

ATX Walk Bike Roll Pedestrian Advisory Council

September 13, 2021

7:00 PM



atx
Walk Bike Roll
Urban Trails | Sidewalks | Bikeways Plans



Agenda

- Introductions
- ATX Walk Bike Roll Overview
- Goals & Challenges
- Planning Process
- Resources
- Q&A



Introductions

Urban Trails



Katie Wettick
Urban Trails Program Manager
Austin Public Works

Bicycle Facilities



Nathan Wilkes
Multimodal Street Designer
Austin Transportation

Sidewalks



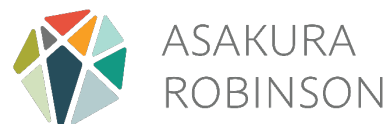
John Eastman
Sidewalk Program Manager
Austin Public Works

Planning



Cole Kitten
Systems Development Division Manager
Austin Transportation

Consultant Team



What is ATX Walk Bike Roll?

Update Austin's sidewalk, urban trails, and bicycle plans



ATX Walk Bike Roll Guiding Documents

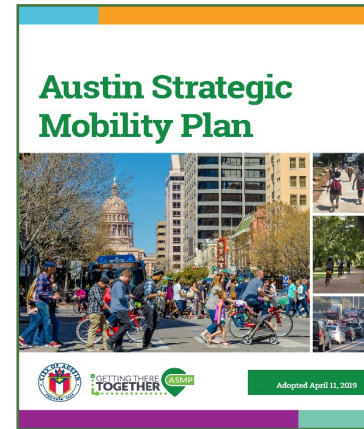
Sidewalks, urban trails and bikeways are included in previous plans



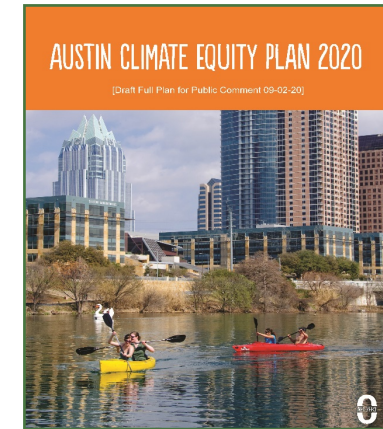
**Imagine
Austin**
2012



**Austin Strategic
Direction 2023**
2018



**Austin Strategic
Mobility Plan**
2019



**Austin Climate
Equity Plan**
2020



Goals of ATX Walk Bike Roll

- Update plans that identify where to build sidewalks and crossings, urban trails, and bikeways
- Embed social and racial equity within the programs
- Add maintenance into plans
- Update project prioritization for urban trails, bikeways, and street crossings
- Work with partners to create a safer, more connected network
- Identify ways to build bicycle and pedestrian pathways in less time



ATX Walk Bike Roll Principles & Values

- **Communities:** Travel options affect the way we live
- **Equity and Diversity** – Consider the needs of every community member – all ages, abilities, races, cultures, and classes
- **Mobility and Accessibility** – Serve all ages and abilities, so that everyone has a safe way to travel
- **Health and Environment** – Provide travel options that benefit physical, social, mental, and environmental health
- **Connections** – Connect people to place
- **Transportation and Housing Affordability** – Provide a low-cost way to travel with easier access to transit



Equity Definition & Framework

Equity is achieved when race no longer predicts a person's quality of life outcomes in our community.

The City of Austin recognizes that past plans and investments have not met the needs of all Austinites or have actively harmed communities - especially low-income communities and communities of color. This furthered inequalities in transportation, health, safety, housing, and income.



Context and History

- How do decisions about transportation and mobility **impact communities** beyond providing a space to travel?
- How has zoning, land use, and transportation impacted the **safety and availability** of walking and biking networks?
- Austin's walking and biking routes **have not worked the same** for everybody, and still don't.



Routes That Work For All

We need to address barriers for everyone, especially...

- People with disabilities, LGBTQIA+, and communities of color
- Older adults and youth
- People who cannot or do not drive or have reliable access to a car
- People who are interested in walking or biking more, but who have concerns
- Low-income neighborhoods without safe or well-connected networks
- Communities with high rates of pedestrian or bicycle crashes



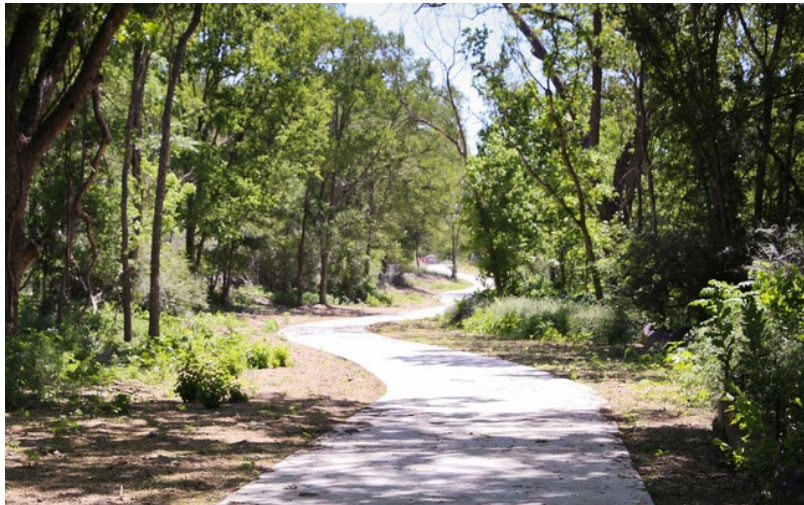
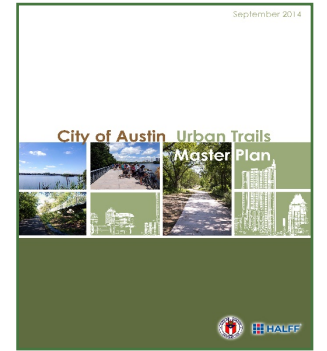
Goals and Challenges of Individual Plans



Urban Trails Plan Update

Definition

- **Urban Trails:** Urban Trails are hard surface trails designed for use by pedestrians, bicycling and other non-motorized forms of transportation for both transportation and recreational use (2014 Urban Trails Master Plan).



