

# Austin Light Rail Phase 1

Final Environmental Impact Statement

## Appendix K: Agency Coordination

**From:** [Deron Lozano](#)  
**To:** [Dan Reece](#)  
**Cc:** [Jessica Schmerler](#); [Underwood, Tom](#); [Plaskon, Terence \(FTA\)](#)  
**Subject:** RE: Austin Light Rail Phase 1 Project - Cooperating Agencies Review of Administrative Draft Combined FEIS/ROD - Comments requested by September 5, 2025  
**Date:** Tuesday, September 9, 2025 1:10:29 PM  
**Attachments:** [image001.png](#)  
[image002.png](#)  
[image003.png](#)

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Thank you Dan, we appreciate your continued engagement and direction on the 6(f) process.

Deron

Austin Transit Partnership  
(512) 923-3257

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**From:** Dan Reece <[Dan.Reece@tpwd.texas.gov](mailto:Dan.Reece@tpwd.texas.gov)>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, September 9, 2025 12:57 PM  
**To:** Plaskon, Terence (FTA) <[terence.plaskon@dot.gov](mailto:terence.plaskon@dot.gov)>  
**Cc:** Deron Lozano <[Deron.Lozano@atptx.org](mailto:Deron.Lozano@atptx.org)>; Jessica Schmerler <[jessica.schmerler@tpwd.texas.gov](mailto:jessica.schmerler@tpwd.texas.gov)>  
**Subject:** Re: Austin Light Rail Phase 1 Project - Cooperating Agencies Review of Administrative Draft Combined FEIS/ROD - Comments requested by September 5, 2025

Hi all, we do not have any additional comments pertaining to the 6(f) requirements. Thanks for the opportunity to provide feedback.

Sincerely,  
Dan

**Dan Reece, RLA**  
TPWD Local Park Grants Manager  
TX Landscape Architect #1986  
(512) 389-4656 – office  
(512) 945-3767 – mobile/text

[Visit us Online](#)

---

**From:** Plaskon, Terence (FTA) <[Terence.Plaskon@dot.gov](mailto:Terence.Plaskon@dot.gov)>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, September 9, 2025 10:53 AM  
**To:** Dan Reece <[Dan.Reece@tpwd.texas.gov](mailto:Dan.Reece@tpwd.texas.gov)>  
**Cc:** Deron Lozano <[Deron.Lozano@atptx.org](mailto:Deron.Lozano@atptx.org)>; Jessica Schmerler <[Jessica.Schmerler@tpwd.texas.gov](mailto:Jessica.Schmerler@tpwd.texas.gov)>  
**Subject:** RE: Austin Light Rail Phase 1 Project - Cooperating Agencies Review of Administrative Draft Combined FEIS/ROD - Comments requested by September 5, 2025

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Dan,  
Per my voicemail, if TPWD could send me or Deron an email documenting whether you have any additional comments on the FEIS/ROD for Austin Light Rail, we'd be very appreciative.  
Thank you

Terence Plaskon  
Environmental Protection Specialist  
Federal Transit Administration, Region 6  
819 Taylor St., #14A02 Fort Worth, TX 76102  
(817) 978-0573 | [terence.plaskon@dot.gov](mailto:terence.plaskon@dot.gov)

---

**From:** Deron Lozano <[Deron.Lozano@atptx.org](mailto:Deron.Lozano@atptx.org)>  
**Sent:** Friday, August 29, 2025 3:08 PM  
**To:** Jessica Schmerler <[jessica.schmerler@tpwd.texas.gov](mailto:jessica.schmerler@tpwd.texas.gov)>  
**Cc:** Plaskon, Terence (FTA) <[Terence.Plaskon@dot.gov](mailto:Terence.Plaskon@dot.gov)>  
**Subject:** RE: Austin Light Rail Phase 1 Project - Cooperating Agencies Review of Administrative Draft Combined FEIS/ROD - Comments requested by September 5, 2025

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recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

Thank you Jessica for the note, I'll follow up with Dan on Tuesday.  
Enjoy the weekend!  
Deron

Austin Transit Partnership  
(512) 923-3257

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**From:** Jessica Schmerler <[Jessica.Schmerler@tpwd.texas.gov](mailto:Jessica.Schmerler@tpwd.texas.gov)>  
**Sent:** Friday, August 29, 2025 3:02 PM  
**To:** Deron Lozano <[Deron.Lozano@atptx.org](mailto:Deron.Lozano@atptx.org)>  
**Subject:** RE: Austin Light Rail Phase 1 Project - Cooperating Agencies Review of Administrative Draft Combined FEIS/ROD - Comments requested by September 5, 2025

Hi Deron,

Sorry I missed you the other day. I received your voicemail and wanted to **make sure you have reached out to Dan Reece with our State Parks Division. He is the TPWD POC for anything Section 6(f).** I would be the POC for reviewing the NEPA document from the natural resources side of things. I believe Dan's group reviewed and commented in the Administrative DEIS. My group didn't provide input until the public DEIS was released. So even though we had to be listed as a Cooperating Agency from your end based off of the Section 6(f) issues, my engagement with this project is more along the lines of what you would see if we were acting as a Participating Agency. That is why I recommend making sure you contact Dan Reece for his input.

Please let me know if you have any questions!

Thanks,  
Jessica

Jessica E. Schmerler, CWB  
Environmental Review Biologist  
Ecological & Environmental Planning Program  
Texas Parks and Wildlife Department  
Office: (512) 389-8054  
Work Cell: (512) 416-0781

---

**From:** Deron Lozano <[Deron.Lozano@atptx.org](mailto:Deron.Lozano@atptx.org)>  
**Sent:** Thursday, August 21, 2025 3:22 PM  
**To:** Scott Ford <[scott.ford@txdot.gov](mailto:scott.ford@txdot.gov)>; Heather Nguyen <[Heather.AshleyNguyen@txdot.gov](mailto:Heather.AshleyNguyen@txdot.gov)>; Mojtaba Ranjbar <[Mojtaba.Ranjbar@txdot.gov](mailto:Mojtaba.Ranjbar@txdot.gov)>; Heather Seamon <[Heather.Seamon@txdot.gov](mailto:Heather.Seamon@txdot.gov)>; Beke Bedada <[Beke.Bedada@txdot.gov](mailto:Beke.Bedada@txdot.gov)>; Michelle Milford <[Michelle.Milford@txdot.gov](mailto:Michelle.Milford@txdot.gov)>; Kimberly Culp <[Kimberly.Culp@txdot.gov](mailto:Kimberly.Culp@txdot.gov)>; Gregory Sanders <[Gregory.Sanders@txdot.gov](mailto:Gregory.Sanders@txdot.gov)>; Joseph Goessling <[Joseph.Goessling@txdot.gov](mailto:Joseph.Goessling@txdot.gov)>; Bonnie Sherman <[Bonnie.Sherman@txdot.gov](mailto:Bonnie.Sherman@txdot.gov)>; Theodore Kosub <[Theodore.Kosub@txdot.gov](mailto:Theodore.Kosub@txdot.gov)>; Gruta Gabriel <[gruta.gabriel@epa.gov](mailto:gruta.gabriel@epa.gov)>; Robert Houston <[houston.robert@epa.gov](mailto:houston.robert@epa.gov)>; Joseph L. Shelnutt <[Joseph.L.Shelnutt@usace.army.mil](mailto:Joseph.L.Shelnutt@usace.army.mil)>; Jason E. Story <[Jason.E.Story@usace.army.mil](mailto:Jason.E.Story@usace.army.mil)>; Crystal Locke <[Crystal.Locke@tpwd.texas.gov](mailto:Crystal.Locke@tpwd.texas.gov)>; Dan Reece <[Dan.Reece@tpwd.texas.gov](mailto:Dan.Reece@tpwd.texas.gov)>; Jessica Schmerler <[Jessica.Schmerler@tpwd.texas.gov](mailto:Jessica.Schmerler@tpwd.texas.gov)>  
**Cc:** Plaskon, Terence (FTA) <[terence.plaskon@dot.gov](mailto:terence.plaskon@dot.gov)>  
**Subject:** Austin Light Rail Phase 1 Project - Cooperating Agencies Review of Administrative Draft Combined FEIS/ROD - Comments requested by September 5, 2025

ALERT: This email came from an external source. Do not open attachments or click on links in unknown or unexpected emails.

On behalf of the Federal Transit Administration (FTA) and Austin Transit Partnership (ATP), we are pleased to submit the Austin Light Rail Phase 1 Administrative Draft Combined Final Environmental Impact Statement (FEIS) / Record of Decision (ROD) for your review as a Cooperating Agency.

You have each been provided access to the FEIS / ROD on ATP's SharePoint, which should appear as shown below.

Access here: [August 21, 2025 Cooperating Agency Review](#)

Similar to your review on the ADEIS last year:

- We suggest making sure you can access the SharePoint link at your earliest convenience. If you have access issues, please send me an email and I'll work with our IT group to resolve as quickly as possible.
- Note we have incorporated a few new documents supporting the Combined FEIS/ROD deliverable:

- Letter to Interested Parties (attached for your convenience), which summarizes minor project scope modifications incorporated based on public comment and technical analysis related to the DEIS
- Appendix L – Response to DEIS Comments, including those received from your respective agencies
- Appendix M – Mitigation Monitoring Plan
- Feel free to provide comments by either:
  1. Downloading individual reports, make edits, and upload back into the appropriate folder citing your agency in the file name.
  2. Making your comments directly in the reports on SharePoint in track-changes or using the comment function.
  3. Emailing comments citing the specific document and page number via email to Terence ([Terence.plaskon@dot.gov](mailto:Terence.plaskon@dot.gov)) and me.
- If you would like us to schedule a meeting to discuss comments or clarify information during the review period with your agency, please let me know.
- We kindly request should you provide comments, they are submitted by **Friday, September 5, 2025 COB.**

Joseph, please note this email correspondence is in association with USACE Proj. #SWF-2024-00231



We appreciate your continued involvement in this project. Don't hesitate to reach out to me or Terence Plaskon (FTA) at [Terence.plaskon@dot.gov](mailto:Terence.plaskon@dot.gov) or 817.978.0573 with any questions.



**Deron Lozano**  
**SVP, Environment and**  
**Project Development**  
**Austin Transit Partnership**  
**M:** 512-923-3257  
**W:** [www.atptx.org](http://www.atptx.org)  
**A:** 203 Colorado, Austin, TX 78701



---

**From:** Plaskon, Terence (FTA) <[Terence.Plaskon@dot.gov](mailto:Terence.Plaskon@dot.gov)>

**Sent:** Friday, August 8, 2025 10:31 AM

**To:** Scott Ford <[scott.ford@txdot.gov](mailto:scott.ford@txdot.gov)>; Heather.AshleyNguyen@txdot.gov; Mojtaba.Ranjbar@txdot.gov; Heather.Seamon@txdot.gov; Beke.Bedada@txdot.gov; Michelle.Milford@txdot.gov; Kimberly.Culp@txdot.gov; Gregory.Sanders@txdot.gov; Joseph.Goessling@txdot.gov; Bonnie.Sherman@txdot.gov; Theodore.Kosub@txdot.gov; gruta.gabriel@epa.gov; Houston, Robert (EPA) <[houston.robert@epa.gov](mailto:houston.robert@epa.gov)>; Joseph.L.Shelnutt@usace.army.mil; Jason.E.Story@usace.army.mil; crystal.locke@tpwd.texas.gov; dan.reece@tpwd.texas.gov; jessica.schmerler@tpwd.texas.gov

**Cc:** Lyssy, Gail (FTA) <[Gail.Lyssy@dot.gov](mailto:Gail.Lyssy@dot.gov)>; Koski, Donald (FTA) <[Donald.Koski@dot.gov](mailto:Donald.Koski@dot.gov)>; Bartels, David (FTA) <[david.bartels@dot.gov](mailto:david.bartels@dot.gov)>; Shoaib, Suleman (FTA) <[Suleman.Shoaib@dot.gov](mailto:Suleman.Shoaib@dot.gov)>; Pollock, Jason (FTA) <[jason.pollock@dot.gov](mailto:jason.pollock@dot.gov)>; Allaire, Jennifer (FTA) <[jennifer.allaire@dot.gov](mailto:jennifer.allaire@dot.gov)>; Adhikari, Shubha (FTA) <[shubha.adhikari@dot.gov](mailto:shubha.adhikari@dot.gov)>; Jillian Mauer <[mauer@pinyon-env.com](mailto:mauer@pinyon-env.com)>; Stacey Benningfield ([sbenningfield@rkk.com](mailto:sbenningfield@rkk.com)) <[sbenningfield@rkk.com](mailto:sbenningfield@rkk.com)>; Jennifer Pyne <[Jennifer.Pyne@atptx.org](mailto:Jennifer.Pyne@atptx.org)>; Deron Lozano <[Deron.Lozano@atptx.org](mailto:Deron.Lozano@atptx.org)>; Rachel Thomas <[rachel.thomas@atptx.org](mailto:rachel.thomas@atptx.org)>; Brandon Carr <[Brandon.Carr@atptx.org](mailto:Brandon.Carr@atptx.org)>; Underwood, Tom <[tom.underwood@hdrinc.com](mailto:tom.underwood@hdrinc.com)>

**Subject:** Austin Light Rail Phase 1 Project - Update to Cooperating Agencies/ Review of Administrative Draft FEIS/ROD

All,

As Federal lead agency, the Federal Transit Administration (FTA) provides this update on the **Austin Light Rail Phase 1 Project** in Austin, Texas (the Project). You are receiving this update as a National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) Cooperating Agency for the Project. As you may recall, FTA and the Austin Transit Partnership (ATP), as local project sponsor, published a Draft Environmental Impact Statement (DEIS) for the Project in January 2025. We received over 2,400 comments on the DEIS. Responses to these comments will be included in our combined Final Environmental Impact Statement/Record of Decision (FEIS/ROD).

