



City of San Marcos

Work Session - Final City Council

Tuesday, June 2, 2020

3:00 PM

Virtual Meeting

Due to COVID-19, this will be a virtual meeting. To view the meeting please go to www.sanmarcostx.gov/videos or watch on Grande channel 16 or Spectrum channel 10.

I. Call To Order

II. Roll Call

PRESENTATIONS

1. Receive a transit update presentation on the Five Year Transit Strategic Plan. Hold Council discussion regarding key Strategic Plan elements and provide direction to staff.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

2. Executive Session in accordance with the following Government Code Sections:
 - A. §Sec.551.071 of the Texas Government Code: Consultation with attorney - to receive advice of legal counsel regarding state law preemption of city ordinances regulating the sale or use of single-use packages and containers.
 - B. §Sec.551.071 of the Texas Government Code: Consultation with attorney - to receive advice of legal counsel regarding pending litigation, to wit: The Mayan at San Marcos River, LLC and City of Martindale v. City of San Marcos, Docket No. 04-19-00018-CV in the 4th Court of Appeals of Texas

III. Adjournment.

POSTED ON THURSDAY, MAY 21, 2020 @ 12:30PM

TAMMY K. COOK, INTERIM CITY CLERK

Notice of Assistance at the Public Meetings

The City of San Marcos does not discriminate on the basis of disability in the admission or access to its services, programs, or activities. Individuals who require auxiliary aids and services for this meeting should contact the City of San Marcos ADA Coordinator at 512-393-8000 (voice) or call Texas Relay Service (TRS) by dialing 7-1-1. Requests can also be faxed to 855-461-6674 or sent by e-mail to ADArequest@sanmarcostx.gov



Legislation Text

File #: ID#20-294, **Version:** 1

AGENDA CAPTION:

Receive a transit update presentation on the Five Year Transit Strategic Plan. Hold Council discussion regarding key Strategic Plan elements and provide direction to staff.

Meeting date: June 2, 2020

Department: General Services

Amount & Source of Funding

Funds Required: NA

Account Number: NA

Funds Available: NA

Account Name: NA

Fiscal Note:

Prior Council Action: Approval of the Five Year Strategic Plan contract to Nelson-Nygaard in the not to exceed amount of \$180,000

City Council Strategic Initiative: [Please select from the dropdown menu below]

Multi Modal Transportation

Choose an item.

Choose an item.

Comprehensive Plan Element (s): [Please select the Plan element(s) and Goal # from dropdown menu below]

Economic Development - Choose an item.

Environment & Resource Protection - Choose an item.

Land Use - Choose an item.

Neighborhoods & Housing - Choose an item.

Parks, Public Spaces & Facilities - Choose an item.

Transportation - Multimodal transportation network to improve accessibility and mobility, minimize congestion and reduce pollution

Core Services

Not Applicable

Master Plan: *[Please select the corresponding Master Plan from the dropdown menu below (if applicable)]*

Choose an item.

Background Information:

- The Five Year Transit Strategic Plan is a multi-agency initiative of the City, Texas State University, and Texas Department of Transportation-Public Transportation Division
- The purpose of the Strategic Plan is to provide recommendations to coordinate the City's transit system and Texas State University's Bobcat Shuttle
- The Strategic plan staff team and Nelson-Nygaard held a kick-off meeting for the Five Year Transit Strategic Plan on July 30, 2019
- The first round of public outreach was conducted October 1-2, 2019 which included three public meetings, a stakeholder meeting, and a meeting of Council's Multimodal Transit Committee
- The second round of public outreach was conducted January 28-29, 2020 which included three public meetings, a stakeholder meeting, and a meeting of Council's Multimodal Transit Committee

Council Committee, Board/Commission Action:

Click or tap here to enter text.

Alternatives:

Click or tap here to enter text.

Recommendation:

Provide direction to staff.



