Appendix E Supporting Documents - Part 1

- E.1 2015 Transportation Congestion Action Plan
- E.2 2025 Austin Metropolitan Area Transportation Plan Map
- E.3 2016 Mobility Bond Resolution
- E.4 TxDOT Proposed Improvements at Loop 360
- E.5 Austin Street Design Guide June 2017 Draft

GOAL: Reduce congestion using a variety of tools (short term methods coupled with a mid-long term strategy).

IMPROVE TRAFFIC SYSTEM OPERATIONS -

Reduce congestion by ensuring that traffic flows as smoothly as possible within the existing roadway network and traffic signal system.

1. TRAFFIC MANAGEMENT – Traffic Management Center

Austin's Transportation system consists of a network of roadways, sidewalks, bike lanes, transit lines. The system is interconnected and controlled with a myriad of traffic control devices (most arterials are managed via traffic signals). Austin's Traffic Management Center (TMC) functions as the brain for Austin's Advancement Traffic Management System (see below) which facilitates traffic operations throughout the Downtown core and beyond. It is the facility where engineers and technicians can actively monitor Austin's mobility and traffic flow and respond to issues such as malfunctions, traffic emergencies, unexpected congestion, traffic incidents, etc. The TMC is equipped with monitors to view the 180 strategically placed traffic cameras in order to review real-time conditions on Austin's major arterials and in the Downtown Central Business District. Additionally, more than 600 of Austin's 1,011 traffic signals were recently upgraded to work efficiently with Austin's Advanced Traffic Management System (ATMS) so that the signals can be remotely timed, instead of requiring a field visit. By monitoring traffic cameras and signal systems in a single operation center, staff can maximize the efficiency of existing roadways and better respond to system abnormalities such as accidents, inclement weather and special events. Signal operations can also be coordinated with Austin Police Department personnel in the field to address critical traffic congestion needs such as intersection and lane blockages. Operating the TMC at its **full capability** will ensure that the existing transportation system functions at peak efficiency. We need to implement short, mid, and long term changes in how we operate the TMC to minimize traffic congestion.

Immediate Actions:

- Deploy a dedicated Traffic Mobility Unit using Police Officers located at key intersections to keep traffic flowing. Staff in the field, located at these key intersections, will coordinate through the City's Traffic Management Center (TMC) to ensure the "system" is working efficiently. Austin Police Department will station a police officer with command capability in the TMC focused on mobility and connected to on-street police. A pilot program will be launched using Police Officers for the "Traffic Mobility Unit" while evaluating the permanent staffing solution.
- ✓ <u>Activate the Traffic Management Center (TMC)</u> with existing staff to provide limited coverage of both the AM and PM peak periods and peak event/commuter activities (6 a.m. to 8 p.m. weekdays, special events, and weekends as necessary). Austin Transportation has shifted 3 employees to TMC for greater coverage. New engineering hires and existing traffic engineers will be assigned to assist in the TMC on a rotating basis to further expand its capability. Existing staffing can only provide limited improvements. Increasing staffing plan will accelerate improvement plan.
- Implement a "Don't Block the Box" education effort with Downtown building owners, commuters, and the public at large. See: <u>http://www.barrypopik.com/index.php/new_york_city/entry/dont_block_the_box/</u> for information on the New York City "Don't Block the Box" public education campaign.

Mid-term Actions:

- Accelerate operational staffing plan to fully implement Austin's Advanced Traffic Management System (ATMS) and smart signals. The ATMS consists of:
 - Central software this software is the "brain" of the system. The central software is where the transportation management strategies reside. Example strategies include: adaptive signal control to better respond to changing traffic volumes; coordinated signal timing plans; incident management;

transit signal priority for buses; emergency vehicle preemption to improve safety and reduce emergency response times; and procedures to identify when signals are on flash and detection is broken.

- Communications network the network primarily consists of fiber optic lines that connect the central software to field equipment. Communications is essential for operators to know how traffic is flowing and to implement strategies aimed at reducing congestion.
- Field equipment this is the equipment deployed in the field to monitor and manage traffic flow (e.g., vehicle detection, cameras, travel time sensors, sensors on field equipment to know when the equipment fails).

The ATMS allows real-time signal timing adjustments to facilitate differing traffic conditions. This system is extremely powerful, but ATD staff are only now learning and implementing its capabilities. Many Traffic Management Centers across the country operate via consultant contracts. A two- to three-year contract would allow the consultant to provide **immediate expertise and additional personnel** allowing Austin Transportation to accelerate the benefits of Austin's recently installed Advanced Traffic Management System; and then evaluate option to either hire staff internally or pursue a long-term operations contract.

Benefits:

- o 24/7 Active operation of Traffic Management Center.
- Real-time incident management (with APD authority remote authorization for towing, incident response dispatch, obstruction removal, etc.).
- \circ Real-time corridor management (corridor flush plans, event evacuation, etc.).
- o Timing plan development for mobility improvements.
- Re-timing plans to accommodate lane closures where allowed.
- Through technology, connect the Austin Police Department (APD) Dispatch Center with the Austin Transportation Department (ATD) and TxDOT Traffic Management Centers (TMCs). This action is an early predecessor to full regional integration of traffic management capabilities at the regional level.
- Accelerate the City's way-finding project in Downtown and expand advanced way-finding within critical travel corridors to improve travelers' access to our region's major roadways and transit assets such as Interstate 35, MoPac/Loop 1, Capital Metro park-and-rides and rail stations

Longer-term Actions:

The City's newly operational Advanced Traffic Management System (ATMS) has been nationally recognized as one of the smartest new systems in the country, but we still need to do better. <u>Completing the ATMS means fully implementing the planned upgrades to the system by continuing to deploy field equipment and operational planning.</u> Investments will include expanded smart signals, additional signal controllers, expanded use of Bluetooth sensors to capture critical real-time traffic data, traffic volume counters, dynamic message signs, an expanded web portal and public communications system, and other technical elements to reach a state-of-the-art operation.

 <u>REMOVING IMPEDIMENTS TO TRAFFIC FLOW</u> – Our Transportation network is constricted every day from a variety of obstacles in travel lanes. Minimizing these impediments will increase available capacity for mobility.

Immediate Actions:

- Actively enforce on-street delivery rules to avoid blocking traffic. Austin Police Department and Austin Transportation Parking Enforcement will partner to actively pursue delivery vehicles violating a new policy to keep the critical arterials open during peak commuting periods. Deliveries will be incentivized to shift delivery times outside the peak periods or to relocate to non-critical arterial cross-streets where possible.
- <u>Reduce the impact of unnecessary traffic maneuvers on critical arterials</u>. Actively limit mid-block left turns on critical arterials by encouraging alternative routes and by restricting movements where increased management will result in improved mobility.
- ✓ <u>Halt or delay further public construction within the Right of Way (ROW)</u> deemed not critical to other economic activities or not intended to immediately benefit mobility or safety within the affected area. Where possible, public construction in the right-of-way will occur during nighttime, weekend, and off-peak seasons.
- <u>Reinforce the mandate that any closure of the Right of Way (ROW) must be coordinated through the Austin</u> <u>Transportation Department</u> so that it can be communicated to our Traffic Management Center and receive proper scrutiny for its impact on mobility.
 - The Development Assistance Center will review demolition plans (lane closures) for mobility. Downtown Austin Project Coordination Zone (DAPCZ) lane closure notifications to TMC/ROW Management via 311 or other protocol <u>prior to</u> closures will be coordinated with signal operations.
- ✓ <u>Deploy technology improvements at critical intersections</u> to improve mobility where *funding is currently available*. Funded Projects include:
 - Westbound Cesar Chavez Street at South Congress Avenue deploy a dynamic southbound double left turn lane to reduce peak hour congestion.
 - Northbound South First Street at Cesar Chavez Street consider and deploy if appropriate a dynamic left turn lane across the bridge and approaching the Guadalupe Street/Cesar Chavez Street intersection leg.
 - Create and apply a 10 Percent Rule for long term public or private closures of critical arterials the City will allow only one block face within a five-block area to be directly affected by a long-term closure at any given time for construction. Prohibit lane closures and deliveries (via enforcement) within the five-block affected area.
 - ✓ <u>Adopt a Critical Arterials Map and Operations Policy</u> This policy prioritizes mobility as the deciding factor in making decisions on key arterials citywide. The need for use of the ROW (Right of Way) for construction projects and special events would come second to the needs of mobility.

Mid-term Actions:

Expand Core Activity Center Special Event Moratorium. Reduce number of event closures in the Downtown core by 20% by denying any new events and by proactively denying existing Downtown events. Deny closure of major Downtown streets (Congress Avenue Bridge, Congress Avenue, South First Street bridge, Lavaca, Guadalupe, Cesar Chavez, 5th and 6th Streets, 15th Street). Redirect events to areas outside of core. Limit the access to these events by single occupancy vehicle by 50-80%. Require a full park-and-ride plan for access to these events. Access by bike, pedestrian, and transit to be emphasized.

PROVIDE (or free up) ADDITIONAL CAPACITY -

Reduce congestion by proving additional capacity or eliminating some existing traffic demand.

