

THE CITY OF AUSTIN
TRANSPORTATION DEPARTMENT
2018 ANNUAL REPORT



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AustinTexas.gov/Transportation

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MOVING AUSTIN FORWARD

The Austin Transportation Department works to provide a safe, efficient, innovative, cost-effective and sustainable transportation system for our community. This system connects roadways, bikeways, walkways and transit systems to provide community members with improved access and mobility.

Working toward this mission, the department has a growing staff of approximately 301 full-time employees, with an annual budget of \$52 million.

This annual report will showcase the department's operations and achievements for 2018.

FUTURE-PROOFING OUR CITY

In 2018, Austin Transportation made great strides to prepare for an innovative and sustainable transportation future. The department began testing and incorporating new mobility technologies, achieved milestones in community input and expanded equitable mobility opportunities through various initiatives.

With direction from its new [Smart Mobility Program](#), Austin Transportation joined [national collaboratives](#) to establish new transportation technology standards and has been pilot testing emerging technologies for potential mobility solutions. Austin Transportation came to the forefront of national dialogue with new small shared mobility services, which include dockless bike-share and scooter-share, on how to manage public pathways, record and share open data, and build and plan programs in service to more equitable, affordable and sustainable mobility solutions. The department also rolled out [open data tools](#) in line with the City's mission to provide services to the community in a transparent and accountable way.

Looking to Austin's future, Austin Transportation went all in on community outreach to develop the Austin Strategic Mobility Plan, the update to the city's transportation plan. Austin Transportation partnered with Capital Metro to host the second "Traffic Jam" and gather community input on the plan and Capital Metro's high-capacity transit vision Project Connect, both long-term plans that will shape Austin for decades to come.

Amid these efforts, Austin Transportation also relocated to larger facilities to accommodate the City of Austin's growing programs and initiatives for a rapidly growing city.

Through these movements, Austin Transportation strives to ensure our fast-growing community is prepared for the decades ahead, in step with the innovations of today, and pursuing the solutions of tomorrow.



WHAT WE DO

Ensuring Public Safety

As an integral part of urban life, transportation can widely affect public safety and health. Through specialized programs, the Austin Transportation Department strives to provide safer and sustainable ways of moving in and around the city.

Vision Zero

[Vision Zero](#) is an international movement to eliminate all traffic-related deaths and injuries. In 2016, the City of Austin adopted the Vision Zero Action Plan to achieve this goal through five strategic elements: education, engineering, evaluation, enforcement and policy.

Austin Transportation works to improve roadway designs with the goal of enhancing safety and reducing crashes, and collaborates with Austin Police across different strategic areas to increase public awareness and enforcement on measures to prevent traffic deaths and injuries.

- *Vision Zero Outreach and Awareness*
 - 74 outreach events
 - 22, 249 people reached
 - 245 people who signed the Vision Zero pledge

- *Enforcement: Vision Zero in Action*

[Vision Zero in Action](#) encompasses targeted enforcement of traffic safety laws on Austin streets, followed shortly by distribution of educational materials about transportation safety. Police officers target behaviors and locations that result in a disproportionate share of crashes in which people are injured or killed, as well as behaviors that contribute to congestion and air quality issues. Specific locations and enforcement efforts are informed by Austin Transportation and Austin Police data.

- 3,524 total citations and warnings for Vision Zero in Action enforcement

Top Citations and Warnings

- 1,777 speeding
- 827 driver inattention / hands-free violation, e.g., texting while operating a vehicle in motion
- 442 failure to stop



