



Agenda - Final

Capital Metropolitan Transportation Authority

Board of Directors

2910 East 5th Street
Austin, TX 78702

Friday, June 2, 2023

1:30 PM

Rosa Parks Boardroom

Special Board Meeting - Light Rail Implementation Plan

This meeting will be livestreamed at capmetrotx.legistar.com

I. Call to Order

II. Public Comment:

III. Action Item:

1. Approving a resolution adopting modifications to the light rail element of Project Connect and the associated Implementation Sequence Plan by adopting the Austin Light Rail Implementation Plan.

IV. Executive Session of Chapter 551 of the Texas Government Code:

Section 551.071 for Consultation with an Attorney regarding legal advice related to the Austin Light Rail Implementation Plan

V. Items for Future Discussion:

VI. Adjournment

ADA Compliance

Reasonable modifications and equal access to communications are provided upon request. Please call (512) 369-6040 or email ed.easton@capmetro.org if you need more information.

BOARD OF DIRECTORS: Jeffrey Travillion, Chair; Leslie Pool, Vice Chair; Becki Ross, Secretary; Eric Stratton, Paige Ellis, Matt Harriss, Dianne Bangle and Chito Vela.

The Board of Directors may go into closed session under the Texas Open Meetings Act. In accordance with Texas Government Code, Section 551.071, consultation with attorney for any legal issues, under Section 551.072 for real property issues; under Section 551.074 for personnel matters, or under Section 551.076, for deliberation regarding the deployment or implementation of security personnel or devices; arising regarding any item listed on this agenda.

Board of Directors

Item #: AI-2023-819

Agenda Date: 6/2/2023

SUBJECT:

Approving a resolution adopting modifications to the light rail element of Project Connect and the associated Implementation Sequence Plan by adopting the Austin Light Rail Implementation Plan.

FISCAL IMPACT:

This action has no fiscal impact.

STRATEGIC PLAN:

Strategic Goal Alignment:

- ☐ 1. Customer ☒ 2. Community
☐ 3. Workforce ☐ 4. Organizational Effectiveness

Strategic Objectives:

- ☐ 1.1 Safe & Reliable Service ☐ 1.2 High Quality Customer Experience ☐ 1.3 Accessible System
☒ 2.1 Support Sustainable Regional Growth ☐ 2.2 Become a Carbon Neutral Agency
☐ 2.3 Responsive to Community and Customer Needs ☐ 2.4 Regional Leader in Transit Planning
☐ 3.1 Diversity of Staff ☐ 3.2 Employer of Choice ☐ 3.3 Expand Highly Skilled Workforce
☐ 4.1 Fiscally Responsible and Transparent ☐ 4.2 Culture of Safety ☐ 4.3 State of Good Repair

EXPLANATION OF STRATEGIC ALIGNMENT: CapMetro is one of three partners working to implement the Project Connect program of projects. Adoption of the Austin Light Rail Implementation Plan supports the next step of advancing the program and refining the initial investment in light rail on behalf of our community.

BUSINESS CASE: CapMetro must approve the Austin Light Rail Implementation Plan in order to advance the program, in alignment with the Project Connect governing documents.

COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION: This item will be presented to the full board on June 2, 2023.

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY: CapMetro must approve the Austin Light Rail Implementation Plan to advance the program, in alignment with the Project Connect governing documents. The plan represents a consensus recommendation from the Project Connect partnership staff from CapMetro, ATP, and the City of Austin,

following a robust community engagement process. This item was forwarded to the City Council and CapMetro Board by the Austin Transit Partnership Board on May 24. The City Council authorized a substantially similar adoption of the Austin Light Rail Implementation Plan on June 1.

DBE/SBE PARTICIPATION: Does not apply.

PROCUREMENT: Does not apply.

RESPONSIBLE DEPARTMENT: Executive Department

**RESOLUTION
OF THE
CAPITAL METROPOLITAN TRANSPORTATION AUTHORITY
BOARD OF DIRECTORS**

**STATE OF TEXAS
COUNTY OF TRAVIS**

AI-2023-819

WHEREAS, on June 10, 2020, City of Austin ("City") Council adopted Resolution No. 20200610-002, directing the City Manager to amend the Austin Strategic Mobility Plan ("ASMP") to include the city-wide high-capacity transit system known as the Project Connect System Plan ("Project Connect"), which included locally preferred alternatives for light rail identified as the "Orange Line" and "Blue Line" (the "Light Rail Vision for Project Connect" or "Light Rail Vision"); and

WHEREAS, on August 12, 2020, City Council adopted Ordinance No. 20200812-009 (the "Ballot Measure"), ordering a general municipal election to be held in the City on November 3, 2020 to, among other things, submit "Proposition A" to voters, authorizing an increase in the maintenance and operations rate component of the City of Austin ad valorem tax rate pursuant to Section 26.07 of the Texas Tax Code, to provide funds for Project Connect, including \$300 million in funds for anti-displacement efforts (the "Project Connect Tax Revenue"); and