**To meet our regulatory timeline for completion, FTA and ATP expect to provide Cooperating Agencies an opportunity to review the administrative draft FEIS/ROD on August 21<sup>st</sup>, 2025, with comments requested by September 5, 2025.** We recognize this is a quick turnaround in your review so if you would like, FTA and ATP are happy to meet with you and discuss the Project and how we addressed your concerns and prior comments. To help with any concerns you may have now, we can tell you that there were no major changes to the Project in moving from DEIS to FEIS/ROD. The Preferred Alternative as identified in the FEIS/ROD is substantively unchanged from the Build Alternative and its design options analyzed in the DEIS. Minor changes based on updated design, public comments, and legal requirements were made. For your use, attached is a "Letter to Interested Parties" that describes changes we've made from the DEIS to the FEIS/ROD.

FTA and ATP greatly appreciate your continued commitment to the Project. For more information, please visit <https://www.atptx.org/>. If you have any questions or would like a briefing for your agency, please contact me or Deron Lozano at ATP ([deron.lozano@atptx.org](mailto:deron.lozano@atptx.org)). Otherwise, we plan to provide you the administrative draft combined FEIS/ROD for your review on August 21<sup>st</sup>, 2025.

Thank you

Terence Plaskon  
Environmental Protection Specialist  
Federal Transit Administration, Region 6  
819 Taylor St., #14A02 Fort Worth, TX 76102  
(817) 978-0573 | [terence.plaskon@dot.gov](mailto:terence.plaskon@dot.gov)

**From:** [Deron Lozano](#)  
**To:** [Gruta, Gabriel](#); [Plaskon, Terence \(FTA\)](#)  
**Cc:** [Houston, Robert](#); [Underwood, Tom](#); [Jennifer Pyne](#)  
**Subject:** Re: EPA Administrative Final EIS Comments for the Austin Light Rail Phase 1 Project  
**Date:** Friday, September 5, 2025 10:42:07 AM

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Thank you Gabe, we appreciate your review and continued input on the Project.

Have a good weekend.

Deron

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**From:** Gruta, Gabriel <Gruta.Gabriel@epa.gov>  
**Sent:** Friday, September 5, 2025 10:25 AM  
**To:** Deron Lozano <Deron.Lozano@atptx.org>; Plaskon, Terence (FTA) <terence.plaskon@dot.gov>  
**Cc:** Houston, Robert <houston.robert@epa.gov>  
**Subject:** EPA Administrative Final EIS Comments for the Austin Light Rail Phase 1 Project

Deron and Terence,

We appreciate the opportunity to review the administrative Final EIS for the Austin Light Rail Phase 1 Project. The EPA NPDES Permitting Program comments for the Draft EIS on March 10, 2025, have been addressed and we have no additional comments. Let me know if you have any questions.

Gabe Gruta  
NEPA Specialist  
EPA Region 6  
Environmental Communities Engagement and  
Environmental Review Division

**From:** Deron Lozano <Deron.Lozano@atptx.org>  
**Sent on:** Thursday, September 4, 2025 8:52:58 PM  
**To:** Shelnut, Joseph L CIV USARMY CESWF (USA) <Joseph.L.Shelnutt@usace.army.mil>  
**CC:** Plaskon, Terence (FTA) <terence.plaskon@dot.gov>; Jennifer Pyne <Jennifer.Pyne@atptx.org>; Underwood, Tom <tom.underwood@hdrinc.com>  
**Subject:** RE: SWF-2024-00231 (Austin Light Rail Review of Admin Draft Combined FEIS/ROD) - USACE Comments

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Yes, thank you Joe. We appreciate your review and guidance to date on the USACE permitting process. We'll continue to remain engaged as the project progresses.

Thank you, Deron

Austin Transit Partnership  
(512) 923-3257

-----Original Message-----

From: Plaskon, Terence (FTA) <Terence.Plaskon@dot.gov>  
Sent: Thursday, September 4, 2025 3:51 PM  
To: Shelnut, Joseph L CIV USARMY CESWF (USA) <Joseph.L.Shelnutt@usace.army.mil>; Deron Lozano <Deron.Lozano@atptx.org>  
Subject: RE: SWF-2024-00231 (Austin Light Rail Review of Admin Draft Combined FEIS/ROD) - USACE Comments

Thank you, Joe.

-----Original Message-----

From: Shelnut, Joseph L CIV USARMY CESWF (USA) <Joseph.L.Shelnutt@usace.army.mil>  
Sent: Thursday, September 4, 2025 3:48 PM  
To: Plaskon, Terence (FTA) <Terence.Plaskon@dot.gov>; Deron Lozano <deron.lozano@atptx.org>  
Subject: SWF-2024-00231 (Austin Light Rail Review of Admin Draft Combined FEIS/ROD) - USACE Comments

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Hello Terrence and Deron,

I have completed my review of the supplied Austin Light Rail Draft Combined FEIS/ROD documents. The Corps has no further comments relative to the above.

Additionally, from all information provide to date it appears that impacts to waters of the United States may be permitted under a series of Nationwide Permits for proposed impacts at each single and complete crossing of such jurisdictional waters, including the Colorado River. I make this statement with the caveat that the Corps does not yet have a request for such impacts / permit application. I will remain your point of contact for permitting and I recommend that you consider sufficient time for the Corps to consult with USFWS and THC during the application process. I remain available for guidance on this process, including jurisdictional determination, cultural resources survey report, biological assessment, and other needs.

Regards,

Joe Shelnutt

Regulatory Technical Lead / Biologist

U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Regulatory Division Fort Worth District (CESWF-RD)

Phone: 817-886-1738

-----Original Message-----

From: Deron Lozano <Deron.Lozano@atptx.org>

Sent: Thursday, August 21, 2025 3:22 PM

To: Scott Ford <scott.ford@txdot.gov>; Heather Nguyen <Heather.AshleyNguyen@txdot.gov>; Mojtaba Ranjbar <Mojtaba.Ranjbar@txdot.gov>; Heather Seamon <Heather.Seamon@txdot.gov>; Beke Bedada <Beke.Bedada@txdot.gov>; Michelle Milford <Michelle.Milford@txdot.gov>; Kimberly Culp <Kimberly.Culp@txdot.gov>; Gregory Sanders <Gregory.Sanders@txdot.gov>; Joseph Goessling <Joseph.Goessling@txdot.gov>; Bonnie Sherman <Bonnie.Sherman@txdot.gov>; Theodore Kosub <Theodore.Kosub@txdot.gov>; Gruta Gabriel <gruta.gabriel@epa.gov>; Robert Houston <houston.robert@epa.gov>; Shelnutt, Joseph L CIV USARMY CESWF (USA) <Joseph.L.Shelnutt@usace.army.mil>; Story, Jason E CIV USARMY CESWF (USA) <Jason.E.Story@usace.army.mil>; Crystal Locke <crystal.locke@tpwd.texas.gov>; Dan Reece <dan.reece@tpwd.texas.gov>; Jessica Schmerler <jessica.schmerler@tpwd.texas.gov>

Cc: Plaskon, Terence (FTA) <terence.plaskon@dot.gov>

Subject: [Non-DoD Source] Austin Light Rail Phase 1 Project - Cooperating Agencies Review of Administrative Draft Combined FEIS/ROD - Comments requested by September 5, 2025

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<BLOCKED[https://austintransitpartnership.sharepoint.com/:f:/r/ATP%20Onboarding/NEPA/FEIS\\_ROD/Au](https://austintransitpartnership.sharepoint.com/:f:/r/ATP%20Onboarding/NEPA/FEIS_ROD/Au)

gust%2021,%202025%20Cooperating%20Agency%20Review?csf=1&web=1&e=IL3Lp4&xodata=MDV8MDJ8dG9tLnVuZGVyd29vZEB0ZHIpbmMuY29tfGlyYTM2YjRhOTRmODRkNGFkZjI5MDhkZGVzUwOTI0fDM2NjdIMjAxY2JkYzQ4YjM5YjQyNWQyZDNmMTZlMmE5fDB8MHw2Mzg5MjYxNTk4NzE4NjkwMjB8VW5rbm93bnxUV0ZwYkdac2lzdHleUpGYlhCMGVVMWhjR2tpT25SeWRXVXNjBFlpT2Jld0xqQXVnREF3TUNJc0IsQWIPaUpYYVc0ek1pSXNJa0ZPSWpvaVRXRnBiQ0lzSWxkVUlqb3ImUT09fDB8fHw%3d&sdata=ZUZCOTcxnZZaFVpU2tjWGplNWd1TVhGMnlwODIRODc3WGFUV2JJYjVwOD0%3d>

Similar to your review on the ADEIS last year:

- \* We suggest making sure you can access the SharePoint link at your earliest convenience. If you have access issues, please send me an email and I'll work with our IT group to resolve as quickly as possible.

- \* Note we have incorporated a few new documents supporting the Combined FEIS/ROD deliverable:

- \* Letter to Interested Parties (attached for your convenience), which summarizes minor project scope modifications incorporated based on public comment and technical analysis related to the DEIS

- \* Appendix L - Response to DEIS Comments, including those received from your respective agencies

- \* Appendix M - Mitigation Monitoring Plan

- \* Feel free to provide comments by either:

1. Downloading individual reports, make edits, and upload back into the appropriate folder citing your agency in the file name.

2. Making your comments directly in the reports on SharePoint in track-changes or using the comment function.

3. Emailing comments citing the specific document and page number via email to Terence (Terence.plaskon@dot.gov <mailto:Terence.plaskon@dot.gov> ) and me.

- \* If you would like us to schedule a meeting to discuss comments or clarify information during the review period with your agency, please let me know.

- \* We kindly request should you provide comments, they are submitted by Friday, September 5, 2025 COB.

Joseph, please note this email correspondence is in association with USACE Proj. #SWF-2024-00231

We appreciate your continued involvement in this project. Don't hesitate to reach out to me or Terence Plaskon (FTA) at Terence.plaskon@dot.gov <mailto:Terence.plaskon@dot.gov> or 817.978.0573 with any questions.

Deron Lozano

SVP, Environment and

Project Development

Austin Transit Partnership

M: 512-923-3257

W:

<https://nam12.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=http%3A%2F%2Fwww.atptx.org%2F&data=05%7C02%7Ctom.underwood%40hdrinc.com%7Cb2a36b4a94f84d4adf2908ddeb50924%7C3667e201cbdc48b39b425d2d3f16e2a9%7C0%7C0%7C638926159871903428%7CUnknown%7CTWFpbGZsb3d8eyJFbXB0eU1hcGkiOnRydWUsIlYiOiIwLjAuMDAwMCIsIlAiOiJXaW4zMilslkFOljoitWFPbClslldUljoyfQ%3D%3D%7C0%7C%7C%7C&sdata=frLpXARbos8otRa5lejWjYTX%2BGr2pt3Qklz2xgAviG8%3D&reserved=0>  
<BLOCKED<https://nam12.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=http%3A%2F%2Fwww.atptx.org%2F&data=05%7C02%7Ctom.underwood%40hdrinc.com%7Cb2a36b4a94f84d4adf2908ddeb50924%7C3667e201cbdc48b39b425d2d3f16e2a9%7C0%7C0%7C638926159871935061%7CUnknown%7CTWFpbGZsb3d8eyJFbXB0eU1hcGkiOnRydWUsIlYiOiIwLjAuMDAwMCIsIlAiOiJXaW4zMilslkFOljoitWFPbClslldUljoyfQ%3D%3D%7C0%7C%7C%7C&sdata=DSw5Ak7ykhGUPPAfiJiZW05qQMcuRwpCVjNInd8H DU8%3D&reserved=0>>

A: 203 Colorado, Austin, TX 78701

From: Plaskon, Terence (FTA) <Terence.Plaskon@dot.gov>

Sent: Friday, August 8, 2025 10:31 AM

To: Scott Ford <scott.ford@txdot.gov>; Heather.AshleyNguyen@txdot.gov; Mojtaba.Ranjbar@txdot.gov; Heather.Seamon@txdot.gov; Beke.Bedada@txdot.gov; Michelle.Milford@txdot.gov; Kimberly.Culp@txdot.gov; Gregory.Sanders@txdot.gov; Joseph.Goessling@txdot.gov; Bonnie.Sherman@txdot.gov; Theodore.Kosub@txdot.gov; gruta.gabriel@epa.gov; Houston, Robert (EPA) <houston.robert@epa.gov>; Joseph.L.Shelnutt@usace.army.mil; Jason.E.Story@usace.army.mil; crystal.locke@tpwd.texas.gov; dan.reece@tpwd.texas.gov; jessica.schmerler@tpwd.texas.gov  
Cc: Lyssy, Gail (FTA) <Gail.Lyssy@dot.gov>; Koski, Donald (FTA) <Donald.Koski@dot.gov>; Bartels, David (FTA) <david.bartels@dot.gov>; Shoaib, Suleman (FTA) <Suleman.Shoaib@dot.gov>; Pollock, Jason (FTA) <jason.pollock@dot.gov>; Allaire, Jennifer (FTA) <jennifer.allaire@dot.gov>; Adhikari, Shubha (FTA) <shubha.adhikari@dot.gov>; Jillian Mauer <mauer@pinyon-env.com>; Stacey Benningfield

(sbenningfield@rkk.com) <sbenningfield@rkk.com>; Jennifer Pyne <Jennifer.Pyne@atptx.org>; Deron Lozano <Deron.Lozano@atptx.org>; Rachel Thomas <rachel.thomas@atptx.org>; Brandon Carr <Brandon.Carr@atptx.org>; Underwood, Tom <tom.underwood@hdrinc.com>  
Subject: Austin Light Rail Phase 1 Project - Update to Cooperating Agencies/ Review of Administrative Draft FEIS/ROD

All,

As Federal lead agency, the Federal Transit Administration (FTA) provides this update on the Austin Light Rail Phase 1 Project in Austin, Texas (the Project). You are receiving this update as a National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) Cooperating Agency for the Project. As you may recall, FTA and the Austin Transit Partnership (ATP), as local project sponsor, published a Draft Environmental Impact Statement (DEIS) for the Project in January 2025. We received over 2,400 comments on the DEIS. Responses to these comments will be included in our combined Final Environmental Impact Statement/Record of Decision (FEIS/ROD).

