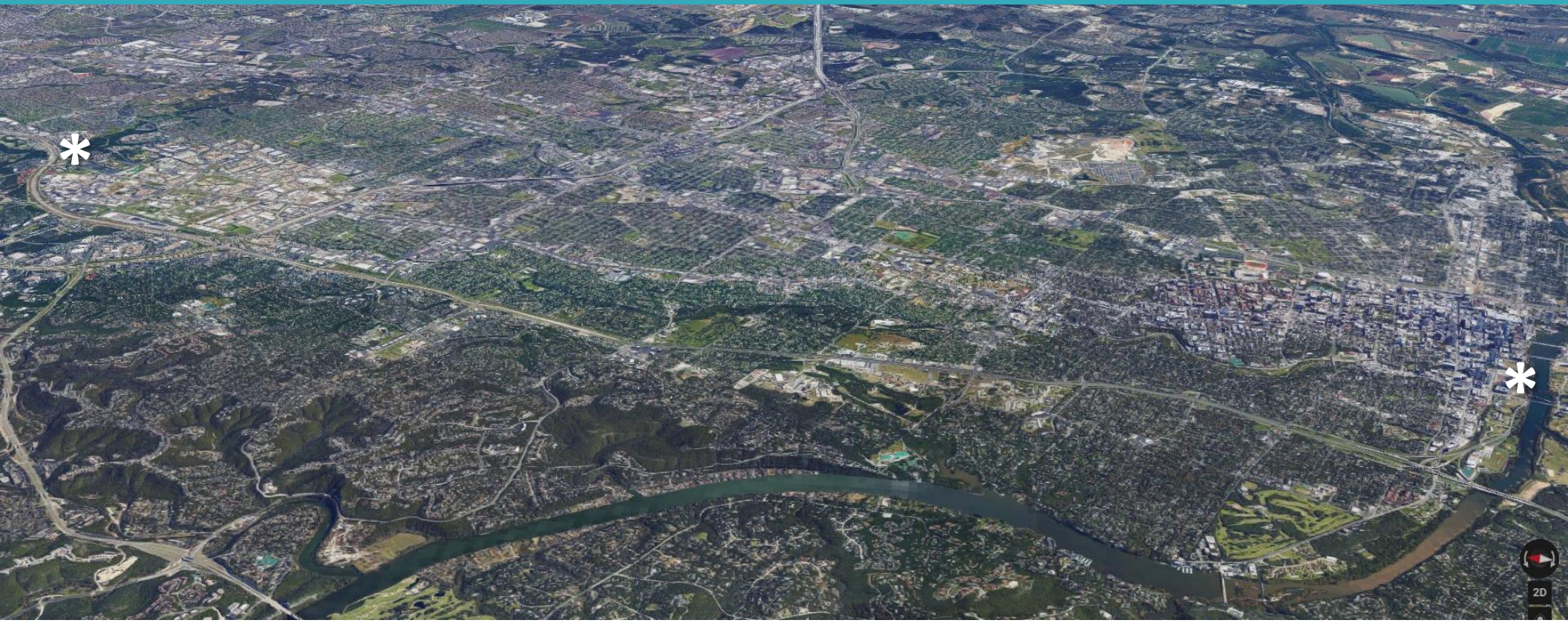
Shoal Creek Trail: Vision to Action Plan

