

Austin Light Rail: Project Update

March 5, 2026

City of Austin Mobility Committee



**Austin Transit
Partnership**

What is Project Connect?



Project Connect is a program of projects that expands transit options throughout the Austin area, adding:

- a new light rail system,
- improvements to existing commuter rail service,
- expanded bus routes across the city, and
- additional technical and service improvements.



Role of Austin Transit Partnership



Bus Service

Bus Rapid Transit
Pickup
Express routes

Commuter Rail

Red Line
Future Green Line

New Transit Facilities

Park and Rides
Operations & Maintenance Facilities

Anti-Displacement Investments
Permitting
ROW Management & Utilities



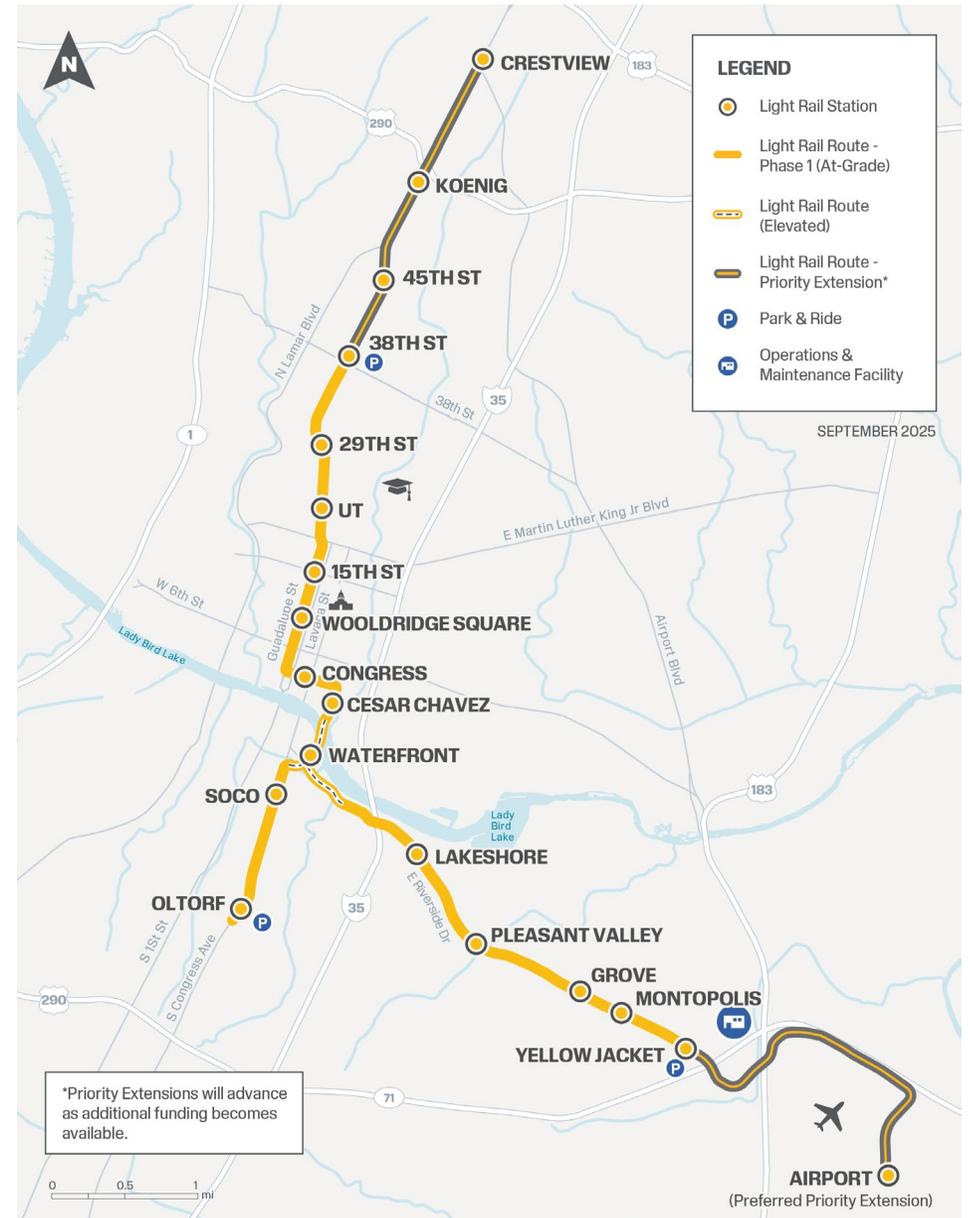
Austin Transit
Partnership

Austin Light Rail

Austin Light Rail Phase 1

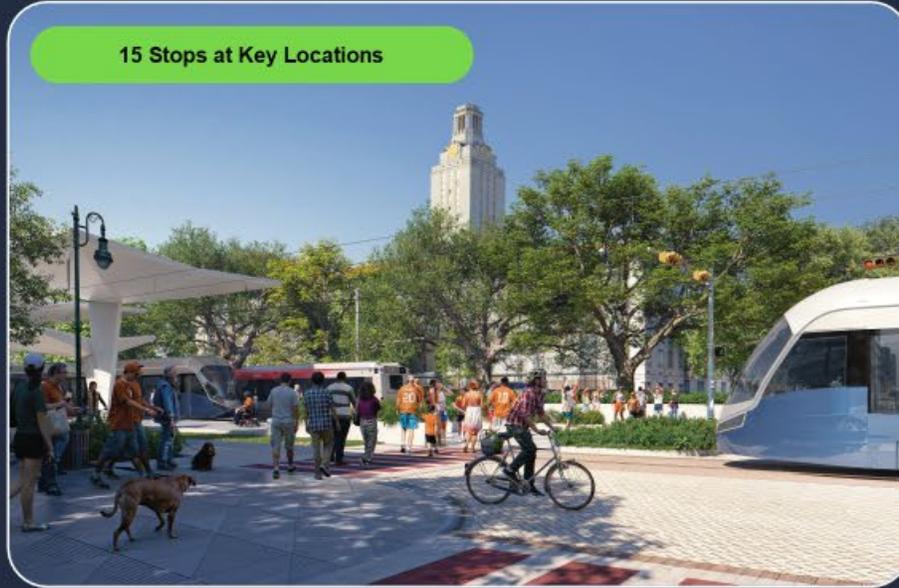
Light rail is an expandable electric train system designed for metropolitan areas, serving as an integral part of the transit network by connecting people to essential destinations where they live, work and play.

<p>ACCESS TO:</p> <p>136K</p> <p>CURRENT JOBS</p>	<p>STATIONS</p> <p>connecting north, south and east Austin</p>
<p>200K+</p> <p>FUTURE JOBS</p>	<p>9.8 MILES</p> <p>of light rail transit</p>
	<p>29K DAILY TRIPS</p> <p>on an average weekday</p>



