

City of Austin Mobility Outcome Report

Presented by Assistant City Manager Gina Fiandaca

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MOBILITY

Monthly Highlights

Allegiant Airlines Invests \$75M to establish base at AUS's South Terminal

On April 6, Allegiant Airlines announced plans to establish a base of operations at the South Terminal at Austin-Bergstrom International Airport (AUS). Allegiant will invest \$75 million to establish the new base in Austin, creating at least 89 high-wage jobs and housing three Airbus A320 aircraft. Allegiant began operating at AUS in October 2013 with service from Austin to Las Vegas and currently offers 14 nonstop routes. Unlike most other airlines, Allegiant operates an “out-and-back” network, with exclusively nonstop flights — meaning each day’s flying starts and ends at a base, rather than connecting traffic through busy hub airports.

I-35 Capital Express Central Project

City staff developed and submitted comments to TXDOT as part of the evaluation of the project’s purpose and needs. Comments were coordinated among multiple departments. Austin Transportation is also developing a Public Engagement Plan in response to the Council direction to engage in an independent effort of communications and public outreach for this project. This effort will include what the City needs from the community to develop the Cap & Stitch proposal as well as amplify TxDOT’s outreach and create a resource webpage on the City of Austin website.

ASMP Celebrates Second Anniversary

Originally adopted April 2019, the Austin Strategic Mobility Plan (ASMP) outlines our City’s mobility priorities and objectives. City staff are working to update the ASMP’s website with a list of action items from the plan, including the current status for each. A video acknowledging this two year milestone since adoption was also produced by ATD.

Looking Ahead

Palm Tree Removal in Right-of-Way

Public Works’ Forestry Division, which is responsible for maintaining trees in the right-of-way in most cases, is working on assessing and removing larger palm trees in the City’s right-of-way that are deteriorating due to the impact of the February winter storm. These large trees may pose a hazard, and the division’s contractor will work to remove any trees, as needed. PWD PIO is developing a messaging campaign to let residents know about this potential work and asking residents to report any vegetation in the ROW that needs removal to 3-1-1.

Bond Program Updates

Safe Routes to School Projects Complete at Lively Middle School and Cowan Elementary

As part of the 2016 Mobility Bond, Safe Routes to School projects at Lively Middle School and Cowan Elementary are now complete. Lively Middle School has 1,900 new linear feet of sidewalk, eight crossing improvements, and a new ADA (Americans with Disabilities Act) accessible concrete trail that connects East Side Drive to the Blunn Creek Greenbelt trail, where a new 5-foot crushed granite trail connects parkland to Travis Heights Elementary School. Improvements at Cowan Elementary School include 900 linear feet of new shared use path for students walking or riding bikes on Davis Lane, 140 linear feet of



new sidewalk, and three crossing improvements with new mid-block refuge islands. The Safe Routes to School team has already completed more than 120 projects citywide since the passage of the 2016 Mobility Bond.

Anderson Mill Road Project Ahead of Schedule

The Anderson Mill Road project (US 183 and Spicewood Parkway) is anticipated to be substantially complete by late 2021, several months ahead of schedule. Austin Transportation and Austin Public Works began construction last July on major safety and mobility improvements, including new shared use paths on both sides of the corridor to make it safer and easier to walk and ride bikes. The project is also updating signals, adding a new center left-turn lane with turning bays between US 183 and Spicewood Parkway, a new raised median near US 183, and nine new water quality ponds, among other improvements. In the coming weeks, construction will begin on the frontage roads near US 183.

Construction Underway on Longhorn Dam Interim Improvements

The Austin Transportation Department has begun construction on interim improvements on the Longhorn Dam bridge. Work is currently underway to install two Pedestrian Hybrid Beacons (PHB) to make crossing Pleasant Valley Road safer and easier, and improvements to the sidewalks on the bridge are scheduled to begin construction this month. In September 2020, ATD hosted a virtual open house to share updated information on these interim changes. The project is designed to provide significant near-term safety benefits along this narrow bridge crossing while substantial design work begins on the new “wishbone” bicycle and pedestrian bridge over Lady Bird Lake. The new “wishbone” bridge received funding from the 2020 Active Transportation and Safety Bond, which was passed by Austin voters in November. Full design and construction of the new bridge is anticipated to take five years. Corridor

Partner Recap

Austin Transit Partnership

The [Austin Transit Partnership \(ATP\)](#) continues activities necessary to advance Project Connect and the creation of the ATP as a local government corporation. The Austin Transit Partnership Board met on March 17. Action items included:

1. Approval of the minutes from the February 24, 2021 board meeting.
2. Approval of the Committee Charter Statements for each of the Technical Advisory Committees of the ATP’s Board of Directors.
3. Approval of a resolution authorizing the Executive Director, or his designee, to finalize and execute a grant agreement with the City of Austin for the provision of \$300,000,000 of the Project Connect tax revenue over the next thirteen (13) years in accordance with the Project Connect Implementation Sequence Plan.

The Board also had discussion items including a monthly community engagement and involvement update, a Project Connect technical update and an overview of the Federal Grant Program.

The full agenda packet and meeting video are available on [the ATP Board Meetings webpage](#).



Capital Metro Board

The meeting of the Capital Metro Board of Directors scheduled for March 17, 2021 was cancelled. During its March 29 meeting, the board took up multiple action items, including:

1. Approval of minutes from the January 25, 2021 Public Hearing and January 25, 2021 Board Meeting.
2. Approval of a resolution appointing a slate of candidates selected by the joint Capital Metro-Austin City Council Nominating Committee for the Project Connect Community Advisory Committee ("CAC").
3. Approval of a resolution to approve a one-year contract for Literature Distribution services with SmartMail of Austin, Inc. in an amount not to exceed \$245,705 and four (4) option years with a total not to exceed amount of \$1,282,565.

The board also received presentations related to Title VI Policy, the Red Line Parkway initiative, and an overview of the NEPA Process.

CAMPO Policy Board

With the cancellation of the April 12 meeting, the Capital Area Metropolitan Planning Organization (CAMPO) Policy Board will next meet again on May 10, 2021. Over the coming weeks, staff will be providing information to CAMPO staff on project readiness for those projects that were deferred in 2020 due to CAMPO's contribution to the I-35 project. Meetings between COA project sponsors and CAMPO staff are anticipated throughout this spring. This is in anticipation of approximately \$15M available in CARES funding for refunding projects.

Community Resources

[Weekly Mobility Newsletter Sign Up](#)

[Upcoming Sidewalk Projects](#)

[2016 Bond Programs and Projects](#)

[Absent Sidewalk Map and Prioritization](#)

[Capital Projects Explorer](#)

[Street Preventative Maintenance](#)

[Austin Mobility Data and Performance Hub](#)

[Safe Ride Home Resources](#)

[Austin-Bergstrom International Airport](#)

[Special Event Road Closures](#)