

# Non-Radioactive Hazardous Materials Route Designation Study

**Austin City Council's Mobility Committee**

October 5<sup>th</sup>, 2016



# Introductions

## City of Austin



## TRC Environmental Corporation

- ▶ Prime Consultant
  - Environmental Engineering
  - Infrastructure Services



## Alliance Transportation Group

- ▶ Sub Consultant
  - Transportation Planning
  - Transportation Engineering
  - Travel Demand Modeling



# Outline

1. Project Overview
2. City and Steering Committee Roles and Oversight
3. Project Status
4. Preliminary Risk Analysis Methodology
5. Public Participation
6. Upcoming Events
7. Other Matters of Interest to the Mobility Committee

# 1 Project Overview

## Legal Requirements

### ▶ Federal

- Requires motor vehicles carrying placarded NRHM to comply with NRHM routing designations (49 C.F.R. §397.67)
- Authorizes any State or Indian tribe to establish an NRHM route
- Provides standards for establishing, maintaining, and enforcing NRHM routing designations (49 C.F.R. §397.71)

### ▶ State

- Requires municipalities with a population over 850,000 to designate NRHM routing, subject to approval from TxDOT (7 Texas Transportation Code §644.202)
- Requires municipalities to consider all federal standards and to use the FHWA's "Highway Routing of Hazardous Materials, Guidelines for Applying Criteria" as a guideline for developing route designations (43 Texas Administrative Code §25.103)

# 1 Project Overview

## Study Purpose

- ▶ To designate a set of NRHM routes for the CoA that *minimize* the potential for incidents involving NRHM transport
- ▶ To *minimize* the consequences to CoA residents should an incident occur
- ▶ In other words... ***maximize public safety related to NRHM transport***

# 1 Project Overview

## Overview of FHWA/TxDOT Process

- ▶ Expected to take 18 months
- ▶ Coordination with TxDOT Operations Division
- ▶ Federal standards require:
  - Enhancement of public safety
  - Public participation
  - Completion of a risk analysis
  - Examination of through highway routing
  - Establishment of reasonable routes to terminals and other facilities
  - Designation of local compliance responsibility

Source: *"Highway Routing of Hazardous Materials, Guidelines for Applying Criteria"*.  
Federal Highway Administration (1996)

