

City of Austin Mobility Report

July 2024



Monthly Highlights

EPA AWARDS AUSTIN \$47.8 MILLION CLIMATE POLLUTION REDUCTION GRANT



The Environmental Protection Agency announced today it is awarding a \$47.8 million grant to a coalition of Austin-area transportation organizations. The Climate Pollution Reduction Grant (CPRG) will help commuters in the region adjust to upcoming major construction projects that will temporarily disrupt travel in and around Austin, as well as benefit from alternate commute options.

The grant is awarded to the City of Austin, which will lead implementation, and partners Texas Department of Transportation (TxDOT), Capital Area Council of Governments (CAPCOG), CapMetro, Capital Area Rural Transportation Service (CARTS) and Movability.

Central Texas is poised to see more than \$20 billion in mobility infrastructure investment over the next decade. As TxDOT begins its I-35 Capital Express Central project and Austin implements Project Connect (light rail and other connectivity improvements), construction will cause major traffic impacts over the next decade, which risks increasing vehicle miles traveled and air pollution by single-occupant vehicles (SOVs).



The coalition will use the federal funds in a three-pronged effort to reduce these risks:

1. Improving regional transit service. CARTS will be expanded, offering more frequent service on its interurban coach and additional vanpool services to suburban communities such as San Marcos, Bastrop and Taylor; CapMetro will increase frequency in north/south routes adjacent to construction; and small-scale shuttles/circulators will operate in construction areas.

2. Investing in mobility infrastructure. New or improved “mobility hubs” will be created at key regional and local mobility transition points, making carpooling, biking, transit and other non-SOV transportation choices more viable. The stations will include expanded access to CapMetro Bikeshare and other micromobility options, large scale secure bicycle storage, parking availability information, bike and pedestrian counters and air quality monitors for data collection.

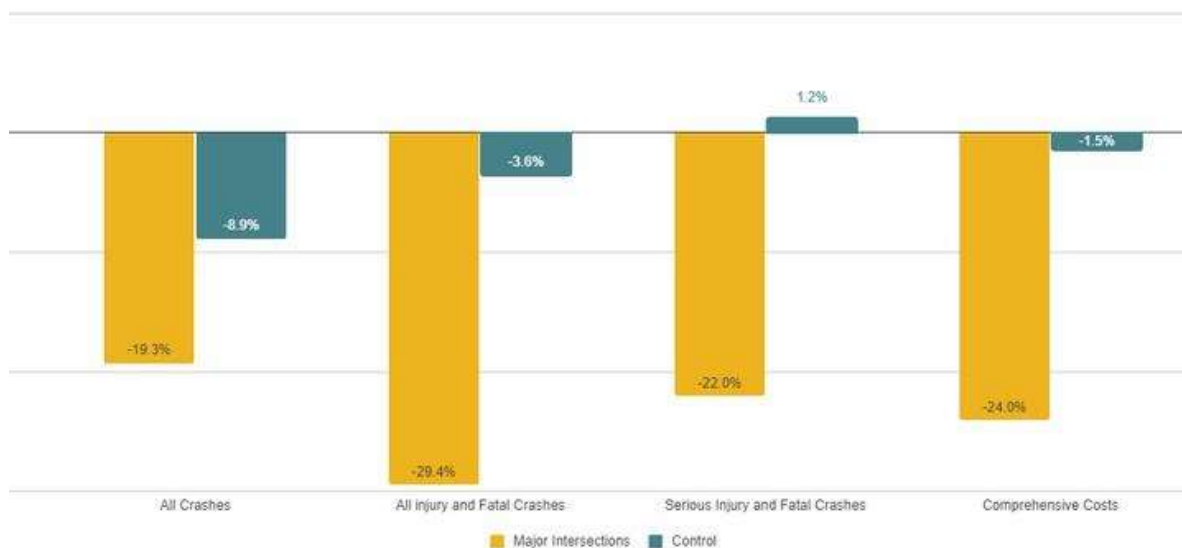
3. Inspiring behavior change. The grant will allow a large-scale program of incentives and engagement to encourage people to stop driving alone. In addition, the program can provide financial incentives aiding low-income transit users and limited payments encouraging new users; grassroots, community-based programming to develop personalized travel planning for hard-to-reach communities; implementation of a coordinated regional mobility website, including live customer service and text/chat support; and regional, multilingual marketing and communications outreach.

