE** we, the Commissioners of the Austin Downtown Commission, do hereby strongly recommend and urge the Austin City Council to fully fund the roadway elements necessary to support the full caps, as designed, along the I-35 Capital Express Central project.

Motioned By: Commissioner Peveto

Seconded By: Commissioner Levinson

Date of Approval: April 16, 2025

Vote: 8-0

For: Vice Chair Ishmael, Commissioners Breton, Buchta, Carroll, Coufal, Levinson, Peveto, and Wiley

Against: None

Abstain: N/A

Absent: Commissioner Shifferd

Attest:

*Christi Vitela*

Staff Liaison