

**CENTRAL CORRIDOR HIGH-CAPACITY  
TRANSIT STUDY**  
**Recommended Locally Preferred Alternative Briefing**

**June 17, 2014 10:00 am – 12:00 pm**

**Joint Briefing to Austin City Council and  
Capital Metro Board**

**Austin Convention Center**



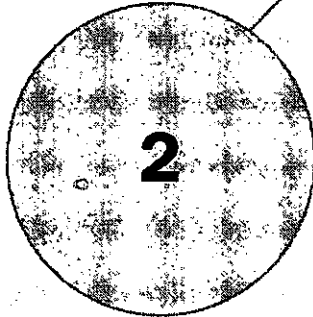
**1**

**Agenda**

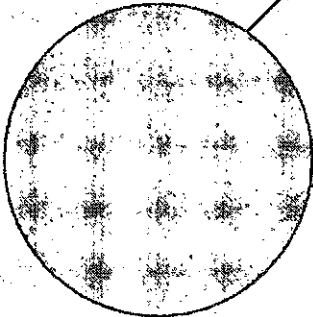

- 1) Welcome & Introductions
- 2) Recommended Locally Preferred  
Alternative (LPA) Recap
- 3) Discussion
- 4) Next Steps




**2**



## Recommended Locally Preferred Alternative (LPA) Recap



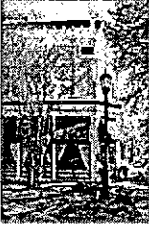
## Process Review




2

## Regional Challenges & Opportunities


**Centers**



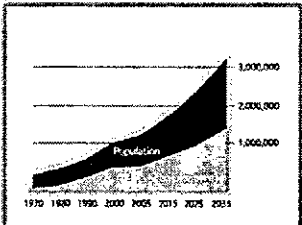
**Core**



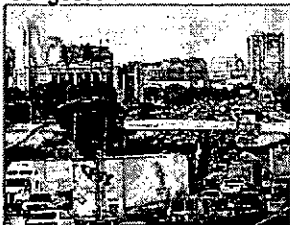
**Constraints**




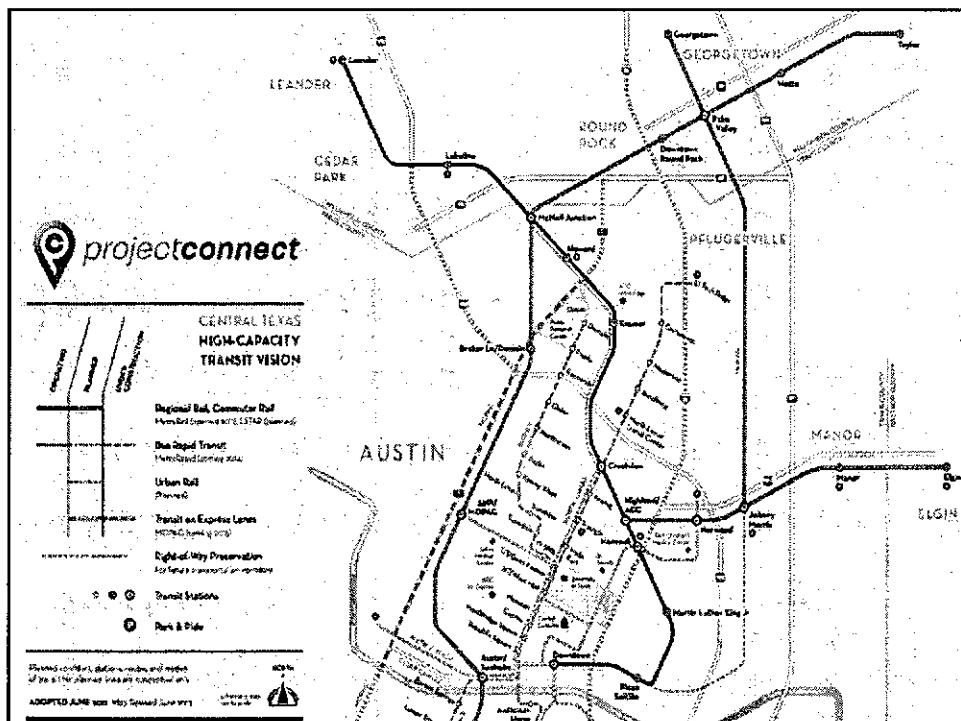
**Growth**



**Congestion**



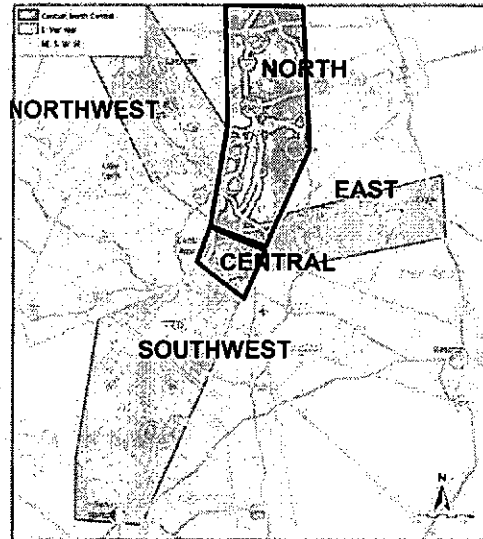

5



## 2

### Project Connect Corridors

- 9 Project Connect Corridors
- 5 High Priority:
  - North
  - East
  - Southwest
  - Northwest
  - Central



## 2

### Central Corridor Work Plan Phases

#### Decision-Making Process

- Phase 1: Select Priority Sub-Corridor
  - 'Where are we going...next?'
- Phase 2: Select Locally Preferred Alternative (LPA)
  - 'How will we get there?'





