

Shoal Creek Trail: Vision to Action Plan

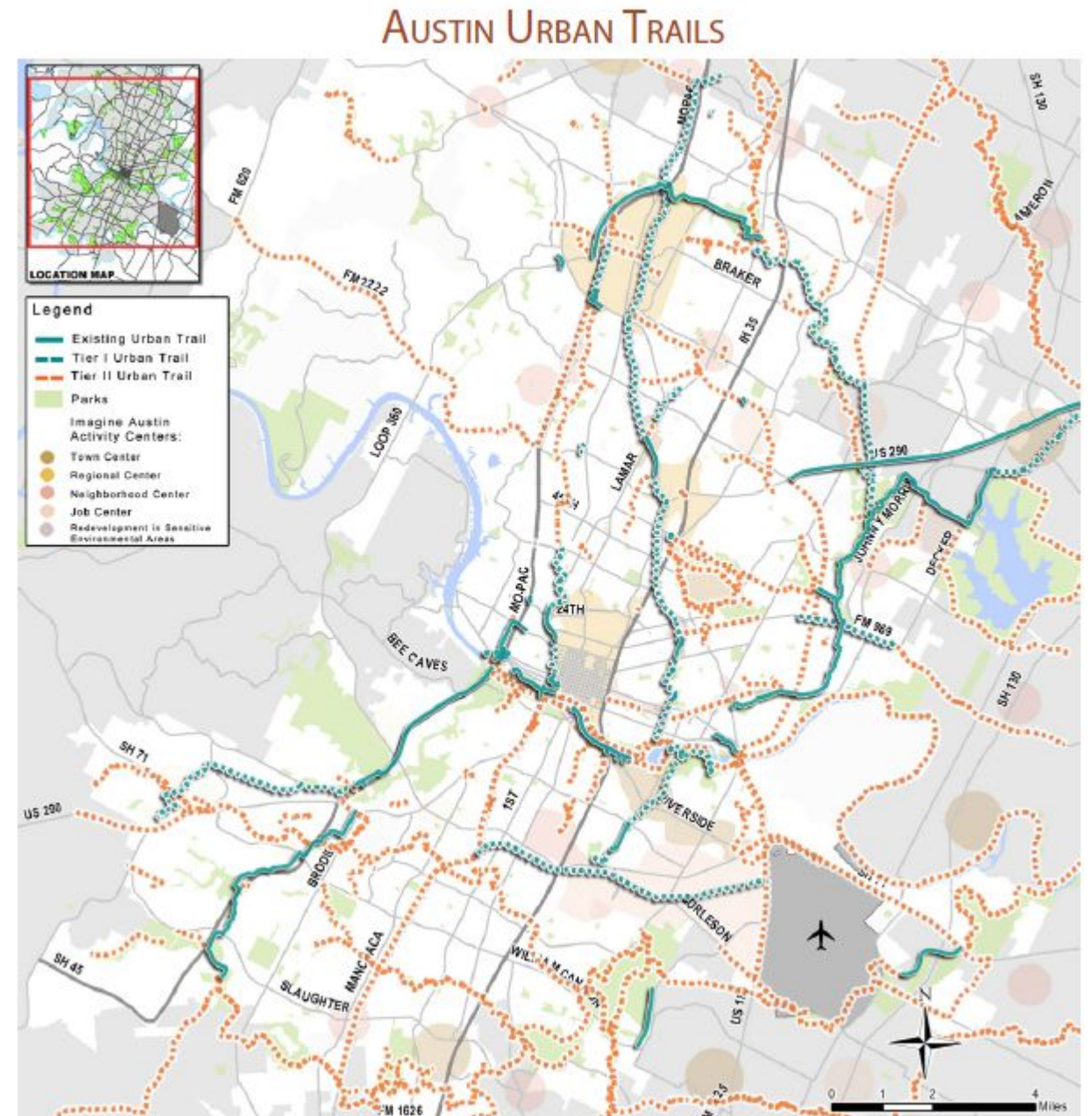
Presentation to the COA Parks Board, June 2018