Austin Traffic Fatalities

2015 - 2018

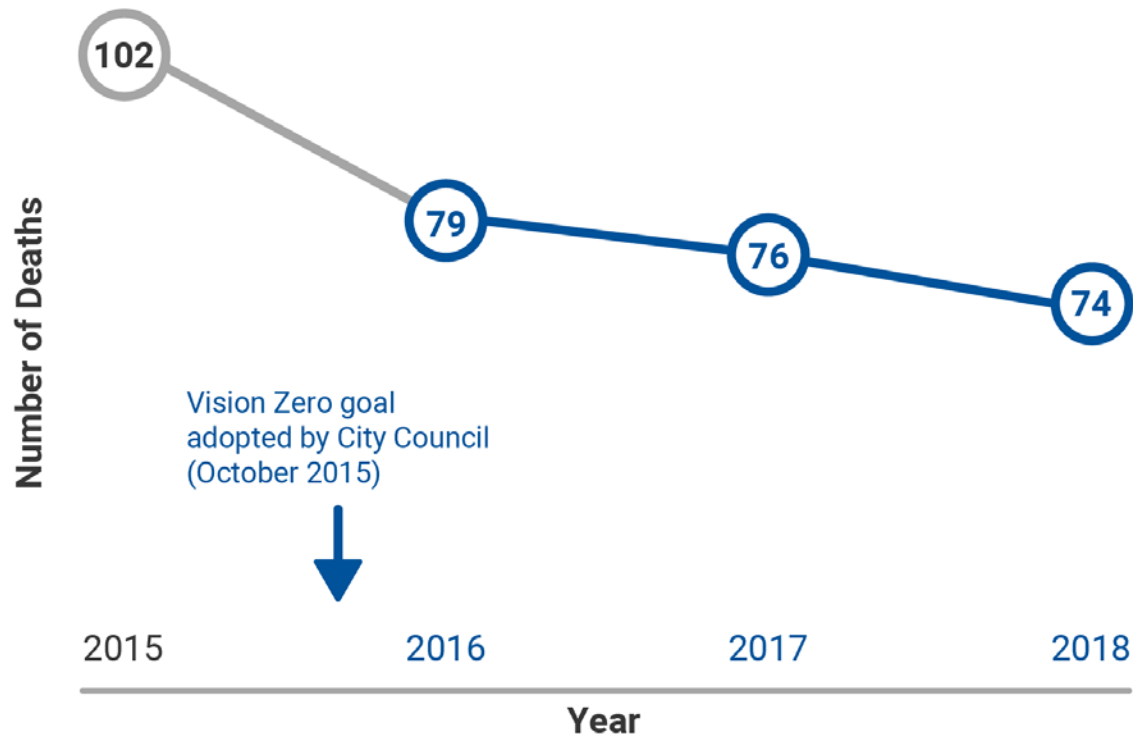


Figure 1 A line graph showing the number of traffic deaths in Austin, year by year.

More information can be found at AustinTexas.gov/VisionZero, where you will find reports on crash statistics and program enforcement.

Designing for Safety

Through extensive vetting, analysis, engineering and design, our safety improvement projects at major locations address public safety and mobility on a large scale.

- \$4.78 million spent on 5 completed intersection safety improvement projects
 - Pleasant Valley Road and Elmont Drive – Completed May 2018, \$1.70 million
 - Congress Avenue and Oltorf Street – Completed July 2018, \$1.02 million
 - 45th Street and Red River Street – Completed September 2018, \$45,000
 - Slaughter Lane and Cullen Lane – Completed December 2018, \$174,000
 - Slaughter Lane and Manchaca Road – Completed December 2018, \$1.85 million



Strengthening the Multimodal System

As Austin continues to grow, the Austin Transportation Department makes sure to monitor traffic and incidents in its connected system around the clock and bring improvements where needed.

Transportation Management Center

The Transportation Management Center (TMC) is the City of Austin's headquarters for monitoring and managing traffic throughout the Austin area. The center is staffed seven days a week through peak travel times, and may be staffed continuously through large events. Visit the [Transportation Management Center's Data and Performance Hub](#) to see more and follow [@austinmobility on Twitter](#) for real-time traffic updates.

