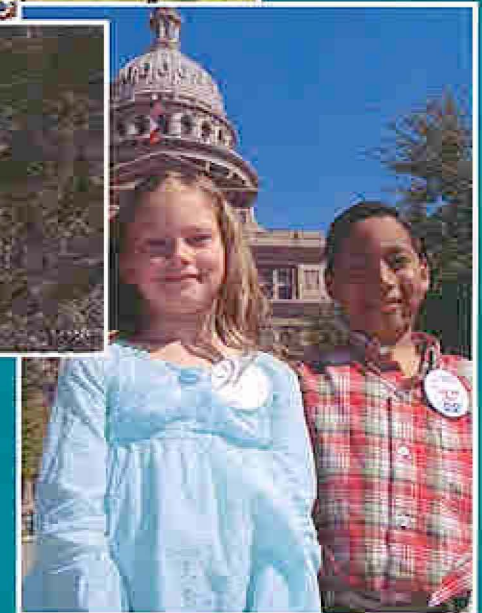
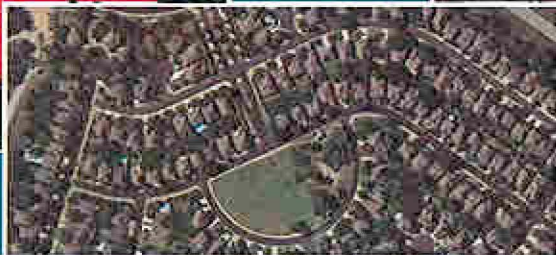
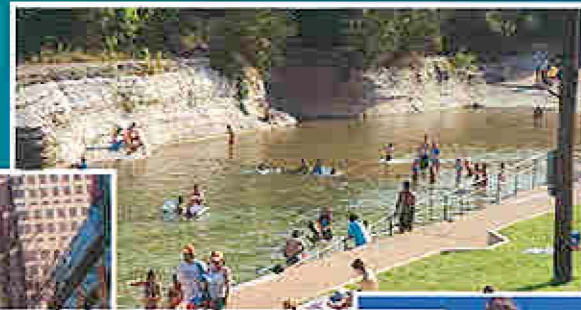
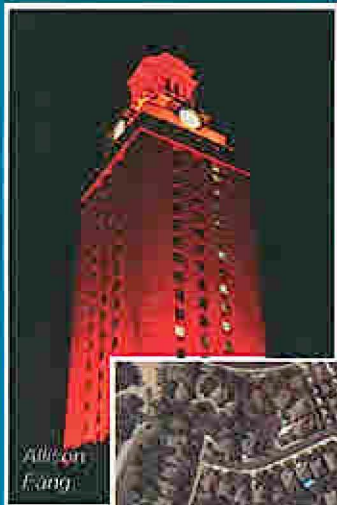


#68



Assuring Mobility Protecting Our Quality of Life

Late Backup



Council Briefing
Feb 25, 2010

Today's Presentation

- Strategic Mobility Plan Status Update
- Schedule for remaining milestones

Mobility



- **2008: City pursues transportation issues aggressively**
 - Transportation Department launched
 - Downtown Austin Plan studies transportation issues
 - Rail plan submitted to Transit Working Group
 - City accepts grant from Chamber to study downtown circulation needs
- **2009: City Council authorizes Strategic Mobility Plan and Urban Rail Studies**
 - Strategic Mobility and Rail Preliminary Engineering Consultants activated
 - Environmental consultants activated from rotation list to wrap-up Alternatives Analysis
 - Downtown Circulation Study Completed – ring of congestion confirmed
- **2009: Early Successes**
 - Pass-through financing agreement with TxDOT awarded to complete MoPac at US 290 Interchange
 - \$4 Million in Federal Stimulus funds awarded to City of Austin for road and signal improvements
 - City launches “Accelerate Austin” program to move forward with infrastructure projects

Public Outreach



- Over past four years, we have been participating in many outreach efforts:
 - Circulator AA
 - Downtown Austin Plan
 - East Riverside Plan
 - Comprehensive Plan
- Strategic Mobility Plan
 - 6 public input sessions
 - 6 public workshops
 - Stakeholder meetings

Austin – 15th Largest City

One of the most congested

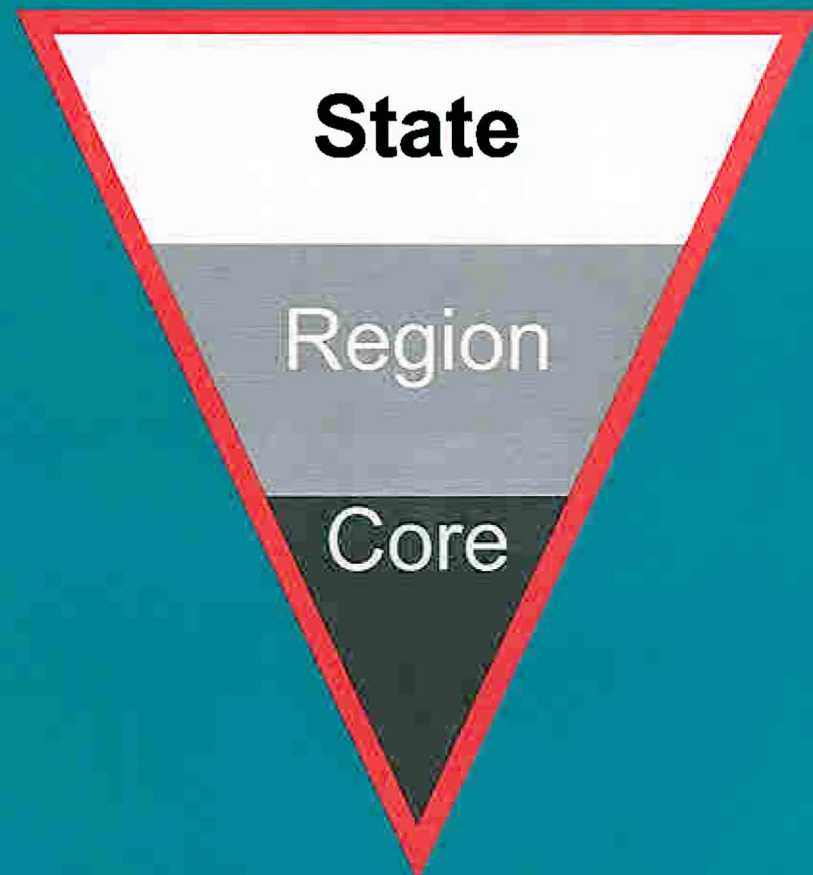
What are the most important issues to address to ensure a positive future for Central Texas? (choose three)