Summary Presentation, June 2018



SHOAL CREEK CONSERVANCY

CITY OF AUSTIN FOUNDED 1839

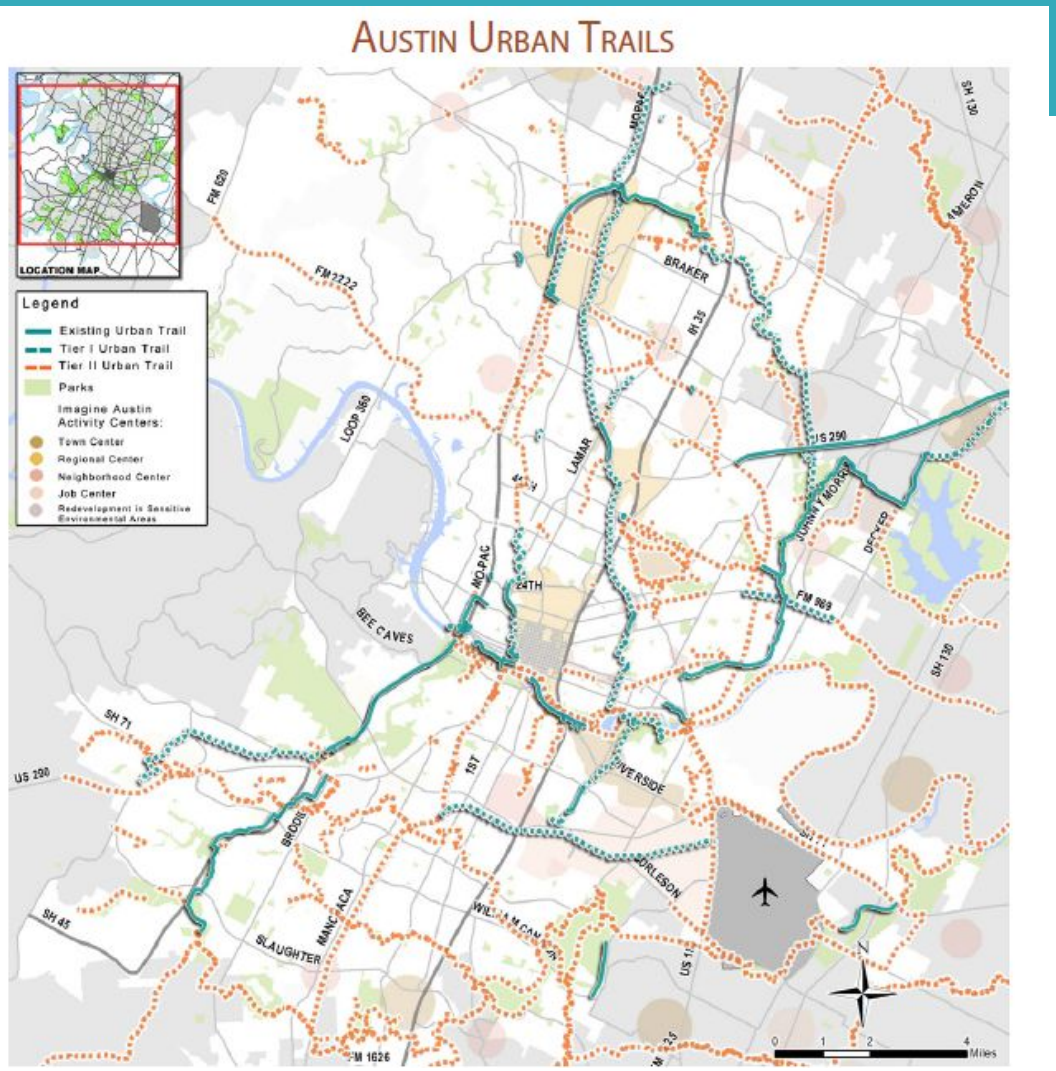
SIGLO GROUP

mas mccann adams studio

Austin Urban Trails

Urban Trails 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)