MEMO

TO: The Honorable Mayor and Council
FROM: Bert Lumbreras, City Manager
DATE: May 20, 2020
RE: Transit Plan Update and CARES Act Funding –
Multimodal Transportation Strategic Initiative

The following memo is to inform Mayor and Council of the upcoming work session presentation on the Five Year Transit Plan Update and recent developments regarding the \$6.4M (million) in CARES Act transit grant funds received by the City.

For several years Council has placed special emphasis on Multimodal Transportation, and one of the key priorities of this Strategic Initiative is a seamless transit system created from the coordination of the City's transit service and the Texas State University Bobcat Shuttle. To execute that vision, both agencies, in partnership with the Texas Department of Transportation, have been developing a Five Year Transit Plan with the consultant firm Nelson-Nygaard.

Five Year Transit Plan Update

After months of study, eight public meetings and two Multimodal Transit Committee meetings, we are pleased to inform you that the Plan's current proposals for the City's service, capital and policy recommendations are ready for Council's consideration.

On June 2, 2020 Council will receive this update presentation on the Transit Plan. The focus will be the Plan's current recommendations for the City. Staff will request Council direction on key elements that will allow Nelson-Nygaard to finalize the Plan recommendations.

These key elements include:

- Service Expansion Plan
- Downtown Transit Plaza
- Paratransit Policy
- Zero Fare Policy
- Transit Center
- Interlocal Agreement

This exciting next step will be the catalyst for completing the Transit Plan. The Five Year Transit Plan will form a core foundation from which we can continue forward with our University partnership to forge the seamless transit system. The draft Transit Plan will return for Council consideration and adoption in August of 2020.

CARES Act Transit Grant Funds

On April 2, 2020, U.S. Transportation Secretary Elaine L. Chao announced \$25 Billion to help the nation's public transportation systems respond to COVID-19. The Federal Transit Administration (FTA) allocated these funds to recipients of urbanized and rural area formula funds. The funding is provided at 100 percent federal share with no local match required. These funds are available for reimbursement of the City's eligible transit expenses and there is no lapse date for use of the funding. FTA's normal program requirements of direct recipients do apply to the CARES Act funding.

Following the announcement of funding and the FTA's allocation of funds, staff began intensive coordination with the FTA and Texas Department of Transportation to ensure the City could apply for these funds under optimal conditions. To maximize the benefits of the funding, the recommended approach is to reimburse the City's transit operations costs at 100 percent with the CARES Act funds. This will account for lost local revenues and reduce pressure on the general fund.

I am pleased to report that staff has completed the CARES Act grant application for the \$6.4M and has programmed the funding to support the City's transit operations through the end of fiscal year 2021 and beyond. The FTA has streamlined the review processes and placed recipient's CARES Act applications as the Administration's top priority.

Additionally, we have coordinated with the FTA and Texas State University to clarify the University's eligibility to potentially receive some portion of these funds to support their public transit system. Those discussions are ongoing, and we are making every effort to support this community partner with CARES Act funding.

We will keep you informed as developments continue to proceed on this vital resource and as we implement City Council's Strategic Initiative of Multimodal Transportation.

San Marcos Transit Plan

City Council

June 2, 2020

Photo credit: Stacy Rickard

Project Team

- City of San Marcos
 - Lee Hitchcock, Director of General Services
 - Pete Binion, Transit Manager
 - Amy Cogdill, Transit Specialist
- Texas State University
 - Steven Herrera, Director of Transportation Services
 - Nancy Nusbaum, Associate Vice President for Finance and Support Services Planning
- Nelson\Nygaard
 - James Gamez, Project Manager
 - Hazel Scher, Deputy Project Manager



Purpose

Determine the best approach to coordinating San Marcos Transit and Texas State University Bobcat Shuttle.

