



**TRANSPORTATION**

# Braker Lane Extension Virtual Public Hearing

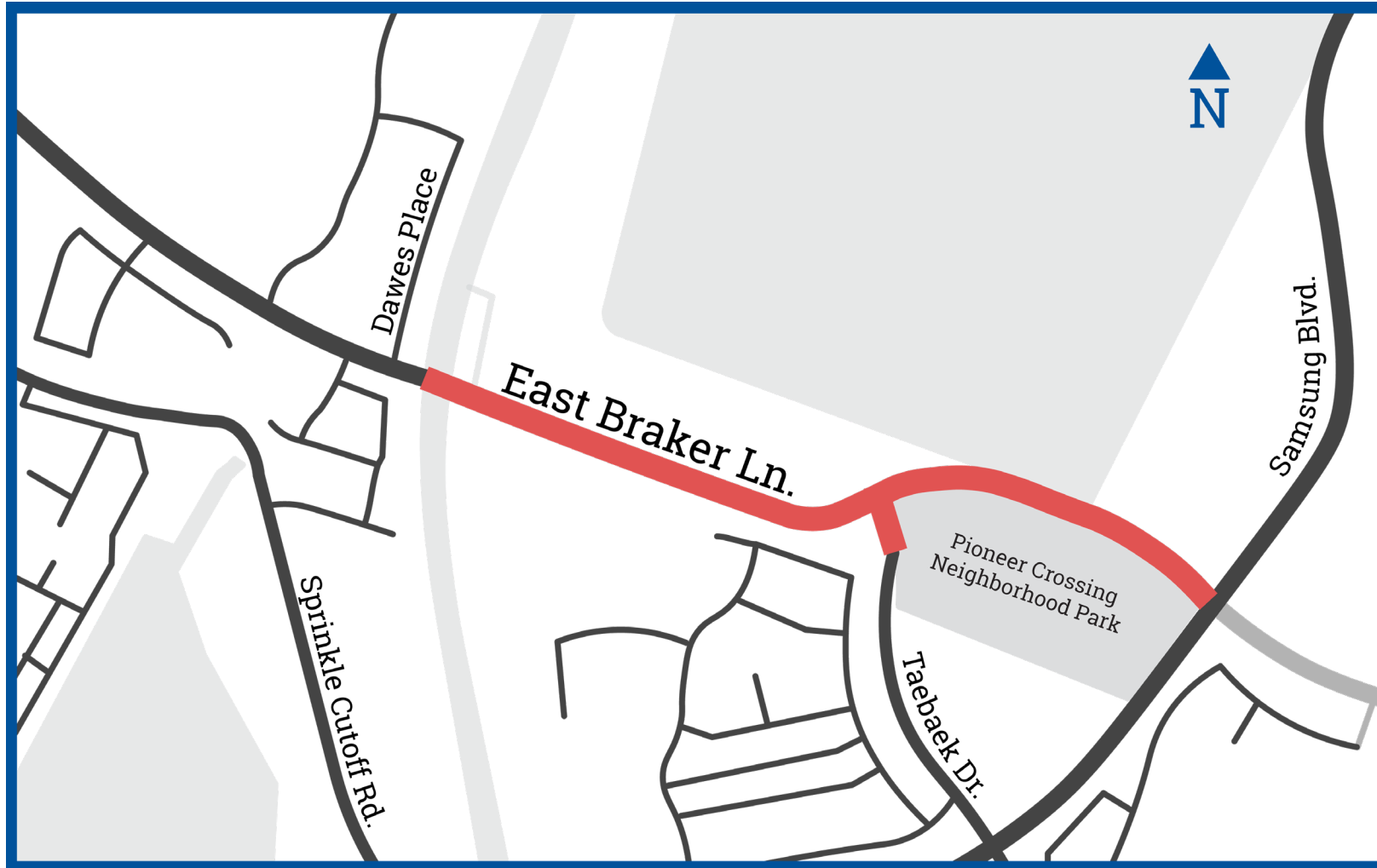
Matt Harold, PE | Capital Projects Manager | January 5, 2023

# AGENDA

- Project Background
- Environmental Overview
- Schedule
- Public Comments



# Project Background



This project will extend East Braker Lane from its current endpoint at Dawes Place approximately 0.75 miles to Samsung Boulevard, with an extension of Taebaek Drive to connect to East Braker Lane.