Transportation/Congestion	66.6%
Land Use	34.1%
Cost of Living	30.9%
Water Availability	28.2%
Air Quality	27.8%



How do We Think About Transportation?

- State or Super-Regional
- Regional Central Texas
- City of Austin / Core



Texas Triangle is Growing



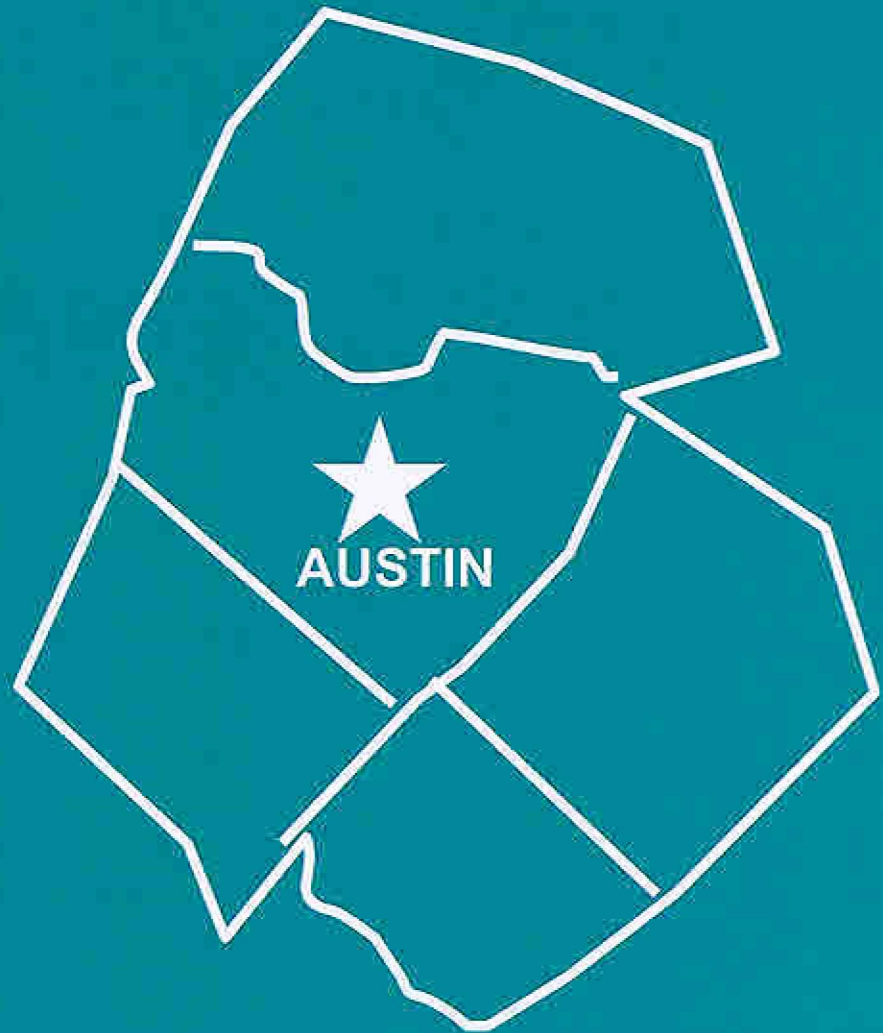
Austin at the Crossroads

- State will grow by 10 Million in 20 years
- A million people are coming to Austin
- Practical hub of state-wide passenger rail investments
- Center for government activity
- Center for creativity and innovation
- Climate and community attributes offer a unique quality of life