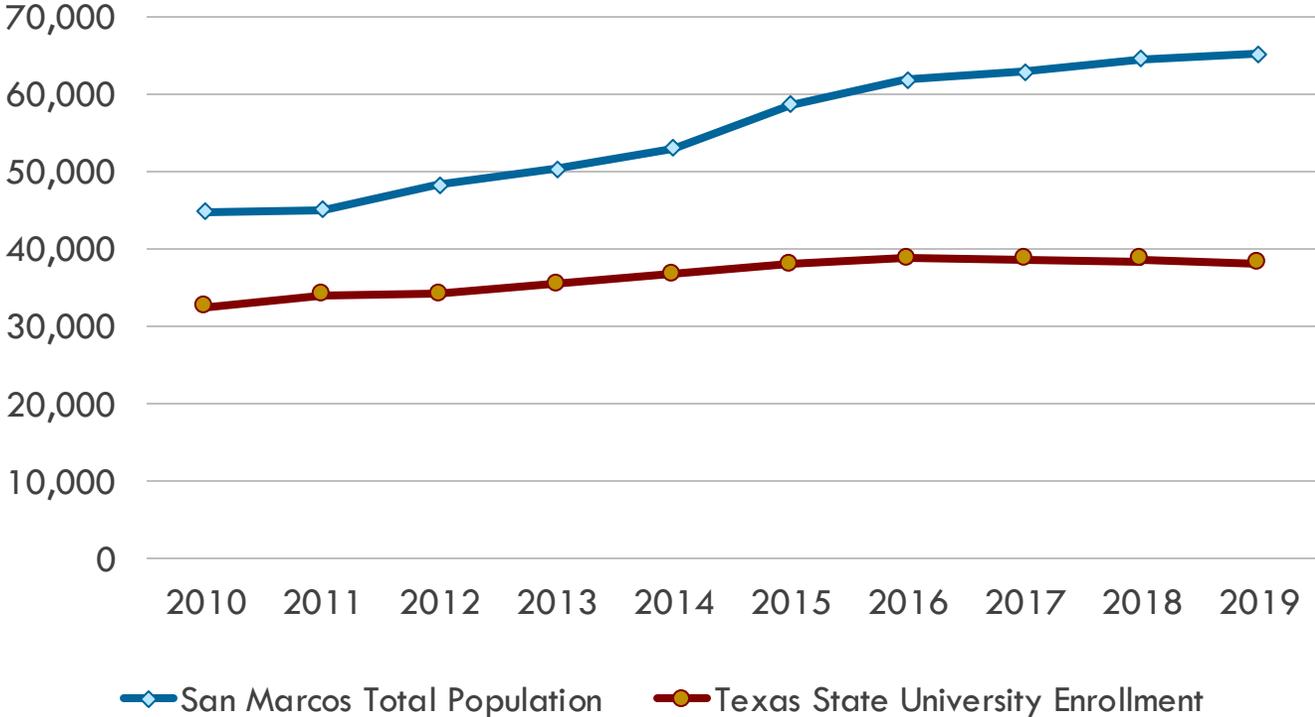


Opportunities

- Qualify for additional federal funding
 - Eligible uses: capital, operations, planning, engineering, design, etc.
- Expand transit access for the entire community
- Improve multimodal connectivity, particularly downtown

Opportunities

- Respond to continued population and enrollment growth



Challenges

- Cost and ridership implications of COVID-19
- Infrequent local service
- Coordinating two vastly different systems

Transit Service Today



Days & Hours of Service	
Mon-Fri 7am-8pm	Mon-Fri 7am-11pm Sat 11am-6:30pm
Routes	
7	11
Vehicles	
10	48
Bus Stops	
118	40
Daily Ridership	
350	17,000



Community Feedback

- Requests for more frequent and later city service
- Requests for more bus stop shelters
- Support for a downtown hub and elimination of fares



