



# Insights from Community Walks

November 2015

In October and November 2015, the CodeNEXT team hosted seven CodeNEXT Community Walks around Austin. Dozens of Austinites participated and here's what we learned.



# CodeNEXT Community Walk: 12th and Hargrave



## Insights

- Inconsistent bike lanes and safe crossings, especially at 12<sup>th</sup> and Hargrave
- Sidewalk curbs often go all the way to the street, without a buffer
- Commercial/residential transition abrupt, concern over new housing developments and impact on existing neighborhood character
- Many streets dead end; there is a desire for greater connectivity, but there is also some concern over cut-through traffic and maintaining a safe environment for children
- Need better access to the MLK Red Line Station
- Park space is an asset



# CodeNEXT Community Walk: 183 + McNeil



## Insights

- Traffic is an issue for many, especially during am/pm rush hour
- Many sidewalk connectivity issues on Spicewood Springs side of 183– sidewalks only on one side or missing; connectivity issues along McNeil side as well.
- Even with walkability, there aren't many places to walk to; bikeability might be more practical
- Need better pedestrian connectivity from houses to the library
- Lack of buses (especially to downtown) is a problem– it increases reliance on cars
- Shopping centers have remained the same for decades; some desire more aesthetic and accessible form



# CodeNEXT Community Walk: E. MLK and Chicon



## Insights

- Narrow sidewalk on MLK/bad walking experience, need a buffer between cars and pedestrians, crosswalks
- Concerns about large surface parking lots & parking on neighborhood streets. Need to balance need for and placement of parking.
- Need to slow traffic– dangerous to cross MLK, many do it mid-block
- Concerned about affordability
- Use alleys and local streets to improve walking options– is there a way to organize them in a network?
- Concern about one-off sidewalks that do not contribute to connectivity. Fee-in-lieu program is not working.



# CodeNEXT Community Walk: E. Stassney Ln. + Nuckols Crossing



## Insights

- Unfriendly environment for walking or biking.
- Many kids use the sidewalks– need safer crossings and connectivity between schools, library, homes
- Desire to see more mixed use and creative uses, such as live/work.
- Need greater code enforcement– trash, overgrown areas.
- Would like to see more transportation options– maybe a shuttle or additional buses (not code related).
- Interest in public art, especially as a traffic calming measure or a way to mitigate unsightly uses

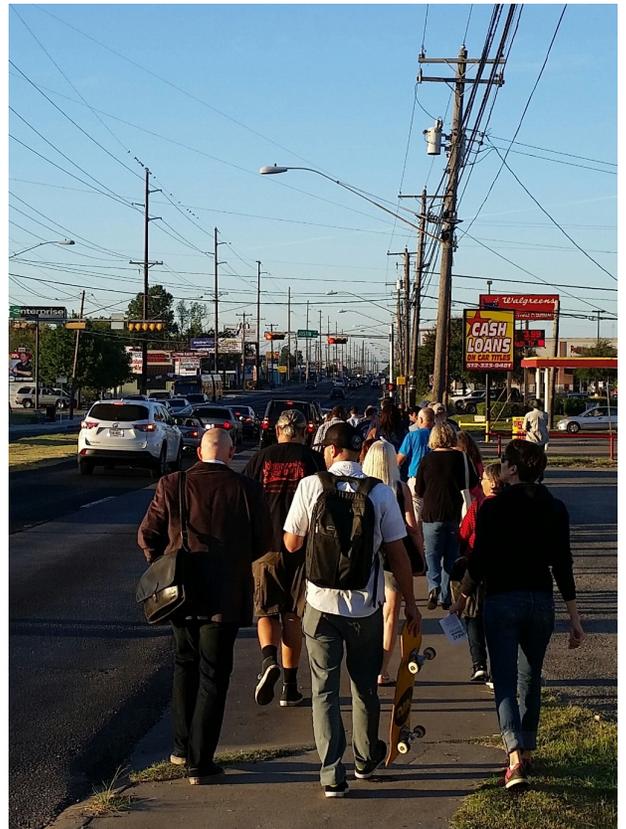


# CodeNEXT Community Walk: N. Lamar



## Insights

- Unfriendly environment for walking or biking.
- Sidewalk curbs go all the way to Lamar, many businesses have head-in parking; need buffers between cars and people.
- Need to balance business need for parking, walkability, and impact on neighborhood streets
- Utilities are very prominent– is there a way to bury or condense them?
- Much of this area is paved, impervious cover without storm drains or green space. As redevelopment happens, how can we integrate green infrastructure?
- As the corridor develops, people want to keep neighborhood streets calm and safe; commercial could be a good screen for the neighborhood from heavy commercial

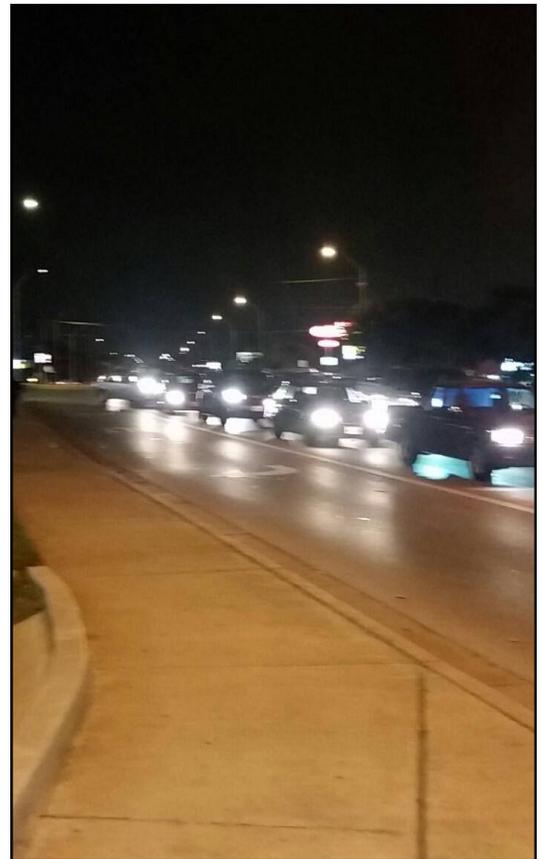


# CodeNEXT Community Walk: Slaughter + Manchaca



## Insights

- Manchaca and Slaughter intersection (and each individual road) are too wide and fast
- Shopping center is an unsafe experience
- This area could be a great hub of activity for neighborhood if it were safer
- Needs to be more walkable— many desire paths in the area show where people want to walk, and not all sidewalks are ADA acceptable



# CodeNEXT Community Walk: South 1st + Oltorf



## Insights

- South 1st is a narrow road which is good for crossing but traffic is an issue
- South 1st needs pedestrian (signal crosswalk, safer sidewalks buffered from cars) & transit improvements (bus bays)
- Infrastructure issues include flooding
- Permitting challenges– variances for unique circumstances (ex: buildable area, setbacks, and preserving heritage trees)
- Need for training on new code once finished

