

Capital Express FACT SHEET



Why Improvements Are Needed

I-35 serves as the backbone of the local, regional, and national transportation network. I-35 through the heart of Austin is the second most congested highway in Texas. Lack of mobility on I-35 threatens the economic livelihood of Austin and Texas. Improvements on I-35 are needed due to population and employment growth, which have caused increased congestion in the project area.

Project Overview

Since 2011, TxDOT has been seeking feedback while developing solutions for I-35 that not only enhance mobility but reflect what is important to the community. Throughout project development, TxDOT regularly received feedback supporting enhancing mobility as much as possible while limiting additional right of way, lowering I-35 through downtown, and potentially removing the upper decks.

The Capital Express project is looking at adding two non-tolled managed lanes in each direction for 33 miles of I-35 from RM 1431 to SH 45 SE. This build alternative includes additional non-tolled managed lane capacity, plus extensive operational improvements to the overall roadway, including extended entrance and exit ramps, intersection bypass lanes, and bicycle and pedestrian paths. At a minimum, the number of general purpose and frontage road lanes stay the same as what is currently out there today.

Additional enhancements to the project could include placing the non-tolled managed lanes under the mainlanes where right of way is limited and providing direct access between the non-tolled managed lanes and frontage roads.

Timeline

The process will incorporate public input from ongoing public involvement opportunities. The environmental study and schematic design are anticipated to be complete in winter 2019.

As currently envisioned, Capital Express will be a multi-billion dollar program. The study will include the development of an implementation plan that will identify funding sources and a projected timeline for both interim and ultimate construction projects to most effectively address congestion.

Work on I-35 in both Williamson and Hays counties will also continue forward.

Contact Information

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