- 7,981 customer service requests addressed over the year
- 4,997 field technician repair dispatches over the year
- More than 48,000 hours of travel time saved over the year due to signal timing adjustments and traffic updates posted on dynamic message signs across the city
- 4,739 signal timing adjustments over the year
- 341 traffic signals retimed over the year
- 962 traffic update Twitter posts
- 72 special events managed

Signs, Markings and Signals

- 2,528 miles of roadway, measured by centerline length, in Austin's full purpose jurisdiction
- 7,851 miles of lanes (centerline roadway length multiplied by number of lanes) in the City's full purpose jurisdiction
- 629 miles of roadway markings maintained — almost 1/4 of all roadway length in the city
- 2,085 new road signs installed
- 17,880 road signs that were repaired or replaced
- 747 crosswalks maintained
- 6,531 raised pavement markers Installed
- 12 new traffic signals turned on
- 15 pedestrian hybrid beacons turned on
- 1,081 traffic signals and pedestrian hybrid beacons operated by ATD
 - 1,005 traffic signals
 - 76 PHBs



Encouraging Active and Sustainable Modes

Our department works to improve Austin streets in the interest of safety and mobility for people of all ages and abilities as they drive, walk, bike and take transit.

Designing for Different Modes

The [Active Transportation and Street Design Division](#) works to help everyone of all ages and abilities take more active travel options, such as walking and biking, around Austin safely, comfortably and conveniently. Austin is one of 10 cities selected for the [Big Jump Project](#), a 2017-2020 initiative of the national organization PeopleForBikes, to increase the number of people traveling by bicycle in the city's central core.

- 10.3 miles of new bicycle lane miles added, bringing Austin to a total of 267.5 miles of bicycle facilities
- 25.8 miles of new and improved bicycle facilities completed
- 12.3 miles of new buffered or protected bicycle lanes completed

Smart Trips

[Smart Trips Austin](#) is an educational program that aims to reduce drive-alone trips and increase trips taken by foot, bike, scooter, bus or shared car. The City of Austin and Capital Metro work together to encourage Austin community members to take more sustainable options for getting around. In 2018, Smart Trips launched in the Central East Austin area and added education and events that included bike-share and scooter-share options.

Smart Trips activities for the year include...

- About 8,000 households reached
- 637 toolkits of transportation resources hand-delivered
- 15 customized events (7 bike tours, 1 scooter tour, 5 transit adventures, 2 walks)
- 18 community events attended
- 526 people reached at in-person events (customized and community events)

Air Quality

The City of Austin's Air Quality Program aims to promote healthy outdoor air for all community members while also managing traffic congestion. By encouraging people to take up sustainable alternatives over driving alone, we can positively impact our region's air quality. Throughout 2018, the Air Quality Program participated in several outreach events, and the air quality educational messaging via radio, digital ads, and social media resulted in over 5.5 million gross impressions. Below are the [recorded air quality days with good, moderate and unhealthy levels of ground-level ozone](#) in 2018.

- 322 "good" air quality days
- 33 "moderate" air quality days
- 10 "unhealthy for sensitive groups" air quality days



Connecting with the Community

We stay connected to the community through engagement and outreach in the form of completed service requests, weekly newsletter updates, press releases and more. In 2018, the department...

... responded to 30,575 customer service requests...

- Traffic Signals, 49.50%
- Right-of-Way Management, 15.90%
- Signs and Markings, 14.88%
- Traffic Engineering, 10.77%
- Parking Meters, 5.08%
- Active Transportation, 1.73%
- Parking Enforcement, 2.15%

