



Technical Advisory Committee Meeting

April 19, 2021

ITEM 1: CERTIFICATION OF QUORUM



ITEM 2: APPROVAL OF MARCH 22, 2021 MEETING SUMMARY





Recommendation



**Staff recommends approval of the
March 22, 2021 meeting summary.**



ITEM 3: PRESENTATION OF PROJECT CONNECT LPA AND POTENTIAL TIP AMENDMENT



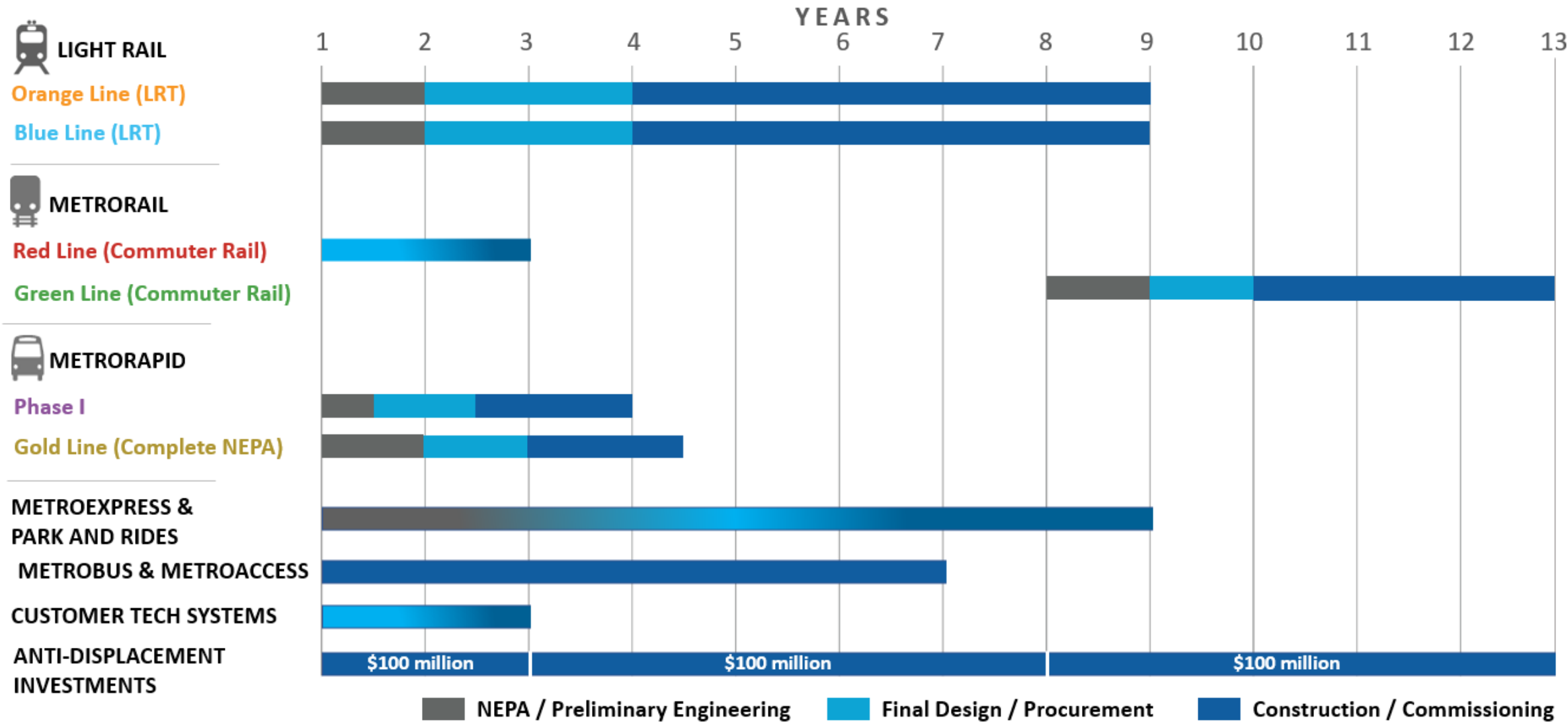
PROJECT CONNECT UPDATE

CAMPO Technical Advisory Committee

April 19, 2021

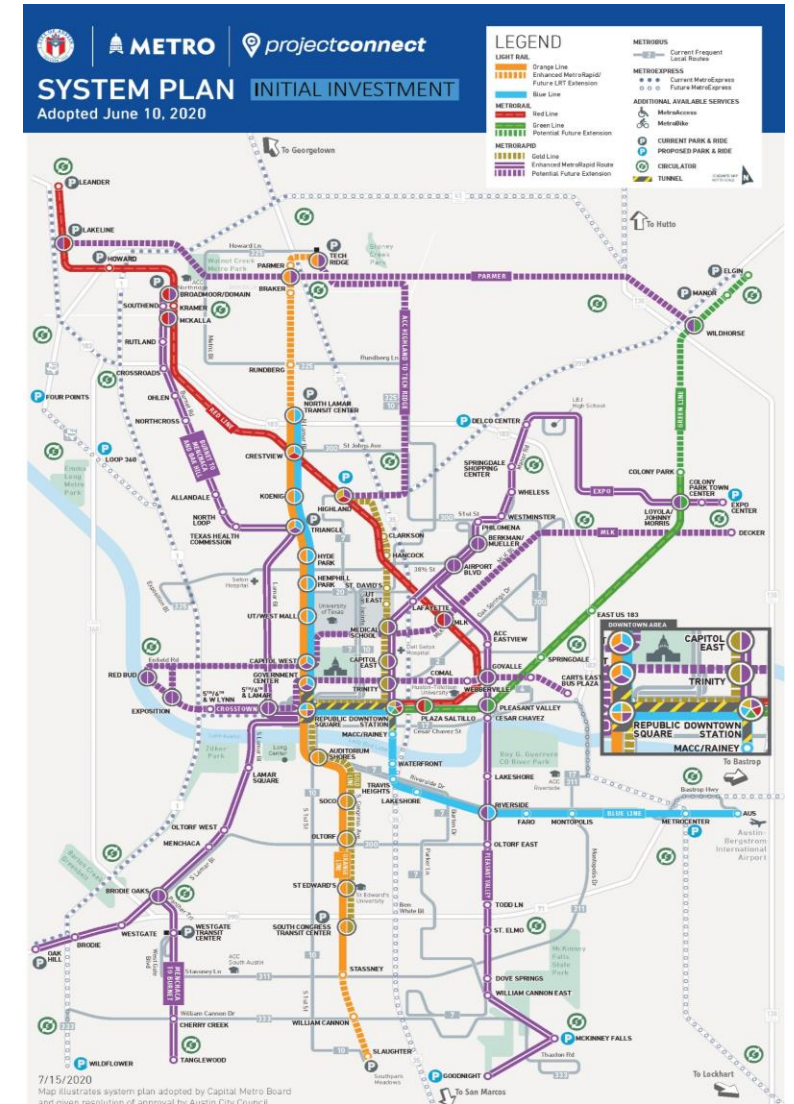
PROGRAM SEQUENCE PLAN

Years based on federal NEPA and funding approvals



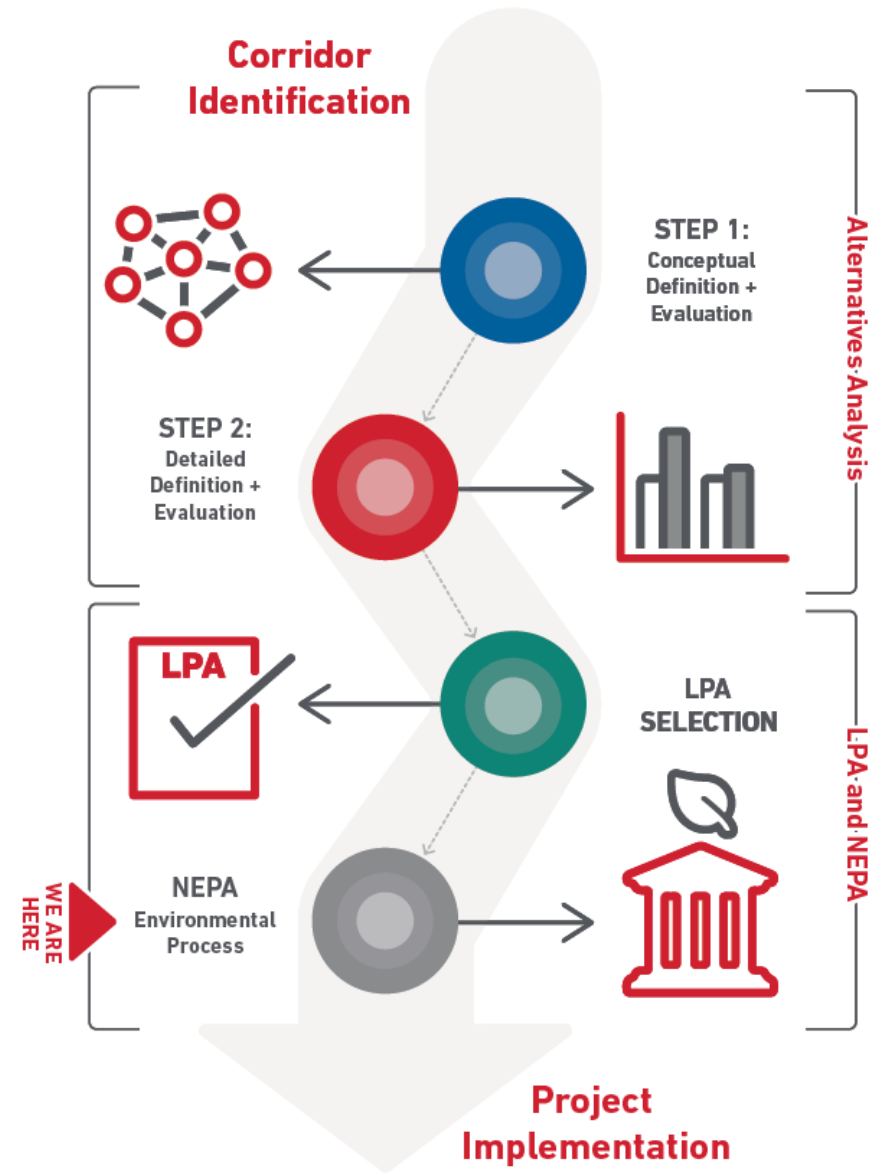
PROGRAM COMPONENTS

PROJECT CONNECT – PROGRAM COMPONENTS	Cost
Orange Line – NLTC to Stassney Phase 1 (LRT), Enhanced MetroRapid	\$2.5B
Blue Line – Riverside Corridor (LRT)	\$1.3B
Gold Line – MetroRapid, NEPA completion for LRT	\$50M
Downtown Tunnel (Orange, Blue Lines)	\$2.0B
MetroRapid – Expo, Pleasant Valley, Burnet to Menchaca/Oak Hill	\$120M
Green Line to Colony Park – NEPA, Final Design, Construction	\$370M
Red Line Improvements	\$25M
MetroExpress, Park & Rides, Transit Centers (3 New Routes, 9 P&R, 1 TC)	\$60M
Neighborhood Circulators (15 New Zones / Vehicles)	\$1.5M
Maintenance Facility Improvements	\$300M
Customer Technology Systems	\$30M
Anti-Displacement Investments	\$300M
TOTAL	\$7.1B
45% Federal	\$3.195B
Initial Package Local Commitment	\$3.905B

