

City of Austin Mobility Report

March 2024



Monthly Highlights

AUSTIN WINS \$105 MILLION GRANT FOR TRANSFORMATIVE OUR FUTURE 35 PROJECT



The City of Austin has been awarded a \$105.2 million Capital Construction Grant as part of the U.S. Department of Transportation's Neighborhood Access and Equity Grant Program (NAE), funded by the Inflation Reduction Act (IRA). The City will use this grant funding to construct a 5.3-acre freeway cap over I-35 between Cesar Chavez and Fourth Street as part of Our Future 35: Austin's Cap and Stitch Program.

The City's "Our Future 35" initiative aims to construct caps and stitches, otherwise known as platforms or lids, over portions of I-35 in Central Austin being reconstructed as part of the Texas Department of Transportation (TxDOT) Capital Express Central Project.

The City's cap and stitch project provides a once-in-a-generation opportunity to change the landscape of Central Austin by building public space and amenities that celebrate and connect all Austinites.

The City applied for the grant in September and identified the freeway cap between Cesar Chavez Street and Fourth Street as a strong candidate project due to the enhanced connections it will provide residents of the East Cesar Chavez Neighborhood to downtown previously cut off by the original construction of I-35, including a potentially uninterrupted walking and biking corridor across I-35 at Third Street that requires no frontage road crossings.



The City will contribute a \$45 million local match to the project to fund a majority of the amenity construction for the Cesar Chavez to Fourth Street Cap. The City will coordinate with TxDOT on the design and engineering of the cap structure and anticipates a robust public process to determine the design of amenities on top that will be constructed after the structure is built.

The City continues to explore funding and phasing strategies for other caps and stitches, including additional grants, philanthropy, and other sources.

RECONSTRUCTION COMING TO I-35 CAPITAL EXPRESS CENTRAL



The Texas Department of Transportation (TxDOT) is about to begin a major reconstruction of Interstate 35 through Austin. The upper deck will be removed, and the highway will be lowered below ground level through downtown and widened to include non-tolled high occupancy vehicle managed lanes.

The project will transform Central Austin around the highway. The City, the University of Texas and TxDOT are exploring plans to build a series of “caps and stitches” over the lowered section of the highway. Caps are wide decks that would allow the community to reclaim the space over the highway and stitches are widened bridges that would improve mobility over the highway. How the spaces will be used will eventually be determined by the community.

Construction is expected to break ground by Fall 2024.



Construction is expected to last through 2032 in the following phases:

- 2024-26 – East Martin Luther King Jr Boulevard JJ Seabrook Memorial Bridge
- 2024-27 – drainage tunnel under I-35 and East Cesar Chavez Street
- 2024-31 – Lady Bird Lake (Holly Street to East Ben White Boulevard)
- 2025-28 – CapMetro Red Line bridges (Airport Boulevard and East Fourth Street)
- 2026-31 – University (U.S. 290 East to East Martin Luther King Boulevard)
- 2026-32 – Downtown (East Martin Luther King Boulevard to Holly Street)

The project will involve a complete reconstruction of the I-35 bridge over Lady Bird Lake that will impact usage of the Ann and Roy Butler Hike-and-Bike Trail and nearby parks, including some temporary closures.

TRANSPORTATION AND PUBLIC WORKS UNVEILS 2023 ANNUAL REPORT



The City of Austin Transportation and Public Works Department has proudly released its inaugural Annual Report, marking a significant year of advancements achieved in the 2023 calendar year. The report, available at TPW2023Report.com, highlights the department's continued efforts to enhance the efficiency, safety, and quality of Austin's transportation network.

Residents are encouraged to explore the comprehensive report to learn more about the impact of the department's work over the past year.



Report highlights include:

- Completion of over 56 miles of sidewalk projects, and completion of the 2016 Mobility Bond-funded sidewalk initiative one year ahead of schedule
- Reaccreditation from the American Public Works Association
- Receipt of a \$22.8M Safe Streets for All grant, significantly advancing the department's safety initiatives designed to reduce traffic-related fatalities and serious injuries
- Improved citywide mobility through intersection safety upgrades and the construction of new ADA-compliant trails
- Detailed overview of TPW's fiscal budget

AUS WELCOMES VIVA AEROBUS AS NEWEST INTERNATIONAL AIRLINE



In September of 2023 the Mexican carrier Viva Aerobus announced its arrival to Austin by launching nonstop flights to Monterrey, Mexico. On March 22, 2024, this year-round service started operating four days per week. Viva Aerobus, which now joins Austin-Bergstrom International Airport as Central Texas' 19th airline, offers the newest fleet of aircraft out all other Mexican airlines.

As the demand for international travel grows in Central Texas, AUS has launched an improvement project for the International Arrivals facility. The project, which is currently in design, will add more baggage carousels and increase space for passenger processing to improve the experience for arriving international passengers. These improvements are part of the airport's work to deliver near-term terminal improvement through the Journey With AUS program.



AUS RESPONDS TO SPRING FESTIVAL SEASON TRAVEL VOLUMES

One thing about the Austin-Bergstrom International Airport (AUS), is that we know how to have fun during Spring Break season. With SXSW, NASCAR, Texas Relays, and Rodeo Austin, others want to join in on the fun and we attract tons of travelers from all over. With this brings record breaking large crowds!

| Date | Number of People Screened Thru TSA | Event |
|--------------------|------------------------------------|----------------|
| Thursday, March 7 | 35,920 | SXSW Weekend 1 |
| Friday, March 8 | 37,909 | SXSW Weekend 1 |
| Saturday, March 9 | 30,211 | SXSW Weekend 1 |
| Sunday, March 10 | 36,256 | SXSW Weekend 1 |
| Monday, March 11 | 37,993 | SXSW Weekend 1 |
| Friday, March 15 | 28,979 | SXSW Weekend 2 |
| Saturday, March 16 | 23,229 | SXSW Weekend 2 |
| Sunday, March 17 | 32,450 | SXSW Weekend 2 |
| Monday, March 18 | 27,125 | SXSW Weekend 2 |

In order to meet the volume and safety needs of our passengers, AUS Department of Aviation teams prepared in advance by:

- Launching a comprehensive travel tips communications campaign to advise travelers of the expected busy days & to proactively provide tips and recommendations to help travelers plan for their airport experience
- Requesting our TSA, airline and concession partners to increase staffing levels as appropriate so their operations are not inhibited by delays at checkpoints, airline ticket counters and concessions
- Proactively activating a Department Operations Center to ensure swift cross-departmental coordination in the event of an emergency or irregular operation
- Re-assigned non-frontline staff to temporarily fill in frontline roles in the terminal to assist passengers with line queuing, wayfinding and general requests for assistance



Community Resources

[Weekly Mobility Newsletter Sign Up](#)

[Capital Projects Explorer](#)

[Austin Mobility Data and Performance Hub](#)

[Austin-Bergstrom International Airport](#)

[Upcoming Sidewalk Projects](#)

[Street Preventative Maintenance](#)

[Special Event Road Closures](#)