Austin Urban Trails

Urban Trails Master Plan, 2014

- Provides guidelines and plans for developing Urban trails in Austin
- **Urban Trail** = Multi-use pathway for both recreation and alternative transportation
- Envisions 47 new miles of Urban Trail in next 20 years, over 300 miles total
- Includes vision for **Shoal Creek Trail**:
 - Tier 1 Priority (Lake to 38th)
 - Tier 2 Priority (North of 38th)

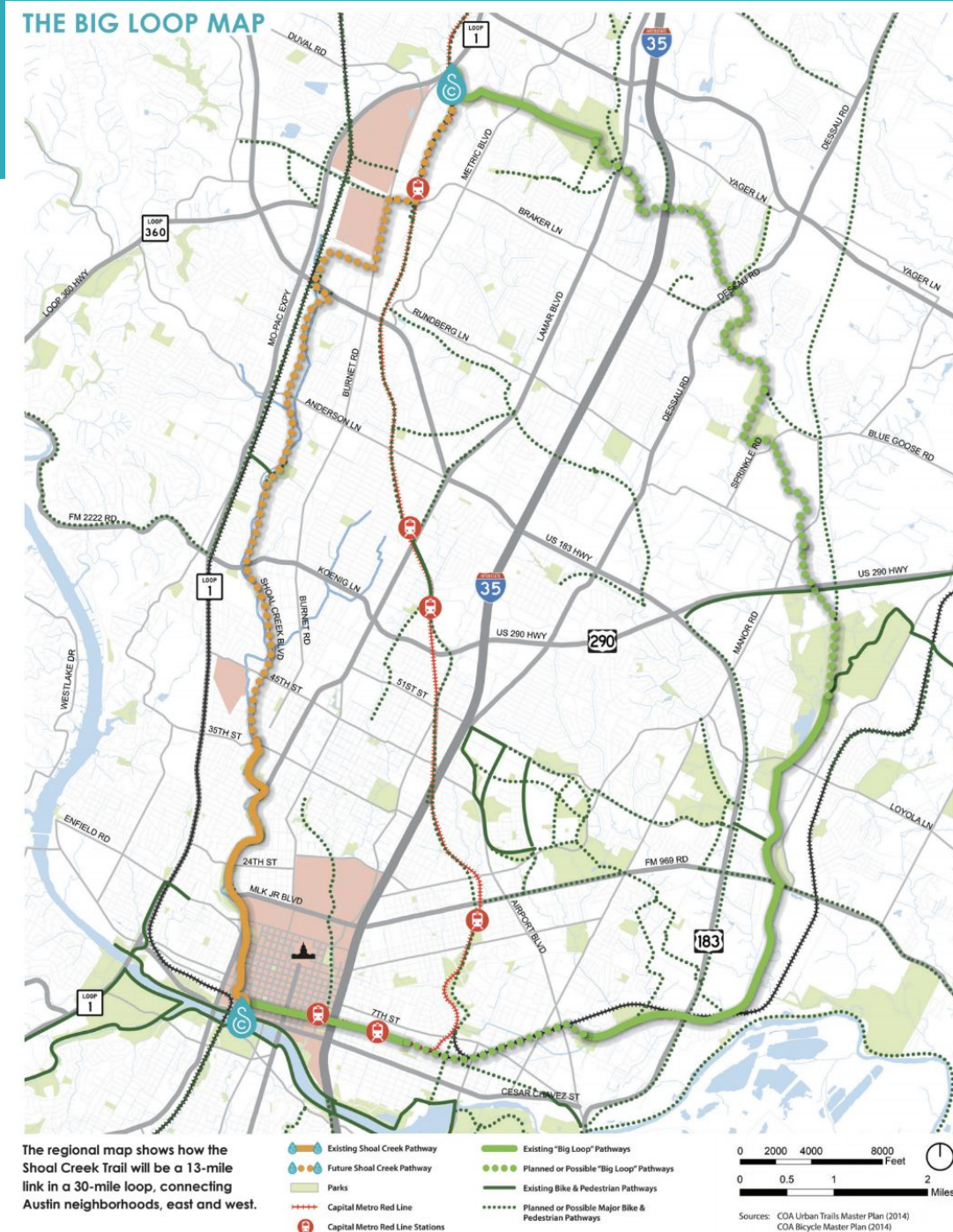


Shoal Creek Trail Plan

Project Goal: Create a plan for improving, connecting and extending the Shoal Creek Trail for education, recreation, transportation in a way that builds on its natural and historic character