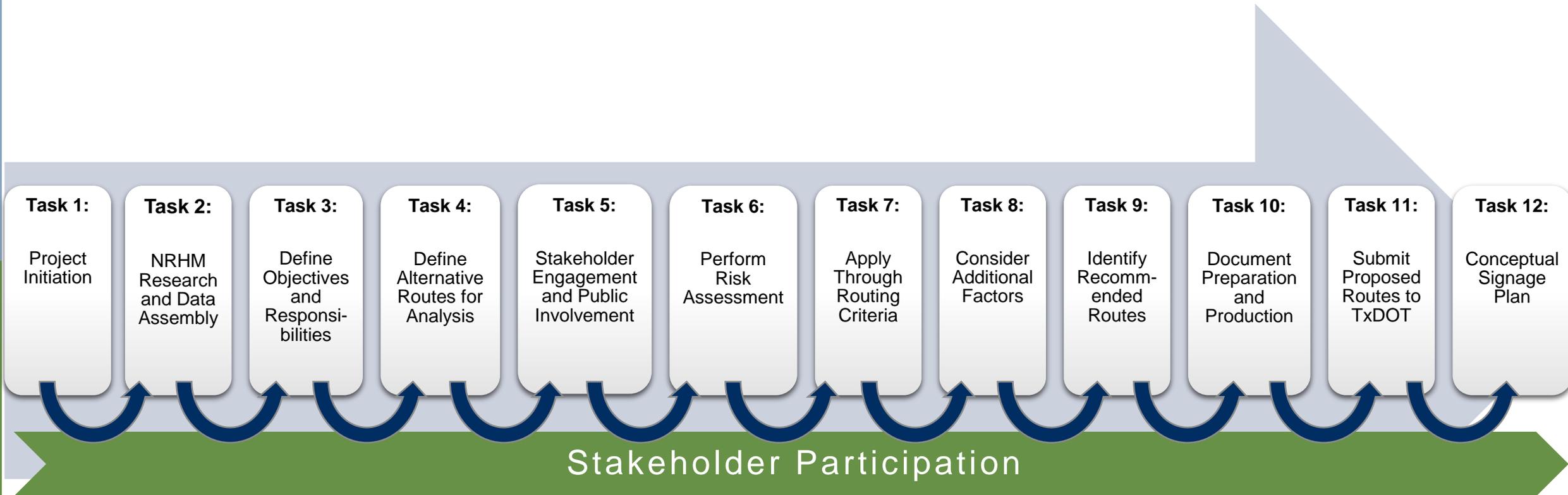
# 1 Project Overview

## Key Federal Factors to Consider

- Population density
- Type of highway
- Type and quantity of NRHM
- Emergency response capabilities
- Results of consultation with affected persons
- Exposure and other risk factors
- Continuity of routes
- Alternative routes
- Effects on commerce
- Delays in transportation
- Climatic conditions
- Congestion and accident history
- Terrain considerations

Source: *"Highway Routing of Hazardous Materials, Guidelines for Applying Criteria"*.  
Federal Highway Administration (1996)

# 1 Project Overview



## 2 City's Role and Oversight

### ► CoA's responsibilities:

- Conducting an NRHM route designation study
- Assuming all costs associated with the study