This new roadway would connect to a future Travis County project extending East Braker Lane from Samsung Boulevard to Harris Branch Parkway. Once complete, the project is expected to reduce congestion on East Parmer Lane. The project is in alignment with the Austin Strategic Mobility Plan, a comprehensive, citywide transportation plan adopted in 2019.



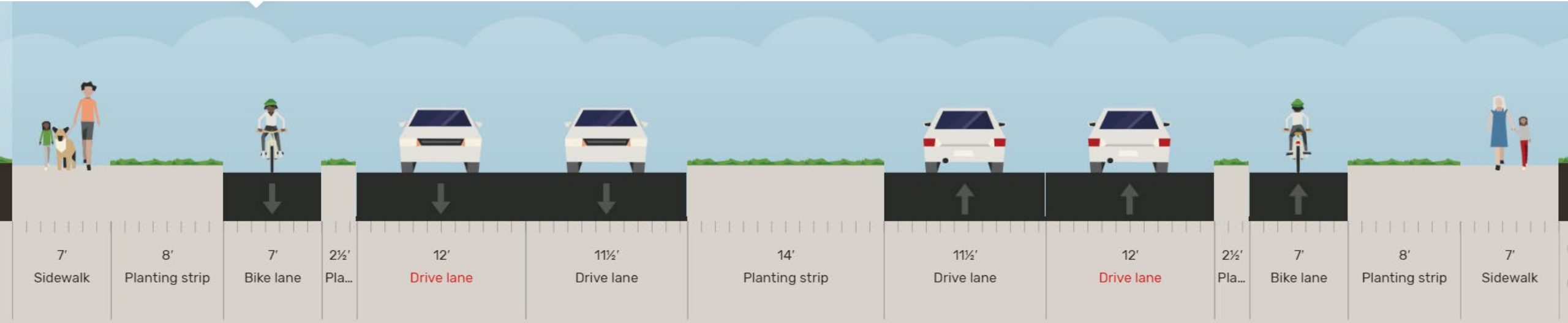
# Project Purpose and Need



The purpose of the proposed project is to facilitate congestion management in the corridor, facilitate forecasted traffic, provide a reliable route for transit, and expand safe pedestrian and bicycle transit within the area.

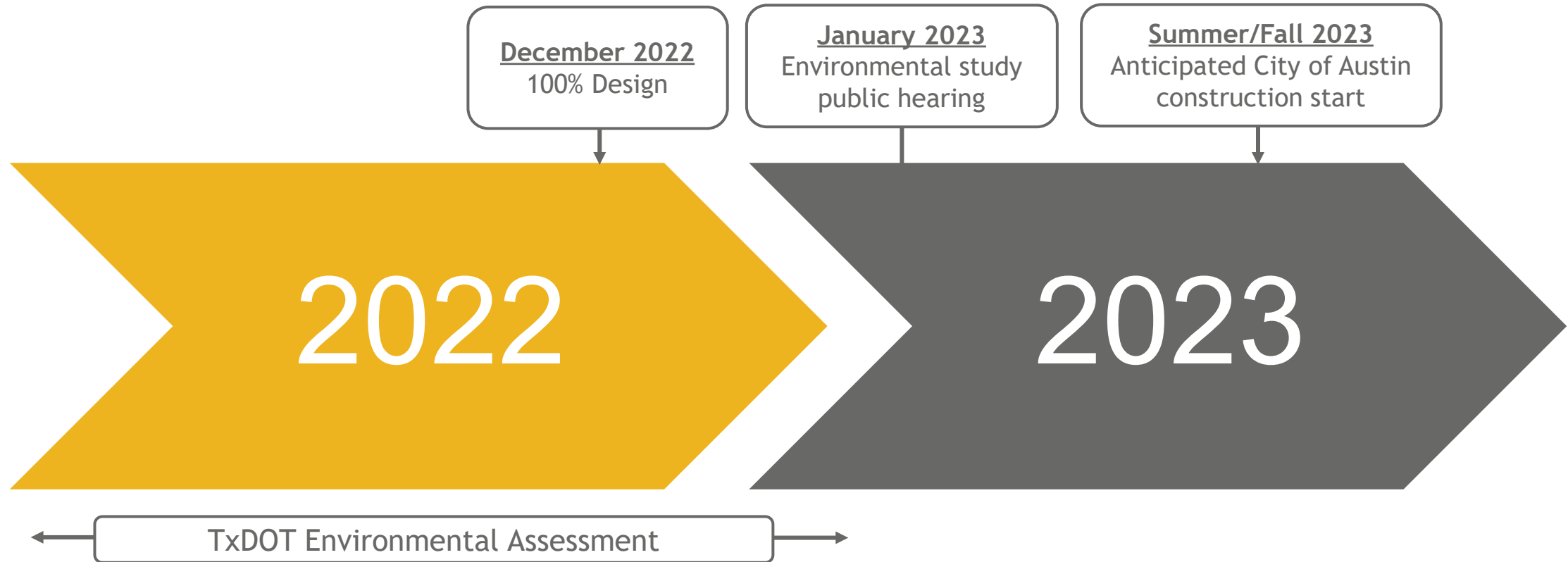
The project is needed to increase east-west road capacity in East Austin. Currently, continuous west to east traffic from north Austin is limited to US 290 East and SH 734 (Parmer Lane) and is inadequate to meet current and future traffic volumes and expected increases driven by continued community growth in the area.