Big Vision: Tie into a 30-mile trail loop around the city, connecting east, west north and central Austin

Implementation: \$66 million with four phases as well as community-identified near-term priority projects



Public Outreach & Engagement: *June 2018 to Present*

- 3 Community Advisory Group Meetings with over 70 stakeholder groups
- 3 Community Workshops with over 230 attendees
- Online and paper public health survey
- Presentations to neighborhood association and other outreach strategies

Project Website: www.shoalcreekconservancy.org/trailplan



Guiding Principles



History and Culture

Tell the stories. Interpret and celebrate this area's unique history and culture in a way that's informative and engaging to diverse communities.



Natural Resources and Ecology

Identify and integrate best practices in environmental stewardship, sustainability and resiliency.



Activities and Recreation

Enhance access to and opportunities for recreation, education, social activities and community events, and ensure that it is maintained as a place of beauty, calm and refuge.



Connectivity and Community Access

Increase connectivity and comfort for people of all ages and abilities who are walking, biking and taking transit.



Safety, Health and Well-Being

Create a safe Trail system that makes being active a fun, easy and daily choice.



Advocacy and Implementation

Collaborate with the public, private and non-profit sectors to implement the *Shoal Creek Trail: Vision to Action Plan* in a timely way, and to put in place a program to maintain the Corridor.



Proposed 13-mile Route

Segment A (3.9 miles)

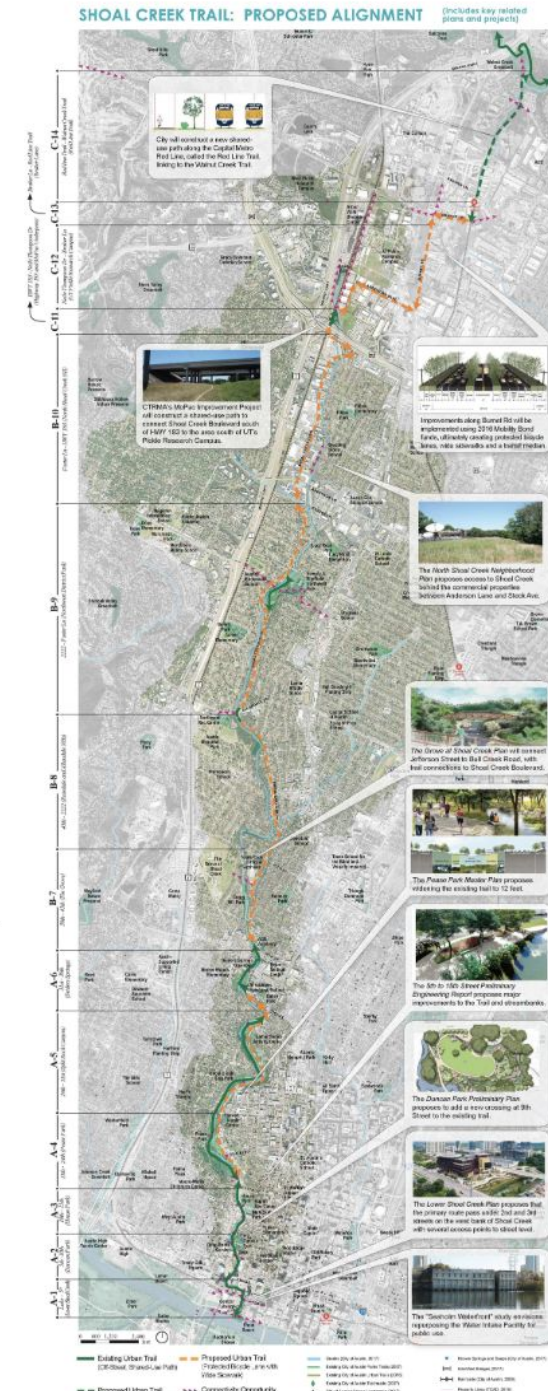
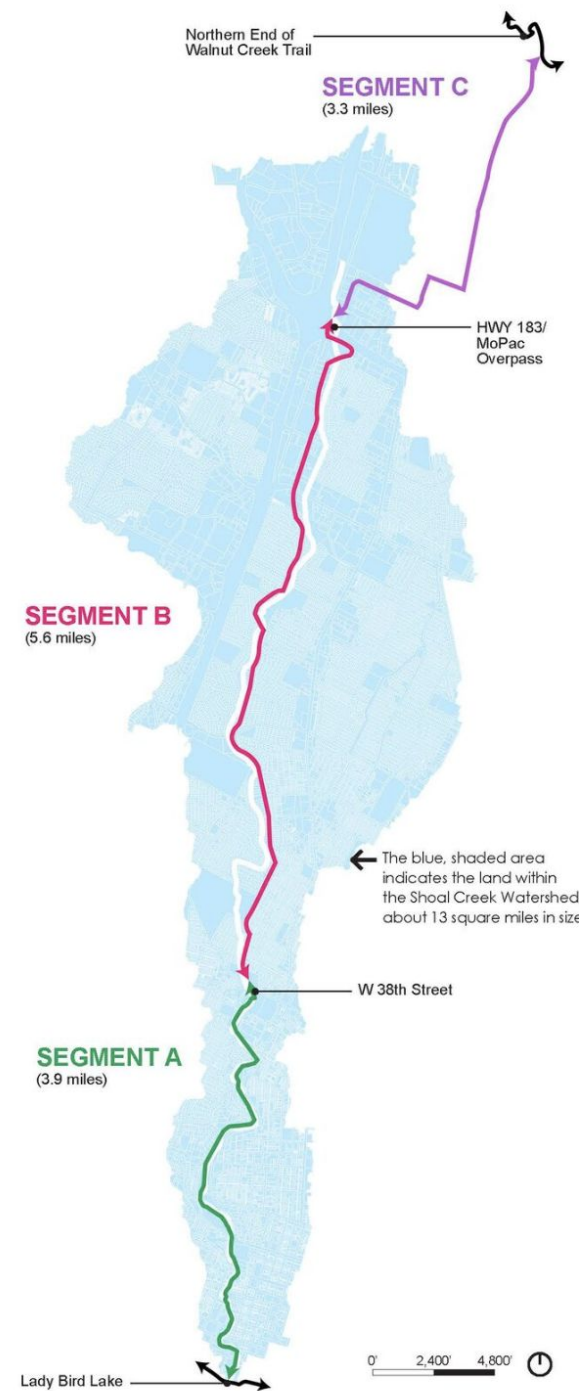
- Lake to 38th Street: Improved off-street trail
- 15th to 29th Streets: New Urban Trail along Lamar Blvd.

