



- **What is Urban Rail?** Urban Rail is the City of Austin’s term for a rail transit service that blends the characteristics of modern streetcar (Portland, Seattle, etc.), with smaller trains stopping more frequently that can run in-street with other traffic, with those of light rail (Dallas, Houston, etc), with larger trains stopping less frequently in separate rights-of-way.
- **How does Urban Rail operate?** Urban Rail is an electrified, fixed-guideway system that uses overhead wires for power. In dense, urban environments the track is embedded in the pavement and can, but may not always, share lanes with cars, trucks, and buses using traffic signals. It can also run on conventional railroad tracks. Stops can be 2-4 blocks apart in downtown and ½ mile or more in less dense areas. Stops can be slightly raised bus stops or more elaborate stations.
- **Will we get to vote on it?** The City is considering Urban Rail for a possible November 2012 bond election. A firm decision on this will be made later this year. You would be asked to vote on potential local funding for a portion the First Investment/ Phase. A range of funding options are being explored.
- **How will we pay for it?** The City is pursuing Federal Transit Administration (FTA) New Starts Program funding for a portion of the capital cost. The rest would come locally from a mix of bonds, value capture tools, partnerships, and other sources. The funding plan is under development.

Major Destinations

- UT – Capitol – Downtown
- Austin-Bergstrom Int’l Airport
- Mueller Redevelopment
- East Riverside Corridor
- Red Line Commuter Rail
- LSTAR Regional Rail
- UT Stadiums (DKR & Erwin Center)
- St. David’s Hospital
- Convention & Conference Centers
- Texas State History Museum
- Hotels
- ACC Campuses



Proposed System Plan

- **Length** 16.5 double-tracked route miles; built in phases
- **Travel Time** About 30 min. Mueller to Downtown or ABIA to Downtown
- **Estimated Ridership** for first phase is under development. Full systems estimates average 27,000 daily riders by 2030
- **Estimated Construction Cost**
 - \$1.3 billion in year of expenditure (2015)
 - Combination local/federal dollars
 - First investment would be less
 - \$74 M/mile in year of expenditure
- **Estimated Operating Cost**
 - \$25 million per year by 2030 for the full system; 10 min. peak/off-peak service
 - First investment would be less



Studies Completed

- **Central Austin Transit Study Alternatives Evaluation** – July 2010
- **Conceptual Engineering**– July 2010
- **Pre-NEPA Environmental Study** – August 2010
- **Preliminary Structural Evaluation of Bridges Over Lady Bird Lake** – May 2011

Studies In-Progress

- **Environmental Impact Statement** – Draft Spring 2012
- **Urban Rail Utility Rules of Practice** – Draft Fall 2011
- **Guadalupe/Lavaca Traffic Study** – September 2011





Austin Urban Rail System

Why Urban Rail?