- Fully considering Federal standards for route designation and following appropriate guidelines for analysis
- Meeting public involvement requirements
- Submitting proposed route designations to TxDOT for approval
- Adopting approved routes through ordinance
- Implementing NRHM route signage plan
- Enforcing compliance



Source: Texas Transportation Code §644.202  
and Texas Administrative Code §25.103

## 2 Steering Committee

- ▶ City of Austin Departments
  - Transportation Department
  - Public Works Department
  - City Manager's Office
  - Office of Sustainability
  - Communications and Public Information Office
  - Law Department
- ▶ Capital Area Metropolitan Planning Organization

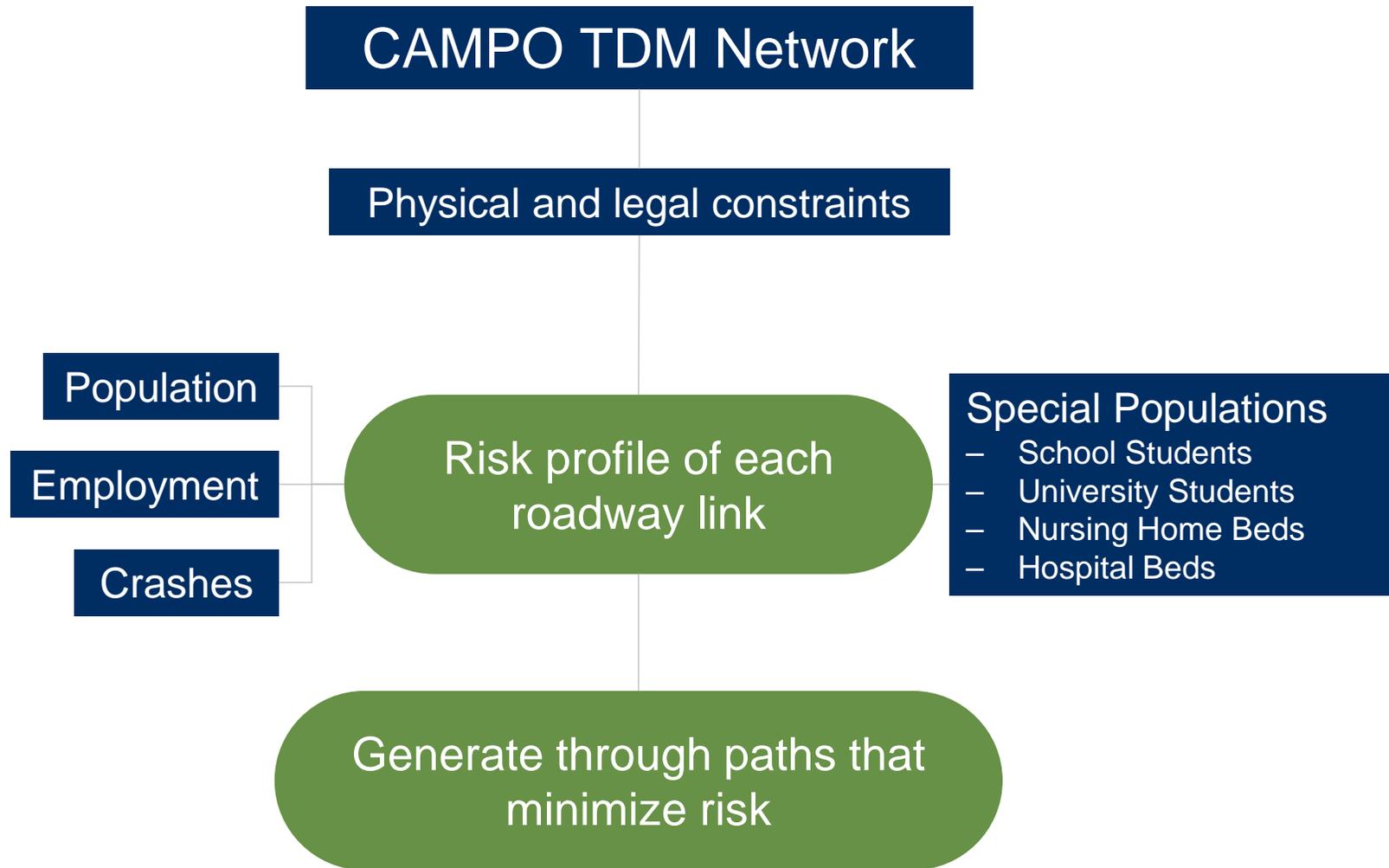
## 2 Steering Committee's Role and Oversight