WHEREAS, concurrently with the adoption of the Ballot Measure, City Council adopted Resolution No. 20200812-015 (the "Contract with the Voters Resolution"), clarifying and declaring the intent and commitment of City Council to the voters regarding the use of the Project Connect Tax Revenue to invest in Project Connect in accordance with the associated Implementation Sequence Plan described therein; and

WHEREAS, almost fifty-eight percent of City of Austin voters approved Proposition A on November 3, 2020; and

WHEREAS, upon the passage of Proposition A, the City and Capital Metropolitan Transportation Authority ("Capital Metro") jointly created the Austin Transit Partnership Local Government Corporation ("Austin Transit Partnership" or "ATP") to be the principal entity responsible for the implementation of Project Connect in a manner independent of the City and Capital Metro; and

WHEREAS, in accordance with Proposition A and the Contract with the Voters Resolution, the City has dedicated 100% of the Project Connect Tax Revenue to Austin Transit Partnership subject to the terms of the Interlocal Cooperation Agreement between the City and ATP with regarding the transfer of Project Connect

Tax Revenue from the City to ATP dated August 17, 2021 (the "Prop. A Transfer ILA"); and

WHEREAS, the Project Connect Tax Revenue will provide Austin Transit Partnership with the local funds necessary to plan, design, contract, finance, and fund operations and maintenance of Austin light rail and other elements of Project Connect; and

WHEREAS, the Project Connect Tax Revenue will be the primary source of local funds used as the local matching funds to receive any Federal Transit Administration ("FTA") New Starts Capital Improvement Grants for Austin light rail (the "Grant Funds"); and

WHEREAS, these Grant Funds and the Project Connect Tax Revenue will be used by ATP to secure Austin Transit Partnership revenue bonds and other loans to finance ATP's acquisition, design, development and construction of Project Connect; and

WHEREAS, due to a material change in circumstances since the passage of Proposition A, including, but not limited to, increased land values, construction cost escalation, and increased labor and financing costs, Austin Transit Partnership has advised the City and Capital Metro that the development of the Light Rail Vision for Project Connect and the associated Implementation Sequence Plan requires modification; and

WHEREAS, the Contract with the Voters Resolution provides that "if federal matching funds are not available to complete components of the initial investment, or additional components, Council contracts with the voters that the Project Connect Tax Revenue shall be used to fund as much of the initial investment in Project Connect as possible;" and

WHEREAS, the Contract with the Voters Resolution provides that upon the joint concurrence of City Council and the Capital Metro Board of Directors, Project Connect and associated Implementation Sequence Plan may be modified; and

WHEREAS, the City of Austin, Capital Metro, and the Austin Transit Partnership entered into a Joint Powers Agreement (the "JPA") in December 2021 to memorialize the roles and responsibilities of each entity and Section 5.1 of which provides for the ability of the City Council and Capital Metro Board to modify the Project Connect Investment Map and associated Implementation Sequence Plan at the request of ATP; and

WHEREAS, Sections 2.6 and 2.7 of the JPA contemplate that the implementation of Project Connect will require the parties to amend or supplement the JPA to address a variety of matters, including specific interagency topics, and such agreements are subject to the approval of the governing bodies of the City, Capital Metro and Austin Transit Partnership; and

WHEREAS, Austin Transit Partnership recently conducted an extensive priority population-focused

engagement feedback process on potential modifications to the Light Rail Vision, connecting with over 7,000 community members regarding the proposed modifications to Light Rail Vision, hosting over 80 community engagement events, and connecting with more than 3,000 core transit riders at 45 unique bus stop locations; and

WHEREAS, after extensive public feedback, on May 24, 2023, the Austin Transit Partnership Board of Directors requested that the City and Capital Metro adopt modifications to the Light Rail Vision with an updated light rail implementation plan for the phased financing, development and construction of Austin light rail, including the first phase project, as depicted in Exhibit A to this resolution (the "Austin Light Rail Implementation Plan"), and

WHEREAS, Capital Metro intends that the Austin Light Rail Implementation Plan will modify and supplement the Light Rail Vision for Project Connect and associated Implementation Sequence Plan and serve as the new phased plan and vision for the development of Austin light rail; and

WHEREAS, modifications to the JPA are also necessary to adopt and carry out the Austin Light Rail Implementation Plan; and

WHEREAS, Capital Metro is committed to the full implementation of Project Connect, including continuing work to further defining roles and responsibilities among the Project Connect partners, and amending the JPA as necessary and appropriate; and

WHEREAS, upon joint concurrence of the City and Capital Metro, the Austin Light Rail Implementation Plan will modify and supplement the Light Rail Vision for Project Connect and the associated Implementation Sequence Plan and serve as the new phased plan and vision for the development of Austin light rail.

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Capital Metropolitan Transportation Authority Board of Directors hereby approves the modification of the Light Rail Vision for Project Connect and the associated Implementation Sequence Plan by adopting the Austin Light Rail Implementation Plan attached as Exhibit A to this Resolution and authorizes the President & CEO, or her designee, to negotiate and execute an amendment to the JPA to incorporate Exhibit A.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that Austin Transit Partnership is authorized to implement the Austin Light Rail Implementation Plan in accordance with the phasing described therein.