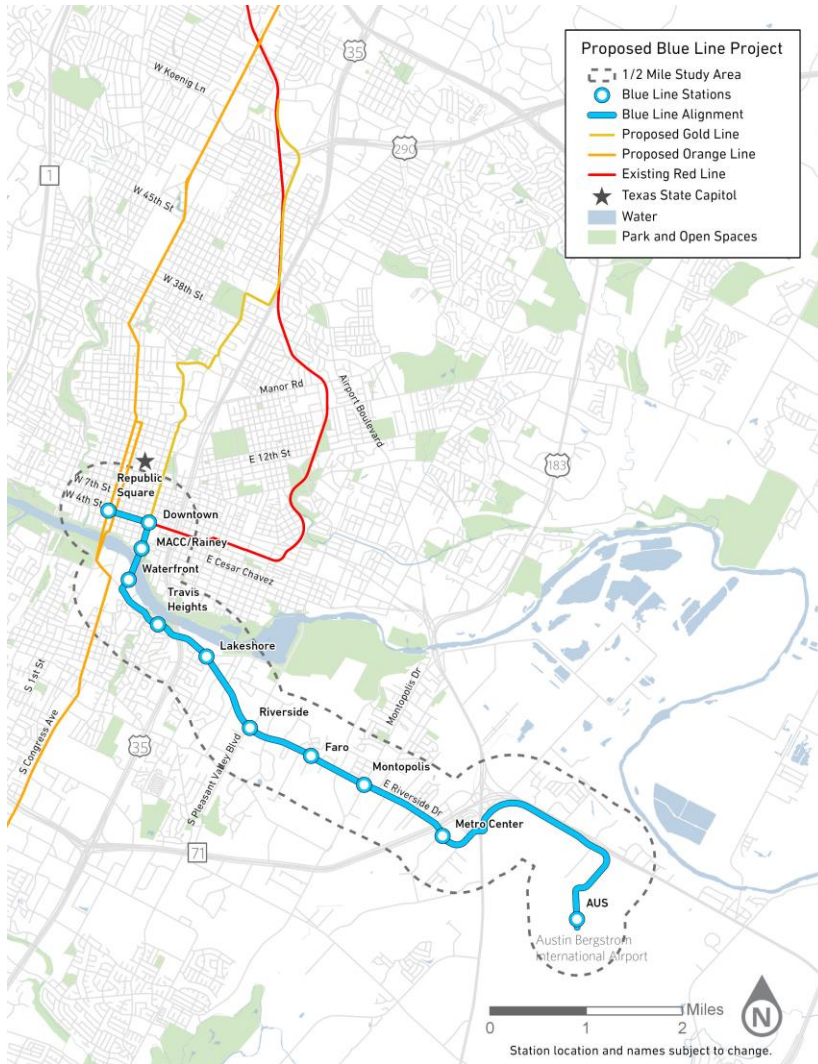


ALTERNATIVES ANALYSIS (2019-2020)

- Tiered screening process
- Helped define preferred characteristics of the Blue Line:
 - Alignment (where does it run?)
 - Transitway Type (on, above, or below the street?)
 - Mode (Bus Rapid Transit or Light Rail Transit?)
- Selection of **Locally Preferred Alternative (LPA)**



THE BLUE LINE LOCALLY PREFERRED ALTERNATIVE (LPA)

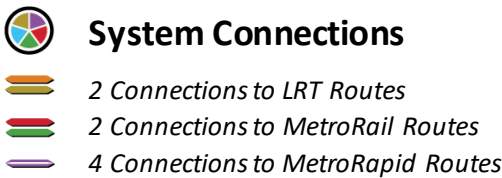


- The proposed Blue Line light rail transit (LRT) would connect Republic Square in downtown Austin on the northern end to the Austin-Bergstrom International Airport (AUS) on the southern end.
- Would provide high-capacity service within dedicated transitways.
- Would operate along portions of the existing route 20.
- Up to 11 stations are planned along the route, with service every 10-15 minutes.

BLUE LINE LPA DESIGN AND SERVICE



8.2 Miles & 11 Stations

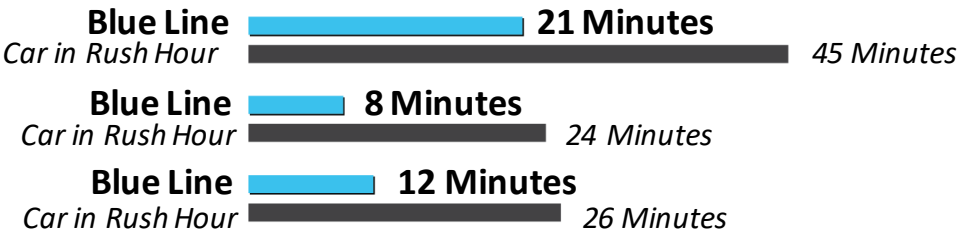


Travel Time

AUS Airport → Republic Square

Riverside → Downtown

MACC/Rainey → Metro Center



Ridership
Weekday Ridership (2040)
16,000 — 19,000



Demographics¹
Zero-Car Households in Station Areas
3,000 | 10%
Individuals in Poverty in Station Areas
17,900 | 26%
Minorities in Station Areas
41,100 | 59%



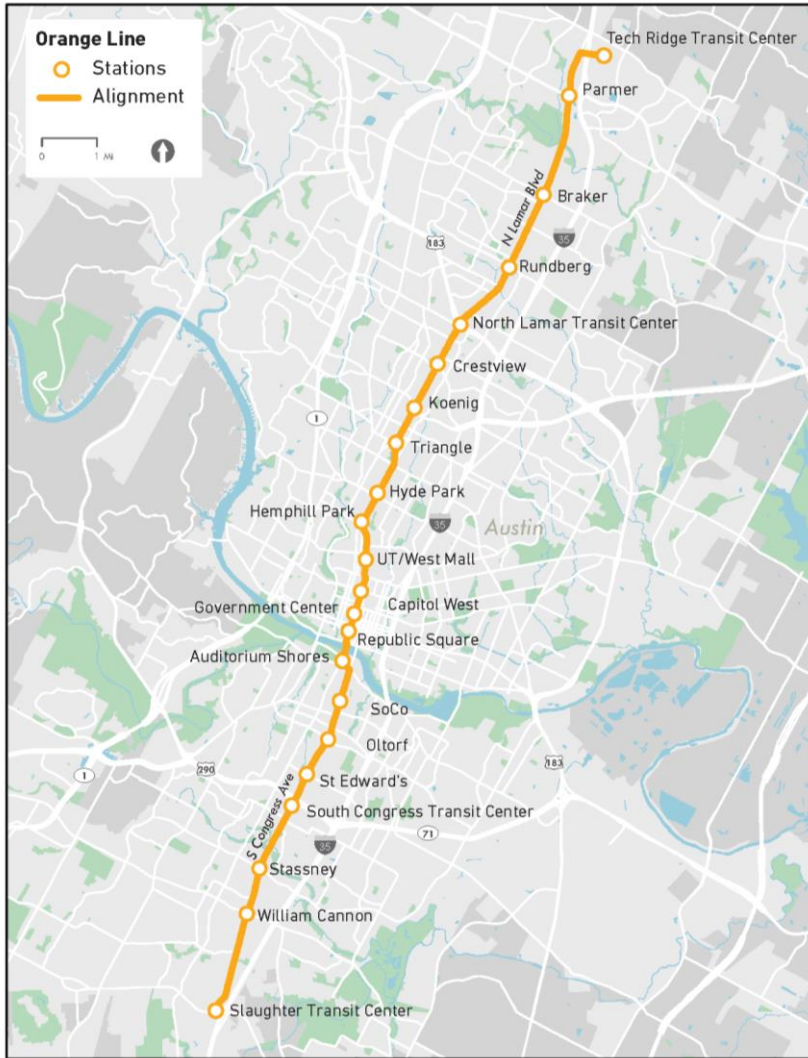
Employment within ½ mile
Total Employees (2045)²
243,824