 CONSTRUCTING NEW INFRASTRUCTURE – Our Transportation system is stressed. As more and more people come to Austin, our efforts to ensure our existing system works at capacity (see above) can only go so far. We will have to include every tool in the tool box, including building additional infrastructure. Austin must partner with regional transportation providers to add capacity.

Immediate Actions:

- ✓ <u>Deploy construction improvements at critical intersections</u> to improve mobility where *funding is currently available.* Funded Projects include:
 - Accelerate funding for the IH 35 at 51st Street Interchange project, assuring that both the northbound and southbound portions of the project are realized as quickly as possible.

Mid-term Actions:

- Identify funding and implementation strategies to achieve the mobility visions established as part of our recent major corridor development plans in the Lamar Boulevard, Burnet Lane, Riverside Drive, FM 969/MLK Boulevard, West Campus, and Airport Boulevard corridors.
- Work with Mobility Committee and Council Members to continue the identification and development of corridor planning efforts for key corridors citywide such as:
 - South Brodie Lane, Congress Avenue, 7th east of IH 35, Parmer Lane, Pleasant Valley/Todd Lane, William Cannon, Cesar Chavez, Central Lamar, Rundberg, Manchaca, William Cannon, 2222 (MoPac to 620), Parmer Lane, Howard Lane, Southwest Parkway, Spicewood Springs Blvd (360-MoPac)
- Identify Funding to improve key intersections where mobility falters due to incomplete street grids and/or substandard intersection design. Partner with our regional transportation partners and jurisdictions to incrementally purchase Right-of-Way at key intersections required to realign offset grids. This will allow the City to identify and modify split phased signals and other inefficient intersections throughout Austin. We have identified over 180 intersection projects throughout the City and are still adding to that list.
- Address the requirement for new development within Austin to pay its fair share of needed transportation improvements. Shift the responsibility for development review of transportation issues to the Austin Transportation Department to assure that our development policies related to mobility are consistent with the City's transportation management and strategic mobility vision; including the use of *Transportation Impact Fee Analysis* and the application of an appropriate fee structure for new development.
- Support ongoing Transportation Projects:
 - The successful deployment of the joint City of Austin/TXDOT plan to remake the **Interstate 35 Corridor** through central Austin.
 - The completion and integration into our City's roadway network of the **MoPac North Express Lanes**, now under construction by the Central Texas Regional Mobility Authority.
 - The development of an environmentally compatible design for a **MoPac South Express Lane project** that demonstrates an ability to improve access to and from southwest Austin without overwhelming our Downtown street network and negatively affecting neighborhoods.
 - The development of a viable **Loop 360 mobility plan** that enhances the travel capacity on our City's western border, providing access not only to the neighborhoods within the corridor but also to the northwest portions of our growing region.
 - The construction of the **US 183 corridor** in east and north Austin to provide continuous access controlled facilities with express options from our far northwest all the way to our regional airport.
 - The completion of the interim improvements and planning for the long-term project for the "Y" at Oak Hill

Longer-term Actions:

- Launch the start of a new Strategic Mobility Plan. The Austin Transportation Department has previously implemented 2010, 2012 and 2014 Strategic Mobility Plans. It is time to re-ignite a public process across the City of Austin to address mobility and **all transportation modes (roadway, pedestrian, bike, transit, etc.).** This effort will include partnering with other regional transportation providers to make sure that Austin's vision for mobility aligns with regional plans (e.g. CAMPO 2040 Plan) and vice versa. With the City's Strategic Mobility Planning effort we can work to ensure that regional investments meet the environmental, community, and economic needs of the City of Austin. Services provided and new capacity planned for implementation by our partners must respect the integrity of our community. The Council Mobility Committee will begin this process by soliciting Council and public comment on transportation needs in April.
- PROVIDING TRANSPORTATION ALTERNATIVES As stated above, we will need every tool in the tool box to address our mobility challenges including reducing the number of vehicles on our roadways.

Immediate Actions:

✓ <u>Expedite Travel Demand Management (TDM) for City employees within the Core Activity Center.</u> The City Manager directs a mandatory 20% off-set in travel (especially during peak hours) for all City employees within the Downtown core – by providing employees with alternative work schedule options, encouraging the use of alternative modes and teleworking. Directors will be held accountable for achieving a 20% off-set in single-occupancy vehicle trips during peak hours for their departments. As part of this effort, the City will accelerate the schedule for the roll out of the City's new Employee Parking Cash-Out Program that shifts the responsibility for choosing how to store a vehicle in the congested Downtown from the City as an employer to our employees within the central core. This program had been on a schedule to roll out in 2016 as a tax deferred benefit option for employees, but can be rolled out in advance with the City absorbing the federal tax liability as part of the early program.

Mid-term Actions:

Work with **Capital Metro** to enhance transit routes as commuter options to and from the Downtown Core. We desire to partner with the region's transit providers to focus on individual stop placement on our critical arterials, the deployment of technologies and designs to improve the efficiency of transit services but not at the expense of other forms of mobility. We want to encourage the deployment of a *more robust system of park-and-ride commuter stations* – especially in the southern and eastern portions of our region; and the I-35, SH 71 and US 290 corridors where growth is poised to explode due to our region's strong economic growth.

<u>Consider increasing on-street parking costs at pay stations</u>. This measure would encourage more people to use commute alternatives into the core, and would provide greater parking turnover on streets – freeing up spaces so cars don't circle looking for spaces. Downtown utilization is approximately 85% capacity, which is considered to be full.



2025 Austin Metropolitan Area Transportation Plan Northwest Quadrant





This map has been produced by the City of Austin for the sole purpose of aiding regional planning and is not warranted for any other use. No warranty is made regarding its accuracy or completeness.

Produced by City of Austin Transportation, Planning and Sustainability Department Long Range Land Use and Transportation Planning September 20, 2004 mlp E.3 - 2016 Mobility Bond Resolution

RESOLUTION NO. 20160818-074

WHEREAS, City staff estimates that \$500 million in bond capacity for an eight year bond program is available under Austin's current debt tax rate; and

WHEREAS, City Council desires to preserve \$250 million of bond capacity - for a future bond referendum in 2017 or 2018; and

WHEREAS, City Council is ordering a Special Election to be held on November 8, 2016 for the purpose of asking the voters to authorize \$720 million in general obligation bonds comprised of \$250 million of the City's \$500 million of bond capacity under its existing debt tax rate, and an additional \$470 million associated with an estimated debt tax rate increase of approximately 2.25 cents per \$100 worth of property valuation; and

WHEREAS, City Council desires to allocate the \$720 million as follows:

(i) \$101,000,000 for the following Regional Mobility projects to address congestion and enhance safety: (a) \$46,000,000 for improvements to the Loop 360 corridor intersections at Westlake Drive, Courtyard Drive, RM 2222, Lakewood Drive and Spicewood Springs Road/Bluff Stone Lane, (b) \$17,000,000 for improvements to Spicewood Springs Road east of Loop 360, (c) \$30,000,000 for improvements to Anderson Mill Road, intersection

of RM 620 and RM 2222, and Parmer Lane between SH45 and Brushy Creek, and (d) \$8,000,000 for improvements to Old Bee Caves Road Bridge;

(ii) \$482,000,000 for the following Corridor Improvement Projects: (a) implementation of corridor plans for North Lamar Boulevard, Burnet Road, Airport Boulevard, East Martin Luther King Jr. Boulevard/FM 969, South Lamar Boulevard, East Riverside Drive and Guadalupe Street (b) implementation of corridor plans for Slaughter Lane and/or William Cannon Drive, and (c) preliminary engineering and design of improvements for the following additional critical arterials and corridors: William Cannon Drive, Slaughter Lane, North Lamar/Guadalupe Street, Rundberg West, Rundberg East, East Colony Park Loop Road, East Martin Luther King Jr. Boulevard/FM 969, South Congress Avenue, Manchaca, and South Pleasant Valley; and

(iii) \$137,000,000 for the following Local Mobility Projects: (a) \$37,500,000 for sidewalks, (b) \$27,500,000 for implementation of Safe Routes to School, to be divided evenly among each Council District, (c) \$26,000,000 for urban trails for transportation and mobility purposes, (d) \$20,000,000 for bikeways for transportation and mobility purposes, (e) \$15,000,000 for implementation of fatality reduction strategies including projects listed on the Top Crash Location Intersection Priorities Improvements List, and (f) \$11,000,000 for the following sub-standard streets/capital renewal: Falwell Lane, William Cannon Overpass Bridge, FM 1626, Cooper Lane, Ross Road, Circle S. Road, Rutledge Spur, Davis Lane, Latta Drive/Brush Country, Johnny Morris Road, and Brodie Lane; and

WHEREAS, City Council desires that the \$720 million bond program be completed within eight years from voter approval and in accordance with the guidance and procedures set forth in this resolution; NOW, THEREFORE,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF AUSTIN:

The Council, by this official action, reaffirms its commitment to the voters regarding the conditions contained in the ordinance calling the November 2016 Mobility Bond election. Further, Council, by this official action, clarifies and declares its intent and commitment to the voters to create a contract with the voters that specifies that the proceeds from the \$720,000,000 in bonds and notes shall only be used for the projects identified in the ordinance calling the November 2016 Mobility Bond election.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED:

