

Liveable City Supports a Downtown Connector System

Liveable City's community surveys have documented a wide-spread belief that a clean environment is vital to our quality of life. Our surveys also suggest that Austin residents are concerned about traffic congestion and want a range of transportation options, including rail, pedestrian and bicycle opportunities as well as an improved road system. The results of the Envision Central Texas survey indicate that Austin area residents want future development to take a more dense, compact form than is exemplified in current trends.

To meet these goals, Austin needs an efficient public transportation system that serves the central city and surrounding communities. Capital Metro's proposed commuter rail system could be an important step in the direction of this goal. However, we believe that for it to be effective in providing a viable transportation alternative, it must be combined with a downtown connector system that would transport residents and visitors between the destinations of Palmer Auditorium, the Convention Center, the Capitol complex and the University of Texas. Based on a preliminary analysis, we believe that a streetcar system might best serve the needs of the community. Consequently, we endorse the Connect Austin proposal for a downtown streetcar connector.