Agenda - Final

CapMetro

Capital Metropolitan Transportation Authority

Board of Directors

2910 East 5th Street
Austin, TX 78702

Monday, December 9, 2024   **11:00 AM**   **Rosa Parks Boardroom**

Board Work Session on Transit Plan 2035

This worksession will be livestreamed at capmetrotx.legistar.com

I.   Call to Order

II.   Public Comment:

III.   Discussion Item:

1.   Project update on technical analysis and engagement for Transit Plan 2035.

IV.   Items for Future Discussion:

V.   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.

CapMetro

Capital Metropolitan Transportation Authority

Board of Directors	**Item #:** AI-2024-1350	**Agenda Date:** 12/9/2024

Project update on technical analysis and engagement for Transit Plan 2035.

Welcome!

Transit Plan 2035
Board of Directors Workshop

December 9, 2024

CapMetro | Transit Plan 2035

Agenda

- Transit Plan 2035 (5 min)
  - Overview
  - Schedule
  - Engagement Update
- Transit Land Activity (30 min)
- Transit Land Report Out (15 min)
- Technical Analysis (20 min)
  - Engagement Themes
  - Existing Conditions
- Draft Vision & Goals (10 min)
- Next Steps (5 min)

CapMetro 2

Transit Plan 2035

Transit Plan 2035 is our vision and roadmap for the CapMetro System over the next 5 to 10 years.

We typically update our transit plan every 5 years
- Last updated in 2015 with a scheduled 2020 update
- Connections 2025 Service Plan → Cap Remap

We want to work with the community and stakeholders to co-create a guiding document for Central Texas' transit system.

CapMetro 3

Project Schedule

WE ARE HERE!

Spring 2024   Summer/Fall 2024   Spring 2025   Summer/Fall 2025

Public Touch Point
Hear community priorities for transit service

Public Touch Point
Hear feedback on draft preferred scenario

Public Touch Point
Present Final Draft Transit Plan and inform public

Start

2024

2025

End

Data Inventory

Review Plans in Central Texas

Existing Conditions

Final Recommendations

Transit Plan Development & Adoption

CapMetro 4

Draft Vision and Goals Development

Transit Plan Community Engagement: Round 1

- Round 1: Visioning, transit service tradeoffs, constraints, and opportunities

- Timeframe: September 16 – October 27, 2024

- Methods:
  - Survey
  - Focus groups
  - Community events and meetings
  - Community Connectors Program
  - At-stop outreach
  - Frontline Town Halls / Family Fun Day
  - Stakeholder Workshop


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External Engagement Recap

Approximate Engagement Totals

Open House & Virtual Webinar		2 events	230 attendees & 45 virtual attendees
Pop-Up Events		44 events	5,125 engaged
Focus Groups		18 sessions	240 attendees
Community Connectors		18 events organized / attended	15 members
Surveys		Virtual & in person	8,100 respondents
At-Stop Outreach		14 stops / centers	1,000 riders reached

CapMetro 7

CapMetro

Your turn!
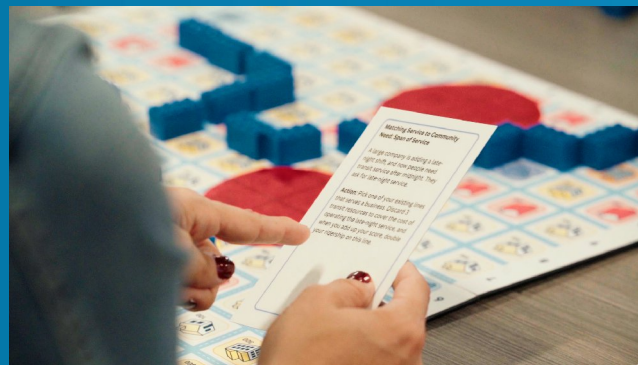
You are now a group of transit planners. Your objective:

Develop a transit network that connects your community and serves as many riders as possible.

You need to consider these goals:

- Meet the needs of the community, particularly those who are likely to need transit service most

- Balance transit needs with available resources and funding throughout the region

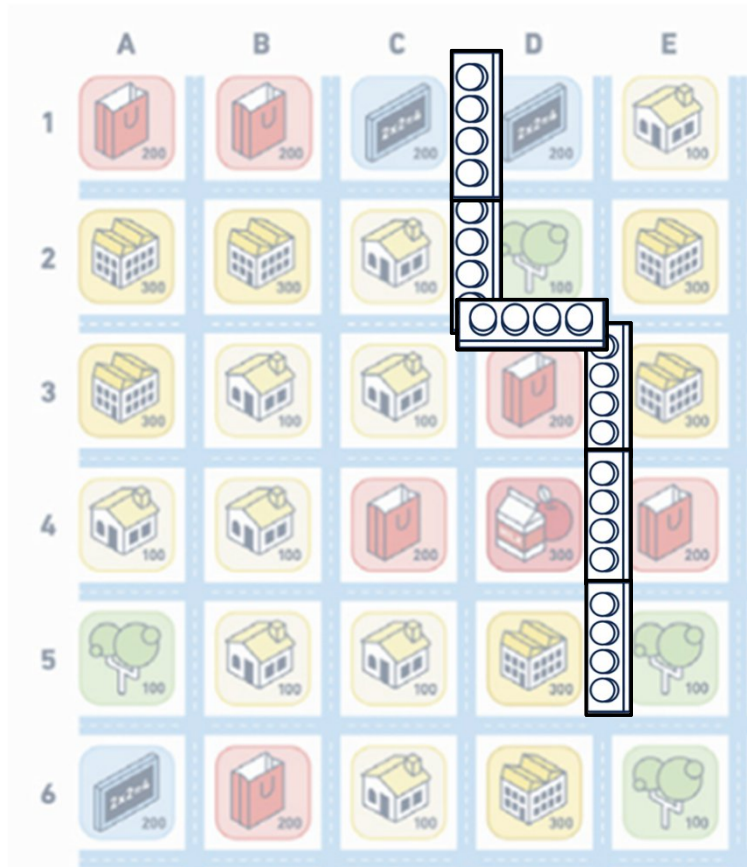- Connect people to jobs, activity centers, and services through a variety of modes

CapMetro 10

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Rules of the activity

- Roads are the light blue lines bordering each block where you will put your transit resources

- The grid is filled with blocks that are assigned a block letter and number, and each block represents a ½ mile by ½ mile

Rules of the activity

Example of one transit line

- You have 80 transit resources for the game, with 20 to spare

- Teams must develop 3-5 transit lines that are between 3-5 miles long (6-10 transit resources)

Rules of the activity

High Rise Residential: dense residential towers — 600

Apartments: medium density residential — 300

Houses: low density residential homes — 100

School: local school with medium ridership — 200

College: larger post-secondary school with high ridership — 500

Retail: shopping center with medium ridership — 200

Grocery Store: shopping center with high ridership — 300

Hospital: medical facility with escalating ridership — 300

Parks: outdoor spaces with low ridership — 100

Each Land Use will have different ridership levels. Some are more affected by better frequency transit service than others.