- ▶ Steering Committee's project role:
  - Helping determine project goals and objectives
  - Identifying key stakeholders and setting Stakeholder Working Group membership
  - Reviewing and guiding risk analysis process
  - Guiding project information presentation to the public
  - Providing guidance and support to the project team to:
    - Facilitate execution of the scope
    - Maintain the schedule
    - Achieve overall project objectives

# 3 Project Status

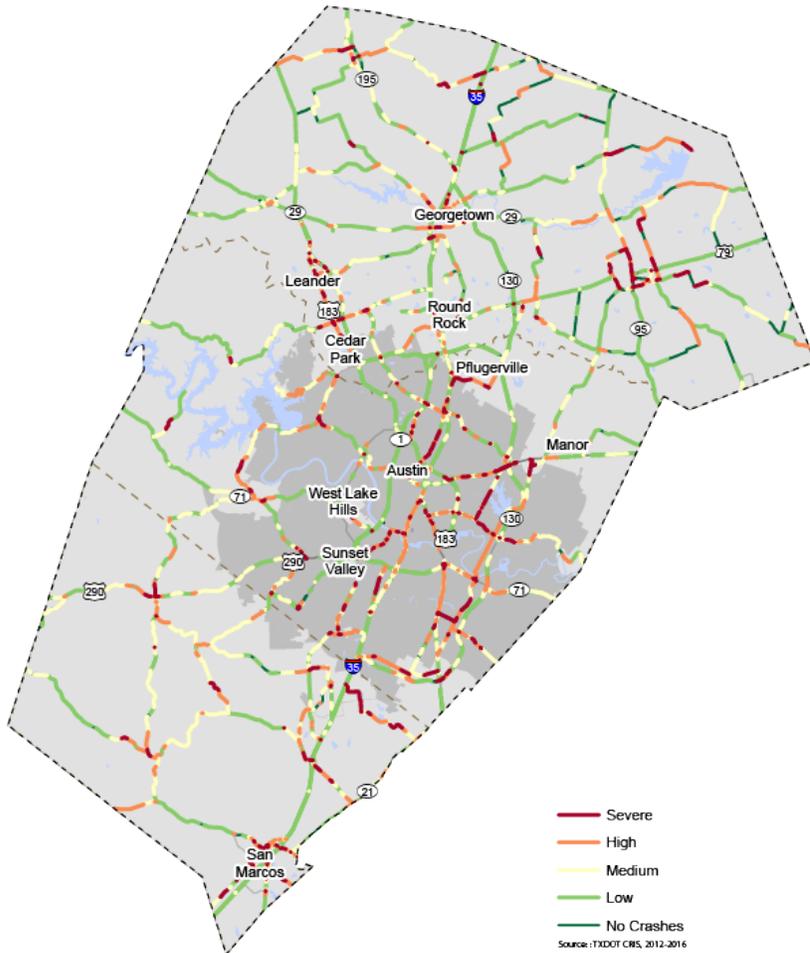


# 4 Preliminary Risk Analysis - Methodology

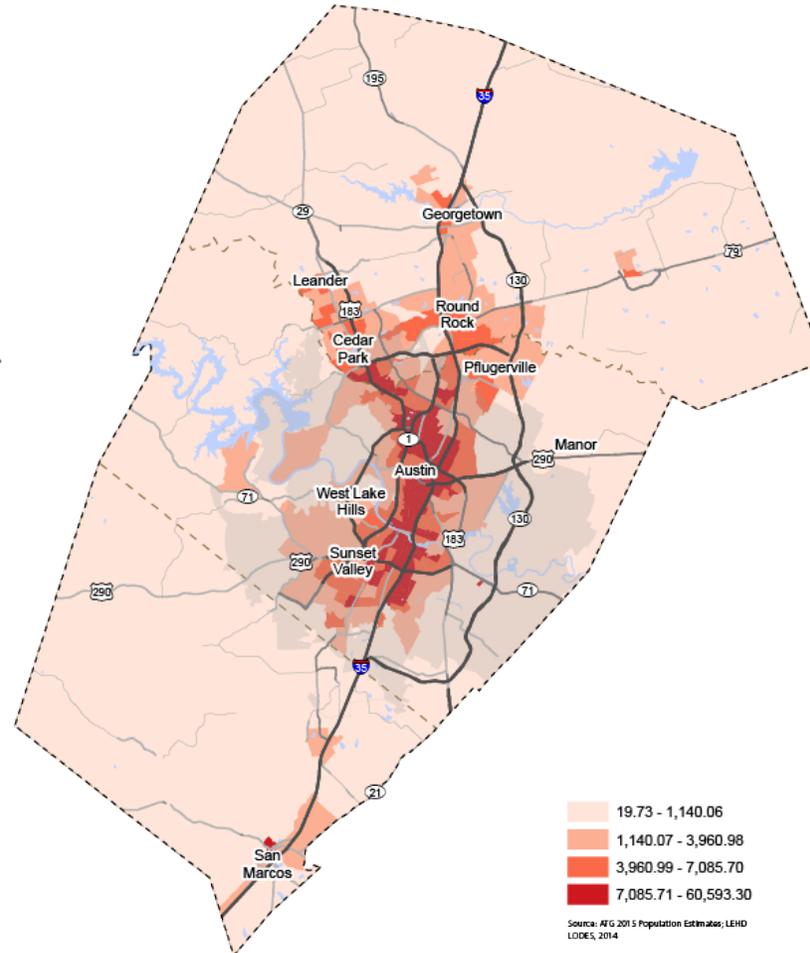


# 4 Risk Analysis Inputs

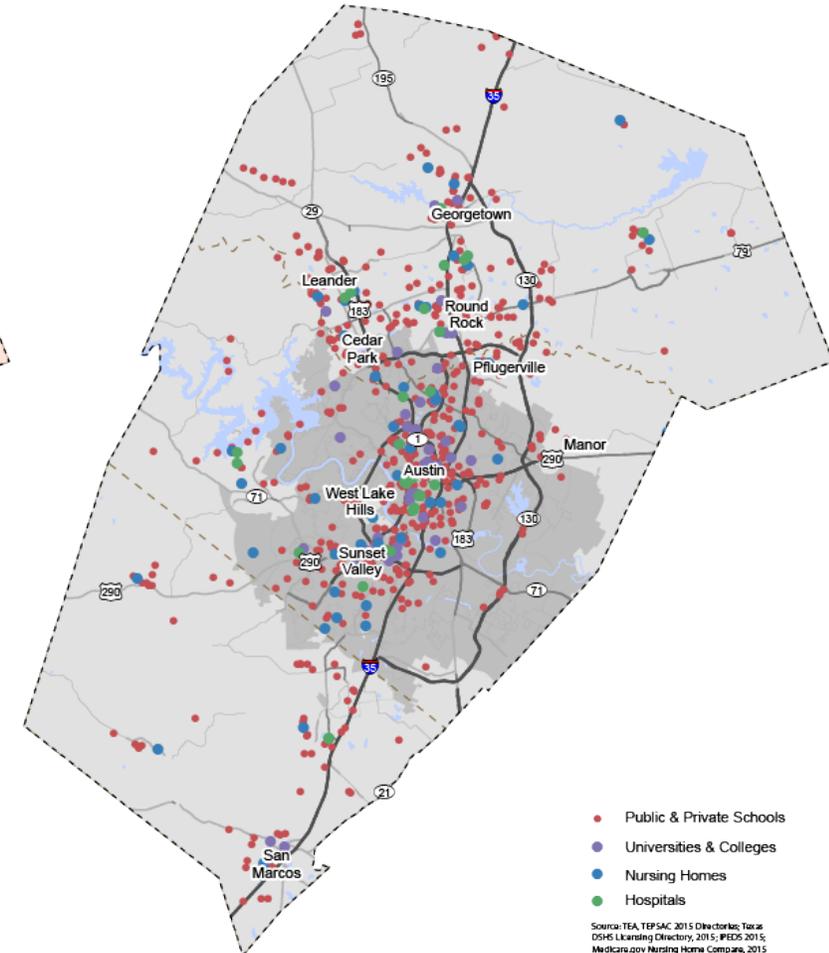
Crash Rate



Population + Jobs per Sq. Mile



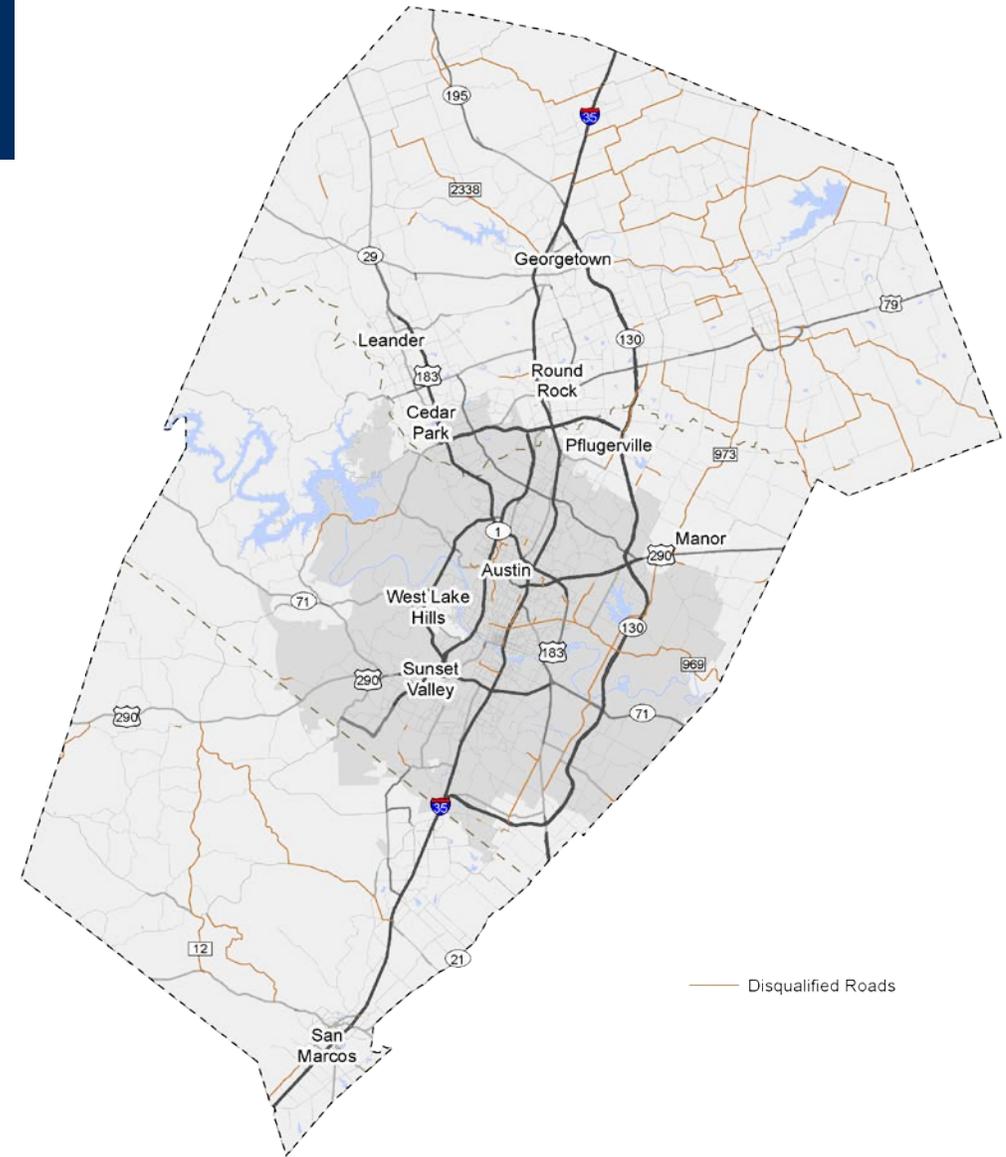
Special Populations