Date: _____

Secretary of the Board
Becki Ross

AUSTIN TRANSIT

PARTNERSHIP

IN PARTNERSHIP WITH



CapMetro

Austin Light Rail: Recommendation

June 2, 2023



AUSTIN LIGHT RAIL IMPLEMENTATION PLAN

—

AUSTIN LIGHT RAIL
PHASE I

—

AUSTIN LIGHT RAIL
PHASE I
PRIORITY EXTENSION

—

FUTURE
AUSTIN LIGHT RAIL

MAJOR TRANSFER
POINT

PARK & RIDE

9.8
MILES OF NEW
LIGHT RAIL

15
LIGHT RAIL
STATIONS

TRANSIT CONNECTIONS

METRO RAPID

**HIGH FREQUENCY
BUS**

RED LINE

**PROPOSED
GREEN LINE**

ESTIMATED TRAVEL TIME

23 MINS

38TH - OLTORF

31 MINS

38TH - YELLOW JACKET

ESTIMATED AVG. # OF DAILY RIDERS SERVED
(2040)

28,500

20,000+
AFFORDABLE HOUSING UNITS SERVED
(SUBSIDIZED)

ACCESS TO

136,000+

CURRENT JOBS

200,000+

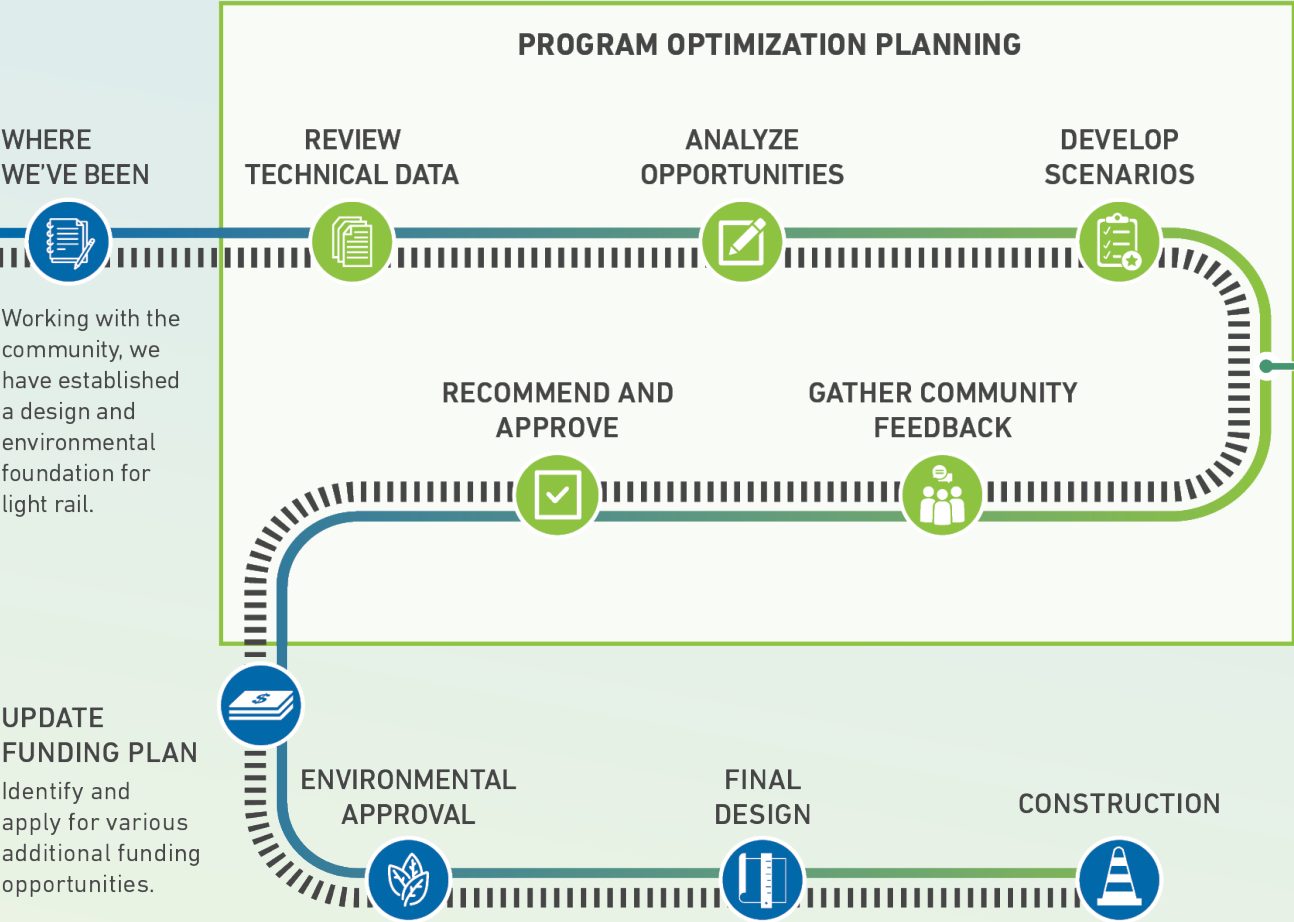
FUTURE JOBS

ANTICIPATED CAPITAL COST (CURRENT DOLLARS)

