

Austin Transit Partnership

Project Connect Status Report

ATP Board Brief
April 2026



Contents

Austin Light Rail Program Update 3

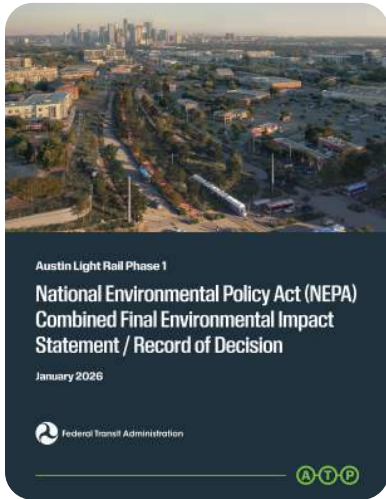
City of Austin Update7

CapMetro Update 8

Austin Light Rail Program Update

Austin Light Rail Implementation

Final Environmental Impact Statement/Record of Decision



Final Environmental Impact Statement/Record of Decision

In January, Austin Transit Partnership completed the federal environmental review for Austin Light Rail, a major milestone that is necessary to secure billions of dollars in federal funding and begin preconstruction activities. Austin Light Rail Phase I formally entered the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) process in January 2024 and is the first major transit project to complete a Final Environmental Impact Statement (Final EIS), the most complex form of environmental review, within the required federal two-year timeline.

The Final EIS presents an extensive study of the project’s potential environmental, social and economic impacts as well as ATP’s commitments to address those impacts. The Final EIS also includes responses to each individual public comment received on the Draft Environmental Impact Statement (Draft EIS) during the 60-day public comment period that occurred January through March 2025 and shares some design refinements made since the Draft EIS was released. Completion of the Final EIS and receipt of the Record of Decision allows ATP to move into the next project phase, including starting the work of our design-build contractor partners.

Procurement Update

Light Rail Design-Build Construction Contract

On February 18, ATP awarded the Design-Build Contract to Austin Rail Constructors (ARC) a joint venture between Stacy Witbeck Inc. and Sundt Construction, Inc. for design and construction services for the civils, rail, stations, and system elements of Austin Light Rail. ARC will help shape and build nearly every aspect of the system including the transitway, tracks, systems, stations, bridges, traffic signals, utilities, drainage



ATP and ARC leadership

structures and streetscape. Following contract award and ATP issuance of a notice to proceed, ARC has co-located with ATP to begin preconstruction activities, establishing working groups to ensure integration with ATP and partners, advancing design and conducting field investigations to get ready for construction (which is anticipated to begin in 2027).

Operations and Maintenance Facility Design-Build Construction Contract

ATP has entered the negotiation phase for the Operations and Maintenance Facility (OMF) Design-Build Contract with the Board considering action to approve a final contract this month. Upon award, the OMF design-build contractor will be co-located in the ATP office to ensure coordination and collaboration with ATP, project partners, and also the ARC team, and begin preconstruction activities to advance design.

Light Rail Vehicles Procurement

ATP is currently evaluating the responses to the Light Vehicles Request for Proposals (LRV RFP) received in March 2026. ATP is expected to complete the solicitation process with the ATP Board considering action to award the LRV contract in the summer of 2026.

Civil/Rail/Stations/Systems	Operations & Maintenance Facility	Light Rail Vehicles
✓ RFI: February 2025	✓ RFI: April 2025	✓ RFI: May 2025
✓ Connect and Build Event: February 2025	✓ Connect & Build Event: May 2025	✓ RFP: Fall 2025
✓ RFQ: June 2025	✓ RFQ: August 2025	○ Contract Award Anticipated: Summer 2026
✓ RFP: August 2025	✓ RFP: October 2025	
✓ Contract Awarded: February 2026	○ Contract Award Anticipated: April 2026	

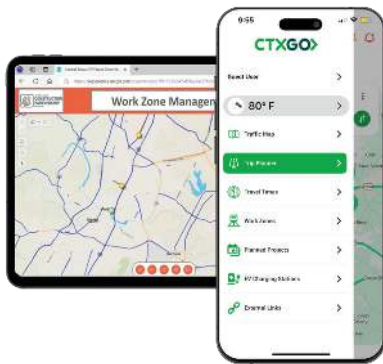
Checkmarks indicate completed procurement activities. Contracts expected to be awarded in 2026.

Utility Relocation Agreements

ATP has begun proactively coordinating with private utility companies to identify potential utility conflicts and plan for any needed relocations. ATP will enter into agreements to support performing early design reviews, locating existing utilities and other coordination along the alignment to be ready for construction.