To meet our regulatory timeline for completion, FTA and ATP expect to provide Cooperating Agencies an opportunity to review the administrative draft FEIS/ROD on August 21st, 2025, with comments requested by September 5, 2025. We recognize this is a quick turnaround in your review so if you would like, FTA and ATP are happy to meet with you and discuss the Project and how we addressed your concerns and prior comments. To help with any concerns you may have now, we can tell you that there were no major changes to the Project in moving from DEIS to FEIS/ROD. The Preferred Alternative as identified in the FEIS/ROD is substantively unchanged from the Build Alternative and its design options analyzed in the DEIS. Minor changes based on updated design, public comments, and legal requirements were made. For your use, attached is a "Letter to Interested Parties" that describes changes we've made from the DEIS to the FEIS/ROD.

FTA and ATP greatly appreciate your continued commitment to the Project. For more information, please visit

<https://nam12.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=https%3A%2F%2Fwww.atptx.org%2F&data=05%7C02%7Ctom.underwood%40hdrinc.com%7Cb2a36b4a94f84d4adf2908ddeb50924%7C3667e201cbdc48b39b425d2d3f16e2a9%7C0%7C0%7C638926159871956823%7CUnknown%7CTWFpbGZsb3d8eyJFbXB0eU1hcGkiOnRydWUsIlYiOiIlwLjAuMDAwMCIiOiIiXW4zMilskFOLjoiTWfPbClslldUljoyfQ%3D%3D%7C0%7C%7C&sdata=loPqpelu8e8pHMUqkttxtmy8VgnJ%2Favn4AH1%2FIRKFLY%3D&reserved=0>  
<BLOCKED<https://nam12.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=https%3A%2F%2Fwww.atptx.org%2F&data=05%7C02%7Ctom.underwood%40hdrinc.com%7Cb2a36b4a94f84d4adf2908ddeb50924%7C3667e201cbdc48b39b425d2d3f16e2a9%7C0%7C0%7C638926159871976524%7CUnknown%7CTWFpbGZsb3d8eyJFbXB0eU1hcGkiOnRydWUsIlYiOiIlwLjAuMDAwMCIiOiIiXW4zMilskFOLjoiTWfPbClslldUljoyfQ%3D%3D%7C0%7C%7C&sdata=UKzp5gNr7j2xV%2F15xOcTLkCLgBGJKM18NOgM3Q%2B88s4%3D&reserved=0>> . If you have any questions or would like a briefing for your agency, please contact me or Deron

Lozano at ATP (deron.lozano@atptx.org <mailto:deron.lozano@atptx.org> ). Otherwise, we plan to provide you the administrative draft combined FEIS/ROD for your review on August 21st, 2025.

Thank you

Terence Plaskon

Environmental Protection Specialist

Federal Transit Administration, Region 6

819 Taylor St., #14A02 Fort Worth, TX 76102

(817) 978-0573 | [terence.plaskon@dot.gov](mailto:terence.plaskon@dot.gov) <mailto:terence.plaskon@dot.gov>



**From:** [Deron Lozano](#)  
**To:** [Underwood, Tom](#)  
**Cc:** [rachel.thomas](#); [Melinda Jensen](#)  
**Subject:** FW: [EXTERNAL] Austin Light Rail Phase 1 Project Draft EIS - USFWS response  
**Date:** Thursday, April 3, 2025 10:55:46 AM  
**Attachments:** [image001.png](#)

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**CAUTION: [EXTERNAL]** This email originated from outside of the organization. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

Note USFWS has no additional comments. Tom please document / save as you see appropriate (DEIS agency correspondence, 404 use, etc.) and thanks again for drafting the email, which worked well.

Terence asked if we think we need to draft a letter for USFWS or if the email would suffice for 404, if you/James have any thoughts?

Deron

---

**From:** Williams, Christina <[christina\\_williams@fws.gov](mailto:christina_williams@fws.gov)>  
**Sent:** Thursday, April 3, 2025 10:23 AM  
**To:** Deron Lozano <[Deron.Lozano@atptx.org](mailto:Deron.Lozano@atptx.org)>  
**Cc:** Plaskon, Terence (FTA) <[terence.plaskon@dot.gov](mailto:terence.plaskon@dot.gov)>  
**Subject:** RE: [EXTERNAL] Austin Light Rail Phase 1 Project Draft EIS

Thank you for pulling out the verbiage. We do not have any comments.

Thank you,

Christina

Christina Williams  
Supervisory Fish and Wildlife Biologist  
Consultation and HCPs Branch  
1505 Ferguson Lane  
Austin, Texas 78754  
512-850-0980

*Mission: Work with others to conserve, protect, and enhance fish, wildlife, and plants and their habitats for the continuing benefit of the American people.*

---

**From:** Deron Lozano <[Deron.Lozano@atptx.org](mailto:Deron.Lozano@atptx.org)>  
**Sent:** Wednesday, April 2, 2025 10:32 AM  
**To:** Williams, Christina <[christina\\_williams@fws.gov](mailto:christina_williams@fws.gov)>  
**Cc:** Plaskon, Terence (FTA) <[terence.plaskon@dot.gov](mailto:terence.plaskon@dot.gov)>  
**Subject:** RE: [EXTERNAL] Austin Light Rail Phase 1 Project Draft EIS

Hi Christina, thank you for your response. The Austin Light Rail Phase 1 project DEIS is located here: <https://www.atptx.org/milestones/austin-light-rail-progress-update/>.

Section 4.15 in Chapter 4, along with Appendix F-5 (Threatened and Endangered Species Tech Rpt.), provide specific T&E information. Please note we have a relevant statement in the DEIS as follows:

*“While suitable habitat for federally and state-listed threatened, endangered, and candidate species was found in the study area, it was determined that through the implementation of avoidance and minimization measures, no adverse effects on these species are anticipated from the Project.”*

We kindly request any input from your agency by **May 2, 2025** so we may document accordingly as we advance the NEPA process. Please don't hesitate to reach out if you have any questions and we appreciate your review. Deron



**Deron Lozano**  
**SVP, Environment and**  
**Project Development**  
**Austin Transit Partnership**  
**M:** 512-923-3257  
**W:** [www.atptx.org](http://www.atptx.org)  
**A:** 203 Colorado, Austin, TX 78701

---

**From:** Plaskon, Terence (FTA) <[Terence.Plaskon@dot.gov](mailto:Terence.Plaskon@dot.gov)>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, April 1, 2025 10:33 AM  
**To:** Williams, Christina <[christina\\_williams@fws.gov](mailto:christina_williams@fws.gov)>  
**Cc:** Deron Lozano <[Deron.Lozano@atptx.org](mailto:Deron.Lozano@atptx.org)>  
**Subject:** RE: [EXTERNAL] Austin Light Rail Phase 1 Project Draft EIS  
**Importance:** High

Thank you, Christina. I'm copying Deron Lozano from Austin Transit Partnership. His team will get you access to the DEIS. If you have any questions, please contact me.  
Thank you

Terence Plaskon  
Environmental Protection Specialist  
Federal Transit Administration, Region 6  
819 Taylor St., #14A02 Fort Worth, TX 76102  
(817) 978-0573 | [terence.plaskon@dot.gov](mailto:terence.plaskon@dot.gov)

---

**From:** Williams, Christina <[christina\\_williams@fws.gov](mailto:christina_williams@fws.gov)>

**Sent:** Tuesday, April 1, 2025 10:25 AM  
**To:** Plaskon, Terence (FTA) <[Terence.Plaskon@dot.gov](mailto:Terence.Plaskon@dot.gov)>  
**Subject:** FW: [EXTERNAL] Austin Light Rail Phase 1 Project Draft EIS

You don't often get email from [christina\\_williams@fws.gov](mailto:christina_williams@fws.gov). [Learn why this is important](#)

**CAUTION:** This email originated from outside of the Department of Transportation (DOT). Do not click on links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

Hi Terence,  
Feel free to send me the link to look at the EIS.  
Thank you,

Christina

Christina Williams  
Supervisory Fish and Wildlife Biologist  
Consultation and HCPs Branch  
1505 Ferguson Lane  
Austin, Texas 78754  
512-850-0980

*Mission: Work with others to conserve, protect, and enhance fish, wildlife, and plants and their habitats for the continuing benefit of the American people.*

---

**From:** Willey, Seth <[seth\\_willey@fws.gov](mailto:seth_willey@fws.gov)>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, April 1, 2025 9:29 AM  
**To:** Myers, Karen <[karen\\_myers@fws.gov](mailto:karen_myers@fws.gov)>; Williams, Christina <[christina\\_williams@fws.gov](mailto:christina_williams@fws.gov)>  
**Cc:** Najvar, Paige <[paige\\_najvar@fws.gov](mailto:paige_najvar@fws.gov)>; Guay, Michelle <[michelle\\_guay@fws.gov](mailto:michelle_guay@fws.gov)>  
**Subject:** Fw: [EXTERNAL] Austin Light Rail Phase 1 Project Draft EIS

For appropriate action!

\*\*\*\*\*

Seth L. Willey  
Deputy ARD, Ecological Services  
Southwest Region (Region 2), USFWS  
[Seth\\_Willey@fws.gov](mailto:Seth_Willey@fws.gov)  
desk: 505-248-6492  
cell: 505-697-7600

\*\*\*\*\*

---

**From:** Lueders, Amy L <[amy\\_lueders@fws.gov](mailto:amy_lueders@fws.gov)>  
**Sent:** Monday, March 31, 2025 4:05 PM  
**To:** Polk, Jonna E <[jonna\\_polk@fws.gov](mailto:jonna_polk@fws.gov)>; Willey, Seth <[seth\\_willey@fws.gov](mailto:seth_willey@fws.gov)>  
**Subject:** Fw: [EXTERNAL] Austin Light Rail Phase 1 Project Draft EIS

can you forward as appropriate and ensure our staff reach out to him to get necessary access?

thanks

---

**From:** Plaskon, Terence (FTA) <[Terence.Plaskon@dot.gov](mailto:Terence.Plaskon@dot.gov)>  
**Sent:** Monday, March 31, 2025 3:21 PM  
**To:** Lueders, Amy L <[amy\\_lueders@fws.gov](mailto:amy_lueders@fws.gov)>; RD Lueders, FW2 <[rdlueders@fws.gov](mailto:rdlueders@fws.gov)>  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] Austin Light Rail Phase 1 Project Draft EIS

**This email has been received from outside of DOI - Use caution before clicking on links, opening attachments, or responding.**

Amy,

I'm contacting you regarding Austin Transit Partnership's Austin Light Rail Phase 1 Project in Austin, Texas. You may recall that the Federal Transit Administration (FTA) invited the USFWS to serve as a cooperating agency to our Environmental Impact Statement for the project, a 10-mile light rail transit line in downtown Austin. USFWS declined our invitation but agreed to coordinate as the project advanced.

We're currently at the Draft EIS stage, recently completing public review and comment. We continue to coordinate with various Federal and State agencies that have jurisdictional responsibility for resources in our study area. This includes the US Army Corps of Engineers (USACE), a cooperating agency to the project. USACE reminded us that it needs to ensure all consultation/coordination requirements have been met before it would sign off on our Record of Decision for the project later this year. To this end, FTA would like to provide USFWS access to our Draft EIS and our Threatened & Endangered Species Technical Report for USFWS review and comment, and to document to the project file any concerns, or lack thereof, your agency may have about the project.

Who should we work with from your office? We're happy to provide an FTP link or access to our SharePoint site as the documents are rather large to send via email. Please let me know.

Thank you

Terence Plaskon

Environmental Protection Specialist  
Federal Transit Administration, Region 6  
819 Taylor St., #14A02 Fort Worth, TX 76102  
(817) 978-0573 | [terence.plaskon@dot.gov](mailto:terence.plaskon@dot.gov)

---

**From:** Underwood, Tom <Tom.Underwood@hdrinc.com>  
**Sent:** Thursday, October 17, 2024 8:05 AM  
**To:** Deron Lozano  
**Cc:** Heffernan, Audrey; Prociuk, Nadya; Huerta, Marcus  
**Subject:** FW: Austin Light Rail Phase I Project

Good news Deron. Archeology also received conditional clearance from THC. See below.

