

MOPAC INTERSECTIONS ENVIRONMENTAL STUDY

THE PROBLEM

The MoPac Expressway intersections at Slaughter Lane and La Crosse Avenue in southwest Austin were originally constructed in 1992 and have grown increasingly congested over the years. Traffic congestion at these intersections is causing travel delays and adversely affecting access and mobility.

IDENTIFYING A SUSTAINABLE SOLUTION

The Central Texas Regional Mobility Authority (Mobility Authority) and the Texas Department of Transportation (TxDOT) are working with local partners to study mobility and safety improvements on MoPac at the intersections of Slaughter Lane and La Crosse Avenue.

THE PROCESS

The Mobility Authority and TxDOT initiated an environmental study to analyze the two intersections and determine the best options for improving mobility and safety.

Over the course of the study, analysis of the potential social, economic and environmental impacts of the proposed improvements was conducted. The Draft Environmental Assessment, available at www.MoPacSouth.com/Intersections/, was released on June 30, 2015. An environmental decision on the MoPac Intersections Environmental Study is expected in 2015. If the proposed improvements are environmentally cleared, TxDOT will design and construct the project and maintain the facilities.

WHAT WE'RE PROPOSING

Several alternatives were presented to the community, including an extension of the MoPac mainlanes through the intersections by using an overpass, underpass, or implementing other intersection concepts. In light of the public input received and our continuing engineering analysis, proposed mobility improvements would include extending the MoPac mainlanes under Slaughter Lane and La Crosse Avenue. A "do nothing" or No-Build option is also still under consideration. The project would include additional mobility improvements, such as bicycle and pedestrian accommodations and improved signal timing, at each intersection beyond those associated with the construction of underpasses.



INNOVATIVE INTERSECTION DESIGNS

The project team is working on an innovative, long-term solution for traffic congestion at MoPac and Slaughter Lane. The solution would involve separating the north-south traffic on MoPac from the east-west traffic on Slaughter Lane using what is called a Diverging Diamond Intersection (DDI). The design reflects public comments and stakeholders suggestions for a solution that would minimize traffic noise and visual impacts while making it faster and safer for motorists, cyclists and pedestrians to get through the intersection.

The DDI will shift traffic approaching the intersection to the left, then back to the right after the intersection to allow drivers who want to turn left to keep moving and reduce the number of traffic signal intervals. A key advantage of the DDI is the reduced wait time for traffic making a left turn. Check out our DDI visualization and fact sheet online at www.MoPacSouth.com/intersections/innovative-solutions.php.

At La Crosse Avenue, the study team is proposing a conventional intersection, similar to most intersections in the area.

BICYCLE AND PEDESTRIAN ACCOMMODATIONS

Bicycle and pedestrian accommodations are included in the build alternative for the MoPac Intersections Environmental Study. An additional 10-foot wide shared use path on the west side of MoPac from Slaughter Lane to La Crosse Avenue would be included. This shared use path would supplement the existing recreational trail outside the right-of-way from Slaughter Lane to Slaughter Creek on the west side of MoPac. These improvements, in combination with existing and planned pedestrian and bicycle facilities, would provide a continuous bicycle and pedestrian connection between Slaughter Lane and La Crosse Avenue.

STAY INVOLVED

We welcome your feedback and questions about the **MoPac Intersections Environmental Study**. To learn more, please contact:

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Please visit the MoPac Intersections Environmental Study page at www.MoPacSouth.com for more information.

IS THIS PROJECT RELATED TO THE MOPAC SOUTH ENVIRONMENTAL STUDY?

At the same time the intersections study is underway, a separate study is being conducted to assess potential improvements on approximately eight miles of MoPac from Cesar Chavez Street to Slaughter Lane. For more information about this study, contact **Melissa Hurst** at mhurst@ctrma.org or **(512) 996-9778**.