CapMetro 13
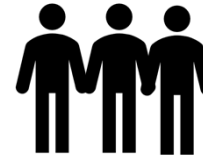
Rules of the activity

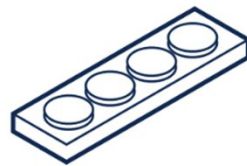30-minute
service

15-minute
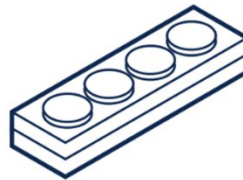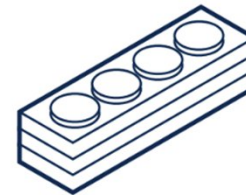service

7–10-minute
service

Rules of the activity

Service can be stacked to increase the frequency of service under the following levels:
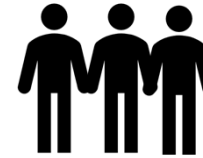
1 piece = 30 min
frequency service

2 piece stack = 15 min
frequency service

3 piece stack = 7-10 min
frequency service
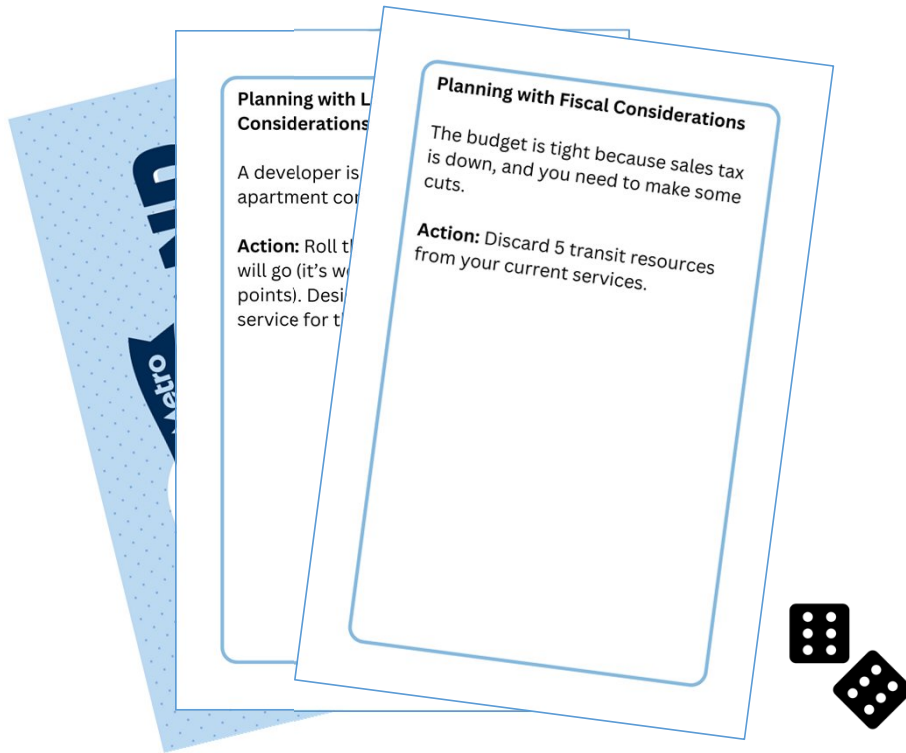
To add more frequency, add more transit resources

Rules of the activity

- Want Pickup service? Trade in 12 transit resources for one Pickup zone!

- If demand gets too high (more than 3,000 riders in the area), you'll have to provide 2 extra transit resources

- Regardless, ridership points are capped at 1,500

Rules of the activity

Planning with L...
Considerations

A developer is...
apartment com...

Action: Roll t...
will go (it's w...
points). Desi...
service for t...

Planning with Fiscal Considerations

The budget is tight because sales tax is down, and you need to make some cuts.

Action: Discard 5 transit resources from your current services.

- Chance Cards introduce unexpected events that impact your transit network.

- Depending on the card, you may need to roll the dice to see how the scenario will impact your system.

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Transit Land Report Out

How did your group achieve the goals of Transit Land?

- Meet the needs of the community, particularly those who are likely to need transit service most
- Balance transit needs with available resources and funding throughout the region
- Connect people to jobs, activity centers, and services through a variety of modes

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Engagement Themes

Draft Vision and Goals Development
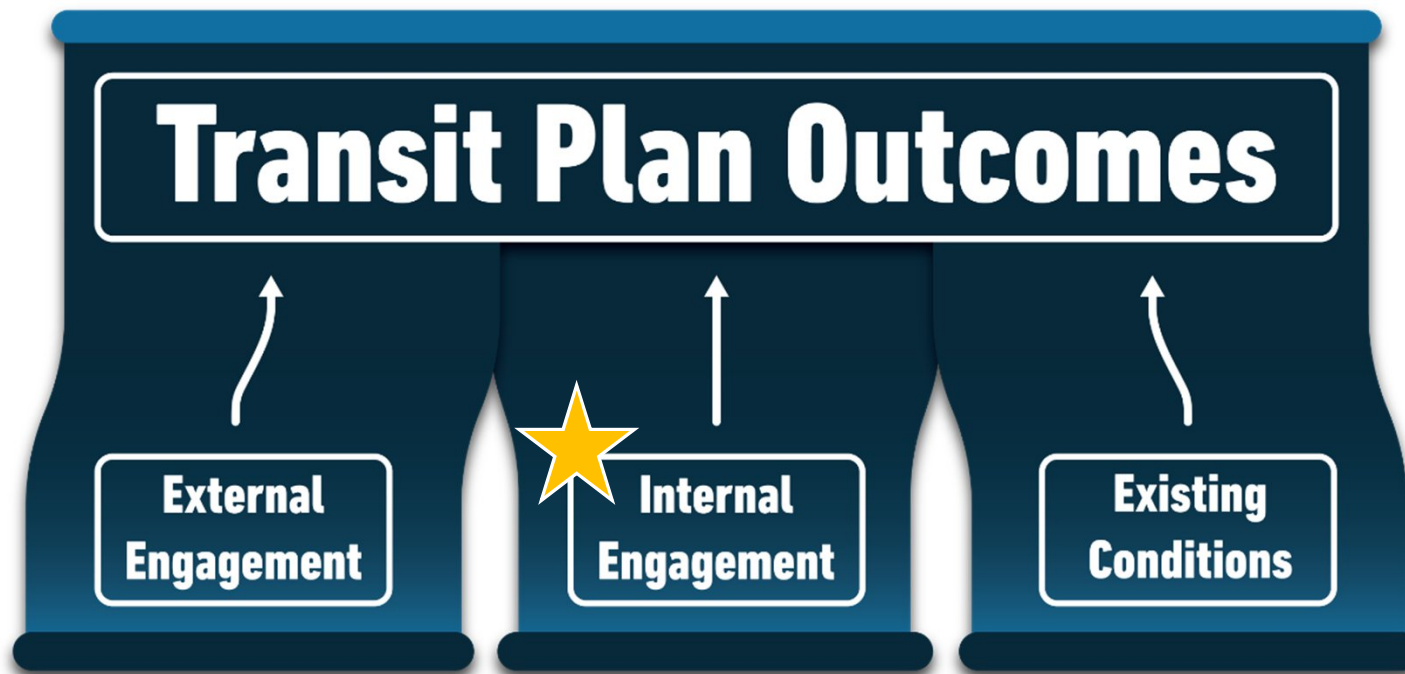
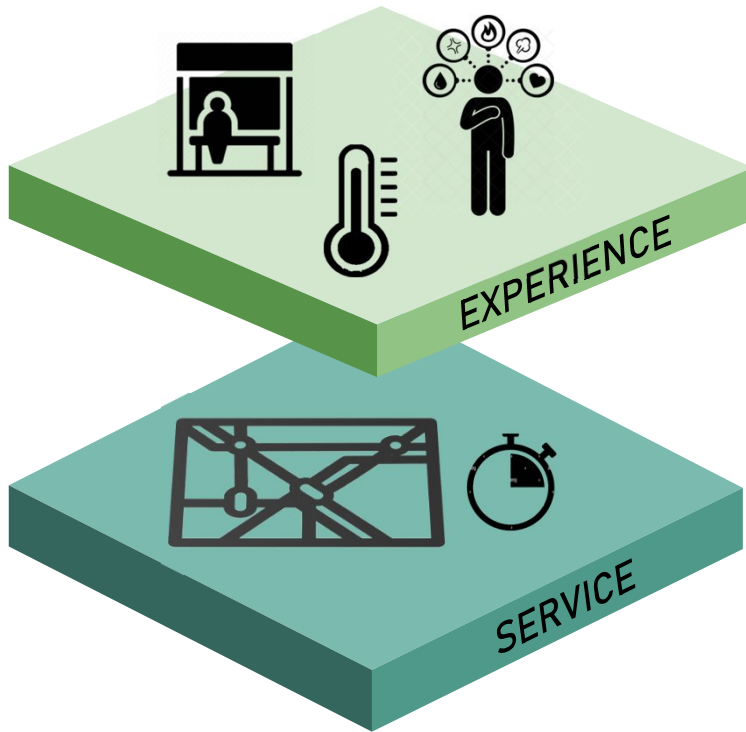# Internal Engagement Recap

Board		June & July	All 8 Board Members
Senior Executive Team (SET)		June & July	All SET
Frontline Team		June	39 employees
Admin Staff		August	30 employees

Two Layers of Feedback

What CapMetro *can* influence
(unconstrained)

The intangibles: How we FEEL as riders. Do I feel safe? Will I overheat while I wait for my bus? Am I unsure where this bus goes?

