

Austin City Council Work Session

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Aug. 31, 2021

I-35 is Outdated



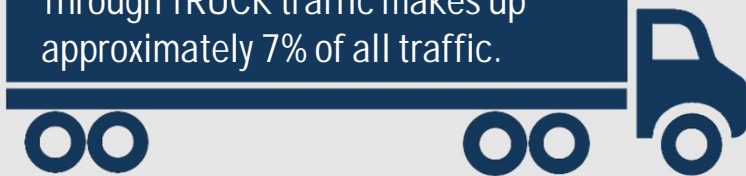
Annual average daily traffic along I-35 from US 290 East to SH 71/Ben White Boulevard includes more than 200,000 vehicles. By 2045, it is expected to grow to more than 300,000 vehicles.

82% of vehicles on I-35 are LOCAL travelers

11% of vehicles on I-35 are THROUGH travelers



Through TRUCK traffic makes up approximately 7% of all traffic.



The CRASH RATE is above average for similar state roads



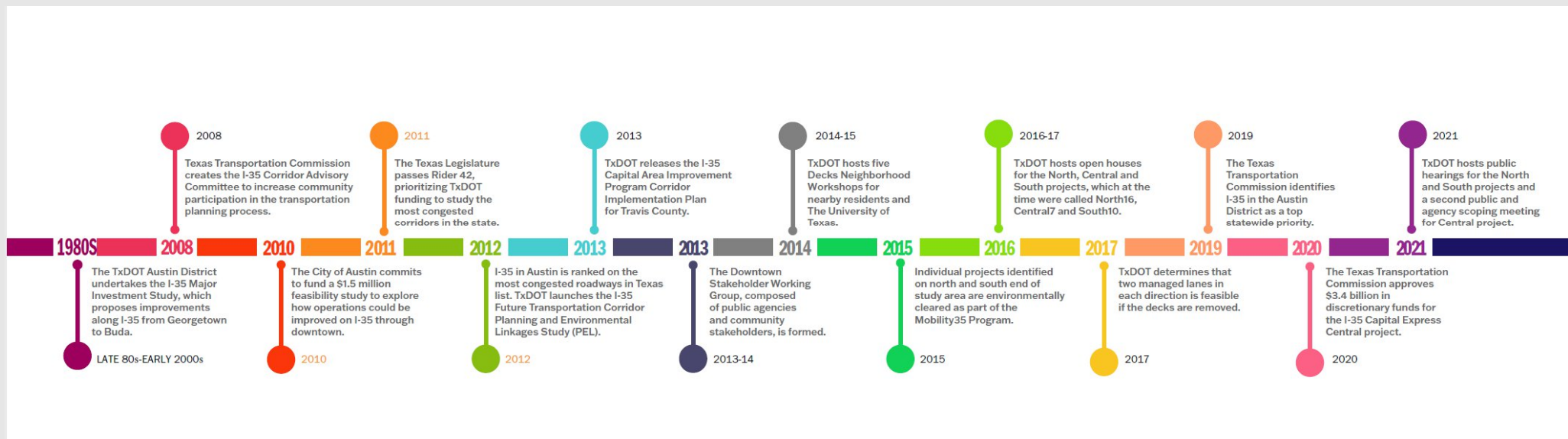
In 2019, there were 1,132 crashes in the project area resulting in 8 fatalities. Another 21 crashes were severe.

Source: TxDOT Statewide Traffic Crash Rates for Urban Interstates 2013, 2014, 2015, 2016, 2017, 2018 and 2019. Data for the I-35 Central project from TxDOT (2020).