Segment B (5.6 miles)

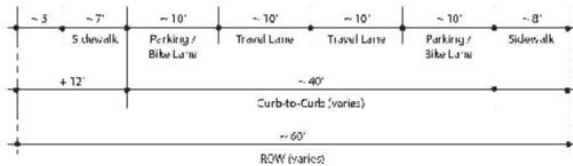
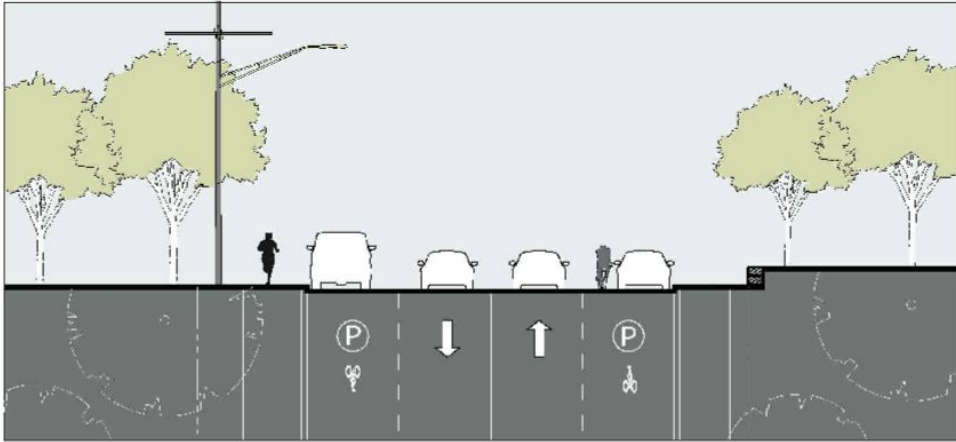
- 38th Street to Hwy 183: 2-way protected bikeway and wider sidewalk along Shoal Creek Blvd. (with rain gardens where possible)