## 2

## Phase 1 Evaluation Results

| Project Team |    | CCAG        |    | Public*     |    | Equal Weight |    | Current Focus |    | Future Focus |    |
|--------------|----|-------------|----|-------------|----|--------------|----|---------------|----|--------------|----|
| ERC          | 70 | ERC         | 58 | ERC         | 61 | ERC          | 60 | ERC           | 55 | ERC          | 57 |
| Highland     | 61 | Highland    | 58 | Highland    | 64 | Highland     | 57 | East Austin   | 53 | Highland     | 52 |
| Lamar        | 53 | Mueller     | 51 | Mueller     | 57 | Mueller      | 51 | Lamar         | 53 | Mueller      | 44 |
| Mueller      | 52 | Lamar       | 48 | Lamar       | 50 | Lamar        | 50 | West Austin   | 52 | Lamar        | 42 |
| East Austin  | 50 | East Austin | 45 | East Austin | 49 | East Austin  | 47 | Highland      | 47 | SoCo         | 38 |
| SoCo         | 44 | SoCo        | 41 | SoCo        | 45 | SoCo         | 43 | Mueller       | 45 | East Austin  | 34 |
| West Austin  | 33 | West Austin | 32 | West Austin | 39 | West Austin  | 32 | SoCo          | 37 | West Austin  | 28 |
| MLK          | 27 | SoLa        | 22 | MLK         | 31 | MLK          | 25 | Mopac         | 36 | SoLa         | 21 |
| Mopac        | 27 | MLK         | 22 | Mopac       | 27 | SoLa         | 22 | MLK           | 31 | MLK          | 18 |
| SoLa         | 24 | Mopac       | 18 | SoLa        | 26 | Mopac        | 21 | SoLa          | 16 | Mopac        | 11 |

\*Public includes input from on-line surveys (295) and three public workshops (120)

## Key Findings

- ERC & Highland are top performers
  - From various perspectives
- Weightings do not change the overall results
- All sub-corridors could support HCT

Note: Evaluation scores can only be compared within each column.



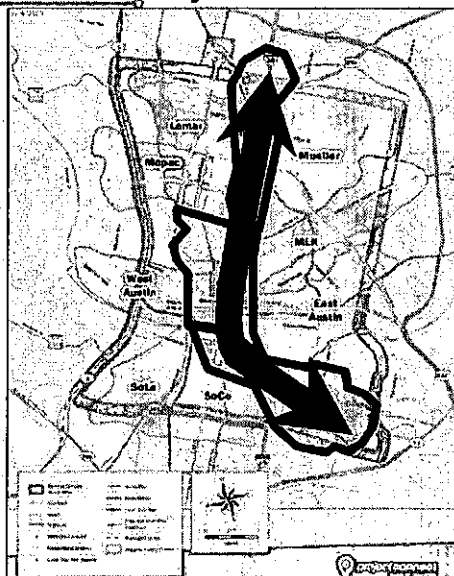
11

## 2

## Phase 1 Central Corridor Priority Area

### East Riverside & Highland

- East Riverside (ERC) and Highland were consistently in the top two
- Advanced both into Phase 2
  - Develop best project
- Balanced corridor
  - System Development
  - Shaping Characteristics
  - Serving Characteristics



12

## 2

## Phase 1 Actions

- CCAG – December 6, 2013
- City Council – December 12, 2013
- Capital Metro – January 29, 2014
- Lone Star Rail Executive Committee – February 7, 2014
- Action Taken
  - Endorsed project team recommendation for East Riverside and Highland Sub-Corridors
  - Identify funding needs and potential sources to continue Central Corridor project definition and development activities in the next tier of sub-corridors
  - Continue cultivating a relationship with FTA to prepare for any future high-capacity transit investments in the Lamar sub-corridor (Council & Board only)



## 2

## Phase 2 Work Plan &amp; Schedule

## Decision-Making Process

- Phase 2: Select Locally Preferred Alternative (LPA)

Current  
Progress

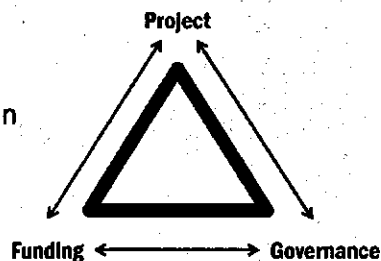
| Central Corridor High-Capacity Transit Study Work Plan      |   |         |  | 2013 |     |     |     |     |     |     | 2014 |     |     |     |     |     |     |
|---|---|---------|--|------|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|------|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|
|   |   |         |  | 6    | 7   | 8   | 9   | 10  | 11  | 12  | 1    | 2   | 3   | 4   | 5   | 6   | 7   |
|   |   |         |  | Dec  | Jan | Feb | Mar | Apr | May | Jun | Jul  | Aug | Sep | Oct | Nov | Dec | Jan |
| Phase 2<br>Select Draft Locally Preferred Alternative (LPA) | Step 4: Identify Preliminary Alternatives | Task 9  | Project Purpose  |      |     |     |     |     |     |     |      |     |     |     |     |     |     |
|   |   | Task 10 | Process – Methodology & Criteria                                       |      |     |     |     |     |     |     |      |     |     |     |     |     |     |
|   |   | Task 11 | Identify & Screen Preliminary Alternatives – Service, Mode & Alignment |      |     |     |     |     |     |     |      |     |     |     |     |     |     |
|   | Step 5: Define Final Alternatives         | Task 12 | Define Final Alternatives – Mode & Alignment                           |      |     |     |     |     |     |     |      |     |     |     |     |     |     |
|   | Step 6: Evaluate Alternatives             | Task 13 | Evaluate Final Alternatives  |      |     |     |     |     |     |     |      |     |     |     |     |     |     |
|   | Step 7: Select LPA                        | Task 14 | Select Draft Locally Preferred Alternative (LPA)                       |      |     |     |     |     |     |     |      |     |     |     |     |     |     |
|   |   |         | Decision   |      |     |     |     |     |     |     |      |     |     |     |     |     |     |



## 2

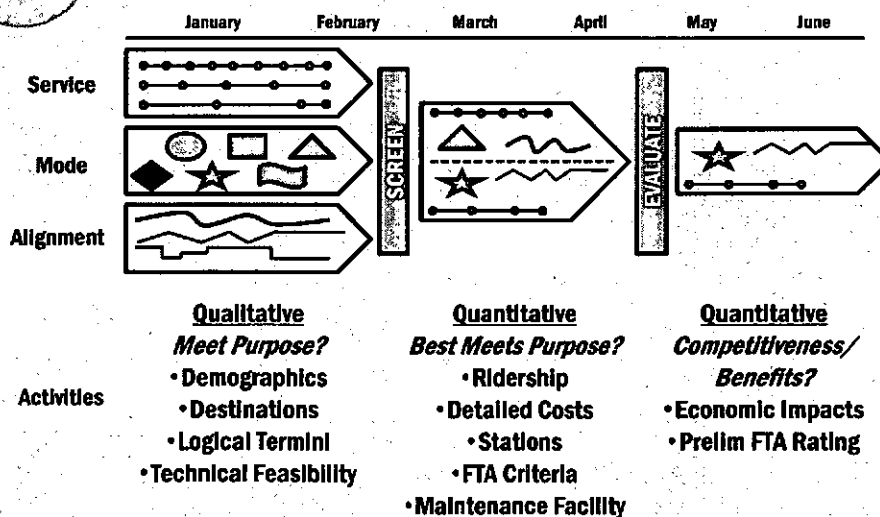
## Phase 2 Objectives

- **Project Definition**
  - Service, mode, alignment, stops
- **Funding Approach**
  - Capital and O&M costs, funding sources
  - *Within* overall Project Connect Plan
- **Governance Approach**
  - Framework, lead roles
- **Programs and Policies**
  - *Housing/Transit/Jobs Action Team*
  - *Alignment of programs and policies with FTA New Starts criteria*