Austin Light Rail Alignment

15 Stops at Key Locations



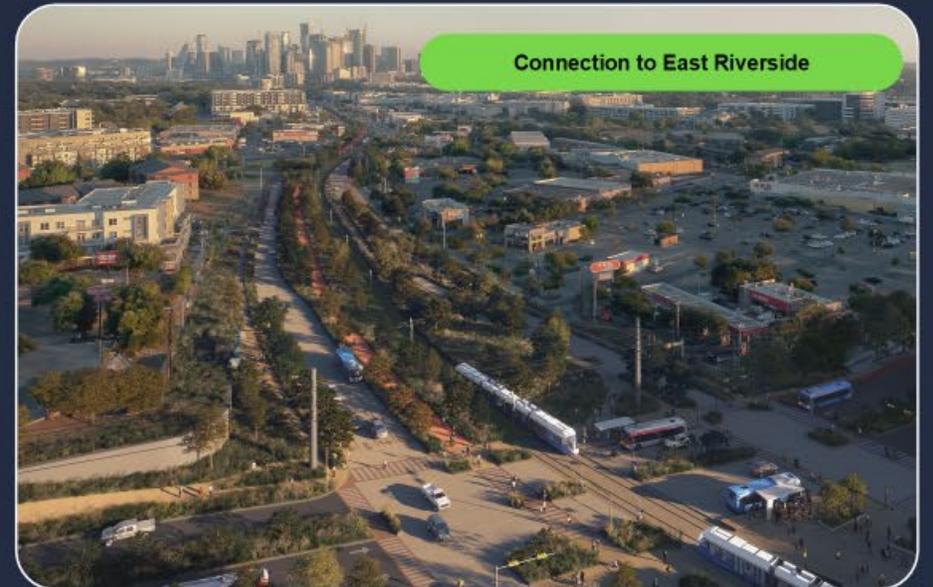
Shaded Walk and Bike Paths



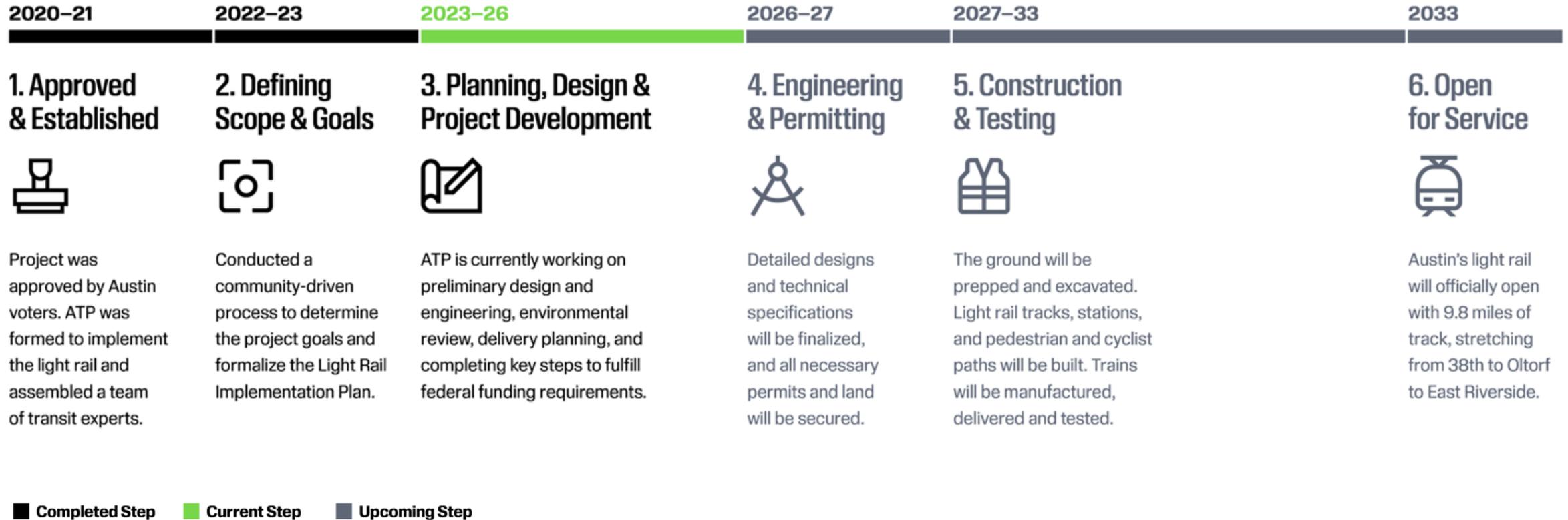
Bridge Over Lady Bird Lake



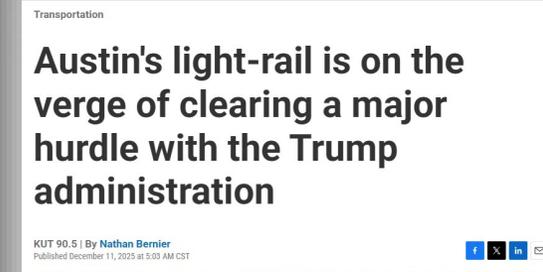
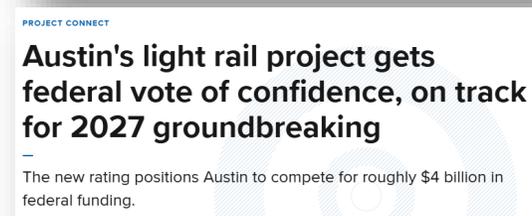
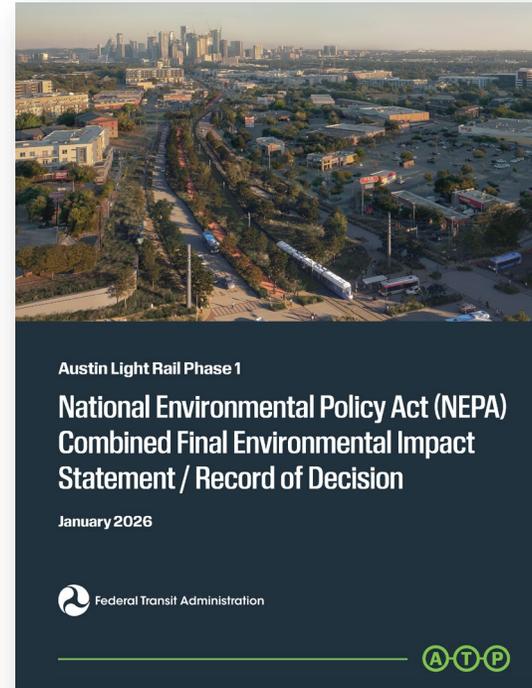
Connection to East Riverside



Austin Light Rail Phase 1



- Advancing through the Capital Investment Grants program
 - Received a medium-high rating - the highest rating awarded by the Federal Transit Administration in the Fiscal Year 2026 cycle
- Completed the NEPA Final Environmental Impact Statement in January 2026, **the first major New Starts project to do so within the required 2-year deadline**
- 2026: Awarding Contracts to Build Austin Light Rail
 - **February:** ATP Board awards final design & construction contract to Austin Rail Constructors
 - **Spring:** ATP Board expected to award contract for construction of Operations & Maintenance Facility
 - **Summer:** ATP Board expected to award contract for light rail vehicles





Civils, Rail, Stations, Systems

- Progressive Design-Build
- February 18th Board Award to Austin Rail Constructors
- Phase 1: Preconstruction (continuing design and planning)
- Phase 2: Construction



Operations & Maintenance Facility

- Progressive Design-Build
- Q2 2026 Award
- Phase 1: Preconstruction (continuing design and planning)
- Phase 2: Construction



Light Rail Vehicles

- Q2 2026 Award
- Supplier selected and begins design coordination with PDB teams
- Vehicle design and manufacturing

What is Progressive Design-Build?

A collaborative construction method where the owner works with the designer & builder from an early stage