Segment C (3.3miles)

- Hwy 183 to Walnut Creek Trail: 2-way protected bikeway along Neils Thompson Drive and Braker Lane to Red Line Trail



Priority Project #1: Shoal Creek Boulevard (Approx. \$1.425 M)



1 Re-stripe Shoal Creek Boulevard, from West 38th Street to Foster Lane, to create a two-way protected bicycle lane and a wider sidewalk, where possible, within the western edge of the existing right-of-way.

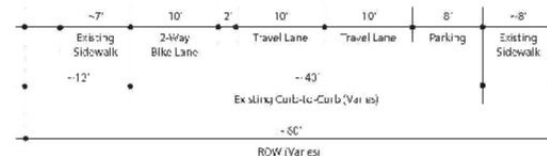
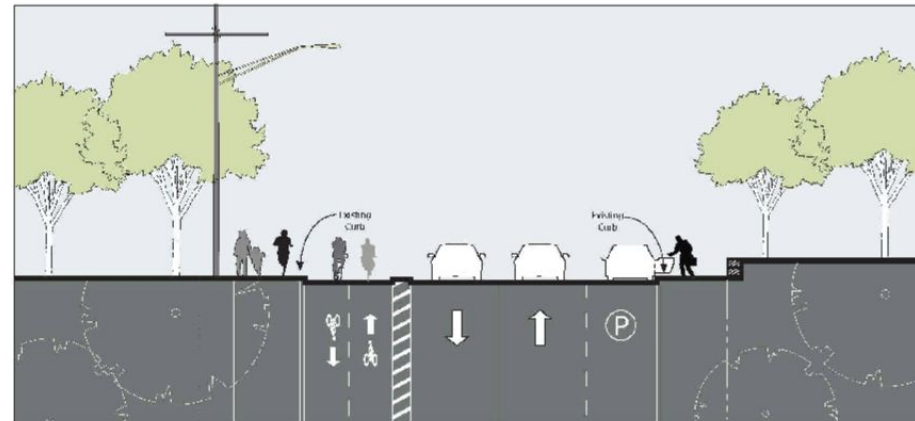
Shoal Creek Boulevard from 38th Street to Foster Lane, Existing:

- A 40-foot roadway exists within a 60-foot right-of-way.
- Existing trees and overhead utilities line the west side of the right-of-way.
- Steep slopes exist on both sides of the street.



(300 Block of Shoal Creek Boulevard)

Typical Existing Condition, Looking North



Shoal Creek Boulevard from 38th Street to Foster Lane, Proposed:

- Create a two-way protected bicycle lane along west side of street by removing one side of parallel parking while retaining existing curbs.
- Relocate the overhead utilities to the property line where they obstruct the sidewalk.
- Provide a landscape buffer/ rain garden between the protected bicycle lane and a widened sidewalk where space allows.

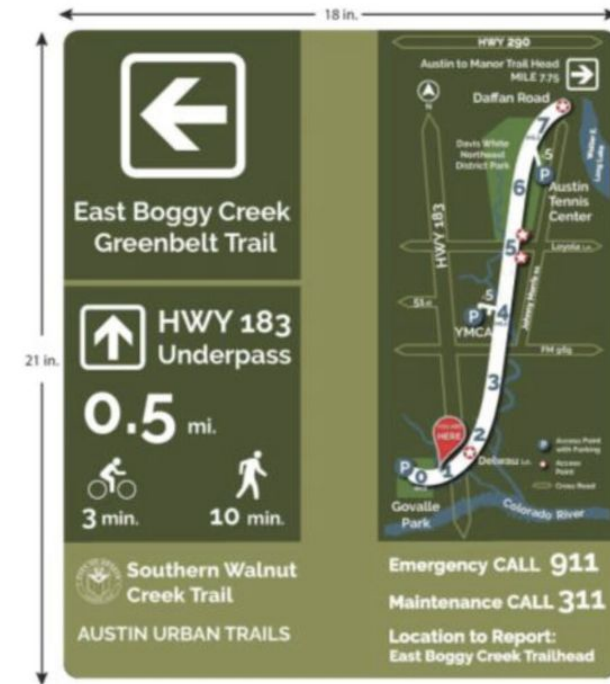
Proposed Cross-Section: Two-Way Protected Bicycle Lane, Looking North