Council, by this official action declares its intent to contract with the voters as to the following permissible purposes for which bond proceeds must be expended and the processes that must be followed in determining and prioritizing those expenditures:

(A) Upon voter approval of the November 2016 Mobility Bond Program, the City Manager shall begin coordination, design, and engineering activities as soon as possible for all projects listed under subsection (ii), parts (a) and (b) above associated with the \$482,000,000 allocated for Corridor Improvement Projects in order to develop recommendations for a construction program for City Council consideration. When City staff has gathered sufficient data to develop potential construction elements for the Corridor Improvement Projects, and before any construction funding is appropriated or construction initiated for these projects, the City Manager is directed to bring forth recommendations supported by identifiable metrics for implementation of a "Corridor Construction Program" in ways that prioritize: a) reduction in congestion; b) improved level of service and reduced delay at intersections for all modes of travel; c) connectivity, and improved effectiveness of transit operations within these corridors and throughout the system; and subject to the foregoing, also makes allowances for: i) preservation of existing affordable housing and local businesses on the corridors, and opportunities for development of new affordable housing along the corridors, including, but not limited to, the use of community land trusts, tax increment finance zones along corridors, homestead preservation zone tools, revisions to the S.M.A.R.T. Housing

Program, and targeted investments on the corridors utilizing affordable housing bonds and the Housing Trust Fund; ii) geographic dispersion of funding; and iii) opportunities to facilitate increased supply of mixed-income housing;

(B) Subject to subsection (A) above, the "Corridor Construction Program" developed by the City Manager for City Council consideration shall recommend implementation timelines in accordance with need, as established by the Imagine Austin Comprehensive Plan, the Critical Arterials List, Top Crash Location Intersection Priorities List, and other policy plans as identified in this resolution;

(C) Subject to subsection (A) above, in implementing the "Corridor Construction Program," the City Manager shall further emphasize making corridors livable, walkable, safe, and transit-supportive, and aligned with the principles and metrics in the Imagine Austin Comprehensive Plan, with goals of reducing vehicle miles traveled, increasing transit ridership and non-vehicular trips, and promoting healthy, equitable, and complete communities as growth occurs on these corridors;

(D) In reviewing and approving the Corridor Construction Program, the City Council shall be guided by the same priorities and consideration 'as apply to the City Manager as set out in Sub Sections (A), (B), and (C) above;

(E) The City Manager shall revisit and update existing corridor plans as needed to ensure that final design and implementation conforms to the region's most recently adopted transportation plans and recently adopted policies and standards for transportation infrastructure design, including, but not limited to:

- Capital Metro Connections 2025;
- Capital Metro Service Guidelines and Standards;
- Project Connect Regional High Capacity Transit Plan;
- City of Austin Strategic Housing Plan;
- City of Austin Transit Priority Policy;
- City of Austin Strategic Mobility Plan;
- City of Austin Complete Streets Policy;
- City of Austin Sidewalk Master Plan;
- City of Austin Urban Trails Master Plan;
- City of Austin Bicycle Master Plan;
- Vision Zero Plan;
- applicable National Association of City Transportation Officials standards; and
- Imagine Austin Comprehensive Plan;

(F) The City Manager is directed to coordinate with other local taxing entities and identify and pursue potential opportunities for grants and other collaborative funding from federal, state, local, as well as private sources. If additional funding is required to complete specified improvements, the City Manager is directed to identify available funding within existing capital budgets and other sources described above (provided that neither the identification, commitment nor receipt of such additional funding shall limit Council's authority to proceed with the issuance of bonds or notes authorized by the November 2016 Mobility Bond Election). If the cost of improvements associated with an identified Regional Mobility project is less than the amount designated for that specific project, the excess funds shall be used on additional improvements in the corridors on which identified Regional Mobility projects are being implemented; and

(G) The City Manager is directed to analyze existing capital project delivery systems and processes in order to recommend potential changes and resource requirements to complete the proposed bond program within eight years from initiation (provided that bonds and notes authorized by the November 2016 Mobility Bond Election shall be issued to provide funding for the bond program at the appropriate time, as determined by Council, which may be more than eight years after initiation of the bond program). Further, the City Manager shall bring forth recommendations to City Council within 90 days of voter approval, outlining a process for City Council oversight, including a report to the Mobility Committee, a report to the full Council, and a timeline and process for reporting to the Citizen Bond Oversight Committee.

(H) City Manager is directed to include in bond informational materials that educate the voters about the bond election, in addition to the typical voter information about projects and programs that are included in the bond program as described above, as well as the typical tax rate and tax bill impact information that has been included in previous bond information, tax impact information for a median-valued house and houses of various appraised values in a Bond Voter Information Brochure and a tax bill impact calculator to be included on a Bond Program Informational Website.

ADOPTED: ____August 18 ____, 2016 ATTEST:

2000 Jannette S. Goodall City Clerk

E.4 - TxDOT Proposed Improvements at Loop 360



E.5 - Austin Street Design Guide - June 2017 Draft

AUSTIN street design guide

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Introduction

The purpose of the City of Austin Street Design Guide is to assist City staff and private sector street design professionals in applying a consistent approach to street design particularly for right-of-way planning and new streets. The guide may also be useful for street design in constrained right-of-way. In the redesign of existing streets, additional engineering design work and public engagement may result in design features outside of the scope of this design guide. Within either of these contexts, this guide is a first step in the application of a consistent and predictable approach to street design. This approach can result in improved street design consistent with implementation of **Imagine Austin** and faster development application review times.

This guide was developed by the Austin Transportation Department in coordination with other City Departments and Capital Metro, and will be piloted throughout 2017. City staff, the development community, and neighborhood organizations are encouraged to use the guide as they work on street design as it may come up in development applications throughout the year.



Streets should be designed to complement current and future land uses.

CHALLENGES:

- Different types of places require specific transportation strategies
- Competition for space
- Competition for resources

This guide is not a replacement for the Transportation Criteria Manual (TCM). It is meant to provide modern guidance on street design and provide a consistent platform to begin discussion and negotiations regarding street design. At the close of the Street Design Guide pilot, ATD staff will review feedback received and make final adjustments to the guide's approach and recommended cross sections. The final outcome will be to amend the TCM to include an updated approach to street design and new cross sections that were developed during the pilot phase.

Comments on the guide and its recommended street cross-sections will be accepted through December 31, 2017 through the following ATD website: http://austintexas.gov/page/street-design-guide/. The timeline for the Street Design Guide Pilot corresponds with the update to the City's transportation plan (Austin Strategic Mobility Plan) and the development of a new land development code (CodeNEXT). All three planning processes have technical and public engagement touch points to ensure the final outcome of all three regulatory documents are complementary and work in tandem toward implementation of **Imagine Austin**. The Austin Strategic Mobility Plan, CodeNEXT and the TCM update are expected to be complete in 2018.

Positioning the City for Successful Street Design

The new approach to multimodal street design presented in this Street Design Guide is consistent with City of Austin policies and considers the following key ingredients: community context, street level, right-of-way, mode specific plans, design considerations, and number of lanes.

Other considerations that are not discussed in detail in this guide, but are factors in street design include: utility placement/assignments, emergency response consideration, and placemaking. Examples of reference materials for these types of factors include, but are not limited to, the Transportation Criteria Manual, the Utilities Criteria Manual, and the Land Development Code.





Street Design Process

The process for developing a major update to the Transportation Plan for the City of Austin began with the existing Austin Metropolitan Area Transportation Plan (AMATP). The AMATP served Austin well, but was primarily an expression of the motor vehicle capacity needs of the community. The City has adopted mode-specific plans for bike and pedestrian, as well as a Complete Streets Policy. Capital Metro has also developed transit plans, including Connections 2025 which is an updated service plan. In 2015, the City initiated a modernization of the City's land development code (CodeNEXT) where it became clear that a more coordinated strategy was needed. Aligning transportation decisions and street design with the community's vision and expectations is the motivation behind the Austin Street Design Guide (ASDG) and Austin Strategic Mobility Plan (ASMP). The intent is to provide a common vocabulary regarding streets and an approach to consider the variety of influences on right-of-way and design.

Equally important is having a process to identify priority street design features when there simply isn't enough room to best accommodate all modes of travel. This process will offer guidance on mode accommodation based on street function and community context, a process that is supportive of our transportation goals from **Imagine Austin**. Priority of mode will be determined upon completing the ASMP and this guide will be updated accordingly.

The result of this effort is a strategy which will enhance the integration of a variety of community objectives for transportation and the processes which influence street design decision making. To accomplish this task, street design decisions should be influenced by the following:



Street Design Elements

1. Community Context is derived from urban planning principles and nomenclature used to describe places. During the pilot phase of this guide, context will be selected by designers using professional judgment. In the future, it will be determined by a map adopted in either CodeNEXT, ASMP, or both.

2. Street Level is a modernization of the street functional classification naming and indicates the role the street plays in the network.

3. Right-of-way (existing or future) for each segment of the street network determines the limitations of street design by defining the width of the street.