Environmental
Vehicles Miles Traveled Reduction
16.7 million fewer miles annually
Greenhouse Gas Reduction
6,600 tons fewer annually

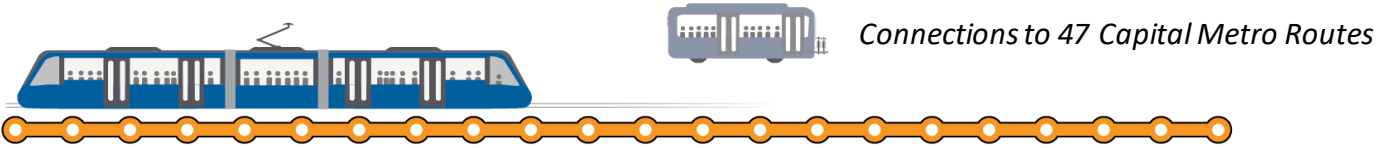
1) Source: U.S. Census Bureau American Community Survey, 2018 5-yr Estimates
2) Source: CAMPO

THE ORANGE LINE LOCALLY PREFERRED ALTERNATIVE (LPA)

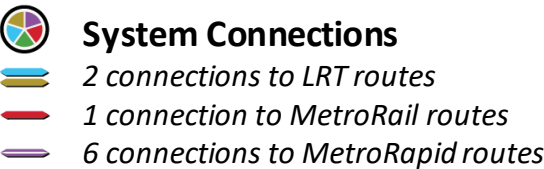


- The proposed Orange Line would be a north/south transit line.
- Would provide high-capacity service within dedicated transitways.
- Would operate along the existing 801 route. Funding from Prop A would deliver initial light rail transit (LRT) service from North Lamar Transit Center to Stassney.
- Up to 22 stations are planned along the route, with service every 10-15 minutes.


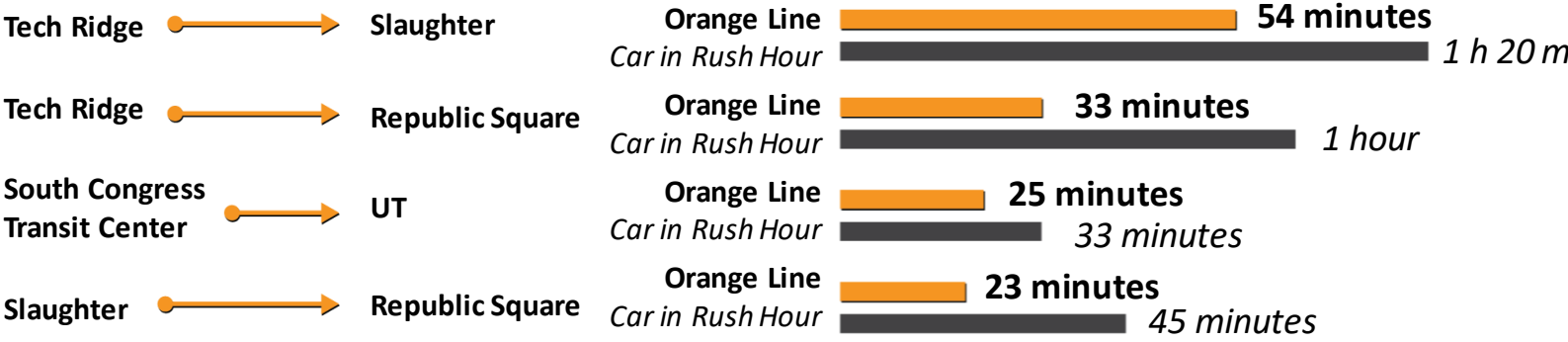
ORANGE LINE DESIGN AND SERVICE




20 Miles and 22 Stations



Travel Time




Ridership
Weekday Ridership (2040)
54,000 – 74,400



Demographics¹
Zero-car Households in Station Areas
3,400 | 8%
Individuals in Poverty in Station Areas
21,900 | 23%
Minorities in Station Areas
45,700 | 48%



Employment within ½ mile
Total Employees (2045)²
262,597



Environmental
Vehicle Miles Traveled Reduction
107.8 million fewer miles annually
Greenhouse Gas Reduction
42,800 tons fewer annually

1) Source: U.S. Census Bureau American Community Survey, 2018 5-yr Estimates
2) Source: CAMPO

THE METRORAPID LOCALLY PREFERRED ALTERNATIVE (LPA)

The MetroRapid LPA consists of the following corridors for enhanced transit options:

4 new MetroRapid lines as part of the **Initial Investment** would provide frequent service with a limited number of stops.