Priority Project #2: *Wayfinding & Interpretation*

(Approx. \$350k)



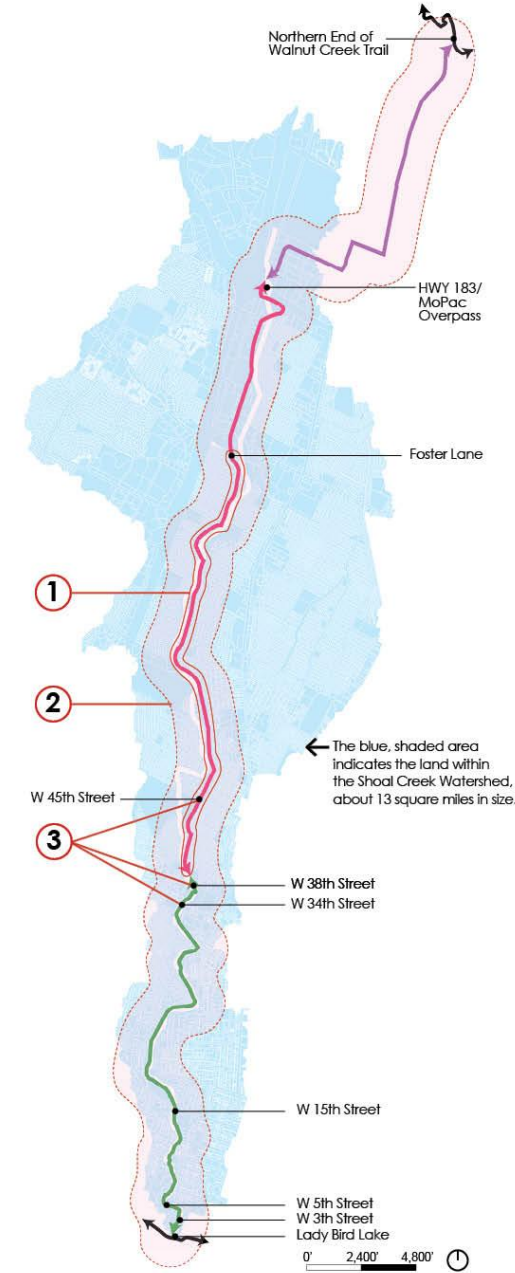
- 2 Create and implement an Interpretive and Wayfinding Master Plan for the entire Shoal Creek Trail Corridor. The project scope should include designing and installing the wayfinding signage that link travelers to key public destinations (schools, parks, trails, transit stops, community buildings, historic sites and buildings) for the entire Trail.



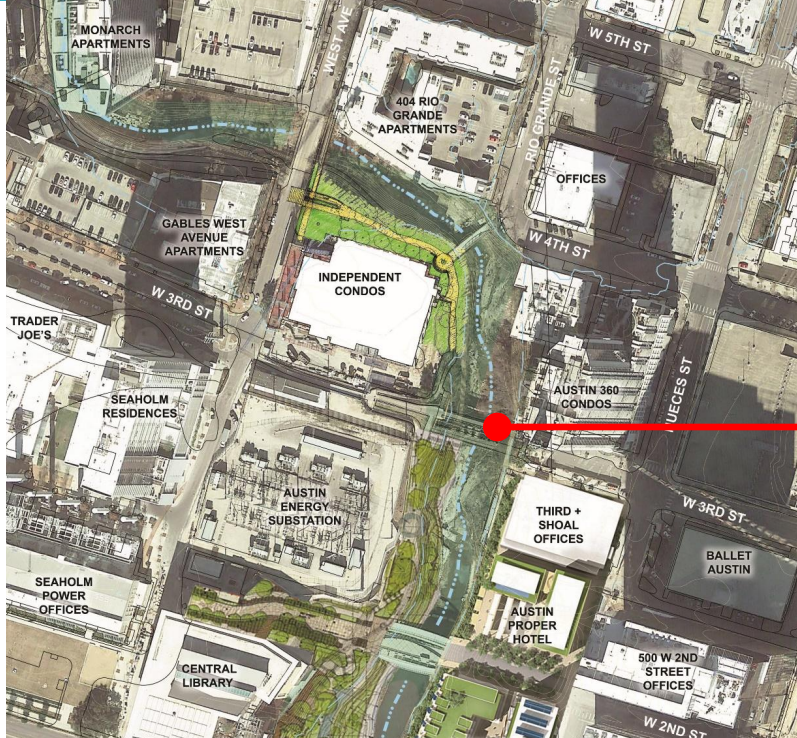
Priority Project #3: *Safe Crossings* (Approx. \$475k)