4. Mode Specific Plans & Design Considerations like the Bicycle Master Plan, Urban Trails Plan, Sidewalk Master Plan, Capital Metro Service Plan, Project Connect, and the CAMPO Regional Transportation Plan should be used to identify aspirational goals for each travel mode and allow for an integrated strategy of implementation.

5. Number of lanes (either existing or planned) ensures that adequate capacity is accounted for vehicles, while balancing the need for other modes on streets.

6. Street Design is the culmination of these elements to determine the cross-sections of these roadways. The ultimate design of the corridor will also include an analysis of street operations at the intersections to determine appropriate traffic control based on performance measures and community context.

Street Design Decision Process

This guide provides significant detail regarding street crosssection design strategy for Austin. It recognizes that there is a need to be context sensitive while also understanding the unique purpose of each street in our overall transportation network. It also recognizes that there won't always be enough space to include all of the optimum design features and encourages users to reference existing mode plans to assist in prioritizing these features. Generally the process follows the street cross-section design decision process. The ultimate corridor design will also include intersection improvements, which can have the largest impact on the operation of a street facility in terms of both capacity and context. Page 14 refers to additional ROW that may be necessary at intersections to provide adequate capacity. This document does not reflect choice of intersection improvements, but the choice of an all-way stop, traffic circle, roundabout, or signal can depend on both the capacity needs and intersection context."



Street Zones

As we consider the creation of a street design strategy, it's important to understand the variety of elements that could comprise a street. These elements are organized in different portions of the street, referred to as street zones.

All Street Zones



Pedestrian Zone

Bicycle and Street Edge Zone Motor Vehicle and Transit Zone

Bicycle and Pedestrian Zone Street Edge Zone

Bicycle and Street Edge Zone



Note: Utilities may be found in all three street zones and are subject to local utility requirements, per City of Austin Code and technical criteria manuals. For mobility purposes, utility location is preferred in the pedestrian zone.

Pedestrian Zone



Motor Vehicle and Transit Zone



MOTOR VEHICLE AND TRANSIT ZONE

Elements May Ir	nclude:
PEDESTRIAN ZONE	Building setbacks*; Utilities; Yards; Stoop Area; Sidewalk; Street Trees; Furniture; Driveways; Urban Trail; Signage; Transit Stops
	(*Setbacks defer to private frontages standards in the Land Development Code)
Bicycle Lanes; Parking/Other (Parallel or back-in angle parking); Buffered Bicycle BICYCLE AND STREET EDGE ZONE	
	Curb Space uses instead of Parallel Parking: Parklets; Bicycle Corals; etc.
MOTOR VEHICLE AND TRANSIT ZONE	Travel Lanes; Median*; Center Turn Lane; Pedestrian Refuges; High Capacity Transit
AND TRANSIT ZONE	(*Median includes a 6 inch curb)

Typology Ingredients

Community Context

Context is a term used to describe the setting or surrounding of a particular area. The most prominent factors in determining context are the land uses and community characteristics. At a high level, communities are made up of urban, suburban, and transitional areas. Land uses such as residential, retail, commercial, industrial, etc., combine to create different community context types.

For the purpose of street design, the Community Contexts were grouped into the following categories:



(Context will be updated to correspond to the context categories established within CodeNEXT, once it is adopted)





Austin Street Design Guide - DRAFT



Urban

Urban areas are higher intensity areas (outside of downtown) or Activity Centers with a compact form, well connected streets, and a mix of uses. These areas best support multiple modes of travel.

Characteristics	
BUILDING FORM	Mix of attached and detached buildings, shallow to no setbacks, balance between landscape and buildings.
LAND USE PATTERN	Mix of housing types (apartments, townhouses, small lot Single Family); mixed with retail and employment activities.
LOCAL EXAMPLES	University Area, Hyde Park, South Congress.



Suburban

Suburban areas are those that have developed with auto-dependent patterns. Single-family residential neighborhoods are physically separated from area destinations (e.g. retail, office parks). Streets are more hierarchical and less connected.

Characteristics		
BUILDING FORM	Mostly detached buildings, medium to large lots and setbacks.	
LAND USE PATTERN	Primarily medium to large single-family residential; blocks are large and irregular, with looping and curvilinear streets.	
LOCAL EXAMPLES	Avery Ranch, Scofield Farms, Franklin Park	



Special District - Downtown

Downtown is the highest intensity area of the city. It has a grid of small blocks and a compact development pattern. The modal hierarchy is pedestrian first, then bicycle and transit, then vehicles.

Special District - Industrial

Industrial areas include low-density industrial parks and retail e.g. warehouses, manufacturing, light industry, shipping, and scattered commercial. Blocks may be large and irregular; streets must accommodate significant truck traffic.



Special District - Alternatives

This special context describes areas primarily along and west of Hwy 360. They feature environmental protections and rolling terrain that dictates distinct street designs. Development patterns are most similar to Suburban. Other Alternatives are provided for bicycle design when a raised bicycle facility is not feasible.



Street Level

The Austin Metropolitan Area Transportation Plan uses Thoroughfare Classifications to categorize and define street design. This design guide includes a description of all streets (not just thoroughfares) and organizes the designations into categories called Street Levels. Each Level considers the function of the street in two ways: how it operates within the larger network, and its local purpose to provide safe and effective mobility through multiple travel modes. Many factors play into defining each Street Level including desired speeds, access, triplength, and parking. For Austin, the Street Levels were broken into six levels. Levels 1-5 are a hierarchy of streets based on the function of their Motor Vehicle and Transit Zone and their Bicycle and Street Edge Zone, while Level 0 refers to alleys. The different Street Levels shown on pages 10-11, provide a simple visual of how the different levels function. The streets range from more Regional uses (Level 5 - Level 4) to City uses (Level 4 - Level 2), and block level uses (Level 1 - Level 0).

Additionally, the purpose of a street can change when it passes through activity centers and special districts, resulting in corresponding changes in street design.

Characteristics for each Street level can be found in the following pages. A map will be developed as part of the Austin Strategic Mobility Plan, and will define current and future Street Level designations.



Level 5 streets are primarily controlled access streets (freeways and expressways). These streets are multi-lane roadways meant for higher speeds and longer distance travel. They carry traffic through the region and into the City of Austin. They're often managed by entities other than the City and can include tolled and non-tolled facilities.



LEVEL 5 - Characteristics	
Functional Classification	Freeways & Interstates
Local Examples	IH-35, US Hwy 290, Loop 1 (Mopac)
Primary Characteristics	Higher speeds Longer trips Access management Limited access Inter-regional

Level 4 streets accommodate travel into and out of the City from the surrounding area. They are often multi-lane thoroughfares that sometimes include a landscaped median. These can also include freeway and interstate frontage roads. They provide strong commuter linkages and tend to prioritize vehicular capacity. As a result, they must provide a clearly defined pedestrian realm and separated bike facilities.



LEVEL 4 - Characteristics		
Functional Classification	Principle/Major Arterial	
Local Examples	Parmer (FM 734), FM 973, Southwest Parkway	
Primary Characteristics	Commuter linkages Vehicle priority Intra-regional Access management Separated bicycle facilities	

Level 3 streets may look similar to Level 4 streets but have a greater role in balancing local land access with moving people and goods. Typically, they have lower travel speeds and traffic volumes than Level 4 streets. They also tend to be limited in width by the built environment that they serve and have the greatest need for accommodation of multiple modes.



LEVEL 3 - Characteristics	
Functional Classification	Minor Arterial/Major Arterial
Local Examples	Lamar Blvd, S. Congress Ave, S. 1st Street
Primary Characteristics	Balance between mobility and access to the built environment Slower streets High levels of street activity

Level 2 streets connect neighborhoods to each other. They balance mobility with access by providing good access to neighborhood-serving business districts, retail, and services. They tend to connect to other Level 2, 3, and 4 streets.



LEVEL 2 - Characteristics		
Functional Classification	Collector	
Local Examples	Woodrow Ave, Kinney Ave, Amherst Drive	
Primary Characteristics	Connects to citywide street network Connects to neighborhood-serving retail/ services Circulation function	

Level 1 streets serve exclusively residential destinations, typically with no retail or mixed-use. In some examples, the street may be a shared street or operate with a yield condition. Their primary purpose is to provide block-level, local access and provide connectivity to higher level streets.



LEVEL 1 - Characteristics		
Functional Classification	Residential Collector, Local	
Local Examples	Various	
Primary Characteristics	Slow speeds Connects to higher order streets Frequent driveways	

Level 0 is reserved for alleys. These streets typically provide access for service vehicles and/or residential access.

V	
Λ	Alleys
V /	↓
,	

LEVEL 0 - Characteristics	
Functional Classification	Alleys
Local Examples	Various in Downtown, Hyde Park, and Mueller
Primary Characteristics	Narrow right-of-way Very low vehicle volume and speeds Vehicular use is only for property access

Right-of-Way

Right-of-way is a key deciding factor for the design of streets. The most recognizable use of the right-of-way is for transportation features like streets and trails; however, utilities above ground and below ground are equally important occupants of this public space.

The delineation of the public rights-of-way are not always visible, but are often assumed by the transition from public features (transportation and utilities) to private features like buildings and off-street parking. However, many street features can sometimes occur in both the private realm and public right-of-way.