EXPERIENCE

Most internal feedback (so far) is related to <u>experience</u> concerns

The operational offering: Frequency and coverage

SERVICE

Most of the transit plan scope is aimed at service improvement

Transit Plan 2035 is a technical scope and does not address safety concerns (which may undermine success of service improvements).

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Common Themes of Feedback – Internal

✔ = Transit Plan can address

Increase Safety
Operators and users report feelings of discomfort on the system

Expand Regional Service ✔
Urgency to address the concerns of member cities and regional partners

Understand Travel Patterns ✔
Focused on how to best adapt to post-pandemic travel behavior

Financial / Resource Efficiency ✔
Balance needs with CapMetro's available resources

Improve User Experience
Comments on technology, wayfinding, system convenience and ease of use, etc.

Improve Reliability ✔
Concern that unreliable service is affecting core rider quality of life

Increase Ridership ✔
Feedback on ways to improve ridership, challenges to ridership, etc.

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Common Themes of Feedback – External Overlap

✔ = Transit Plan can address

Increase Safety
Operators and users report feelings of discomfort on the system

Improve User Experience
Comments on technology, wayfinding, system convenience and ease of use, etc.

Expand Regional Service ✔
Urgency to address the concerns of member cities and regional partners

Improve Reliability ✔
Concern that unreliable service is affecting core rider quality of life

Understand Travel Patterns ✔
Focused on how to best adapt to post–pandemic travel behavior

Increase Ridership ✔
Feedback on ways to improve ridership, challenges to ridership, etc.

Financial / Resource Efficiency ✔
Balance needs with CapMetro's available resources

CapMetro 24

Existing Conditions Overview

Draft Vision and Goals Development

Existing Conditions Components

Study Area & Regional Trends
- Analyzing study area and provides an overview of demographic/ socioeconomic and travel trends in Central Texas.

Market Analysis
- Assessing current transit market by identifying locations that support transit, new activity centers and existing gaps in service.

Service Analysis
- Evaluating existing CapMetro service performance trends and analyses at the system, service type and route-levels.

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Analysis Areas

CapMetro Service Area
Area where CapMetro currently operates and is authorized to provide transit service

Market Analysis Area
Analysis area inclusive of CapMetro's Service Area and neighboring communities to help understand how people are traveling in the greater region and where transit demand is growing

Market Analysis Area
CapMetro Service Area

The greatest predictor of transit productivity is density of people and jobs.

CapMetro 29
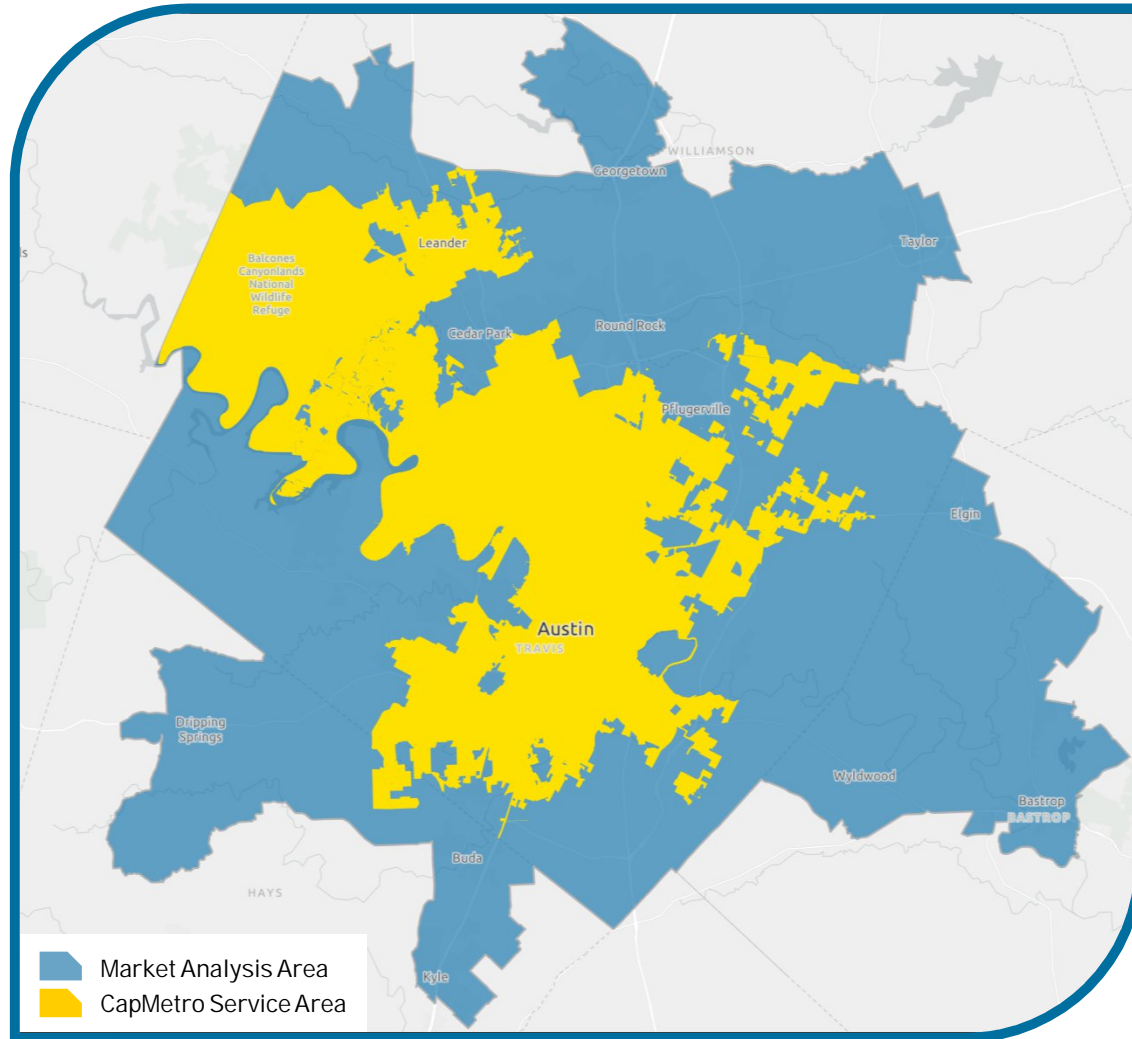
Population & Employment Today

Significant density concentrations:

- US 183 (West of I-35) & I-35 corridors
- Riverside Dr.
- UT/West Campus
- Lamar Blvd. corridor
- Pockets of isolated density in exurbs

2022 Market Area Totals

Population	Jobs
2,039,932	1,065,956

Source: 2022 ACS 5-year Estimates (Population),
2022 LEHD LODES (Jobs)

Population + Job
Density Per Acre

- 0 – 2
- 2 – 5
- 5 – 10
- 10 – 15
- 15 – 30
- > 30

Source: 2022 ACS 5-year Estimates (Population),
2022 LEHD LODES (Jobs)