\$4.5-\$4.8B

LOCAL AND FEDERAL DOLLARS

PROGRAM PROCESS



COMMUNITY DIALOGUE

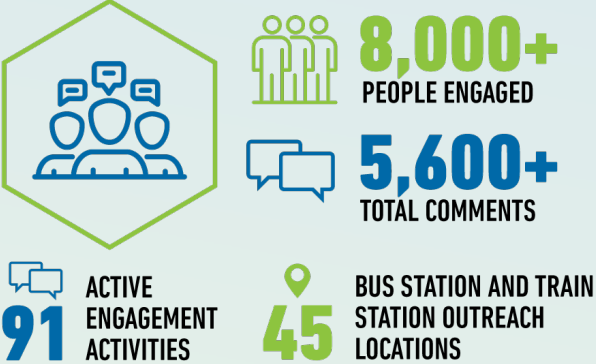
LIGHT RAIL OPTIONS



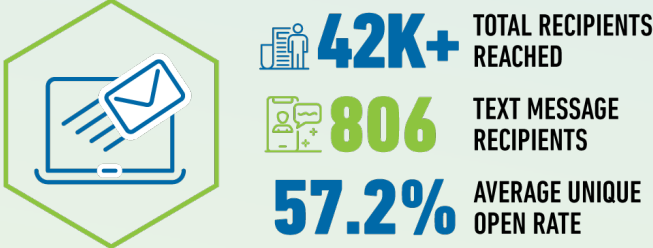
MULTILINGUAL COMMUNICATIONS



IN-PERSON ENGAGEMENT



OVERALL E-NEWSLETTER STATS



WEBSITE



OVERALL SOCIAL MEDIA STATS



WHAT WE HEARD



[...] Affirms that surface-running light rail is a good option to address the cost estimates for the Project Connect light rail plan.

-Urban Transportation Commission



RECA recommends ATP staff to choose the 38th to Oltorf to Yellow Jacket option.

-Real Estate Council of Austin (RECA)



TTC encourages ATP to have the light rail line cross Lady Bird Lake at the Trinity Street location.

-The Trail Conservancy



While all options are undoubtedly better than the current lack of any light rail, the working group has recommended the 38th to Oltorf to Yellow Jacket option because it lays the best foundation for the city overall.

-AURA - Austin for Everyone

Top Community Feedback Themes

- Supported the advancement of a light rail project that moves Austinites where they need and want to go
- Prioritized Mobility, Customer Service, and Access to Opportunities
- Focused on greater coverage, seamless integration with other transportation options, expandability of the system and affordably reaching key destinations including schools, medical centers, job centers, as well as areas around Austin including the airport, downtown, and the University of Texas
- Explored endpoint alternatives, expressed sentiments related to environmental impacts and benefits, and land use and housing

Community Advisory Committee (CAC)

The Austin Light Rail Implementation Plan is consistent with the CAC recommendation based on community feedback, conversations with stakeholders and staff, data analysis, and alignment with System-Wide Design Principles.

