



# Access Advisory Committee

February 2026

# Austin Light Rail Update

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Austin Transit Partnership (ATP) Staff

# Austin Light Rail

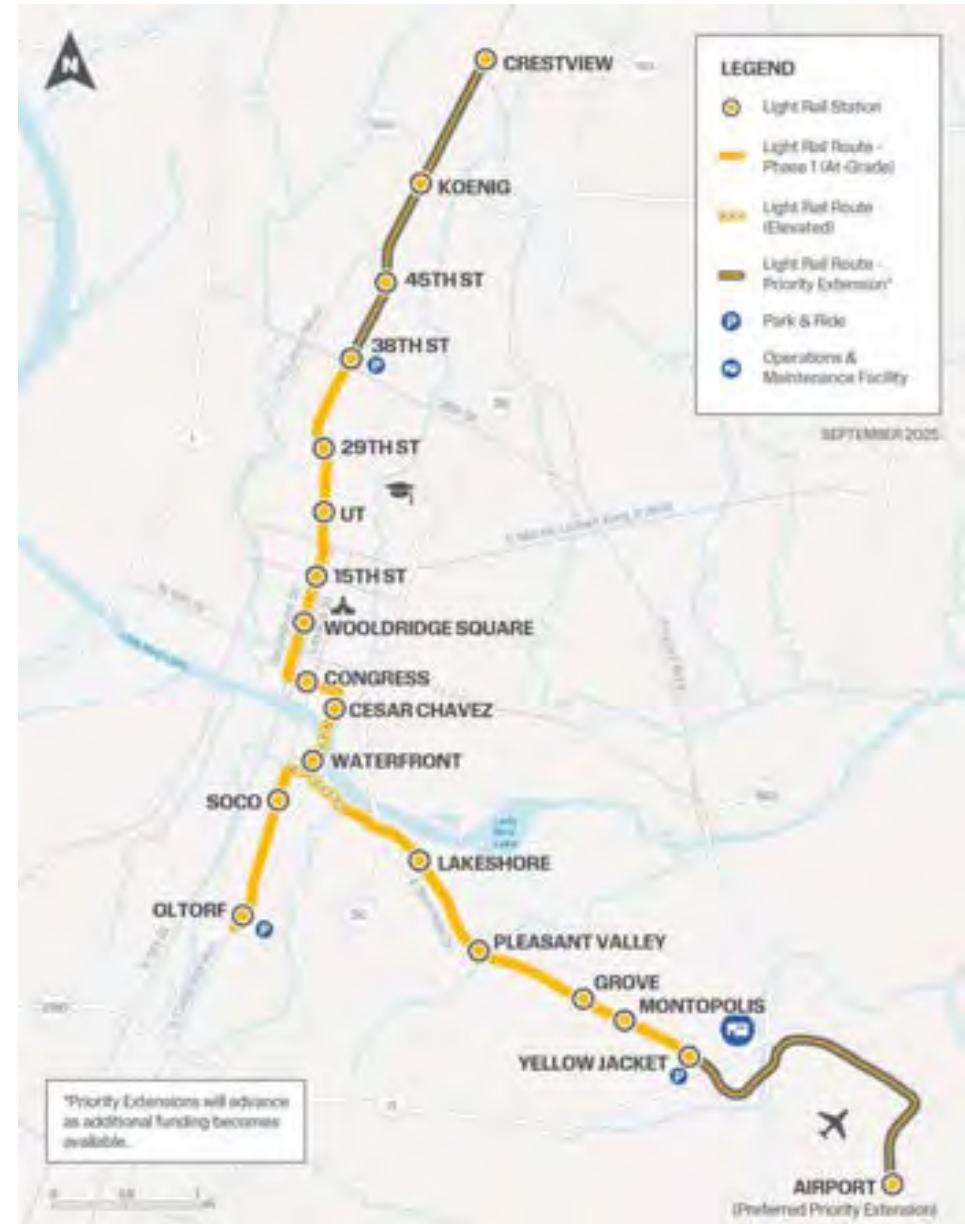
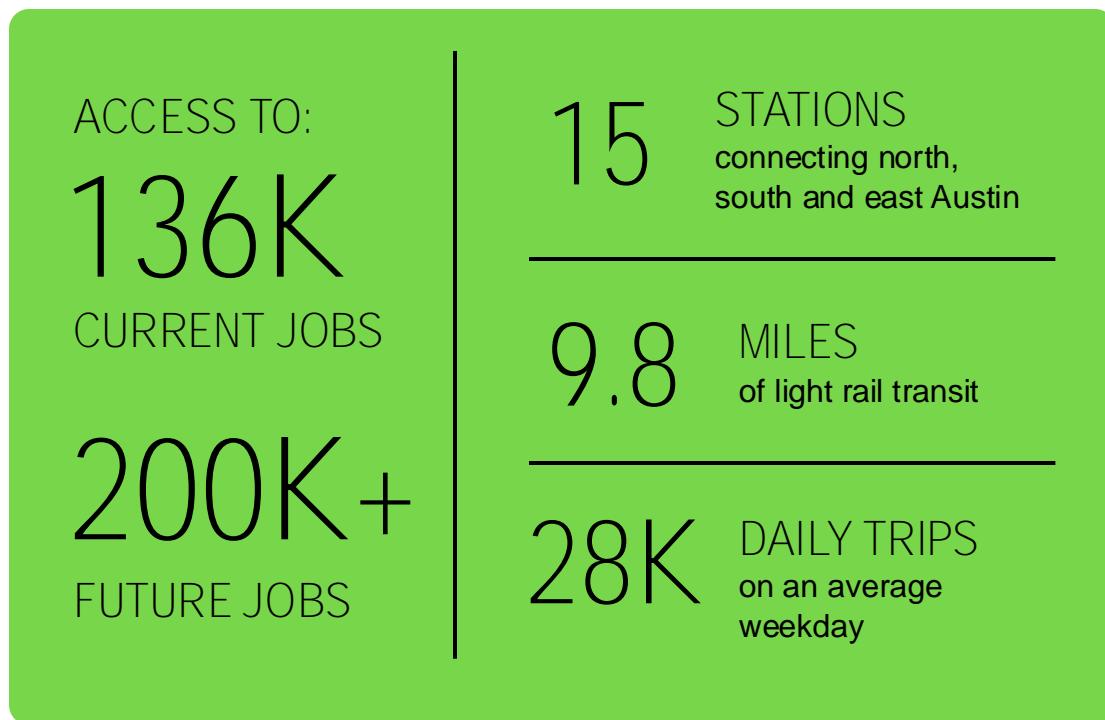
February 4, 2026