Key Items for Council Consideration



Service expansion plan



Downtown Transit Plaza



Paratransit policy



Zero fare policy

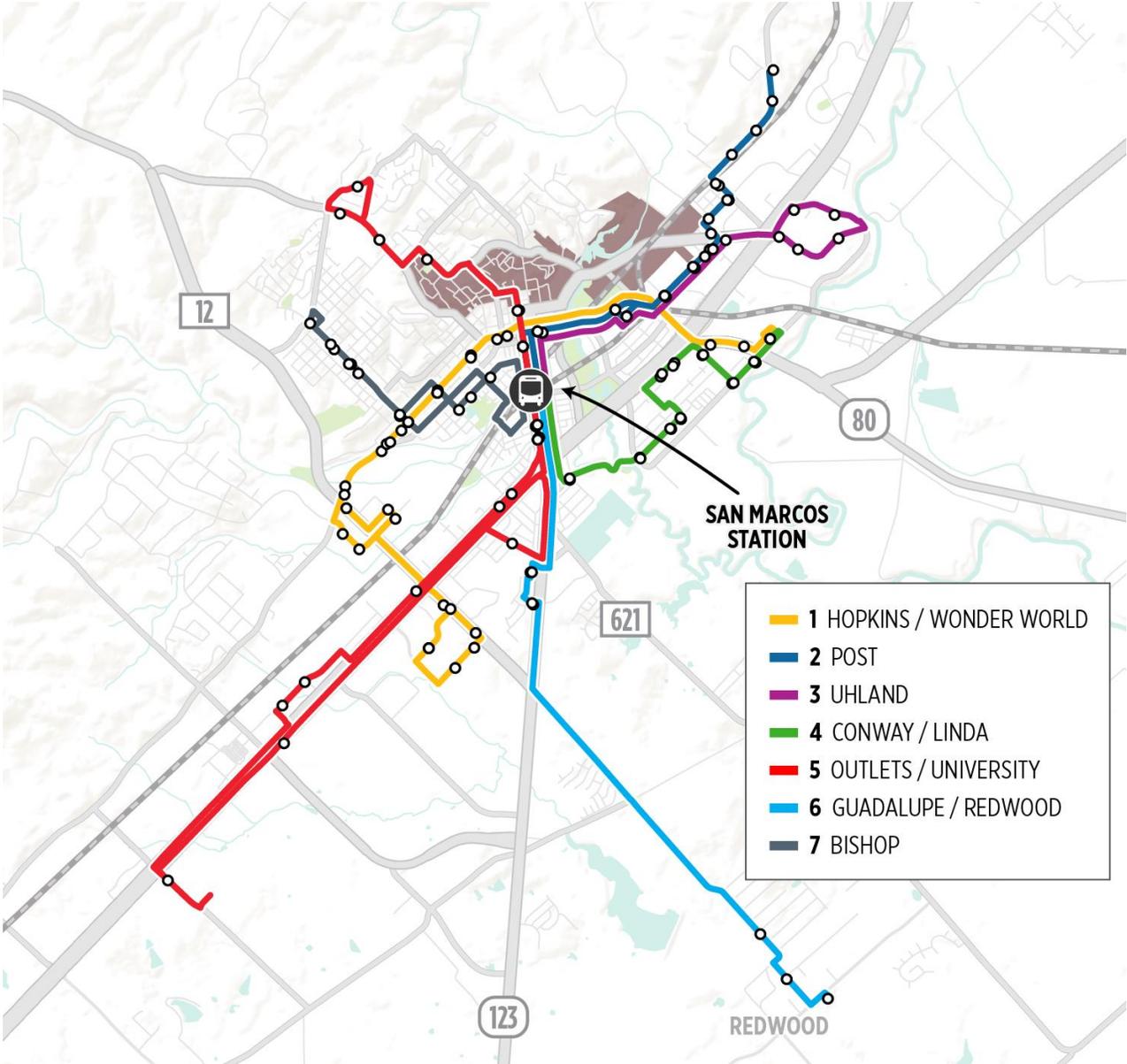