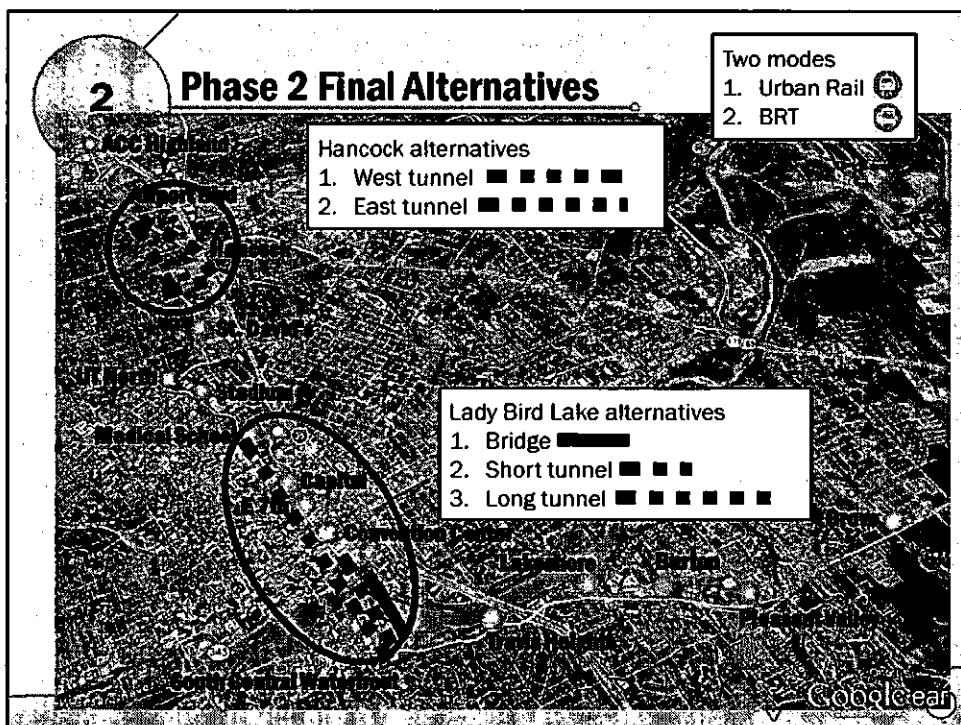
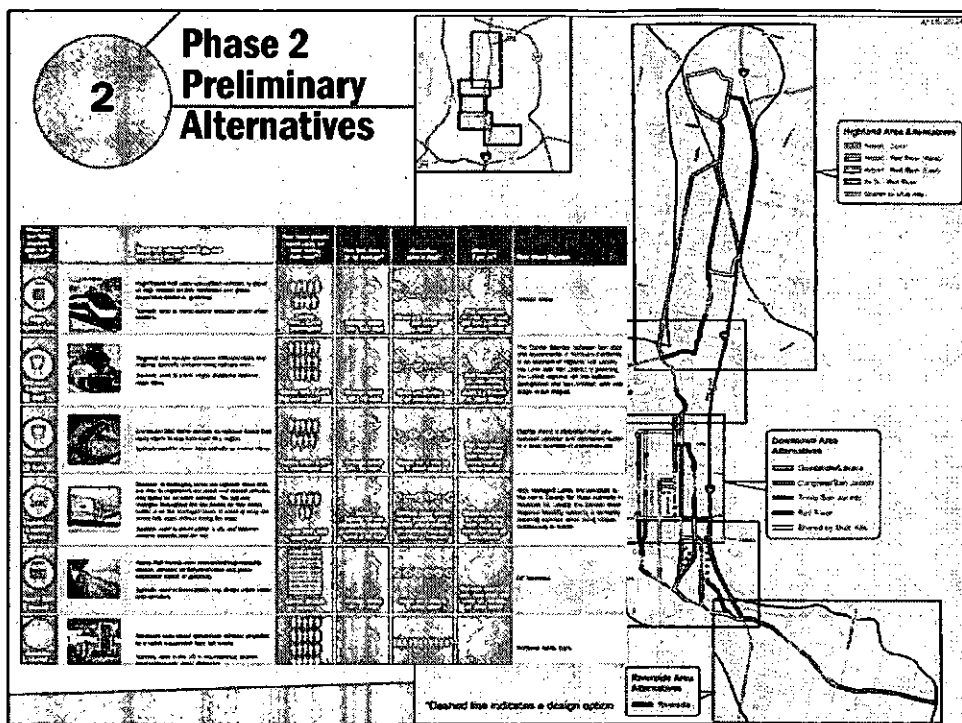