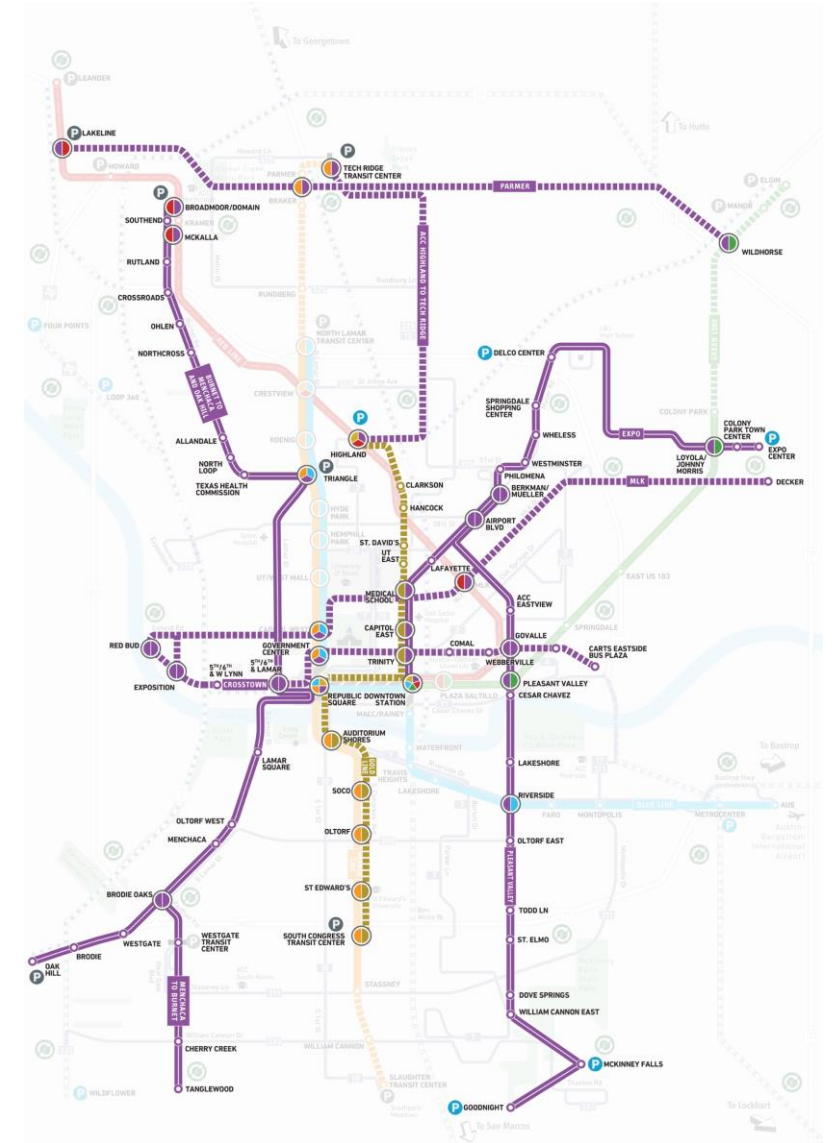
- **Gold Line** from ACC Highland to South Congress and Ben White

Gold line would begin as a MetroRapid service from ACC Highland to Republic Square and is planned for conversion to Light Rail as a part of the full System Plan

- **Expo Center** | from east Austin to UT and downtown
- **Pleasant Valley** | from Mueller to the Goodnight Ranch Park & Ride
- **Burnet** | from The Domain to Manchaca & Oak Hill

3 new MetroRapid lines are part of the **System Plan** and would be implemented as a later phase of Project Connect.

- **Crosstown** | from west Austin to east Austin
- **MLK** | from west Austin to northeast Austin
- **Parmer** | from Lakeline to Manor



Continuous Community Engagement

- **NEPA Public Scoping meetings for Orange and Blue Lines**
 - Live Virtual Community Meetings - January 25-29 (Spanish and English) – **COMPLETE**
 - **752** participants for **Orange Line**, **735** for **Blue Line**
 - Self-Guided Meetings - January 25 to March 12 (Spanish and English) – **COMPLETE**
 - **428** unique visitors for **Orange Line**, **517** for **Blue Line**
- **Engagement on Expo, Pleasant Valley MetroRapid Lines**
 - Live Virtual Community Meetings – February 2-4 (Spanish and English) – **COMPLETE**
 - **353** participants for **MetroRapid**
 - Self-Guided Meetings – February 2 to March 19 (Spanish and English) – **COMPLETE**
 - **300** unique visitors for **MetroRapid**
 - Outreach to neighborhood groups and one week at-stop engagement push
- **Future Engagement Opportunities**
 - Orange & Blue Lines Virtual Community Meeting – April 26 - **UPCOMING**



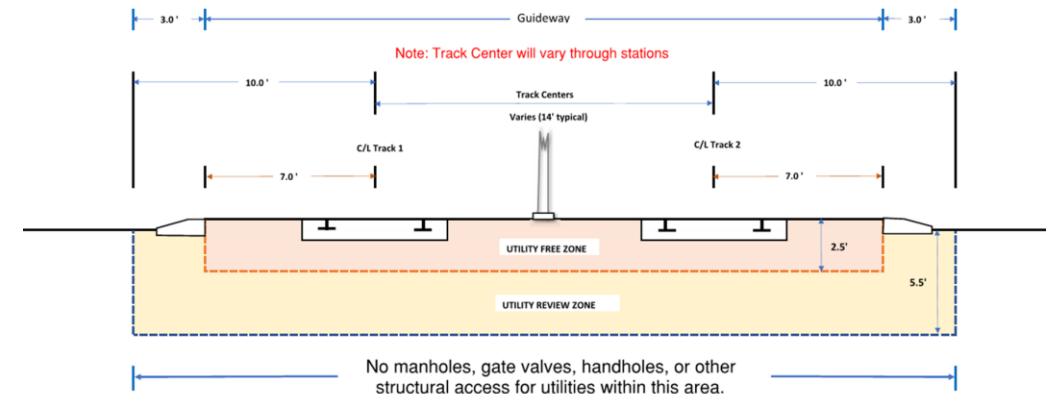
PROGRAM UPDATES:

Blue & Orange Line Field & Engineering Activities

- Right of Way survey wrapping up on both lines
- Utility survey work continues
- Initial track geometry under development
- Coordination with City on guideway, roadway, bike/ ped facilities and planned development ongoing



Perpendicular Crossing to Guideway



PROGRAM UPDATES:

Blue & Orange NEPA Scoping Progress

- Held Agency Scoping Meetings and forwarded materials for review
- Compiling Public and Agency Scoping comments for the Scoping Report
- Developed Historic Resources Research Design Report for review and approval by the Texas Historical Commission
- Preparing to begin archeological and environmental investigation
- Continue to prepare for Historic Resources field work
- Continue to develop various Resource Technical Reports

PROGRAM UPDATES: Red Line, MetroRapid & Pick-Up Service

Metro Rapid

- Design is underway with field verification and refinements to station locations
- Completed Draft Categorical Exclusion
- Progressed FTA Small Start Readiness Documents

Red Line

- Austin FC station design concepts under development; evaluating circulation needs
- Broadmoor track design to address operational flexibilities nearly complete
- Lakeline-to-Leander 100% design is complete. Procurement for the next phase is being developed

Neighborhood Circulators

- Pickup Service Guidelines in final stages of development

Questions ?



