



Austin Light Rail:
SCOPING SUMMARY REPORT

6/13/2024

Austin Light Rail: SCOPING SUMMARY



Spreading the Word



ATP sent mailers to
38,445 homes, apartments,
and businesses
*within one-half-mile of the project area
and along 45 existing transit routes

Other advertising methods:

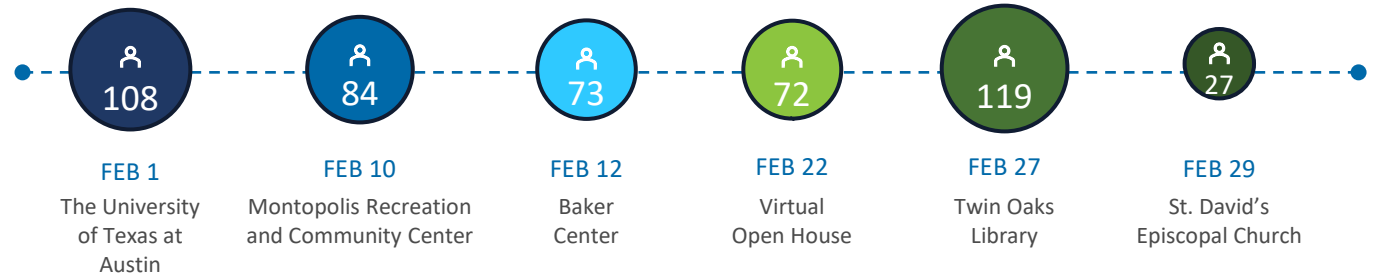
- ATP website
- Media advisory
- Social media posts
- Community calendars
- Print and online advertising
- Multiple listserv emails sent to 5,066 email addresses

Distributed flyers advertising the scoping meetings at:

- Libraries
- Bus stops
- Community gathering places
- At large employers throughout the project area

Open House Dates

How many attended:



6 TOTAL PUBLIC MEETINGS
*five in-person and one virtual



480+ ATTENDEES
*in-person and virtual meetings



758 COMPLETED SURVEYS
*in-person and online



Engaged with
2,038+ PEOPLE AT OUTREACH EVENTS

IN TOTAL, ATP RECEIVED:

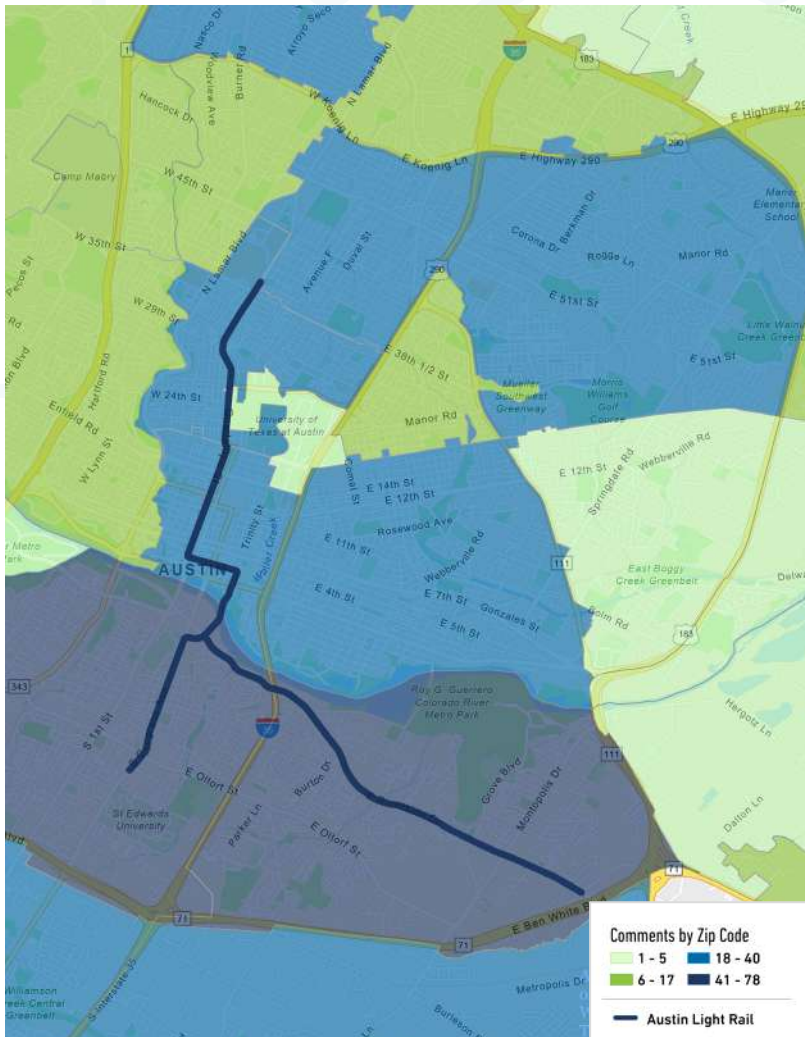


3,863 COMMENTS FROM ALL SCOPING SURVEYS
* via mail, e-mail, in-person, online survey, and from public agencies and partners

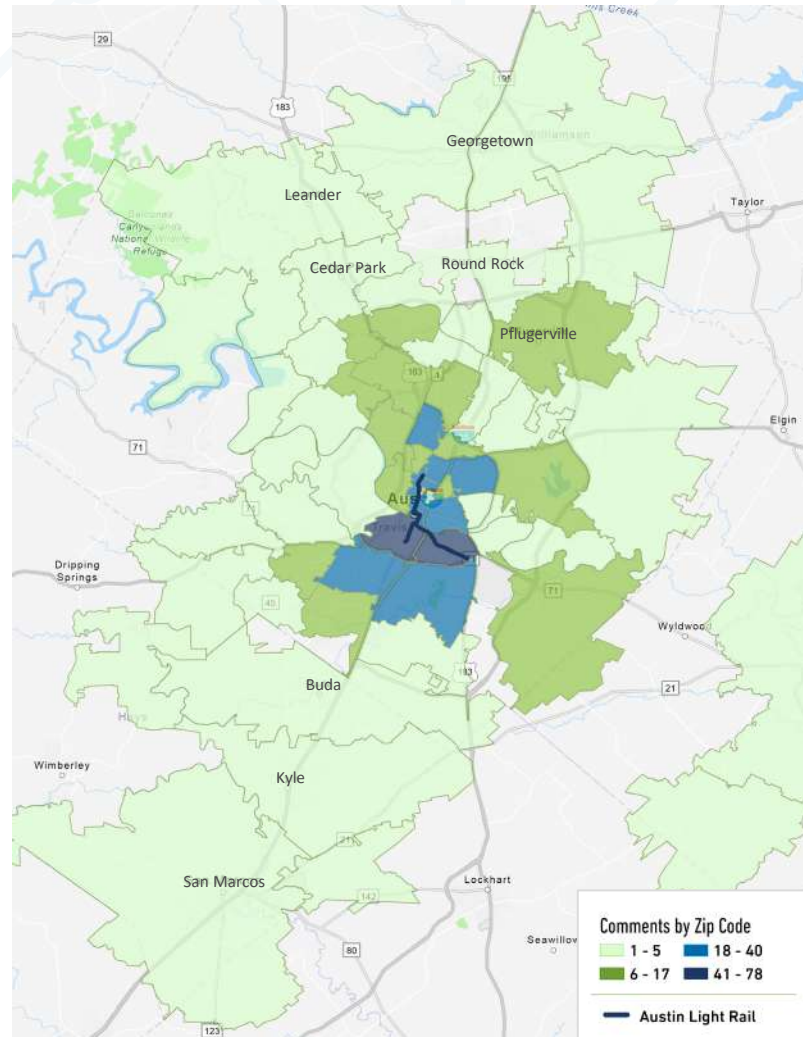
AUSTIN LIGHT RAIL COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT AT A GLANCE

