



MoPac South



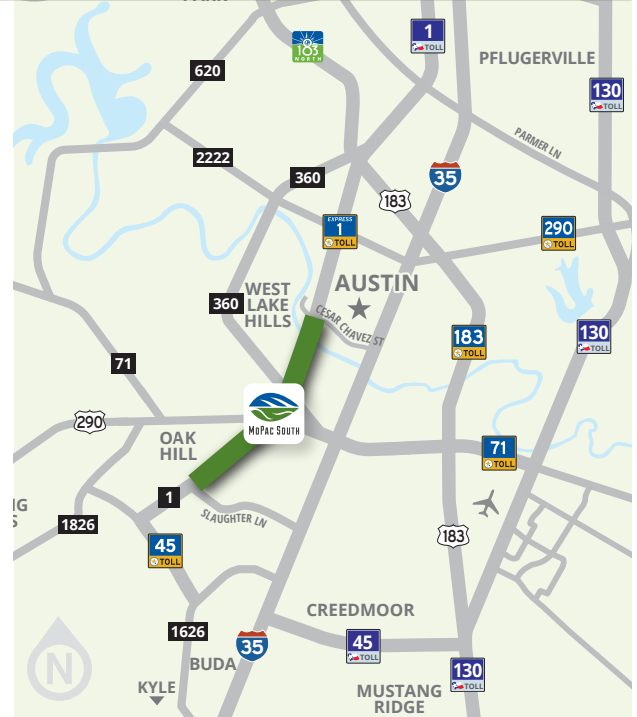
CENTRAL TEXAS REGIONAL
MOBILITY AUTHORITY

MOPAC SOUTH ENVIRONMENTAL STUDY

WHAT PROBLEM ARE WE TRYING TO SOLVE?

The MoPac Expressway south of Cesar Chavez Street is a vital artery in Austin for commuters, neighbors, and visitors. This corridor provides a critical link to downtown Austin and other major highways such as US 290 and Loop 360. Consistently ranked among the top 20 most congested roadways in Texas,* it attracts up to 179,000 cars and trucks per day.** Over time, expanding population, as well as residential, retail and commercial development in the corridor, has led to increased traffic congestion. This negatively impacts mobility and quality of life for the traveling public and adjacent neighborhoods.

If we do nothing to address congestion, drivers could **spend an additional 35 minutes** traveling the corridor by 2035.



PROJECT PURPOSE: WHAT ARE WE TRYING TO DO?

- Provide reliable travel times
- Create a dependable route for transit
- Facilitate reliable emergency response



PROJECT NEED: WHAT PROBLEMS ARE WE TRYING TO ADDRESS?

- Current and forecasted population, traffic, and employment growth are increasing congestion and travel delays
- Emergency response times are impacted by traffic congestion



OUR PROPOSED SOLUTION

The Mobility Authority and partners launched an environmental study in 2013 to analyze the corridor and determine the best approach to managing congestion. The study identified a full range of alternatives, including Express Lane(s), High Occupancy Vehicles Lanes (HOV), Transit Only Lanes, additional General-Purpose Lanes, and Transportation Demand Management Alternatives. Thorough evaluation determined that the Express Lane(s) Alternative was the *Recommended Build Alternative* because it best met the **purpose** and **need** of the study, offering the following benefits:

- Reliable travel times
- Shortest peak period travel times
- More travel time savings than other Alternatives
- Avoids unnecessary environmental impacts
- Creates opportunities for transit and ridesharing; bicycle and pedestrian facilities

*Texas A&M Transportation Institute, 2020, Texas' Most Congested Roadways

**Based on CAMPO 2035 Travel Demand Model



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PROJECT GOALS AND OBJECTIVES

- Facilitate congestion management
- Provide consistency with local and regional plans
- Reduce congestion and provide travel time savings and trip reliability for all roadway users
- Be constructible without unnecessary impacts to the natural and human environment
- Avoid and minimize impacts to water quality
- Increase opportunities for transit, ridesharing, pedestrians and bicyclists



THE PROCESS

The project team will resume efforts to determine the best express lane(s) operational configuration option for downtown connectivity. Public engagement events will occur and we anticipate presenting the Recommended Preferred Alternative in 2024.

The **No Build** (“Do Nothing”) Alternative will be carried forward along with the **Express Lane(s) Alternative**.



EXPRESS LANE(S) ALTERNATIVE BENEFITS

- Tolled and non-tolled improvements
- Auxiliary pavement to improve operational efficiency of general-purpose lanes at entrance and exit ramps and interchanges
- Repaved general-purpose lanes
- Added collector distributor lanes, Texas U-Turns, widened bridges
- Travel time savings
- Operational efficiency improvements
- Dependable transit route
- Improved emergency response times



PUBLIC ENGAGEMENT

Open House #1: November 2013

Six Alternatives presented for further evaluation

Open House #2: April 2014

Six Alternatives presented for further evaluation

Open House #3: February 2015

Six Alternatives presented with results of evaluation matrix and *Express Lane(s) Alternative* recommended for further evaluation

Open House #4: November 2015

Six different Express Lane(s) operational configuration options for downtown connectivity presented for public evaluation and comment

Open House #5: 2021

Express Lane(s) operational configuration options presented for additional input



NEXT STEPS

- **Open House #6:** 2022
- **Public Hearing:** 2024



Stay Informed and Get Involved!

Share your input at [MoPacSouth.com](https://www.MoPacSouth.com)

**Questions? Contact us at (512) 342-3299
or submit an email at [MoPacSouth.com/contact/](https://www.MoPacSouth.com/contact/)**