Austin Transportation Department Service Requests Completed in 2018

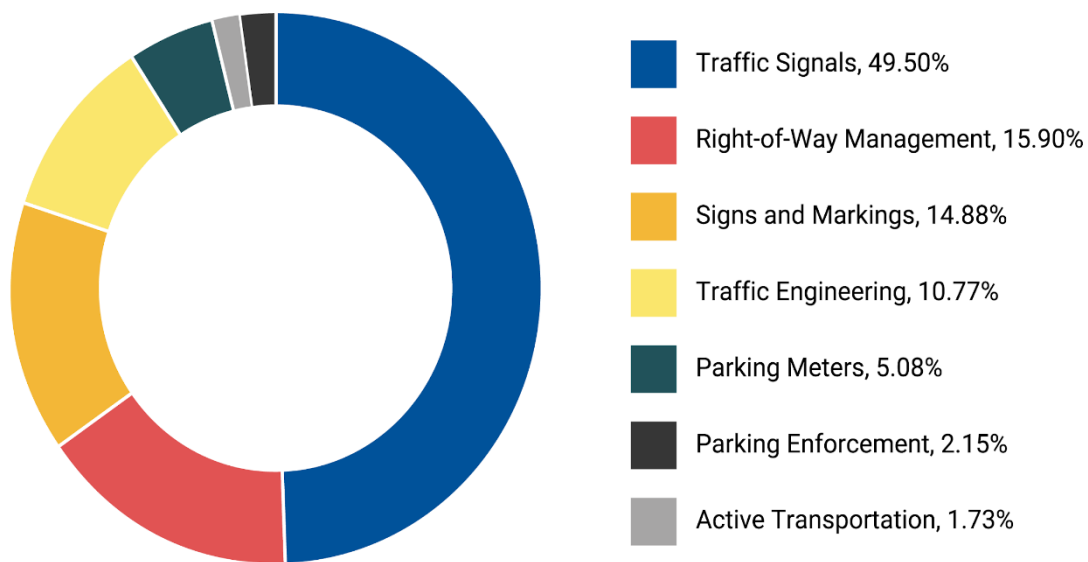


Figure 2 A pie chart showing the types of service requests that the Austin Transportation Department completed in 2018.

... and sent out 45 [mobility newsletters](#) and [51 press releases](#).

Regulating and Permitting

To ensure safety and smooth operations for all road users, Austin Transportation staff oversee the regulation and permitting of the City's right of way for a variety of purposes and occasions.



Special Events

The Office of Special Events works to ensure safety through inspection, regulation and traffic control of department-permitted special events.

- 233 special events held that were permitted by Austin Transportation
- 363 special events days
- ~2.2 million attendees of special events permitted by Austin Transportation

Right-of-Way Management

The [Right of Way \(ROW\) Management Division](#) reviews and processes permit applications, reviews engineered traffic control plans and utility plans, and plays an integral part in inspection and code enforcement for activities in the City's right of way. This incorporates all facets of activities, as it relates to construction work zones within the ROW.

- 3,671 Number of right-of-way use permits issued
 - Film permits: 265
 - Parking: 1,490 (for using a City parking space for temporary loading and loading)
 - Vendor permits: 15 (to sell, offer for sale, exchange, or take orders for merchandise at a specific location in the right of way)
 - Temporary use of right of way: 1,612 (usually construction)
 - Valet: 289 (for operating customer vehicle drop-off and return zones, temporary or permanent)
- Excavation: 9,186 (for all manner of utility and right of way infrastructure work)
- Driveway/Sidewalk: 2,727 (for any work on driveways, sidewalks, curbs, and/or gutters and includes residential and commercial impacts to this type of infrastructure)

Parking

The Parking Enterprise Division manages on-street parking to balance the needs for residents, businesses and visitors to our city, while promoting compliance with all City parking ordinances. This includes parking meters, parking enforcement, commercial vehicle loading zones, residential parking permits, musician loading zones and permits, car-share parking, valet enforcement, and more.

- 366 new metered parking spaces
- 27% of all transactions were for metered parking made with the mobile payment parking app
- Over 7,000 off-street parking spaces available at 29 participating garages in the Affordable Parking Program

Affordable Parking Program

Austin Transportation's [Affordable Parking Program](#) provides parking overnight at City-owned facilities in or near the downtown area for hospitality and service industry workers. The monthly price is as low as \$35, which is significantly lower than typical downtown parking garage prices. In 2018, the city partnered with multiple



garages to offer over 7,000 available spaces through the program and looks to expand as more facilities are made available.

Parking and Transportation Management Districts

Austin Transportation activated two Parking and Transportation Management districts in 2018: one for Central East Austin and one for the Colorado River Area. The purpose of extending parking hours is to increase parking availability and combat congestion associated with vehicles circulating to find parking. In a Parking and Transportation Management District, 51% of fees collected from metered parking, less City expenses are allocated to infrastructure projects in the area.