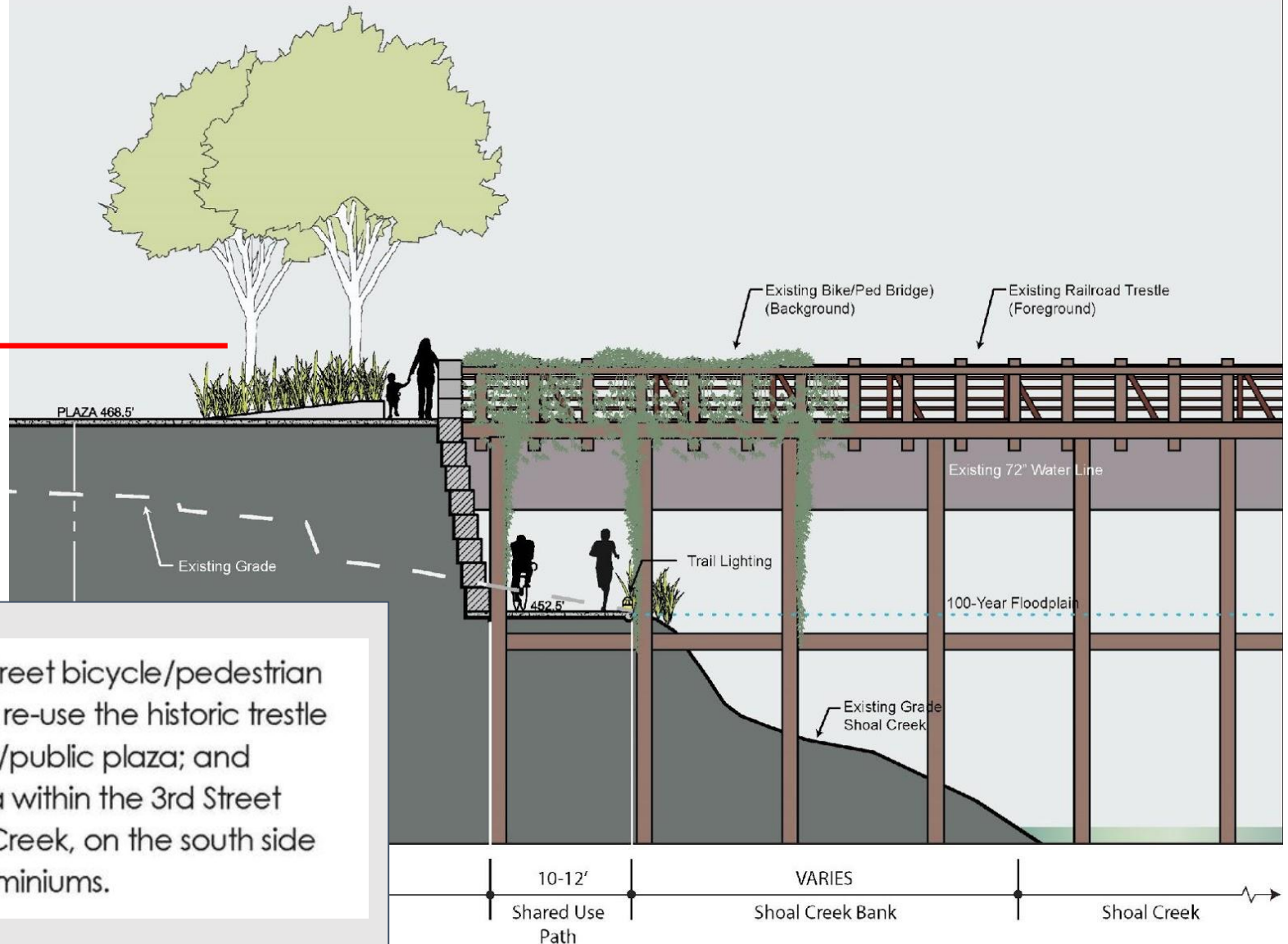
③ Address key connectivity and safety "gaps" along the route, including the crossings at the West 34th and West 38th streets, and the intersection of West 45th Street and Shoal Creek Boulevard.



