



For Immediate Release: August 10, 2016

Subject

Call to Action: The Future of Austin Transportation May be Determined Thursday

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Call to Action

Tomorrow, Thursday August 11th at 4 PM, the Austin City Council will hold a public hearing to determine what bond propositions will appear on the November ballot. We are asking them to allow voters the choice to build the first leg of what would become a citywide light rail system: A cost-effective, high-ridership starter line in the Guadalupe-North Lamar corridor.

Our proposal is brought by a grassroots coalition, but it is based on an FTA-approved plan that was approved by Austin voters in the 2000 election. That measure lost by a very narrow margin overall because precincts outside Austin's city limits in were also polled. That plan has been the subject of several studies, received preliminary engineering, and was incorporated into many neighborhood plans after the election in the 2000's. Those efforts amounted to tens of thousands of citizen-hours of public involvement. Then, planning was redirected, and it was all forgotten.

There are 11 people on City Council, yet there are over 600,000 registered voters in Austin. If you feel that there has been a misalignment between this council's priorities on transportation and those of your own, we really need you to come down to City Hall on Thursday and sign up for Item 3. Indicate whether you would like to speak or not, and leave a simple message in the comments box. There is an abundance of bus stops nearby, and parking in the garage is free under 30 minutes, or by validating your ticket in council chambers. We are asking rail supporters to sign up not for or against Item 3, but neutral. Your participation can make a real difference.

More can be found on our proposal [here](#), you can take the light rail survey [here](#), and

there is also a petition [here](#). You may also contact your council member, and we have provided their information below.

If you can't leave work early to make the 4 PM hearing, you can sign up before work or during lunch at City Hall, then come back in the early evening after Council's dinner break.

Whatever your opinion is on light rail as a new transportation choice, or on the council's corridor plan, please know that we want to see both propositions on the ballot. **We do not oppose, nor are we trying to compete with their plan. We are simply requesting a great rail project added to the ballot choices given to the voters.**

As with the planting a tree, the best time to start building a transit system was 20 years ago. The Mayor and Council need to look out into the room on Thursday and know that this is not just about them. Your participation can make a real difference.

Thank you so much, and we hope to see you tomorrow!

What is Light Rail?

Light rail is a form of mass transit that runs on electricity with trains that can carry hundreds of passengers at once, on frequent schedules of departures and arrivals. Light rail combines attributes of heavy rapid transit found in subway-type trains with the flexibility of street-running vehicles. In comparing how forms of surface-running transit react as demand increases, buses, express buses, and bus rapid transit require an increase in frequency and more vehicles and drivers to be added. By simply adding a car to the train, light rail vehicles have a uniquely scalable capacity. Light rail was the mode chosen in the FTA-approved study that led to a 2000 referendum to build an MOS in the City of Austin.

What is a Minimum Operable Segment MOS?

A minimum operable segment (MOS) is a designation that defines the shortest planned segment possible of a transportation system that would be built at the lowest cost possible, while maintaining service effectiveness. MOS is often used when describing a starter line of a larger system, whether a phase one of light rail or other fixed guideway mode.

About The Central Austin Community Development Corporation

The Central Austin CDC has been privileged to serve as a community organizer at a most unique time in our city's history. Over the last five years, we have engaged the public to work on an issue of utmost importance: planning for Austin's first phase investment of light rail. This work has empowered a diverse coalition of communities, non-profit groups, transit professionals, and light rail advocates. A consensus vision has emerged from this grassroots process for a north-south, expandable backbone of high ridership light rail service in the Guadalupe-North Lamar Corridor.

Resources

Austin Light Rail: A New Proposal for 2016

http://centralaustincdc.org/transportation/austin_light_rail.htm

Light Rail Ballot Language and Ordinance PROPOSITION_TWO_Ordinance_rev04.pdf

Press Release: Sometimes the Highest Form of Leadership is the Ability to Listen

Sometimes_the_Highest_Form_of_Leadership_is_the_Ability_to_Listen.pdf

Austin Light Rail Survey of Likely Voters for the November 2016 Election

Austin_Light_Rail_Poll_rev11.pdf

20 Questions A Journalist Should Ask About Poll Results by the National Council on Public Polls http://www.ncpp.org/files/20%20Questions%203rd%20edition_Web%20ver_2006.pdf
Citywide light rail system proposal map with Guadalupe-N Lamar MOS 1605-CACDC_alignment_rev02.jpg
2015 Zandan Voices of the Community Poll pg 5
<https://austinsurvey.files.wordpress.com/2015/03/zandan-poll-2015-voices-of-the-austin-community-c2ad-results.pdf>
CACDC logo CACDC-logotype_full.png
CACDC logo CACDC-logotype_sm_72.png

Find your Council district [here](#).

Mayor Steve Adler 512-978-2100
District 1 Council Member Ora Houston 512-978-2101
District 2 Council Member Delia Garza 512-978-2102
District 3 Council Member Pio Renteria 512-978-2103
District 4 Council Member Greg Casar 512-978-2104
District 5 Council Member Ann Kitchen 512-978-2105
District 6 Council Member Don Zimmerman 512-978-2106
District 7 Council Member Leslie Pool 512-978-2107
District 8 Council Member Ellen Troxclair 512-978-2108
Mayor Pro Tem, District 9 Council Member Kathie Tovo 512-978-2109
District 10 Council Member Sheri Gallo 512-978-2110

Council Emails

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