For the Central East Austin district, Austin Transportation heard from stakeholders and conducted parking occupancy studies which showed there was little to no available parking on many streets in the area during daytime hours. Metering public parking helps create turnover so that people are more likely to find spaces. As of spring 2019, the East Austin Parking and Transportation Management District has helped fund **150 feet of sidewalks**, which filled gaps in pedestrian mobility needs in the area.

For the Colorado River Area district, the City of Austin and Austin Independent School District, under an interlocal agreement, installed parking meters on streets by Austin High School in order to provide adequate parking for Austin High School students and ensure enough turnover for the public to park and visit the trails and nearby areas. All revenue on Stephen F. Austin Drive, minus City expenses, is the sole property of AISD, since this is a privately maintained school road.

HIGHLIGHTS OF THE YEAR

- **January**
 - With matched federal funding, Austin Transportation launches [a \\$2.2 million citywide pedestrian crossing safety initiative](#). This effort set out to upgrade all signals with pedestrian countdown timers, add accessible pedestrian signals to 26 locations and add pedestrian hybrid beacons to 5 pedestrian crossings.
 - The City of Austin, as an employer, receives national recognition as one of the [Best Workplaces for Commuters in 2018](#). This title recognizes employers who offers exceptional sustainable commuting options and benefits to their employees.
 - Austin Transportation invites the community to weigh in on [2016 Mobility Bond substandard street projects](#) on Cooper Lane, Davis Lane, FM 1626, Latta Drive/Brush Country Road and Johnny Morris Road. The 2016 Mobility Bond dedicates \$11 million to substandard streets and capital renewal programs, including the creation of preliminary engineering reports for nine substandard streets. The goal of the substandard streets projects is to address substandard street elements such as missing sidewalks, drainage issues, insufficient pavement widths and more.



- The City of Austin hosts officials from cities from across the country for the [first national summit on special events best practices](#).
- **February**
 - City Council kickstarts the process to [integrate shared small mobility into Austin's transportation landscape](#).
 - The City of Austin introduces a proposed [Corridor Construction Program](#) as part of voter-approved 2016 Mobility Bond.
 - The City of Austin and Bike Share of Austin partner with the University of Texas at Austin to [pilot test Austin B-cycle on campus and in the West Campus neighborhood](#).
 - Austin Transportation signal engineers sit down to answer questions for an ["Ask Me Anything" discussion on reddit](#).
 - [Assistant Director Annick Beaudet is accepted in the inaugural class of Leadership NACTO](#) (National Association of City Transportation Officials), a fellowship program that offers promising leaders in city transportation the opportunity for in-depth, targeted professional development and training.
- **March**
 - The City of Austin and Capital Metro host the [Austin Traffic Jam: Taking it to the Streets](#). At this event, community members were invited to weigh in on the City's long-term transportation effort Austin Strategic Mobility Plan and Capital Metro's high-capacity transit plan Project Connect.
 - Austin Transportation and Austin Energy partner to launch an [electric-assist pedicab pilot](#), one of the first in the nation.
 - Austin Transportation publishes an [interactive version of the Austin Bike Map online](#).
 - Austin Transportation prepares for mobility impacts from Spring Festival Season by declaring [ATX Detour Day](#) to encourage downtown employers and employees to take sustainable commute options. Austin Transportation also publishes a [mobility guide](#) and [maps that show available transportation options and routes downtown](#).
 - [Austin Transportation joins OmniAir Consortium](#), an association that promotes interoperability and certification for intelligent transportation systems. This membership helps ensure that connected and automated vehicle technologies deployed in Austin are interoperable and conform with industry standards.
- **April**
 - The City of Austin is selected for the second cohort of [Transportation for America's Smart Cities Collaborative](#). This collaborative brings cities together on the challenges related to implementing smart mobility policies and projects.
 - Austin Transportation holds a [public engagement process on dockless mobility](#), which informs City Council's decision to formalize the dockless mobility program.
 - Austin Transportation reaches [community engagement milestones through surveys and outreach for the Austin Strategic Mobility Plan](#).



