

# ATX Walk Bike Roll Public Meeting #1

August 11, 2021

7:00 PM



atx  
**Walk Bike Roll**  
*Urban Trails | Sidewalks | Bikeways Plans*



# Agenda

- Introductions
- ATX Walk Bike Roll Overview
- Goals & Challenges
- Planning Process
- Resources
- Q&A



# Introductions

## Urban Trails



**Katie Wettick**  
Urban Trails Program Manager  
Austin Public Works

## Bicycle Facilities



**Nathan Wilkes**  
Multimodal Street Designer  
Austin Transportation

## Sidewalks



**John Eastman**  
Sidewalk Program Manager  
Austin Public Works

## Planning



**Cole Kitten**  
Systems Development Division Manager  
Austin Transportation

## Consultant Team



# What is ATX Walk Bike Roll?

Update Austin's sidewalk, urban trails, and bicycle plans



# ATX Walk Bike Roll Guiding Documents

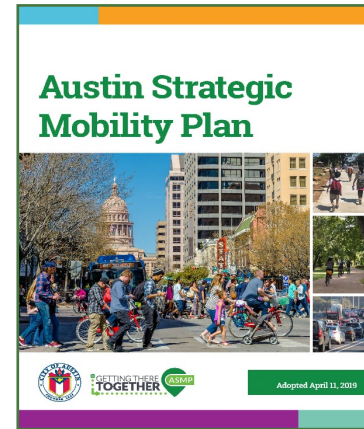
Sidewalks, urban trails and bikeways are included in previous plans



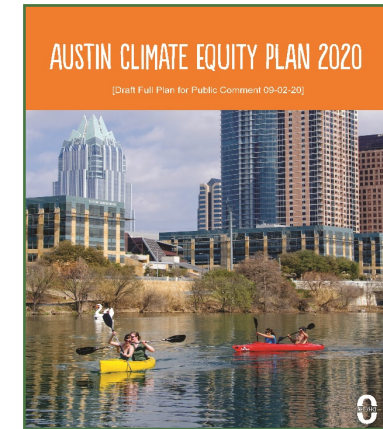
**Imagine  
Austin**  
2012



**Austin Strategic  
Direction 2023**  
2018



**Austin Strategic  
Mobility Plan**  
2019



**Austin Climate  
Equity Plan**  
2020



# Goals of ATX Walk Bike Roll

- Update plans that identify where to build sidewalks and crossings, urban trails, and bikeways
- Embed social and racial equity within the programs
- Add maintenance into plans
- Update project prioritization for urban trails, bikeways, and street crossings
- Work with partners to create a safer, more connected network
- Identify ways to build bicycle and pedestrian pathways in less time



# ATX Walk Bike Roll Principles & Values

- **Communities:** Travel options affect the way we live
- **Equity and Diversity** – Consider the needs of every community member – all ages, abilities, races, cultures, and classes
- **Mobility and Accessibility** – Serve all ages and abilities, so that everyone has a safe way to travel
- **Health and Environment** – Provide travel options that benefit physical, social, mental, and environmental health
- **Connections** – Connect people to place
- **Transportation and Housing Affordability** – Provide a low-cost way to travel with easier access to transit



# Equity Definition & Framework

Equity is achieved when race no longer predicts a person's quality of life outcomes in our community.

**The City of Austin recognizes that past plans and investments have not met the needs of all Austinites or have actively harmed communities - especially low-income communities and communities of color. This furthered inequalities in transportation, health, safety, housing, and income.**



# Context and History

- How do decisions about transportation and mobility **impact communities** beyond providing a space to travel?
- How has zoning, land use, and transportation impacted the **safety and availability** of walking and biking networks?
- Austin's walking and biking routes **have not worked the same** for everybody, and still don't.



# Routes That Work For All

We need to address barriers for everyone, especially...

- People with disabilities, LGBTQIA+, and communities of color
- Older adults and youth
- People who cannot or do not drive or have reliable access to a car
- People who are interested in walking or biking more, but who have concerns
- Low-income neighborhoods without safe or well-connected networks
- Communities with high rates of pedestrian or bicycle crashes



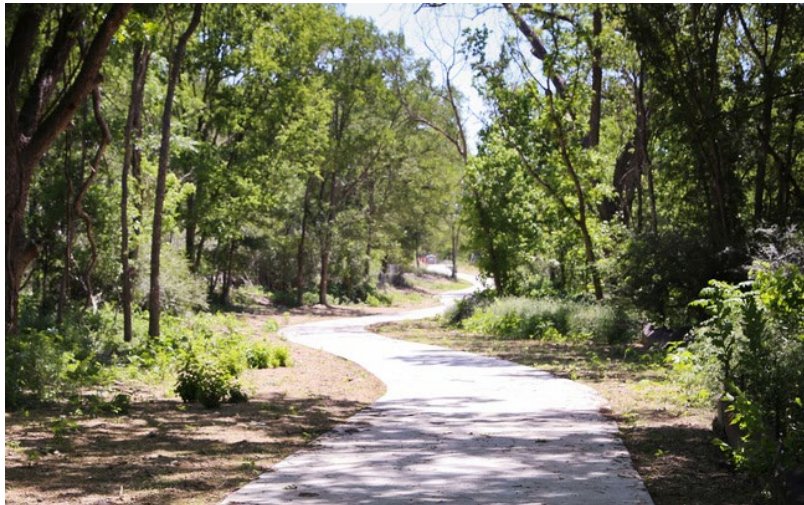
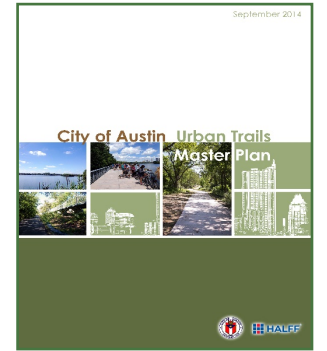
# Goals and Challenges of Individual Plans



# Urban Trails Plan Update

## Definition

- **Urban Trails:** Urban Trails are hard surface trails designed for use by pedestrians, bicycling and other non-motorized forms of transportation for both transportation and recreational use (2014 Urban Trails Master Plan).