ITEM 4: PRESENTATION OF DRAFT 2022-2023 UPWP





Item 4 Presentation of Draft 2022- 2023 UPWP



- Federally required document
- Two fiscal years
- Identifies work tasks
- Five main tasks:
 - » Administration
 - » Data Development and Maintenance
 - » Short Range Planning
 - » Metropolitan Transportation Plan
 - » Special Studies



Item 4 Presentation of Draft 2022- 2023 UPWP



UPWP Timeline



- DRAFT
 - » Transportation Policy Board –
May 10, 2021
- FINAL
 - » Technical Advisory Committee –
May 17, 2021
 - » Transportation Policy Board –
June 14, 2021

comments:

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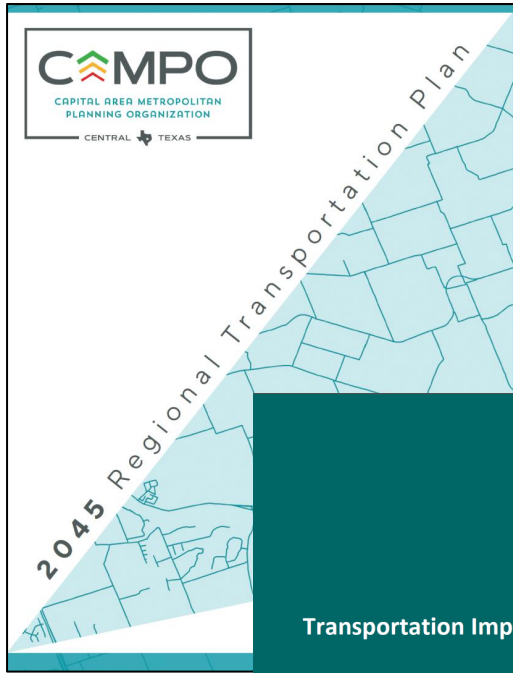
ITEM 5: DISCUSSION ON AMENDMENTS TO TIP AND RTP





Spring Amendment Cycle

The Spring Amendment Cycle is the **regularly scheduled opportunity** to make changes to the Regional Transportation Plan (RTP) and Transportation Improvement Program (TIP).



Transportation Improvement Program

2021 – 2024



Amendment Cycle Schedule

Date	Milestone
4/16/2021	Last Day for Submission for the Spring Amendment Cycle
4/19/2021	Technical Advisory Committee – Information
May	Community Outreach
5/10/2021	Transportation Policy Board – Information/Public Hearing
5/17/2021	Technical Advisory Committee – Recommendation
6/14/2021	Transportation Policy Board – Adoption





Amendment Policy and Procedures

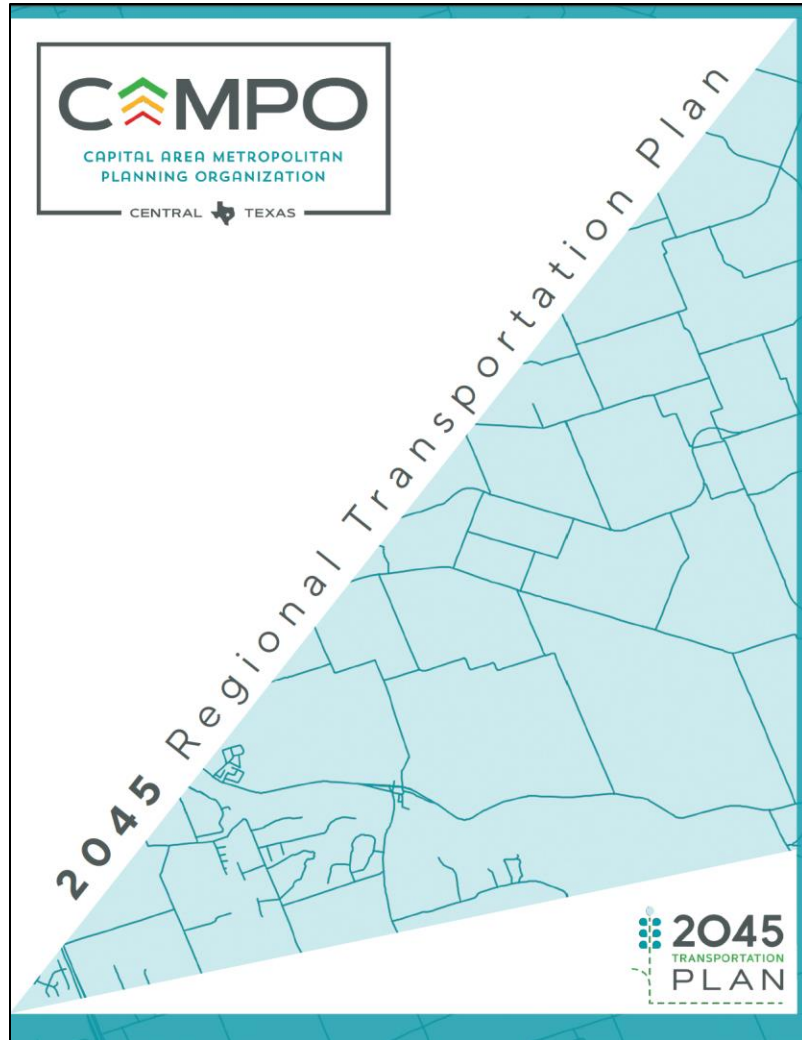
Transportation Improvement Program

Amendment Policy and Procedures



- The Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) and Regional Transportation Plan are **amended on a regular basis** to ensure that the most up-to-date information is approved by the Transportation Policy Board.
- **Amendments are processed** administratively, through the next scheduled regular amendment cycle, or through an out-of-cycle amendment.
- Amendment requests can be **submitted at any time** and are processed according to the type of request as detailed in the amendment policy and procedures.





Regional Transportation Plan

- The Regional Transportation Plan (RTP) is the **fiscally constrained long-range planning document** that articulates the region's transportation vision, goals and objectives and lists projects planned over the next 20 years.
- The RTP is an important part of the early project development process including the **environmental process** and **federal funding eligibility**.
- Amendments to the RTP include:
 - Adding or removing a project from the plan.
 - Significant changes to existing projects including changes to funding amounts, scope, limits and schedule.