**Tom Underwood**  
M 314.332.9582

[hdrinc.com/follow-us](https://hdrinc.com/follow-us)

---

**From:** Prociuk, Nadya <Nadya.Prociuk@hdrinc.com>  
**Sent:** Wednesday, October 16, 2024 4:34 PM  
**To:** Underwood, Tom <Tom.Underwood@hdrinc.com>  
**Subject:** Fw: Austin Light Rail Phase I Project

FYI, good news.

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**From:** noreply@thc.state.tx.us <noreply@thc.state.tx.us>  
**Sent:** Wednesday, October 16, 2024 2:02:44 PM  
**To:** Prociuk, Nadya <Nadya.Prociuk@hdrinc.com>; reviews@thc.state.tx.us <reviews@thc.state.tx.us>  
**Subject:** Austin Light Rail Phase I Project

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**TEXAS HISTORICAL COMMISSION**  
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**Re:** Project Review under Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act and/or the Antiquities Code of Texas

**THC Tracking #202500479**

**Date:** 10/16/2024

Austin Light Rail Phase I Project (Permit 31726)

Downtown Austin

Austin, TX

**Description:** The Federal Transit Administration has initiated a National Environmental Policy Act evaluation of Austin Transit Partnership's proposal for the Austin Light Rail Phase 1 Project in Austin.

Dear Nadya Prociuk:

Thank you for your submittal regarding the above-referenced project. This response represents the comments of the State Historic Preservation Officer, the Executive Director of the Texas Historical Commission (THC), pursuant to review under Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act and the Antiquities Code of Texas.

The review staff, led by Tiffany Osburn and Justin Kockritz, has completed its review and has made the following determinations based on the information submitted for review:

### **Archeology Comments**

- No historic properties affected. However, if cultural materials are encountered during construction or disturbance activities, work should cease in the immediate area; work can continue where no cultural materials are present. Please contact the THC's Archeology Division at 512-463-6096 to consult on further actions that may be necessary to protect the cultural remains.
- THC/SHPO concurs with information provided.
- This draft report is acceptable. To facilitate review and make project information and final reports available through the Texas Archeological Sites Atlas, we appreciate submission of tagged pdf copies of the final report including one restricted version with all site location information (if applicable), and one public version with all site location information redacted; an online abstract form submitted via the abstract tab on eTRAC; and survey area shapefiles submitted via the shapefile tab on eTRAC. For questions on how to submit these please visit our video training series at: <https://www.youtube.com/playlist?list=PLONbbv2pt4cog5t6mCqZVaEAx3d0MkgQC> Please note that these steps are required for projects conducted under a Texas Antiquities Permit.

We have the following comments: Draft report accepted, however, we look forward to reviewing a revised or addendum report containing the remaining survey areas and results of monitoring.

We look forward to further consultation with your office and hope to maintain a partnership that will foster effective historic preservation. Thank you for your cooperation in this review process, and for your efforts to preserve the irreplaceable heritage of Texas. If the project changes, or if new historic properties are found, please contact the review staff. If you have any questions concerning our review or if we can be of further assistance, please email the following reviewers: [tiffany.osburn@thc.texas.gov](mailto:tiffany.osburn@thc.texas.gov), [justin.kockritz@thc.texas.gov](mailto:justin.kockritz@thc.texas.gov).

This response has been sent through the electronic THC review and compliance system (eTRAC). Submitting your project via eTRAC eliminates mailing delays and allows you to check the status of the review, receive an electronic response, and generate reports on your submissions. For more information, visit <http://thc.texas.gov/etrac-system>.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Joseph Bell", written in a cursive style.

for Joseph Bell, State Historic Preservation Officer  
Executive Director, Texas Historical Commission

**Please do not respond to this email.**



---

**From:** Alexander Shane <Alexander.Shane@thc.texas.gov>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, October 15, 2024 8:09 AM  
**To:** Huerta, Marcus  
**Cc:** Plaskon, Terence (FTA); Deron Lozano; Justin Kockritz; Tiffany Osburn  
**Subject:** Texas Historical Commission feedback on Phase 1 of Light Rail Project  
**Attachments:** 106\_FTA\_Austin Light Rail Project\_2024\_10-14.pdf

Good morning, Mr. Huerta,

Please see the attached letter response. Thank you.

Alexander Shane



**Alexander Shane**

Program Coordinator, Federal & State Review Program  
Division of Architecture  
P.O. Box 12276, Austin, Texas Texas  
Phone: +1 512 463 8952  
Fax: + 1 512 463 6095

[thc.texas.gov](http://thc.texas.gov)



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October 14, 2024

Marcus Huerta  
HDR, Inc.  
613 Northwest Loop 410, Suite 700  
San Antonio, Texas 78216

Re: *Project Review Under Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act, Austin Light Rail Phase 1 Project, Draft Built Environment Survey Report, Austin, Travis County (FTA/106, THC #202500480)*

Mr. Huerta:

Thank you for your transmittal regarding the above-referenced project, which we received on September 17, 2024. This letter serves as comment on the proposed undertaking regarding non-archeological historic resources from the Chief Deputy State Historic Preservation Officer, the Deputy Director of the Texas Historical Commission (THC). All consultation regarding archeological resources will be coordinated separately.

The THC History Programs Division staff, led by Justin Kockritz, has completed its review of the Draft Built Environment Survey Report for the Federal Transit Administration's and Austin Transit Partnership's Austin Light Rail Phase 1 Project. This Draft Built Environment Survey Report evaluates the eligibility for listing in the National Register of Historic Places of historic-age properties within the project's Area of Potential Effect. Additionally, this report also incorporates the research and findings from the Built Environment Surveys for the Orange and Blue Lines, which THC previously concurred with in May and August 2022, respectively, and from an Addendum to the Orange Line report that was prepared in October 2022, but that has not previously been reviewed or concurred with by THC.

Based on all available information, and barring any additional information from other consulting parties, THC concurs with all of the determinations of National Register eligibility for the overall project as summarized in "NRHP Eligibility" column of Table 5. The remaining properties evaluated in this report are not eligible for listing in the National Register. THC notes that several properties in Table 5 are also designated as State Antiquities Landmarks (SAL), and any work on or directly affecting such properties will require further coordination with the THC Division of Architecture and may require issuance of an SAL permit. Notably, Wooldridge Square and each of the Moonlight Towers are designated as an SAL.

The Division of Architecture Review Staff, led by Alexander Shane, cannot provide an effects determination at this time. The staff requests to review a design package including complete drawing sets indicating the size and scope of the track location, station placement and infrastructure. Our team offers to meet with the design team once a design development set is complete.

We look forward to further consultation with your office and the other consulting parties, and we hope to maintain a partnership that will foster effective historic preservation. Thank you for your cooperation in this federal review process and for your efforts to preserve the irreplaceable heritage of Texas. If you have any questions concerning our comments on the National Register eligibility of non-archeological resources, please contact Justin Kockritz at [justin.kockritz@thc.texas.gov](mailto:justin.kockritz@thc.texas.gov) or 512-936-7403; or, for any questions concerning potential effects to non-archeological historic resources, please contact Alexander Shane at [alexander.shane@thc.texas.gov](mailto:alexander.shane@thc.texas.gov) or 512463-8952.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Alexander Shane". The signature is written in dark ink and is positioned above the typed name and title.

Alexander Shane, Program Coordinator, Federal & State Project Review  
For: Bradford Patterson, Chief Deputy State Historic Preservation Officer  
BP/AS  
Cc: Terence Plaskon, Federal Transit Administration  
Deron Lozano, Austin Transit Partnership

---

**From:** Gruta, Gabriel <Gruta.Gabriel@epa.gov>  
**Sent:** Thursday, October 3, 2024 9:36 AM  
**To:** Deron Lozano  
**Subject:** RE: Austin Light Rail Phase 1 - Cooperating Agency ADEIS Submittal - comments requested 9/27

EPA does not have any comments at this time.

Gabe Gruta  
NEPA Specialist  
Environmental Justice, Community Engagement and  
Environmental Review Division

---

**From:** Deron Lozano <Deron.Lozano@atptx.org>  
**Sent:** Monday, September 9, 2024 1:58 PM  
**To:** scott ford <scott.ford@txdot.gov>; Gruta, Gabriel <Gruta.Gabriel@epa.gov>; amy grossman <amy.grossman@tpwd.texas.gov>; Houston, Robert <Houston.Robert@epa.gov>; Joseph Shelnett <Joseph.L.Shelnett@usace.army.mil>  
**Cc:** Plaskon, Terence (FTA) <terence.plaskon@dot.gov>; Lynn Hayes <lynn.hayes@dot.gov>; Jillian Mauer <mauer@pinyon-env.com>; Rachel Thomas <rachel.thomas@atptx.org>; Jennifer Pyne <Jennifer.Pyne@atptx.org>; Underwood, Tom <tom.underwood@hdrinc.com>; support@contigotx.com  
**Subject:** Austin Light Rail Phase 1 - Cooperating Agency ADEIS Submittal - comments requested 9/27

**Caution:** This email originated from outside EPA, please exercise additional caution when deciding whether to open attachments or click on provided links.

On behalf of the Federal Transit Administration (FTA) and Austin Transit Partnership (ATP), we are pleased to submit the Austin Light Rail Phase 1 Administrative Draft Environmental Impact Statement (ADEIS) for your review as a Cooperating Agency.

You should each have access to the ADEIS on ATP's SharePoint using the following link (the image below depicts how the individual folders should appear):

[September 2024 Cooperating Agency Submittal](#)

A few notes to assist in your review:

- Should you have any issues accessing SharePoint, please send me an email directly and I'll work with our IT group to resolve.
- Find attached a Table of Contents document for your reference.
- Feel free to provide comments by either:
  1. Downloading individual reports, make edits, and upload back into the appropriate folder citing your agency in the file name.
  2. Making your comments directly in the reports on SharePoint in track-changes or using the comment function for the PDFs.

3. Emailing comments citing the specific document and page number via email to Terence ([Terence.plaskon@dot.gov](mailto:Terence.plaskon@dot.gov)) and me.
- If you would like us to schedule a meeting to discuss comments or clarify information during the review period with your agency, please let me know (we have a session scheduled with TxDOT on 9/18).
  - We kindly request that your review is completed by **Friday, September 27, 2024 COB.**

Joseph, please note this email correspondence is in association with USACE Proj. #SWF-2024-00231

We appreciate your involvement in this project. Don't hesitate to reach out to me or Terence Plaskon (FTA) at [Terence.plaskon@dot.gov](mailto:Terence.plaskon@dot.gov) or 817.978.0573 with any questions.

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ATP Coordination > NEPA > ADEIS > September 2024 Cooperating Agency Submittal

📄 Name ▾

📁 \_Chapter 1 - Purpose and Need

📁 \_Chapter 2 - Alternatives Considered

📁 \_Chapter 3 - Transportation Analysis

📁 \_Chapter 4 - Environmental Consequences

📁 \_Chapter 5 - Cumulative Impacts

📁 \_Chapter 6 - Environmental Justice

📁 \_Chapter 7 - Summary of Alternatives and Analysis

📁 \_Executive Summary

📁 \_Table of Contents

📁 Appendices

📁 List of Preparers

📁 References

**Deron Lozano**  
**Senior Vice President, Environment & Project Development**  
**Austin Transit Partnership**  
**P:** (512) 923-3257  
**W:** [atptx.org](http://atptx.org)  
**A:** 203 Colorado Street, Austin, TX 78701

3

From: Shelnutt, Joseph L CIV USARMY CESWF (USA) received Friday, September 27, 2024

Subject: Austin Light Rail Phase 1 - Cooperating Agency DEIS – USACE Comments

#### Executive Summary

1) USACE fully recognizes that we are not the lead federal agency for this proposed EIS. Therefore, we have no comments relative to the chosen approach to the purpose and need statement (ES.1), nor the development of the alternatives analysis (ES.2). However, USACE cautions that should a standard individual permit (IP) be required, the current purpose and need statement and alternatives analysis cannot be transposed for the IP permit application and review. USACE can supply you and/or your consultant(s) with our white paper on Preparing An Alternatives Analysis Under Section 404 of the Clean Water Act.

2) ES.4.4 Preferred Design Options (Lady Bird Lake Bridge Extension Design Option): No evaluation of impacts to waters of the United States appears in this entire section, used to arrive at your preferred alternative. This has relevance to comment #1 above.

#### Draft Environmental Impact Statement Appendix A: Alternatives Development and Analysis

1) No aquatic impact information was analyzed as part of the DEIS alternatives analysis. Reference the above-mentioned white paper on Preparing An Alternatives Analysis Under Section 404 of the Clean Water Act. The information provided in the DEIS to reach a determination for the ATP preferred alternative will likely have little utility in developing an alternatives analysis under Section 404 of the CWA, should an IP be required.

2) 4.3 (River Crossing at Lady Bird Lake Options): USACE cautions that the ATP preferred alternative might not align with the least environmentally damaging practicable alternative (LEDPA), should an IP be required. No proposed impact information across alternatives has been provided from which the LEDPA could be determined at this time.

#### Water Resources Technical Report

1) 2.1.1.1 (Section 404): While the reference to 40 CFR 120.2 is not inaccurate, the typical language referencing USACE, Fort Worth District jurisdictional guidance/posture is the Pre-2015 Regulatory Regime + Sackett.