Transit Center

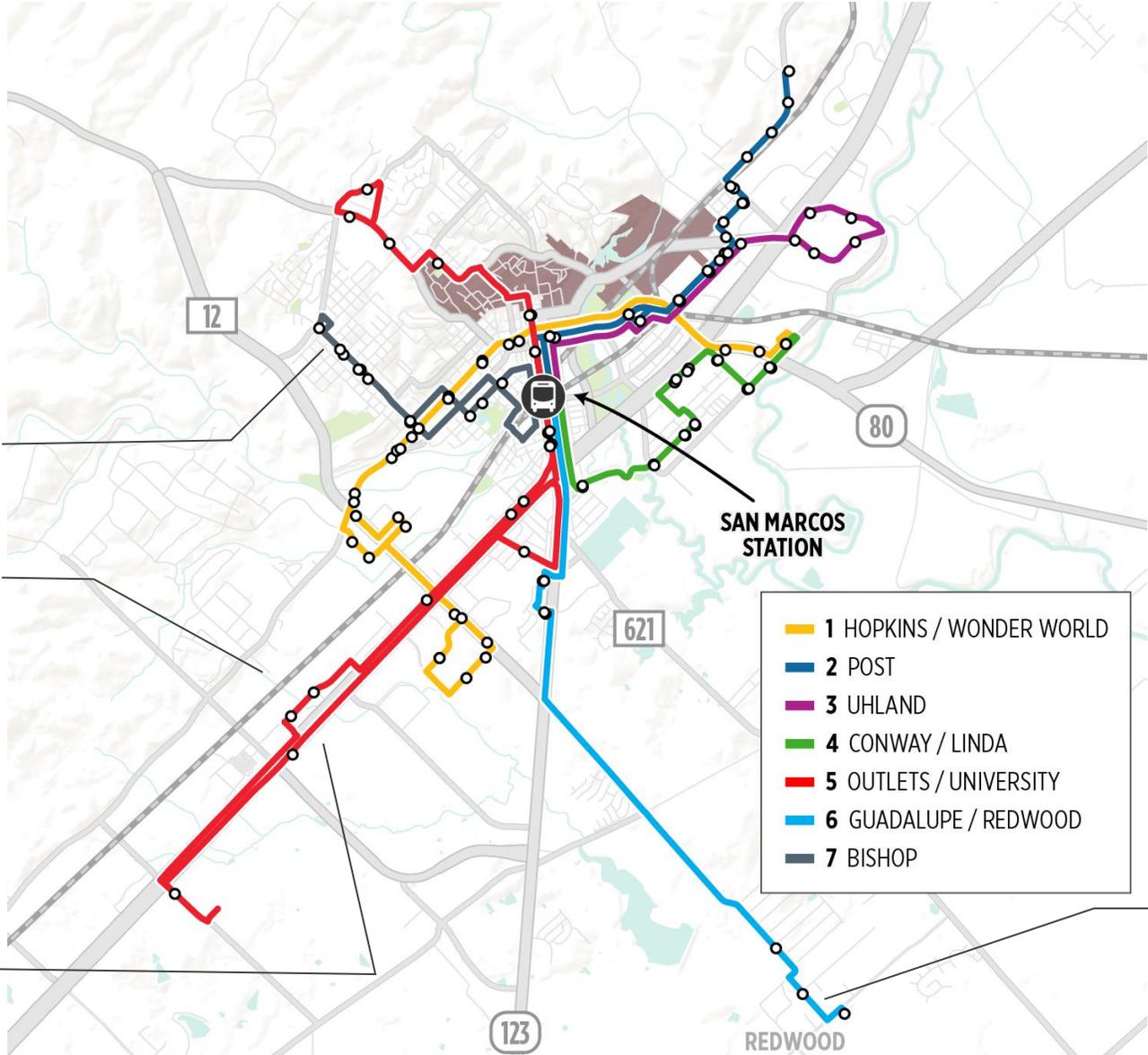


Interlocal agreement with Texas State University

Existing City Routes