CapMetro 30
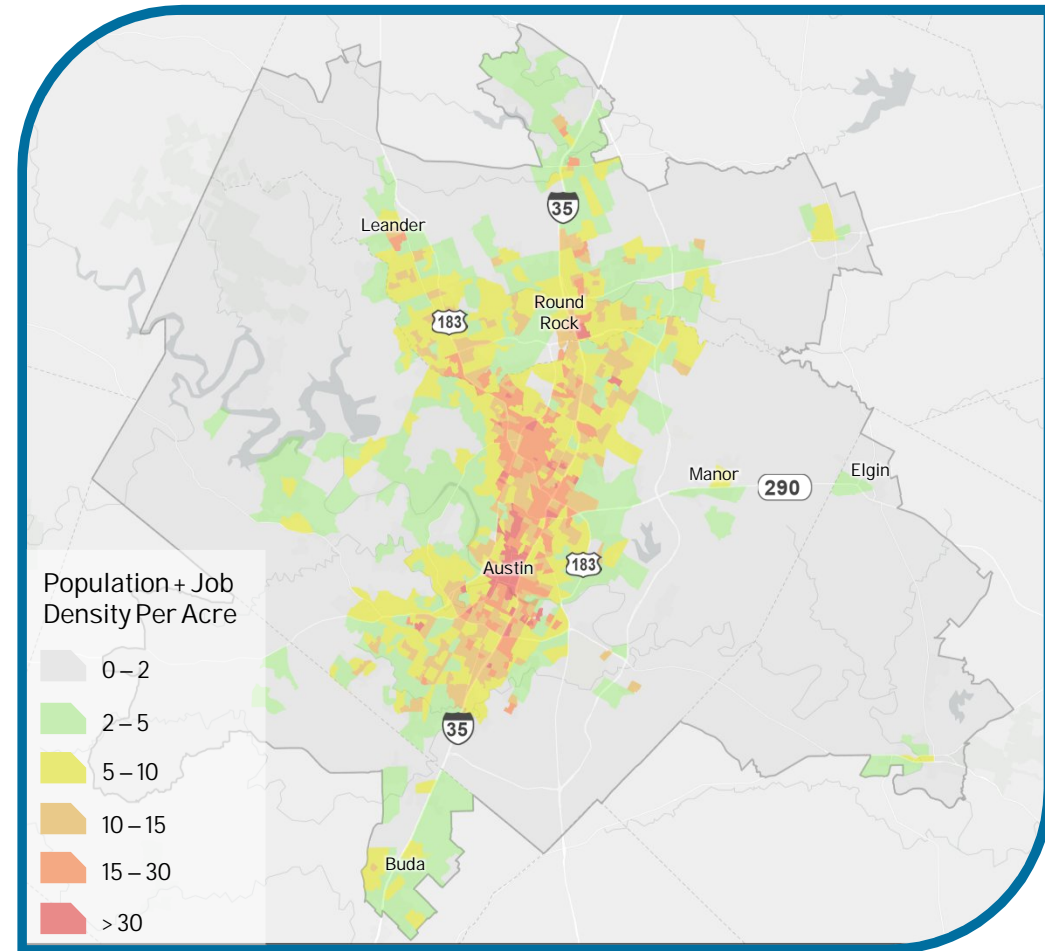
Growth in Population Density 2025-2045

Significant growth concentrations:

- Downtown Austin
- Along Lamar Blvd. & I-35 in Central Austin
- Neighboring municipalities of Cedar Park & Round Rock

Market Area Averages	
+2.3 Million (135% Growth)	
2025 **4.3** People/Acre	2045 **13.1** People/Acre

Source: CAMPO 2045 Travel Demand Model, Mean Population Per Acre for TAZ's within Market Analysis Area

Change in Population Density, 2025 – 2045
- > 8 people/acre
- 2-8 people/acre
- 0-2 people/acre
- ≤ 0 people/acre
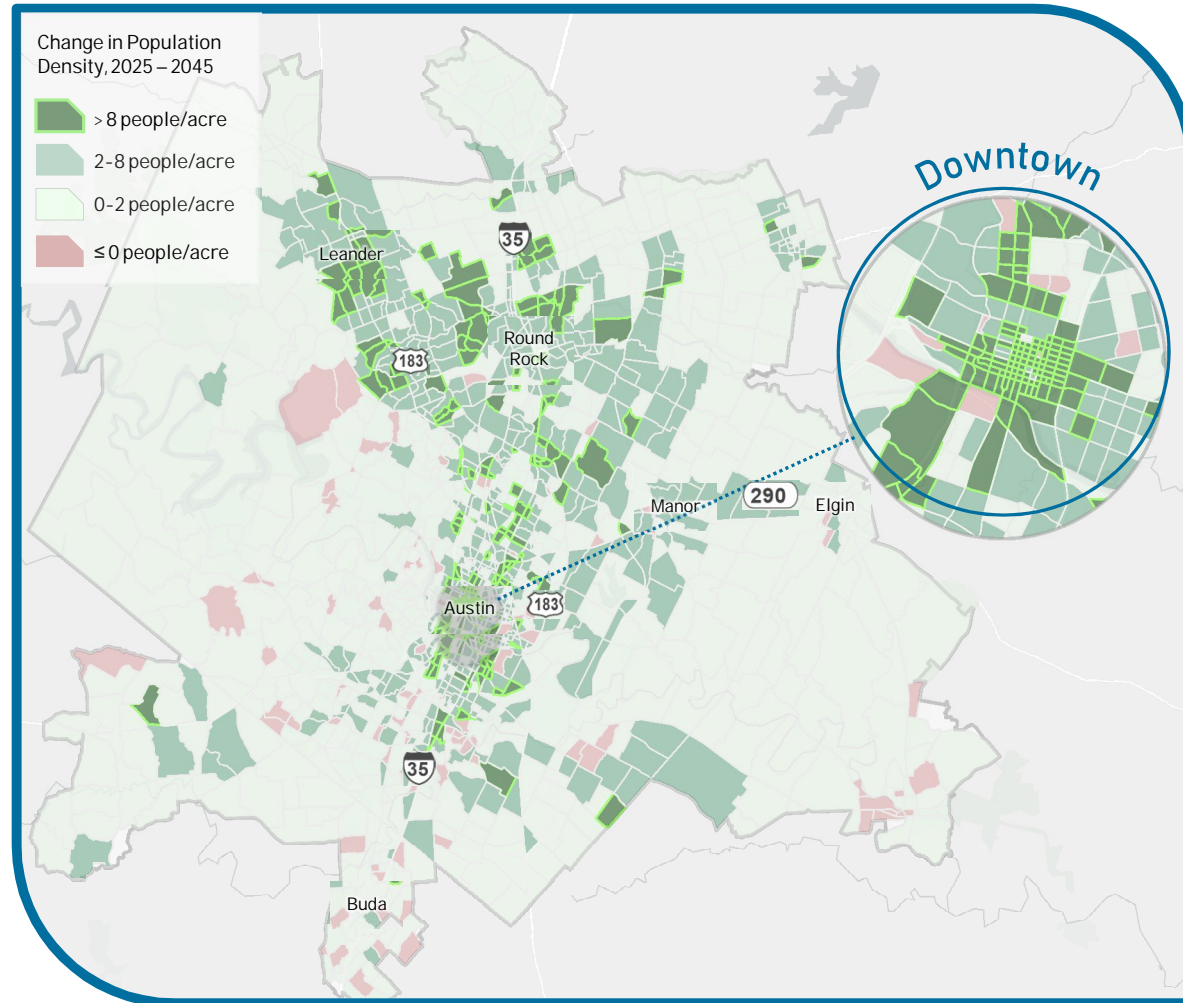
Source: CapMetro 2023 Travel Pattern Analysis, Cambridge Systematics

Growth in Employment Density 2025–2045

Significant growth concentrations:

- I-35
- US 290
- US 183 Corridor
- East Riverside Drive
- Central Round Rock

Market Area Averages	
+1.2 Million (134% Growth)	
2025 9.3 Jobs/Acre	2045 15.5 Jobs/Acre

Source: CAMPO 2045 Travel Demand Model, Mean Employment Per Acre for TAZ's within Market Analysis Area

Change in Employment Density, 2025 – 2045

- >8 jobs/acre
- 2-8 jobs/acre
- 0-2 jobs/acre
- ≤0 jobs/acre
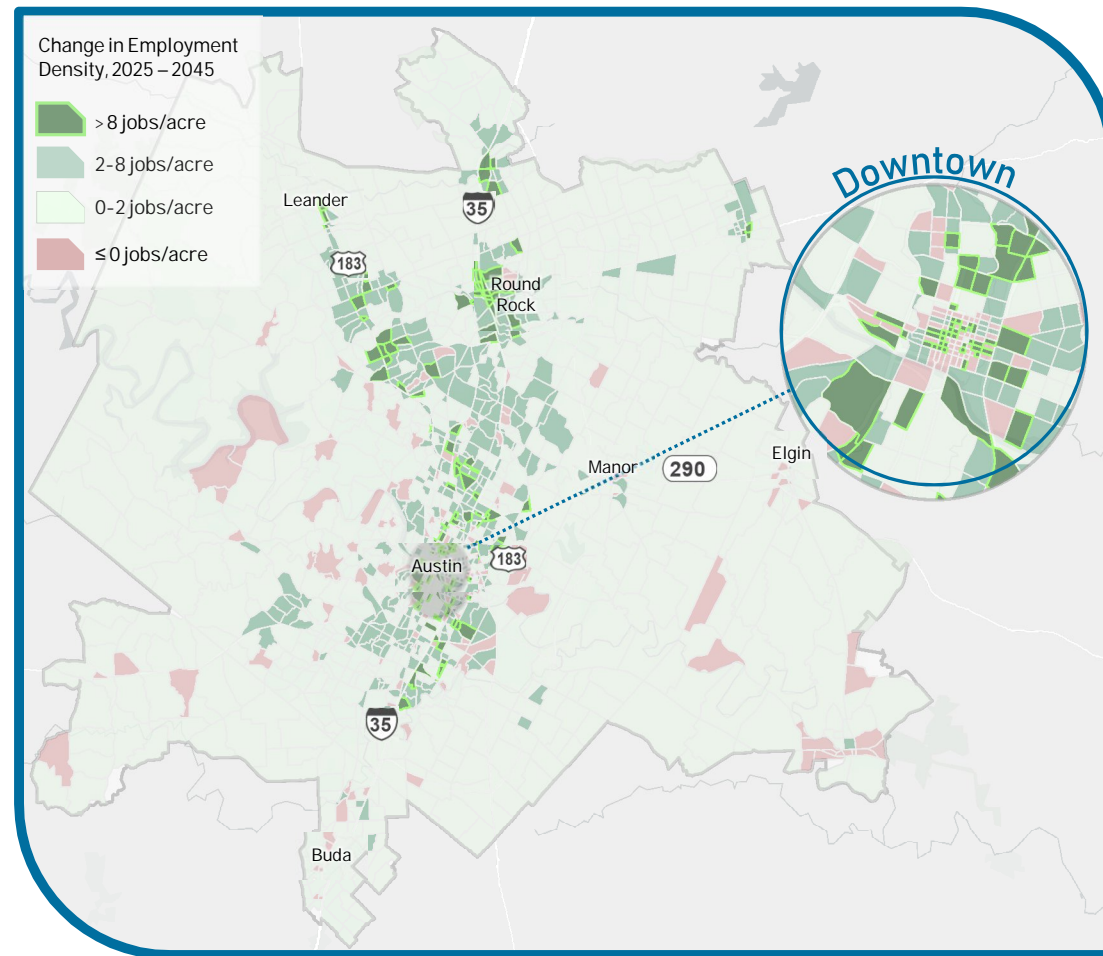
Source: CapMetro Part 2 Travel Pattern Analysis, Cambridge Systematics

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Travel Trends

Travel in Central Texas has recovered since 2019 but it looks a little different than before.

(Especially compared to the rest of the United States.)

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Travel Trends since 2019

- Teleworking significantly affects travel patterns.
- Travis County has experienced a much larger growth in teleworking than the US Average.

US Average

Millions

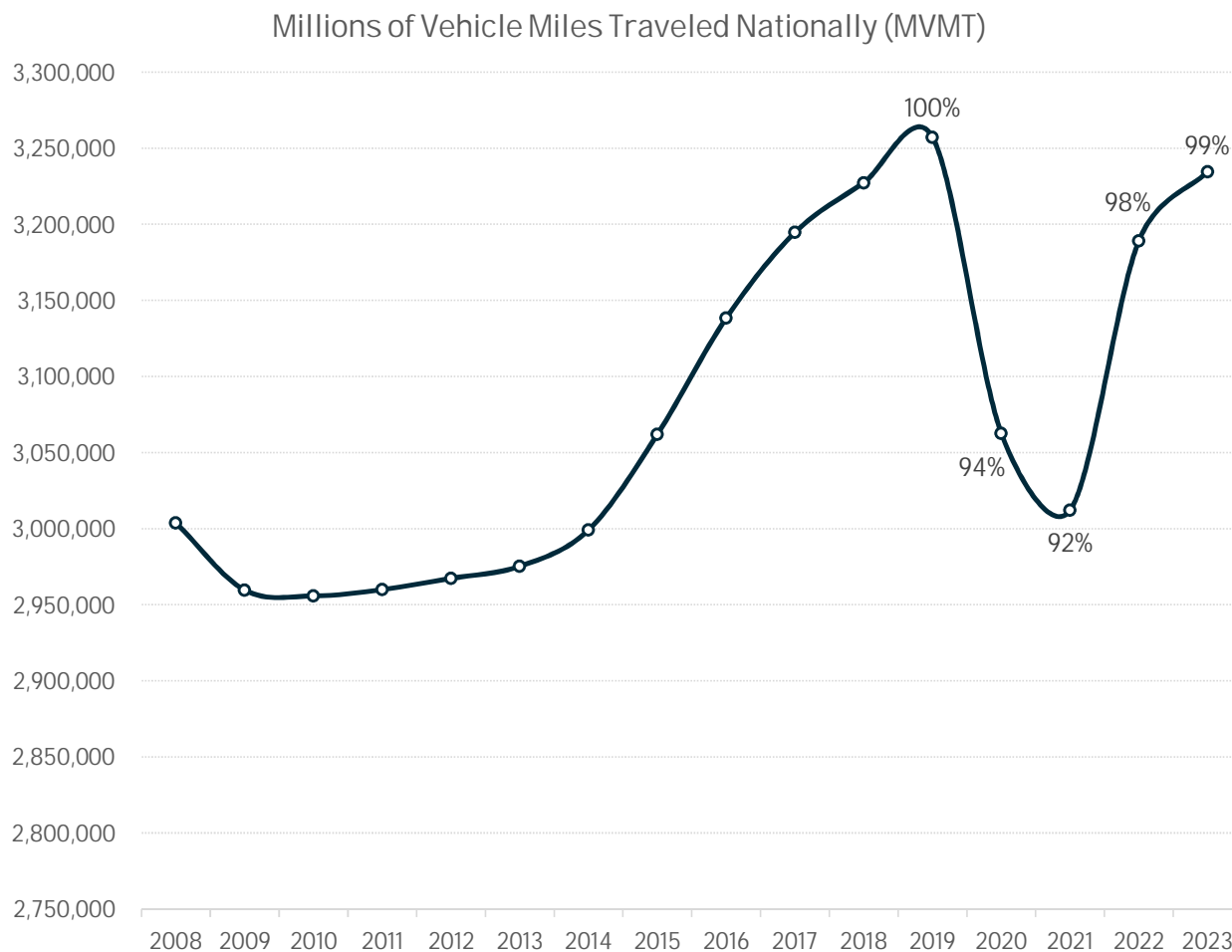| Year	Drove or Carpooled	Transit	Worked at Home	Active or Micro
2015	86%	5%	5%	5%
2017	85%	5%	5%	4%
2019	85%	5%	6%	5%
2022	77%	3%	15%	4%

■ Drove or Carpooled ■ Active or Micro ■ Transit ■ Worked at Home

Travis County

Year	Drove or Carpooled	Transit	Worked at Home	Active or Micro
2015	86%	3%	7%	4%
2017	86%	2%	8%	4%
2019	84%	3%	9%	4%
2022	69%	2%	26%	4%

■ Drove or Carpooled ■ Active or Micro ■ Transit ■ Worked at Home

Source: US Census ACS 2015–2022, Means of Transportation to Work, Ages 16+.
Analysis by Cambridge Systematics.