# 4 Candidates for Through-Routing

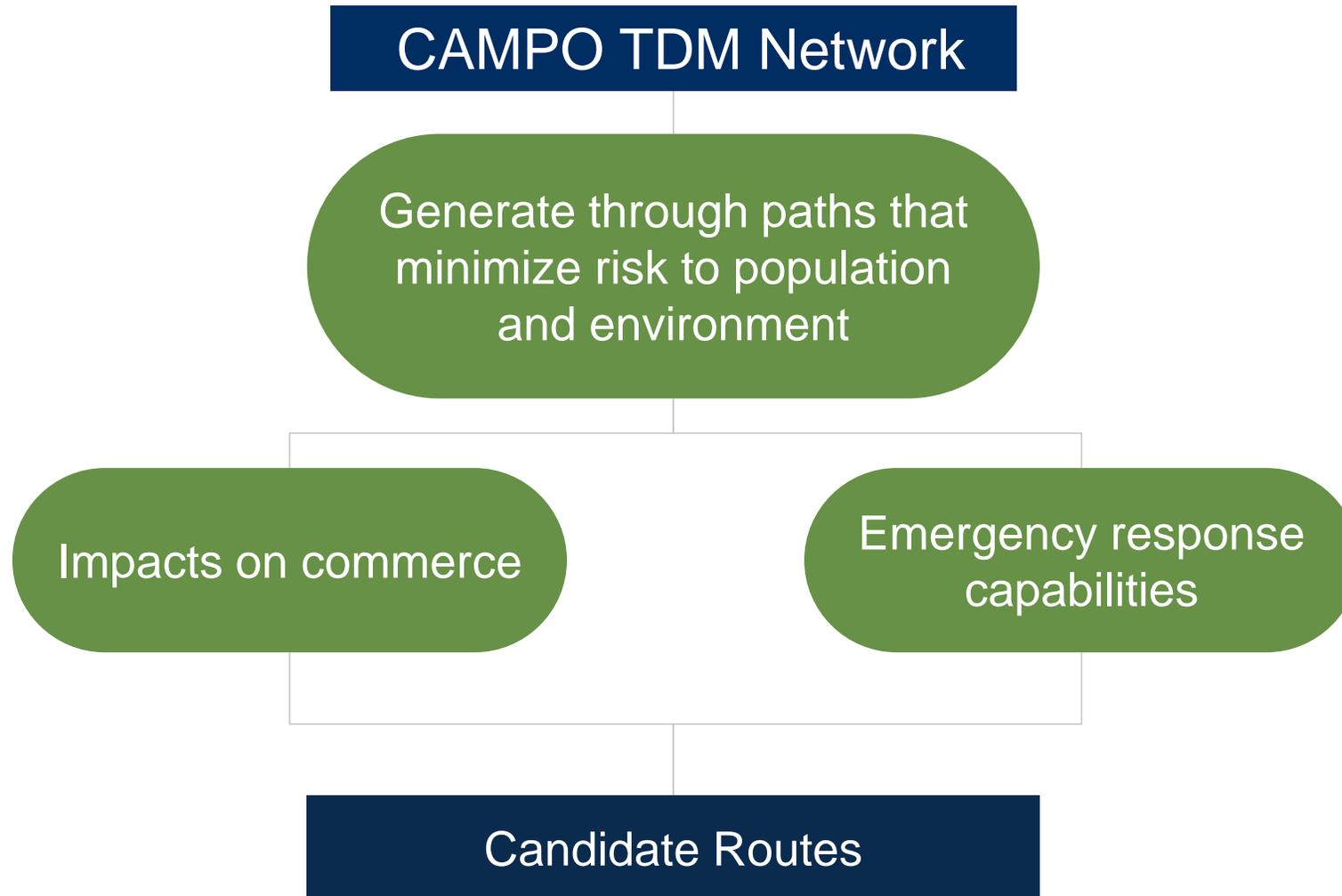
## ► Network

- Base network: CAMPO TDM Network
- Draft candidate network: Base network minus **disqualified** roads
- **Disqualified** roads include:
  - Roads with physical and legal restrictions to truck traffic
  - Roads flagged through ongoing stakeholder & public engagement as being unsuitable for truck traffic



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# 4 Route Designation Methodology – Next Steps



# 5 Stakeholder Working Group

## ▶ SWG Participants

- Emergency responders
- TxDOT
- School / university / healthcare provider representatives
- Environmental / natural resource representatives
- Commercial truckers, shippers, and receivers

## ▶ SWG Role

- Quarterly project update meetings