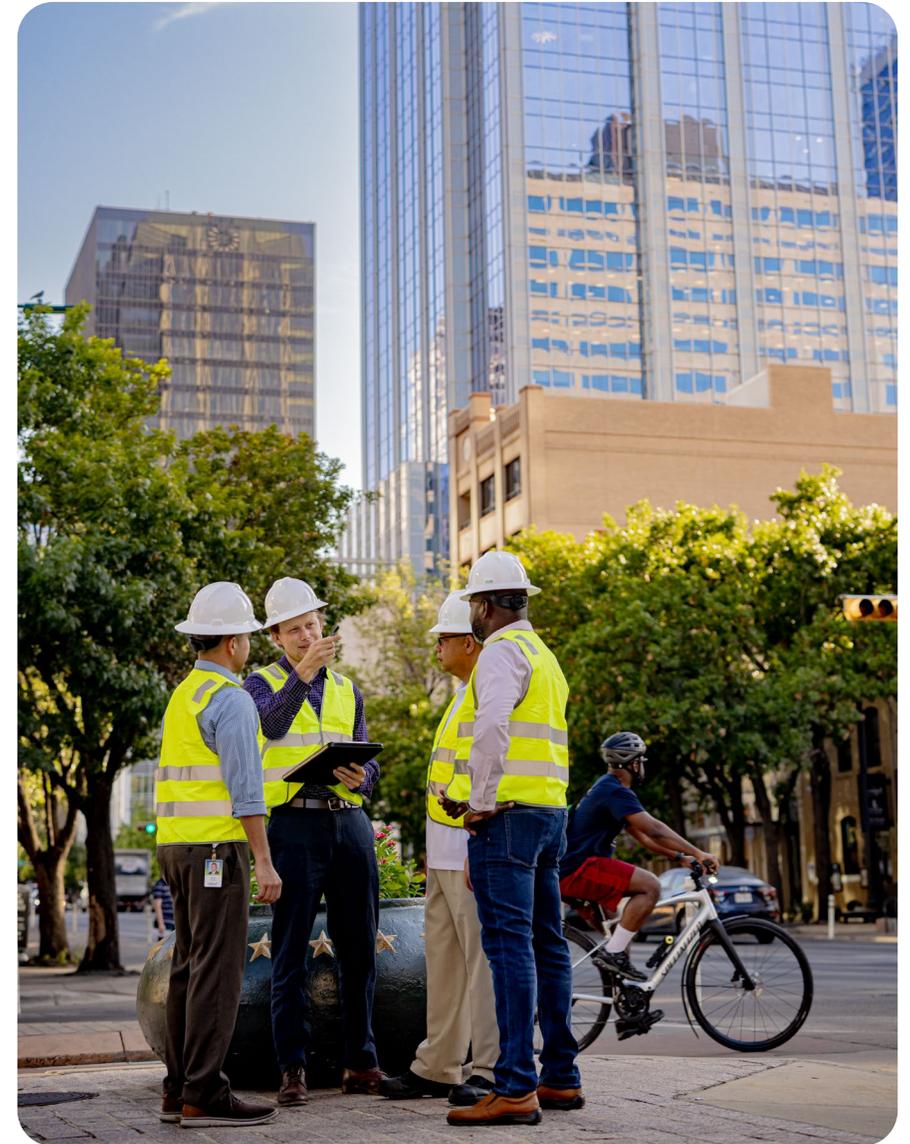
Helps identify opportunities for innovation and optimization



Reduces and manages risks by having all parties at the table at an earlier stage

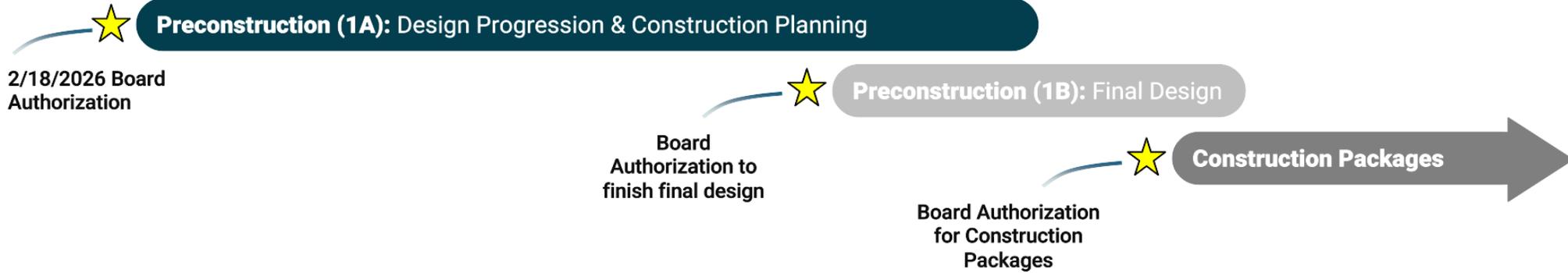


Frequent and early collaboration enhances efficiency and timeliness of delivery



LRT PDB Phase 1A Overview

Pre-Construction Activities: Scope Summary



Preconstruction (1A)