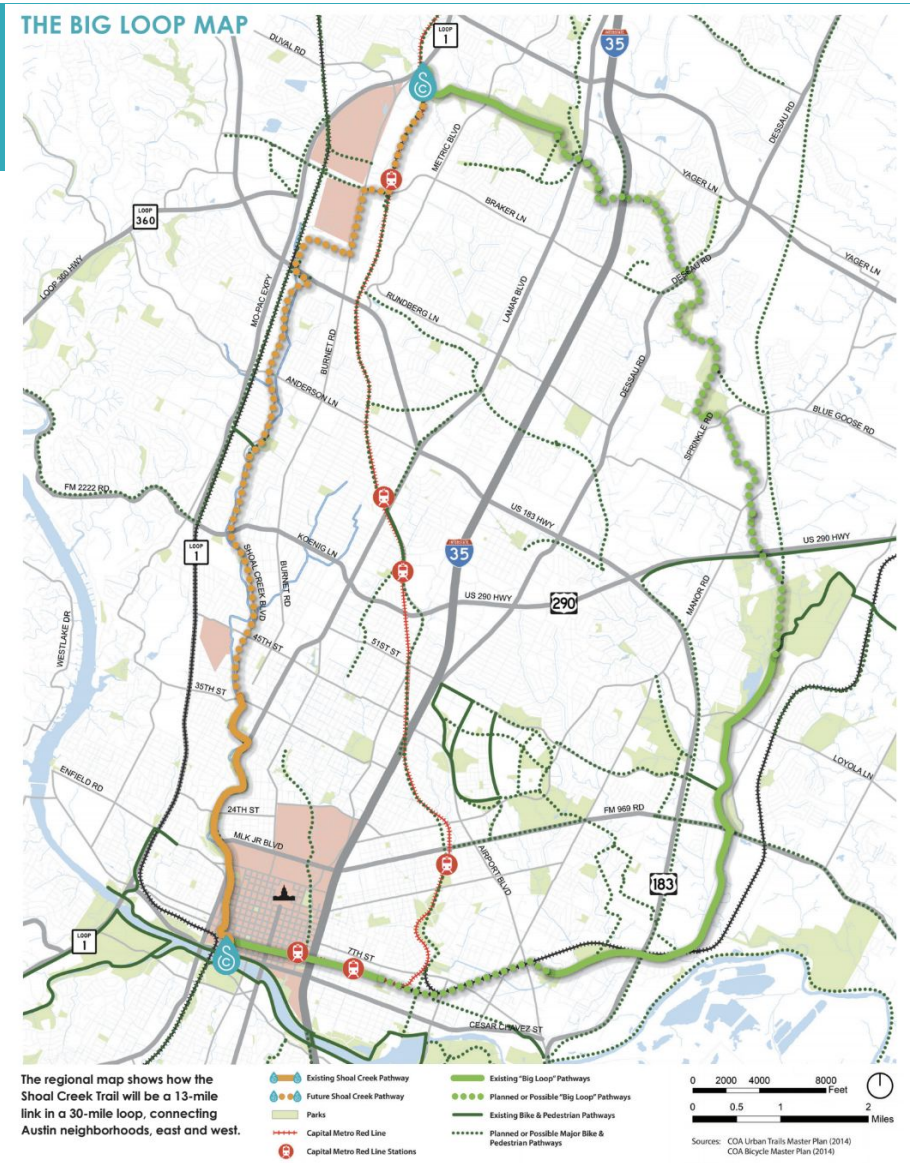


Shoal Creek Trail Plan

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: *May 2018 to Present*

- 3 Technical Advisory Group Meetings with 10 governmental agencies
- 3 Community Advisory Group Meetings with over 70 stakeholder groups
- 3 Community Workshops with over 230 attendees
- Online and paper public health survey with 290 respondents
- 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)

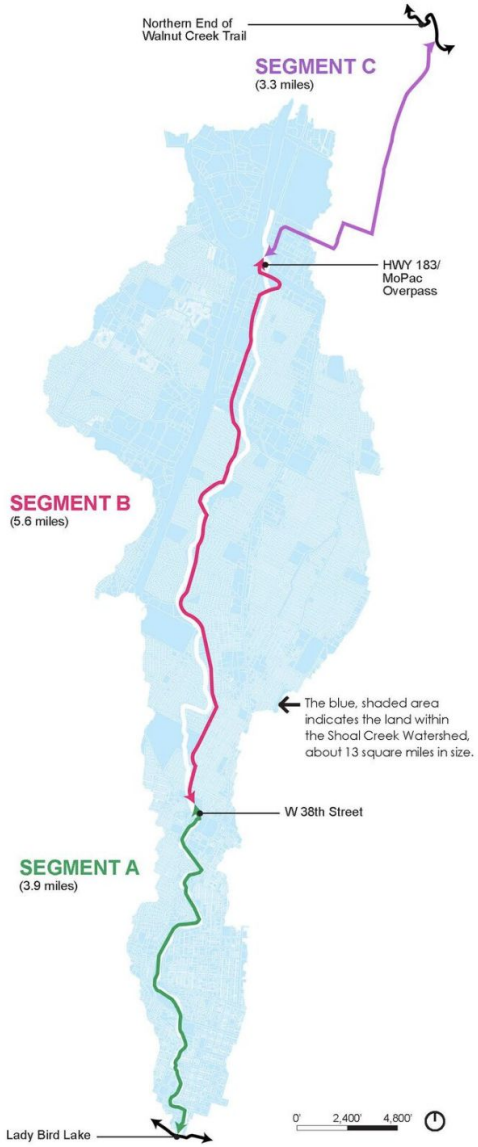
- Lake to 38th Street: Improved off-street trail
- 15th to 29th Streets: New Urban Trail along Lamar Blvd.