Transportation Improvement Program

2021 – 2024



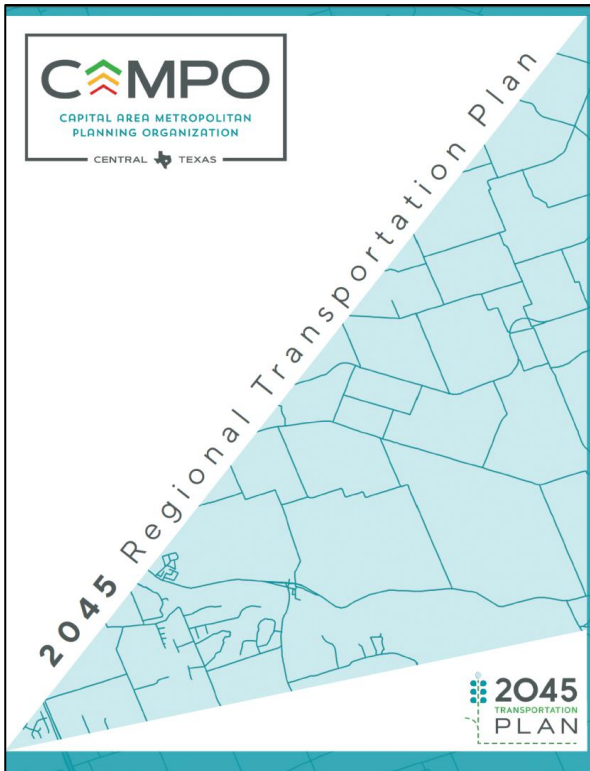
Transportation Improvement Program

- Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) is the program that consists of **federal, state and local transportation projects** that will be implemented over the next four years.
- Projects are required to be in the TIP in order to **authorize and obligate any federal transportation funding** and certify the projects for letting and implementation.
- Amendments to the TIP include:
 - Adding or removing a project from the program.
 - Significant changes to existing projects including changes to funding amounts, scope, limits and schedule.





Planning and Programming Relationship

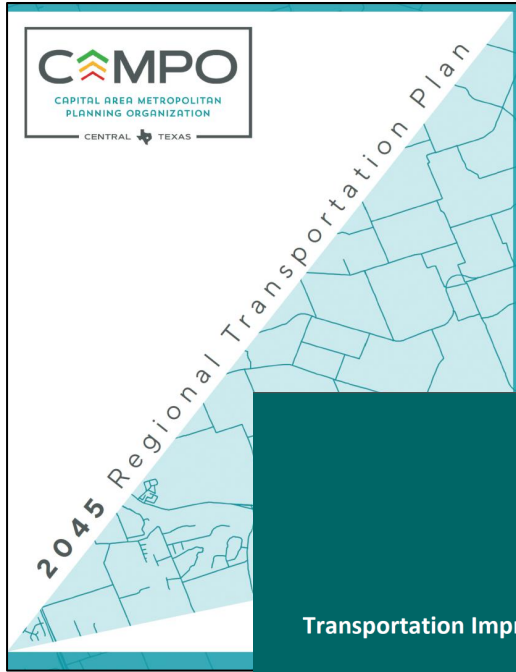


Projects listed in the Regional Transportation Plan **are selected for federal funding** through programs listed in 23 U.S.C., 49 U.S.C. (FHWA or FTA funding programs such as STBG, RAISE or Capital Investment Grants) and then submitted to the Transportation Improvement Program for the funding to be **approved and authorized** by the Transportation Policy Board which is **required for funding to be obligated and released** to the individual projects.

Transportation Improvement Program

2021 – 2024





Next Steps

- Amendment applications are being **reviewed and processed** including coordination with project sponsors, verification of supporting documentation, and review of general eligibility requirements and application completeness.
- Qualifying amendment requests will be taken out for **community outreach** per the process outlined in the Public Participation Plan including a public hearing at the May Transportation Policy Board meeting.
- Amendments approved by the Transportation Policy Board will be reflected in **updated TIP and RTP documentation** and included in the next revision of the Statewide Transportation Improvement Program (STIP) for state and federal approval.