- The City of Austin and the Texas A&M Transportation Institute host a [regional summit on transportation safety education](#).
- Austin Transportation publishes [new reports on its efforts to manage traffic congestion through behavior change](#).
- **May**
 - Austin Transportation completes [intersection safety improvements at Pleasant Valley Road and Elmont Drive](#).
 - Austin Transportation begins [dockless mobility permitting process](#) and installs first set of [dockless mobility parking boxes](#).
 - Austin Transportation publishes new online portal for real-time data on department transportation requests and projects: [transportation.austintexas.io](#).
 - City of Austin [transportation projects are approved for over \\$80 million in federal funds](#) under the Capital Area Metropolitan Planning Organization (CAMPO)'s 2019-2022 Transportation Improvement Program. The City of Austin's 13 approved projects encompass roadways; intelligent transportation systems; bicycle and pedestrian safety, connectivity and recreation; and transportation demand management. Each of these projects requires a local funding match of at least 20 percent, though the actual percentages vary based on the project. The purpose of obtaining this federal funding is to bolster efforts to address traffic congestion, enhance multimodal safety and improve public health across Austin.
- **June**
 - Austin Transportation and Waze partner in the [Waze Connected Citizens Program](#) to share scheduled street closures related to special event closures and information on major traffic delays.
- **July**
 - Austin Transportation completes [intersection safety improvements at South Congress Avenue and Oltorf Street](#).
 - The [first multi-lane roundabout in Austin opens](#) at I-35 and 51st Street. The Texas Department of Transportation led completion of this \$ 16.5 million project, with \$9.2 million in funding from the City of Austin.
 - The National Association of City Transportation Officials releases [guidelines for regulating shared active transportation](#). The City of Austin was among the cities who contributed to the development of these guidelines.
 - [Land surveys commence along nine key Austin corridors](#) as part of the 2016 Mobility Bond.
 - Austin Transportation kicks off a [demonstration of smart parking meters](#).
 - Austin Transportation and the Downtown Austin Alliance partner to [expand the Affordable Parking Program](#), which provides low-cost parking overnight at City-owned facilities in or near the downtown area for hospitality and service industry workers.
 - Austin Transportation converts [Colorado Street to two-way traffic to improve traffic flow](#).
 - [Smart Trips Eastside launches](#) to help people in East Austin neighborhoods explore transportation options (through November 2018).



- The City of Austin’s Smart Commute Rewards program, which offers incentives for City of Austin employees taking sustainable trips to and from work, receives the National Award in Commuting Options for Carpooling from the Association of Commuter Transportation.
- **August**
 - Austin Transportation gathers [community feedback on dockless mobility services](#).
 - [Austin B-cycle installs 13 new stations, surpasses one million trips](#).
 - Austin Transportation shares [draft mobility and safety options for Spicewood Springs Road](#) and invites the community to provide feedback.
 - [Director Robert Spillar is selected as treasurer of the National Association of City Transportation Officials](#), an association of 62 major North American cities and ten transit agencies formed to exchange transportation ideas, insights, and practices and cooperatively approach national transportation issues.
- **September**
 - Austin Transportation completes [intersection safety improvements at 45th Street and Red River Street](#).
 - Austin Transportation makes the move into new, larger facilities to accommodate growing City of Austin program needs.
 - Austin Transportation shares [draft mobility and safety recommendations for substandard street projects](#) and invites the community to provide feedback.
 - Austin Transportation participates in and provides permits for [PARK\(ing\) Day](#) when community members transform parking spaces into pocket parks for a day.
 - The City of Austin hosts [public meeting on fire emergency response access and transportation safety](#).
 - The City of Austin partners with Capital Metro, Smart Growth America and the Downtown Austin Alliance to host a [Creative Placemaking Summit](#) to discuss how communities can better integrate arts, culture and creative placemaking into transportation projects.
- **October**
 - Austin Transportation publishes the [Austin City Limits mobility guide](#), which shows available options to get to and around the festival. This mobility guide includes information the festival shuttle, public transit, bike- and scooter-share services, pedicabs, ride-hailing services and taxicabs.
 - Austin Transportation and Austin Police bring [dockless mobility safety education to the community with street team outreach](#).
 - Austin Transportation posts the [director rules for dockless mobility operators](#).
 - Austin Transportation unveils [Austin Strategic Mobility Plan draft policies](#) alongside Capital Metro’s Project Connect.
 - Austin Transportation releases [recommended alternative for safety and mobility improvements on Spicewood Springs Road](#).
 - Austin Transportation and the University of Texas partner on a research project to use [automated video analytics to improve transportation planning](#) for pedestrian safety.
 - The City of Austin is the [first in Texas to test traffic signal technology for “connected” vehicles](#).