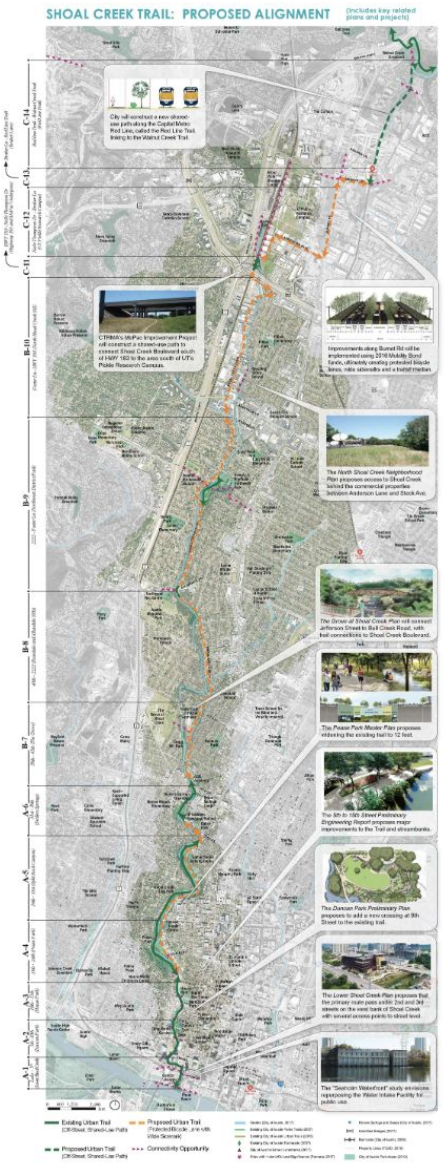
Segment B (5.6 miles)

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

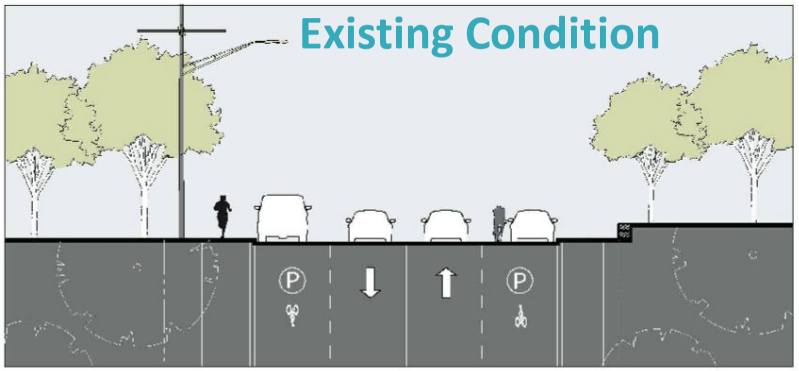
Segment C (3.3miles)

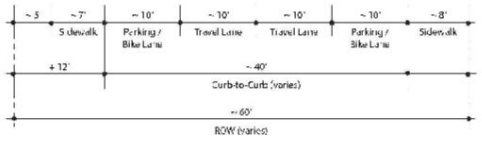
- Hwy 183 to Walnut Creek Trail: 2-way protected bikeway along Neils Thompson Drive and Braker Lane to Red Line Trail