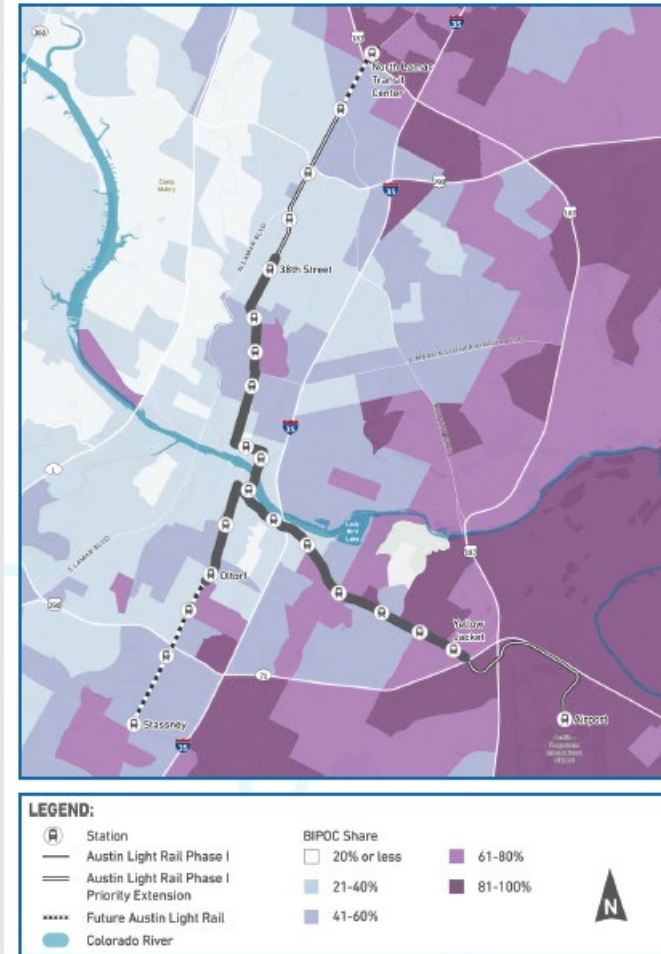




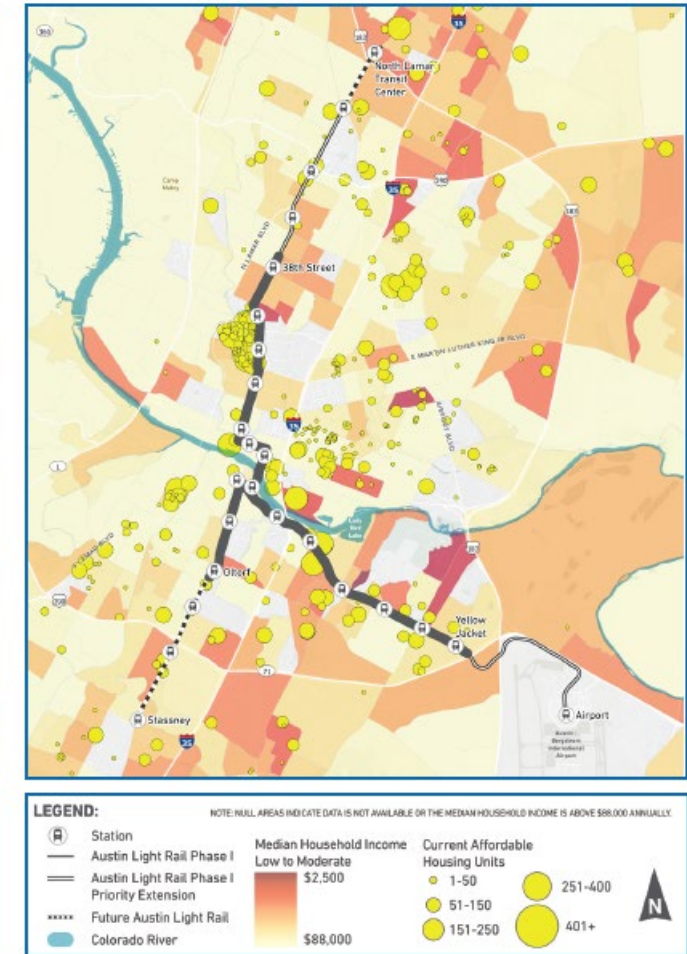
PRIORITIZE MOBILITY SOLUTIONS FOR HISTORICALLY UNDERSERVED COMMUNITIES

- Builds new infrastructure to serve historically underinvested areas
- Serves Black, Indigenous, & People of Color (BIPOC) communities, affordable housing units, lower income areas, and households that are more dependent on public transportation
- Connects communities with job centers and destinations throughout Austin

BIPOC Share of Population



Affordable Housing & Income

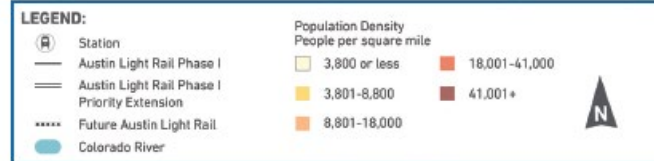
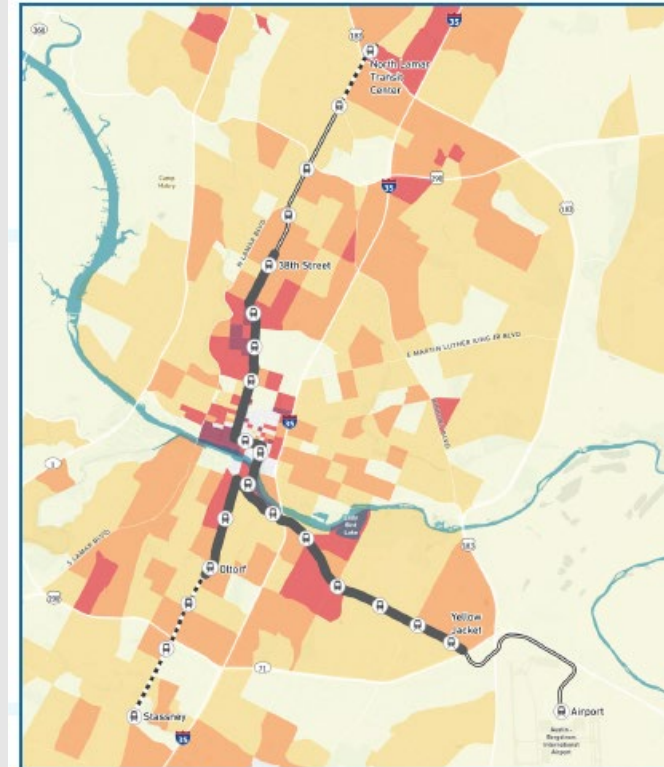