# Proposed Typical Road Section



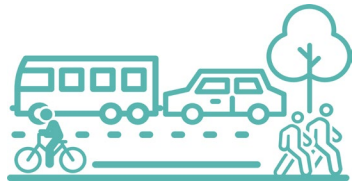
- New four-lane arterial roadway divided by medians with a median break at Taebaek Drive
- Center-turn lanes for vehicles turning onto Taebaek Drive or Samsung Boulevard from Braker Lane
- Sidewalks and bicycle lanes on both sides of the street along the project limits
- Pedestrian crossing at Taebaek Drive to provide space for people walking, biking, and rolling to cross safely
- Curb, gutter and drainage improvements
- Detention pond for runoff and water quality enhancements

# Project Schedule



# ENVIRONMENTAL OVERVIEW

# ENVIRONMENTAL STUDIES



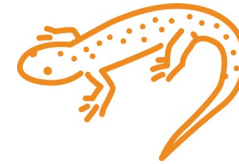
Air Quality



Water Resources



Cultural Resources



Biological Resources



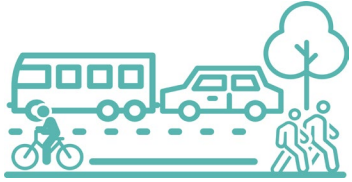
Hazardous Materials



Social and Community Impacts



# ENVIRONMENTAL STUDIES



## Air Quality

- During the construction phase of this project, temporary increases in particulate matter (PM) and mobile source air toxic (MSAT) emissions may occur from construction activities.
- The potential impacts of PM emissions will be minimized by using fugitive dust control measures.
- The Contractor will be encouraged to use the Texas Emissions Reduction Plan (TERP) which provides financial incentives to reduce emissions from vehicles and equipment.
- Construction-related emissions are temporary and transient.

# ENVIRONMENTAL STUDIES



## Hazardous Materials

- The proposed project area is undeveloped, and historically has been used for agriculture. Adjacent land includes residential development and a Samsung Plant approximately one-half mile from the project area. No unresolved hazardous materials concerns were identified for the proposed site.
- If contaminated soils are encountered during construction, they will be analyzed to assess the presence or absence of the chemicals of concern and disposed of properly.

# ENVIRONMENTAL STUDIES



## Biological Resources

Within the proposed project area, habitat is marginal and limited to disturbed, native, invasive, agricultural, and urban vegetation types. Therefore, wildlife is limited to species adapted to urban environments and associated vegetation types in undeveloped urban areas. Common urban adapted wildlife includes racoons, opossums, deer, skunks, squirrels, armadillos, hogs and various species of reptiles, amphibians, and birds, all of which could occur within the project area even though habitat is of marginal quality for most species.