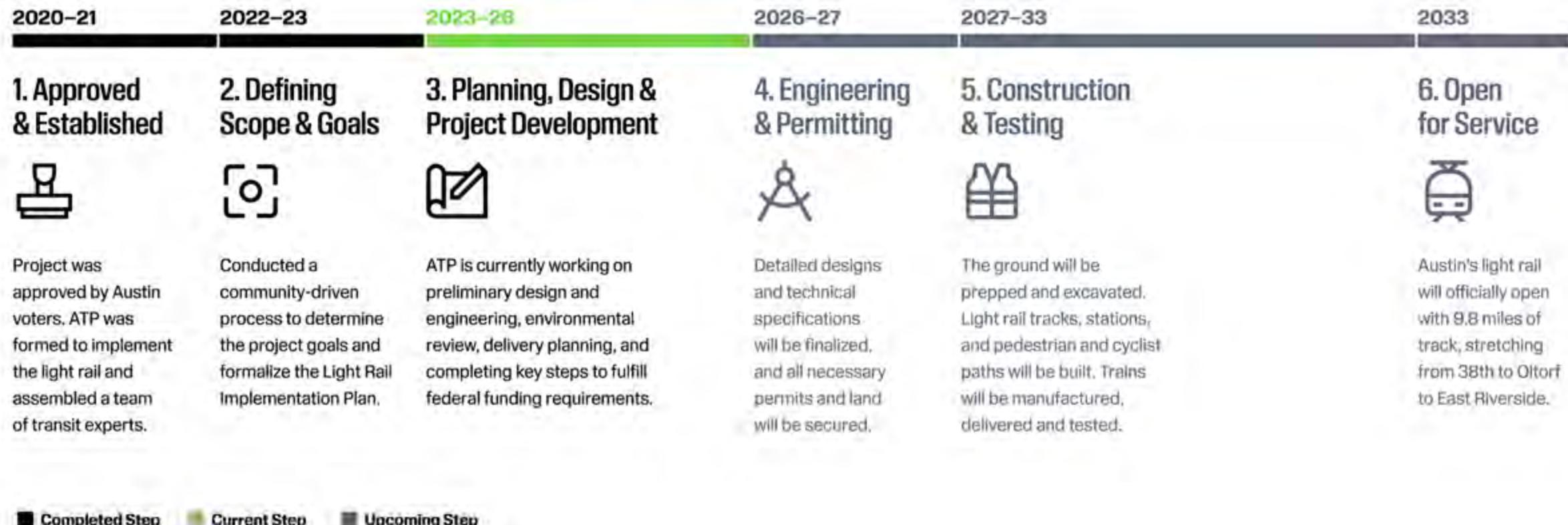
Austin Transit  
Partnership

# Austin Light Rail Phase 1

Light rail is an expandable electric train system designed for metropolitan areas, serving as an integral part of the transit network by connecting people to essential destinations where they live, work and play.