ITEM 6: DISCUSSION ON FINDINGS FROM INITIAL REVIEW OF PROPOSED CHANGES TO CLASSIFICATION OF URBAN AREAS



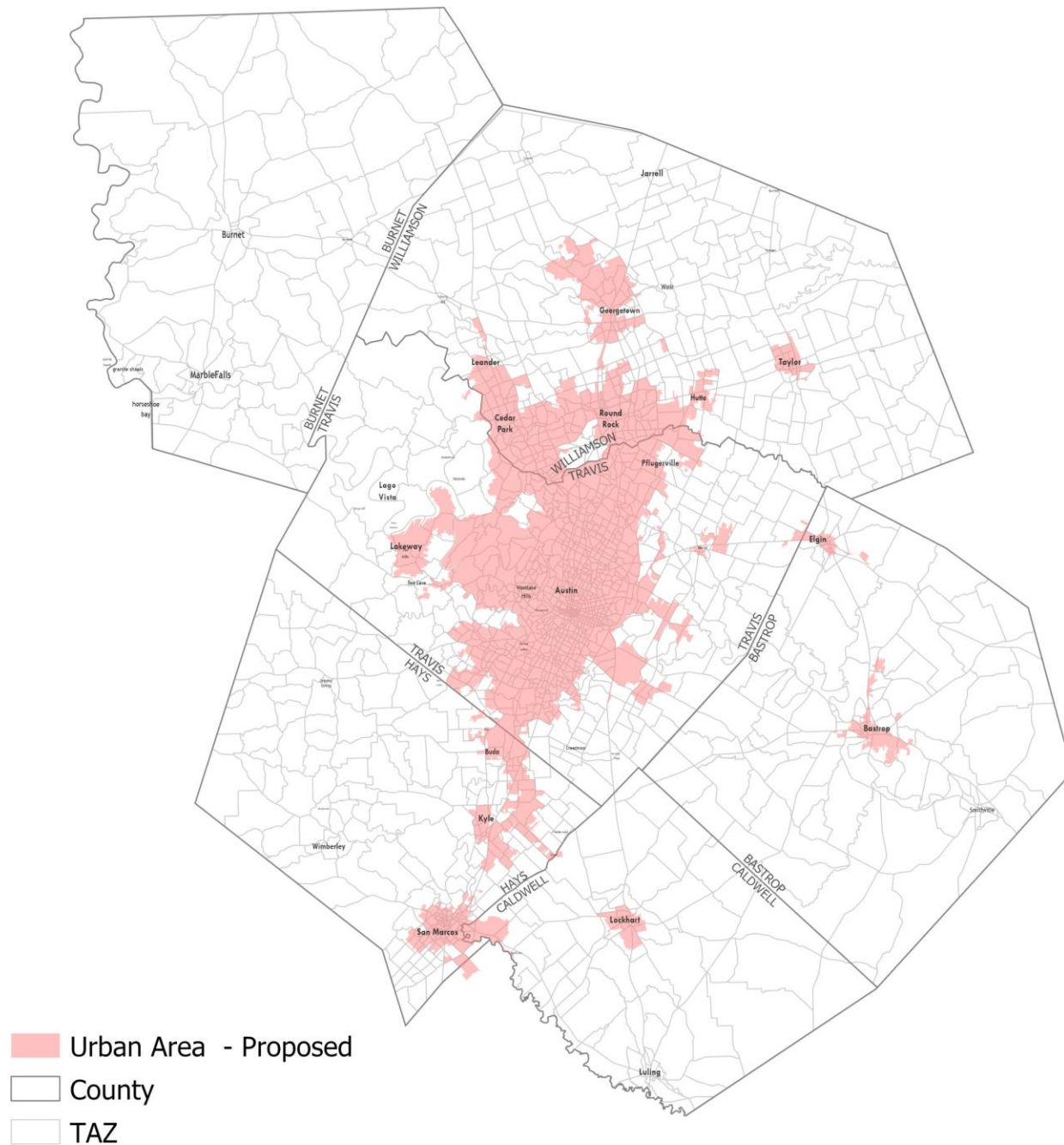
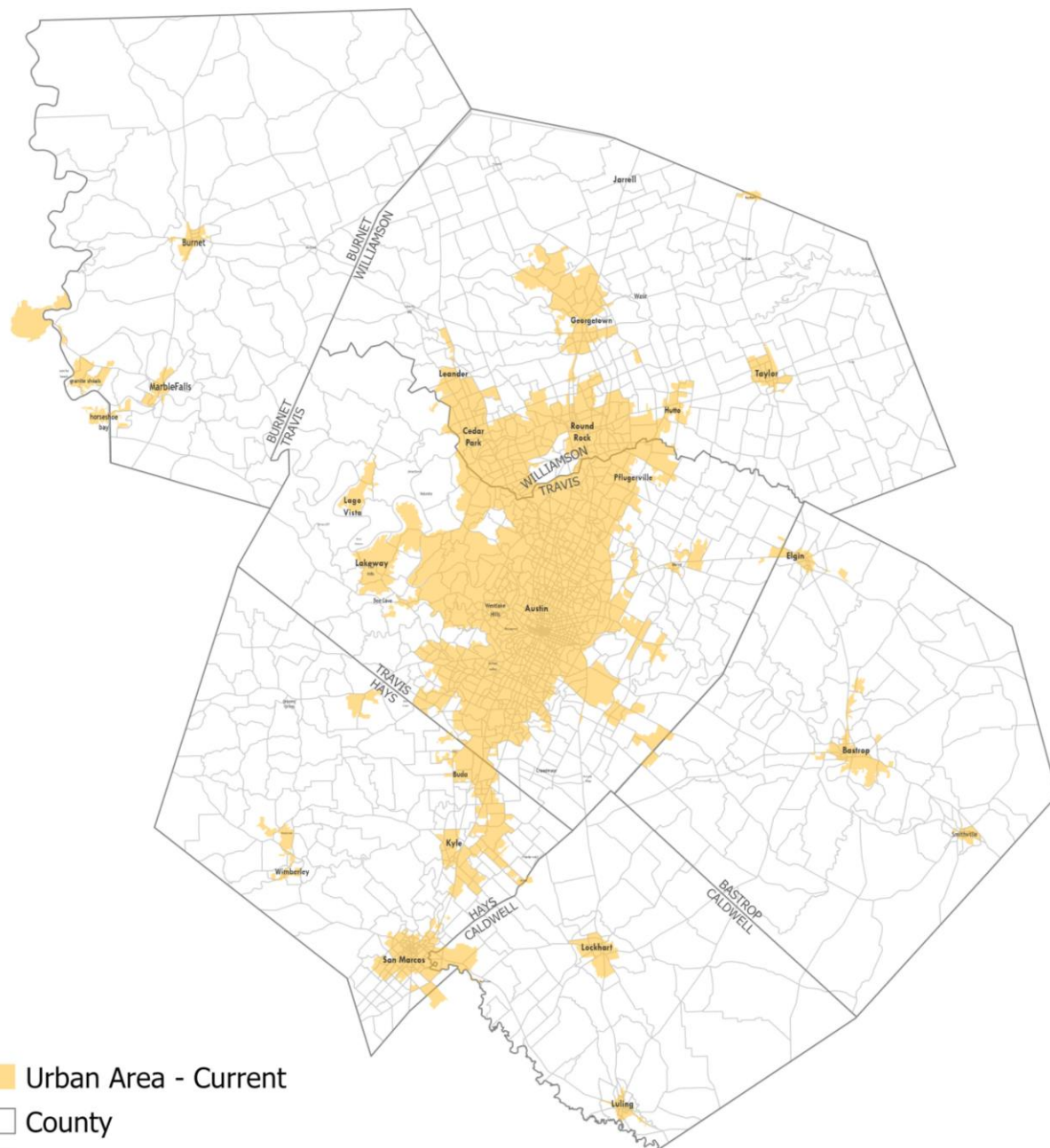


Census Bureau Federal Notice Review

- **February 19, 2021** Federal Register notice: Urban Areas definition change for the 2020 Census
 - » Increase the minimum threshold from 2,500 persons to **4,000 housing units** or **10,000 persons**
 - **Could impact 7 of 14 Urban Areas** in the CAMPO region
 - » Remove low density “hop” or “jump corridor” in Urban Area
 - Too early to determine CAMPO region impacts



Area	Population – Current UA	Population – Proposed UA
Austin – MSA	790390	950807
San Marcos	52826	63220
Taylor	14436	17001
Lockhart	12337	13652
Elgin	8023	10064
Manor	5320	9974
Bastrop	7134	8776
Lago Vista	5281	
Marble Falls	6131	
Burnet	5428	
Luling	5379	
Granite Shoals	5573	
Smithville	3750	
Horseshoe Bay	3134	





Census Bureau Federal Notice Review



Low Impacts to the
CAMPO region

Comments due to
Federal Register:
May 20, 2021



- Adoption of **housing unit density threshold for qualification of Census Blocks**
- Maximum distance of jumps
- Splitting large groups of densely settled territory
- **Stop** the following:
 - » **Distinguishing different types** of Urban Areas
 - » **Including low-density territory** formed during the Urban Area delineation process



ITEM 7: REPORT ON TRANSPORTATION PLANNING ACTIVITIES



ITEM 8: TAC CHAIR ANNOUNCEMENTS





Announcements



- Next TPB Meeting: **May 10, 2021**
- Next TAC Meeting: **May 17, 2021**

Adjournment