2) 2.1.1.1 (Section 404): USACE has no provided information that would indicate the use of a Nationwide Permit 27 would be appropriate for any aspect of this proposed project.

3) 2.1.2 (Rivers and Harbors Act of 1899): USACE also has the authority to regulate structures or activity below a Section 10 channel such as boring for a pipeline or a tunnel.

- 4) 3.1 (Surface Waters): See item #1 above referencing the Pre-2015 Regulatory Regime + Sackett.
- 5) 3.1 (Surface Waters) (Streams are classified by USACE as follows (USACE 2015): Artificial/man-made stream is not a category of stream that should be included here. Additionally, the (USACE 2015) reference should be removed from here and in the Reference Section. The Navigable Water Protection Rule was vacated August 30, 2021. USACE Fort Worth District operates under the Pre-2015 Regulatory Regime + Sackett.
- 6) 3.1 (Surface Waters): With regard to the wetlands, the DESI provides a “USACE definition” of wetlands, but uses the (Cowardin et al. 1979) reference, which does not match. According to the Corps of Engineers Wetland Delineation Manual, identification of wetlands is based on a three-factor approach involving indicators of hydrophytic vegetation, hydric soil, and wetland hydrology.
- 7) 4.1 (Surface Water): This section references both streams and wetlands identified largely by desktop review. Insufficient information was provided from which USACE could use to preliminarily quantify waters of the United States within the project area. Section 4.1.3 indicates that, “additional delineation field efforts will be required,” and that, “Updated field surveys (WOTUS/wetland delineations) will be conducted and incorporated into the Final Environmental Impact Statement.” USACE will need to verify this information for permitting requirements.
- 8) 5.2.1.1 (Surface Waters): This section records acreages for open water, wetlands, and for what is described as “riverine,” indicating the “worst-case effect scenario.” The DEIS goes on to state that, “The effects will be revised as additional Project design is available.” To address these assumptions found in this Section USACE points back to our May 23, 2024, email detailing key items required for USACE evaluative use, notably for this Section, the need for the completion of a wetland delineation (under the Pre-2015 Regulatory Regime + Sackett) to include streams, followed by an accurate understanding of proposed impacts to jurisdictional waters. USACE requests no edits for this Section, nor to Section 4.1 above, but merely points to the void of information that will be required for permit evaluation in the future.
- 9) 5.2.1.2 (Water Quality): The DEIS states that the proposed project would be authorized under one or more Nationwide Permit 14’s for Linear Transportation Projects. This is speculative and USACE cannot confirm this with the information available at this time.
- 10) 5.2.1.2 (Water Quality): The word “oversight” used to describe ATP compliance with required regulatory obligations should be replaced with “regulatory review.”
- 11) 5.2.2.1 (Surface Waters): In the last sentence of this section the word “provisions” should be replaced with the word “requirements.”
- 12) 6.1.1 (Compliance Measures) (Maintain Low Flow): The requirement is more nuanced than what is depicted here. The General Conditions of Nationwide Permits include, (GC2 - Aquatic Life Movements) No activity may substantially disrupt the necessary life cycle movements of those species of aquatic life indigenous to the waterbody, including those species that normally migrate through the area, unless the activity's primary purpose is to impound water. All permanent and



temporary crossings of waterbodies shall be suitably culverted, bridged, or otherwise designed and constructed to maintain low flows to sustain the movement of those aquatic species. If a bottomless culvert cannot be used, then the crossing should be designed and constructed to minimize adverse effects to aquatic life movements; and (GC9 - Management of Water Flows) To the maximum extent practicable, the pre-construction course, condition, capacity, and location of open waters must be maintained for each activity, including stream channelization, storm water management activities, and temporary and permanent road crossings, except as provided below. The activity must be constructed to withstand expected high flows. The activity must not restrict or impede the passage of normal or high flows unless the primary purpose of the activity is to impound water or manage high flows. The activity may alter the pre-construction course, condition, capacity, and location of open waters if it benefits the aquatic environment (e.g., stream restoration or relocation activities). The project would be required to “withstand expected high flows” as well.

13) 6.1.1 (Compliance Measures) (Clean Water Act Section 404 Permit): The DEIS states that the proposed project would be authorized under one or more Nationwide Permit 14's for Linear Transportation Projects or other Nationwide Permits, or an IP. This is speculative and USACE cannot confirm this with the information available at this time. At the end of this section the 0.10-acre “effects” threshold requiring preconstruction notification is incorrect. The standard is for “loss” of waters of the United States, not “effect.” Additionally, threshold loss between streams and wetlands are different. See item #16 below. Finally, a preconstruction notification will be required regardless because the proposed project would occur in the vicinity of federally listed species, and potentially cultural resources eligible for listing on the National Register of Historic Places. These are both preconstruction notification triggers.

14) 6.1.1 (Compliance Measures) (Waters of the U.S. Mitigation Plan): The mitigation threshold is 0.10 acre of loss of wetlands or 0.03 acre of loss of stream channel per each single and complete crossing of waters of the United States. The DEIS language should be adjusted.

15) 6.2.1.1 (Section 401 Water Quality Certification): If a standard individual permit is required, the applicant (ATP) would need to initiate the WQC process by requesting a pre-filing meeting with TCEQ 30-days before submitting a final application/proposal to USACE for impacts to waters of the United States.

## Chapter 4 Affected Environment and Environmental Consequences

1) 4.14.2.2 (Build Alternative and Design Options) (Surface Waters) and (Water Quality): Relevant USACE comments above from the Water Resources Technical Report apply to this section as well.

---

**From:** Deron Lozano  
**Sent:** Friday, September 27, 2024 4:43 PM  
**To:** Jubal Grubb  
**Cc:** Scott Ford; Terence Plaskon - Federal Transit Administration, Region 6 (terence.plaskon@dot.gov); Hayes, Lynn (FTA)  
**Subject:** FW: Austin Light Rail Phase 1 - Cooperating Agency ADEIS Submittal - comments requested 9/27  
**Attachments:** RE: Collecting comments for Austin Light Rail Phase 1 - Cooperating Agency ADEIS Submittal - comments requested 9/27; RE: Collecting comments for Austin Light Rail Phase 1 - Cooperating Agency ADEIS Submittal - comments requested 9/27; RE: Collecting comments for Austin Light Rail Phase 1 - Cooperating Agency ADEIS Submittal - comments requested 9/27

Thank you Jubal to you and your team at TxDOT for taking the time to review and provide comments on the ADEIS.

We'll follow up if we have any questions. Have a great weekend.

Deron

Austin Transit Partnership  
(512) 923-3257

---

**From:** Jubal Grubb <Jubal.Grubb@txdot.gov>  
**Sent:** Friday, September 27, 2024 4:23 PM  
**To:** Deron Lozano <Deron.Lozano@atptx.org>  
**Cc:** Scott Ford <scott.ford@txdot.gov>  
**Subject:** RE: Austin Light Rail Phase 1 - Cooperating Agency ADEIS Submittal - comments requested 9/27

Deron,

There have been three responses to a call for review/comments.  
I have attached the emails with their comments included.  
If any others are received then I will forward them to you.  
Thank you very much,

*Jubal Grubb*  
ENV Project Planner  
Austin District, TxDOT  
7901 N IH 35, Austin, TX 78753  
512-865-0487

---

**From:** Deron Lozano <Deron.Lozano@atptx.org>  
**Sent:** Thursday, September 19, 2024 1:03 PM  
**To:** Jubal Grubb <Jubal.Grubb@txdot.gov>  
**Cc:** Scott Ford <Scott.Ford@txdot.gov>  
**Subject:** RE: Austin Light Rail Phase 1 - Cooperating Agency ADEIS Submittal - comments requested 9/27

This email originated from outside of the organization. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

Hi Jubal, I've requested access and will get back to you shortly with notice of approval.

Thank you, Deron

Austin Transit Partnership  
(512) 923-3257

---

**From:** Jubal Grubb <[Jubal.Grubb@txdot.gov](mailto:Jubal.Grubb@txdot.gov)>  
**Sent:** Wednesday, September 18, 2024 10:35 AM  
**To:** Deron Lozano <[Deron.Lozano@atptx.org](mailto:Deron.Lozano@atptx.org)>  
**Subject:** FW: Austin Light Rail Phase 1 - Cooperating Agency ADEIS Submittal - comments requested 9/27

You don't often get email from [jubal.grubb@txdot.gov](mailto:jubal.grubb@txdot.gov). [Learn why this is important](#)

<I cannot access the file folders to access/download the sections we need to review>

Deron,

Good morning.

Great meeting this morning and I look forward to reviewing and providing any comments for the locations where the project intersects two TxDOT facilities (at Cesar Chavez and at I-35).

I have attempted to follow the link to access the file folders; however, the reply is that I need to be added as an external user in the tenant list, i.e., I am not in the 'Austin Transit Partnership' list.

I need to download the EIS content and distribute it to other reviewers in TxDOT.

Please let me know as soon as you have a chance if there is anything I can do to help get access.

And thank you very much,

*Jubal Grubb*  
ENV Project Planner  
Austin District, TxDOT  
7901 N IH 35, Austin, TX 78753  
512-865-0487

---

**From:** Scott Ford <[Scott.Ford@txdot.gov](mailto:Scott.Ford@txdot.gov)>  
**Sent:** Wednesday, September 18, 2024 8:43 AM  
**To:** Jubal Grubb <[Jubal.Grubb@txdot.gov](mailto:Jubal.Grubb@txdot.gov)>  
**Subject:** FW: Austin Light Rail Phase 1 - Cooperating Agency ADEIS Submittal - comments requested 9/27

Hi Jubal. Can you please do me a favor and pull out the design pages for the two TxDOT crossings (Cesar Chavez and I-35)? Thanks, Scott

---

**From:** Deron Lozano <[Deron.Lozano@atptx.org](mailto:Deron.Lozano@atptx.org)>  
**Sent:** Monday, September 9, 2024 1:58 PM  
**To:** Scott Ford <[Scott.Ford@txdot.gov](mailto:Scott.Ford@txdot.gov)>; gruta gabriel <[gruta.gabriel@epa.gov](mailto:gruta.gabriel@epa.gov)>; amy grossman <[amy.grossman@tpwd.texas.gov](mailto:amy.grossman@tpwd.texas.gov)>; Houston, Robert <[Houston.Robert@epa.gov](mailto:Houston.Robert@epa.gov)>; Shelnutt, Joseph L CIV USARMY CESWF (USA) <[Joseph.L.Shelnutt@usace.army.mil](mailto:Joseph.L.Shelnutt@usace.army.mil)>  
**Cc:** Plaskon, Terence (FTA) <[terence.plaskon@dot.gov](mailto:terence.plaskon@dot.gov)>; Lynn Hayes <[lynn.hayes@dot.gov](mailto:lynn.hayes@dot.gov)>; Jillian Mauer <[mauer@pinyon-env.com](mailto:mauer@pinyon-env.com)>; Rachel Thomas <[rachel.thomas@atptx.org](mailto:rachel.thomas@atptx.org)>; Jennifer Pyne <[Jennifer.Pyne@atptx.org](mailto:Jennifer.Pyne@atptx.org)>;

**Subject:** Austin Light Rail Phase 1 - Cooperating Agency ADEIS Submittal - comments requested 9/27

This email originated from outside of the organization. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

On behalf of the Federal Transit Administration (FTA) and Austin Transit Partnership (ATP), we are pleased to submit the Austin Light Rail Phase 1 Administrative Draft Environmental Impact Statement (ADEIS) for your review as a Cooperating Agency.

You should each have access to the ADEIS on ATP's SharePoint using the following link (the image below depicts how the individual folders should appear):

[September 2024 Cooperating Agency Submittal](#)

A few notes to assist in your review:

- Should you have any issues accessing SharePoint, please send me an email directly and I'll work with our IT group to resolve.
- Find attached a Table of Contents document for your reference.
- Feel free to provide comments by either:
  1. Downloading individual reports, make edits, and upload back into the appropriate folder citing your agency in the file name.
  2. Making your comments directly in the reports on SharePoint in track-changes or using the comment function for the PDFs.
  3. Emailing comments citing the specific document and page number via email to Terence ([Terence.plaskon@dot.gov](mailto:Terence.plaskon@dot.gov)) and me.
- If you would like us to schedule a meeting to discuss comments or clarify information during the review period with your agency, please let me know (we have a session scheduled with TxDOT on 9/18).
- We kindly request that your review is completed by **Friday, September 27, 2024 COB.**

Joseph, please note this email correspondence is in association with USACE Proj. #SWF-2024-00231

We appreciate your involvement in this project. Don't hesitate to reach out to me or Terence Plaskon (FTA) at [Terence.plaskon@dot.gov](mailto:Terence.plaskon@dot.gov) or 817.978.0573 with any questions.

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ATP Coordination > NEPA > ADEIS > September 2024 Cooperating Agency Submittal

📄 Name ▾

📁 \_Chapter 1 - Purpose and Need

📁 \_Chapter 2 - Alternatives Considered

📁 \_Chapter 3 - Transportation Analysis

📁 \_Chapter 4 - Environmental Consequences

📁 \_Chapter 5 - Cumulative Impacts

📁 \_Chapter 6 - Environmental Justice

📁 \_Chapter 7 - Summary of Alternatives and Analysis

📁 \_Executive Summary

📁 \_Table of Contents

📁 Appendices

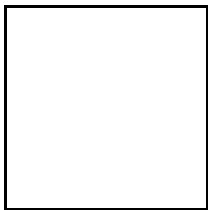
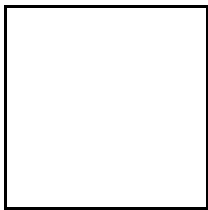
📁 List of Preparers

📁 References

The logo for the Austin Transit Partnership, featuring the words "AUSTIN TRANSIT" in a bold, sans-serif font with "PARTNERSHIP" in a smaller font below it. The "AUSTIN" is in green and "TRANSIT" is in blue.