► Survey Comments By Zip Code

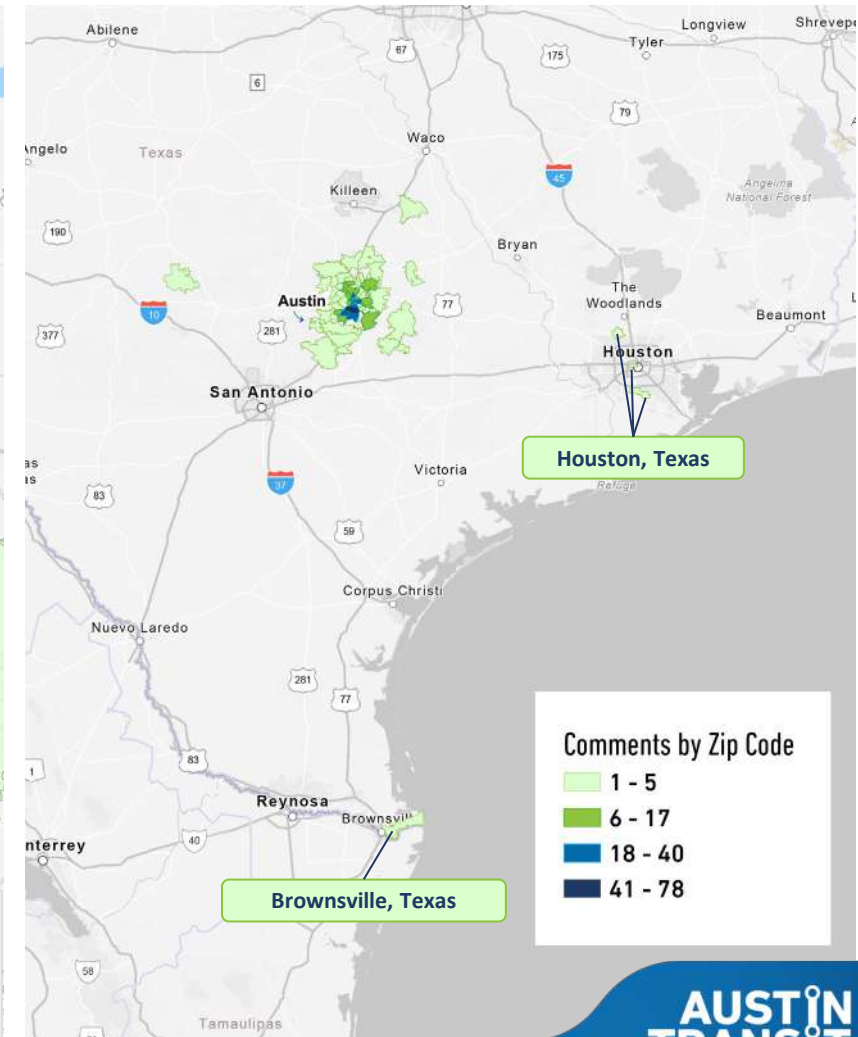
↓ AUSTIN LIGHT RAIL AREA



↓ AUSTIN AND SURROUNDING AREAS



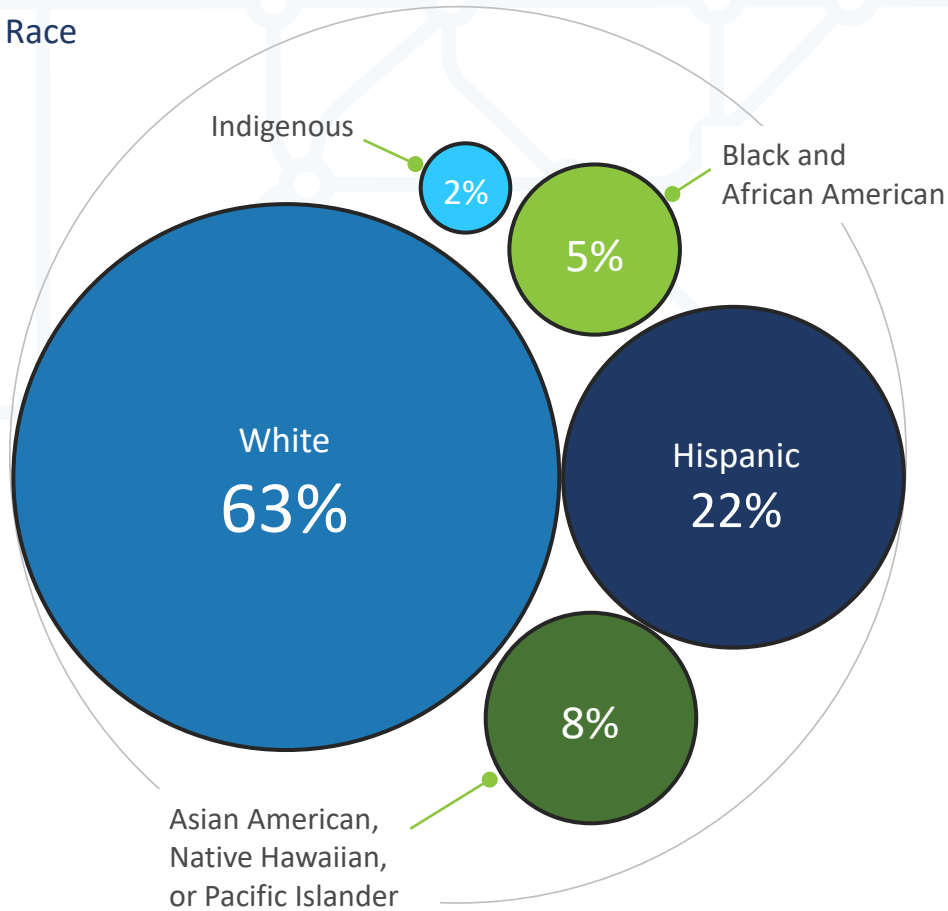
↓ TEXAS



Austin Light Rail

WHO DID WE HEAR FROM

Race



Ages of Participants



Gender



58%
Use public transport

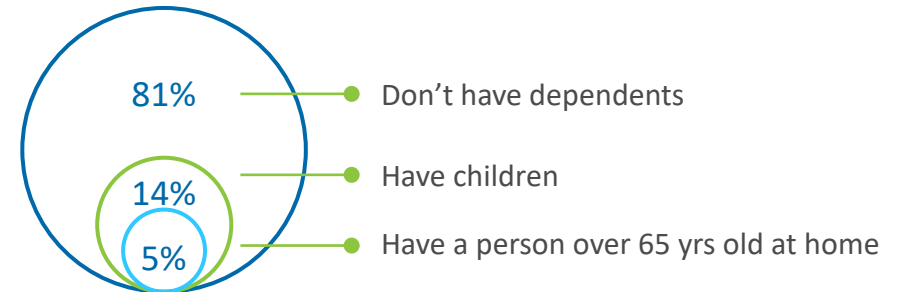


42%
