



September 3, 2021

Robert Spillar, P.E., Director
Austin Transportation Department

RE: Texas Department of Transportation (TxDOT) I-35 Capital Express Central Project

Dear Mr. Spillar:

Thank you for your continued coordination with Austin Water on the TxDOT I-35 Capital Express Program. As requested, I am providing you with the most important and challenging impacts to Austin Water associated with the TxDOT proposed build alternatives for the I-35 Capital Express Central Project.

Our evaluation is based on the information that has been shared with us to date by TxDOT's team working on the I-35 Capital Express program, specifically Alternatives 2 and 3. The information provided indicates that for Alternatives 2 and 3, the general purpose lanes will be excavated as much as +/-60 feet (including road base & storm sewer system) from existing/frontage road elevations. With a few exceptions, the water and wastewater crossings within the project limits will be adversely impacted by the proposed improvements and will need to be relocated or rerouted. Additionally, there is significant Right-of-Way (ROW) acquisition between 51st Street and Concordia Avenue, encroaching as much as +/-130 feet to the west of I-35 current ROW. This property acquisition will not only impact utility crossings, but also parallel lines and additional water and wastewater lines currently providing service to existing customers within the area for acquisition.

As I indicated in our previous letter dated December 2, 2020, the water line crossings are critical at a neighborhood level as well as at a regional water transmission level. The smaller waterline crossings (24" and smaller) may be able to be replaced or relocated; however, there will be extensive waterline work parallel to I-35 to make this feasible. For the large diameter water transmission lines, the most critical lines are:

- 66" Transmission Main @ IH35 & 3rd St (Intersection #1004 & 1047)
- 48" Transmission Main @ IH35 & Edgewood Ave (Intersection #1211)
- 36" Transmission Main @ IH35 & 51st St (Intersection #7827 & 570)
- 48" Transmission Main @ IH35 & Woodland Ave (Intersection #5297 & 3358)
- 36" Reclaimed Water Main @ IH35 & 51st (Intersection #273 & #173)

Relocating these larger water transmission mains will be difficult and will require extensive coordination between Austin Water and TxDOT. In addition to serving area customers, these mains provide water delivery and transmission to other parts of the city.

There are limitations to when and how long these transmission mains can be taken out of service. Any disruptions to these critical waterlines will need to be scheduled, planned, and carefully coordinated. Taking these critical lines out of service for replacement and reconnection is only feasible during water

system low demand periods. Coordination is required months in advance prior to shutdowns to allow Austin Water planning and operations staff to adjust the system around the impacted areas in order to maintain level of service, including fire protection.

There are also additional impacted water lines 24" in diameter and smaller, which include internal distribution lines within pressure zones as well as transmission lines serving as interconnects between pressure zones or east-west areas (of I-35) within each pressure zone.

Relocating or rerouting impacted wastewater lines will also be challenging. Critical wastewater pipes are extremely difficult or impossible to reroute or relocate. These include the following segments:

- Downtown Tunnel – 78"
- Crosstown Tunnel – 96"
- North Austin Interceptor – 48"
- South Austin Interceptor – 54"
- 3rd Street Crossing – 42"
- Holly Street Crossing – 36"

There are other wastewater pipes (24" and larger) in the area classified as critical that could be relocated, but this would be challenging. Small diameter crossings provide wastewater service to existing customers. Austin Water will likely need to work with TxDOT to reroute and consolidate the crossings that are in conflict.

In the limited ROW along the project's corridor, it is essential to maintain required separation distances between water and wastewater pipelines and other utilities. Concepts such as shared conduits with gas or communication lines and easement widths narrower than 15 feet create unacceptable risks for the City, TxDOT, and private utilities.

The Austin Water SPOC for relocation projects involving TxDOT, Travis and Williamson Counties, CTRMA, and Project Connect is Supervising Engineer Aldo Ranzani, P.E. Your staff can contact Aldo directly by phone at 512-972-1122 or through email at aldo.ranzani@austintexas.gov for questions or information.

Please let me know if you need additional information at this time or would like to discuss further.
Thank you,

Sincerely,



Greg Meszaros
Director, Austin Water

CC: Shay Ralls Roalson, P.E., Assistant Director, Austin Water
Kevin Koeller, P.E., Managing Engineer, Austin Water
Teresa Lutes, P.E., Managing Engineer, Austin Water
Aldo Ranzani, P.E., Supervising Engineer, Austin Water