



# Open House Summary and Analysis

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I-35 from Rundberg Lane to US 290E

Austin District, Travis County

# OPEN HOUSE SUMMARY AND ANALYSIS

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# OPEN HOUSE OVERVIEW

## Proposed Improvements

The proposed improvements would provide direct connectors (DC) or flyovers between I-35 southbound (SB) to US 183 SB, US 183 northbound (NB) to I-35 NB and I-35 SB to US 183 NB. The proposed improvements would also add dedicated lanes to the I-35 frontage road to bypass the St. Johns Avenue signalized intersection, replace the existing St. Johns Avenue bridge over I-35, provide frontage road U-turns for NB and SB direction at the St. Johns Avenue bridge, modify the I-35 NB to US 183 NB flyover, and provide bicycle and pedestrian facilities along the frontage roads.

## Purpose and Need

The purpose of the project is to improve connectivity between I-35 and US 183, improve mobility and traffic flow, improve bicycle and pedestrian safety, and replace the existing St. Johns bridge over I-35. The proposed improvements are needed to satisfy poor connectivity at the I-35/US 183 interchange, congestion due to entering and exiting traffic between US 183 and US 290E, congestion on I-35 NB due to the steep grade on I-35 NB to US 183 NB DC and substandard vertical clearance of the existing St. Johns bridge.

## Notices and Articles

Display ads were published in three local newspapers.

### In English

*Community Impact for Central Austin* – May 22, 2015

*Austin American Statesman* – May 31, 2015

### In Spanish

*Ahora Si* – May 28, 2015

A notification of the meeting in English, Spanish and Vietnamese was mailed to adjacent property owners and area elected officials (Judge Sarah Eckhardt, Mayor Steve Adler and Representatives Celia Israel and Dawnna Dukes).

## Date and Place

Wednesday, June 10, 2015, at the Crowne Plaza Hotel, 6121 N. I-35, Austin, TX 78752 from 5:30–7:00 PM.

## Attendance

A total of 75 individuals from the public signed the registration sheets.

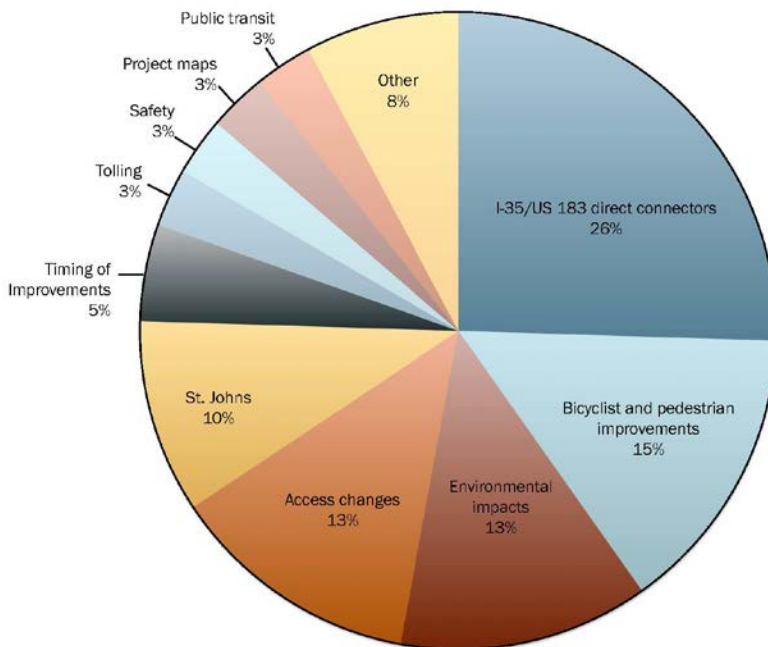
## Exhibits and Project Information

Exhibits displayed during the open house included Mobility35 goals, Mobility35 project phases, study area map, improvements under consideration, Purpose and Need of the project, overview of the environmental process, project layout with typical sections, anticipated schedule, next steps and how to submit comments. Handouts distributed to attendees included a project fact sheet (containing a description of the project and location map) and a comment form. A short presentation was given at 6:00 PM followed by a question and answer session.

## Public Comments

A total of 22 comment forms were received during the official comment period. Fourteen written comments were received and one verbal comment was given during the open house. In addition, seven comments were submitted during the virtual open house. All comments were received by the close of the public comment period which ended on June 22, 2015. Some comment forms included more than one comment (for a total of 39), which were grouped into 11 issues. They are identified in the Open House Comment and Response Report and are also summarized in the following pie chart and table.

## Breakdown of Comments Received\*



\*A total of 39 comments were received with 11 issues

## Analysis and Recommendations

The majority of comments related to issues surrounding the I-35/US 183 intersection DCs. Comments pertaining to bicyclist/pedestrian issues ranked second in numbers received. All comments were forwarded to the engineering team conducting the study and will be considered during project development. It is recommended that the improvements proposed for the I-35 from Rundberg Lane to US 290E project proceed for further study.

### Summary of Comments

Issue	Number of Comments	Summary of Comments
I-35/US 183 direct connectors	10	I-35 N and US 183 N direct connector should be two lanes; build US 183 S to I-35 N direct connector; build I-35 S to US 183 S direct connector
Bicyclist and pedestrian improvements	6	Provide access, barriers, buffers, lanes, paths and safeguard improvements
Environmental impacts	5	Address aesthetic features; noise issues; light/visual and air quality issues
Access changes	5	Impacts to Heritage Hills; Rutherford; Barwood Park; westbound traffic on US 290E accessing US 183 N via I-35
St. Johns Avenue	4	Plan flawed; exhaust fumes; approve of six-lane bridge
Timing of improvements	2	Address congested intersections now; design/construct flyovers to accommodate projected congestion
Tolling	1	Make SH 130 free to truckers/toll truckers on I-35
Safety	1	Make safety highest priority of project
Project maps	1	Request for project maps
Public transit	1	Wants multiple public transit options
Other	3	US 183 improvements from I-35 to Lampasas, 51 <sup>st</sup> improvements, staff members talking during presentation