# Austin Light Rail Timeline



# Light Rail in Other Cities



**Paris, France**



**Phoenix, Arizona**

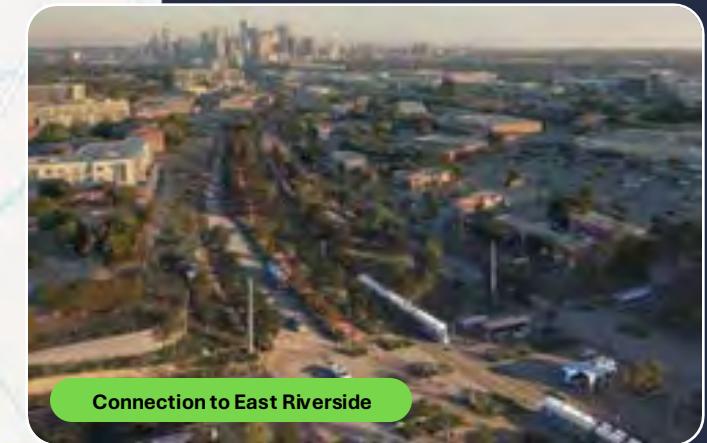
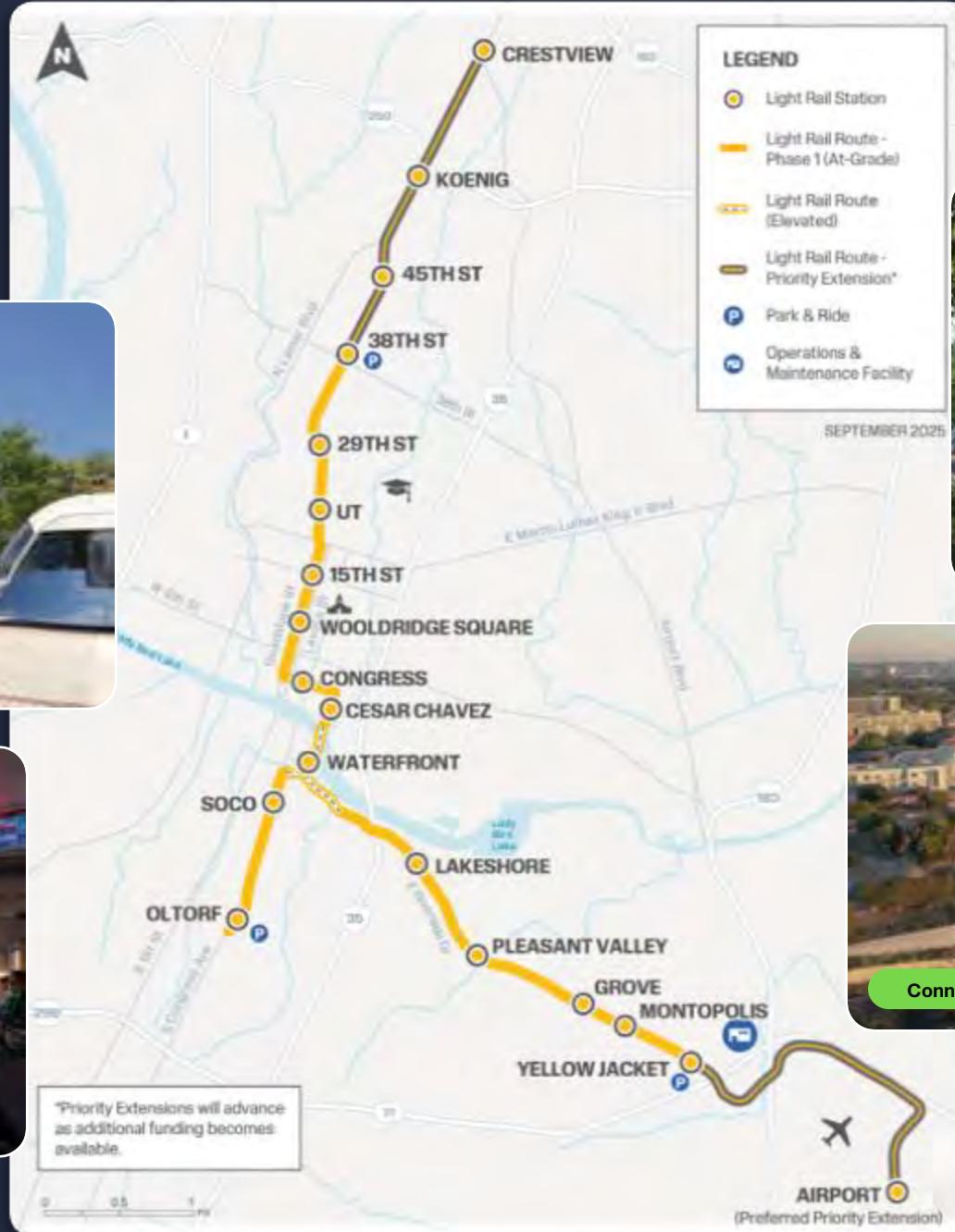
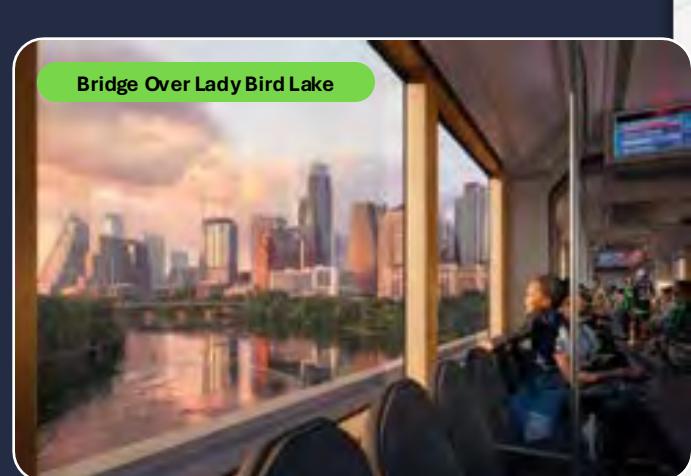