- Potentially suitable habitat is not present for any federally listed threatened, endangered, or candidate species within or adjacent to the proposed project area. There is no federally designated critical habitat present within the project area.
- Potentially suitable habitat is not present for any state-listed threatened or endangered species.



## Social & Community Impacts

- The proposed project would not separate or divide neighborhoods. The property to be acquired is currently undeveloped and no displacements of residences, businesses, or other community facilities would result from acquisition.
- Newly constructed sidewalks and bike paths would enhance neighborhood connectivity and community cohesion by improving access between the Pioneer Crossing and Pioneer Crossing East neighborhoods, particularly for families attending the Pioneer Crossing Elementary School
- Limited English Proficiency (LEP) and minority populations
  - No adverse effects
- Increased bicyclist and pedestrian safety
  - Consistent with Capital Area Metropolitan 2040 Regional Transportation Plan ([CAMPO 2040 Plan](#))

# ENVIRONMENTAL STUDIES

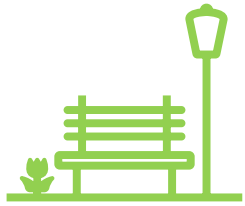


## Water Resources

- No surface water features are found in the project area. Surface water runoff from the ROW will be directed to a retention pond.
- The project is not located within the floodplain.
- The project is located more than three miles east of the Edwards Aquifer transition and recharge zones.



# ENVIRONMENTAL STUDIES

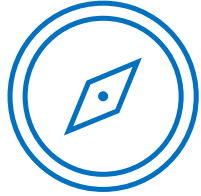


## Protected Lands

The project area includes publicly owned land that is currently used as or may be used in the future as a public park.

- The project would require the acquisition of two permanent drainage easements to place on the Park property south of the project roadway and east of Taebaek Drive. These small easements will channel park drainage towards the stormwater system of the project.
- Per Section 4(f) of the U.S. Department of Transportation Act a Section 4(f) de minimis applicability is being evaluated.
- Compliance with Chapter 26 regulations is also ongoing, and applicable public notice and hearing requirements will be followed.

# ENVIRONMENTAL STUDIES



## Right of Way

- The project will require the acquisition of 16.26 acres of Right of Way from three parcels, 2.79 acres of permanent easement, and 1.14 acres of temporary construction easements.
- All ROW acquisition will be completed in accordance with the Uniform Relocation Assistance and Real Property Acquisition Policies Act of 1979, as amended.
- The ROW to be acquired is currently undeveloped. The proposed project will not result in the displacement of any residences or businesses.

# PROJECT SCHEDULE

EAST BRAKER LANE EXTENSION



**Environmental Clearance:** Winter 2022-23

**Final Design Plans:** December 2022

**Construction:** Summer/Fall 2023

**PUBLIC COMMENT PERIOD**  
**JANUARY 5, 2023 - JANUARY 20, 2023**

# HOW CAN I MAKE COMMENTS?



All verbal and written comments must be received or postmarked by 11:59 p.m. on Friday, January 20, 2023.

## Submit comments:

- Verbally by calling 512-974-2300 and leaving a voicemail.
- Submit an online comment at: [AustinTexas.gov/EBrakerLane](https://austintexas.gov/EBrakerLane)
- Email comments to: [AustinMobility@AustinTexas.gov](mailto:AustinMobility@AustinTexas.gov)
- Mail written comments to:

Austin Transportation Department  
ATTN: Braker Lane  
PO Box 1088  
Austin, TX 78767

Responses to verbal and written comments received will be available online at [AustinTexas.gov/EBrakerLane](https://austintexas.gov/EBrakerLane) once they have been prepared.

*The environmental review, consultation, and other actions required by applicable Federal environmental laws for this project are being, or have been, carried-out by TxDOT pursuant to 23 U.S.C. 327 and a Memorandum of Understanding dated December 9, 2019, and executed by FHWA and TxDOT.*



THANK YOU



TRANSPORTATION