The I-35 Capital Express Central project proposes to improve multimodal accommodations along I-35 frontage roads and at east-west crossings. TxDOT is working to develop a feasible, constructable and multimodal plan to improve the interstate while minimizing impacts to the Central Texas region. The Capital Express Central project supports regional mobility and accessibility through the implementation of multimodal enhancement proposals.

What is being done?

TxDOT hosts weekly and monthly cross-agency meetings with representatives from the City of Austin and CapMetro to ensure the Capital Express Central project aligns with other transportation project goals for the city.

These discussions have resulted in the following considerations and changes for the project:

- Evaluating multimodal enhancements to east-west crossings, including wider and more accessible cross streets at multiple locations in the project.
- Connecting the city street network as well as local hike and bike trails throughout the corridor for continuity of bicycle and pedestrian accommodations.
- Adding shared-used paths on both sides of I-35 that connect to all east-west crossings.
- Adding restricted managed lanes accessible by public transit buses, registered van pools, carpools and emergency vehicles.
Why managed lanes?

Public transit buses, registered van pools and emergency vehicles sit in traffic with all other vehicles on I-35. Managed lanes provide these vehicles with a more reliable route, allowing them to bypass congestion and arrive at their destinations quicker. Managed lanes provide multimodal transportation opportunities and encourage users to carpool and take advantage of mass transit, allowing for greater mobility without more vehicles on the road.

What’s next?

TxDOT supports a multimodal transportation system and will continue to collect public feedback and host cross-agency meetings to implement multimodal enhancements as the project moves forward. The I-35 CapEx Central project reflects the commitment of multimodal planning and long-term goals of improved regional accessibility and mobility and aligns with the City of Austin Strategic Mobility Plan 50/50 mode shift.

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