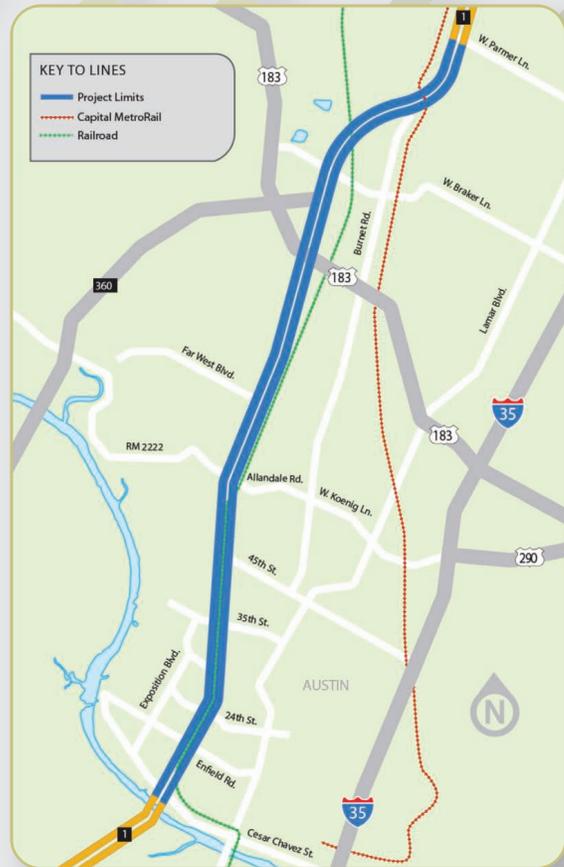


IMPROVEMENT PROJECT

MoPac Improvement Project Restarted

The MoPac corridor is one of Austin's most important arteries. The primary alternative to I-35, MoPac attracts nearly 176,000 cars and trucks a day, serving as a key route to downtown Austin and points beyond. However, in recent years, MoPac has begun to look more like a parking lot than an expressway. Although improvements to the corridor were first proposed in 1994 by the Capital Area Metropolitan Planning Organization (CAMPO), the proximity of nearby homes, the presence of the Union Pacific rail line and limited funding have made it difficult to find a workable solution.

On July 8th, state and local officials announced the re-initiation of the MoPac Improvement Project to find a solution to compounding traffic congestion. Today, TxDOT, the Central Texas Regional Mobility Authority (Mobility Authority), the City of Austin, Capital Metro and other local experts are working together to develop a sensible approach to the mobility problem that takes into account the needs of drivers, transit riders and the concerns of surrounding neighbors.



An environmental study is currently underway to determine the best options for improving mobility on MoPac between Parmer Lane (FM 734) and the Cesar Chavez Street interchange, a distance of approximately 11 miles. An important part of the study includes obtaining community feedback on the improvement alternatives. Project planners anticipate completing the environmental study by August 2012.

Project Timeline



Learn What's Ahead for Improvements to MoPac at an Upcoming Open House

On December 1st and 2nd, 2010, TxDOT and the Mobility Authority will host two public Open Houses for the Mopac Improvement Project. Attendees will learn about the reasonable alternatives that have been identified for the MoPac Corridor based on the project's Need and Purpose and feedback received from the public to date.

Attendees will also be able to discuss the project with planners and engineers, ask questions, and express their views through written and verbal comments. Information pertaining to the reasonable alternatives that have been identified to date for the 11-mile-long corridor will be available at the Open Houses and online at www.MoPacExpress.com.

The Open Houses will be held from **6:00 PM to 8:00 PM with a presentation at 7:00 PM** at the following locations:

Wednesday, Dec. 1, 2010
 O. Henry Middle School
 Cafeteria
 2610 West 10th Street
 Austin, TX

Thursday, Dec. 2, 2010
 Murchison Middle School
 Cafeteria
 3700 North Hills Drive
 Austin, TX

Website and/or mailed comments must be received by 5:00 PM, December 13th, 2010 to be included in the official record of the Open Houses. A transcriber will be available at the Open Houses to accept verbal comments.



Open Houses October 6th & 7th

Two public Open Houses were held on October 6th and 7th, 2010 to restart the MoPac Improvement Project. Items discussed included information on previous studies, need and purpose of study, explanation of the environmental study and the project schedule. TxDOT and the Mobility Authority would like to thank the 179 interested citizens who attended and submitted their comments. That feedback is being used by project planners to help narrow the focus of the study. Information about the reasonable alternatives still under consideration will be presented at the upcoming Open Houses.



Why Do We Need Improvements To Mopac?

Today, there are over one million people in Travis County and nearly two million in the five-county region. The population and economic growth in the Austin metropolitan area has strained the capacity of the area transportation system. As the metropolitan area has grown, the number of vehicles traveling on MoPac has increased in tandem. Currently, MoPac becomes congested for several hours each day during peak hours of travel. The congestion during these peak hours results in slower travel speeds and longer travel and emergency response times. Forecasts indicate continuation and escalation of this trend through the foreseeable future. Current and future conditions indicate an urgent need for transportation improvements.



Purpose of the Proposed Improvements

The purpose of the proposed project is to:

- Improve mobility
- Manage congestion
- Provide a reliable transit route to reduce travel times
- Maximize use of the facility without reducing reliability
- Improve emergency response

By fulfilling the above stated purposes, the proposed improvements would meet the need to improve safety and address unreliable operations caused by increasing congestion in the MoPac corridor.

We Want to Hear From You

Public outreach is critical to the success of the MoPac Improvement Project. Several alternatives are currently being considered and input from users of the MoPac corridor, neighborhood organizations, businesses and other interested parties will help influence the outcome of the study.

Comments on the project may be submitted in the following ways:

- In person at either open house meeting
- Online at www.MoPacExpress.com/contact/
- By mail to:
TxDOT Austin District Environmental Coordinator
Texas Department of Transportation
P.O. Drawer 15426
Austin, Texas, 78761-5426

Upcoming Events

- Attend another Open House in 2011 where project alternatives will be discussed based on public input from the December 2010 Open Houses. The analysis of how well the alternatives meet the need and purpose and other screening criteria will also be presented.
- Attend one of seven upcoming Noise Workshops to be held in summer 2011.

Contact Us

We encourage you to contact us with questions or to request a meeting or presentation. MoPac Improvement Project team members are available to speak to your neighborhood or other organization.

To contact project planners and staff, visit our website at <http://www.MoPacExpress.com/contact/> or call us at 512.996.9778.

Information about the MoPac Improvement Project can also be found on our website at www.MoPacExpress.com.