**Seattle,  
Washington**



**Minneapolis, Minnesota**

# Austin Light Rail Alignment



Artist conceptual visualization

# East Riverside





**Pleasant Valley**

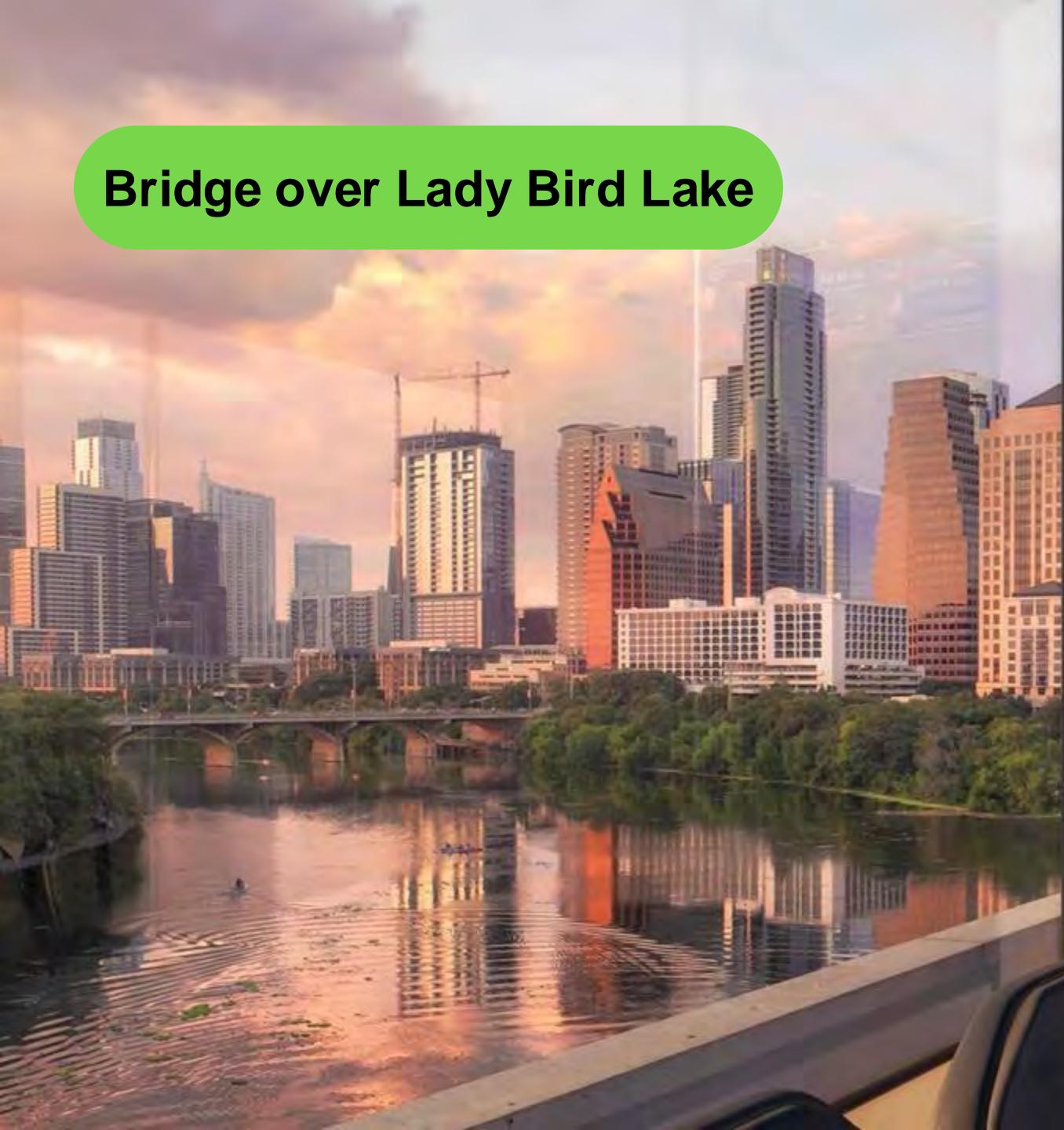


**The Drag**

Oltorf



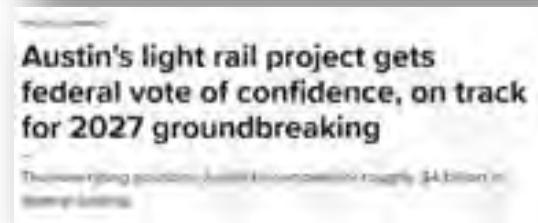
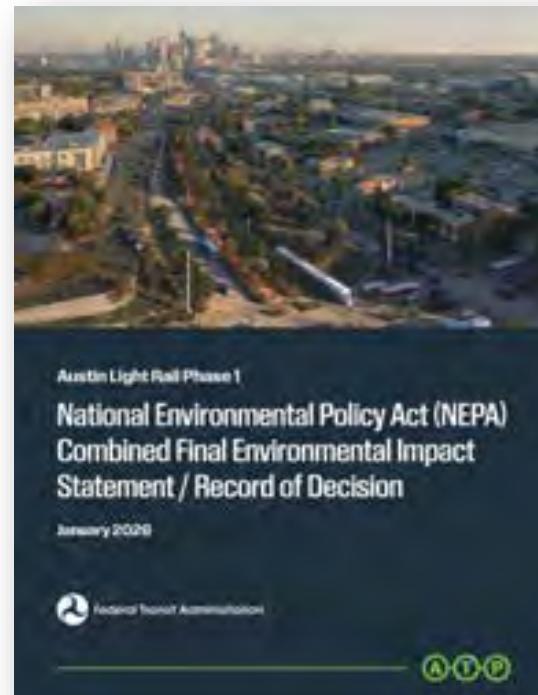
## Bridge over Lady Bird Lake



