

To: CapMetro Board of Directors  
From: Sharmila Mukherjee, EVP, Chief Strategic Planning and Development Officer  
Date: September 16<sup>th</sup>, 2024  
Re: Introducing Transit Plan 2035

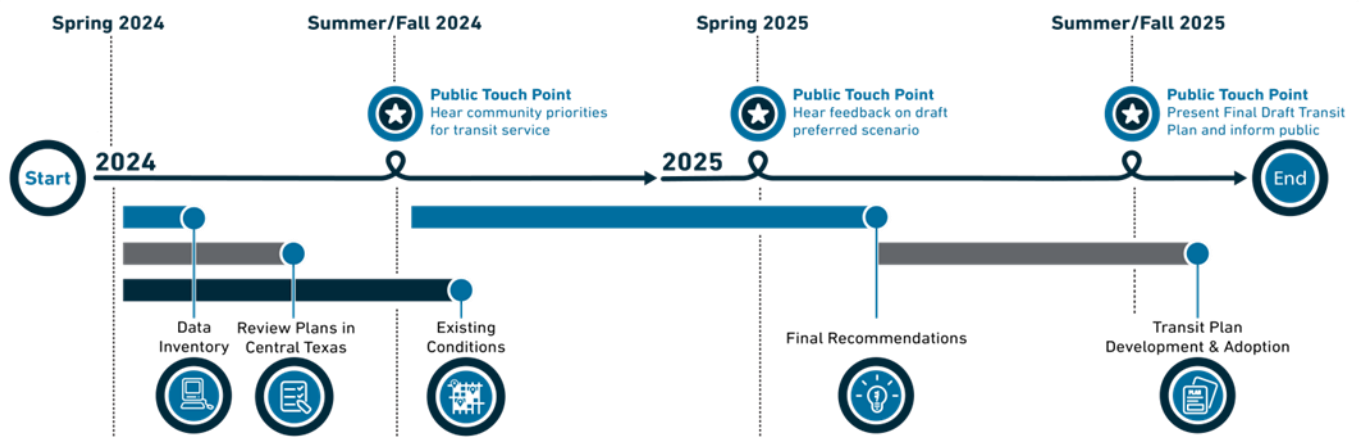
CapMetro kicked off [Transit Plan 2035](#) in April 2024. Transit Plan 2035 will build on our previous efforts, including Connections 2025, and align with other local and regional initiatives to develop a plan for a transit system that meets the needs of the growing Central Texas community. This effort will be a review of technical information as well as a collection of input from the community and major stakeholders to inform updates to the CapMetro transit system.

This is a fiscally constrained plan as well as a vision for future growth. The plan will complement the Project Connect program of projects and culminate in a set of phased recommendations to guide our systemwide transit investment. This will include proposing viable near-term solutions within the first five years; recommendations considering Project Connect Light Rail Transit implementation within 10 years; and recommendations to achieve CapMetro's long-term vision beyond. Following the Plan's adoption in late 2025, a series of Service Change proposals will follow; and during each service change process, CapMetro will complete public engagement and board approval of each change prior to implementation.

The plan will focus on:

- Developing ideas that best serve the needs of both CapMetro's existing customers and prospective customers.
- Seamlessly integrating and coordinating CapMetro's new and ongoing services, including CapMetro Rail, CapMetro Bus, CapMetro Access, and Pickup services.
- Understanding how people travel within the region today and anticipating future travel trends.
- Analyzing CapMetro's current service performance and recognizing gaps and areas with underserved, disadvantaged, or overburdened communities through technical analysis and neighborhood-focused engagement.
- Much of this work will be informed by robust community engagement across the entire CapMetro service area, which is part of the project, and detailed in Appendix A: Engagement Details.

The timeline provides an overview of the engagement efforts and key milestones.



Should Board Members have any questions regarding the Transit Plan 2035, they should contact [Ed.Easton@capmetro.org](mailto:Ed.Easton@capmetro.org).

## Appendix A: Engagement Details

Public involvement is essential to transit agency decision-making given the direct impact of transit systems on communities, particularly for underserved, historically underrepresented, and low-income populations. It ensures that transit decisions align with community needs, illuminates valuable insights from the community, identifies potential issues of equity and accessibility, mitigates negative impacts, and builds trust and collaboration with the community. The Transit Plan 2035 includes a Community and Internal Involvement Plan (CIIP) designed to ensure agency transparency and foster community-led decision-making. The plan will ensure comprehensive engagement and communication throughout the planning and implementation phases.

In preparation for the first round of engagement the [Community Connectors Program](#) hired 15 community members to help reach their networks. These paid positions were part of an open process, allowing individuals to nominate themselves for consideration. Community engagement activities and events are being scheduled between September 15, 2024 and October 18<sup>th</sup>, 2024 and will include a community feedback survey, community member focus groups, a public meeting community night at the Millennium Youth Complex, and pop-up community events including Fiesta del Grito Mexican Independence Day Celebration, Leander Artfest, National Night Out, Manor Farmers Market, ACC Riverbat Bash, Equidad ATX Meal Distribution, among others. The project webpage is available at [capmetro.org/transitplan2035](https://capmetro.org/transitplan2035).

### Public & Internal Engagement Plan

- Developed Community and Internal Involvement Plan
- Completed a Community Assessment
- Stakeholder Identification and Management

### Completed Engagement

- Senior Executive Team Interviews
- CapMetro Board of Director 1x1 Interviews
- Frontline and Admin Staff Focus Groups
- Frontline and Admin Staff Town Halls
- Community Connectors recruitment, interviews, and trainings

### Ongoing & Upcoming Engagement

- Round 1 Community Engagement: September 16 - October 18
- Public Meeting at the Millennium Youth Entertainment Complex: October 10