Priority Project #1: *Shoal Creek Boulevard* *(Approx. $1.4 M)*





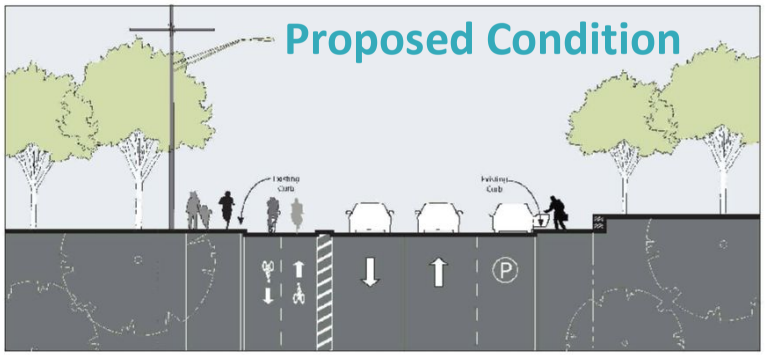
① Re-stripe Shoal Creek Boulevard, from West 38th Street to Foster Lane, to create a two-way protected bicycle lane and a wider sidewalk, where possible, within the western edge of the existing right-of-way.

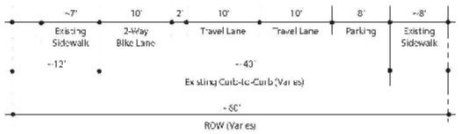
Shoal Creek Boulevard from 38th Street to Foster Lane, Existing:

- 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.



Typical Existing Condition, Looking North





Proposed Cross-Section: Two-Way Protected Bicycle Lane, 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.

Priority Project #2: *Wayfinding & Interpretation* *(Approx. $350k)*







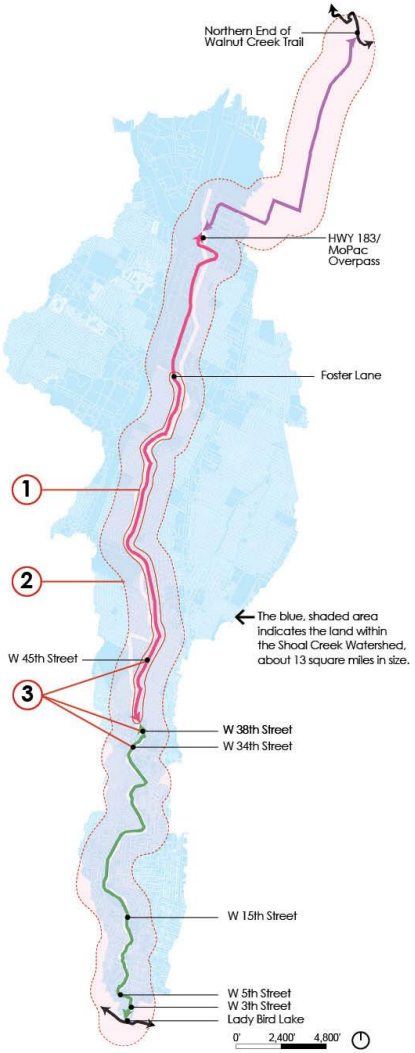
(2) Create and implement an Interpretive and Wayfinding Master Plan for the entire Shoal Creek Trail Corridor. The project scope should include designing and installing the wayfinding signage that link travelers to key public destinations (schools, parks, trails, transit stops, community buildings, historic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