CAMPO 2035 Plan

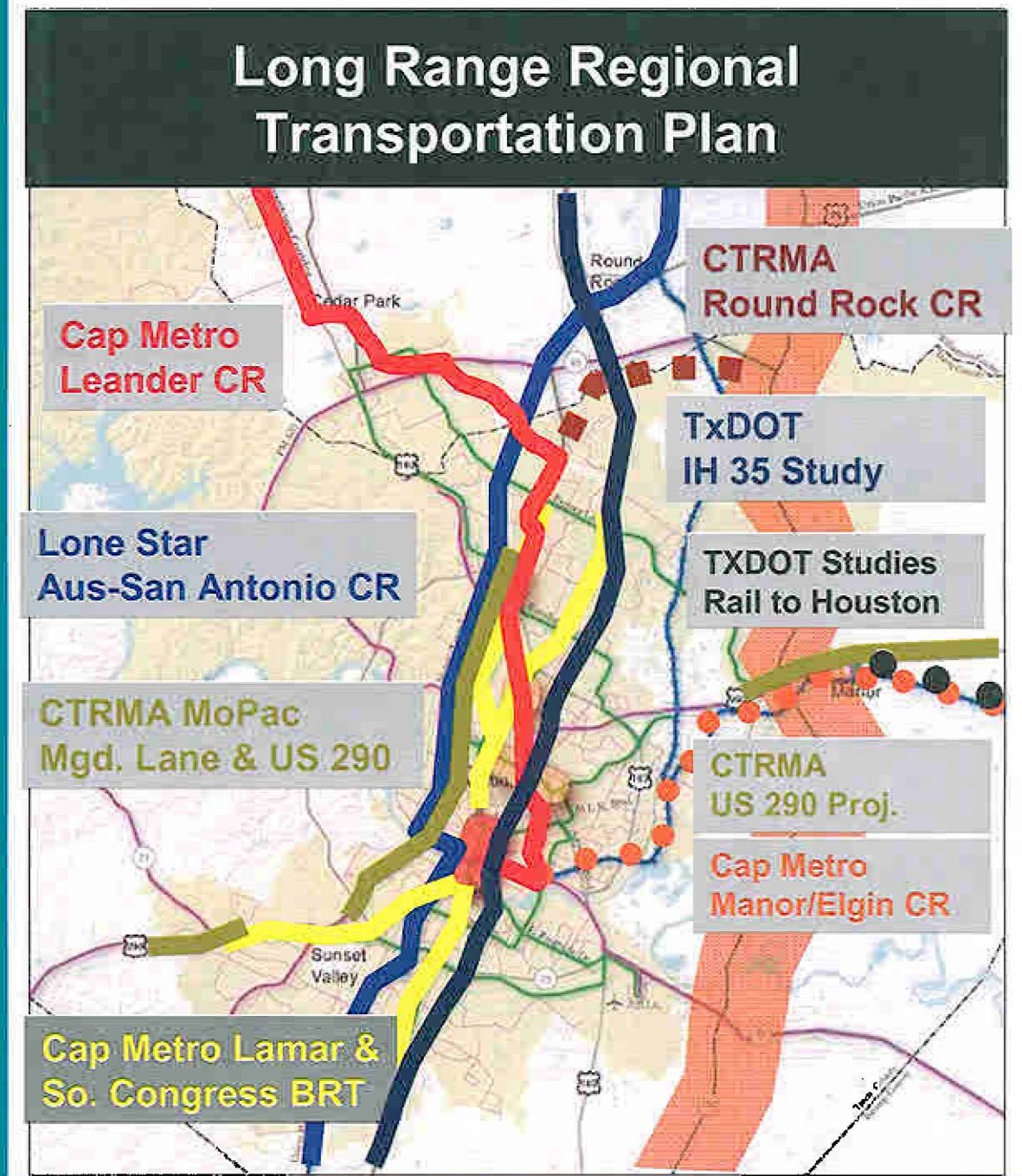
Five County Region

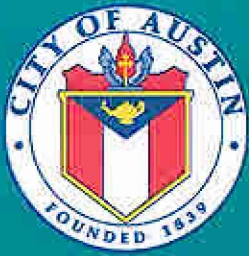
- Growth in population and jobs is coming
- Limited Resources from State and Federal
- Region decided to go in a new direction that balances growth and quality of life (activity centers)



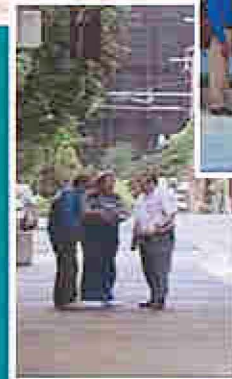
Regional Partners

- **TxDOT/CTRMA**
 - MoPac Loop 1 Mgd. Lanes
 - US 290 Oak Hill Y
 - Round Rock CR Spur
 - IH 35 Study
 - Rail to Houston
- **Lone Star Rail**
 - Austin-San Antonio Intercity Commuter Rail
- **Capital Metro**
 - MetroRail (Austin to Leander)
 - Metro Rapid (Burnet/Lamar and Lamar/So. Congress Rapid Bus)
 - Future MetroRail (Austin to Manor/Elgin; Georgetown, Pflugerville)
- **Cities/Counties**
 - SH 130
 - Regional arterials