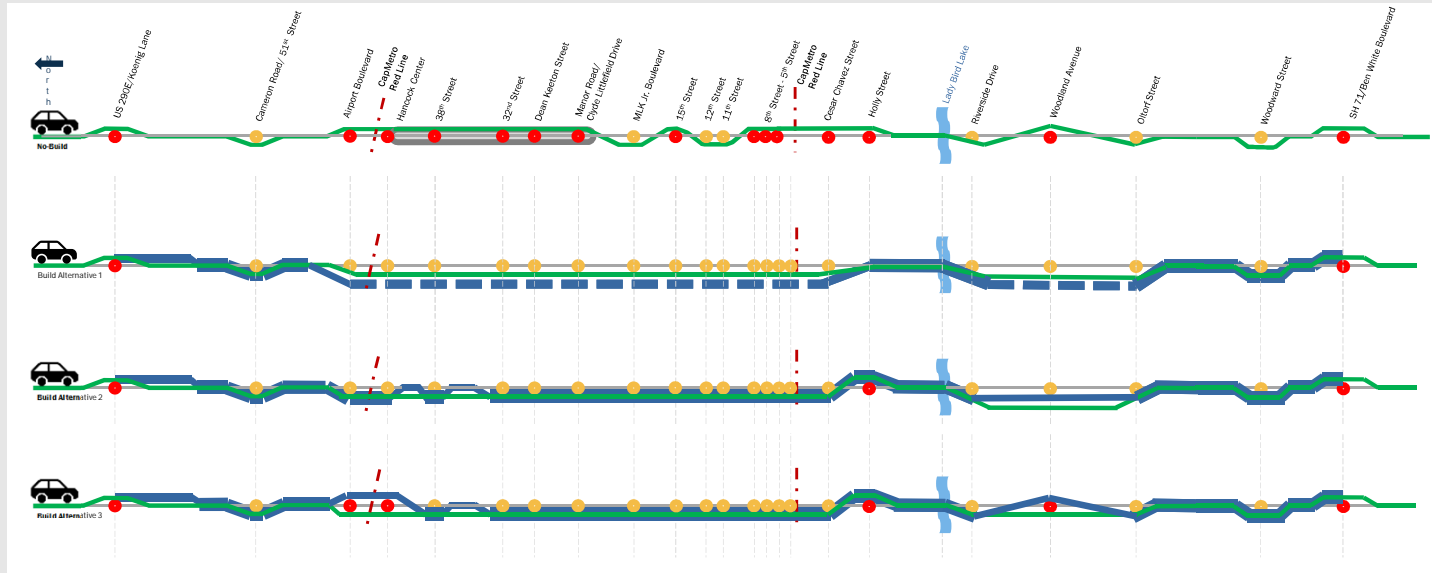
I-35 Capital Express Program History



The current proposed alternatives are the result of decades of feedback received from the public.



Side View Elevations Looking East



Profiles are intended to convey the general concepts of the proposed build alternatives. All build alternatives are preliminary and subject to change. Images are not to scale.

Alternative Evaluation Results



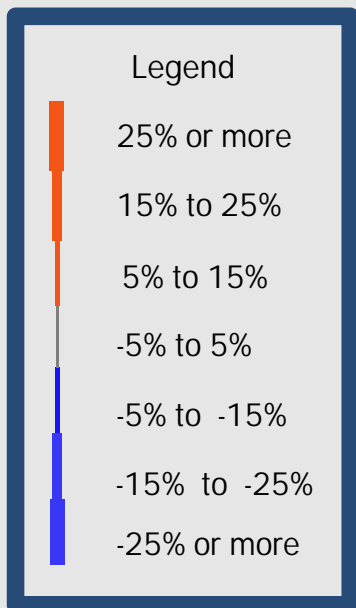
Based on the data presented in the Alternatives Evaluation Table, Community Enhanced Alternatives 2 and 3 will be evaluated further in the Draft Environmental Impact Statement. **Alternative 1 will not be carried forward for further analysis in the Draft Environmental Impact Statement.**



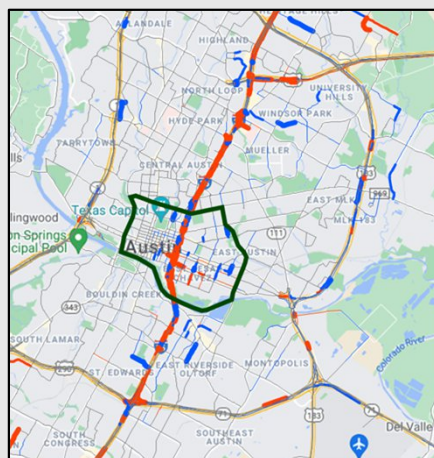
Alternatives 2 and 3 will be carried forward based on:

- Faster response times for EMS, police, fire department and hospitals
- Shorter construction duration by 1.5 years
- Improved traffic operations during construction with fewer lane closures
- Fewer utility conflicts and lower relocation costs
- Fewer drainage conflicts
- Lower construction costs
- Lower annual and lifetime maintenance requirements and cost