In some areas of Austin, the ability to acquire additional right-of-way is possible because there are not as many features on private property immediately adjacent to the right-of-way corridor. Conversely, urban areas and established streets tend to have private property immediately adjacent to the existing right-of-way, making additional right-of-way difficult to acquire.

How does right-of-way affect street design?

When seeking to improve existing streets one simple question is of utmost importance: "Is there enough room to accommodate all of the desired features within the existing right-of-way?"

If the answer to this question is "yes" then the city's new street design guidelines will be applied and improvements can be carried forward. If the answer is "no" then street design will be driven by criteria under one of the following four scenarios.



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Scenario A - Acquire/Dedicate ROW: There isn't enough existing right-of-way to accommodate the standard improvements BUT there is potential to acquire more. Under this scenario, a street evaluation or feasibility study would

identify the space necessary to accommodate the desired improvements, compare it with existing right-of-way dimensions and determine the increment of space needed.

This scenario would often occur in places where building setbacks are sufficient to accommodate a street widening.



Improved corridor through widening (Able to obtain 12' of ROW)

Scenario B - Apply Compact Design:

There isn't enough existing right-of-way to accommodate the standard improvements BUT if we applied the compact set of design guidelines we can accomplish many of the same objectives. A simple example of this would be the application of compact dimensions as opposed to standard minimum dimensions for things like travel lane widths, sidewalks, parking, and bike lanes. Depending on the degree of constraints, this scenario can require detailed design and engineering that exceeds the scope of this guide.



92' needed but only 74' available



Compact Design within existing 74' (Using Urban Design Matrix to reduce 18')

Scenario C - Prioritize Elements: There isn't enough rightof-way to accommodate all of the desired improvements AND it is unlikely that additional right-of-way can be acquired/ dedicated. This situation will be more common in established corridors and within the urban context of our community. When this occurs, a process to determine the priority features for the street will be necessary AND a greater tolerance for more compact design details should be permitted beyond the scope of this guidance. This process allows for a consistent approach to decision making so that Austin's mobility objectives are achieved incrementally as street improvements are made. This process, which will be informed through the Austin Strategic Mobility Plan, and project-specific public processes, will allow for a consistent approach to the redesign of streets.



Scenario D - Privatize Elements: In some cases, like in Scenario A, it becomes necessary to think outside the current right-of-way. Another tool the City can use is an easement. This requires a portion of the private realm to be dedicated to another use, such as a pedestrian realm (sidewalks, buffer, lighting, etc.). This option may be defined in the Land Development Code of the ASMP for known constrained corridors requires discussion with local developers and business owners.

How much right-of-way is needed?

Communicating the optimum amount of right-of-way can be accomplished by understanding the function of the street and the context of the area that it serves. In other words, the optimum right-of-way width is directly influenced by the anticipated capacity needs of the street (how many motor vehicular travel lanes and dedicated facilities for pedestrians, transit, and bicycles) and the presence of other safety and operational features assumed to be a part of the street design (medians, shoulders, dedicated turnlanes, etc.). While this simple approach will work in most situations, there will always be exceptions. Streets with exceptional situations and unique conditions may result in specific corridor plans with slightly different design features than those showcased in this brochure. However, these should be the exception and will always involve public input prior to specific design decisions being made.

How much right-of-way is needed at intersections?

Designing multimodal facilities requires trade-offs because often times not enough right-of-way is available to accommodate all modes of travel. The intersection is a pivotal point where the different street designs intersect – resulting in the most potential for conflicts between the trade-offs being considered. There are a variety of reasons for these conflicts:

- A corridor's vehicular level of service is often controlled by the capacity of an intersection. Increasing the capacity at an intersection through an additional right- or left-turn lane improves a vehicular travel, but can make it more difficult to continue to provide bicycle and pedestrian facilities and/or can make it more dangerous for a pedestrian or cyclist to cross an intersection.
- Intersections are typically transition areas for different street levels. The transitional area can be problematic in determining what design elements should be prioritized over another.
- Intersections play an important role in vehicular congestion relief, multi-modal travel, and economic vitality. The need to balance these three elements can create a strain on the capability of the transportation network to be symbiotic with adjacent land uses.

Designing intersections is a complicated balance between traffic engineering, urban planning, and land use. How well an intersection functions is determined by a combination of the driveway management functional area upstream of the intersection and the amount of right-of-way available.

Driveways should be minimized in the intersection influence area. *This area is defined as the distance of the left turn lanes from the intersection.* For each level, the influence area changes based on context as illustrated in the table below.

TURN LANE LENGTH (DISTANCE TO DRIVEWAY)				
LEVEL	URBAN	SUBURBAN		
Level 2	205 ft	240 ft		
Level 3	305 ft	360 ft		
Level 4	365 ft	430 ft		

Based on NCHRP 780 Design Guidance for Intersection Auxiliary Lanes which assumes 100' for storage of vehicle. Storage length can be modified.

The influence areas outlined above illustrate the importance of providing adequate spacing. Due to the spacing requirements, a driveway should only intersect with a Level 1 and Level 2, and should be minimal on Level 3 and Level 4.



Right-turn lanes are anticipated to be necessary at certain intersections. Below is a matrix of additional ROW needed to accommodate the right-turn contained within the influence areas listed above. A more detailed traffic study could be completed to shorten the influence area or to determine that a right-turn lane is not necessary. Innovative intersection treatments, such as roundabouts and continuous flow designs, are option that can improve

	Level 1	Level 2	Level 3	Level 4
Level 1	0	0	0	0
Level 2	0	+14	+14	+14
Level 3	0	+14	+14	+14
Level 4	0	+14	+14	+14

safety and mobility for all modes. (<u>http://safety.fhwa.dot.</u> gov/intersection/innovative/roundabouts/).

Mode Specific, Regulatory & Other Design Considerations

Austin practices a planning approach which recognizes the quality of existing mode plans and strategies already in place for bicycles, pedestrian, and transit and the importance of incorporating them into the design process.

4

These plans offer information vital to the success of multimodal integration and prioritization. The information contained in each Mode Plan identifies existing plans for each travel mode that must be considered as incremental decisions are made. The plan for each mode contains strategic elements for creating a well-coordinated and integrated multimodal network.

These plans remain freestanding strategies and should be periodically updated to reflect changing circumstances and emerging trends and best practices. Austin will benefit from these incremental enhancements over time by allowing them to inform the decision making process of street design (as opposed to ad hoc decisions). The Austin Strategic Mobility Plan will integrate all mode plans into one comprehensive strategy.

Additionally, Regulatory Plans will be considered. The cross-sections identified in Regulatory Plans supersede those in the ASDG.

In addition to these types of mobility considerations, there are other factors that affect street design and right-of-way needs. Green Street elements and stormwater management can have a significant impact on street design and function. There are additional resources on pages 16-21 of this document which describe how these considerations should be accounted for in designing streets.



Bicycle Supportive Design Strategies

The vision of the Austin 2014 Bicycle Plan is to "help people in Austin of all ages and abilities bicycle comfortably and safely for transportation, fitness, and enjoyment." The type of facility implemented should be reflective of this vision.

A majority of the population is "interested, but concerned" when it comes to bicycling, and the biggest concern is safety. To accommodate the vast majority of the population, **protected facilities** should be a priority and **dedicated facilities** only as constrained retrofit.

When selecting appropriate bicycle treatment, the following should also be considered:

- Interaction with other modes of transportation
- Safe crossings
- Protected Intersections
- Appropriate signage for cyclists and motorist
- Maintenance
- Intersection Treatments

Dedicated Facility - Bike Lane (BL)



Protected Facility - Buffered BL



Protected Facility - Physical Barrier BL



Bike Box



Protected Intersection



Shared-Use Path/Urban Trail



Safe Crossings



For additional information and more detailed guidance for Bicycle design, please visit the following websites:

- City of Austin Bicycle Program https://austintexas.gov/page/bicycle
- NACTO Urban Bikeway Design Guide http://nacto.org/publication/urban-bikeway-design-guide/
- FHWA Bicycle and Pedestrian Facility Design Flexibility <u>http://www.fhwa.dot.gov/environment/bicycle_pedestrian/guidance/design_flexibility.cfm</u>
- AASHTO Guide for the Development of Bicycle Facilities https://bookstore.transportation.org/collection_detail.aspx?ID=116&gclid=CJHLoNCPj88CFUUcaQodANwO2g

Pedestrian Supportive Design Strategies

Walking, as the basic form of transportation, must be prioritized to provide a safe environment for all users. Strategies vary for designing pedestrian elements depending on context.

Sidewalk treatments in urban areas should provide wide zones that allow for easy cross-access and movement in and out of store fronts. In suburban areas, sidewalks should be adequately sized, provide shading, and be buffered from the roadway.

At **intersections** or **mid-block**, strategies such as striped crosswalks, pedestrian refuge islands, curb extensions/ bulb-outs or raised crossings can be used to increase pedestrian visibility and safety.