Austin Strategic Mobility Plan Answering our part of the call



Strategic Mobility Plan Public Outreach

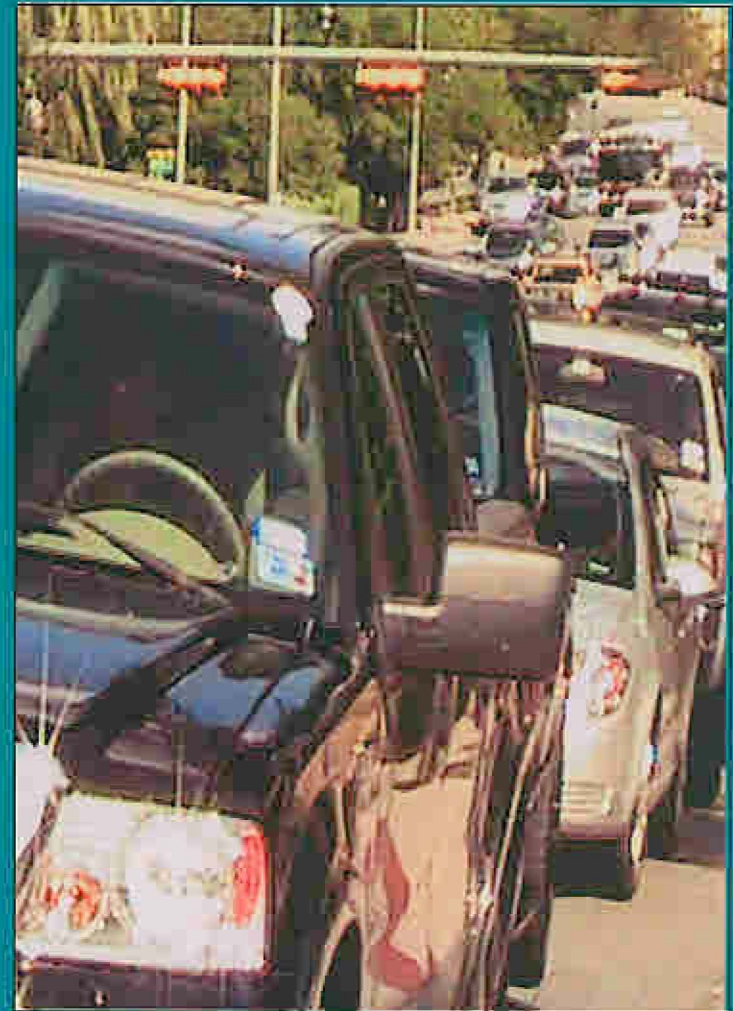


- Define community values with respect to mobility
- Identify gaps within the network
- Define what success looks like
- Tell us what the barriers to success are

What we've heard so far:

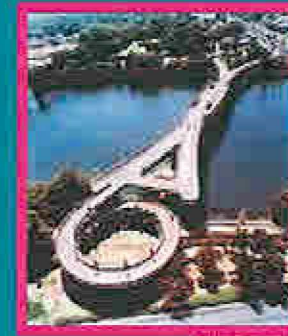
Values

- Give us more travel choices
- Deliver a sustainable transportation system
- Think environmentally
- Partner with other agencies to assure an integrated system
- Solutions should be cost effective
- Address existing needs, protect future options
- Different problems may need different solutions depending on location



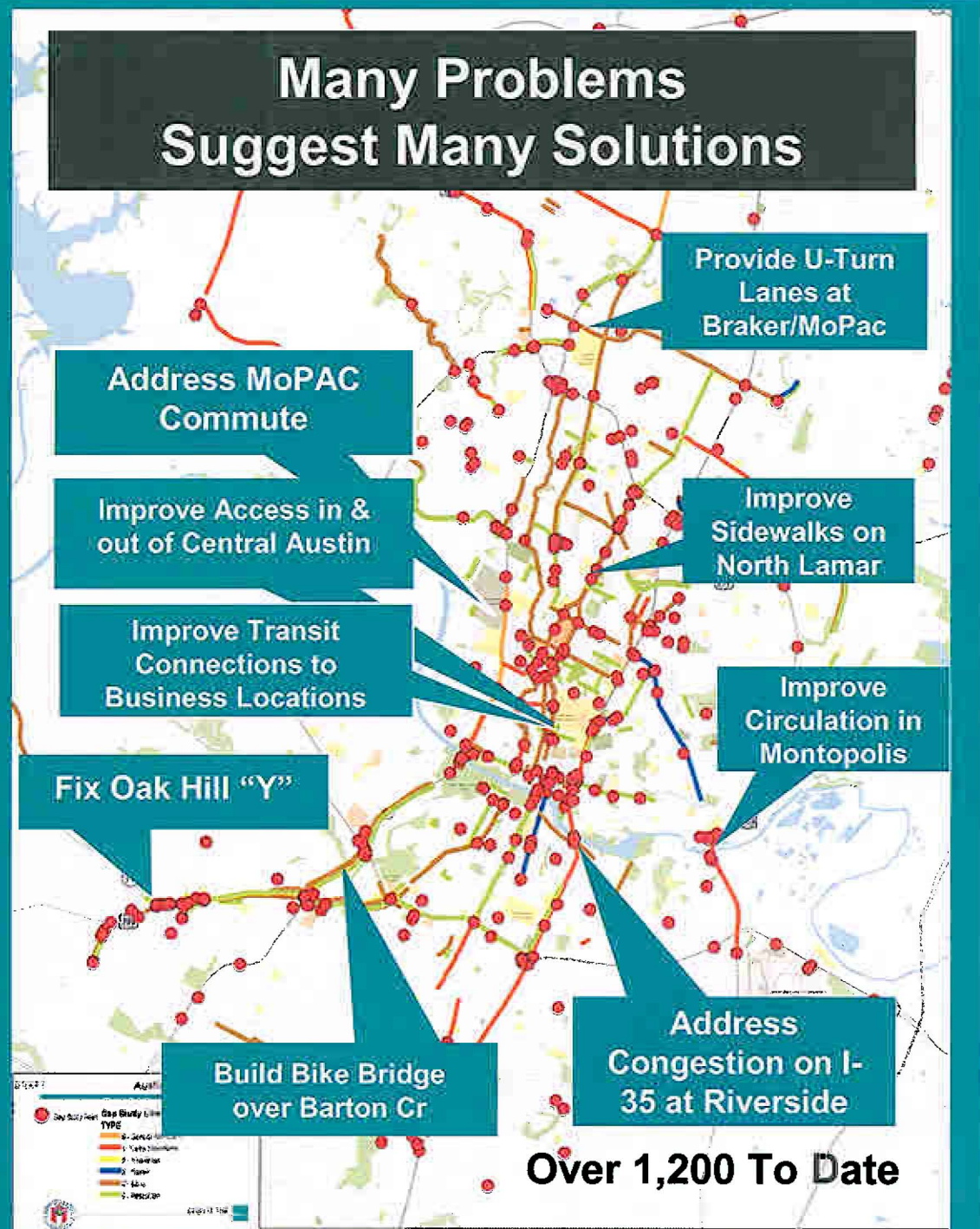
Austinites Define Success

- **Regional system** – *interagency cooperation, connectivity between modes*
- **Choices** – we will have a multi-modal travel system; connect to activity centers
- **Affordability** - % of household income spent on transportation is same or less
- **Financial Health** – maintain economic viability of city core; ensure healthy transportation system
- **Quality of Life** – don't increase commute times, protect air and water quality, green space; aesthetically pleasing