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



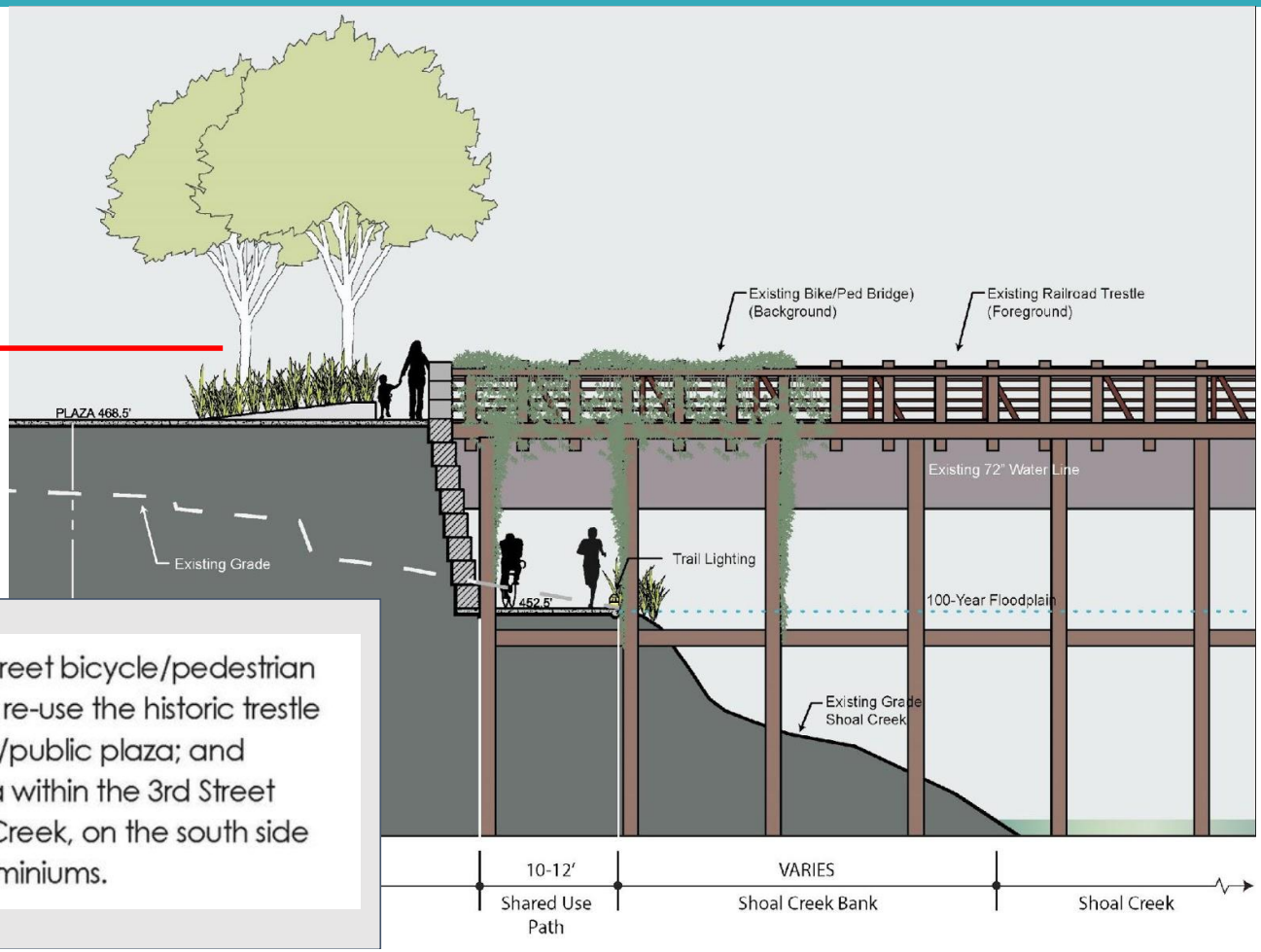
Existing Condition at 34th

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.

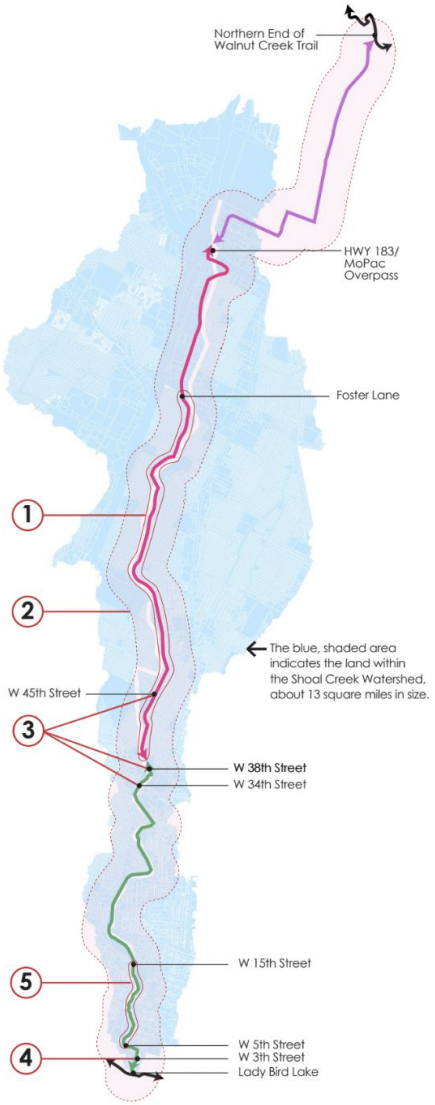
Priority Project #5: *5th to 6th* *(Approx. $2.25M)*