VISION ZERO MAJOR INTERSECTION SAFETY PROJECTS CONTINUE TO SHOW CRASH REDUCTIONS

Austin’s Vision Zero program has published an updated analysis of major intersection safety projects completed since 2016, which have been funded primarily through Austin Mobility Bonds. The report shows a 22% reduction in fatal and serious injury crashes at 22 project locations with at least one year of post-construction crash data. This is in contrast to a 1% increase in fatal and serious injury crashes for a comparison group of all other signalized intersections in Austin.



Major Intersections Safety Projects:
Annualized Percent Changes in Crashes and Comprehensive Costs



Additionally, all injury and fatal crashes (i.e. including minor injuries) fell by 29.4% after the projects were completed, equating to 40 fewer people injured or killed at these locations every year. The 22 project locations saw the annualized comprehensive costs of crashes fall by approximately 24.0% or \$28.46 million. Construction costs for these intersections totaled about \$18.48 million, meaning that these safety projects have generated an annual return on investment of 1.54 times the total construction cost. As time goes on, those comprehensive crash cost savings will continue to be realized.

While the aggregate results remain positive, showing a total decline in all crash types and injury severities, some individual locations did see increases in certain crash types, including injury or fatal crashes. Vision Zero staff and TPW engineers are using these results to go back and make additional safety improvements at these locations to address recurring crash patterns and help inform future investments to most effectively reduce injuries and fatalities at intersections.

Since 2016, Vision Zero has completed 27 major intersection safety projects funded primarily through voter-approved mobility bonds in 2016, 2018, and 2020.

Vision Zero's latest evaluation is part of Vision Zero Analytics, a series of reports on innovative research and initiatives conducted by the Austin Transportation and Public Works Department in an effort to significantly reduce fatalities and serious injuries in our community.



CITY OF AUSTIN SEEKS FEEDBACK FOR PROPOSED SAFETY PROJECT ALONG CAMERON ROAD AND DESSAU ROAD



Every year, nearly 100 people are injured or killed in traffic crashes along the Cameron Road and Dessau Road corridor in Austin. To make the community safer and work toward its goal of zero traffic deaths or serious injuries, the City of Austin is proposing safety and mobility improvements for Cameron Road / Dessau Road between 51st Street and Parmer Lane.

You can [view the proposed designs](#) and [provide your feedback in a survey](#) open now to help shape this important project.

Previously, the City of Austin held a community listening session in 2019 to understand how better to serve the safety, accessibility and mobility needs of people who travel along the corridor. Over the past few years, the City has made [safety improvements](#) at several locations. Despite these efforts, some of the major safety issues identified by the community remain and require a more substantial redesign to improve safety for everyone using the corridor.



The proposed design seeks to improve safety and connections to destinations for people traveling by all transportation modes. Improvements will include:

- Adding new or enhanced pedestrian crossings
- Increasing separation between sidewalks and motor vehicle traffic
- Adding physically protected bicycle facilities throughout the corridor
- Enhancing street lighting
- Locating bus stops closer to safe crossings

Between US 290 and Parmer Lane the project proposes to reconfigure vehicle travel lanes — generally going from three lanes in each direction to two lanes — to significantly improve safety while also maintaining existing motor vehicle operations.