Southern Walnut Creek Trail



Shoal Creek Trail



# Urban Trails Plan Update

## Goals

- **Update current trail network plan**
- **Consider feasibility** – what can be built in an environmentally sensitive, cost efficient, and timely manner
- **Find small connections** – where we can build short trails that overcome obstacles in a walking or biking route
- **Incorporate equity** – so urban trails are accessible to and used by people from all races, classes, neighborhoods, and abilities
- Develop a **new project selection process**
- **Improve maintenance plan, collaboration, and permitting.**



# Urban Trails Plan Update

## Challenges

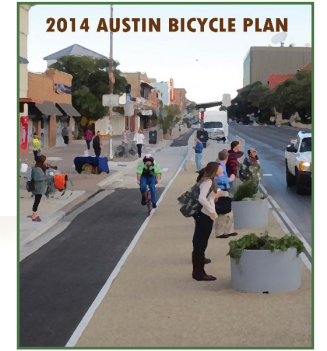
- Balancing **environmental considerations** with trail construction
- Improving **coordination**
- Planning for **maintenance needs**
- Creating **welcoming trails corridors** for people of all ages, abilities, race, ethnicity, and class



# Bicycle Plan Update

## Goals

- **Network Prioritization:** Establish a prioritization process to build the All Ages and Abilities bikeway network.
- **Incorporate Equity:** Ensure that processes and projects establish a bikeway network that serves people from all races, classes, ages, and abilities.
- **Connectivity:** Update bikeway network and link to existing and planned urban trails and transit service.
- **Data:** Improve data management to analyze existing and future network conditions



# Bicycle Plan Update

## Challenges

- Existing **gaps and barriers** to complete the bikeway network
- **Available street space** to achieve the highest quality, comfort and connectivity
- Capacity for **maintaining** a growing network



# Sidewalk Plan Update

## Goals

- **Complete Pedestrian Network Design:** City wide plan for pedestrian needs that includes sidewalks, safer crossings, and healthy / shared streets
- **Equity:** Access to safe places to walk for people of all races, classes, neighborhoods, and abilities
- **Prioritization model for pedestrian crossings:**  
Create a prioritization process for building pedestrian crossings
- **Incorporate green infrastructure:**  
Identify partnerships and other ways to include more trees and rain gardens and to reduce impervious cover.



# Sidewalk Plan Update

## Challenges

- **Consistent funding**; particularly for sidewalk maintenance and repair
- **Competing** needs and demands at intersections
- **Speeding up delivery of complete pedestrian network** through alternative designs



# Planning Process



# Timeline

- **Phase 1: Winter 2021 – Summer 2021**
  - Equity Framework; Conditions Analysis; Outreach Planning
  - **Outreach goal:** introduce project, discuss community needs and priorities to shape guiding values of ATXWBR.
- **Phase 2: Fall 2021 – Summer 2022**
  - Programs & Policies; Scenario Evaluation; Project Prioritization; Buildout Plans
  - **Outreach goal:** determine where we build, how we prioritize projects, and what we base decisions on.
- **Phase 3: Summer 2022 – Winter 2023**
  - Plan Document Development and Revisions
  - **Outreach goal:** review and discuss the plans and priorities – did we get it right?



# Community Outreach Goals

- Learn from communities who have been under-represented in past planning efforts, such as communities of color and low-income communities
- Prioritize engaging with persons of color and people with low incomes so their input meaningfully shapes the project
- Work with local organizations and use grassroot efforts to gather feedback
- Provide many opportunities for residents to learn about the planning process
- Present information in a manner that overcomes language barriers and is culturally sensitive



# Community Ambassadors

75 applicants, 21 interviewed; 12 hired

Experiences and skills include:

- Organizing and leading bike rides that are accessible and fun
- An understanding of missing connections and maintenance issues
- Teaching in primary school classrooms, community organizations, teaching English as a second language
- Social media marketing
- Anti-racism training
- Leading webinars
- Previous experience with one-on-one engagement



# Opportunities to Engage

- Public Meetings
- Project Survey/Questionnaires
  - First survey out now!  
**[atxwbr.link/survey](https://atxwbr.link/survey)**
- Focus Group Discussions
  - Ambassador Program



# Resources

- **Website**
  - [AustinTexas.gov/ATXWBR](https://austintexas.gov/ATXWBR)
- **Newsletter**
  - <https://tinyurl.com/atxwbr-newsletter>
- **Social media**
  - Facebook: [@ATXPublicWorks](https://www.facebook.com/ATXPublicWorks)
  - Twitter: [@AustinMobility](https://twitter.com/AustinMobility)
- **Email:**
  - [ATXWalkBikeRoll@AustinTexas.gov](mailto:ATXWalkBikeRoll@AustinTexas.gov)
- **Survey:**
  - [atxwbr.link/survey](https://atxwbr.link/survey)



# Thank you!

- Recording will be available on the website!  
[AustinTexas.gov/ATXWBR](https://AustinTexas.gov/ATXWBR)
- Please share with your friends, family and network!



Scan QR code to  
access website!