- Review and give feedback on project materials as needed
- Identify and communicate with other stakeholders
- Identify NRHM shipping/receiving locations
- Identify and recommend NRHM routes

# 6 Public Participation

Opportunities for the community to receive information and provide feedback

## ▶ Stakeholder Working Group Meetings

- Meeting 1: May 2016
- Meeting 2: August 2016
- Meeting 3: November 2016
- Meeting 4: February 2017
- Meeting 5: May 2017
- Meeting 6: August 2017

## ▶ Informational Website

- [austintexas.gov/department/non-radioactive-hazardous-materials-route-designation-plan](http://austintexas.gov/department/non-radioactive-hazardous-materials-route-designation-plan)

## ▶ Public Meetings

- Meeting 1: October 18<sup>th</sup>, 2016
- Meeting 2: January 2017
- Meeting 3: June 2017

## ▶ Online Public Forum

Spring 2017

## ▶ TxDOT Public Hearing

August 2017

# 6 Public Meeting #1

## ▶ Event Information

- Style: Open House
- Date: Tuesday, October 18<sup>th</sup>, 2016
- Time: 6 – 8 PM
- Location: Ruiz Public Library – Room #2



## ▶ Event Format and Materials

- Informative project boards
  - Attendees can discuss project board subject matter with project team members
- Attendees will have the opportunity to provide interactive feedback on:
  - Factors to consider when performing risk analysis
  - Preliminary candidate route network
  - Other areas of concern in the city

## 7 Other Matters of Interest to the Mobility Committee

Questions or Comments?

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Austin City Council's Mobility Committee

Thank You for Attending!