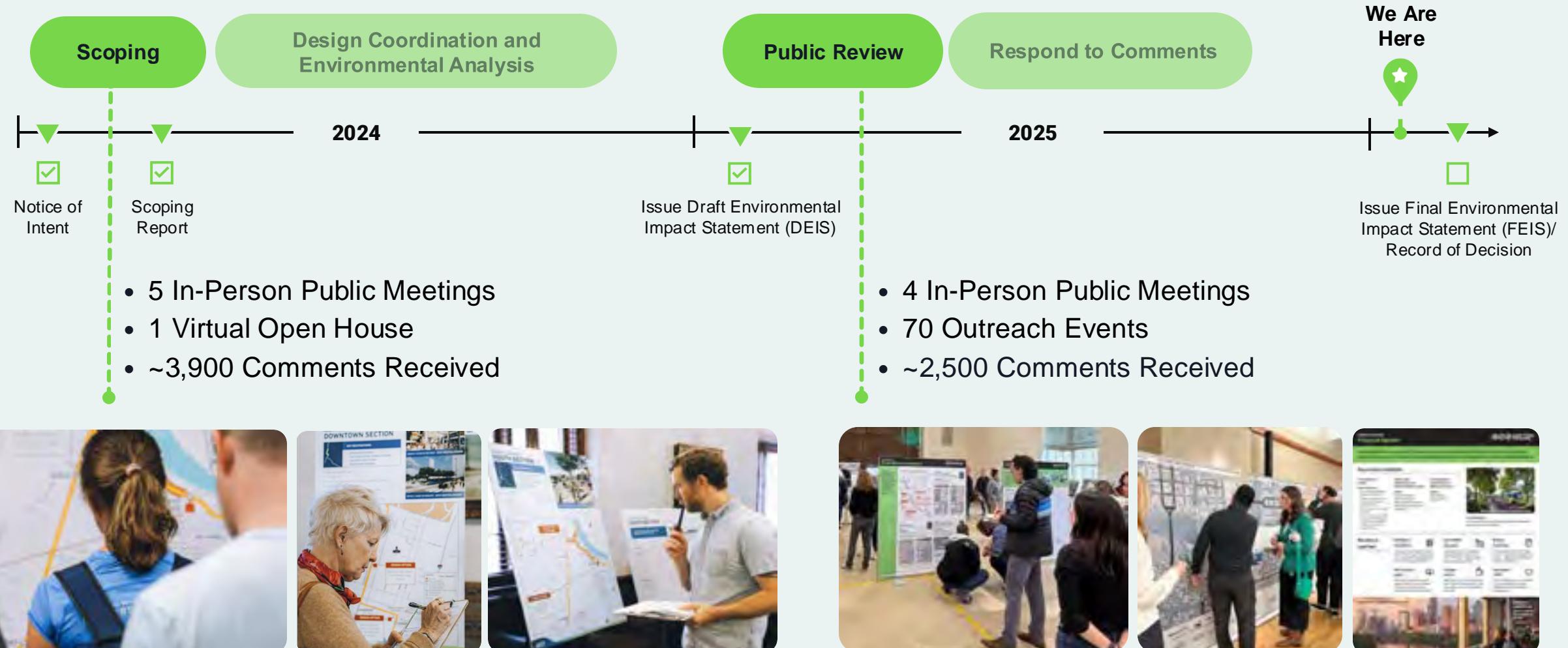
Artist conceptual visualization

# Achieving Milestones

- Advancing through the Capital Investment Grants program
  - Received a medium-high rating - the highest rating awarded by the Federal Transit Administration in the Fiscal Year 2026 cycle
  - Completing all requirements for the Project Development phase
- Completed the NEPA Final Environmental Impact Statement in January 2026, **the first major New Starts project to do so within the required 2-year deadline**
- Procuring Progressive Design-Build teams in 2026



# NEPA Community Engagement



# How is feedback informing the project?

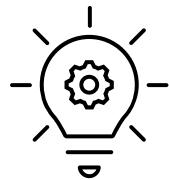
-  Reduced property impacts and eliminated all residential displacements
-  Continuing refinements of Park & Ride concepts
-  Shifted alignment on Trinity based on coordination with stakeholders
-  Mitigation commitments

As design continues there will be more opportunities for public input in 2026 and 2027

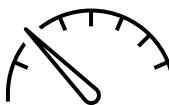


# What is Progressive Design-Build?

A collaborative construction method where the owner works with the designer & builder from an early stage



