

City of Austin Mobility Report

November 2024



Monthly Highlights

AUSTIN AWARDED \$32 MILLION FEDERAL GRANT FOR BARTON SPRINGS ROAD BRIDGE REPLACEMENT



The U.S. Department of Transportation awarded the City of Austin \$32 million to replace the [Barton Springs Road Bridge](#).

The [Bridge Investment Program](#) grant funding will allow the City to replace the existing Barton Springs Road Bridge, which consists of the original 99-year-old south structure and a north structure, a 78-year-old addition to the original, with a new bridge that will widen the current structure's deck.

Structurally, the current bridge is in fair condition but is nearing the end of its useful life and does not meet current design standards. This new bridge would connect to the existing active transportation network on Barton Springs Road, provide bicycle and pedestrian facilities and resolve the problematic pinch point that creates a gap in the Barton Springs Road All Ages and Abilities Bicycle network.

In December 2023, City Council officially recommended replacing the bridge and advanced the project to the design phase. However, at the time, there were no funds identified for construction. The [2020 Mobility Bond](#) program funded the design of the bridge. This \$32 million grant award will help fund construction.



COMMUNITY FEEDBACK SHAPES CAMERON ROAD/DESSAU ROAD SAFETY IMPROVEMENTS



The Austin community's participation during the [Cameron Road and Dessau Road Safety Project's](#) public engagement process helped refine elements of the project design. With more than 1,000 online survey responses, about 80% of the respondents indicated they somewhat or strongly support the proposed design. A detailed summary of the comments received is available in the [Public Engagement Summary report](#).

This corridor sees an average of two people killed and 95 people injured per year in traffic crashes and an estimated \$100 million in comprehensive costs to the community each year over the past five years. In service to the City of Austin's Vision Zero goals to reduce traffic-related fatalities and serious injuries to zero, the project will bring street improvements to reduce high-risk speeding, minimize crash conflict points and improve comfort for all people navigating the corridor.

In response to the input received from July 8 through September 3, staff made several changes to the initial [proposed design](#):

- Adding a third southbound vehicle lane in advance of the Shropshire Lane/Braker Lane (north intersection) intersection to the Braker Lane (south intersection) to better address vehicle capacity needs
- Adding a northbound dual left turn at Braker Lane



- Adding dedicated left-turn pockets at existing median breaks at the driveways to the Lucent and Parmer Place apartments as well as at Daleside Lane
- Continued evaluation of access control and U-turn refinements for safer motor vehicle movements, and placement of relocated and enhanced bus stops

The project team is now developing a multi-phased implementation plan for this 6.5-mile-long corridor, which is expected to start construction in **spring 2025**. For more information on the next steps of the Cameron Road/Dessau Road Safety Project, [read the project update here](#).

CITY OF AUSTIN'S VISION ZERO PROGRAM ADVISES RESIDENTS TO PREPARE FOR DARKER EVENING COMMUTES



In addition to reminding drivers to pay extra attention on the road this fall, the City of Austin's [Vision Zero](#) program is actively pursuing strategies to enhance street lighting throughout the city to improve visibility and reduce crash risks.

Vision Zero is using funding from [local Mobility Bonds](#) and its 2022 [Safe Streets and Roads for All \(SS4A\) grant](#) to implement street lighting projects at high-crash locations throughout Austin. Recently, Vision Zero completed street lighting upgrades on Slaughter Lane from Riddle Road to Brandt Road, and construction of another lighting project, Howard Lane from Scofield Parkway to Dessau Road, is anticipated to be completed before the end of the year.



Vision Zero also plans to begin construction of lighting projects on Bluff Springs Road, McNeil Drive, Pearce Lane, Cameron Road / Dessau Road and several major intersections over the next two years.

Austin's 2022 SS4A grant is also being used to develop a Citywide Lighting Plan in partnership with Austin Energy and other City departments. This plan will provide the City of Austin with a holistic, proactive strategy to improve street lighting throughout Austin by incorporating national and international best practices into City lighting guidelines, identifying high priority lighting gaps, and identifying potential funding sources for new lighting. Community input will play a critical role in developing the plan's recommendations, with engagement expected to kick off in spring 2025.

