Transit Oriented Development
Austin, Texas

RailVolution
October 2008

Lucy Galbraith
Capital Metropolitan Transportation Authority
Austin Music

Austin City Limits Music Festival
Mix #2
Austin Music
Austin Music

Keep Austin Weird support local businesses

Book People

WATERLOO
Quality public transportation can protect Austin’s way of life

Austin residents say the number one challenge facing the Austin community is traffic congestion, according to a survey by Envision Central Texas.

What are the most important issues to address to ensure a positive future for Central Texas? (choose three)

- Transportation/Congestion 66.6%
- Land Use 34.1%
- Cost of Living 30.9%
- Water Availability 28.2%
- Air Quality 27.8%

–SOURCE: ECT online survey of Central Texas residents, 2008
The Regional Vision

Austin doubles in population every 20 years

“Central Texas can become an oasis among other regions of the Southwest – a vibrant, economically powerful, globally connected, locally led community that absorbs and tames its growth by becoming taller and denser in places, greener throughout, more connected – while keeping its unique sense of place and soul.”

—Envision Central Texas
Capital Metro
Capital Metro Service Area: 500 square miles

- Austin
- Jonestown
- Lago Vista
- Leander
- Manor
- San Leanna
- portion of Travis Co.
- portion of Williamson Co.
Capital Metro Today

• Fixed Route Bus System
  – 134 routes including local, express & “Dillo” trolley
  – 3,300 stops
  – 12 Park and Rides

• Texas Transit Association: “Best in Texas”
  – 2007 “Outstanding Metropolitan Transportation System”

• Highest per capita ridership in Texas
  – 140,000+ one-way trips every day
  – 36 million projected total annual boardings in 2009
All Systems Go!

- Local Bus Service
- Express Bus
- Rapid Bus
- Capital Metro Rail
- Austin-San Antonio Rail
- Circulator Service
MetroRail Overview

- Downtown
- Plaza Saltillo
- MLK, Jr.
- Highland Mall
- Crestview
- Kramer
- Howard
- Lakeline
- Leander
MetroRail cars

- Six trains – bi-directional, diesel-electric
- Every 30 minutes morning & evening peak (supplemental off-peak bus)
- 200 passengers (108 seated)
- WiFi enabled
- Bike racks
- Low floor, fully accessible
MetroRail Stations

Leander
MetroRail Stations

Lakeline
MetroRail Stations

Plaza Saltillo
Transit Oriented Development
Transit Oriented Development: Capital Metro Goals

**Ridership**—TOD housing provides riders. TOD commercial and retail provides destinations.

**Revenue**—Sales tax. Property tax. For land we own, development revenue.

**Community**—TOD adds another lifestyle choice to the regional portfolio.
Crestview

- Huntsman Chemical Research Laboratories- Closed & Sold Summer 2004
- Rail Referendum November 2004
- Brownfield: Buried barrels, no records, high risk
- Cleanup costs uncertain
BEFORE
Crestview development coming out of the ground
Crestview Station
Coming Soon

Rail Platform  Transit Plaza  SB Lamar Blvd. Bus Bay
Leander Station
Leander

- **High Growth**
  - Doubled in last 8 years
  - Expect to add 30% more households in next 5 years
  - Household median income slightly higher than national median
  - Young families
  - Mostly residential, few employers

- **Planning for the Future**
  - 2005 adopted TOD ordinance
  - 2007 Congress on New Urbanism Inaugural Driehaus Form-Based Codes Award
  - City/County TIF to fund infrastructure
Leander TOD concept plan
Future Rail
MetroRail & MetroTOD Opportunities

Cedar Park
Downtown Streetcar
Manor/Elgin
Pflugerville/Round Rock
Airport/Riverside streetcar
Oak Hill streetcar
Georgetown- San Antonio
Summary

- Demand for the urban experience in Central Texas is large and growing.
- Each place is unique, all have potential.
- Many ways transit agency can influence TOD.
- Good development can be made better by transit; transit can’t make bad development work.
- We are at the beginning of a very big, very long wave of transit oriented development.