Southern Walnut Creek Trail



Shoal Creek Trail



Urban Trails Plan Update

Goals

- **Update current trail network plan**
- **Consider feasibility** – what can be built in an environmentally sensitive, cost efficient, and timely manner
- **Find small connections** – where we can build short trails that overcome obstacles in a walking or biking route
- **Incorporate equity** – so urban trails are accessible to and used by people from all races, classes, neighborhoods, and abilities
- Develop a **new project selection process**
- **Improve maintenance plan, collaboration, and permitting.**



Urban Trails Plan Update

Challenges

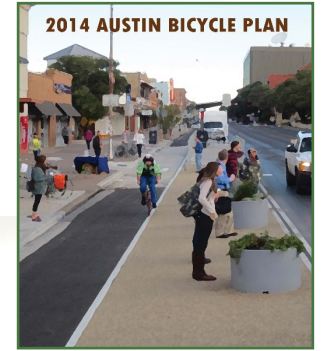
- Balancing **environmental considerations** with trail construction
- Improving **coordination**
- Planning for **maintenance needs**
- Creating **welcoming trails corridors** for people of all ages, abilities, race, ethnicity, and class



Bicycle Plan Update

Goals

- **Network Prioritization:** Establish a prioritization process to build the All Ages and Abilities bikeway network.
- **Incorporate Equity:** Ensure that processes and projects establish a bikeway network that serves people from all races, classes, ages, and abilities.
- **Connectivity:** Update bikeway network and link to existing and planned urban trails and transit service.
- **Data:** Improve data management to analyze existing and future network conditions



Bicycle Plan Update

Challenges

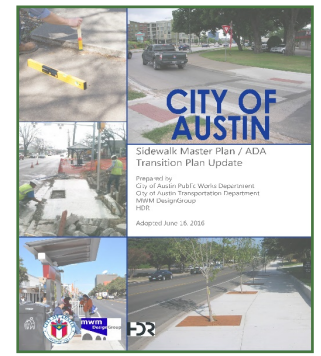
- Existing **gaps and barriers** to complete the bikeway network
- **Available street space** to achieve the highest quality, comfort and connectivity
- Capacity for **maintaining** a growing network



Sidewalk Plan Update

Goals

- **Complete Pedestrian Network Design:** City wide plan for pedestrian needs that includes sidewalks, safer crossings, and healthy / shared streets
- **Equity:** Access to safe places to walk for people of all races, classes, neighborhoods, and abilities
- **Prioritization model for pedestrian crossings:**
Create a prioritization process for building pedestrian crossings
- **Incorporate green infrastructure:**
Identify partnerships and other ways to include more trees and rain gardens and to reduce impervious cover.



Sidewalk Plan Update

Challenges

- **Consistent funding**; particularly for sidewalk maintenance and repair
- **Competing** needs and demands at intersections
- **Speeding up delivery of complete pedestrian network** through alternative designs



Planning Process



Timeline

- **Phase 1: Winter 2021 – Summer 2021**
 - Equity Framework; Conditions Analysis; Outreach Planning
 - **Outreach goal:** introduce project, discuss community needs and priorities to shape guiding values of ATXWBR.
- **Phase 2: Fall 2021 – Summer 2022**
 - Programs & Policies; Scenario Evaluation; Project Prioritization; Buildout Plans
 - **Outreach goal:** determine where we build, how we prioritize projects, and what we base decisions on.
- **Phase 3: Summer 2022 – Winter 2023**
 - Plan Document Development and Revisions
 - **Outreach goal:** review and discuss the plans and priorities – did we get it right?



Community Outreach Goals

- Learn from communities who have been under-represented in past planning efforts, such as communities of color and low-income communities
- Prioritize engaging with persons of color and people with low incomes so their input meaningfully shapes the project
- Work with local organizations and use grassroot efforts to gather feedback
- Provide many opportunities for residents to learn about the planning process
- Present information in a manner that overcomes language barriers and is culturally sensitive



Community Ambassadors

75 applicants, 21 interviewed; 12 hired

Experiences and skills include:

- Organizing and leading bike rides that are accessible and fun
- An understanding of missing connections and maintenance issues
- Teaching in primary school classrooms, community organizations, teaching English as a second language
- Social media marketing
- Anti-racism training
- Leading webinars
- Previous experience with one-on-one engagement



Opportunities to Engage

- Public Meetings
- Project Survey/Questionnaires
 - First survey out now!
atxwbr.link/survey
- Focus Group Discussions
 - Ambassador Program



Resources

- **Website**
 - [AustinTexas.gov/ATXWBR](https://austintexas.gov/ATXWBR)
- **Newsletter**
 - <https://tinyurl.com/atxwbr-newsletter>
- **Social media**
 - Facebook: [@ATXPublicWorks](https://www.facebook.com/ATXPublicWorks)
 - Twitter: [@AustinMobility](https://twitter.com/AustinMobility)
- **Email:**
 - ATXWalkBikeRoll@AustinTexas.gov
- **Survey:**
 - atxwbr.link/survey



Q&A



Thank you!

- Recording will be available on the website!
AustinTexas.gov/ATXWBR
- Please share with your friends, family and network!



Scan QR code to
access website!

