

Monthly Highlights

Vision Zero 2018 Bond Projects Complete, Including Lighting



Some of the many completed projects from the 2018 Mobility Bonds

The City of Austin has finished construction of several street lighting projects. These projects will enhance nighttime traffic safety. The work includes new or upgraded lighting along Pearce Lane in southeast Austin and at 13 major intersections with a high number of crashes.

These projects mark the completion of Vision Zero's 2018 Bond program. The bonds dedicated \$11 million to improve safety at intersections and along major corridors. The bonds were approved by Austin voters in 2018. This funding supported the completion of nine intersection safety projects and over eight miles of lighting improvements.

[View a lighting project's photo album](#)

[See a map showing completed projects funded by the 2016, 2018 and 2020 Bonds](#)

Early results indicate these investments make a significant difference. Major intersection projects like these have led to a [38% reduction](#) in serious injury and fatal crashes at those intersections.

Updates to Residential Right-of-Way Review Begin January 6



Residential Right-of-Way Review



The City of Austin is updating its Residential Right-of-Way (ROW) Review process to better support residents, homeowners and developers. Beginning Jan. 6, 2026, Austin Transportation and Public Works will take the lead on reviewing residential driveway, sidewalk and alley access plans. These changes aim to improve safety, clarity and consistency in ROW requirements citywide.

Launch of Residential Plan Review

This transition marks the official launch for **Residential Plan Review**. This is not a new service but centralizing and streamlining the existing process for residential driveway, sidewalk and alley access plan reviews.

The **Expedited Plan Review** team, in the Development Services Division, is updating its existing software with a new workflow to align with these changes. This update will launch soon after Residential Plan Review, further improving efficiency and predictability for applicants.

New: [Residential Review Guideline Manual](#)

A newly updated [Residential Review Guideline Manual](#) is available to help applicants navigate requirements and understand common issues related to driveways, alleys and sidewalks. This guide is a living document and will continue to be updated over time.

It provides general guidance, but applicants must still refer to:

- [Land Development Code \(LDC\) Chapter 25-6 – Transportation](#)
- [Transportation Criteria Manual \(TCM\)](#)

For questions about the review and residential driveway or sidewalk construction, please email: ResidentialROWReview@austintexas.gov.

Zilker Elementary Safety Improvements Complete



The City of Austin has completed safety improvements to routes to Zilker Elementary School. These changes will make it safer for students and their families to walk to and from school.

The changes include:

- Curb extension at the intersection of Rundell Place and Ann Arbor Avenue
- Three new flashing solar school zone beacons at Ann Arbor Avenue by Zilker Neighborhood Park, at Rundell Place near Bluebonnet Lane and near 2101 Rundell Place
- Six pedestrian crossing islands along Bluebonnet Lane at Ashby Avenue, Ford Street, Anita Drive, mid-block across from Zilker Neighborhood Park, Arpdale Street and Meadowridge Drive
- Protected two-way bike lane from Del Curto Road to Rabb Road

[View photos of the completed Zilker Elementary project](#)

These improvements were funded by the [2016 and 2020 Mobility Bonds](#) and completed under the direction of the City's [Safe Routes to School](#), [Pedestrian Crossings](#) and [Bikeways](#) programs.

Survey: How Do You Use Curb Space?



The street curb is one of the busiest, most flexible parts of a city. It's where people park, load and unload goods, hop on and off buses, ride bikes, use shared scooters and access buildings.

The City manages the curb through strategies such as signage, loading zones, pricing and enforcement to keep people and goods moving smoothly.

To address the diverse and often conflicting demands on curb space in Austin, the City is developing a comprehensive Curbside Management Plan. This document will prioritize uses to reduce conflicts, meet needs and plan for future changes so the curb is safe, fair and efficient.

As part of the process to develop this Curbside Management Plan, a survey is open now online. Through the survey, the City is seeking to learn more about how you use curb space, what problems you've encountered and what your top priorities are.

You can find the survey at SpeakUpAustin.org/CurbManagement. The survey is open through January 25, 2026.