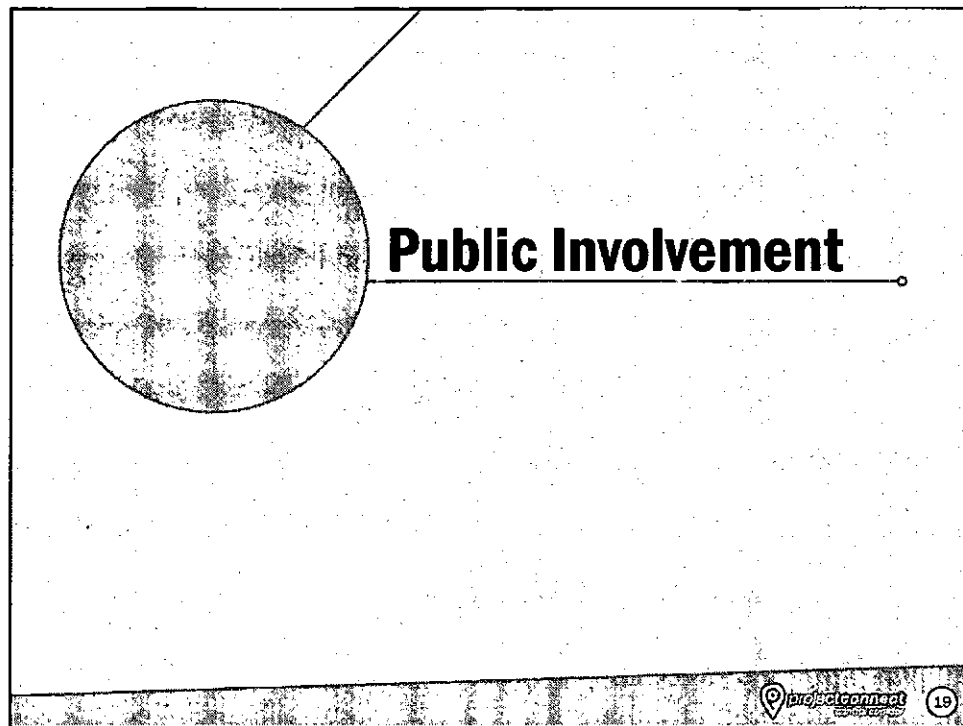
## 2

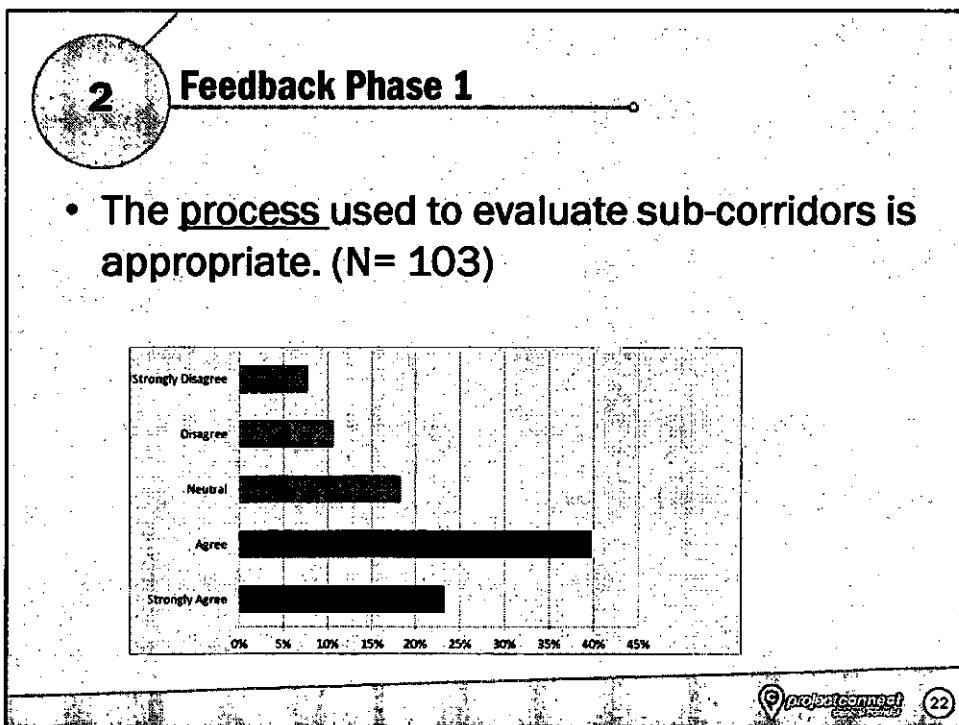
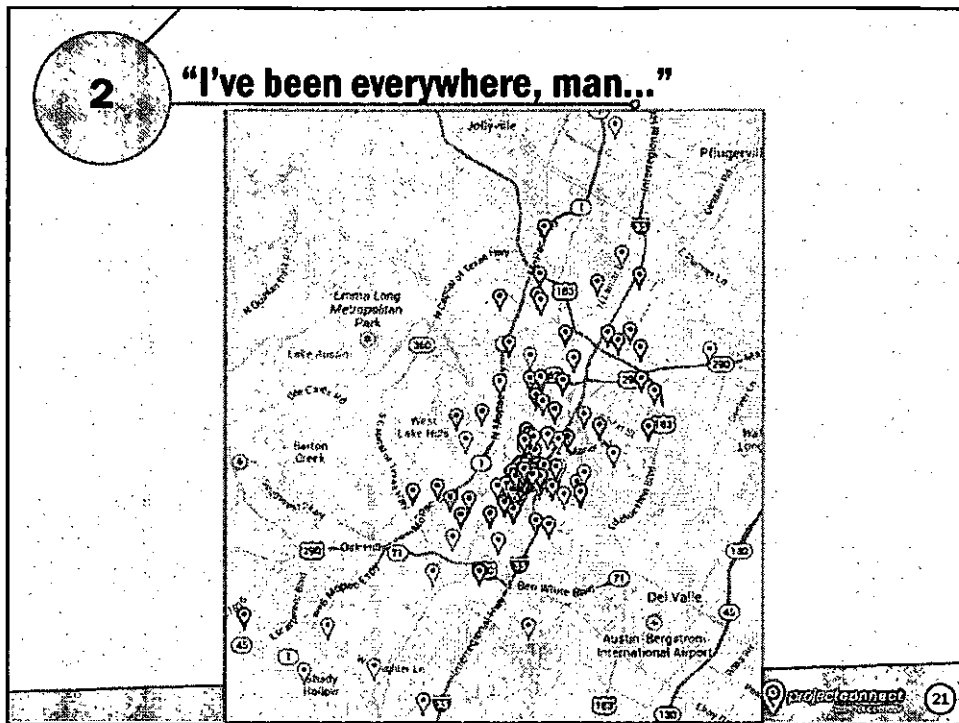
## Phase 2 Evaluation Process











## 2

## Phase 2 Public Input

## Purpose Statements

|             |      |
|-------------|------|
| Congestion  | 1.62 |
| System      | 1.98 |
| Core        | 2.02 |
| Growth      | 2.16 |
| Centers     | 2.20 |
| Funding     | 2.21 |
| Constraints | 2.33 |

## Service Characteristics

|              |      |
|--------------|------|
| Reliability  | 1.90 |
| Frequency    | 1.93 |
| Speed        | 2.47 |
| Stop Spacing | 3.04 |

(N=1189)