Priority Project #4: Cypress (3rd) & Shoal (Approx. \$5.95M)



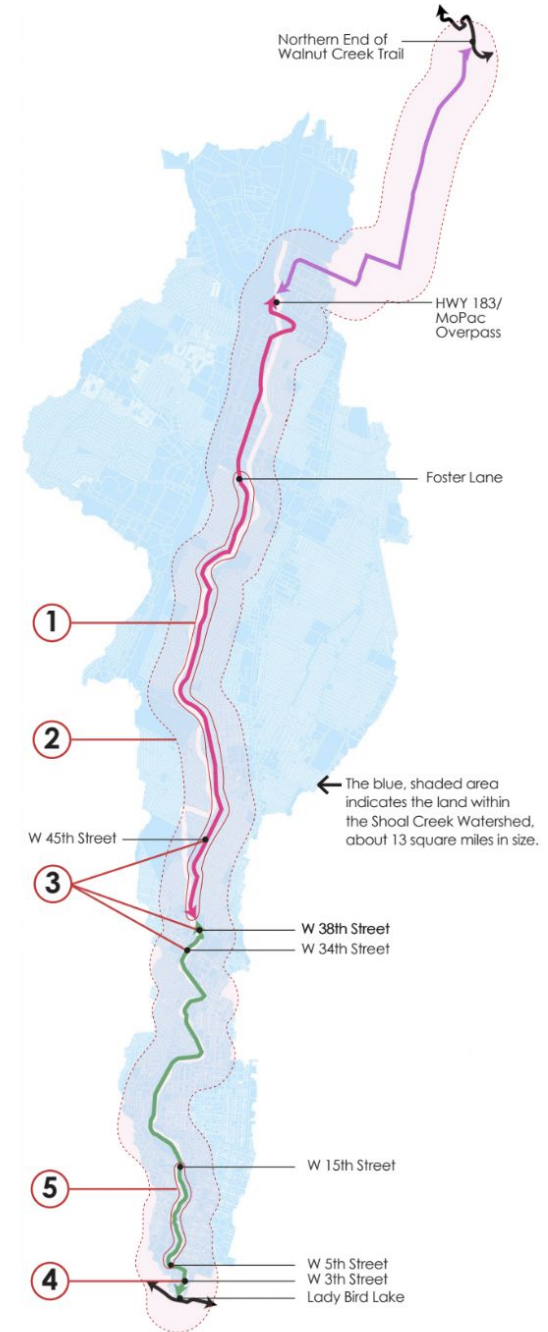
- ④** Construct a West 3rd Street bicycle/pedestrian underpass; rehabilitate and re-use the historic trestle bridge as a scenic overlook/public plaza; and create another public plaza within the 3rd Street right-of-way, west of Shoal Creek, on the south side of The Independent condominiums.



Priority Project #5: 5th to 15th



- 5** Implement critical Phase 1 improvements described in the *5th to 15th Street Preliminary Engineering Report*, which include improving the Trail to a 10- to 14-foot wide, Urban Trail standard - as appropriate within the specific context - while increasing native landscape and wildlife habitat and improving water quality.



Next Steps & Thank You

Next Steps:

- Boards, commissions and public feedback
- Adoption as guiding document by Public Works
- Consideration as addendum to Urban Trails Master Plan during next revision process
- Implementation of priority projects

Contacts:

Joanna Wolaver
Executive Director
Shoal Creek Conservancy
joanna@shoalcreekconservancy.org
512-474-2412



Janae Spence
Urban Trails Program Manager
Public Works Department
janae.spence@austintexas.gov
512-974-3159