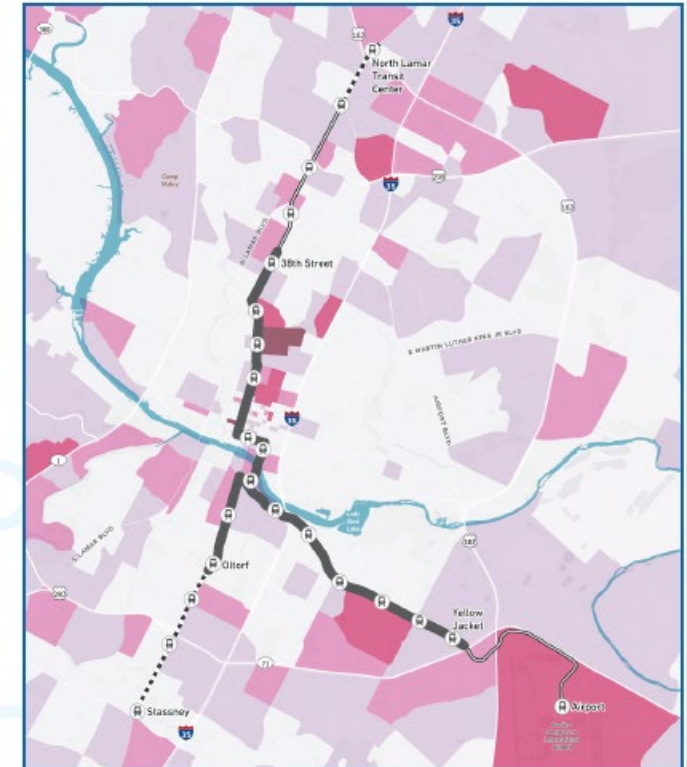
CONNECTING PEOPLE TO WHERE THEY NEED AND WANT TO GO

- Connects to job centers, education, medical centers, and downtown
- Provides access extending north, east, and south
- Generates strong ridership, and includes high ridership stations at UT, downtown, and Pleasant Valley/Riverside

2045 Population Density



2045 Total Jobs





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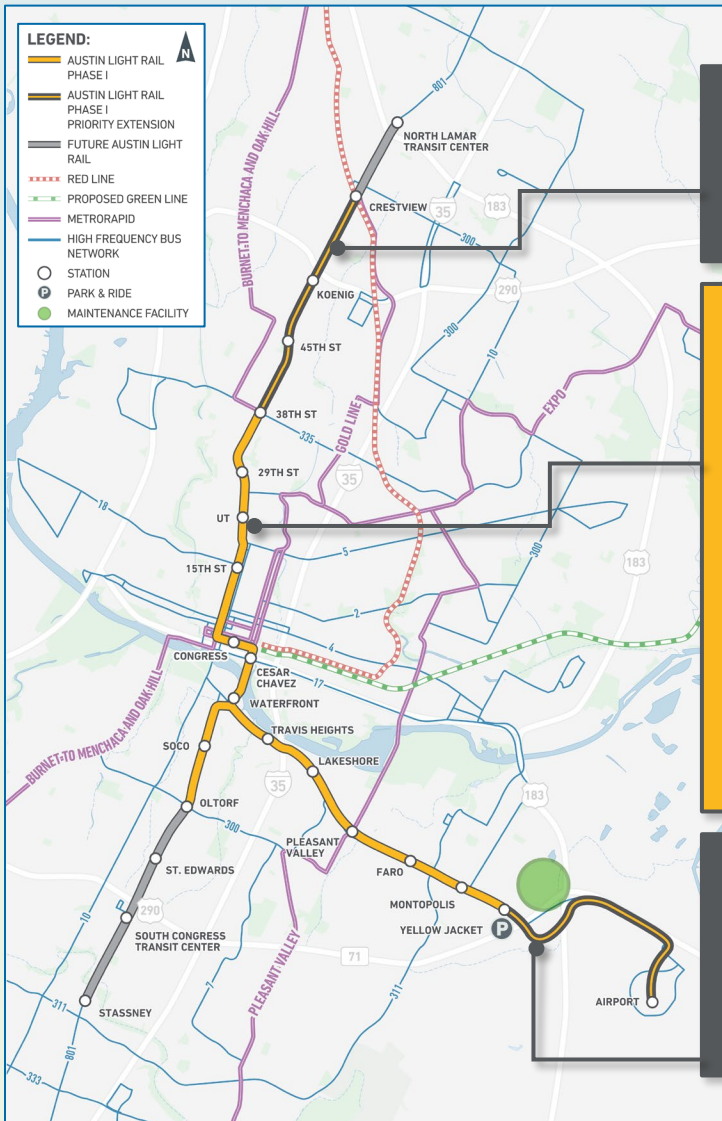
LEGEND:

- AUSTIN LIGHT RAIL PHASE I
- AUSTIN LIGHT RAIL PHASE I PRIORITY EXTENSION
- FUTURE AUSTIN LIGHT RAIL
- RED LINE
- PROPOSED GREEN LINE
- METRORAPID
- HIGH FREQUENCY BUS NETWORK
- STATION
- PARK & RIDE
- MAINTENANCE FACILITY

The map displays the Austin Light Rail network with the following stations and features:

- Stations:** STASSNEY, SOUTH CONGRESS TRANSIT CENTER, ST. EDWARDS, OLTORF, SOCO, CONGRESS, WATERFRONT, CESAR CHAVEZ, TRAVIS HEIGHTS, LAKESHORE, PLEASANT VALLEY, FARO, MONTOPOLIS, YELLOW JACKET, AIRPORT.
- Key Features:**
 - Gold Line:** Connects STASSNEY to AIRPORT via the central corridor.
 - Red Line:** Connects the central corridor to the north (CRESTVIEW, NORTH LAMAR TRANSIT CENTER).
 - Purple Line:** Connects the central corridor to the south (PLEASANT VALLEY, ST. EDWARDS).
 - Green Line:** A proposed line connecting the central corridor to the east (AIRPORT).
 - Blue Line:** High Frequency Bus Network routes.
 - Grey Line:** Future Austin Light Rail extension.