City of Austin and CapMetro Partnership Delivers Faster, Safer Transit



The City of Austin and CapMetro work together to deliver high-quality public transportation for Austin. A new report titled [“Streets for Transit: Volume 2”](#) shows the results of this partnership.

The report highlights 20 projects completed between 2021 and 2024 by Austin’s [Transit Enhancement Program](#) and CapMetro’s [Transit Speed and Reliability Program](#).

These projects directly impacted 61 percent of CapMetro’s routes. Those routes carry 77 percent of daily riders. They delivered nine miles of improvements across the city.

The report notes that:

- Four projects reduced bus-related crashes by as much as 72 percent. Projects that did not fully eliminate crashes still lowered bus repair costs by as much as 90 percent.
- Eight projects reduced crashes involving injuries or deaths by as much as 65 percent, making Austin’s streets safer for everyone.
- Seven projects reduced CapMetro’s average travel times by up to 43 percent, and four projects improved on-time performance by up to 68 percent.

To read the report, visit the City of Austin’s [Transit Enhancement Program](#).

AUS Completes New Outbound Baggage Handling System Ahead of Schedule



On **December 10**, Austin-Bergstrom International Airport (AUS) announced a major milestone with the early completion of its new **Outbound Baggage Handling System (BHS)**, a key project within the **Journey With AUS Expansion Program**.

The upgraded system modernizes outbound baggage processing by moving checked luggage from ticket counters through security screening and on to aircraft more efficiently. Capable of processing **up to 4,000 bags per hour**, the new BHS more than doubles the capacity of the previous system, improving reliability and helping reduce potential flight delays as passenger volumes continue to grow.

Construction began in winter 2022 and was originally scheduled for completion in spring 2026. Through strong collaboration with project partners, the system was delivered ahead of schedule and is designed to support future demand of **up to 37 million annual passengers**.

Enhancements include upgraded technology, increased system reliability, and **1.5 miles of new conveyor belts** connecting ticket counters to the baggage makeup area.

With an investment of approximately **\$241.5 million**, funded through airport revenues, reserves, future bonds, and FAA grants, this project strengthens the operational backbone of AUS and supports continued growth for the airport and the Central Texas region.

Learn more here: [New Outbound Baggage Handling System Activates Ahead of Schedule, Increasing Bag Reliability & More | AustinTexas.gov](#)

City Council Approval Paves the Way for Major Southwest Airlines Expansion at AUS



The Austin City Council approved a Chapter 380 economic development agreement with **Southwest Airlines Co.** on **Thursday, December 11**, supporting a significant expansion of the airline's operations at Austin-Bergstrom International Airport (AUS). The agreement was formally highlighted during an event held on **December 12**, underscoring its importance to Austin's workforce and regional economy.

As AUS's largest carrier, Southwest plans to establish a full crew base, relocate its Command Center to AUS, and invest more than **\$8.4 million** in airport improvements. The expansion is expected to create **2,000 new full-time jobs** while retaining **840 existing positions**, with all new roles meeting the City of Austin Living Wage requirements and offering comprehensive benefits.

The project will strengthen airport operations by increasing staffing levels, enhancing on-site command capabilities, and improving aircraft availability. These improvements are expected to support additional nonstop routes, increase operational reliability, and enhance passenger experience as the airport continues to grow. Southwest's infrastructure investments will also help build long-term capacity at AUS with no upfront cost to the City.

The agreement authorizes up to **\$5.5 million in performance-based incentives** over five years, issued only after annual compliance and job creation benchmarks are met. A portion of each payment will support the City's Childcare Assistance Reserve Fund. The agreement includes no upfront subsidies or tax abatements, ensuring fiscal responsibility.

Additional provisions focus on workforce and community benefits, including aviation career awareness efforts, skills-based training and apprenticeship pathways, paid high school internships, and ongoing community engagement. Together, these initiatives support economic mobility, workforce development, and Austin's continued growth as a major aviation hub.

Learn more here: [Austin Means Business: City Approves Major Southwest Airlines Expansion at AUS | AustinTexas.gov](#)

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 Closure](#)

[Austin-Bergstrom International Airport](#)