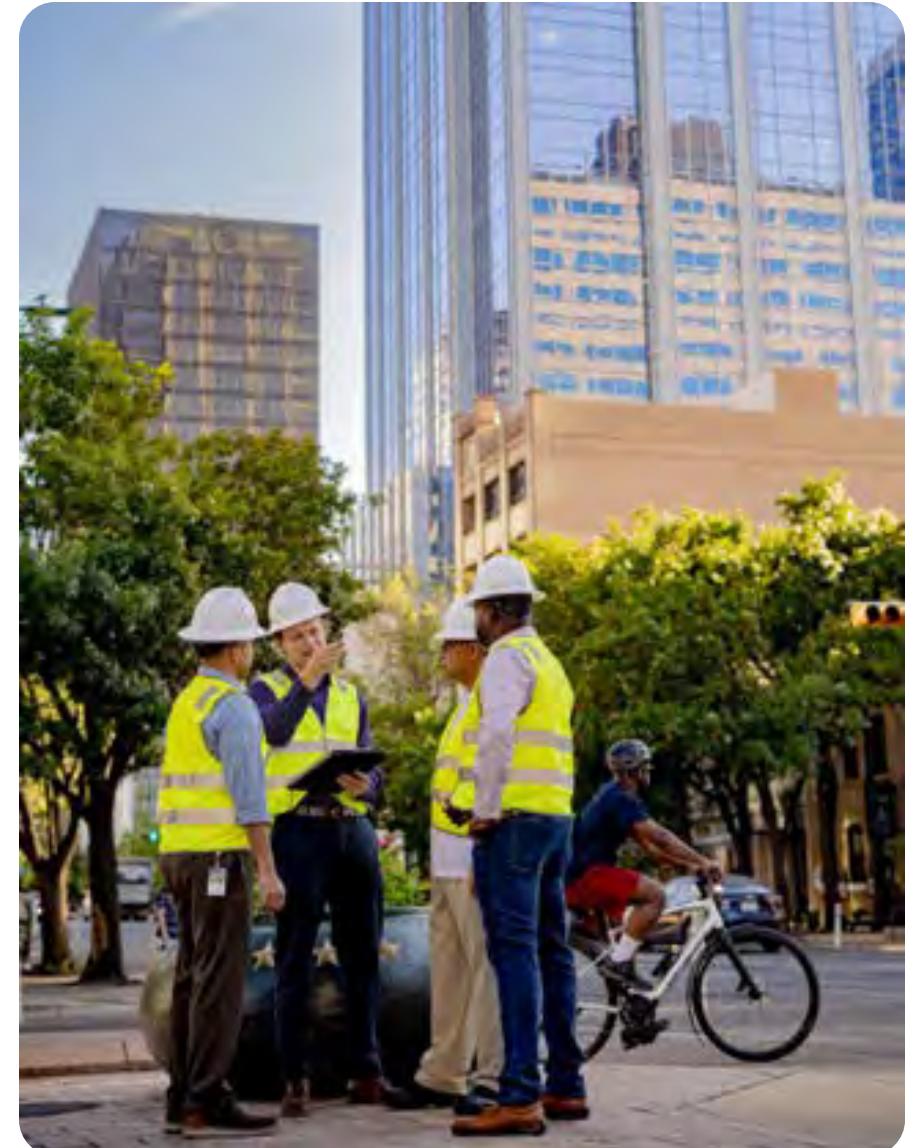
Helps identify opportunities for innovation and optimization



Reduces and manages risks by having all parties at the table at an earlier stage



Frequent and early collaboration enhances efficiency and timeliness of delivery



# Contracts to be Awarded in 2026



## Civils, Rail, Stations, Systems

- Progressive Design-Build
- Q1 2026 Award
- Phase 1: Preconstruction (continuing design and planning)
- Phase 2: Construction



## Operations & Maintenance Facility

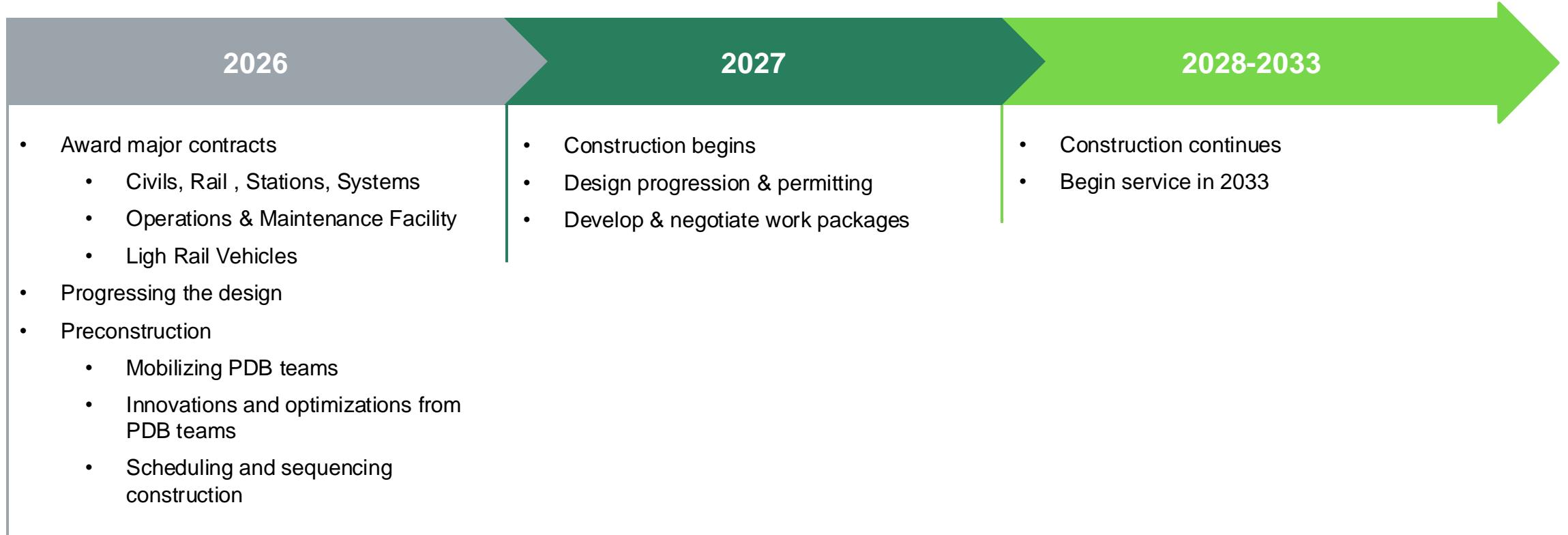
- Progressive Design-Build
- Q2 2026 Award
- Phase 1: Preconstruction (continuing design and planning)
- Phase 2: Construction



