

Blue Line Light Rail Transit Project

Austin, Texas

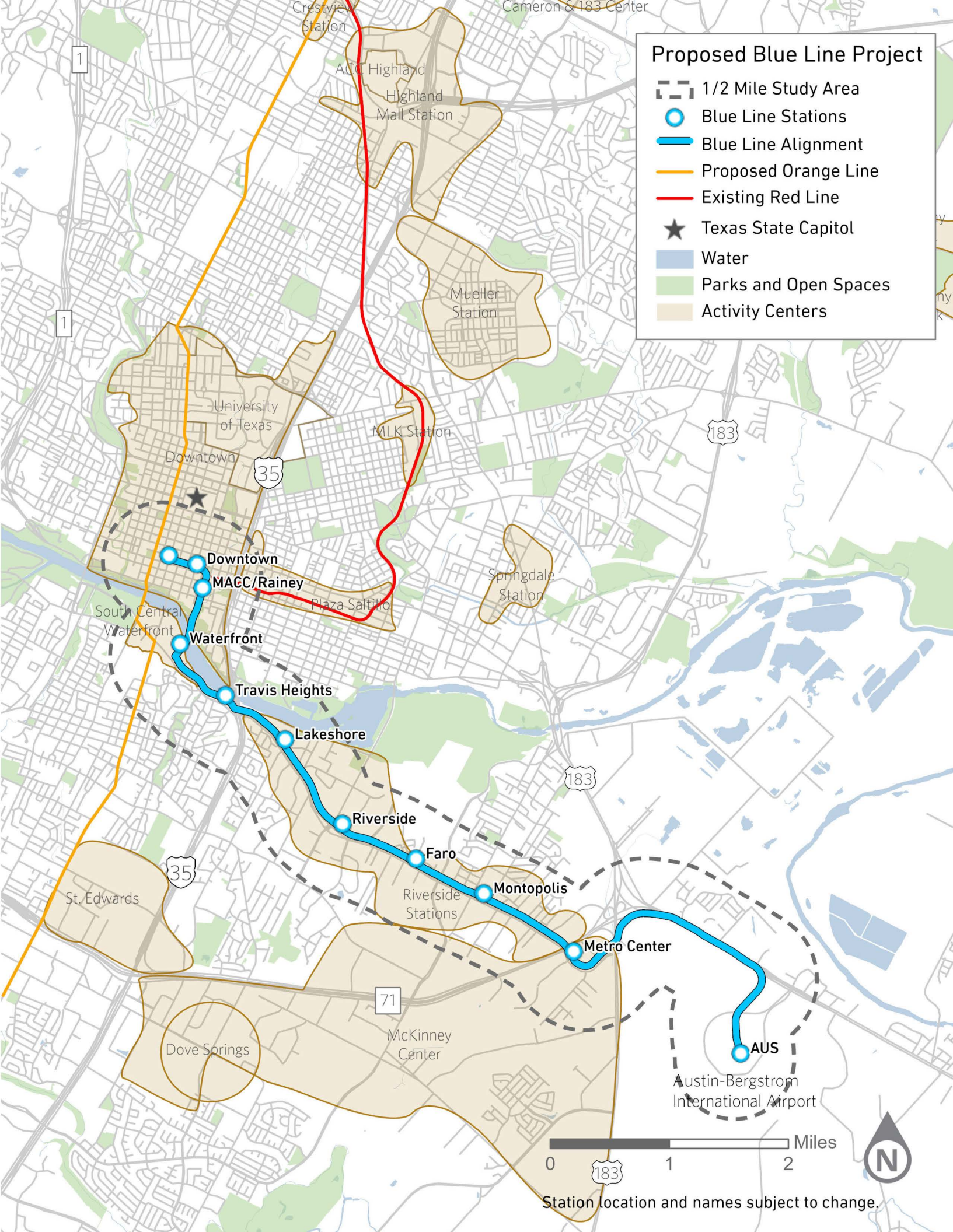
New Starts Project Development

Information Prepared July 2021

The Capital Metropolitan Transportation Authority (CapMetro) proposes to implement the Blue Line Light Rail Transit (LRT) project, an 8.2-mile dedicated transitway from Republic Square in Downtown Austin to Austin-Bergstrom International Airport (AUS). The exclusive transitway is proposed to operate at street level (center running) throughout most of the corridor, with elevated sections at the southern end of the corridor between Metro Center and AUS, a tunnel section in downtown, and a new bridge across Lady Bird Lake. Eleven stations are planned along the corridor, with the exact placement of these facilities to be determined during Project Development. The Project would feature transit signal priority, off-board fare collection, and stations with level boarding and other ADA accessibility features. Ultimately, the Project would connect with other high capacity transit services, including the existing Red Line and the proposed Orange Line in downtown Austin. The project's current estimated capital cost is \$2.0 billion, which includes \$1.3 billion base cost plus \$700 million for the tunnel section that will be shared by another proposed light rail project, the Orange Line. The total cost estimate of the shared tunnel is \$2 billion, 35% of which has been attributed to the Blue Line LRT.

CapMetro believes that the Project would provide improved high-capacity transit that operates faster with better reliability and improved connectivity to affordable housing, employment, regional activity centers and other future transit corridors throughout the region.

CapMetro adopted a locally preferred alternative (LPA) in June 2020 and the LPA was adopted into the fiscally constrained long-range transportation plan in May 2020. CapMetro anticipates completing NEPA by December 2022, entering New Starts Engineering in December 2022, and receiving a Full Funding Grant Agreement in 2024. Revenue service is anticipated to begin in 2029.



Proposed Blue Line Project

- 1/2 Mile Study Area
- Blue Line Stations
- Blue Line Alignment
- Proposed Orange Line
- Existing Red Line
- Texas State Capitol
- Water
- Parks and Open Spaces
- Activity Centers

0 1 2 Miles

Station location and names subject to change.