

Dear Interested Party,

This Final Environmental Impact Statement (FEIS)/Record of Decision (ROD) represents the conclusion of the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) environmental review process and lays the foundation for advancing the Austin Light Rail Phase 1 Project (Project) into more detailed design and construction phases. The FEIS/ROD documents the Federal Transit Administration's (FTA) basis for selecting the Preferred Alternative, summarizes mitigation measures included as part of the Project, and documents FTA's approval under Section 4(f) of the Department of Transportation Act.

The FEIS/ROD describes changes to the Project based on updated design since publication of the Draft Environmental Impact Statement (DEIS) in January 2025, and it provides responses to public and agency comments received on the DEIS. Our analysis of potential impacts on the built and natural environment remains substantively unchanged from the DEIS; however, some technical corrections and minor updates were made. For example, the FEIS/ROD includes a refined assessment of potential effects on wetlands and updated noise and vibration mitigation analysis. We have also reduced potential adverse effects and addressed public and agency comments received, including:

- a reduction in the number of parcels to be acquired and the elimination of all residential displacements identified in the DEIS;
- the use of a surface park-and-ride facility at 38th Street in lieu of a parking structure; and
- an alignment shift from the center of Trinity Street to side-running along the east side of Trinity Street to allow better access to existing loading docks and an easement for an Austin Energy transmission pole.

Please note that the FEIS/ROD also reflects changes in requirements for environmental review since publication of the DEIS. For example, in response to Executive Order 14154, *Unleashing American Energy*, the Council on Environmental Quality removed its NEPA implementing regulations and acknowledged that the Fiscal Responsibility Act of 2023 amended NEPA to clarify that environmental impact statements must analyze and disclose the "reasonably foreseeable environmental effects of the proposed agency action." In addition, the U.S. Supreme Court issued its decision in *Seven County Infrastructure Coalition v. Eagle County, Colorado*, which held the focus of NEPA is the project at hand, not projects separate in time or place from the project at hand. To respond to these types of changes, we've updated our analysis where necessary.

This FEIS/ROD is the culmination of years of planning and public involvement. It builds on years of prior planning, alternatives analysis, comments received on the DEIS, and extensive public and agency input. We appreciate your participation in this process and will continue to collaborate as we advance the Project to final design, construction, and operation.