2045 Evening Peak Volume Changes (Texas A&M Transportation Institute)

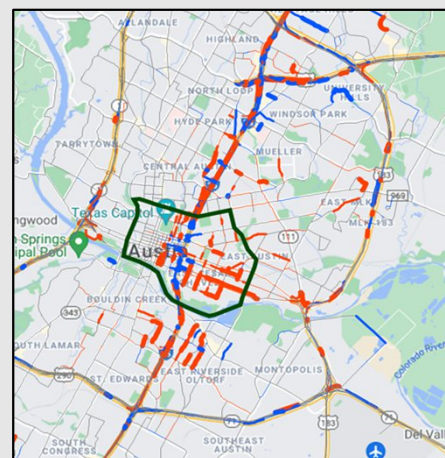


TxDOT Alternatives



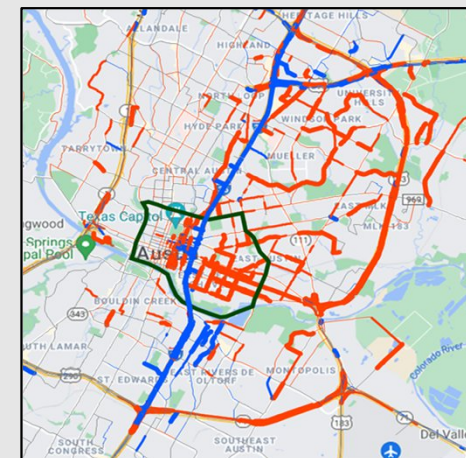
TxDOT Alternatives
Volume increases on I-35 but decreases on city streets.

RECONNECT AUSTIN



Reconnect Austin
Reduces entrance/exit ramps through downtown pushing traffic to city streets primarily in east Austin.

RETHINK 35



Rethink 35
Converts I-35 to a boulevard and pushes traffic to city streets primarily in east Austin.

RED Volume increases

BLUE Volume decreases

GREY Links with low volume (less than 100 trips) and small changes

Mobility35 Goals and Objectives

- Enhance safety
- Optimize the roadway footprint
- Increase capacity
- Minimize additional right of way
- Include operational improvements (manage traffic better)
- Improve east/west connectivity
- Improve compatibility with neighborhoods
- Enhance bicycle, pedestrian and transit options





WE ARE PROPOSING

- Lowered travel lanes.
- More than 15 widened east-west crossings, including a new connection at 5th Street for all users; and new pedestrian crossings at Cap Metro Red Line/Future Gold Line south of Airport Boulevard, and between 51st Street and US 290 E.
- Low design speeds on frontage roads.
- Enhanced person-carrying capacity along the corridor by providing a reliable route for transit in managed lanes.

AND . . .



TxDOT will also be evaluating frontage road relocation concepts and will present findings at an upcoming community meeting.