Utility companies supporting preconstruction activities



CPP website and app

Central Texas Construction Partnership Program ILA

In March, ATP signed an Interlocal Agreement in support of the Central Texas Construction Partnership Program (CPP), a joint agency effort underway to prepare for the unprecedented amount of public infrastructure improvements scheduled to take place throughout Central Texas over the next 10 years. The CPP will focus on coordination across projects and regional agencies to help the public maintain mobility and navigate the impacts of construction across the region through an interagency data platform, website and app.

Business Support Needs Assessment

To inform our efforts supporting businesses during future construction, ATP is conducting a needs assessment through extensive research, business and community focus groups, block walking and a business survey to identify priorities and business needs that are specific to Austin. An implementation plan will be developed this year, informed by the needs assessment findings and peer benchmarking.



Business support community focus group

Sharing & Learning

This year the ATP team has shared our progress and provided insights with local stakeholders and organizations. Highlights include:

- Austin Board of Realtors (ABoR) Growth Summit
- Austin Chamber Infrastructure Council
- American Society of Civil Engineers (ASCE) Construction Institute & Construction Research Council Joint Conference
- Infraday
- City of Austin Mobility Committee
- Movability Educational Breakfast
- Austin Chamber Board Meeting
- Transit Forward Spring Luncheon
- Austin Chamber Infrastructure Summit



Y'all Aboard Campaign

ATP continues to educate the public about the benefits and features of Austin Light Rail. The next in a series of informational videos launched online accompanied by social media outreach. View the video at atptx.org.

Y'all Aboard informational video

City of Austin Update

City Advancing Work on Updated Ordinance, ILA

Austin City Council is scheduled to consider two Project Connect-related items at their May 21 meeting.

The City is working to update Project Connect's foundational ordinance, which was adopted by City Council in November 2022. The ordinance established a home for regulations pertaining to the new transit system and began to modify permitting tools related to Austin Light Rail.

Coming so early in project development, however, the ordinance was always intended to be updated as additional impediments to the process were identified. Among the proposed updates are changes to how the City regulates site plans and reviews heritage trees along the alignment. As well, the updated ordinance will remove outdated utility policies originally adopted in 2000 in anticipation of a future light rail system. That policy doesn't support Austin Light Rail's alignment and so will be removed. Additionally, the ordinance will incorporate streetscape standards for Austin Light Rail through adoption of the Project Connect Design Criteria.

The City of Austin Project Connect Office is also coordinating the process for an updated interlocal agreement between the City and ATP, which will lay out the terms for the design and construction of Austin Light Rail. The ILA will cover authority for and the use of City-owned right-of-way, as well as procedures for design, permitting and inspections throughout the construction process. Five City departments have been deeply involved in the drafting of the new ILA:

- Austin Energy
- Austin Parks & Recreation
- Austin Transportation & Public Works
- Austin Water
- Austin Watershed Protection

CapMetro Update

Coming June 2026: Project Connect Park & Rides, Full Frequency Rapid 800 and 837

CapMetro is excited to announce in June 2026 two new Project Connect Park & Ride facilities will open in East Austin, and Rapid routes 800 and 837 will run their full frequencies. The full frequency service will be an increase from every 20 minutes to every 10 minutes during peak hours.

In June, the Expo Center Park & Ride in northeast Austin near Colony Park and the Goodnight Ranch Park & Ride in southeast Austin will be ready to serve and support growing transit demand in the Central Texas region. The two projects will deliver critical infrastructure to support the charging requirements for CapMetro’s electric bus fleet along the 800 and 837 Rapid lines.

Several nearby fixed-route bus services will also be realigned to best utilize and support the new Park & Rides. The Goodnight Ranch Park & Ride will serve as the new terminus for Rapid 800 Pleasant Valley, Local Route 318 Westgate/Slaughter, and Frequent Route 333 William Cannon. The Rapid 837 Expo Center, Frequent Route 337 Koenig/Colony Park, Local Route 18 MLK, and Local Route 233 Decker/Daffan will extend into and terminate at the Expo Center Park & Ride.



New Project Connect Park & Ride facilities



Tap to Pay

In February 2026, CapMetro introduced tap to pay on all buses, making it easier and faster for customers to board using contactless payment methods, such as credit/debit cards and mobile wallets. This enhancement improves the overall rider experience by reducing boarding times and eliminating the need for cash or preloaded transit cards.

This is CapMetro’s most recent fare system upgrade, continuing a series of improvements designed to make paying for transit faster, easier and more convenient for customers.



Customer using tap to pay on a CapMetro bus