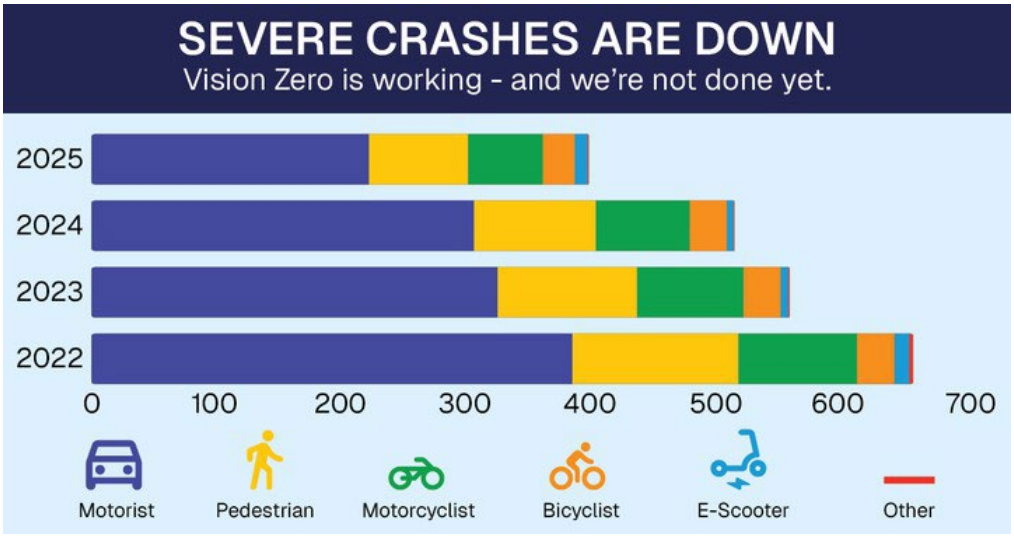
File ID:City of Austin
Mobility Committee Meeting Backup: March 5, 2026

# City of Austin Mobility Report

March 2026

## Monthly Highlights

### SEVERE CRASHES IN AUSTIN SHOW DOWNWARD TREND IN 2025




Preliminary data show that Austin recorded 99 traffic fatalities and 301 serious injuries in 2025. While fatalities increased slightly by 2% compared with 2024, serious injuries fell by 28%, resulting in a combined 22% decrease in the most severe crashes.

Pedestrian outcomes improved notably. Pedestrian fatalities dropped by nearly 23%, and serious injuries fell by 15%, marking the lowest pedestrian share of severe crashes Austin has seen in recent years. This improvement comes as many U.S. cities continue to struggle with elevated pedestrian risk, even as national traffic deaths begin to level off from pandemic-era highs.

Overall, serious injuries in Austin have declined in recent years, with 2025 marking the lowest count since Vision Zero was adopted. Both deaths and serious injuries are considerably lower than the high-water mark of 2022, when Austin recorded 117 deaths and 540 serious injuries.

While the causes are complex, evaluations of Austin's safety investments point to positive impacts: major intersection projects have been linked to a 38% reduction in fatal and serious injury crashes, and protected intersections to a 42% reduction. Approximately 65%-75% of Austin's traffic fatalities occur on roads owned by the state.

Breaking down the numbers by transportation mode category, increases and reductions were mixed on fatalities. Deaths among motorists, motorcyclists, bicyclists and e-scooter riders were up

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compared to 2024, while pedestrian fatalities dropped from 39 to 30.

Serious injuries, however, were down across all categories except e-scooter riders, which rose from 5 to 7.

Another important marker of improvement is that combined fatal and serious injuries per capita went down even as Austin's population has risen. In 2024 Austin recorded 49.3 serious injuries and fatalities per 100,000 population; that dropped to 37.9 in 2025. In 2022 this number was 64.7. (It is important to note here that not every person who is killed or injured in Austin traffic is a resident of Austin; thousands of people from outside the city limits travel here every day.)

Traffic safety is also an equity issue. Black people tend to be significantly overrepresented in severe crashes, making up 11.8% of serious injuries and fatalities in 2025 and 15% in 2024, despite making up only 8% of Austin's population. Vision Zero addresses these disparities by prioritizing investments in the communities that need them most. This is accomplished through community engagement (including multilingual materials and interpreters) and incorporating new data sources to better understand injury patterns among populations where crashes are often underreported.

Male overrepresentation among crash victims got slightly worse in 2025 than previous years. In 2024, males accounted for 67.6% of deaths and serious injuries, and that rose to 70.5% in 2025. This overrepresentation is believed to be due to higher rates of risky behaviors like speeding, impaired driving and aggressive driving recorded among younger men.

More detail on Austin's progress from 2015–2024 is available in **Vision Zero's 10-year report** released in October.

## NEW LIGHTING INSTALLED UNDER SIXTH STREET BRIDGE ON SHOAL CREEK

The **Shoal Creek Trail** is now safer and easier to use thanks to installed lighting underneath the Sixth Street Bridge.

The project was designed with the historic nature of the bridge in mind as well as the unique issues presented by Shoal Creek's geography

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The project was a partnership between Austin and the **Shoal Creek Conservancy**. The bridge was built in1887, and the trail has become busier than ever since the trail's Fifth Street gap closure was completed in 2018, allowing uninterrupted hiking and biking all the way from Lady Bird Lake to West 31st Street.

## NEW CARTS ROUTES DELIVER SUBURBAN COMMUTERS TO AUSTIN

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On Monday, March 2, the **Capital Area Rural Transportation System (CARTS)** launched new **weekday commuter routes** to Austin, giving residents a reliable alternative to driving alone. For a limited time, rides will be free. New express service will connect Smithville and Bastrop, as well as Georgetown and Round Rock, directly to downtown Austin — making it easier to skip traffic and reclaim your commute.

Skip traffic. Ride free. Let CARTS do the driving.

Seating is available on a first-come basis, and service levels may be adjusted over time to better meet rider demand. Convenient Park & Ride options are available at CARTS stations in Smithville, Bastrop and Georgetown.

Additional commuter service out of Elgin is planned for June 2026.

These new routes are funded through the **Climate Pollution Reduction Grant**, a regional initiative focused on reducing traffic congestion, improving commute reliability and supporting cleaner air by providing real alternatives to driving alone. The grant is funded through the federal **Inflation Reduction Act**.

## Community Resources

Weekly Mobility Newsletter Sign Up

Capital Projects Explorer

Austin Mobility Data and Performance Hub

Austin-Bergstrom International Airport

Upcoming Sidewalk Projects

Street Preventative Maintenance

Special Event Road Closures