Existing Conditions



(5) Implement the critical improvements between West 5th Street and the trail connection north of West 6th Street, as described in Phase 1 of 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
- Consideration as addendum to Urban Trails 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

Extra Slides

Project Partners, Consultant Team & Supporters

Community Advisory & Technical Advisory Group Members

Thanks to Downtown Austin Alliance, Jack and Carolyn Long, Constructive Ventures, Georgia B. Lucas Foundation Fund, St. David's Foundation, The Powell Foundation, Charles and Betti Saunders Foundation Fund

Project Implementation

Total Cost: $66 Million with phasing

Focus First on Priority Projects to:

- Close major "gaps" along the main spine to improve safety, accessibility and connectivity
- Implement low-cost projects with that will make a big difference
- Leverage partnerships with public and private project owners
- Wayfinding & interpretation to announce and celebrate the entire pathway

Phase	Projects Included	Estimated Cost
1	• Shoal Creek Boulevard improvements from 38th Street to Foster Lane (Segments B-7 to B-9) • Interpretive and Wayfinding Master Plan (Entire Corridor) • 3rd (Cypress) Street: Trail underpass, railroad trestle refurbishment, pedestrian bridge replacement and expanded plazas (Segment A-1) • Pedestrian crossings at 34th and 38th streets and a traffic signal at 45th Street and Shoal Creek Boulevard (Segments A-6 and B-7) • Critical Phase 1 improvements of *5th to 15th Street Preliminary Engineering Report* (Segments A-2 and A-3) • The Grove trail (Segment B-7) • CTRMA's MoPac underpassing (Segment C-10) • Burnet Road improvements (Segment C-12) • Red Line Trail (Segment C-14)	$ 18.0 million
2	• 5th Street Creek/street access and historic bridge interpretation (Segment A-1) • West 6th Street Bridge restoration (Segment A-2) • Pease Park Trail improvements (Segments A-4 and A-5) • North Lamar Boulevard improvements (Segments A-4 and A-5) • Seiders Springs Trail improvements and new bridges (Segment A-6) • Shoal Creek Boulevard protected bicycle lane and sidewalk improvements north of Foster Lane (Segment B-10)	$ 11.2 million
3	• 7th Street pedestrian bridge (Segment A-2) • Remaining Phase 1 improvements of the *5th to 15th Street Preliminary Engineering Report* (Segments A-2 and A-3) • West 31st Street improvements (Segment A-6) • Seiders Springs Gazebo restoration (Segment A-6) • Pedestrian bridge to The Grove at Shoal Creek Trail (Segment B-7) • Allandale Road underpass (Segment B-9) • Shoal Creek Boulevard shared-use path and rain garden improvements from Foster Lane to Highway 183 (Segment B-10)	$ 20.9 million
4	• Remaining Phase 2 improvements of *5th to 15th Street Preliminary Engineering Report* (Segments A-2 and A-3) • Lamar Boulevard crossing at MLK Jr. Boulevard and new bridge to Pease Park (Segment A-4) • Neils Thompson Drive and Longhorn Boulevard improvements (Segment C-12) • Braker Lane improvements, including street crossing (Segment C-13)	$ 16.1 million
For a more detailed listing of projects and their costs, see Appendix D.1: Detailed Phasing and Funding Strategy by Sub-Segment. (Note: the above costs include a 20% contingency.)		$ 66 million