Residents Identify Mobility Gaps

- Over 1,200 gaps identified
- Diverse range of gaps concern citizens
 - Roads and bridges
 - Bicycle facilities
 - Sidewalks
 - Transit facilities
 - Access to key employment centers
 - Transit connectivity



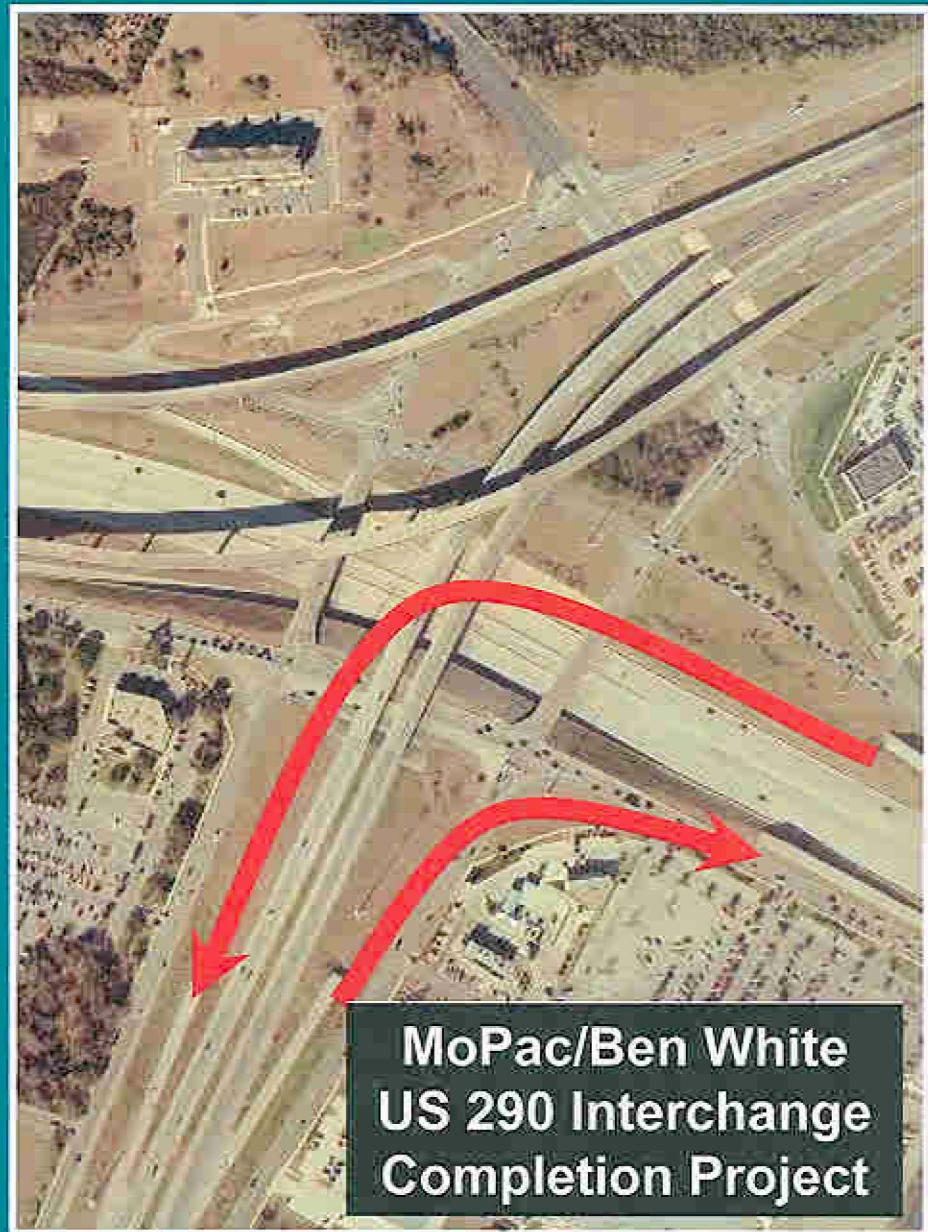
Austinites identify Barriers to Success

- Where do the funds come from (capital & operations)?
- We need to have strong political leadership
- Silos vs. systems approach
- Competing interests
- Neighborhood concerns vs city wide needs
- Show me what's in it for me
- Need a strong champion
- Concern about deadlines
- Analysis Paralysis



Austin Launches a Response

- Financing ramps at MoPac/US 290
- Supporting IH 35/US 290 ramp completion project (TxDOT)
- Constructing additional new signals with Federal AARA stimulus funds
- Deploying arterial dynamic message system to provide improved driver information (AARA funding)
- Accelerating & prioritizing arterial roadway projects from previous bond packages (Accelerate Austin)
- Completing parking meter conversion
- Accelerating deployment of Bicycle & Sidewalk Plans
- Supporting vanpool & carpool programs
- Improving coordination with regional transportation partners
- Coordinating construction activities with mobility needs



Why Consider Roads and Trails as part of solution

Identifying the right tool for the mobility need

- Oak Hill Y Alternative Project (partnership with TxDOT, CMTA and CTRMA)
- MoPac Managed Lane and Sound Wall Project (partnership with TxDOT & CTRMA)
- SH 130 Connector Arterial Completion (partnership with Travis Co., TxDOT)
- IH 35 Improved Ramping and frontage road modifications to reduce downtown stacking of traffic on main lanes
- Spicewood Springs Rd reconstruction (Loop 1 to Loop 360)



- US 183/Ed Bluestein Road - various intersections upgrades
- Montopolis – improved access
- Extension of 3rd Street to the west