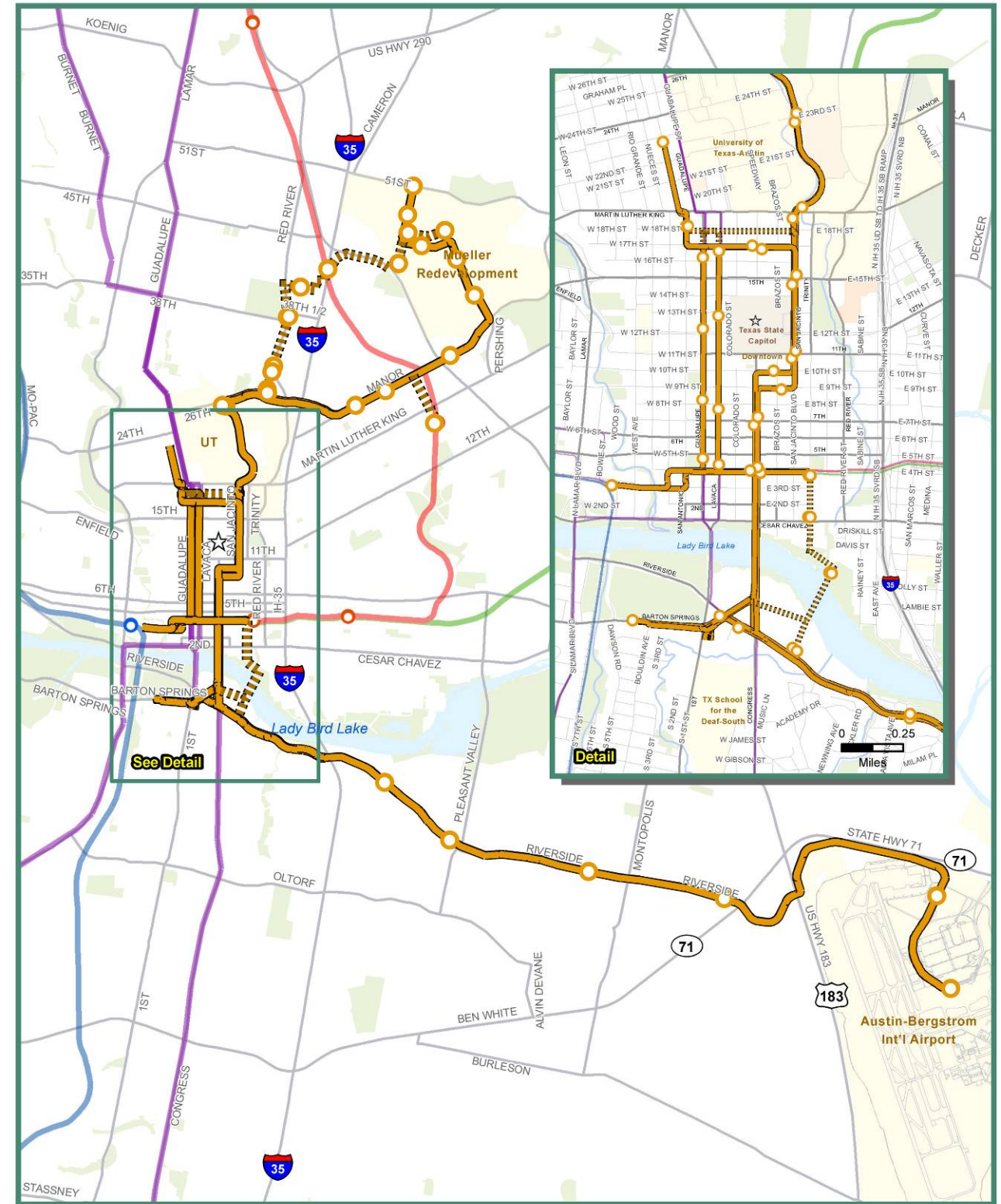
- **Part of a Multi-Modal Solution** We face greater mobility problems than any one solution can address. We're making improvements and squeezing as much efficiency out of all modes: roads, bike, pedestrian, and transit.
- **Keystone to Regional High-Capacity Transit System** Urban Rail ties together and leverages the emerging regional high-capacity transit system including Capital Metro Commuter Rail and Lone Star Regional Rail.
- **Adds Capacity** Central Austin gateway intersections and roadways are currently at capacity during peak periods and the population is expected to double in the next 20 years; severely limited room to widen and Urban Rail could add significant peak period capacity (up to 165 people per train) within existing corridors.
- **Attracts Economic Development and Jobs** Similar public transit investments have attracted much more in private investments. A healthy, vibrant, and sustainable core means the same for the region.
- **Supports the City's and Region's Goals** This community has repeatedly supported efforts to manage growth and limit sprawl – Urban Rail can play a critical role in achieving these goals.



Austin Urban Rail System

System Map

CITY OF AUSTIN PROPOSED URBAN RAIL SYSTEM



Legend

- Urban Rail Conceptual Stops
- Proposed Urban Rail
- Proposed Urban Rail Alternative
- CMTA Green Line
- CMTA Red Line
- CMTA MetroRapid
- Lone Star Rail