**Deron Lozano**  
**Senior Vice President, Environment & Project Development**  
**Austin Transit Partnership**  
**P:** (512) 923-3257  
**W:** [atptx.org](http://atptx.org)  
**A:** 203 Colorado Street, Austin, TX 78701

4



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**From:** Gregory Sanders <Gregory.Sanders@txdot.gov>  
**Sent:** Monday, September 23, 2024 2:08 PM  
**To:** Jubal Grubb  
**Subject:** RE: Collecting comments for Austin Light Rail Phase 1 - Cooperating Agency ADEIS Submittal - comments requested 9/27

No comments. The Riverside bridge is being addressed by the consultant design group and our GEC on the review side.

**Gregory E Sanders, P.E.**

Office: (512) 832-7152 | Cell: (512) 298-9137

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**From:** Jubal Grubb <Jubal.Grubb@txdot.gov>  
**Sent:** Monday, September 23, 2024 11:36 AM  
**To:** Heather Ashley-Nguyen <Heather.AshleyNguyen@txdot.gov>; Brandon Marshall <Brandon.Marshall@txdot.gov>; Mojtaba Ranjbar <Mojtaba.Ranjbar@txdot.gov>; Heather Seamon <Heather.Seamon@txdot.gov>; Beke Bedada <Beke.Bedada@txdot.gov>; Michelle Milford <Michelle.Milford@txdot.gov>; Kimberly Culp <Kimberly.Culp@txdot.gov>; Gregory Sanders <Gregory.Sanders@txdot.gov>; Joseph Goessling <Joseph.Goessling@txdot.gov>; Bonnie Sherman <Bonnie.Sherman@txdot.gov>; Theodore Kosub <Theodore.Kosub@txdot.gov>; Stefan Srnensky <Stefan.Srnensky@txdot.gov>  
**Cc:** Scott Ford <Scott.Ford@txdot.gov>  
**Subject:** Collecting comments for Austin Light Rail Phase 1 - Cooperating Agency ADEIS Submittal - comments requested 9/27

Good morning Team,

I am collecting TxDOT staff reviewer comments related to safety and mobility for the design of the project where it intersects two on-system facilities at Cesar Chavez (at Lavaca St, and Trinity St just north of the Lady Bird Lake) and at the I-35 intersection with Riverside Drive.

I have extracted from the design file the figures that depict the project.

There is a map key with highlighted labels indicating the intersections, and the corresponding sheets.

If you find a comment matrix useful I have included a blank one for you to use and send back to me.

If you have comments please send to me by the end of day this Friday September 27, 2024 and I will forward them to the transit team.

Thank you very much.

*Jubal Grubb*

ENV Project Planner  
Austin District, TxDOT  
7901 N IH 35, Austin, TX 78753  
512-865-0487

---

**From:** Joseph Goessling <Joseph.Goessling@txdot.gov>  
**Sent:** Monday, September 23, 2024 3:24 PM  
**To:** Jubal Grubb  
**Cc:** Scott Ford  
**Subject:** RE: Collecting comments for Austin Light Rail Phase 1 - Cooperating Agency ADEIS Submittal - comments requested 9/27  
**Attachments:** RE: CapEx C 0015-13-428 [ I-35 and Riverside CoA Redlines ]

Jubal,

The only comment I have is more as an FYI.

Sht 34-124 at the NW corner of Riverside and I35. At COA Watershed request we made a small modification to the storm drain system to accommodate future water quality treatment out of the ROW. I don't know if these was specifically for the Light Rail project. See attached email thread and pdf.



**Joseph Goessling, P.E., CFM**  
Austin District | District Hydraulics Engineer  
7901 N. IH-35, Austin, TX 78753  
Cell: (512) 599-2622  
[joseph.goessling@txdot.gov](mailto:joseph.goessling@txdot.gov)

---

**From:** Jubal Grubb <Jubal.Grubb@txdot.gov>  
**Sent:** Monday, September 23, 2024 11:36 AM  
**To:** Heather Ashley-Nguyen <Heather.AshleyNguyen@txdot.gov>; Brandon Marshall <Brandon.Marshall@txdot.gov>; Mojtaba Ranjbar <Mojtaba.Ranjbar@txdot.gov>; Heather Seamon <Heather.Seamon@txdot.gov>; Beke Bedada <Beke.Bedada@txdot.gov>; Michelle Milford <Michelle.Milford@txdot.gov>; Kimberly Culp <Kimberly.Culp@txdot.gov>; Gregory Sanders <Gregory.Sanders@txdot.gov>; Joseph Goessling <Joseph.Goessling@txdot.gov>; Bonnie Sherman <Bonnie.Sherman@txdot.gov>; Theodore Kosub <Theodore.Kosub@txdot.gov>; Stefan Srnensky <Stefan.Srnensky@txdot.gov>  
**Cc:** Scott Ford <Scott.Ford@txdot.gov>  
**Subject:** Collecting comments for Austin Light Rail Phase 1 - Cooperating Agency ADEIS Submittal - comments requested 9/27

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Thank you very much.

***Jubal Grubb***

**ENV Project Planner**

**Austin District, TxDOT**

**7901 N IH 35, Austin, TX 78753**

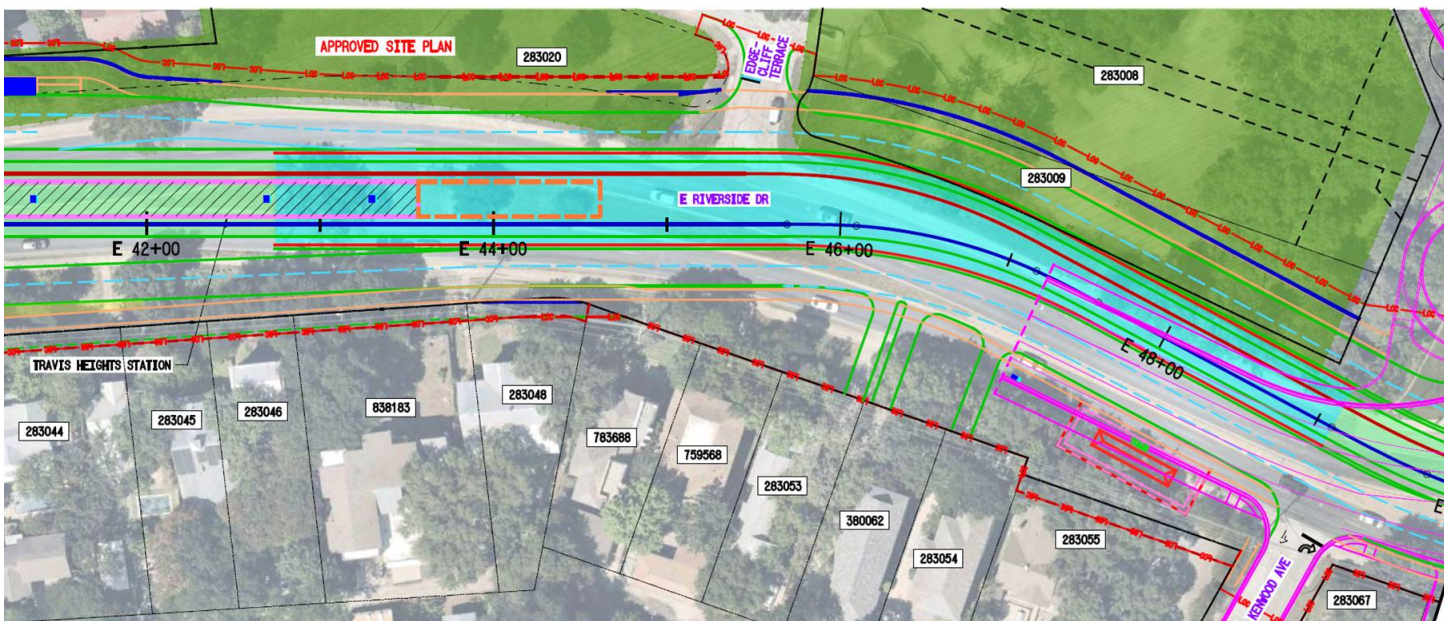
**512-865-0487**

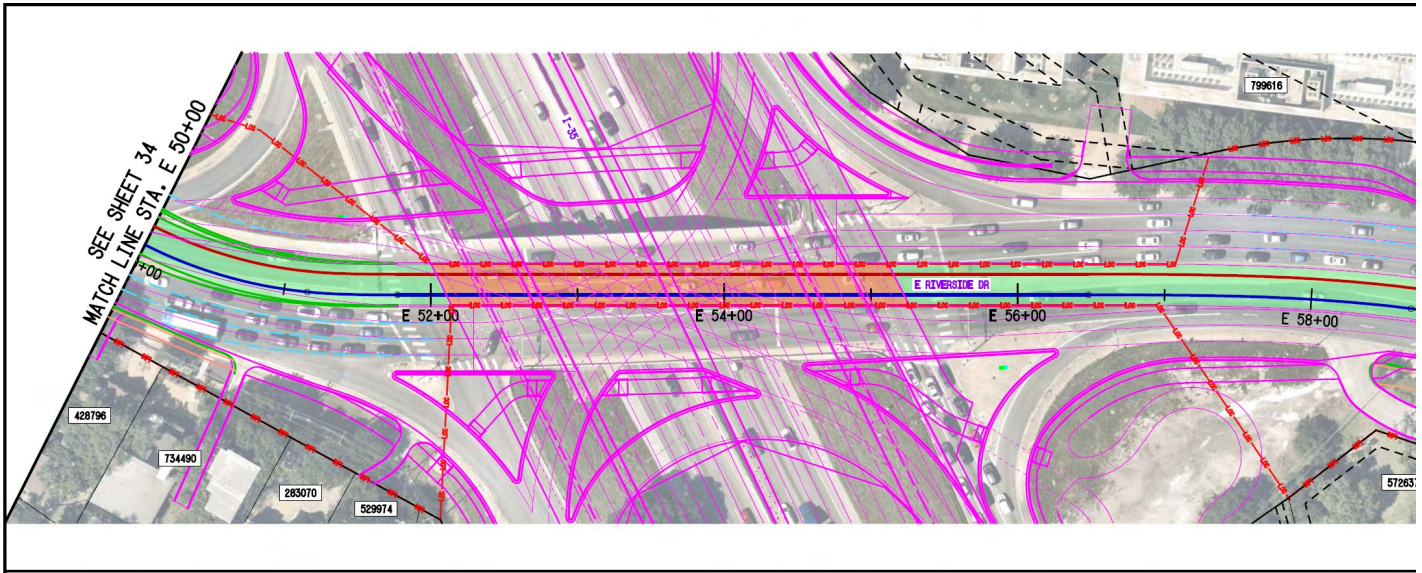
**From:** Jesse Bullard <Jesse.Bullard@txdot.gov>  
**Sent:** Friday, September 27, 2024 12:33 PM  
**To:** Jubal Grubb  
**Cc:** Scott Ford; Kimberly Culp; Heather Ashley-Nguyen; Brandon Marshall; Mojtaba Ranjbar; Heather Seamon; Beke Bedada; Michelle Milford; Gregory Sanders; Joseph Goessling; Bonnie Sherman; Theodore Kosub; Stefan Srmensky  
**Subject:** RE: Collecting comments for Austin Light Rail Phase 1 - Cooperating Agency ADEIS Submittal - comments requested 9/27

Jubal,

Reminders, the Capital Express Central (CapEx-C) LBL PS&E CSJ 0015-13-428 just let in September 2024, and will be under construction with the South Travis Area office.

Also, confirmed the pink linework matches the latest CapEx-C LBL let plans (see snapshots below from the provided PDF, proposed work by others - CapEx-C LBL project), thanks.