Why Consider Roads and Trails as part of solution

Identifying the right tool for the mobility need

- Barton Creek Bike & pedestrian bridge beneath MoPac/Loop 1
- Completion of Boardwalk on Lady Bird Lake Trail
- Airport Boulevard Pedestrian Improvements
- Safe Routes to Schools – pedestrian investments throughout city
- Expanded use of innovative bicycle lane markings at major intersections to improve safety
- N. Lamar Pedestrian improvements
- Improved pedestrian access to transit stops
- Waller Creek trail system

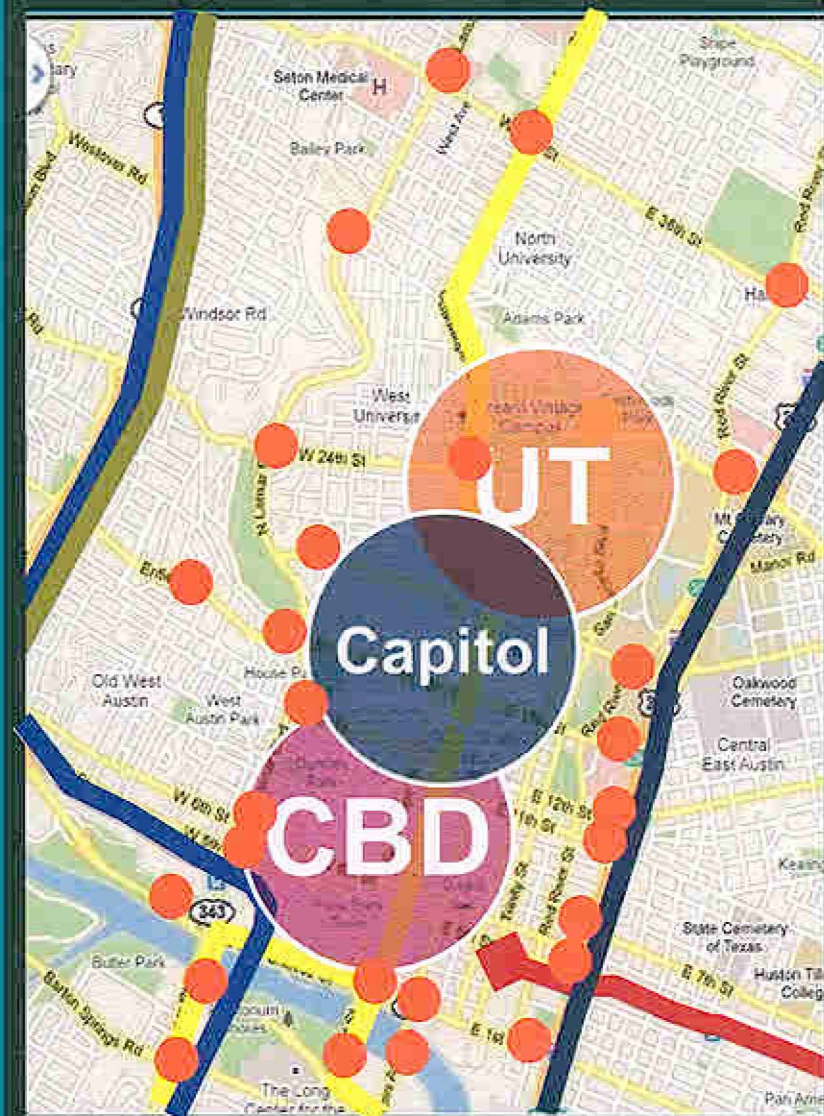


Why Consider Urban Rail

Central Austin is Constrained by Mobility Choke Points

- **Choke Points:**
 - Lamar Blvd; Barton Springs; SB Fr. Road IH 35; 38th St.
- **Issue:**
 - Key economic drivers are located within core
 - Roadway capacity in/out is full
 - Economic sustainability constrained by lack of alternatives
 - Regional network solutions have to be here