Sidewalks - Urban



Sidewalks -Suburban



Intersections - Striped Crosswalks



Pedestrian Refuge Island



Curb Extensions/Bulb-outs



For additional information and more detailed guidance for Pedestrian design, please visit the following websites:

- City of Austin Pedestrian Program http://austintexas.gov/page/pedestrian
- CNU/ITE Manual Designing Walkable Urban Thoroughfares https://www.cnu.org/our-projects/cnu-ite-manual
- ITE Context Sensitive Solutions http://www.ite.org/css/
Transit Supportive Design Strategies

When right-of-way is limited, every square foot of roadway space has inherent value. Transit has the capacity to move more people, more quickly, using less space than other modes, and transit supportive design strategies use infrastructure, technology, and policy to help the service do just that.

Strategies for designing high-quality transit streets include providing dedicated lanes and transit supportive intersections; adding fine-grained improvements like bus bulbs and queue jumps; repurposing street space for transit; and designing efficient, comfortable stops with level boarding and off-board fare payment, all to increase transit speed, improve service reliability, and maximize the total person capacity of the street. Such investments attract new riders, reveal latent demand for better service, and demonstrate the value of dedicating space to transit.

In Austin, the frequent transit network provides service every 15-minutes or better; often enough that you can just show up and ride. The frequent transit network delivers the best quality service across the system, with the highest ridership and growth potential for corridors. With the best transit plan being a good land use plan, it is critical that land use context support transit for the system to be successful. The minimum density needed to support transit service is 16 residents per acre or 8 employees per acre along the entire transit corridor.

As population and congestion continue to increase, so will the need for more space-efficient use of public rightof-way. Transit-supportive design elements work together to enhance the appeal of mass transit. These treatments speed up service while improving reliability and capacity, resulting in higher transit ridership and better service within a fixed operating budget.

Transit Lanes & Pavement Markings



Bus Stop Placement & Spacing



Transit Queue Jumps



Enhanced Boarding Environment



Transit-Supportive Intersection Design



For additional information and more detailed guidance for Transit design, please visit the following websites:

- CapMETRO Connections 2025 <u>http://connections2025.org/</u>
- City of Austin Transit Priority Lanes https://www.austintexas.gov/prioritylanes
- NACTO Transit Street Design Guide http://nacto.org/publication/transit-street-design-guide/
- CapMETRO TOD Priority Tools <u>https://www.capmetro.org/tod</u>
- CapMETRO Service Guideline & Standards https://www.capmetro.org/servicechange

Green Streets Design Strategies

Austin is recognized as a "green" city, and our environmental ethos is reflected in the "green streets" elements within our Complete Streets policy. A Green Street is defined as a street that incorporates landscape, stormwater controls, and sustainability elements to improve ecological and human health.

More specifically, a Green Street is a public street rightof-way that is context-sensitive and that incorporates landscape features, engineered stormwater controls, and sustainability principles and practices to enhance street design, mitigate the Urban Heat Island effect, improve water and air quality, and conserve ecological resources.

The Green Streets City initiative has 6 principles:

- 1. Streets as Ecosystem
- 2. Streets as Climate Change Resiliency
- 3. Streets as Economic Benefit
- 4. Streets as Integrated Public Policy and Practice
- 5. Streets as Public Health
- 6. Streets as Materials and Resource Management

Vegetated Tree Wells



Vegetated Medians



Street Tree







Mid-Street Vegetated Bump Out



Corner Vegetated Bump-Out



Planter Zone



For additional information and more detailed guidance for Green Streets design, please visit the following websites:

- City of Austin Green Streets Introduction: <u>https://austintexas.gov/sites/default/files/files/Transportation/Complete_</u> <u>Streets/GreenStreetsWeb092115.pdf</u>
- EPA Green Streets: https://www.epa.gov/G3/learn-about-green-streets
- DDOT Green Infrastructure: <u>http://ddot.dc.gov/GreenInfrastructure</u>
- FHWA Sustainable Streets: <u>https://www.fhwa.dot.gov/publications/publicroads/11marapr/02.cfm</u>
- NACTO Green Infrastructure: https://nacto.org/publication/urban-bikeway-design-guide/bicycle-boulevards/green-infrastructure



Street Elements

TRANSIT:

The table below provides recommendations for incorporating Transit-Supportive Design Elements into street designs for different street levels. These recommendations do not take into consideration context or site-specific conditions. It provides an overview and best case scenario for incorporating transit lanes, bus stops, transit queue jumps and other innovative transit strategies into current and future street designs.

ELEMENT	Level 5	Level 4	Level 3	Level 2	Level 1
Transitways or Dedicated Transit Lanes with turn management					
Dual Transit Lanes or Dedicated lanes with bus pull-out stops					
Boarding Islands/bulbs					
Peak-Only Transit Lanes					
In-Lane Stops					
Transit Queue Jumps/Bypass Lanes					
Shared bus-bike lanes					
	e Re	ecommended	k		

GREEN STREETS:

The table below provides recommendations for incorporating Green Street elements into the different Street Levels. These recommendations do not take into consideration site specific conditions and maintenance regimes. Instead, it provides an overview and best case scenario for incorporating landscape, stormwater controls, and sustainability elements into current and future streets.

Possibly

Not Recommended

ELEMENT	Level 5	Level 4	Level 3	Level 2	Level 1	Level 0
Street Tree						
Pervious Paving						
Mid-Street Vegetated Bump Out						
Corner Vegetated Bump Out						
Buffer zone w/trees						
Buffer zone w/out trees						
Vegetated Tree Wells						
Vegetated Medians w/trees				N/A	N/A	N/A
Vegetated Medians w/out trees				N/A	N/A	N/A
			Recommen	ded		
			Possibly			
			Not Recom	mended		64

Stormwater Management Design Strategies

Austin has land development, drainage, and environmental regulations that govern flood, erosion and water quality controls when development occurs, including streets. Street designs should fully comply with current land development rules and design standards. Below are several stormwater management strategies to consider when designing streets.

1. Street is Part of the City's Drainage System - The entire street ROW is designed to act as part of the City's drainage system. The street drainage system components, such as curbs, gutters, inlets, storm drains, manholes, and road ditches, are designed to maintain and safely convey the 25-year design storm. The entire ROW (and/or adjacent drainage easements) are designed to contain and convey the 100-year design storm and potentially handle overflow if inlets are blocked.



Image of an inlet (foreground) exceeding its capacity and overflow in the gutter.



- 2. No Adverse Impact City regulations require the designer to demonstrate no adverse flooding impact on other properties. In addition to mitigating for added impervious cover in the ROW, designers should consider minimizing stormwater concentration, decreasing surface runoff depth and velocity, improving water quality, providing a safe path for emergency vehicles, and designing an easy to maintain drainage system.
- **3. Manage Existing Flow Patterns** Design should consider existing drainage flow patterns, see figures. If the roadway is higher than the existing terrain, then flow coming from the upstream side will be blocked and likely requires a ditch or inlets on the upstream side. If the roadway is lower than the existing terrain, then flow coming from the upstream side will drop into the street drainage system. In addition, design should minimize or eliminate stormwater crossing a street or intersection.
- 4. Water Quality City regulations require that new and redeveloped streets exceeding more than 8,000 square feet of impervious cover install water quality treatment devices for runoff. Some Green Street Design Strategies can be used to meet water quality requirements.





For additional information on the Land Development Code and Criteria Manuals, please visit the following websites:

- City of Austin Land Development Code: <u>http://www.austintexas.gov/department/austin-city-code-land-development-code</u>
- City of Austin Drainage Criteria Manual: <u>https://www.municode.com/library/tx/austin/codes/drainage_criteria_manual</u>
- City of Austin Environmental Criteria manual: <u>https://www.municode.com/library/tx/austin/codes/environmental</u> <u>criteria_manual</u>



Number of Lanes

The number of motor vehicle lanes needed impacts the multimodal decisions for the street. Within this document are examples of working within different amounts of rightof-way to create a more complete street.

Motor vehicle travel lanes carry more than just the personal automobile. They can also provide a mixed-flow or designated lane for transit priority. These different purposes impact the design of a street (treatments, lane width), especially at transit stops and intersections. When we think about travel in Austin, the focus cannot be solely on cars, but on moving people and goods. Including other more space efficient modes is a major part of our **Imagine Austin** implementation strategy. However, when analyzing streets, one of the main input factors is motor vehicle trips as they typically take up the most space.



Guide for Use of the Multimodal Design Table

The Multimodal Design Table provides more detailed recommendations for multimodal and parking facilities based on the context, level, and Average Daily Traffic Counts (ADTs) for a given street in the transportation network. Generally, ADTs for a given street should help guide the decision for number of lanes and target speed. Some overlap in ADT ranges are provided to allow for flexibility in choice of lanes and design speed. Additional guidance on mode priority will be provided through the Austin Strategic Mobility Plan. The Multimodal Design Table is intended to be an overview of the various characteristics of the Cross Sections and the following matrices should be referenced for decision making when there is not enough space to accommodate the recommended bicycle, transit, or parking facilities. Generally, the Matrix clarifies what elements to use in the "Bicycle and Street Edge" realm for bicycle and parking facilities, and it clarifies what facilities are to be used in the "Pedestrian Zone" for transit facilities and also sidewalks. The following is the Multimodal Design Table which can be used to develop the elements of the street.