23

## 2

## Recent Public Involvement Activities

- 5/17 University Hills Neighborhood
- 05/17 Manor Expressway Opening
- 05/17 Asian American Resource Center Food Festival
- 5/18 Questors Class
- 5/19 Central Austin Neighborhood Planning Advisory Committee
- 5/20 Capital Metro Special Board Meeting
- 5/20 Pfleger Architects
- 05/20 North Acres Homeowners Association
- 5/20 Brykerwoods Neighborhood Association
- 05/20 Northeast Austin HOA
- 5/21 Downtown Commission
- 5/21 Environmental Board
- 5/21 NW Austin Civic Association
- 5/21 Central Austin Democrats
- 5/22 Parkway Health and Wellness Fair
- 5/22 Austin Young Democrats
- 5/23 Eagle Talk Show Anniversary
- 5/27 St. David's (downtown) Open House
- 5/27 Planning Commission
- 05/28 Urban Land Institute Breakfast
- 5/29 VIN Etching Event - South Austin
- 6/02 VIN Etching Event - North Austin
- 6/02 South River City Citizens
- 6/03 IH35 Open House - Kealing
- 6/04 Alliance for Public Transportation
- 6/04 Capital Metro Access Advisory Committee
- 6/04 IH35 Open House - Akins
- 6/04 Heritage Neighborhood Association
- 6/05 Austin Chamber Transportation Committee
- 6/06 The News Movement
- 6/07 Kealing Neighborhood Association
- 6/07 Downtown Farmers Market
- 6/08 Senate Hills Neighborhood Association
- 6/09 Stakeholders meeting for future UR System Planning
- 6/09 Comprehensive Planning Subcommittee
- 6/09 Waterfront Planning Board
- 6/10 Urban Transportation Commission
- 6/10 Sierra Club
- 6/10 Imagine Austin Meet-Up
- 6/10 Bouldin Creek Neighborhood Association
- 6/11 Online Open House
- 6/11 Capital Metro Customer Satisfaction Advisory Committee
- 6/12 Austin Chamber Business Showcase
- 6/12 Reddit AMA
- 6/12 Dove Springs Open House



24

## 2

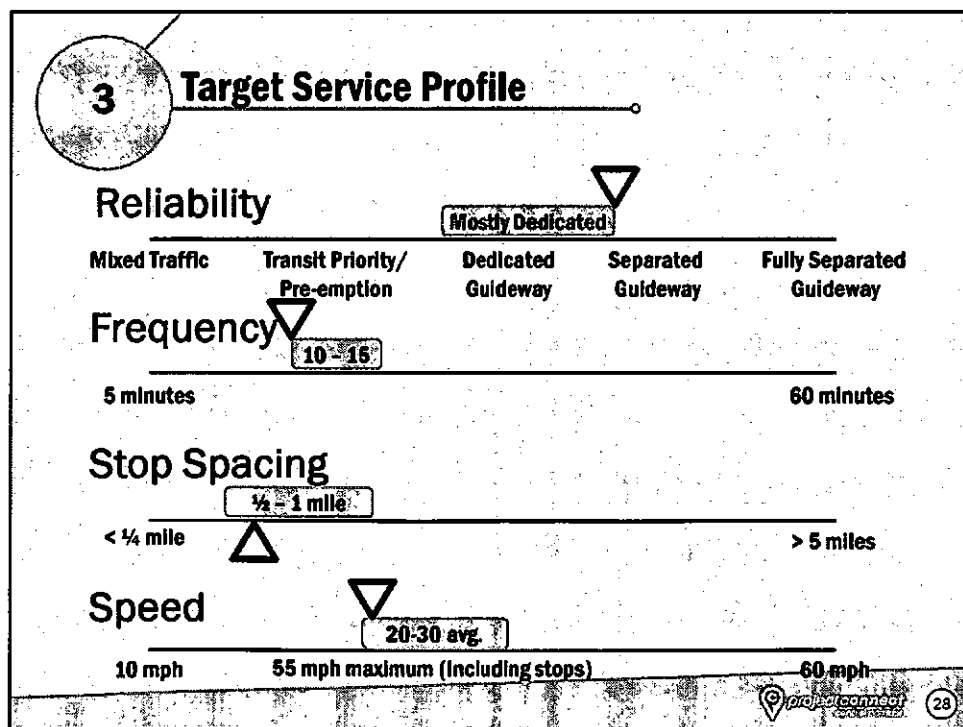
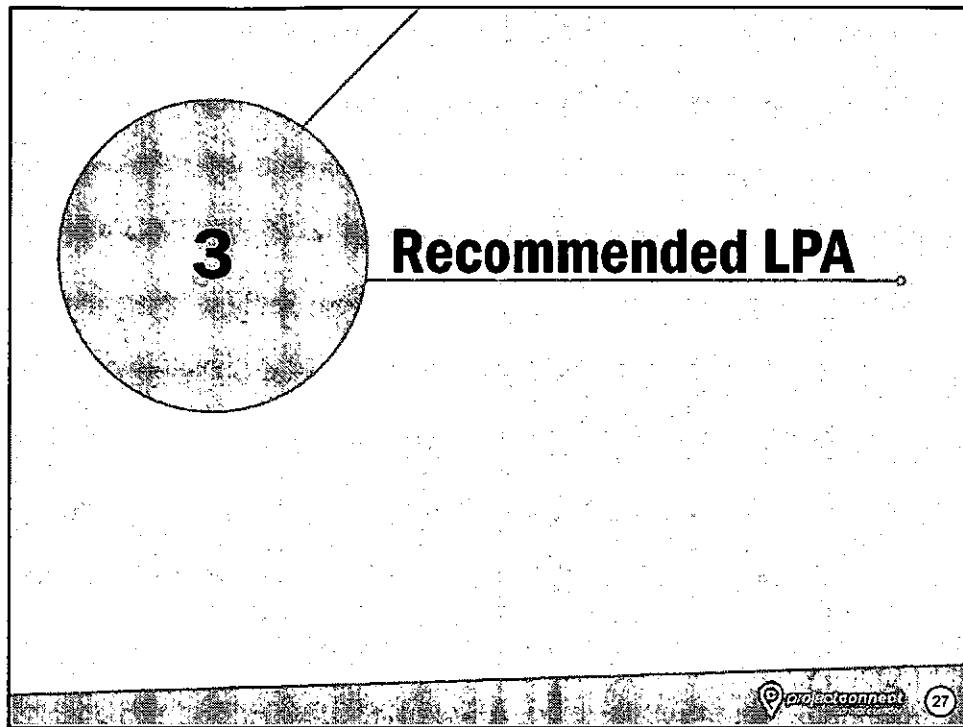
**Upcoming Public Involvement Activities**

- Public Open Houses
- Stakeholder Briefings
- Presence at various community events and festivals