Existing City Routes



Only 55% of city stops have 30-minute service

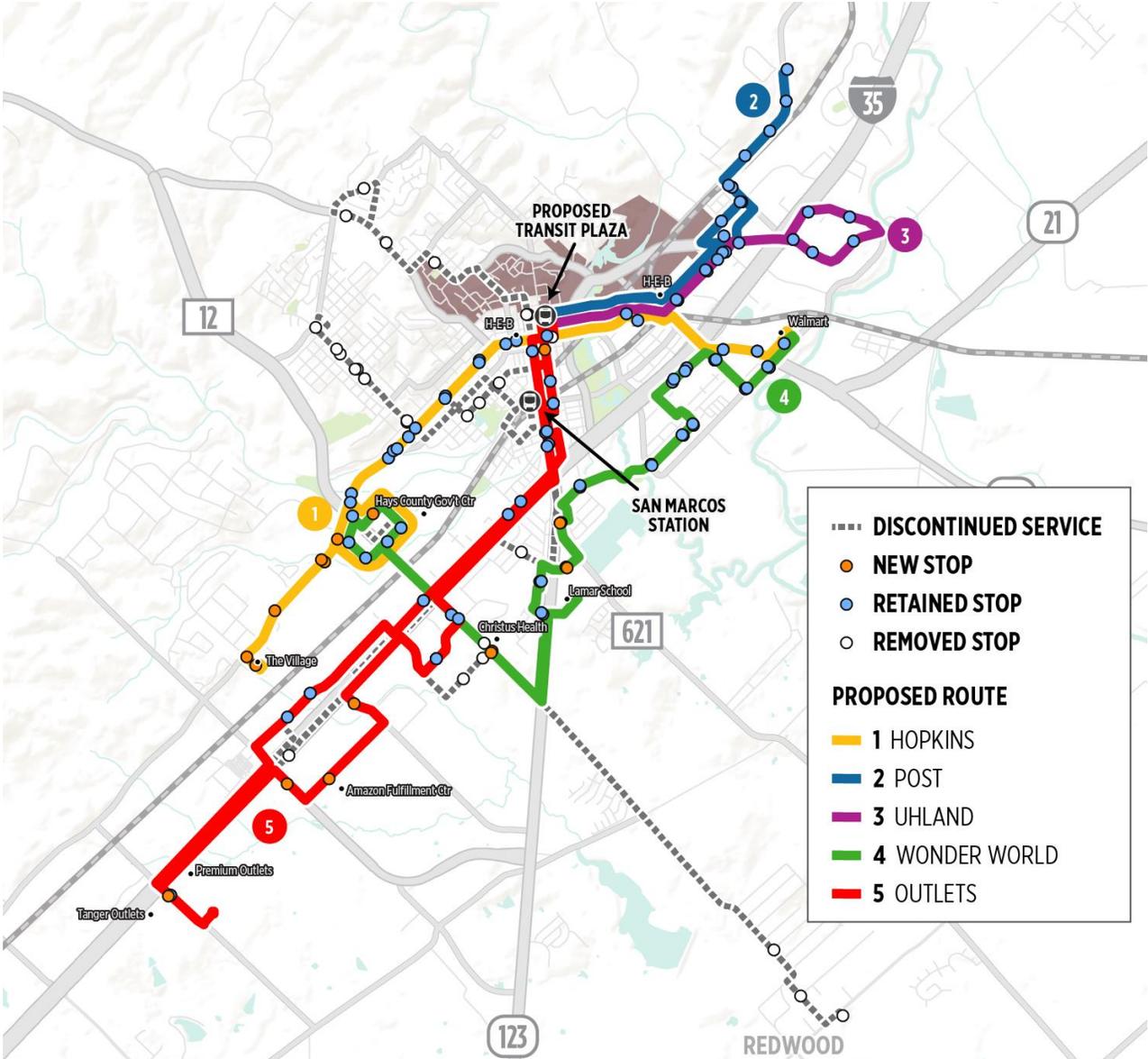
Low ridership along Bishop

No service to The Village