## Light Rail Vehicles

- Q2 2026 Award
- Supplier selected and begins design coordination with PDB teams
- Vehicle design and manufacturing

# Project Delivery Timeline



# Performance-Based Design Goals

ATP is embracing an innovative approach to designing Austin Light Rail around framing goals, rather than prescribing solutions that dictate specific materials, components or construction methods.

These five framing goals will be considered throughout the design and construction of Austin Light Rail.



1

## User Experience

No matter your ability or confidence level, light rail is designed to ensure ease of use.



2

## The Outdoors

Austin Light Rail will offer a new way to navigate Austin, connecting people to the city's greenways and trails.



3

## Culture

Austin Light Rail will reinforce and enhance neighborhood character, fostering safer, more active public spaces.



4

## Place

Austin Light Rail will be a memorable system that responds to neighborhoods by balancing uniformity with local character.



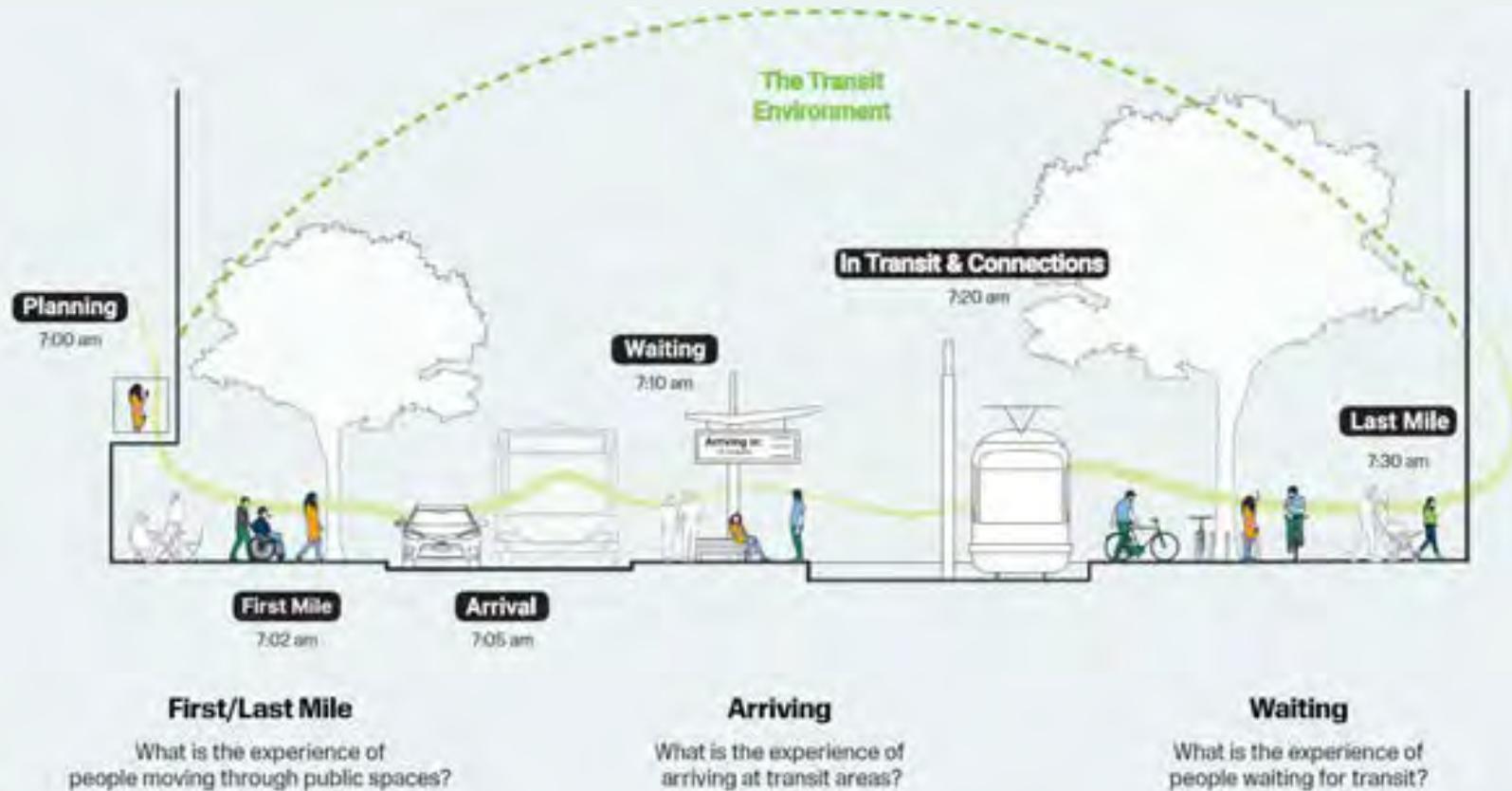
5

## Legacy

By prioritizing high-quality materials, long-term durability, and operational efficiency, the light rail can keep up with the growth of the city while maintaining a reliable and efficient transit network.