## 2

**Upcoming Public Involvement Activities**

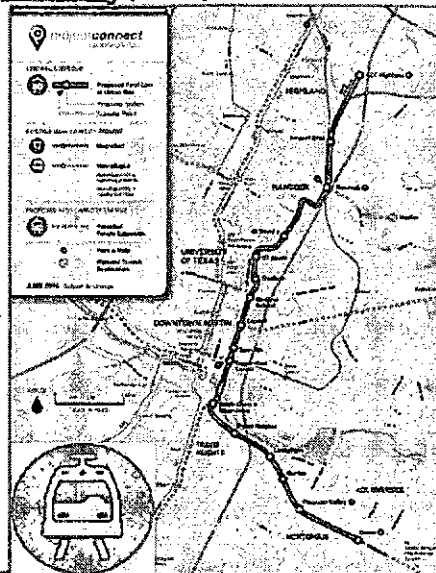
- |                                    |   |
|------------------------------------|---|
| • 6/14 Triangle Open House         | • 6/29 Mueller Farmers Market                                   |
| • 6/17 Oak Hill Parkway Open House | • 6/29 First Unitarian Universalist Church Public Affairs Forum |
| • 6/21 Juneteenth Celebration      | • 7/01 Gus Garcia Rec Center Open House                         |
| • 6/21 Liveable City Board         | • 7/03 1 <sup>st</sup> Thursday on SoCo                         |
| • 6/22 South Lamar Farmers Market  | • 7/12 Circle C Open House                                      |
| • 6/23 Colony Park Family Fun Fest | • 7/19 Sunset Valley Farmers Market                             |
| • 6/23 Northwest Austin Coalition  | • 7/21 Highland Park West Neighborhood Assn                     |
| • 6/25 K + Friese & Associates     | • 7/26 Barton Creek Mall Farmers Market                         |
| • 6/26 Restore Rundberg            |   |
| • 6/28 Domain Open House           |   |



## 3

## Recommended Locally Preferred Alternative (LPA)

- 9.5-mile Urban Rail route, double-track and electrified
  - Bridge across Lady Bird Lake
  - East tunnel at Hancock Center under Red Line
- 16 Stations with 4 park and rides
- Estimated 18,000 daily Ridership by 2030
  - 6,500 new transit riders to line
  - 10,000 new transit riders to system
- Travel Times
  - Grove to Conv Center (3.9 miles) – 11 min
  - ACC Highland to Conv Center (5.6 miles) – 17 min
- Total Capital Cost: \$1.38 B (2020)
- Annual O&M Costs: \$22 M (2022)



projectconnect 29

## 3

## Capital Costs

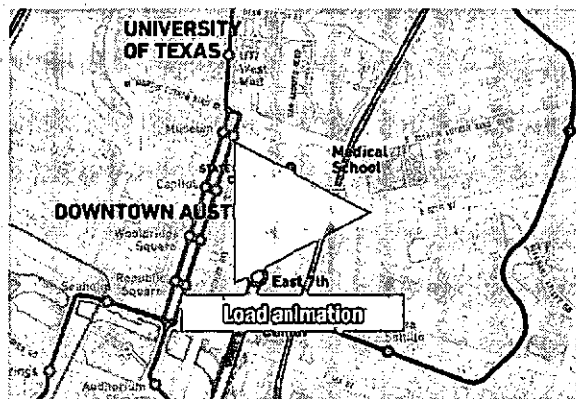
| Capital Cost Category | Estimated Cost<br>(2020 Year of Expenditure) |
|-----------------------|--|
| Construction          | \$730 M                                      |
| Vehicles              | \$40 M                                       |
| Right-of-Way          | \$40 M                                       |
| Professional services | \$240 M                                      |
| Total contingencies   | \$330 M                                      |
| <b>Total</b>          | <b>\$1.38 B</b>                              |

- In current dollars, proposed Urban Rail starter line is \$118.9M/mi
- 21 US LRT projects currently under construction in FY14
  - Average per mile cost is \$236.3M
- 16 of 21 US LRT projects are at-grade or mostly at-grade
  - Average per mile cost is \$123.1M
  - 6 projects more expensive per mile than Urban Rail
  - 5 projects with total cost above Urban Rail

projectconnect 30

3

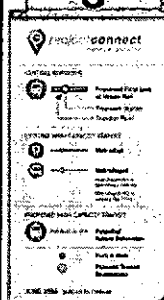
## Recommended Locally Preferred Alternative (LPA)



31

3

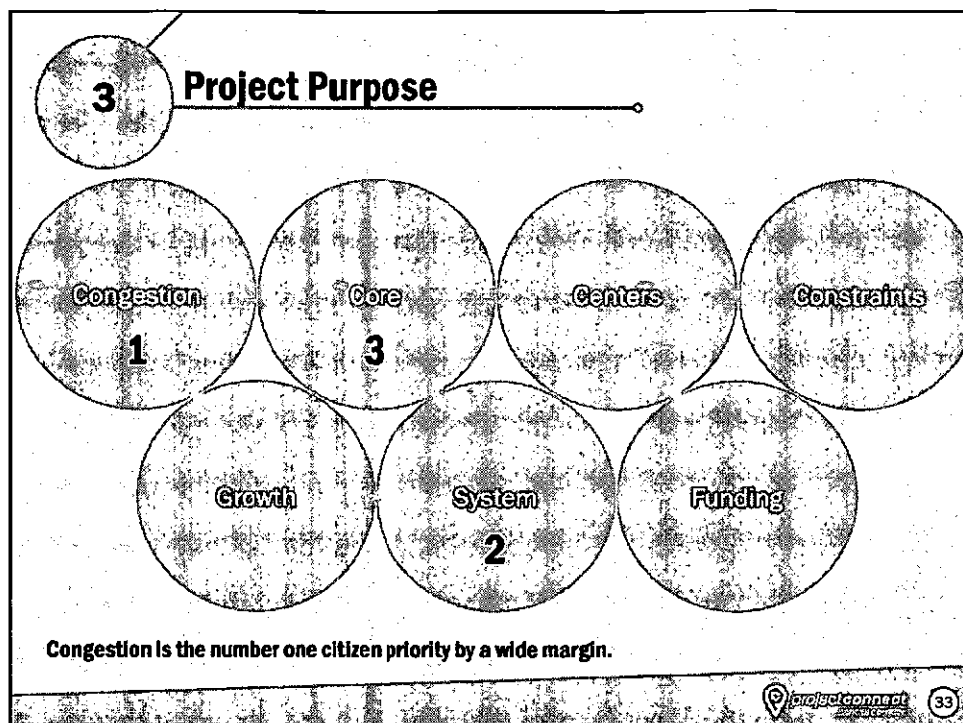
## Project Benefits



- Takes 10,000 cars off the road every weekday
- Within ½ Mile of Stations:
  - Over 46,000 residents currently
    - Over 8,400 new residents by 2030
  - Nearly 97,000 employees currently
    - Over 17,500 new employees by 2030
  - Estimated 3:1 ROI – private development due to the public investment
  - \$23M new annual City of Austin property and sales tax revenue
  - Higher value development
  - Lower per capita transportation costs and carbon emissions