- **November**

- Austin B-cycle launches [e-bike pilot at bike-share stations](#).
- Austin Transportation files [final rules that govern the deployment and operation of shared small vehicle mobility systems](#), which encompass bike-share and scooter-share services.
- Austin Transportation releases [draft maps for the Austin Strategic Mobility Plan](#) showing Austin's transportation future and invites the community to provide feedback.
- The City of Austin shares 2016 Mobility Bond [mobility recommendations for South Pleasant Valley Road and Martin Luther King, Jr. Boulevard/FM969 corridors](#).
- Austin voters [pass seven bonds, approving \\$160 million to fund various mobility projects and programs](#). The funding will address issues within existing transportation infrastructure, including, but not limited to, street and sidewalk reconstruction and rehabilitation; bridge and structure rehabilitation and replacement; Vision Zero intersection and pedestrian safety projects; traffic signal upgrades; and improvement of public spaces. Allocations to Austin Transportation include \$15 million to [Vision Zero](#) and transportation safety and \$4.5 million for signals and technology upgrades and expansion.
- The City of Austin receives the Excellence Award for Transportation Demand Management in Large Government from the Association for Commuter Transportation. The City of Austin hosts the [first public meeting on a new pedestrian and bicycle crossing near Longhorn Dam](#).

- **December**

- Austin Transportation completes [intersection safety improvements at Slaughter Lane and Cullen Lane](#).
- Austin Transportation completes [intersection safety improvements at Slaughter Lane and Manchaca Road](#).
- The City of Austin launches a virtual open house [to gather more public input on a pedestrian and bicycle crossing near Longhorn Dam](#).
- Austin Transportation completes [the first phase of multimodal improvements on West Fifth Street](#).



FINANCIAL OVERVIEW: Fiscal Year 2017-2018

- Total operating budget: **\$52 million**
 - Mobility Fund: **74%**
 - Parking Management Fund: **26%**