AUSTIN LIGHT RAIL PHASE 1 AND PRIORITY EXTENSIONS



Priority Extension: 38th to Crestview

- Opportunity to partner with CapMetro to grade separate the Red Line, to improve conditions at the nearby traffic intersection for all users and enable an on-street light rail service

Phase 1: 38th to Oltorf to Yellow Jacket

- Provides north, south and east coverage that best lays foundation for future expansions/extensions
- Builds new infrastructure to serve historically underinvested areas
- Reaches BIPOC communities and lower income households
- High number of possible transit connections
- Includes high ridership stations
- Connects people to jobs and education
- Creates jobs with new maintenance facility
- Close to airport to facilitate connection
- Advances ASMP goals for mode shift
- Connects to east side of downtown via Trinity St. river crossing

Priority Extension: Yellow Jacket to Airport

- Coordination with Airport Expansion and Development Program on light rail connection and station at the airport; Opportunity to leverage other funding sources

NEXT STEPS

▶ **JOINT PARTNERSHIP MEETING** | June 6th, 2023

**AUSTIN
TRANSIT
PARTNERSHIP**

THANK YOU!

LEGEND:

 AUSTIN LIGHT RAIL
PHASE I

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PRIORITY EXTENSION*

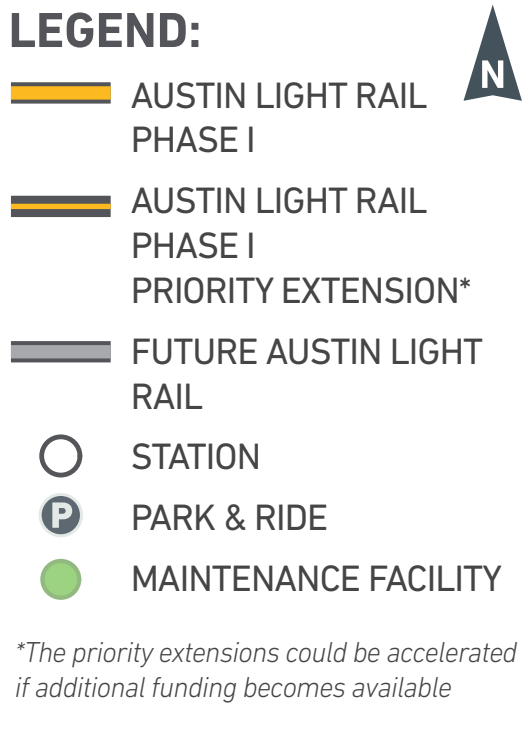
 FUTURE AUSTIN LIGHT
RAIL

 STATION

 PARK & RIDE

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**The priority extensions could be accelerated if additional funding becomes available*