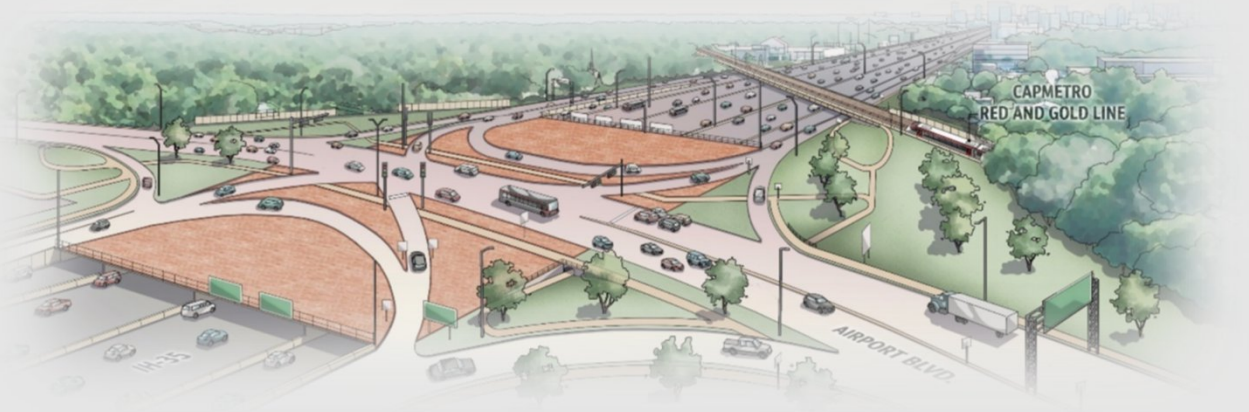
Enhance Safety



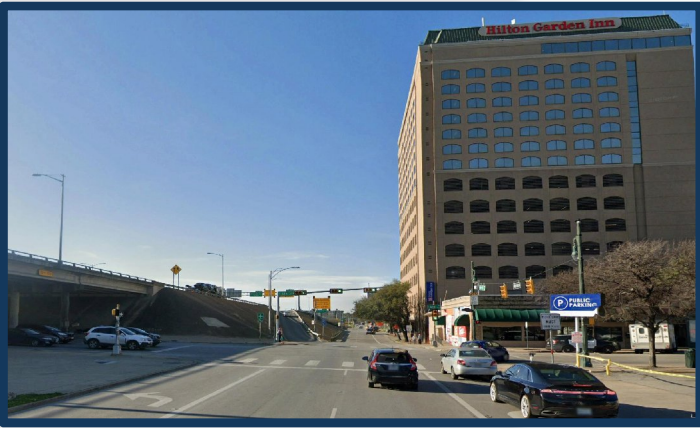
Current I-35 at Airport Blvd

Proposed: Alternatives 2 and 3 (top to bottom)

Renderings are concepts only. Further analysis and coordination are required. All features are subject to change.
(August 2021)



Improve East-West Connectivity / Compatibility with Neighborhoods



Current I-35 at 6th Street



Enhance Bicycle, Pedestrian and Transit Options



Current I-35 at 4th Street

Proposed: Alternatives 2 and 3

This rendering is a concept only. Further analysis and coordination are required. All features are subject to change.
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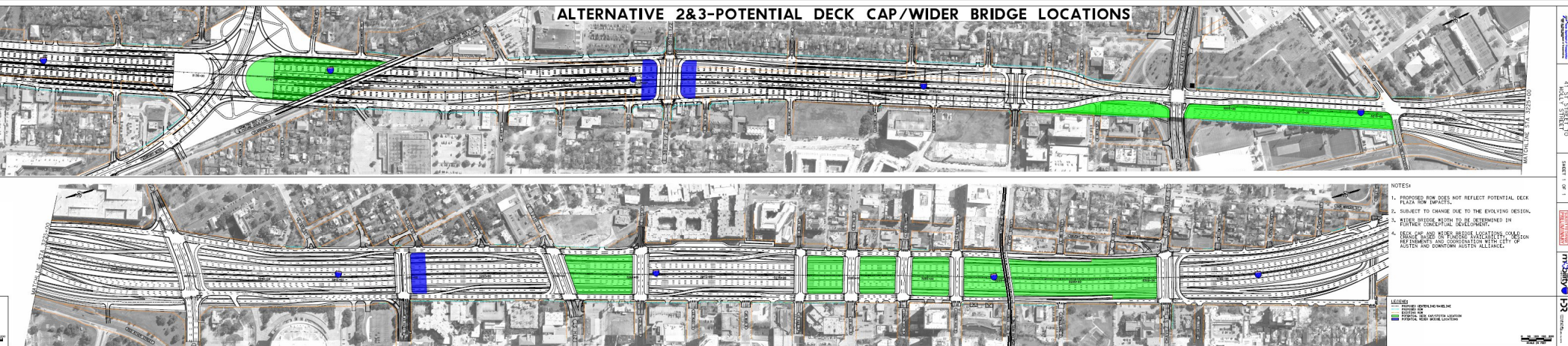
Potential Deck Cap/Wider Bridge Locations



Airport Blvd

38th ½ St

Dean
Keaton Manor



MLK

15th

12th

11th

8th

Cesar Chavez

Capital Express Central Project Outreach



28
MEETINGS

With community
members and leaders

51
MEETINGS

Agency coordination
meetings and workshops



50+
ORGANIZATIONS

Represented in
public meetings

8300
PARTICIPANTS

In virtual and in-
person meetings



Engagement included:

- Business and property owners
- Community members
- Elected officials
- Neighborhood associations
- Nonprofit organizations
- Professional organizations
- Public agencies



THANK YOU