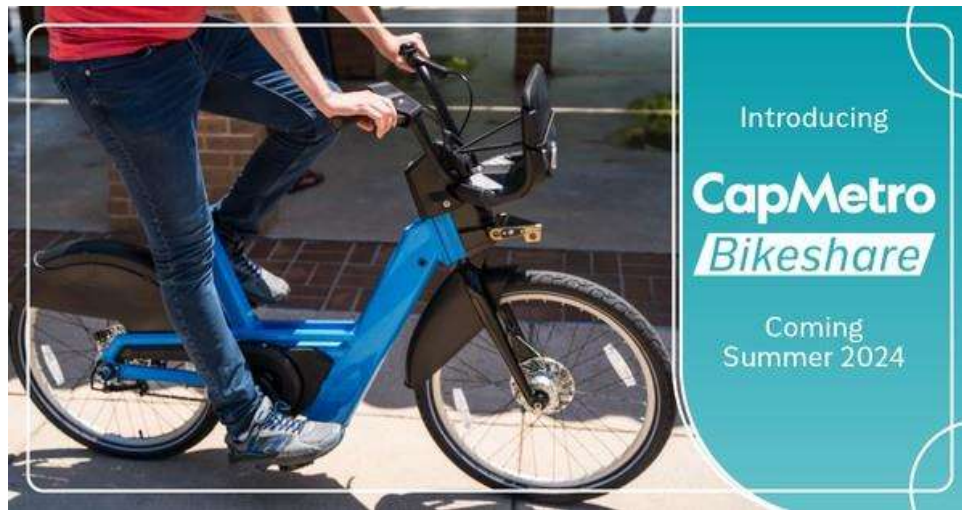
The online survey will be open through Sept. 3. Staff will report back on results and any design adjustments before starting implementation of the project in late 2024/early 2025. The proposed project will be funded through Austin's 2022 Safe Streets and Roads for All grant and 2020 Mobility Bond funding from Bikeways, Vision Zero, Transit Enhancement and Sidewalks.

CAPMETRO BIKESHARE COMING THIS SUMMER

Austin's MetroBike is getting a new look and equipment. Starting this July, the program will transition to CapMetro Bikeshare.

This improved public transportation service includes:

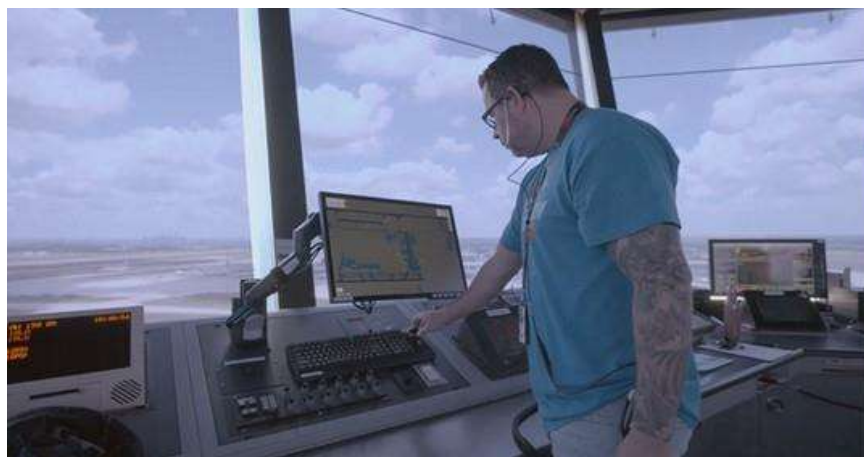
- A new fleet of 100% electric-assist bikes
- All new docking stations, with a select few new locations
- Automatic motor with all-pedal assist
- More stable ride with a durable bike frame and inline battery placement
- Convenient pass-purchasing in the new Bikeshare App



CapMetro will be retiring its current equipment and doing a rolling launch of the new service starting in mid-July and ending in the fall. Due to this shift, MetroBike services will be temporarily suspended starting on Monday, July, 1. According to the [CapMetro webpage](#), 31-day and annual pass purchases have been paused as of Saturday, June 1.

AUS ONE OF FIRST IN NATION TO RECEIVE THE LATEST RUNWAY SAFETY TECHNOLOGY

Austin-Bergstrom joins Indianapolis, Nashville and Dallas Love Field as the first airports in the nation to receive the latest runway safety technology from the Federal Aviation Administration (FAA).





The system, called the Surface Awareness Initiative (SAI) system, uses Automatic Dependent Surveillance – Broadcast (ADS-B) data to display surface traffic to controllers at airports.

The agency's Administrator, Mike Whitaker, said "This cost-effective technology provides controllers with timely and accurate depictions of aircraft and vehicles on the entire airfield in all weather conditions."

AUS remains committed to collaborating with the more than one hundred federal agencies, private businesses and other airport partners that operate at the airport every day to uphold and strengthen the safety of AUS facilities and the safety of air travel.