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PHASE I

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 STATION

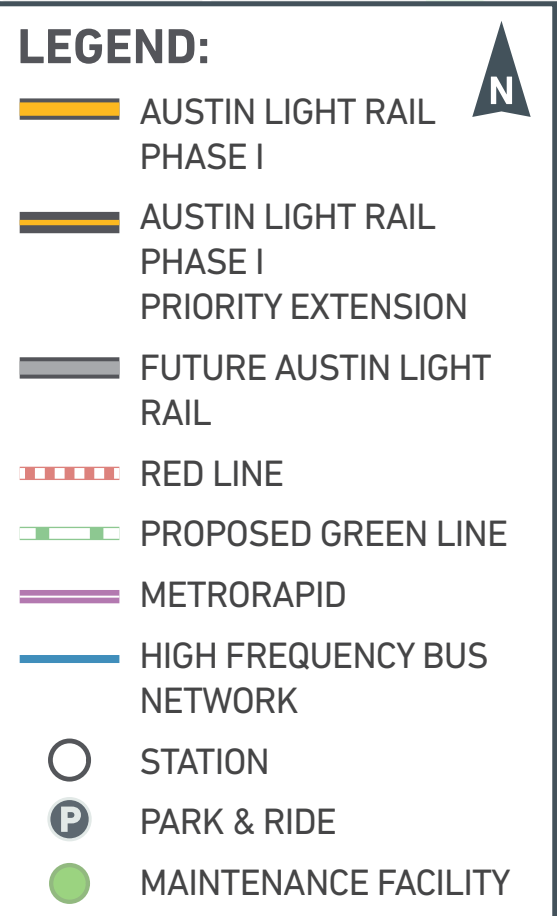
 PARK & RIDE

 MAINTENANCE FACILITY

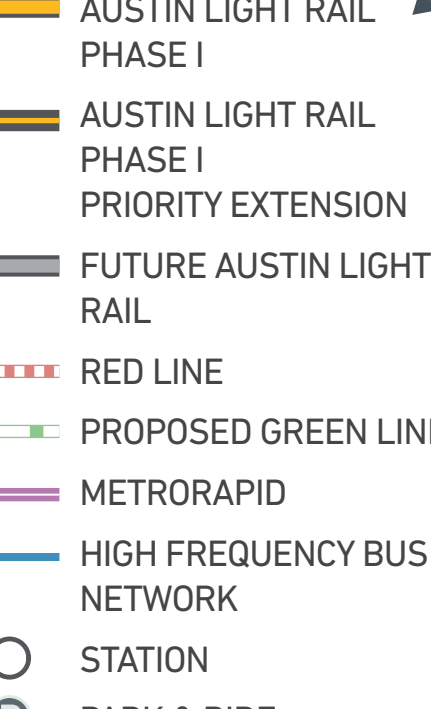
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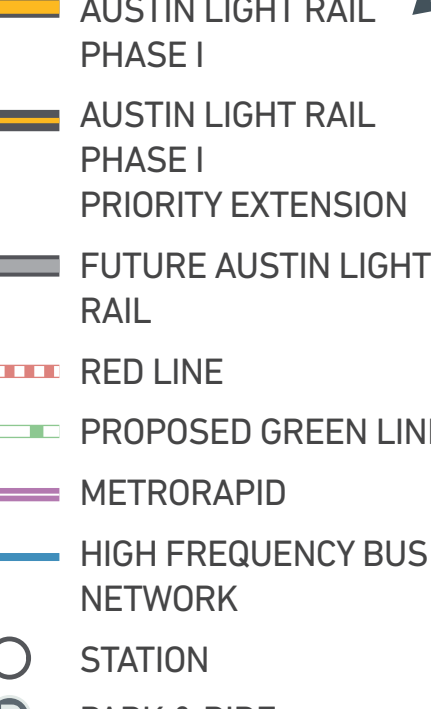


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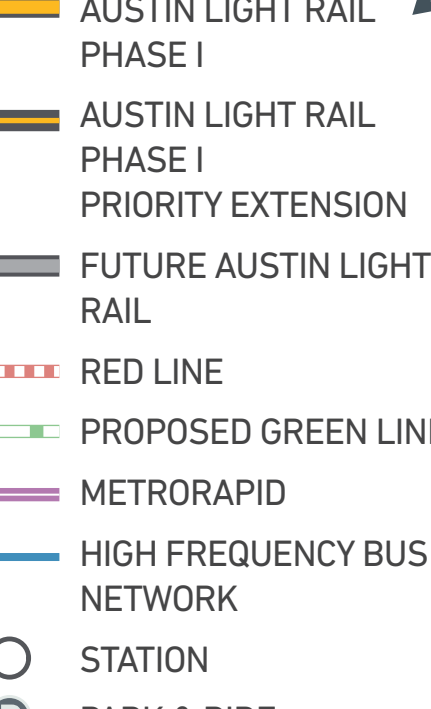


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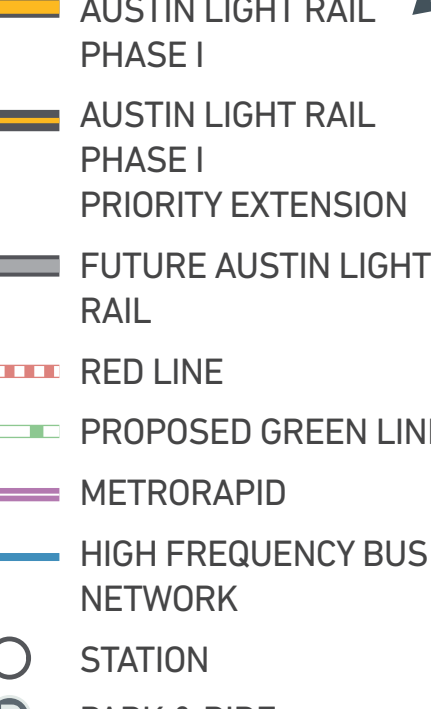
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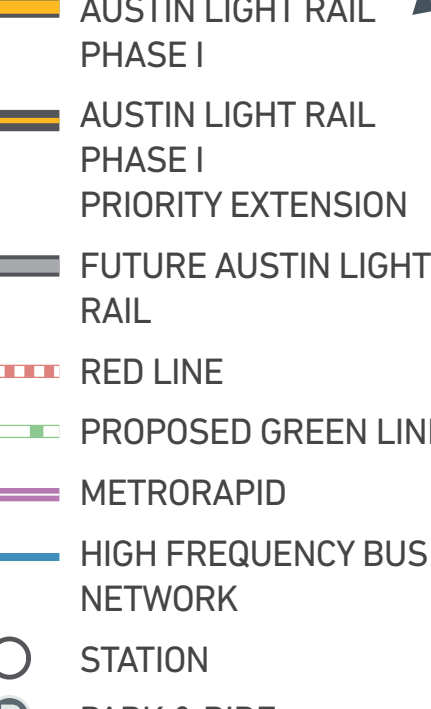
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