Use other modes of transportation



5%
of participants are differently abled

Dependents



11 OUT OF 758 participants are facing homelessness

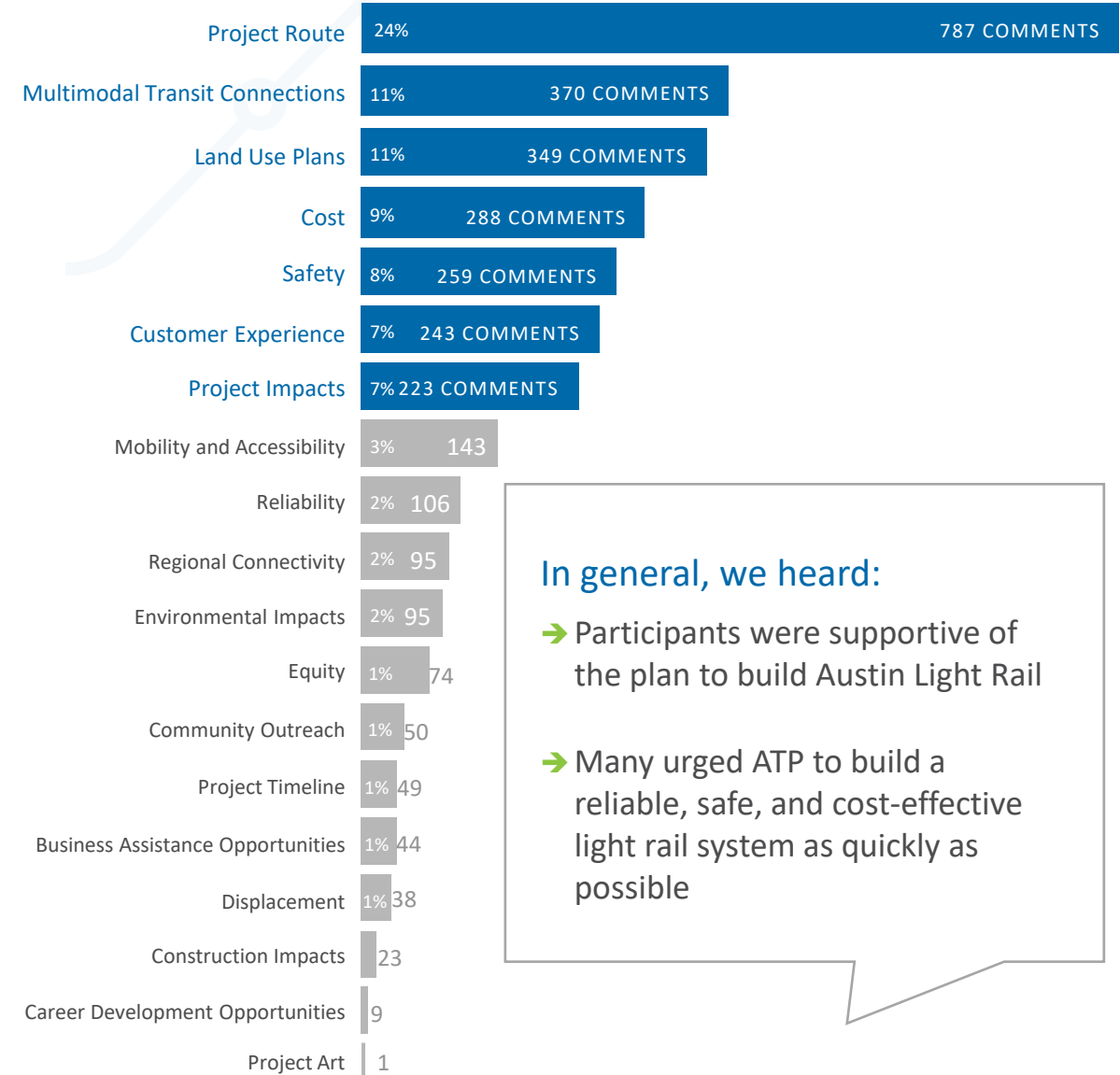
Austin Light Rail TOP THEMES

Comment themes were used to help ATP categorize and analyze the comments received.



Top Comment Themes

All Comment Themes



In general, we heard:

- Participants were supportive of the plan to build Austin Light Rail
- Many urged ATP to build a reliable, safe, and cost-effective light rail system as quickly as possible

Austin Light Rail

WHAT WE HEARD

This is a summary of feedback received about sections of the project, including the various design options presented to the public during the scoping period.

