

Transit Plan 2035 FAQ

1. What is CapMetro's Transit Plan 2035?

Transit Plan 2035 is CapMetro's vision for the future of public transportation in Central Texas. The Plan will study the current transit system and how people travel in the region, using technical analysis and community feedback to guide CapMetro's service over the next 5-10 years. The Plan builds on previous CapMetro efforts, like Project Connect, and aligns with local and regional projects to create a transit network that meets the needs of our growing community.

2. Why is CapMetro updating the system? Does the federal government require this?

CapMetro updates its transit plan about every five years to ensure it meets the needs of riders and the growing community in Central Texas. CapMetro postponed the completion of a transit plan in 2020 due to the impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic. Transit Plans are not a federal requirement, but transit industry best practice to ensure we are prepared to provide the community with quality service 5-10 years into the future.

3. How is Transit Plan 2035 different from Project Connect?

Transit Plan 2035 focuses on improving the current transit system for the Central Texas region, to complement the new services from Project Connect including possible changes to bus routes to serve the new light rail line. Project Connect is a program of projects approved by voters in November 2020 that expands transit options throughout the Austin

area, with new light rail and more services across the city such as CapMetro Rapid, Rail lines and Pickup zones. Project Connect is being implemented by CapMetro, Austin Transit Partnership, and the City of Austin, who is responsible for Project Connect anti-displacement initiatives.

4. How will Transit Plan 2035 impact me as a resident of Central Texas?

Transit Plan 2035 will lay the groundwork for an updated system that connects Central Texans to jobs, resources, and places they enjoy. We are just starting this process, so details on how the Plan could update the system are unknown. However, this Plan may affect when and where transit services are available to you, which is why we are beginning this project with community engagement and plan to involve the community every step of the way. Sign up for updates and share your input at publicinput.com/transitplan2035, starting with our survey launching on September 15. Join us in shaping the future of transportation in Central Texas!

5. How will Transit Plan 2035 impact frequency and reliability?

CapMetro assesses on-time performance data and community feedback on an ongoing basis, as we know frequency and reliability are essential to the community for daily transit use. Transit Plan 2035 is an opportunity to evaluate the entire system and recommend network improvements that will be successfully implemented through changes that occur three times a year.

6. How will on-demand services, like Pickup and Bikeshare, be part of Transit Plan 2035?

Transit Plan 2035 will evaluate Pickup service alongside our bus and rail network and make recommendations to guide Pickup expansion and/or service modification over the next five to ten years. CapMetro's goal is to integrate Pickup service to seamlessly complement our fixed route and rail network to ensure we are using our resources effectively throughout the network.

CapMetro Bikeshare improvements are not directly part of Transit Plan 2035. The expansion of Bikeshare will be guided by the CapMetro Bikeshare Strategic Expansion Plan that is currently being completed. Transit Plan 2035 recommendations will consider the outcomes of the concurrent CapMetro Bikeshare plan.

7. How will Transit Plan 2035 impact shelters, shade and real-time information at stops?

The distribution of transit stop amenities such as shelters, lighting, and real-time information is guided by the Board-approved [CapMetro Service Standards & Guidelines](#) that were adopted in June 2023. The amenity enhancement process prioritizes transit stops based on several indicators that address the following criteria: people with high amenity need, transit stop use, multimodal access, and customer requests. Read more [here](#).

8. How will Transit Plan 2035 impact the congestion we're expecting as part of the Construction Partnership Program?

As significant infrastructure improvements like those on I-35 progress over the next 5-10 years, Transit Plan 2035 will adapt the transit system

to take full advantage of the improved infrastructure once major projects are complete.

9. What area will Transit Plan 2035 cover? How does it include member cities? How does it include nearby cities like Cedar Park, Bastrop, Buda or Kyle?

Transit Plan 2035 evaluates the entire Central Texas region, including our current service area, regional partner cities, and other communities surrounding the service area. For communities that are not currently part of CapMetro's Service Area, our evaluation will consider and document the needs of our surrounding neighbors as well as outline potential partnerships and strategies to prioritize these needs.