Long Range Regional Transportation Plan

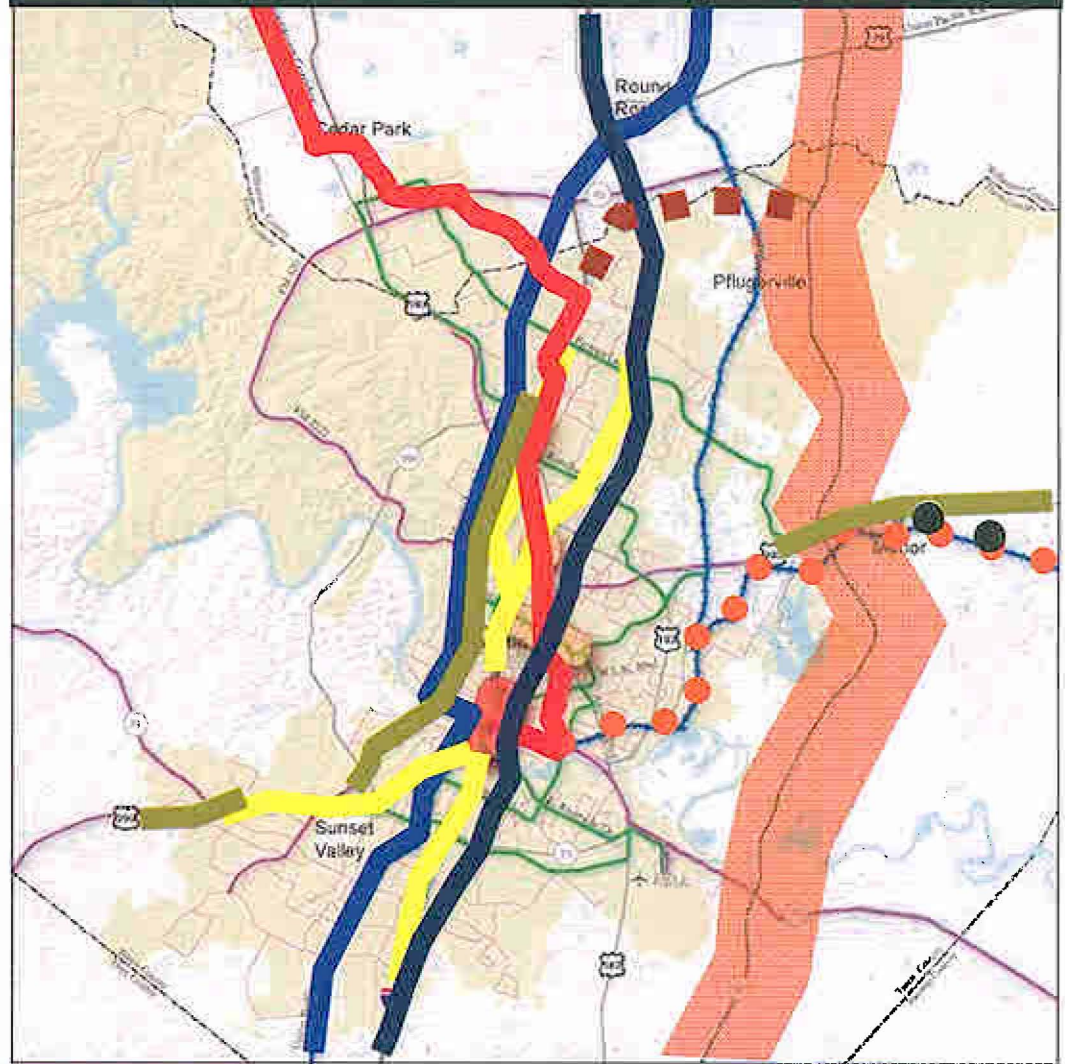


● Mobility pinch points

Why Consider Urban Rail

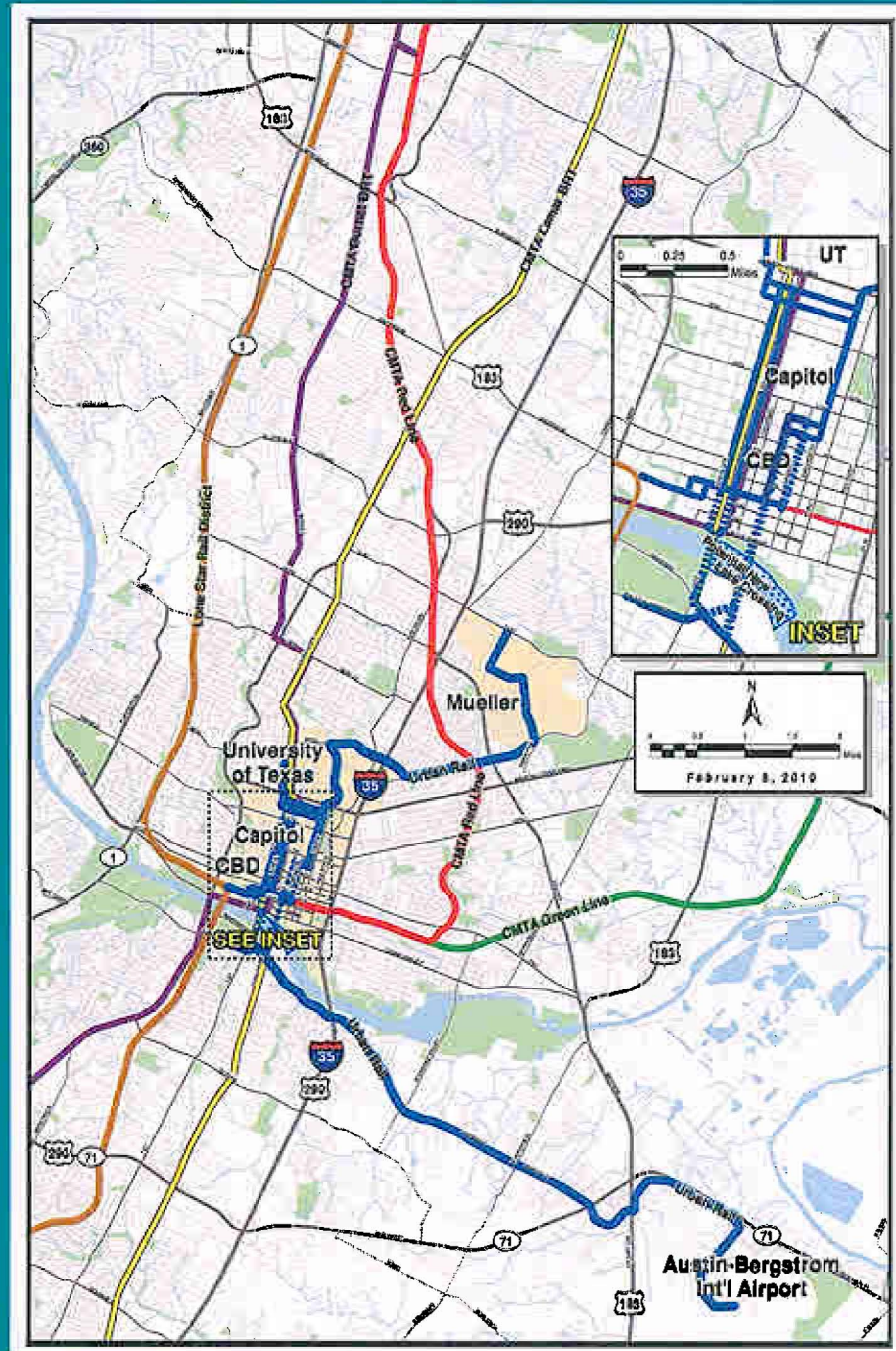
- Regional investment by partners need to be connected at core
- Roadways are full getting into the core
- Right-of-way opportunities are limited
- Multiple users making demand on corridors
- Rail is seen as an attractive alternative to automobiles
 - Attracts new riders
 - Encourages economic activity
 - Environmentally sustainable