Multimodal Design Table

	Typical Number Target		Bus	Bike Facility*	Pedestrian Facilities		Transit Facility*	Parking Facility***		
Context	Level	ADT Range (vpd) ¹	of Lanes ¹	Speed (mph) ¹	Frequency	Type²	Safe Sidewalks Crossing Density***		Type ³	Type ³
All (Except Alternatives)	1	< 2,000	2	20	Very Low	Quiet Street		Every Block	None	Parallel
	2	2,000 - 5,000	2	25	Low	Conventional, Buffered, or Raised Bicycle Lane			Boarding islands/bulbs	Parallel
	2	5,000 - 10,000	2	25	Medium	Buffered or Raised Bicycle Lane			Peak-only dedicated lanes	Parallel
		10,000 - 20,000	3	35	High	Raised Bicycle Lane	1/8 N	1/8 Mile	Dedicated to Peak-only lanes	Parallel
Urban	3	15,000 - 40,000	4 (Divided)	35	Very High	Raised Bicycle Lane			Dedicated Transit Lanes	
	4	35,000 - 45,000	4 (Divided)	40	High	Raised Bicycle Lane	Sidewalk and Buffer	1/4 Mile	Dedicated or Peak-only lanes	Access Lanes
	4	40,000 +	6 (Divided)	40	Very High	Raised Bicycle Lane			Dedicated Transit Lanes	Access Lanes
	2	2,000 - 5,000	2	25	Very Low	Conventional, Buffered, or Raised Bicycle Lane			None	Parallel
	2	5,000 - 10,000	2	30	Low	Buffered or Raised Bicycle Lane		1/4 Mile	Boarding islands/bulbs	Parallel
Suburban		10,000 - 20,000	3	35	Medium	Raised Bicycle Lane			Peak-Only dedicated lanes	Curb Extensions
Suburban	3	20,000 - 40,000	4 (Divided)	40	High	Raised Bicycle Lane			Dedicated or Peak-Only lanes	None
		35,000 - 45,000	4 (Divided)	40	Medium	Raised Bicycle Lane OR Shared Use Path	Sidewalk OR Shared Use	4 /2 Natio	Peak-Only dedicated lanes	None
	4	40,000 +	6 (Divided)	45	High	Raised Bicycle Lane OR Shared Use Path	Paths and Buffer Zone	1/2 Mile	Dedicated or Peak-only lanes	None
	2	< 20,000	3	25	N/A	Buffered Bicycle Lane	Cidowalkand		None	Parallel
Industrial	3	10,000 - 30,000	5	30	N/A	Raised Bicycle Lane	Sidewalk and Buffer Zone	1/2 Mile	None	None
	1	< 3,000	2	25	N/A	Wide Outside Lane	Sidewalk and Buffer Zone		None	Shared Space
Alternative	2	3,000 - 10,000	2	35-40	N/A	8' Shoulder OR Share Use Path	Sidewalk OR	1/2 Mila	None	None
Alternative	3	8,000 - 20,000	3	45-55	N/A	8' Shoulder OR Shared Use Path	Shared Use Paths and Buffer Zone	TIS MILE	None	None
	4	20,000 +	5	50-65	N/A	(8+)' Wide Shoulder OR Shared Use Path			None	None

* Denotes preferred facility if ROW allows. Alternatives can be found in the Design Matrix.

**Denotes that these will not be included except by ROW/easement dedication for expanded pavement width of additional 8' per side of parking.

***For Crossing Facilities, reference TCRP Report 112/NCHRP Report 562 "Improving Pedestrian Safety at Unsignalized Crossings".



¹ Based in part on *Designing Walkable Urban Thoroughfares, 2010*, but modified to accommodate street levels. ² Types are taken from 2014 Bike Plan (except Access Lanes - *Urban Walkable Thoroughfares, 2010*)

³ Types are interpreted from NACTO Transit Street Design Guide

Cross Sections

Cross sections are developed to provide a visual understanding of the balance between the different uses of a street. They identify what portion of the right-of-way is dedicated to certain elements.

The following cross sections are broken up by Context and Level as discussed previously. A street "Level" is a modernization of the nomenclature of the typical street functional classification nomenclature. The Level of the street indicates the function of the street in the transportation network and gives options on how to achieve the functionality within different rights-of-way. Within each context/level, this chapter will visually display options for the cross sections. At the end of each section is a specific Design Matrix with minimum and constrained dimensions. The minimum dimensions should be utilized when rightof-way is available whereas the constrained dimensions should be used when right-of-way is not available.

The Design Matrix is an additional tool to be used during scenarios where the right-of-way does not comply with availability, or in a retrofit situation where there is a need to work within a historically sized street. Some additional consideration may also be needed regarding local utility requirements which may vary depending on location or be site-specific.

Note: Level 5 streets tend to be freeway type facilities that are governed not by the City code, but by a separate set of guidelines. Therefore the remainder of this brochure focuses on the design of level 1-4 streets. Facilities not governed by City Code are governed by either State or County guidelines/code.

Note: All measurements are from face of curb to center of stripe.



The following cross sections represent Level 1 streets for all contexts (except Alternatives). These streets do not impact design as much as the other street levels (categorized by context in the following pages). Due to this, the cross sections do not vary greatly. The two cross-sections below represent the standard design of the Level 1 streets.





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Urban areas are higher intensity areas (outside of downtown) with a compact form, well connected streets, and a mix of uses. These areas best support multiple modes of travel.

The following cross sections are prototypical of the recommended design criteria as displayed in the design matrix for an Urban context.

URBAN





Note: Turn pockets will be required at intersecting Level 2, 3, and 4 streets.



Austin Street Design Guide - DRAFT



Austin Street Design Guide - DRAFT





Urban 146'



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Urban Context - Design Matrix

	Lev	el 2	Lev	vel 3	Level 4		
	Desired Range 74'-92' Parking Desired (Included in pavement)		Desire	d Range	Desired Range		
ROW			92'-132' 0'-16'		120'-146' n/a		
Additional ROW/ Easement Dedication for Parking (by Owner Request)							
			Pedestria	an Zone			
Subsection Width	8'-'	15'	10'	' - 16'	13'-18'		
Toolbox:	RECOMMENDED	CONSTRAINED	RECOMMENDED	CONSTRAINED	RECOMMENDED	CONSTRAINED	
Sidewalk	6'	5'	7'	6'	7'	6'	
Tree & Furniture Zone	8'	3'	8'	4'	10'	7'	
Shared Use Path (instead of sidewalks) ¹	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	
1' Setback ²	1'	0'	1'	0'	1'	0'	
		Bi	cycle and Stro	eet Edge Zone	2		
Subsection Width (Excludes Parking)	8'-11'		8'-12'		10	'-18'	
Toolbox:	RECOMMENDED	CONSTRAINED	RECOMMENDED	CONSTRAINED	RECOMMENDED	CONSTRAINE	
Bicycle Facility							
Protected Bike Lanes (One of Two-Sided) Preferred	7' Clear 4' Buffer	7' Clear 3' Buffer	8' Clear 4' Buffer	7' Clear 3' Buffer	8' Clear 4' Buffer	7' Clear 3' Buffer	
On-Street Separated Bike Lanes Alternative	n/a	6' Clear 2' Separation	n/a	6' Clear 2' Separation	n/a	n/a	
Other Facilities	°	2					
Parallel Parking†	8'	7'	9.5'	7'	n/a	n/a	
Access Lanes	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	18' (10' refuge)	16' (8' refuge)	
		Мо	tor Vehicle a	nd Transit Zoi	ne		
Subsection Width ³	24'-40' (Inclu	des Parking)	34'-60'		55'-82'		
Travel Lanes (# of Lanes)	2-	3 ⁶	3 - 4 (Divided)		4 - 6 ([Divided)	
Transit Only Lanes	n/a	n/a	12.5'	12'	12.5'	12'	
	RECOMMENDED	CONSTRAINED	RECOMMENDED	CONSTRAINED	RECOMMENDED	CONSTRAINE	
Outside Travel Lane Width⁴	13'	12'	12.5'	12'	12.5'	12'	
Interior Travel Lanes Width⁵	n/a	n/a	11'	10'	11'	10'	
Center Turn Lane Width	10'	10'	11'	10'	n/a	n/a	

NOTES:

Median Width

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All dimensions from FOC and center of stripe (including center of double yellow set) [†]Parking to be dedicated by developer as an extra 8' of pavement. ¹ Shared use path not desirable in urban context.

11'

n/a

² The setback in an urban environment may be an extension of the development sidewalk.
³ On-Street Bike Lane as opposed to Raised Bike Lanes may require more pavement.
⁴ Defined as against physical obstruction. Outside Travel Lanes can be reduced if next to bike lane.
⁵ Defined as adjacent to stripe only.

14'

10'

14'

11'

^e Left turn pockets required at intersection of Level 2, 3, and 4 streets.

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Suburban areas are those that have developed with auto-dependent patterns. Single-family residential neighborhoods are physically separated from area destinations (e.g. retail, office parks). Streets are more hierarchical and less connected.