Jesse



Jesse L. Bullard, P.E. | Transportation Engineer  
 Austin District – Portfolio Production  
 7901 N. IH 35, Austin, TX 78753  
 Phone: (512) 832-7327 | Email: [Jesse.Bullard@txdot.gov](mailto:Jesse.Bullard@txdot.gov)

---

**From:** Kimberly Culp <[Kimberly.Culp@txdot.gov](mailto:Kimberly.Culp@txdot.gov)>  
**Sent:** Monday, September 23, 2024 2:02 PM  
**To:** Jesse Bullard <[Jesse.Bullard@txdot.gov](mailto:Jesse.Bullard@txdot.gov)>  
**Subject:** FW: Collecting comments for Austin Light Rail Phase 1 - Cooperating Agency ADEIS Submittal - comments requested 9/27

---

**From:** Jubal Grubb <[Jubal.Grubb@txdot.gov](mailto:Jubal.Grubb@txdot.gov)>  
**Sent:** Monday, September 23, 2024 11:36 AM  
**To:** Heather Ashley-Nguyen <[Heather.AshleyNguyen@txdot.gov](mailto:Heather.AshleyNguyen@txdot.gov)>; Brandon Marshall <[Brandon.Marshall@txdot.gov](mailto:Brandon.Marshall@txdot.gov)>; Mojtaba Ranjbar <[Mojtaba.Ranjbar@txdot.gov](mailto:Mojtaba.Ranjbar@txdot.gov)>; Heather Seamon <[Heather.Seamon@txdot.gov](mailto:Heather.Seamon@txdot.gov)>; Beke Bedada <[Beke.Bedada@txdot.gov](mailto:Beke.Bedada@txdot.gov)>; Michelle Milford <[Michelle.Milford@txdot.gov](mailto:Michelle.Milford@txdot.gov)>; Kimberly Culp <[Kimberly.Culp@txdot.gov](mailto:Kimberly.Culp@txdot.gov)>; Gregory Sanders <[Gregory.Sanders@txdot.gov](mailto:Gregory.Sanders@txdot.gov)>; Joseph Goessling <[Joseph.Goessling@txdot.gov](mailto:Joseph.Goessling@txdot.gov)>; Bonnie Sherman <[Bonnie.Sherman@txdot.gov](mailto:Bonnie.Sherman@txdot.gov)>; Theodore Kosub <[Theodore.Kosub@txdot.gov](mailto:Theodore.Kosub@txdot.gov)>; Stefan Srnensky <[Stefan.Srnensky@txdot.gov](mailto:Stefan.Srnensky@txdot.gov)>  
**Cc:** Scott Ford <[Scott.Ford@txdot.gov](mailto:Scott.Ford@txdot.gov)>  
**Subject:** Collecting comments for Austin Light Rail Phase 1 - Cooperating Agency ADEIS Submittal - comments requested 9/27

Good morning Team,

I am collecting TxDOT staff reviewer comments related to safety and mobility for the design of the project where it intersects two on-system facilities at Cesar Chavez (at Lavaca St, and Trinity St just north of the Lady Bird Lake) and at the I-35 intersection with Riverside Drive.

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If you find a comment matrix useful I have included a blank one for you to use and send back to me.

If you have comments please send to me by the end of day this Friday September 27, 2024 and I will forward them to the transit team.

Thank you very much.

***Jubal Grubb***

**ENV Project Planner**

**Austin District, TxDOT**

**7901 N IH 35, Austin, TX 78753**

**512-865-0487**

---

**From:** Amy Grossman <Amy.Grossman@tpwd.texas.gov>  
**Sent:** Wednesday, September 25, 2024 8:55 AM  
**To:** Plaskon, Terence (FTA); Deron Lozano  
**Cc:** Jessica Schmerler; Dan Reece  
**Subject:** FW: Austin Light Rail Phase 1 - Cooperating Agency ADEIS Submittal - comments requested 9/27

**Follow Up Flag:** Follow up  
**Flag Status:** Flagged

Hi Deron and Terence,

Thank you for sharing the Administrative Draft EIS and providing us time to review and respond. Here is the feedback after our review.

The comments below are for Appendix H and the page numbers reference the PDF page, not the document's page number.

- Page 7 – The map of the grant-funded boundary is not the comprehensive boundary of the park (there were other phases) and it's also not the official grant map. The official grant boundary is currently a hand-drawn map from 1968. We are working to geo-digitize that map as time and projects permit, but the entire boundary has not been confirmed.
  - o Please provide information on the map indicating the boundary shown is a working map relevant to this project and not illustrative of the grant as a whole.
- Page 8 – The description of the impacted property states “the two docks are not within the Section 6(f) boundary” but this has not been determined yet. We are working with Sravya's team and with NPS to confirm this boundary.
  - o Please adjust this language.
- Page 15 – In describing the replacement process, it states “The appraisal would include the cost of improvements at the replacement site”. This implication could be viewed as future improvements are included in appraisal but that would be incorrect. The LWCF appraisal method allows for the appraisal to include existing property improvement values if they contribute to outdoor recreation.
  - o Please adjust this language.
- Page 16 – This section describes the proposed replacement property. The replacement property has not been approved yet and is contingent on several factors that haven't been confirmed at this stage in the process.
  - o Please adjust the language.

Please reach out with any questions. We look forward to hearing from you for the next stage of the EIS process.

Thanks,

Amy

**Amy Grossman**

Parkland Stewardship Specialist  
Local Park Grants Program  
Texas Parks and Wildlife Department  
Cell Phone: (512) 902-6039

---

**From:** Deron Lozano <Deron.Lozano@atptx.org>

**Sent:** Monday, September 9, 2024 1:58 PM

**To:** scott ford <scott.ford@txdot.gov>; gruta gabriel <gruta.gabriel@epa.gov>; Amy Grossman <Amy.Grossman@tpwd.texas.gov>; Houston, Robert <Houston.Robert@epa.gov>; Shelnutt, Joseph L CIV USARMY CESWF (USA) <Joseph.L.Shelnutt@usace.army.mil>



**Cc:** Plaskon, Terence (FTA) <terence.plaskon@dot.gov>; Lynn Hayes <lynn.hayes@dot.gov>; Jillian Mauer <mauer@pinyon-env.com>; Rachel Thomas <rachel.thomas@atptx.org>; Jennifer Pyne <Jennifer.Pyne@atptx.org>; Underwood, Tom <tom.underwood@hdrinc.com>; support@contigotx.com  
**Subject:** Austin Light Rail Phase 1 - Cooperating Agency ADEIS Submittal - comments requested 9/27

**ALERT: This email came from an external source. Do not open attachments or click on links in unknown or unexpected emails.**

On behalf of the Federal Transit Administration (FTA) and Austin Transit Partnership (ATP), we are pleased to submit the Austin Light Rail Phase 1 Administrative Draft Environmental Impact Statement (ADEIS) for your review as a Cooperating Agency.

You should each have access to the ADEIS on ATP's SharePoint using the following link (the image below depicts how the individual folders should appear):

[September 2024 Cooperating Agency Submittal](#)

A few notes to assist in your review:

- Should you have any issues accessing SharePoint, please send me an email directly and I'll work with our IT group to resolve.
- Find attached a Table of Contents document for your reference.
- Feel free to provide comments by either:
  1. Downloading individual reports, make edits, and upload back into the appropriate folder citing your agency in the file name.
  2. Making your comments directly in the reports on SharePoint in track-changes or using the comment function for the PDFs.
  3. Emailing comments citing the specific document and page number via email to Terence ([Terence.plaskon@dot.gov](mailto:Terence.plaskon@dot.gov)) and me.
- If you would like us to schedule a meeting to discuss comments or clarify information during the review period with your agency, please let me know (we have a session scheduled with TxDOT on 9/18).
- We kindly request that your review is completed by **Friday, September 27, 2024 COB.**

**Joseph, please note this email correspondence is in association with USACE Proj. #SWF-2024-00231**

We appreciate your involvement in this project. Don't hesitate to reach out to me or Terence Plaskon (FTA) at [Terence.plaskon@dot.gov](mailto:Terence.plaskon@dot.gov) or 817.978.0573 with any questions.

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ATP Coordination > NEPA > ADEIS > September 2024 Cooperating Agency Submittal

📄 Name ▾

📁 \_Chapter 1 - Purpose and Need

📁 \_Chapter 2 - Alternatives Considered

📁 \_Chapter 3 - Transportation Analysis

📁 \_Chapter 4 - Environmental Consequences

📁 \_Chapter 5 - Cumulative Impacts

📁 \_Chapter 6 - Environmental Justice

📁 \_Chapter 7 - Summary of Alternatives and Analysis

📁 \_Executive Summary

📁 \_Table of Contents

📁 Appendices

📁 List of Preparers

📁 References

The logo for the Austin Transit Partnership, featuring the words "AUSTIN TRANSIT" in a bold, sans-serif font with "PARTNERSHIP" in a smaller font below it. The "AUSTIN" is in green and "TRANSIT" is in blue.

**Deron Lozano**  
**Senior Vice President, Environment & Project Development**  
**Austin Transit Partnership**  
**P:** (512) 923-3257  
**W:** [atptx.org](http://atptx.org)  
**A:** 203 Colorado Street, Austin, TX 78701

3

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**From:** Underwood, Tom <Tom.Underwood@hdrinc.com>  
**Sent:** Thursday, May 16, 2024 2:33 PM  
**To:** Deron Lozano  
**Subject:** FW: Austin Light Rail Phase 1 Project

**Tom Underwood**  
M 314.332.9582

[hdrinc.com/follow-us](https://hdrinc.com/follow-us)

Deron. THC approved the Built Environment Scope of Work. See below.

---

**From:** noreply@thc.state.tx.us <noreply@thc.state.tx.us>  
**Sent:** Thursday, May 16, 2024 1:13 PM  
**To:** Huerta, Marcus <marcus.huerta@hdrinc.com>; reviews@thc.state.tx.us  
**Subject:** Austin Light Rail Phase 1 Project

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**TEXAS HISTORICAL COMMISSION**  
*real places telling real stories*

**Re:** Project Review under Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act  
**THC Tracking #202409628**  
**Date:** 05/16/2024  
Austin Light Rail Phase 1 Project  
Austin, TX  
Austin, TX

**Description:** The Project is a 9.8-mile (mi; 15.8 kilometer [km]) light rail transit (LRT) branched line extending north, south, and east of downtown Austin.

Dear Marcus Huerta:

Thank you for your submittal regarding the above-referenced project. This response represents the comments of the State Historic Preservation Officer, the Executive Director of the Texas Historical Commission (THC), pursuant to review under Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act.



The review staff, led by Tiffany Osburn, Justin Kockritz and Alexander Shane, has completed its review and has made the following determinations based on the information submitted for review:

**Above-Ground Resources**

- THC/SHPO concurs with information provided.

We have the following comments: The THC History Programs Division staff, led by Justin Kockritz, has completed its review of the proposed scope of work for the identification and evaluation of non-archeological historic resources. THC concurs that the proposed APE for non-archeological resources appears to be appropriate and also concurs that incorporating the findings of the built environment surveys for the Blue and Orange Lines is acceptable. In general, only properties that are now of historic-age and that were not previously evaluated during the Blue or Orange Line surveys will need to be evaluated as part of this scope of work. All comments on the archeological scope of work will be provided through the THC's Archeological Permit system (Permit No. 31726).

We look forward to further consultation with your office and hope to maintain a partnership that will foster effective historic preservation. Thank you for your cooperation in this review process, and for your efforts to preserve the irreplaceable heritage of Texas. If the project changes, or if new historic properties are found, please contact the review staff. If you have any questions concerning our review or if we can be of further assistance, please email the following reviewers: [tiffany.osburn@thc.texas.gov](mailto:tiffany.osburn@thc.texas.gov), [justin.kockritz@thc.texas.gov](mailto:justin.kockritz@thc.texas.gov), [Alexander.Shane@thc.texas.gov](mailto:Alexander.Shane@thc.texas.gov).

This response has been sent through the electronic THC review and compliance system (eTRAC). Submitting your project via eTRAC eliminates mailing delays and allows you to check the status of the review, receive an electronic response, and generate reports on your submissions. For more information, visit <http://thc.texas.gov/etrac-system>.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'BP' or similar initials, followed by a stylized flourish.

for Bradford Patterson  
Chief Deputy State Historic Preservation Officer

**Please do not respond to this email.**

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**From:** Plaskon, Terence (FTA) <Terence.Plaskon@dot.gov>  
**Sent:** Wednesday, April 3, 2024 3:38 PM  
**To:** Deron Lozano  
**Cc:** Lynn Hayes; Jillian Mauer; Jennifer Pyne; Underwood, Tom  
**Subject:** ALR Initiation of Section 106  
**Attachments:** Project Review Submission; 2024-04-03 ALR Section 106 Initiation Letter\_Signed.pdf

**Follow Up Flag:** Follow up  
**Flag Status:** Flagged

Deron,  
Please see attached for your records. This afternoon FTA initiated Section 106 consultation with THC through eTrac. Kindly note the tracking number for future communication with THC. Let's identify some dates and times that work for a THC briefing.  
I'll have the Permitting Dashboard updated to reflect that we've initiated 106.  
Thank you

Terence Plaskon  
Federal Transit Administration, Region 6  
819 Taylor St., #14A02 Fort Worth, TX 76102  
(817) 978-0573 | [terence.plaskon@dot.gov](mailto:terence.plaskon@dot.gov)

**Gust, Kimberly**

---

**From:** NoResponse@thc.state.tx.us  
**Sent:** Wednesday, April 3, 2024 3:27 PM  
**To:** Plaskon, Terence (FTA)  
**Subject:** Project Review Submission

**CAUTION:** This email originated from outside of the Department of Transportation (DOT). Do not click on links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

**Thank you for submitting project:** Austin Light Rail Phase 1 Project

**Tracking Number:** 202408094

**Due Date:** 5/3/2024 3:27:13 PM (30 days)

**TEXAS HISTORICAL COMMISSION**



U.S. Department  
of Transportation  
**Federal Transit  
Administration**

REGION VI  
Arkansas, Louisiana,  
New Mexico, Oklahoma,  
Texas

819 Taylor St. Suite 14A02  
Fort Worth, TX 76102  
(817) 978-0550  
(817) 978-0575 (fax)

April 3, 2024

Edward Lengel  
State Historic Preservation Officer  
Executive Director, Texas Historical Commission  
P.O. Box 12276  
Austin, TX 78711-2276

Attn: Justin Kockritz, Lead Project Federal Reviewer

**RE: Initiation of Section 106 Consultation for the Austin Light Rail Phase 1 Project in Austin, Travis County, Texas**

Dear Mr. Lengel:

The Federal Transit Administration (FTA), as part of our responsibilities under the National Historic Preservation Act (NHPA) and applicable regulations, is initiating Section 106 consultation for the **Austin Light Rail Phase 1 Project** (the Project) in Austin, Texas. FTA has determined that the Project is a Federal undertaking subject to Section 106 of the NHPA and is the type of activity that has the potential to cause effects on historic properties. FTA invites your participation.