Long Range Regional Transportation Plan



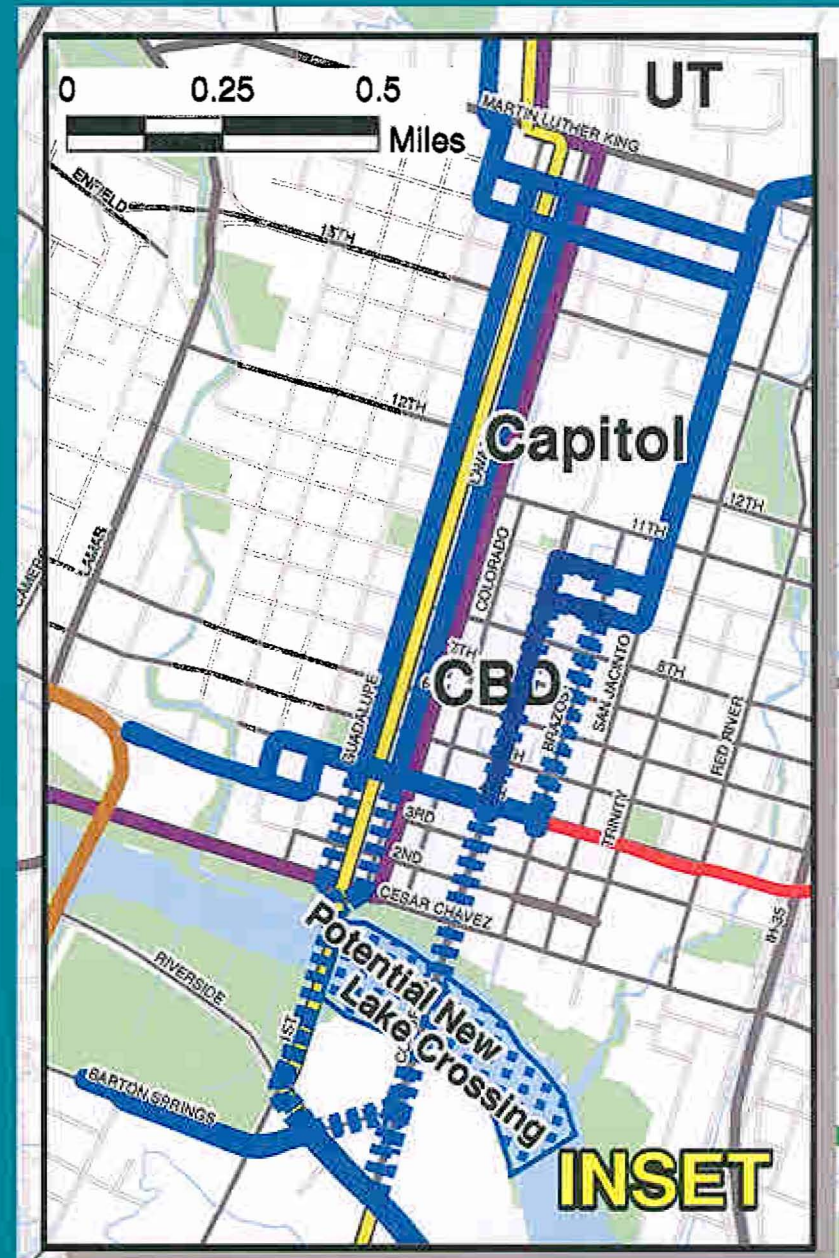
Proposed Urban Rail Corridors

- Mueller to ABIA
- Connect with emerging commuter rail service
 - Capital Metro Red Line
 - Lone Star Rail
- Serve major employment destinations
 - UT
 - Capitol Complex
 - Downtown
 - ABIA
- Serve major residential and cultural destinations
 - Mueller
 - Manor Road Corridor
 - Riverside Corridor
 - Sea Holm & Green Water developments
 - Palmer Center



Proposed Urban Rail Corridors

- Two north-south corridors
 - Congress/San Jacinto
 - Guadalupe and Lavaca couplet
- Two east-west corridors
 - 4th Street (council designated rail corridor)
 - 17th/18th Street couplet
- River crossing
 - Existing bridges
 - New bridge
- Connection to LSTAR at Seaholm
- Connection Center to Redline at Convention Center Station



Strategic Mobility Planning



- Austin has a **generational opportunity to invest in our economic vitality & sustainability**
 - Identified problems call for a system response
 - No single solution solves all problems
 - Local investments should reflect local values and regional responsibilities

Transportation Program Schedule

March

- Joint Boards and Commissions: Mobility Briefing
- City Council: Prioritization Methodology Report

April

- *April 8th* – City Council: Mobility Needs Briefing
- *Apr. 12-15* -Community Mobility Forums (Round 2)
- *Mid Apr* - CAMPO Transit Working Group Mobility Needs
- *Mid Apr* - Joint Boards and Commissions Mobility Needs
- *Apr. 21 (work session)* - City Council: City's General Fund Financial Forecast
- *April 22* – City Council Locally Preferred Alternative Briefing
- *Apr. 29* – City Council: Transportation Program Funding Plan (Long term plan + Initial System Investment) Briefing

May

- *Mid May* - CAMPO Transit Working Group: Funding Plan
- *Mid May* - Joint Boards and Commissions: Funding Plan
- *May 27* – City Council: Transportation Program LPA and Funding Plan (Initial System Investment) Decision