

Briefing on Light Rail Program Project Development

August 15, 2022

Project Connect Vision

"... a citywide traffic-easing rapid transit system ... to address traffic congestion, expand service for essential workers, reduce climate change emissions, decrease traffic fatalities, create jobs, and provide access to schools, health care, jobs and the airport; to include neighborhood supportive affordable housing investments along transit corridors and a fixed rail and bus rapid transit system, including associated road, sidewalk, bike, and street lighting improvements, park and ride hubs, ondemand neighborhood circulator shuttles, and improved access for seniors and persons with disabilities ..."

Source: Ballot Language



Project Development Process



Notes: Project Development includes Preliminary Engineering



Light Rail Cost Estimates

- Costs have increased from \$5.8 billion to \$10.3 billion at 15% design
 - Design progression and scope
 - Real estate
 - Inflation
- ATP anticipates that costs will continue an upward trajectory

Need to align program scope and sequencing to available funding



Program Assessment and Outlook

- Great track record of <u>partnership</u> among ATP / City / CapMetro and the Community to advance early, critical investments
- ATP is committed to implementing Austin's <u>vision</u> to build a comprehensive transit system ... *without any New Taxes*
- ATP will <u>transparently</u> engage with the Community to develop an Updated Light Rail Implementation Plan that reflects Austin's priorities and values
- ATP will focus our work to complete Project Development of the Light Rail components of the program <u>within available funding</u> and do the necessary work to <u>secure Federal Investment</u>







Federal Grant Process



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Opportunities for Program Optimization





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Planning



- Collect and aggregate data:
 - Demographic and socioeconomic information
 - Displacement
 - Housing
 - Trip drivers
 - Development planning
 - Ridership (current and projected)
 - Environmental impacts
- Analyze data to identify opportunities and challenges and inform other work



Technical Review



- Continue to build upon technical work undertaken to date
- Potential focus areas:
 - Lake crossing(s)
 - Tunnel extents
 - Stations and station areas
 - Maintenance and storage facility
 - Corridor mobility improvements
 - Technology
- Incorporate feedback from other work areas



Strategic Partnerships



- Engage with local agency partners around progress and key decision points
- Ensure consistent and unified communication and collaboration with FTA to continue to advance federal grant process
- Identify opportunities for private, non-profit and other collaboration to benefit project outcomes



Financial Review



- Analyze key variables and risks using financial model and other tools
- Identify and assess other funding and financing opportunities
 - TIFIA and RRIF loans
 - Other federal programs
- Advance financial controls and reporting capabilities
- Finalize a Plan of Finance that maximizes loan/grant opportunities and minimizes market risk



Market Sounding



- Receive feedback from potential industry participants
- Leverage best practices and industry innovation
- Understand how certain delivery strategies may drive value for initial and future investments



Community Engagement



- Engage the community to ensure an understanding of tradeoffs
- Develop and implement engagement strategies with a focus on participation from priority communities
- Ensure projects are developed using community values and priorities
- Engage CAC, Mobility Committee and other community groups





ATP Board Workshop

City of Austin Mobility Committee CapMetro Planning & Ops CAC / TACs

July – August 2022



Advance Project Development

Workplan Technical & Community Check-ins

September 2022 – Spring 2023

Updated Light Rail Implementation Plan

Spring 2023