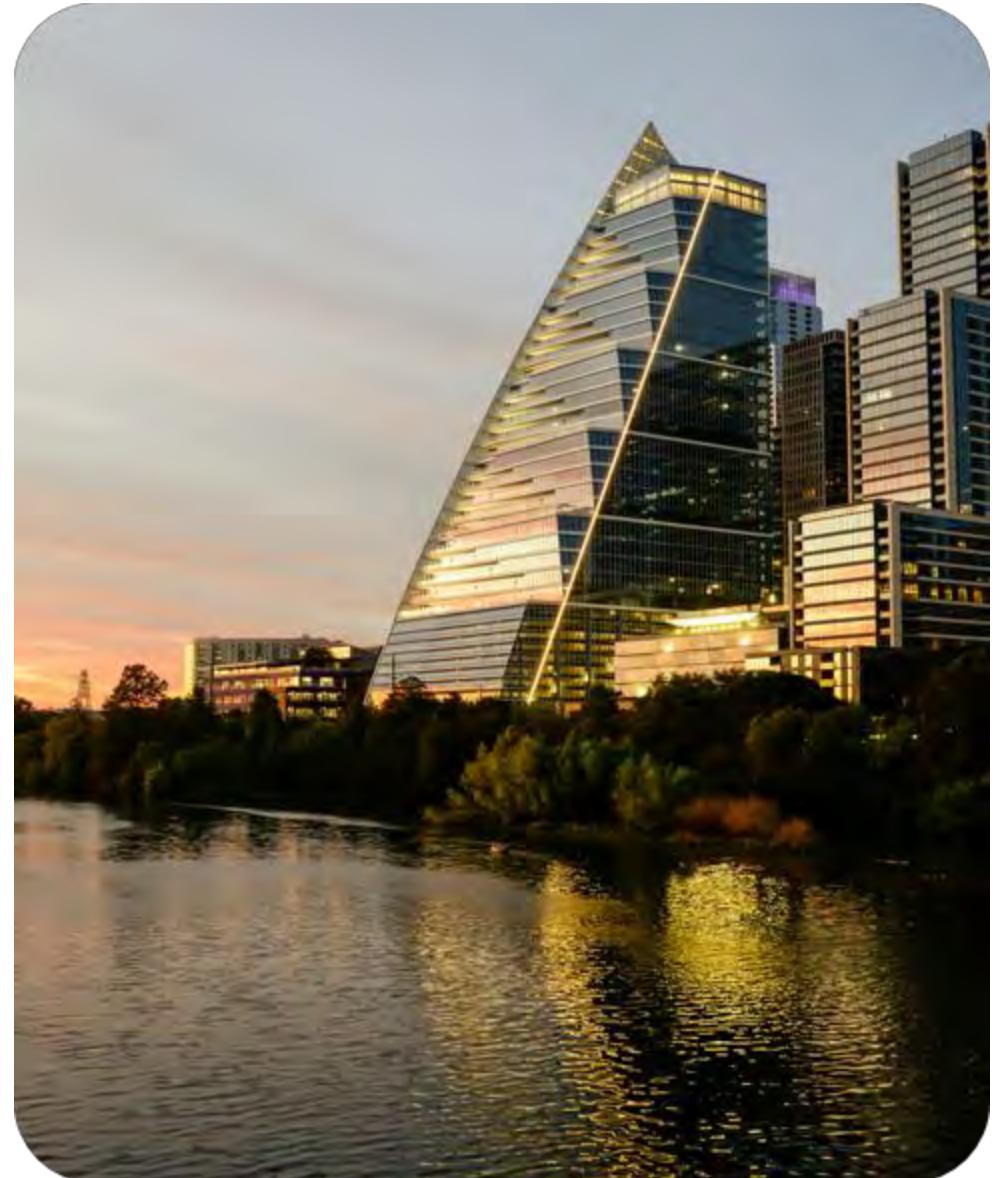
# People-First Design

Implementing Austin Light Rail will change how people experience the public realm by redesigning streets for the human scale, speed, and sensory perception. Shade trees, Texas plants, urban furniture and art integrated throughout the line will create people-friendly spaces.



# Planning for Construction

- **Sequencing & Scheduling:** PDB teams to start planning how construction will be sequenced and scheduled.
- **Supporting Businesses:** Performing a needs assessment to explore supporting businesses during construction.
- **Public Art:** Readyng a public art program that celebrates and integrates with Austin's creative DNA.
- **Construction Coordination:** Enhancing coordination with local agencies to improve public safety and reduce impacts on residents, businesses, and travelers through the Central Texas Construction Partnership Program.



# Thank You.



Austin Transit  
Partnership

CapMetro

Thank you!