Darker lighting conditions pose greater injury risks for people using all modes of transportation, and particularly for vulnerable road users. Austin crash data shows that crashes involving pedestrians that occur in dark conditions are twice as likely to result in death or injury than those occurring in non-dark conditions.

AUSTIN-BERGSTROM INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT'S PIO AND MARKETING TEAM WINS INDUSTRY AWARDS



The Austin-Bergstrom International Airport's PIO and Marketing team took home two esteemed and competitive Industry Awards last week at the Airports Council International – North America Annual Excellence in Marketing, Communications and Customer Experience Awards.



The AUS team was recognized as a finalist in four categories: Brand Identity, Newsletters, Public Relations Program and Marketing Program and won first place in Best Overall Public Relations Program for Large Airports and Best Overall Marketing Program for Large Airports! This was the team's first time competing in the Large Airport category and the first time in over ten years that AUS has brought home a first-place win from this award program and the first time AUS has won the Overall Marketing award and the Overall Public Relations award.

Read [ACI's press release](#) to check out other airport industry leaders.

LONGHORN DAM MULTIMODAL IMPROVEMENTS PROJECT UPDATE



The City continues on with construction of the Longhorn Dam Multimodal Improvements Project! This project will be providing a new wishbone-shaped bicycle and pedestrian bridge that will connect the [Ann & Roy Butler Hike and Bike Trail](#), as well as a new underpass for pedestrians and bikers underneath South Pleasant Valley Road.

Completed Tasks:

- All seven precast sections of the arches for the new underpass under South Pleasant Valley Road have been completed on the east side.
- All nine of the cast in-place columns have been installed on the drill shafts. These cast-in-place concrete columns are vertical support columns that help hold the bridge up.



- Art In Public Places (AIPP) completed their public outreach sessions to receive input on the artwork that will be featured in the new underpass under South Pleasant Valley Road.

Ongoing Tasks:

- The t-caps on top of the columns that the bridge will rest on are being installed. Once the t-caps are in place, the contractor will begin installing the precast girders. Girders are similar to arms that will support the bridge.
- Final cast-in-place sections with wingwalls for the underpass will begin tying into the slope of the embankment. Expected to be completed by early December.
- The construction of the western portion of the new underpass under South Pleasant Valley Road will begin in late November, early December. Construction on the west side of the underpass is expected to be completed by May 2025.
- The combination of drill shafts, columns, and t-caps will support the entire bridge. The construction and installation of this support system is ongoing and expected to be completed by the end of the year.

Construction Impacts:

- Traffic along South Pleasant Valley Road will continue in its current configuration.
- Traffic lanes on the west side of South Pleasant Valley Road have been converted to one way in both directions.
- Pedestrians and bikers using the Ann & Roy Butler Hike and Bike Trail will continue to be re-routed onto the east side of South Pleasant Valley Road.
- Canterbury Street will continue to serve as a detour for pedestrians and bikers using the Ann & Roy Butler Hike and Bike Trail with one way traffic heading west.

WILLIAM CANNON DRIVE BRIDGE STABILIZATION PROJECT NEARING COMPLETION

As construction on the William Cannon Drive Bridge Stabilization draws to a close, the project remains within budget and on time for completion by late November 2024.



Recent Developments:

- Coping (the top covering of the bridge wall), sidewalk, and traffic rail work are complete.
- Excavation for the drainage channel on the south side has commenced.
- Installation of the privacy fence along the north side of the bridge has commenced.

Upcoming Tasks:

- Subgrade proof rolling, a practice that examines the mass response of subgrade to vehicle-type loads before pavement layers are constructed, is set to begin on the north side.
- A traffic lane shift to the center lanes is tentatively scheduled for November 1. This change is anticipated to last for two weeks.

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](#)