10. How is CapMetro engaging the community during development of Transit Plan 2035?

Community input is at the heart of any good transit plan, which is why we've planned three periods to hear directly from the community on their transit needs and priorities. Each feedback period will contribute to shaping different aspects of the plan, and we will work with Community Connectors to reach our diverse communities. CapMetro Community Connectors are community members who are helping us build relationships and share information to ensure all voices are represented while planning the future of public transportation in Central Texas. We'll offer various ways to hear the community's ideas including community workshops, open houses (virtual and in-person), focus groups, surveys, and more. You might find us at your bus stop or your favorite spot in town, come say hi! Invite us to your community groups or events. Together we can shape the future of public

transportation and ensure we meet the needs of the entire Central Texas community.

Stay up to date on all the engagement opportunities we have offered by signing up for updates at capmetro.org/transitplan2035.

11. My route went away during Cap Remap. Can it come back with this transit plan?

We understand how important your route was to you, and while we can't promise that a specific route will return, this plan is designed to create a network that better serves the needs of the entire community. A lot has changed since Cap Remap was implemented. Central Texas has continued to grow, even through a pandemic. We recognize that the ways we live, work, and socialize have shifted. That's why Transit Plan 2035 will look beyond the services that were in place before Cap Remap to identify the best transit network for the future of Central Texas. We encourage you to share your thoughts with us during the upcoming community engagement periods, as your input is key to shaping the future of our transit system. Sign up for updates [here](#).

12. Will Transit Plan 2035 impact Access?

CapMetro Access is a demand-response, shared-ride service for people whose disabilities prevent them from riding our other bus and rail services. Access provides service to complement CapMetro's fixed route bus system with comparable hours, days, and service area. CapMetro Access service area is provided within $\frac{3}{4}$ of a mile of CapMetro's regular fixed route services.

Thus, any bus route service changes that impact the service area (such as days of service or hours of service) could directly affect CapMetro Access' service area (including service days and service hours).

13. Will Transit Plan 2035 impact the CapMetro Rail service?

Transit Plan 2035 will consider current CapMetro Rail service and possible improvements. Right now, the Rail schedule is based on what the tracks can handle, but as major projects are completed, we'll have opportunities to adjust the rail service and integrate potential changes into the transit system.

14. How is Transit Plan 2035 considering a transition to a zero-emissions fleet?

CapMetro is committed to creating an efficient, reliable, and affordable public transportation network, with a goal of becoming carbon-neutral by 2040. By the end of 2024, 25% of our bus fleet is expected to be battery electric buses. While current battery-electric buses have a shorter range than diesel buses, we are exploring new technologies, including hydrogen fuel cell buses, to diversify our fleet and ensure a reliable transit network. This commitment to advancing technology and sustainability promote public transit use, and achieve our climate goals will help provide a positive rider experience.

The operational requirements of battery electric buses and other zero-emission technologies will be considered and included in the proposed scenarios. Route length and charging requirements will be along the factors considered.

You can learn more about CapMetro's Sustainability Vision plan [here](#).

15. Will Transit Plan 2035 outline the future development of the Gold Line? What is its status? How much will it cost?

CapMetro is developing our Transit Plan 2035 to complement the work of Project Connect. As part of that plan, many planned projects are being evaluated along with the overall transit network to understand their impact and what phase they can be implemented, including the Gold Line. Once Transit Plan 2035 analysis is complete, an update to the Gold Line will be provided to reflect the projects and how they fit into the overall network. Cost assumptions may be updated as we move forward.

16. How long will Transit Plan 2035 take to be ready? Why is it going to take so long?

This project is an 18-month project, which started in Spring 2024 and will go through Fall 2025. There will be three rounds of engagement to:

1. Hear community priorities for transit services,
2. Hear feedback on drafted planned scenarios, and
3. Present final draft and inform community about it.