*Project Description*

FTA, as lead Federal agency, and Austin Transit Partnership (ATP), as project sponsor and joint lead agency, propose to build a 9.8-mile light rail transit (LRT) branched line extending north, south, and east of downtown Austin. The Project combines elements of the original Capital Metro Orange and Blue Line LRT projects into one project. Beginning at the intersection of Guadalupe and 38th Streets, the alignment would extend southward past University of Texas-Austin and the Texas State Capitol. At the intersection of Guadalupe and 3rd Streets, the alignment would extend eastward on 3rd Street, cross Congress Avenue, and connect to Trinity Street. The light rail alignment would turn southward on Trinity Street and cross Lady Bird Lake on a new light rail bridge. On the southern shore of Lady Bird Lake, the alignment would split into two branches. The southern branch of the split would cross East Bouldin Creek and extend southward on South Congress Avenue, with a terminus at the intersection of South Congress Avenue and Oltorf Street. The eastern branch of the alignment would continue southeastward along East Riverside Drive with a terminus just west of State Highway (SH)-71 at the Yellow Jacket Station. Additional project elements include, but are not limited to, an Operations and Maintenance Facility and Park and Ride lots near the end-of-line stations (see Attachment 1).

The Project would result in the permanent conversion of current land uses to transportation use. The existing roadway right-of-way (ROW) widths within the corridor would be widened to accommodate the light rail guideway within the existing street, while maintaining traffic lanes and implementing the City of Austin's complete streets requirements per the Austin Strategic Mobility Plan for bike lanes, tree zones, sidewalks, and other amenities. Slivers of ROW would be required along the corridor and in the station and maintenance facility areas. Project-specific design options will be evaluated during the Project's environmental review process under the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA).

#### *Coordination with Other Reviews*

As we did for the Orange and Blue Line projects, FTA will coordinate Section 106 compliance for the Project with our review under NEPA and other related reviews. In January of this year, we initiated our NEPA review by issuing a notice of intent to do an environmental impact statement for the Project. We plan for our public participation, analysis, and partner agency review to be scheduled in such a way that we can meet the purposes and requirements of both Section 106 and NEPA in a timely and efficient manner.

#### *Consulting Parties*

FTA plans to consult with you and other consulting parties throughout the Section 106 process. We would like to meet with your staff this month, as soon as schedules permit, where we can brief you on our assumptions for the Research Design and can outline for you our schedule and methodology for the historic resources survey, as well as the Antiquities Permit Application and Research Design for the archeological survey. To facilitate additional involvement in our planning and coordination, we compiled a list of potential consulting parties for your review and comment (see Attachment 2).

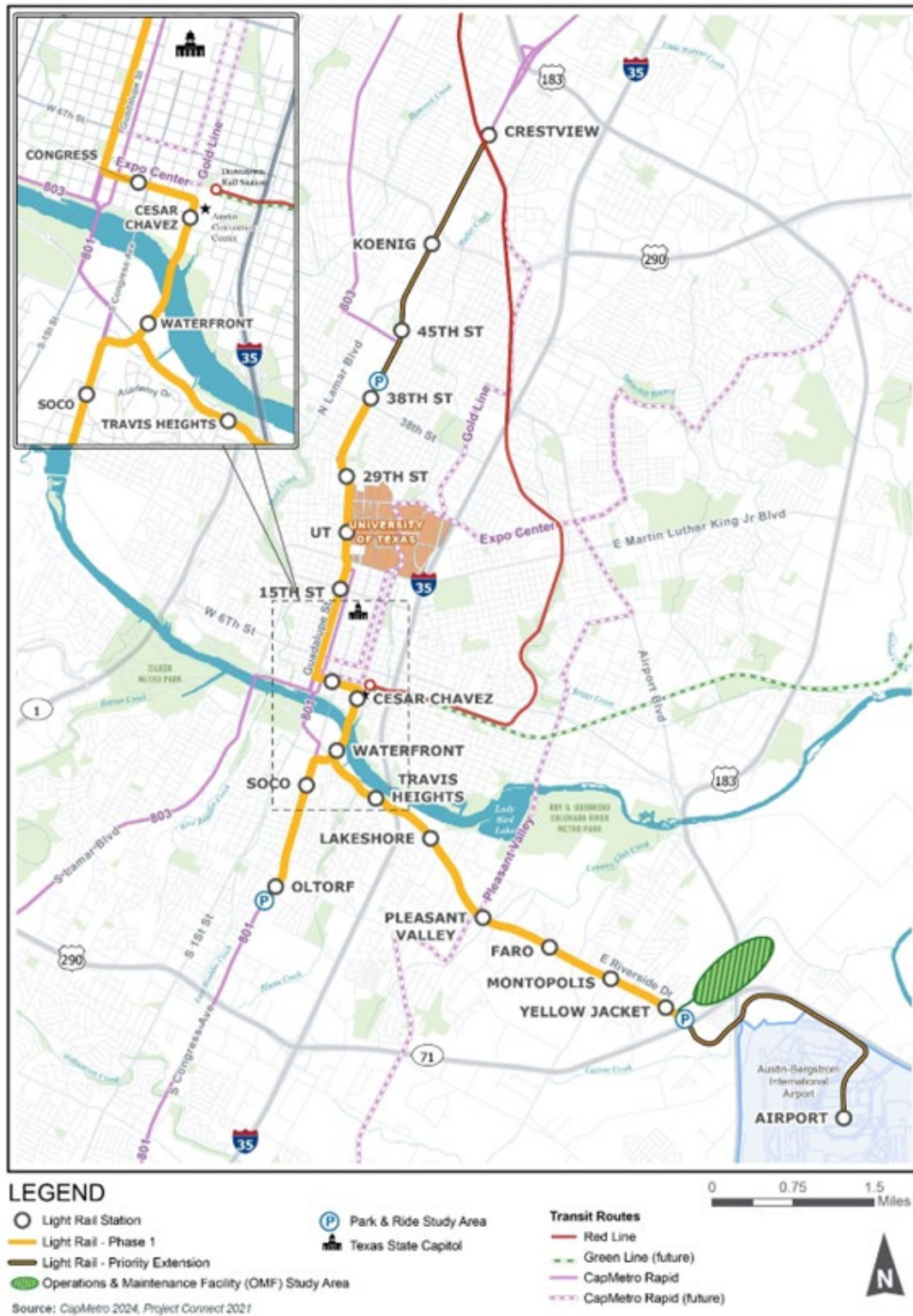
#### *Coordination Efficiencies*

While FTA does not delegate its Section 106 responsibilities to our project sponsors, we will rely on ATP and its SOI-qualified team to coordinate on technical matters, including interim deliverables and communicate with you, other consulting parties, and the public. Considering the scale of the Project, we think this additional support will be key to an efficient and thorough review. This is a limited authorization to consult on our behalf and is not a delegation. FTA will make and remain legally responsible for all findings and determinations regarding eligibility and effects. We look forward to working with you on the Project. Please contact me or Deron Lozano at ATP, via email [deron.lozano@atptx.org](mailto:deron.lozano@atptx.org) or via phone at (512) 923-3257, with your availability to meet. Thank you.

Sincerely,

Terence Plaskon  
Environmental Protection Specialist  
Federal Transit Administration, VI

### Attachment 1: Project Map



## **Attachment 2: Potential Consulting Parties**

- Austin History Center
- Austin Parks and Recreation (PARD)
- Bonnett Neighborhood Association
- Bouldin Creek Neighborhood Association
- Capital Area Metropolitan Planning Organization (CAMPO)
- Central Waterfront Advisory Board
- City of Austin Open Data Portal
- District 3 Law Office
- Downtown Austin Alliance
- Downtown Austin Neighborhood Association
- East Austin Conservancy
- Emma S. Barrientos Mexican American Cultural Center
- Fred L. McGhee & Associates
- Friends of Riverside ATX Neighborhood Association
- Greater Austin Hispanic Chamber of Commerce
- Greater East Austin Neighborhood Association
- Highland Neighborhood Association
- Historic Bridge Foundation
- Lower Waller Creek Neighborhood Association
- Montopolis Community Alliance
- Montopolis Tributary Trail Association
- Montopolis-Ponca Neighborhood Association
- Norwood Park Foundation
- O. Henry Museum (CoA property)
- Old Austin Neighborhood Association
- Pleasant Valley Neighborhood Association
- Preservation Austin
- Rainey Neighborhood Association, Inc.
- Red River Cultural District (RRCD)
- Riverside Farms Road Neighborhood Assn.
- Shoal Creek Conservancy
- South River City Citizens Neighborhood Association
- Southeast Austin Neighborhood Alliance
- Travis County Historical Commission (CHC)
- Vargas Neighborhood Association
- Waterloo Greenway Conservancy
- West Downtown Alliance, Inc.



---

**From:** Plaskon, Terence (FTA) <Terence.Plaskon@dot.gov>  
**Sent:** Thursday, July 20, 2023 2:00 PM  
**To:** john.macfarlane@faa.gov; Leary, Michael (FHWA); Heather.AshleyNguyen@txdot.gov; Eric.J.Dephouse@usace.army.mil; Houston.Robert@epa.gov; martinez.eli@epa.gov; kris.hafezizadeh@austinisd.org; jacqueline.yaft@austintexas.gov; edna.butts@austinisd.org; Ashby.johnson campotexas.org; dave ridecarts.com; mike.geeslin@centralhealth.net; jdailey@ctrma.org; jesus.garza@austintexas.gov; rob.spillar austintexas.gov; christine.maguire@austintexas.gov; kimberly.mcneeley@austintexas.gov; denise.lucas@austintexas.gov; mbarry@downtownaustin.com; tony.robinson@fema.dhs.gov; phil.wilson@lcra.org; Anna.R.Brulloths@tceq.texas.gov; Mark.Wolfe@thc.texas.gov; Jessica.Schmerler@tpwd.texas.gov; Scheleen.Walker@traviscountytx.gov; Alan.Stahnke@usda.gov; jimmy.johnson@austin.utexas.edu; Justin Kockritz (Justin.Kockritz@thc.texas.gov); annick.beaudet@AustinTexas.gov  
**Cc:** Hayes, Lynn (FTA); Shoaib, Suleman (FTA); Bartels, David (FTA); Allaire, Jennifer (FTA); Doss, Michael (FTA); Lozano, Deron; Beth Bartz (beth.bartz@kimley-horn.com); Pyne, Jennifer; Underwood, Tom; Sharmila Mukherjee (sharmila.mukherjee@capmetro.org)  
**Subject:** Project Connect - Austin Light Rail Project - Participating/ Cooperating Agency Update

**CAUTION: [EXTERNAL]** This email originated from outside of the organization. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

All,  
As lead Federal agency, the Federal Transit Administration (FTA) provides this update on the Austin Light Rail Transit (LRT) project. You are receiving this update as a National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) Cooperating or Participating Agency for the Project Connect Orange Line or Blue Line LRT project. As noted in previous updates, Austin Transit Partnership (ATP) has been working with CapMetro and the City of Austin to refine the initial light rail project to meet financial constraints as well as community values and priorities after we had paused development of the NEPA documents in 2022. In our last update on March 10, 2023, we informed you the ATP team planned to host an LRT Open House officially beginning a 6-week community dialogue that would help inform the LRT plan, the extent of the LRT project, and the program's path forward.

In June 2023, the ATP Board, the CapMetro Board, and the City of Austin City Council adopted a revised Light Rail Implementation Plan that combines elements of the original Orange and Blue Line LRT projects into one initial project. The revised alignment would begin at the intersection of 38<sup>th</sup> and Guadalupe streets, extend south along Guadalupe and continue east on 3<sup>rd</sup> Street to Trinity Street. Extending south on Trinity Street, the alignment would cross Lady Bird Lake on a transit-dedicated bridge. On the south shore of the lake, the alignment would split with one branch extending south along Congress Avenue terminating at Oltorf Street and the other branch extending east along Riverside Drive terminating at Yellow Jacket Street. Two priority extensions are identified, to be accelerated if additional funding becomes available: one priority extension would extend the northern terminus from 38<sup>th</sup> Street north to Crestview, and a second priority extension would extend to the eastern terminus east from Yellow Jacket Street to the Austin airport. The following link provides additional information concerning the proposed project. [Austin Light Rail Implementation Plan - May 2023 by Austin... - Flipsnack](#)

In the coming months, FTA will coordinate with ATP and CapMetro regarding the NEPA process. We value and appreciate the interest and input of our Cooperating and Participating Agencies and may communicate with you regarding your intent to continue to serve as a Cooperating or Participating Agency. FTA and ATP, in cooperation with CapMetro, the City of Austin, and program stakeholders will continue to advance planning and conceptual design



activities throughout 2023 and 2024. We will continue to provide project updates and information concerning when NEPA documents will be ready for your review and input. If you have any questions, please contact me. Thank you

Terence Plaskon  
Environmental Protection Specialist  
Federal Transit Administration, Region 6  
819 Taylor St., #14A02 Fort Worth, TX 76102  
(817) 978-0573 | [terence.plaskon@dot.gov](mailto:terence.plaskon@dot.gov)