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Travel Trends since 2019

The shape of travel demand has changed.

- Trips in Travis and Williamson counties are still slightly down.
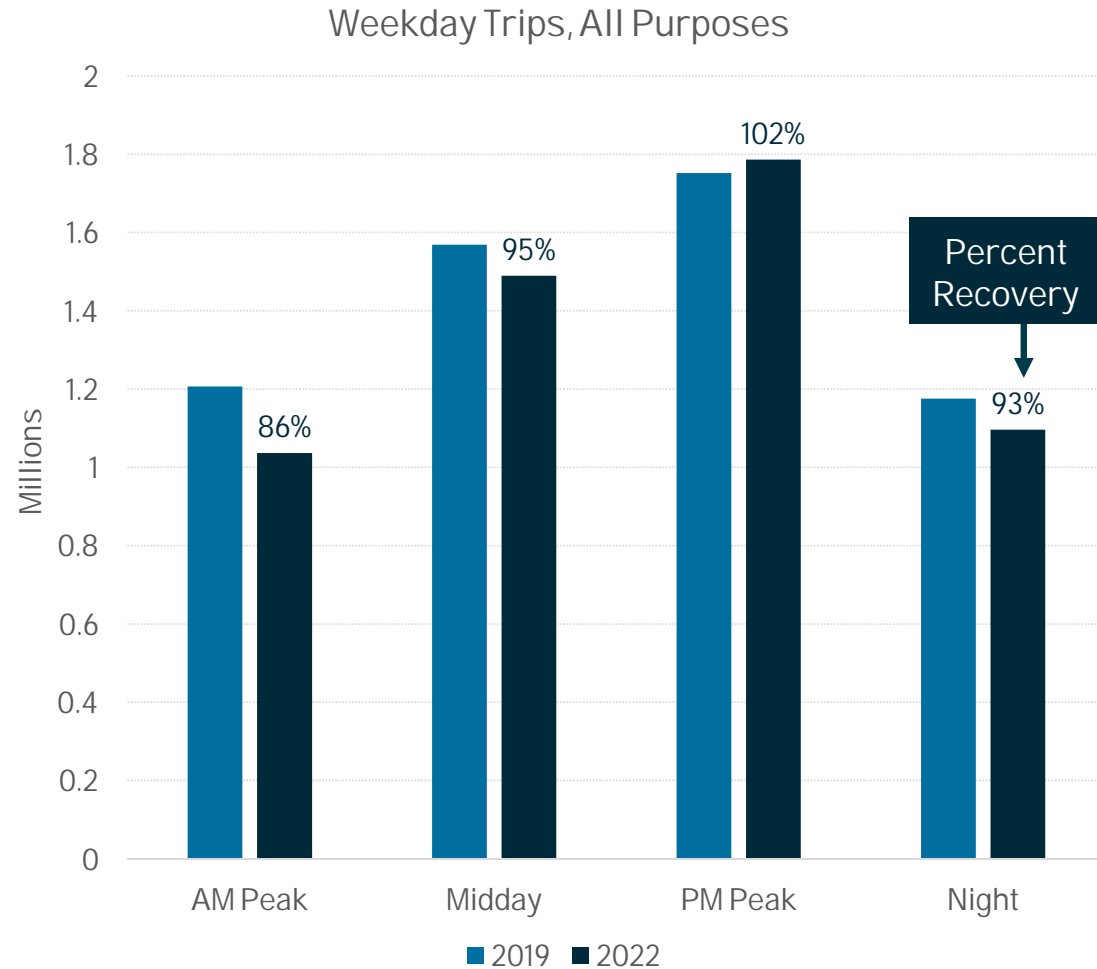- Most significant reduction is during AM peak travel.
- PM Peak travel has fully recovered and has experienced growth.

Weekday Trips, All Purposes

Percent Recovery

AM Peak: 86%
Midday: 95%
PM Peak: 102%
Night: 93%

■ 2019 ■ 2022

Source: LOCUS Travel Patterns 2019-2022, Travis & Williamson County. Analysis by Cambridge Systematics.
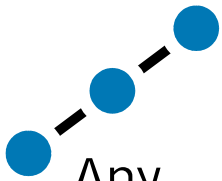
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Ridership

The existing system mostly covers areas with high demand, but there are areas where we can improve.

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Inside CapMetro's Service Area

Population
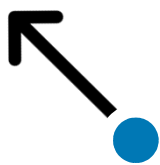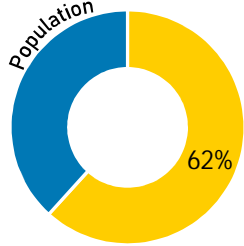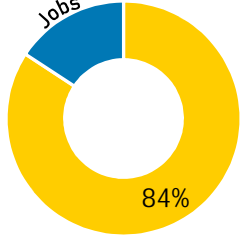**1.13M**

Jobs
778K

Any Transit Stop

72* routes & rail

2,346 stops

Within a 10 Minute Walk

Population 62%

Jobs 84%
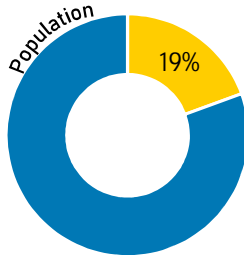
Population 699K
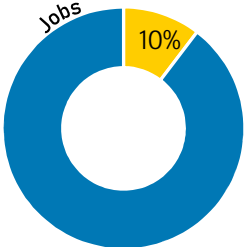
Jobs 655K

Pickup

11 zones

Inside All Pickup Zones

Population 19%

Jobs 10%

Population 220K

Jobs 81K

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*Count Includes 71 Frequent routes as of April 2024 and 1 commuter rail line

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Where is Ridership Concentrated?

Major generators of ridership are in Downtown Austin, around UT, major north/south corridors, and southeast of Downtown.

- Ridership activity is heavily concentrated along Frequent routes/connections, UT Shuttles, and the Red Line.