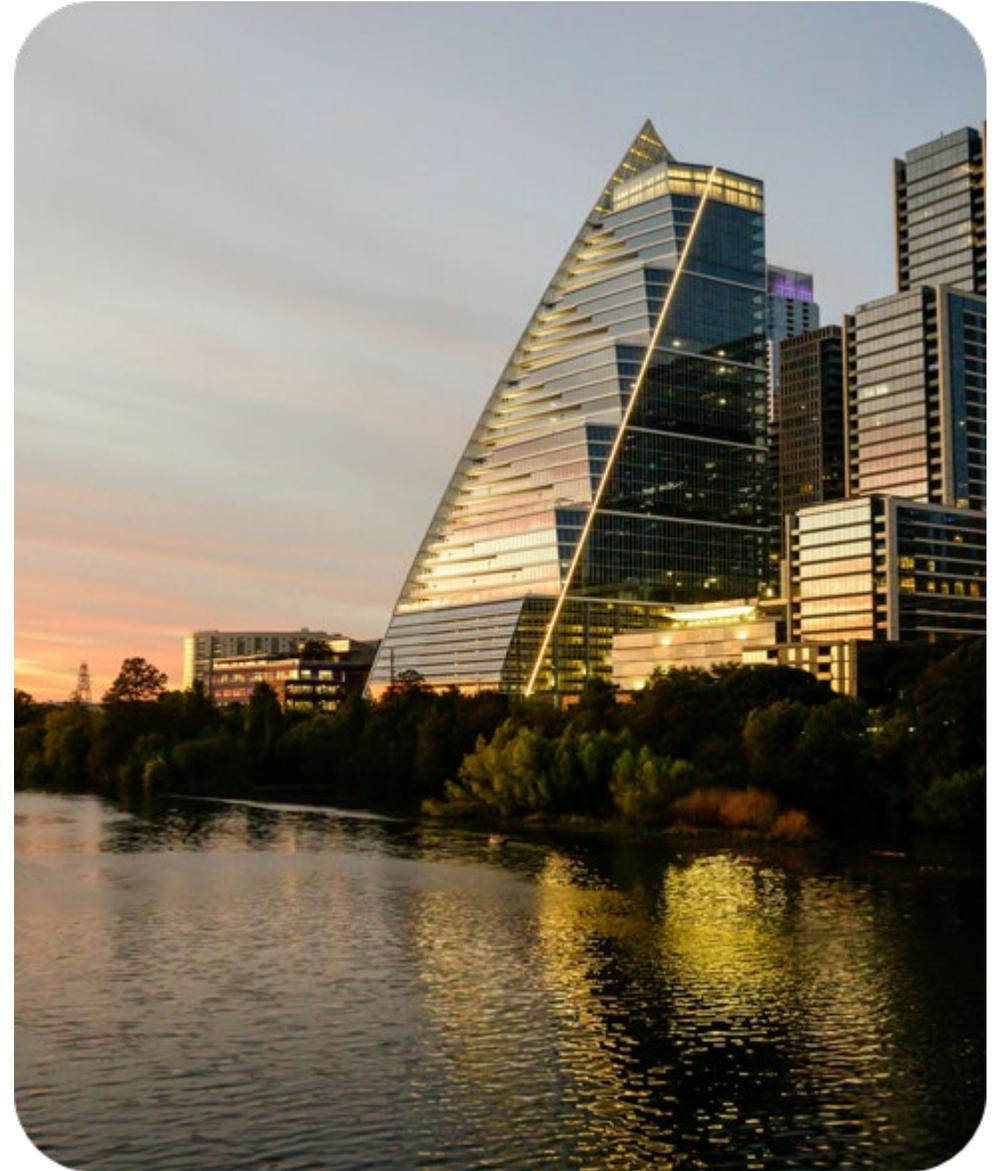
- Advance design and initiate permitting
- Field work and utility coordination
- Constructability reviews, innovation and integrated cost estimating
- Planning for construction: phasing, sequencing & schedule
- Prepare for FTA requirements

Preconstruction (1B)

- Advance design to execute construction packages
- Advance Right-of-Way acquisition activities
- Obtain Third Party approvals and permits
- Refine construction cost estimates
- Engage community on final design and construction planning activities



- **Sequencing & Scheduling:** Contractor teams to start planning how construction will be sequenced and scheduled.
- **Supporting Businesses:** Performing a robust and comprehensive needs assessment to explore supporting businesses during construction.
- **Public Art:** Ready a public art program that celebrates and integrates with Austin's creative DNA.
- **Construction Coordination:** Enhancing coordination with local agencies to improve public safety and reduce impacts on residents, businesses, and travelers through the Central Texas Construction Partnership Program.



Thank You.

