

Traffic Jam! Let's Get Central Texans Moving

Austin's traffic congestion problem is bad and only getting worse. The increase in time wasted in traffic throughout our region ranked fourth among U.S. metro areas — worse than Houston and New York City! There's no single solution to the region's growing traffic congestion, so we need an "all of the above" strategy that includes road and transit improvements to add capacity and give people options. That's where Project Connect comes in. The plan will give us a system of high-capacity transit solutions to help get Central Texans moving again. The first step is to identify WHERE these solutions should be. We need your input to identify the corridors where transit makes sense. Tell us where you travel the most and where you need to get to most often. Then we can explore what transit solutions will make the most sense in those corridors.

Conversations will address these questions:

- Where do you travel to on a daily basis? Work? School? Other?
- What routes do you drive/ride on most often to get to places WITHIN Austin? (i.e., IH35? MoPac? 2222? Riverside?)
- What routes do you think are most traveled by Central Texans to get into and out of Austin?
- Would you be willing to ride high-capacity transit (bus, train, streetcar) if it got you where you needed to go without having to sit in traffic? Why or why not?

Why is this topic important and how will feedback be used?

Congestion has become one of the most critical issues facing the region. Capital Metro can help mitigate that congestion with high-capacity transit solutions. That means transit that operates in its own dedicated guideway with 15-minute frequency or better, and carries a lot of people into, out of and around Austin.

The input we get from the community will help us determine where those transit solutions would make the most sense. Capital Metro will use community input to identify places where high capacity transit can help alleviate congestion and help people move into, out of and around Austin.

Who will be reviewing the feedback?

- Javier Arguello, Director of Long Range Planning
- Joe Clemens, Long Range Planner

What else do I need to know?

Project Connect is a plan designed to create a system of high-capacity transit options that will connect people, places and opportunities in an affordable, efficient and sustainable way. High-capacity transit travels the entire trip, or a portion of its trip, on a dedicated lane or guideway. The goals of Project Connect are to identify and evaluate potential transit projects over the next two years. Capital Metro will work with local agencies, stakeholders and the public to identify high-capacity transit solutions that will offer options for travel into, out of and around Central Austin. Central Texas has seen many transportation studies done in recent years, by both public and private organizations. Project Connect isn't another new beginning. We will take those ideas and — together with the people of the Austin area — decide which projects will move us all forward. The first step (Phase 1) is to identify corridors. Corridors are roadways where the most people tend to travel into, out of and around Austin. Once we can identify which corridors are the most important to address, the next step (Phase 2) will be to find the best transit solutions for those corridors.

Are there other ways to participate?

There will be a public workshop on Saturday, March 4 from 8:30am to 1 pm at the Bob Bullock Texas History Museum. Everyone is invited to participate! You can also provide your feedback at www.projectconnect.com!