

Future Connections - The Next Stage for Connecting Downtown, UT and Mueller

Capital Metro is holding open houses in September to get community input on further development of the All Systems Go plan.

Following the successful referendum last November, Capital Metro will be implementing new transit services, including Urban Commuter Rail, Rapid bus service and more. Beyond the Urban Commuter Rail Line and Rapid bus service, Capital Metro is evaluating ways to connect more of the community to these services in the future. For example, once a commuter rail rider arrives downtown, how will they move around downtown, or from there up to UT or the Mueller (old airport) redevelopment area without using a car? Right now, people can use 'Dillo circulator services to get around the central city, but Capital Metro is going to examine many possibilities.

Together with the community's input, Capital Metro is conducting an All Systems Go Future Connections Study that examines several areas in our urban core that might benefit from enhanced transit services. We need to find the best ways to connect core destinations to each other as well as to rapid bus and commuter rail. The study areas include the downtown central business district, the Capitol complex, the University of Texas main campus, the Mueller redevelopment area, and east central Austin. Capital Metro will be studying future connections to commuter rail as well as circulation service in more densely populated areas. We will also be studying the possibility of creating a major downtown bus transfer center. These connectivity studies will be completed by mid-2006.

As with all of our planning efforts, we need the help from our community members to provide input and feedback for these studies. So far, we have formed preliminary advisory committees to look at these issues, and this month we'll get further community input at three scheduled open houses on Sept. 12 - 13. Below is the schedule:

Central Open House

When: Monday September 12th, 6:30 - 8:30 PM
Where: Town Lake Center, 721 Barton Springs Road

Downtown Open House (Daytime) - Co-Hosted by the Downtown Austin Alliance

When: Tuesday September 13th, 1:00 - 3:00 PM
Where: 211 East 7th Street, Room 111

North Open House

When: Tuesday September 13th, 6:30 - 8:30 PM
Where: Department of Health and Human Services, 701 West 51st (North Lamar and 51st)