Legend

- Design Option
- Design Option (Study Area)
- Light Rail Station
- Light Rail Route - Phase 1
- Light Rail Route - Priority Extension
- Operations & Maintenance Facility (OMF)
- P Park & Ride Study Area
- Texas State Capitol

Transit Routes

- Red Line
- Green Line (future)
- CapMetro Rapid
- CapMetro Rapid (future)

Park & Ride at 38th Street

Differing comments on location with some preferring further north to reduce congestion and others preferring a more central site. Comments identified the need to connect to more transit modes and future extensions. Other comments involved cost, safety and security, shade, water features, and preserving parkland.

UT Station Area

Some commenters prefer moving vehicles off Guadalupe St. and staying close to the UT campus, and other commenters raised concerns about where cars would be rerouted. Additional comments focused on increasing connections to more transit options, station accessibility, and safety and security..

Lady Bird Lake Bridge Extension

Commenters had questions about cost and design, as well as connection and access to other modes of transportation. Other comments pointed to service reliability, station accessibility, and impacts on vehicular traffic.

Park & Ride at Oltorf

Differing comments about location with some preferring the proposed site and ease of connection and access to other modes of transportation. Others prefer more focus on future extensions. Additional comments mentioned safety and security and impacts to ridership.

Travis Heights Station

Comments were concerned with station accessibility and the effect on ridership in that area. Connection and access to other modes of transportation and to the neighborhood and community resources were also mentioned.

Wooldridge Square Station

Comments mentioned the closeness to the TX State Capitol and ease of connecting to and accessing other modes of transit, station accessibility, safety and security, and service reliability.

Cesar Chavez Station

Some comments focused on having connection and access to other modes of transportation and station accessibility, while other comments questioned whether neighborhood and community resources would be available at this location, and others questioned the cost.

East Riverside Ped and Bike Facilities

Safety and security were the focus of comments, along with connection and access to other modes of transportation, and station accessibility

Operations and Maintenance Facility (OMF)

Differing comments on location with some preferring the closeness to the airport priority extension, while others questioned the impacts to the neighborhood. Other comments mentioned future extensions, overall project costs, and access to other modes of transportation.

Grove Station

The closeness to ACC and Ruiz Library was mentioned, as well as connection and access to other modes of transportation. Other comments raised concerns over station accessibility.

Park & Ride at Yellow Jacket

Differing comments about location with some preferring the closeness to a priority extension, while others preferred a location further from the city center. Other comments mentioned impacts to vehicular traffic, connection and access to other modes of transportation, and station accessibility.



Austin Light Rail NEXT STEPS

The agency and public comments received will help the FTA and ATP:

- ➔ Finalize the purpose and need for the project
- ➔ Identify additional considerations
- ➔ Inform the evaluation of the design options in the Draft EIS

After considering scoping comments, FTA and ATP will prepare a Draft EIS:

- ➔ The Draft EIS will evaluate the proposed project, design options, and describe why some alternatives were eliminated from detailed study



Resources that will be analyzed as part of:



Physical and Natural Environment

- Air Quality
- Soils and Geology
- Water Quality
- Threatened and Endangered Species
- Hazardous Materials
- Noise and Vibration
- Temporary Construction Impacts



Human Environment

- Environmental Justice (EJ)
- Safety and Security
- Land Use and Zoning
- Socioeconomics and Economic Development
- Transportation
- Utilities
- Land Acquisitions and Displacements



Cultural Environment

- Cultural, Historic, and Archaeological
- Parks and Recreational
- Visual Quality
- Neighborhood and Community Resources

WORK TO ADVANCE AUSTIN LIGHT RAIL



Design and Engineering



Federal Funding Process



CIG

Capital Investment Grant Program



NEPA

National Environmental Policy Act