32



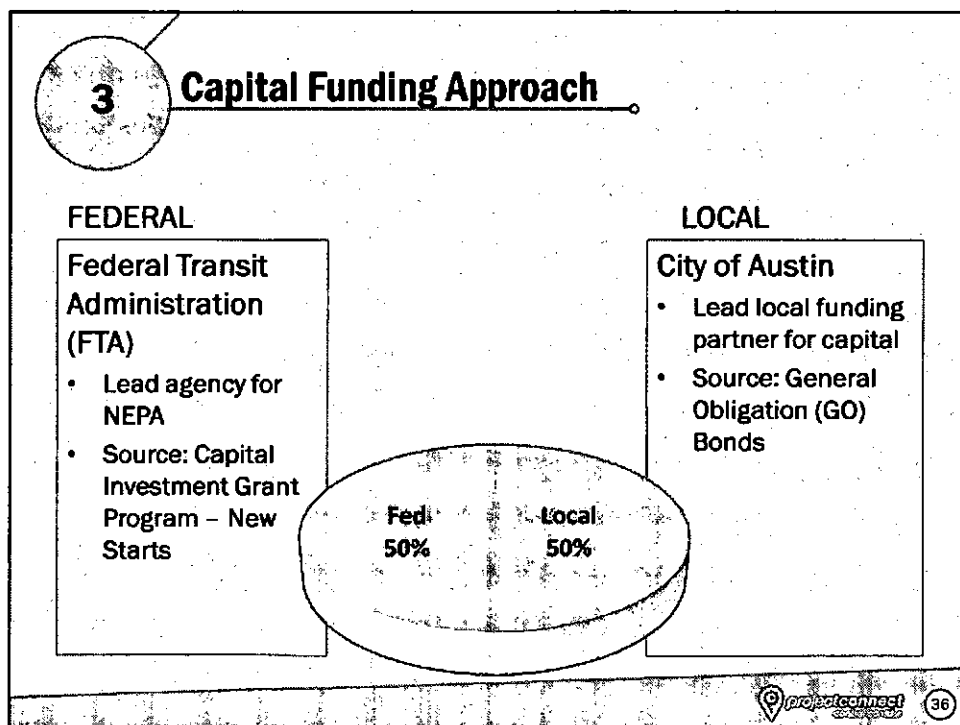
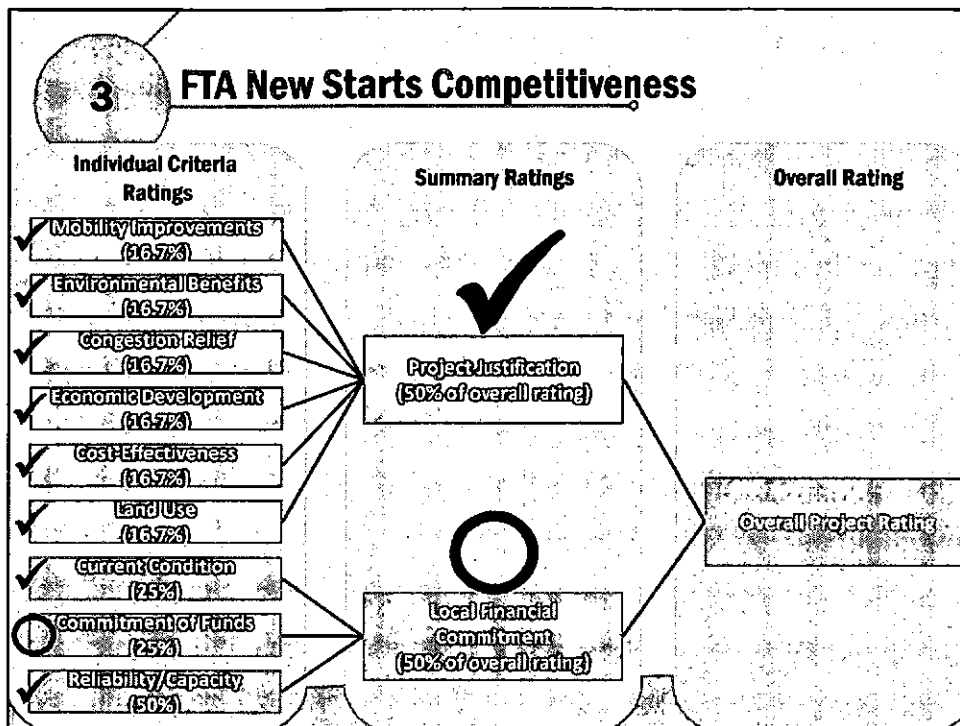


**3 Project Purpose**

The purpose of the next high-capacity transit project in the Central Corridor is to:

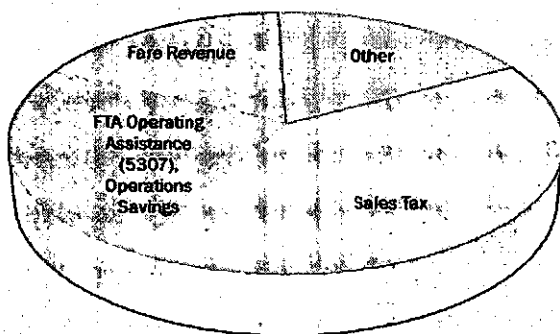
- ☒ Provide a reliable alternative to congestion
- ☒ Reinforce the success of the core through improved access and affordable mobility
- ☒ Provide connectivity to the city's and region's activity centers
- ☒ Provide a project compatible with urban physical constraints
- ☒ Serve current demands and shape future growth
- ☒ Implement an integrated high-capacity transit system
- ☒ Be competitive for FTA funding

