



Project Connect

Cleaner, greener transportation for Austin

Capital Metro's Project Connect plan will connect Austin with high-capacity bus and rail lines integrated with frequent, reliable local bus service, providing more of us with clean, efficient travel options.

I Traffic pollutes Austin's air

Austin is among the most congested cities in America. The 54 million miles driven in the Austin area every day contribute to climate change and produce smog and soot pollution that harms our health.

- Transportation produces about 36 percent of all greenhouse gas emissions in Austin and Travis County. Carbon dioxide emissions from driving in the Austin metro area have increased by 178 percent since 1990.
- Transportation is the biggest source of ozone smog-forming nitrogen oxide (NO_x) pollution in the Austin area, producing more than one-third of the area's total NO_x emissions.
- Exposure to ozone and particulate pollution leads to nearly 11,000 premature deaths across Texas every year.

I Project Connect will provide clean travel options in Austin

Project Connect will enable high capacity transit in Austin, improve existing transit

services, add new dedicated transitways, and expand the accessibility of our transit system. Highlights include:

- **Light Rail Transit** on dedicated transitways, including the **Orange Line**, a 20-mile north-south link to, from and within Central Austin, and the **Blue Line** running from the airport into downtown Austin and up through Central Austin.
- New **MetroRapid** bus routes and other improvements that will reduce journey times, increase reliability and extend the reach of high-frequency bus service.
- Improvements to the MetroRail **Red Line** including additional trains and stations and other measures to allow for more trains and more riders.
- A new MetroRail **Green Line** commuter rail between Downtown Austin and Colony Park, with anticipated extensions to Manor and Elgin.
- The **Downtown Transit Tunnel**, separating light rail vehicles from traffic, allowing service to move more quickly, safely and reliably through downtown.
- Expanded **MetroExpress** bus service.

- **Bus Rapid Transit (BRT)** on the **Gold Line** along a dedicated transitway with 10 stations from ACC Highland, connecting to the UT campus for game days, through downtown Austin to the Convention Center and Republic Square.
- 24 new **Park and Ride** facilities to improve regional connections to the Capital Metro system.
- New **Neighborhood Circulators** to make it easier for people to access the transit system from where they live.
- Transition to a clean, zero-emission electric bus fleet.

service by 2024, with the ultimate aim of electrifying its entire fleet. This would save around 22,644 tons of greenhouse gas emissions each year – equivalent to taking 4,371 cars off the road.



Project Connect would add bus routes across the Austin area.

Project Connect will reduce air pollution and carbon emissions

By expanding transportation options, Project Connect will avert **109 million vehicle miles of travel** annually, keeping an estimated 30 tons of NO_x and 43,000 tons of CO₂ out of Austin's air every year.

- **Red Line:** Improved commuter rail will accommodate a projected fourfold increase in ridership, potentially averting 4,400 vehicle trips per day.
- **Blue Line:** By 2040, the proposed Blue Line could add up to 42,200 new riders to the system, eliminating 25,000 vehicle trips per day.
- **Orange Line:** The proposed Orange Line could see a daily ridership of up to 74,000 by 2040, eliminating 43,000 car journeys per day.
- **Electric buses:** Capital Metro plans to have 80 zero-emission electric buses in

Project Connect is critical to Austin's future

Every day, Austin grows by an estimated 159 new residents, and 115 new cars. Over the next 20 years, the area's population is expected to double, with almost 4 million total residents by 2040.

If we fail to provide more modern transit options, vehicle travel in Austin could also double – further threatening our health and increasing our region's carbon footprint.

To build a future with less pollution, the Austin region must invest in a cleaner, more modern transportation system.