



FAQ | The Big Jump Project Austin

What is The Big Jump Project?

The Big Jump Project is a major initiative of the national organization [PeopleforBikes](#). Austin was selected as one of 10 cities to participate, through a national competition. The national goal is to maximize the power of bicycles to improve the health and vitality of people and communities. Austin will work with PeopleforBikes and nine peer cities across the country toward a goal of achieving a “big jump” in the number of people traveling by bicycle. Our community goal is to double trips taken by bicycle over a three-year period (2017-2020) in the core of Austin, our designated Focus Area.

For more information visit: <http://peopleforbikes.org/placesforbikes/the-big-jump-project>

How is it envisioned that this “big jump” will be achieved?

The national Big Jump Project includes two components:

- 1) Building bikeways. The goal is to provide people with a connected biking network for travel by bike everywhere they need to go. This network includes bikeways on city streets and on off-road paths -- separating and protecting cyclists from traffic wherever possible.
- 2) Motivating people to take more trips by bicycle. This includes engaging, encouraging, and educating people in the community about the benefits of transportation cycling – and the ways to make it more safe, comfortable, and convenient. In Austin, these efforts include the Smart Trips program.

What is Austin’s Big Jump Focus Area?

The boundaries for measuring trips taken are Oltorf Street (South), 51st Street (North), MoPac (West), and roughly Springdale Road (East). A map is included on the city’s web page: www.austintexas.gov/bigjump.

But our support for cycling knows no boundaries! The city will continue to improve bikeways and to provide cycling encouragement citywide during The Big Jump.

How is Austin measuring trips by bike?

In 2017, the City of Austin is establishing baseline metrics for ridership; these aggregate a diverse set of indicators. The tools include new bicycle trip counters placed on bikeways.

Is PeopleforBikes providing funds to the City?

No direct funding goes to the City. Austin is receiving technical support from PeopleforBikes valued at over \$200,000 annually, for three years. In addition, small grants are being provided to community organizations for outreach and encouragement efforts.

PeopleForBikes is a nonprofit organization group based in Boulder, Colorado, that has worked in hundreds of communities to make better bike riding for everyone. Visit [People for Bikes](#) and the [Big Jump Project](#) online.

How is the City of Austin building the new bikeways needed to create a connected bike network?

Austin is committed to rapidly building “high-comfort” bike routes (e.g. protected, separated and off-road facilities where people feel safest and most comfortable) and connecting them into a convenient, efficient network. This approach was described in the 2014 Austin Bicycle Master Plan.

The Active Transportation and Street Design Division at Austin Transportation Department (which includes the Bicycle Program) manages the design and buildout of City of Austin bikeway projects.

The new bikeway projects are being funded by resources already in place. For example, \$20 million in bikeways for transportation and mobility purposes were funded by the 2016 Mobility Bond. Many of these bond-funded projects will be within the geographic Big Jump Focus Area and delivered within the three-year timeframe.

To see a current list of the bikeway and complete streets projects in progress in our Division, visit: www.austintexas.gov/activetransportationprojects.

Projects are informed by a public process that includes notification of area residents, opportunities to provide input, public meetings or forums, and a design process that reflects community needs and desires.

“Austin is excited to receive the recognition from PeopleforBikes in reaching for an ambitious goal to double or triple cycling in the central city within three years. Biking helps our city in so many ways – household affordability, low-carbon mobility, community health and competitive attractiveness as a world-class city. It’s not about what we can do for bikes – it’s about what bikes can do for Austin.”

— Mayor Steve Adler

“The motivational focus and community support provided through the Big Jump Project will help us make biking an even more viable transportation option in Austin. Biking is a choice we want to promote for people commuting and making other short trips – one that’s healthy, safe and attractive for them and reduces our city’s traffic congestion, too.”

— Austin Transportation Department Director Rob Spillar