projectconnect 34



3

## O&M Funding Approach

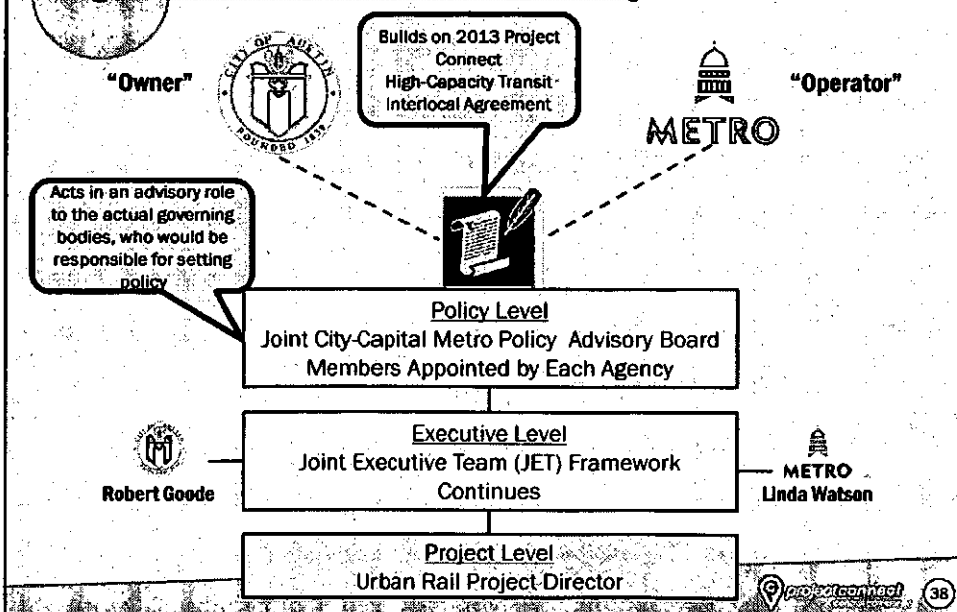


### Sources of O&M Funding

- Sales Tax
- FTA Operating Assistance (5307)
- Operations Savings
- Fare Revenue
- Other
  - Parking Revenue
  - ¼-Cent funds
  - Potential PIDs
  - Advertising/ Naming Rights
  - Private and In-kind Contributions

3

## Governance Approach: Partnership



## 4

## Next Steps

## 4

## Road to the LPA

- Capital Metro Board, May 20<sup>th</sup>
  - Briefing to Special Board Session
- City Council, May 22<sup>nd</sup>
  - Briefing at regular meeting
- CCAG #14, June 13<sup>th</sup>
  - Develop recommendation for Council & Board
- Council & Board, June 17<sup>th</sup>
  - Briefing to Special Joint Session
- Capital Metro Board, June 23<sup>rd</sup>
  - Action on recommended LPA
- City Council, June 26<sup>th</sup>
  - Action on recommended LPA
- City Council, August 7<sup>th</sup>
  - Action on bond election

May

| Sun | Mon | Tue | Wed | Thu | Fri | Sat |
|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|
|     |     |     |     |     | 1   | 2   |
| 4   | 5   | 6   | 7   | 8   | 9   | 10  |
| 11  | 12  | 13  | 14  | 15  | 16  | 17  |
| 18  | 19  | 20  | 21  | 22  | 23  | 24  |
| 25  | 26  | 27  | 28  | 29  | 30  | 31  |

June

| Sun | Mon | Tue | Wed | Thu | Fri | Sat |
|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|
| 1   | 2   | 3   | 4   | 5   | 6   | 7   |
| 8   | 9   | 10  | 11  | 12  | 13  | 14  |
| 15  | 16  | 17  | 18  | 19  | 20  | 21  |
| 22  | 23  | 24  | 25  | 26  | 27  | 28  |
| 29  | 30  |     |     |     |     |     |

July

August

| Sun | Mon | Tue | Wed | Thu | Fri | Sat |
|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|
|     |     |     |     |     | 1   | 2   |
| 3   | 4   | 5   | 6   | 7   | 8   | 9   |
| 10  | 11  | 12  | 13  | 14  | 15  | 16  |
| 17  | 18  | 19  | 20  | 21  | 22  | 23  |
| 24  | 25  | 26  | 27  | 28  | 29  | 30  |
| 31  |     |     |     |     |     |     |

## 4

**CCAG Action**

- Central Corridor Advisory Group (CCAG) Action on June 13, 2014
  - Endorsed project team recommendation for LPA that serves East Riverside, Downtown, Capitol Complex, Medical School Complex, University of Texas, and Highland with urban rail
  - Endorsed the partnership approach to governance and funding
    - Including securing federal funding and an identifiable, secure source of O&M funds to support urban rail without adversely impacting other transit operations
  - Recommended pursuit of environmental clearance of the recommended LPA
  - Recommended continued use of data to monitor demographics, existing transit ridership, and economic development activities as LPA advances
  - Recommended continued planning for crosstown connections, along with next-tier sub-corridors



41



## System Planning/ Project Definition

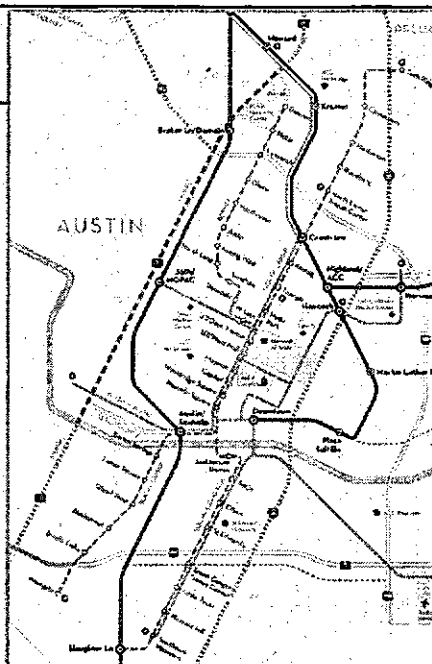


42

4

## Urban Rail "Layer" System Concept

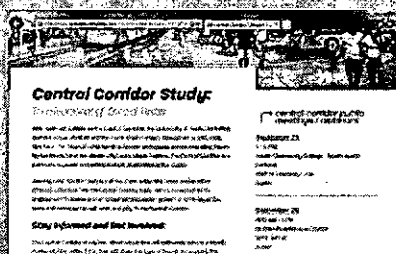
- Identification of Central Corridor LPA informs definition of Urban Rail "Layer" of Project Connect Vision
- Next steps
  - Update Project Connect Vision following LPA selection
  - Project definition and development activities for next tier: Lamar, Mueller, East Austin



# THANK YOU

More Information:

**Project Connect &  
Central Corridor HCT Study**  
[projectconnect.com](http://projectconnect.com)



**projectconnect**  
central corridor