Legend:
- Frequent
- Local
- Rail
- Express/Flyer
- Community/Rail Connector
- Night Owl
- UT Shuttle

High (>800)
Med-high (400–800)

Route 801/1 corridor

Major clusters for Downtown & UT

Airport

Clusters along Routes 20/300

Routes 801/1/10/201

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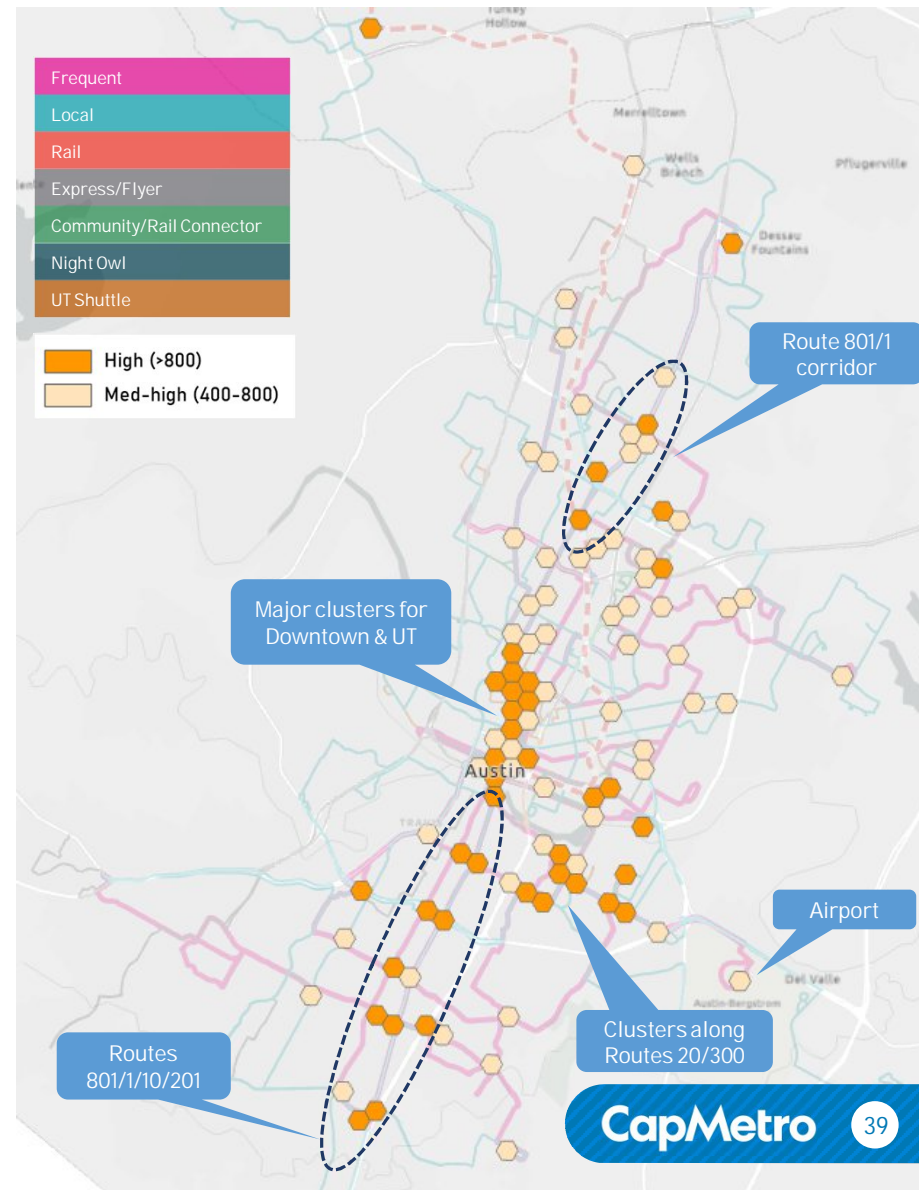
Transit Propensity

What is the Transit Propensity Index?

Identifies areas with high demand for transit service by combining and scoring ridership and equity metrics.

Underserved High Propensity Clusters (circled on map):

1. US 183 corridor (West of MoPac)
2. N. MoPac & US 183
3. Windemere
4. Walnut Creek at I-35
5. Slaughter Lane
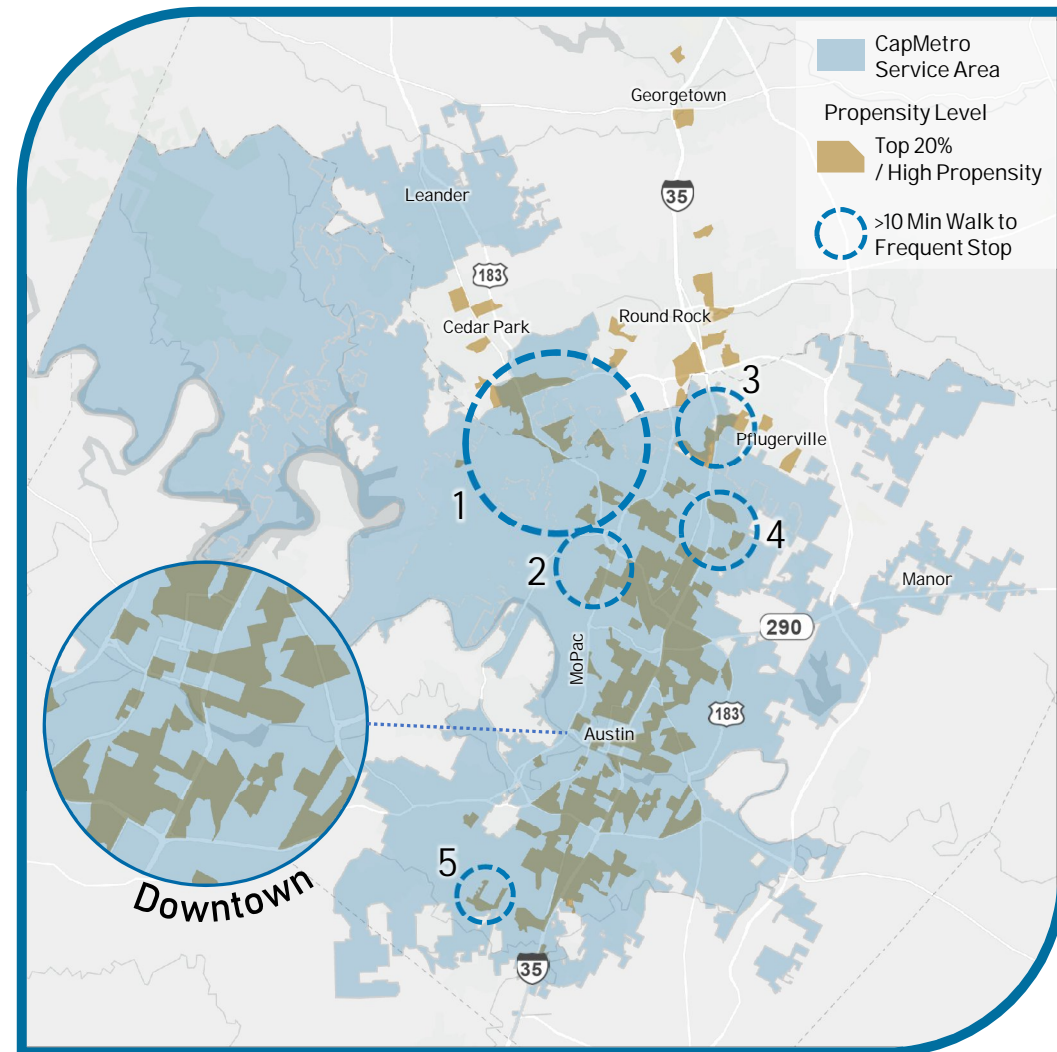
Existing Conditions Key Themes

Growth & Travel Patterns	Ridership & Transit Demand	Performance **& Reliability**