FINANCIAL OVERVIEW

Fiscal Year 2017-2018

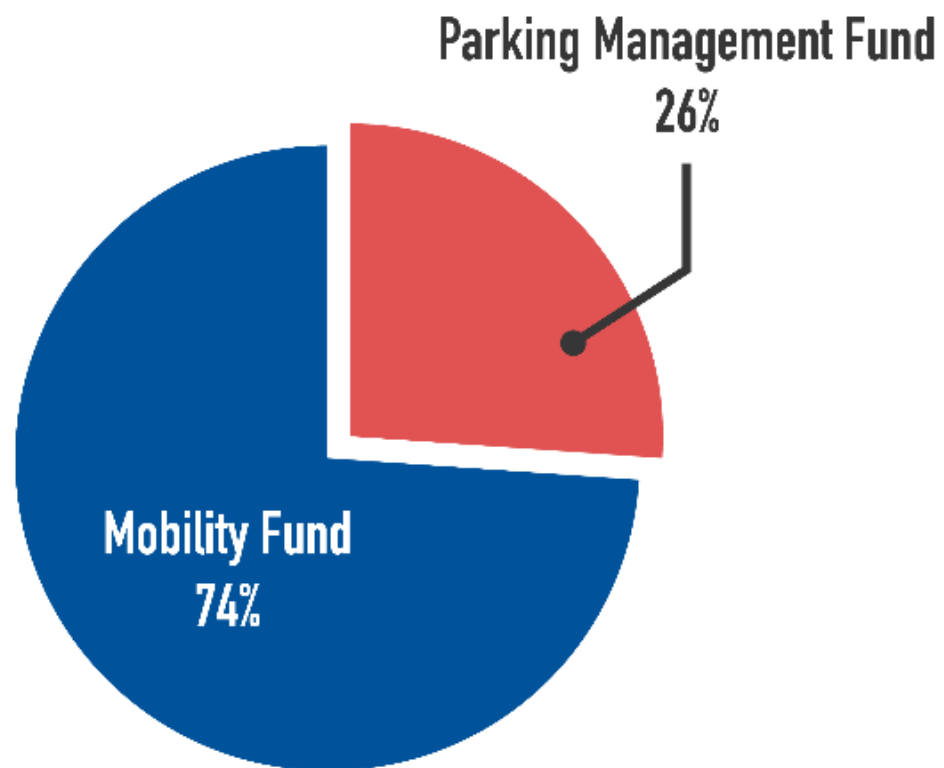


Figure 3 A pie chart showing the funding sources for the Austin Transportation Department from the City of Austin's budget.



Austin Transportation Operating Budget for FY 2017-2018

Funds go toward...

- Support Services: **22.03%**
(Services rendered to the entire department, such as administrative and technical support, interdepartmental transfers, insurance, and utilities.)
- Mobility Service and Parking Operations: **18.45%**
- Traffic Signals: **18.16%**
- Roadway Markings and Traffic Signs: **10.46%**
- Transportation Engineering: **10.45%**
- Right-of-Way Management: **5.59%**
- Administration and Management: **4.77%**
- Active Transportation: **3.12%**
- Corridor Planning Office: **2.95%**
- Strategic Planning: **2.27%**
- Special Events: **1.75%**

Austin Transportation Operating Budget FY 2017-2018

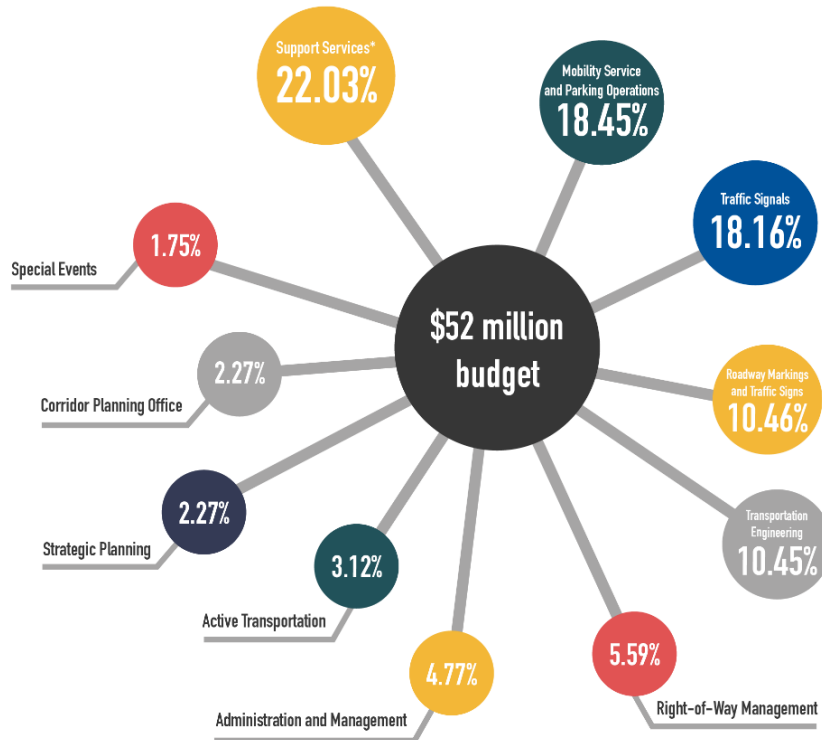


Figure 4 Image showing the percentage breakdown of Austin Transportation’s operating budget for fiscal year 2017-2018.