The following cross sections are prototypical of the recommended design criteria as displayed in the design matrix for a Suburban context.



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Note: For Level 2 facilities, additional right-of-way and pavement will be required to accommodate left-turn pockets required at intersecting Level 2, 3, and 4 streets.

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Suburban Context - Design Matrix

	Level 2		Lev	vel 3	Level 4			
	Desire	d Range	Desired Range		Desire	d Range		
ROW	7	'8'	96'-120'		130'-154'			
Additional ROW/Easement Dedication for Parking (By Owner)		·16'	n/a		n/a			
			Pedest	rian Zone				
Subsection Width	10	'-15'	10'	-16'	14'-21'			
Toolbox:	RECOMMENDED	CONSTRAINED	RECOMMENDED	CONSTRAINED	RECOMMENDED	CONSTRAINED		
Sidewalk/Shared Use Path (SUP)	6'	5'	7'	5'	7' (12')	5' (8')		
Tree & Furniture Zone	8'	5'	8'	5'	10'	7'		
Setback	1'	0	1'	0	4'	2'		
		Bicycle and Street Edge Zone						
Subsection Width (Excludes Parking)	8'-11'		8'-	8'-12'		-12'		
Toolbox:	RECOMMENDED	CONSTRAINED	RECOMMENDED	CONSTRAINED	RECOMMENDED	CONSTRAINED		
Bicycle Facility								
Protected Bike Lanes (One of Two-Sided) Preferred	7' Clear 4' Buffer	7' Clear 3' Buffer	8' Clear 4' Buffer	7' Clear 3' Buffer	8' Clear 4' Buffer	7' Clear 3' Buffer		
On-Street Separated Bike Lanes Alternative	n/a	6' Clear 2' Separation	n/a	6' Clear 2' Separation	n/a	6' Clear 2' Separation		
Other Facilities								
Parking†	8'	7'	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a		
		N	Notor Vehicle	and Transit Zo	ne			
Subsection Width (Excludes Parking) ³	25'	-37'	34'	-64'	58'-88'			
Travel Lanes (# of Lanes)	2	-3²	3-5 (D	ivided)	4 (Divided)	- 6 (Divided)		
Transit Only Lanes	n/a	n/a	13'	12'	13'	12'		
	RECOMMENDED	CONSTRAINED	RECOMMENDED	CONSTRAINED	RECOMMENDED	CONSTRAINED		
Outside Travel Lane Width ¹	13'	12.5'	13'	12'	13'	12'		
Travel Lanes Width	11'	10'	12'	10'	12'	10'		
Center Turn Lane Width	n/a	n/a	14'	12'	n/a	n/a		
Median	n/a	n/a	14'	12'	14' 4	14'		

NOTES:

⁺ Parking to be dedicated by developer as extra pavement

¹ Defined as against physical obstruction or edge line. Outside Travel Lanes can be reduced if next to bike lane. ² Left-turn pockets required at intersection with Level 2, 3, and 4 streets. Additional right-of-way and pavement will be required. ³On-Street Bike Lane as opposed to Raised Bike Lanes may require more pavement.

⁴ Consideration for dual lefts on all Suburban Level 4 facilities when intersecting a four-lane roadway.

Additional right-of-way required.

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SPECIAL DISTRICTS

In addition to Urban and Suburban, special districts were identified that play a major role in the context of the City. These special districts are Downtown, Industrial, and Alternatives. Downtown is a unique and special place that requires a more detailed strategy.

For this reason, the *Street Design Guide* defers to the *Downtown Great Streets Master Plan* and the overall design concepts depicted in the *Downtown Master Plan*. Over time, additional detail may be provided for other special districts. In areas governed by codified regulating plans, such as North Burnet/Gateway and East Riverside Corridor, refer to cross-sections in those regulating plans.



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DOWNTOWN

Downtown is typically the highest intensity area of the city. It has a grid of small blocks and a compact development pattern.



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INDUSTRIAL

Industrial areas include low-density industrial parks and retail (e.g. warehouses, manufacturing, light industry, shipping, and scattered commercial). Blocks may be large and irregular; streets must accommodate significant truck traffic.

The following cross sections are prototypical of the recommended design criteria as displayed in the design matrix for an Industrial context.



Level 3 **Industrial** 88' Pavement Width 52' t 1 Setback 🥴 7' 14' 12' 14' 7' 12' 8' 8' Setback 🥴 Tree & Furniture Sidewalk Sidewalk Tree & Travel Lane Travel Lane Travel Lane Travel Lane Furniture Zone Zone

Industrial Context - Design Matrix

	Level 2		Level 3			
	Des	sired	Desired			
ROW	7	2'	88'			
	Pedestrian Zone					
Subsection Width	9'-	·15'	11'-18'			
Toolbox:	RECOMMENDED	CONSTRAINED	RECOMMENDED	CONSTRAINED		
Sidewalk	6'	5'	7'	5'		
Tree & Furniture Zone	8'	4'	8'	5'		
Setback	1'	1'	3'	1'		
		Bicycle and St	treet Edge Zone	2		
Target Width	7'	-9'	n/a			
Toolbox:	RECOMMENDED	CONSTRAINED	RECOMMENDED	CONSTRAINED		
Bicycle Facilities						
Protected Bike Lanes (One of Two-Sided) Preferred	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a		
On-Street Separated Bike Lanes <i>Alternative</i>	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a		
Other Facilities						
Parking †	9'	7'	n/a	n/a		
	N	/lotor Vehicle	and Transit Zor	ne		
Subsection Width		-42' s Parking)	46'-:	52'		
Travel Lanes (# of Lanes)	2 4					
Median	0' 0'					
	RECOMMENDED	CONSTRAINED	RECOMMENDED	CONSTRAINED		
Outside Travel Lane Width ¹	12'	11'	14'	12'		
Interior Travel Lanes Width ²	n/a	n/a	12'	11'		

NOTES:

⁺ Parking to be dedicated by developer as extra pavement
 ¹ Defined as against physical obstruction.
 ² Defined as adjacent to stripe only. Outside Travel Lanes can be reduced if next to bike lane.

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ALTERNATIVES

This section provides alternative cross-sections to address contexts with environmental protections, rolling terrain, and other contexts that do not fit into the previously discussed context categories.

The following cross sections are prototypical of the recommended design criteria as displayed in the design matrix for Alternative Cross Sections. Level 1





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Bicycle

Options for bicycle facility design can vary depending on the existing and potential ROW, design speed, context, and potential users. The following cross sections are representations of the design options.

- A **raised bike lane** is at the same level as the adjoining sidewalk and not the travel lanes, and separated by a planting strip.
- A **buffered bike lane** is separated from traffic via a painted stripe, or physical barrier (see next page).







In retrofit situations, where space is constrained and vehicle travel is at appropriate speed/volumes, the below cross-section alternative of a bicycle facility with atgrade "turtle bumps" (physical barrier) may be appropriate. Other physical barrier alternatives to the "turtle bumps" could be used as well. Footballs (oblong low bumps), flower pots/planters, bollards, delineator posts are some examples of other physical barriers. The following website provides a high level overview of these options: http://www.peopleforbikes.org/blog/entry/14-ways-to-make-bike-lanes-better-the-infographic



Alternative Context - Design Matrix

	L	evel 1	Level 2		Level 3		Level 4	
	D	esired	D	esired	Desired		Desir	ed Range
ROW	70'		80'		100'		125'	
	Pedestrian Zone							
Subsection Width	13'-21'		12'-27'		15'-27'		15'-27'	
Toolbox:	MIN	CONSTRAINED	MIN	CONSTRAINED	MIN	CONSTRAINED	MIN	CONSTRAINED
Open Ditch/Swale	16'	8'	15'	12'	20'	15'	20'	15'
Shared Use Path	n/a	n/a	12'	10'	12'	10'	12'	10'
Sidewalk	5'	5'	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a
	Bicycle and Street Edge Zone							
Subsection Width	n/a		4'-8'		4'-8'		8'-10'	
Toolbox:	MIN	CONSTRAINED	MIN	CONSTRAINED	MIN	CONSTRAINED	MIN	MIN
Shoulder	n/a	n/a	8'	4'	8'	4'	10'	8'
			Γ	Motor Vehicle	and Transi	t Zone		
Subsection Width (Excludes Shoulder)	24'-28' (Includes 2' Ribbon Curb)		20'-22'		3	2'-36'	54'-58'	
Travel Lanes (# of Lanes)		2	2		3		5	
Median	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a		14'
	MIN	CONSTRAINED	MIN	CONSTRAINED	MIN	CONSTRAINED	MIN	CONSTRAINED
Outside Travel Lane Width ¹	12'	10'	11'	10'	11'	10'	11'	11'
Interior Travel Lanes Width ²	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	11'	10'	11'	10'
Center Turn Lane Width	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	14'	12'	14' ³	12'

NOTES:

All roads are paved shoulder edge treatment ¹Defined as against edge line for shoulder. ² Defined as adjacent to yellow stripe only. Outside Travel Lanes can be reduced if next to bike lane. ³ Can substitute raised median.

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Austin Transportation Department 3701 Lake Austin Blvd, Austin, TX 78703 Tel: (512) 974-1150