Draft Vision and Goals

CapMetro

Draft Vision and Goals Development
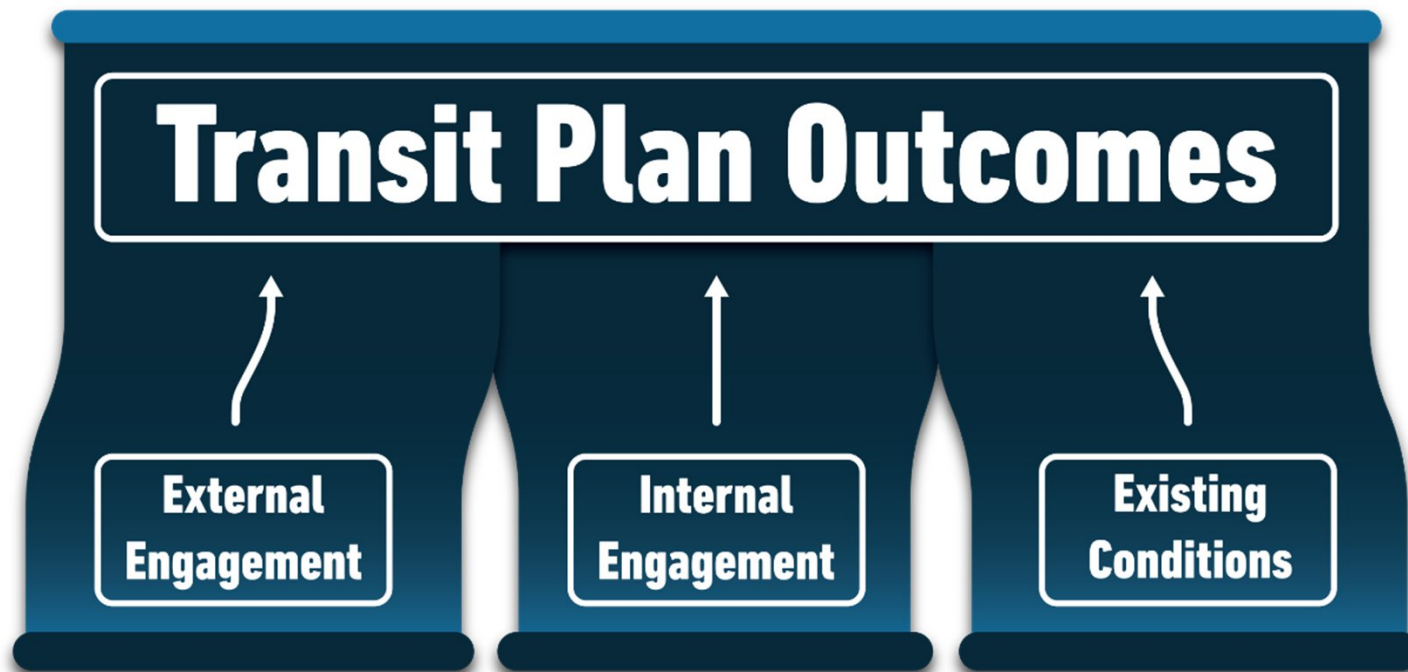
Draft Vision

Create a plan for public transit that serves communities throughout the region, is financially and environmentally sustainable, provides connectivity, fosters economic activity and ensures safe and equitable access to opportunity.

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Draft Goals

Create a community- and data-driven plan that prioritizes those with the highest need

Balance transit needs with available resources and funding throughout the region

Design a multi-modal transit network that connects people to jobs, activity centers, and services

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Goal 1

Create a community- and data-driven plan that prioritizes those with the highest need

External

WHAT WE HEARD
Public transportation access to medical appointments is a priority for our community. Also, we wish we didn't have to transfer as much. *– Colony Park Focus Group Participant*

Internal

WHAT WE HEARD
Serving the community is what keeps many CapMetro staff motivated. *- Internal Focus Group Participant*

Existing Conditions

- Analyzing regional travel patterns
- Evaluating the transit market
- Measuring the effectiveness of our current service
- Robust engagement effort to gather qualitative data

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Goal 2

Balance transit needs with available resources and funding throughout the region

External

WHAT WE HEARD

"My parents chose to live in Manor despite the long commute to work. They would like more connections to Austin and more options get to places like Pflugerville." - *Community Night Open House Attendee*

Internal

WHAT WE HEARD

"Focus on improving the system's farebox recovery and overall funding." *– Internal Engagement Key Themes Summary*

Existing Conditions

- Develop a comprehensive, balanced financial model to guide a fiscally constrained plan
- Collaborate regionally to evaluate and identify right-size transit options throughout Central Texas

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Goal 3

Design a multi-modal transit network that connects people to jobs, activity centers, and services

External

WHAT WE HEARD

"Why don't I have good service where I live? Route #339 has 60 minute [frequency], we have to wait for an hour." - *Community Night Open House Attendee*

Internal

WHAT WE HEARD

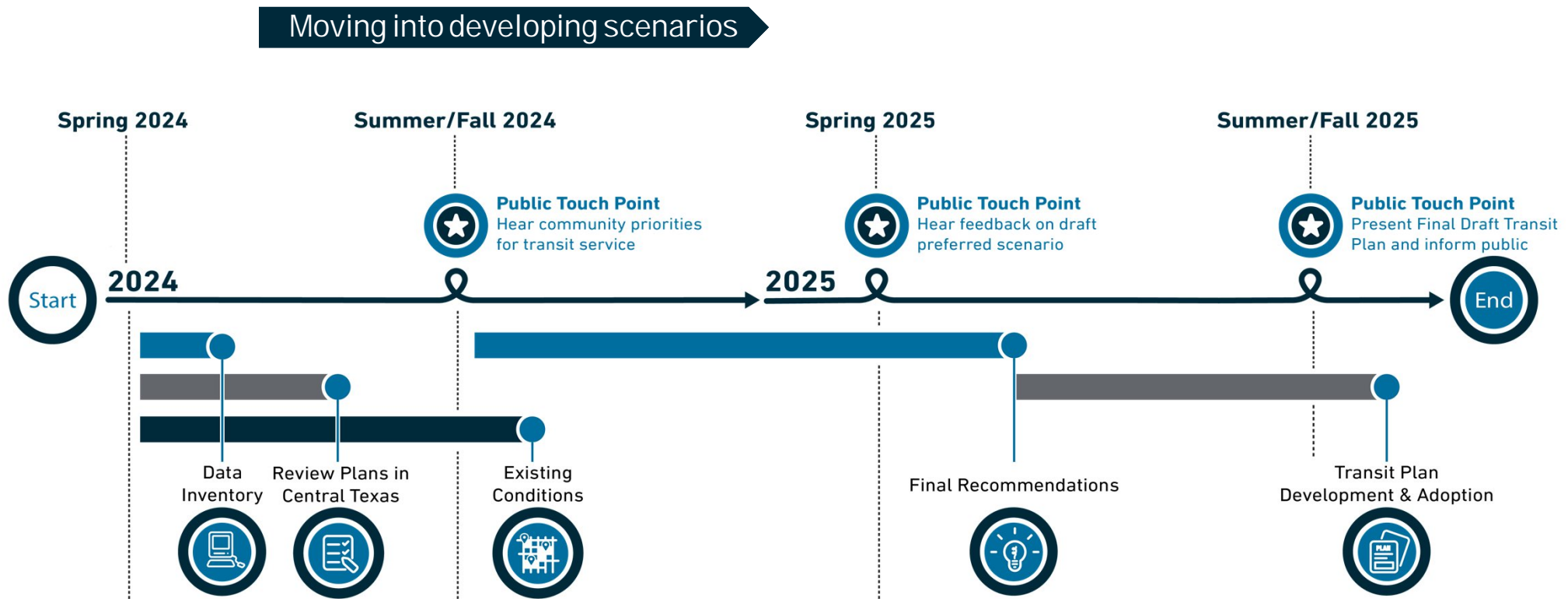"I often walk two miles to get to the bus stop to get to work." - *Internal Focus Group Participant*

Existing Conditions

- Conducted a transit propensity analysis that centers people most likely to rely on transit
- Using cell phone data and engagement with our community, we'll better understand the passenger's whole trip
- Through scenario planning, identify where improvements can be made

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Next Steps

Moving into developing scenarios

Spring 2024   **Summer/Fall 2024**   **Spring 2025**   **Summer/Fall 2025**

Public Touch Point
Hear community priorities for transit service

Public Touch Point
Hear feedback on draft preferred scenario

Public Touch Point
Present Final Draft Transit Plan and inform public

Start

2024   **2025**   End

Data Inventory   Review Plans in Central Texas   Existing Conditions

Final Recommendations

Transit Plan Development & Adoption

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Discussion

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Thank you!