CLEAR NOW ENROLLING TRAVELERS IN TSA PRECHECK® AT AUS

A photograph of a CLEAR enrollment kiosk and a TSA PreCheck sign. The kiosk is blue with the CLEAR PLUS logo and the text "Enroll Here Spend less time in line and more time where it matters." The sign is white with blue and green text and graphics. It says "Streamline your airport experience" and "TSA Pre✓ Enrollment Provided by: CLEAR". It lists benefits: "With TSA PreCheck, you can breeze through security without removing your shoes, laptops, or jackets." and shows icons for shoes, laptops, 3-1-1 liquids, belts, and light jackets. It also says "Sign up right here at AUS, with two enrollment centers to choose from!" and lists two options: "BAGGAGE CLAIM: Across from Baggage Carousels 3/4. Appointment is required." and "CHECKPOINT 1: NEW! No appointment is needed at the CLEAR enrollment center." The website "www.AustinTexas.gov/AUS-PreCheck" is at the bottom.

CLEAR now offers TSA PreCheck enrollment at their enrollment kiosks located by TSA Checkpoint 1. No appointment is needed for enrollment in either the CLEAR or TSA PreCheck® programs at these kiosks.

To enroll in TSA PreCheck®, passengers must provide an original or certified copy of identity or citizenship status documentation from the approved identification list. TSA PreCheck® costs \$78 or \$85, depending on the enrollment provider, lasts for five years, and offers easy online renewal.



Enrollment for the program is now available at four locations in the Central Texas region:

- Austin-Bergstrom International Airport Baggage Claim – Appointment required
- Austin-Bergstrom International Airport CLEAR Enrollment Center – No appointment required, walk-up only
- Oak Hill Enrollment Center – Appointment required 6330 E Hwy 290, Suite 125
- Round Rock Enrollment Center – Appointment required 600 Round Rock West Dr., Suite 303

For more information on the two programs and enrollment details, visit their websites at CLEAR and TSA PreCheck®.

EXCITING DEVELOPMENTS ALONG THE AIRPORT CORRIDOR



Construction on the Airport Blvd. “C1” Corridor packet is substantially complete. This project has introduced several key enhancements to the area. These projects are part of our continued efforts to enhance transportation infrastructure and safety in our community. These enhancements include traffic signal upgrades at key intersections, with an additional signal and crosswalk added at Clayton Lane.



Other safety improvements include raised medians, and pavement resurfacing and drainage enhancements to ensure a smoother and safer driving experience. Our pedestrian and cyclist community members now enjoy new shared use paths implemented on both sides of the roadway. Additionally, significant improvements to bus stops along this segment have been implemented in collaboration with Capital Metro.

While we celebrate the completion of these recent enhancements, we are also excited about forthcoming construction on the Airport C1A segment – 45th St. to 55th St. – within the next month. These updates will include new shared-use paths, intersection safety upgrades, and improved sidewalk connectivity.

SLAUGHTER LANE CORRIDOR SEGMENT IN CONSTRUCTION



Work to repair the medians on Slaughter Lane from Brandt Road to IH-35 is in progress, with east and westbound left lanes closed to through traffic. The right lanes remain open. A traffic signal is also being installed on Slaughter Lane in front of the Still Waters Apartment complex. Construction is expected to last one to two weeks.



Traffic advisory information was issued to community members and media partners to advise adherence to all traffic signs and ensure safety to construction crew members working in the area.

Meanwhile, on the opposite side of I-35, work has been completed on the installation of the Rialto Blvd. traffic signal. Additional completed work includes ramp installations on all four corners, along with curb modifications on Rialto Blvd. medians.

SOUTH LAMAR CONSTRUCTION ENTERS PHASE ONE

Austin Energy is working on South Lamar Corridor improvements, upgrading electrical distribution that will add energy capacity for growth in the area and help maintain safe, reliable service. The work is estimated for six months. Once completed, CDS will move in to begin its portion of work that includes approximately three (3) miles of corridor mobility improvements from Barton Springs Road to US 290.

Installation of new curb and gutter, construction of ADA compliant shared-use paths, mill and overlay portions of the roadway, intersection upgrades, construction of new bus stops, and storm drain improvements are some elements of the project scope.

Community Resources

[Weekly Mobility Newsletter Sign Up](#)

[Upcoming Sidewalk Projects](#)

[Capital Projects Explorer](#)

[Street Preventative Maintenance](#)

[Austin Mobility Data and Performance Hub](#)

[Special Event Road Closures](#)

[Austin-Bergstrom International Airport](#)