No service to Amazon Fulfillment Center

Low ridership in Redwood

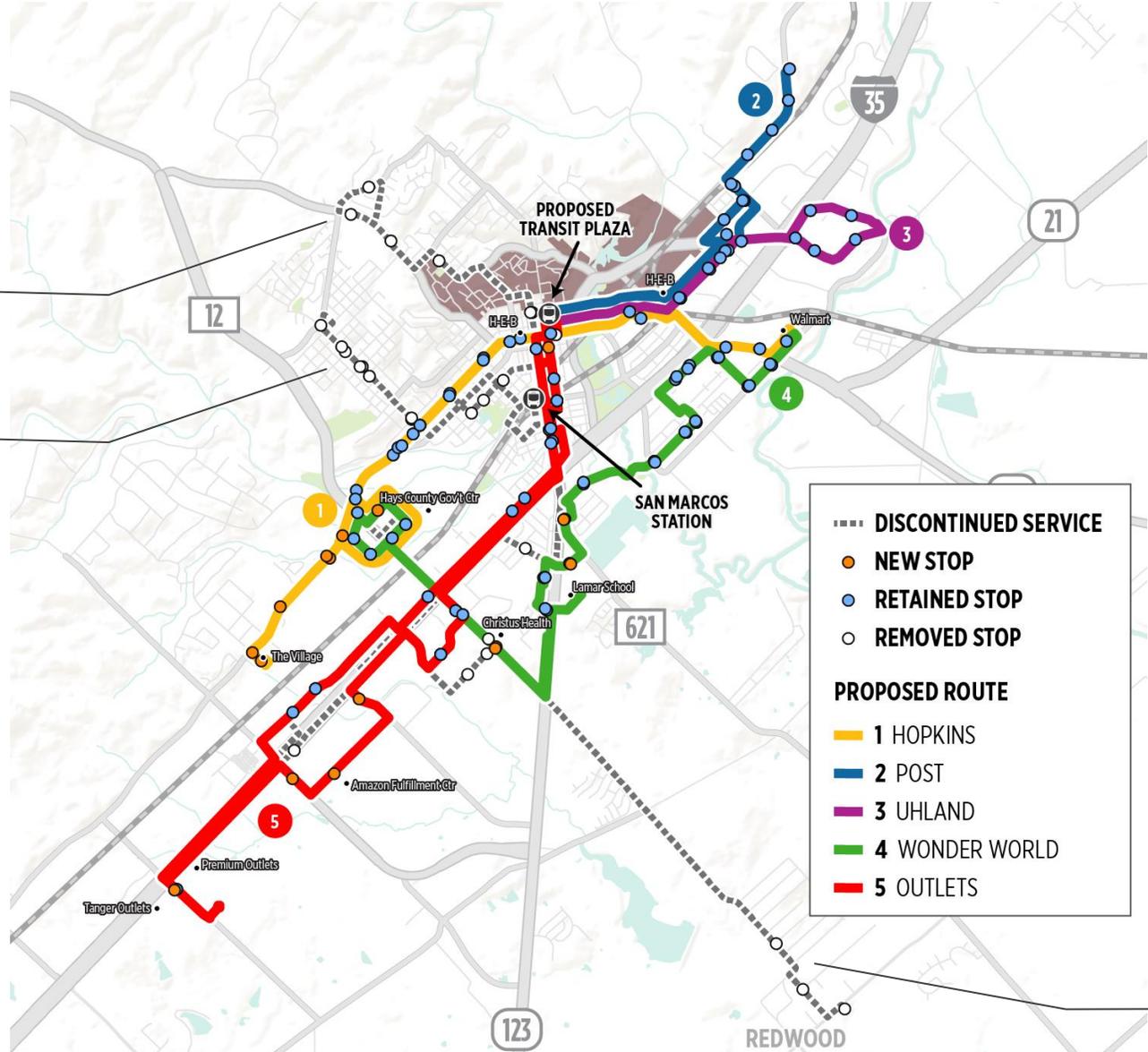
Proposed City Routes



Proposed City Routes

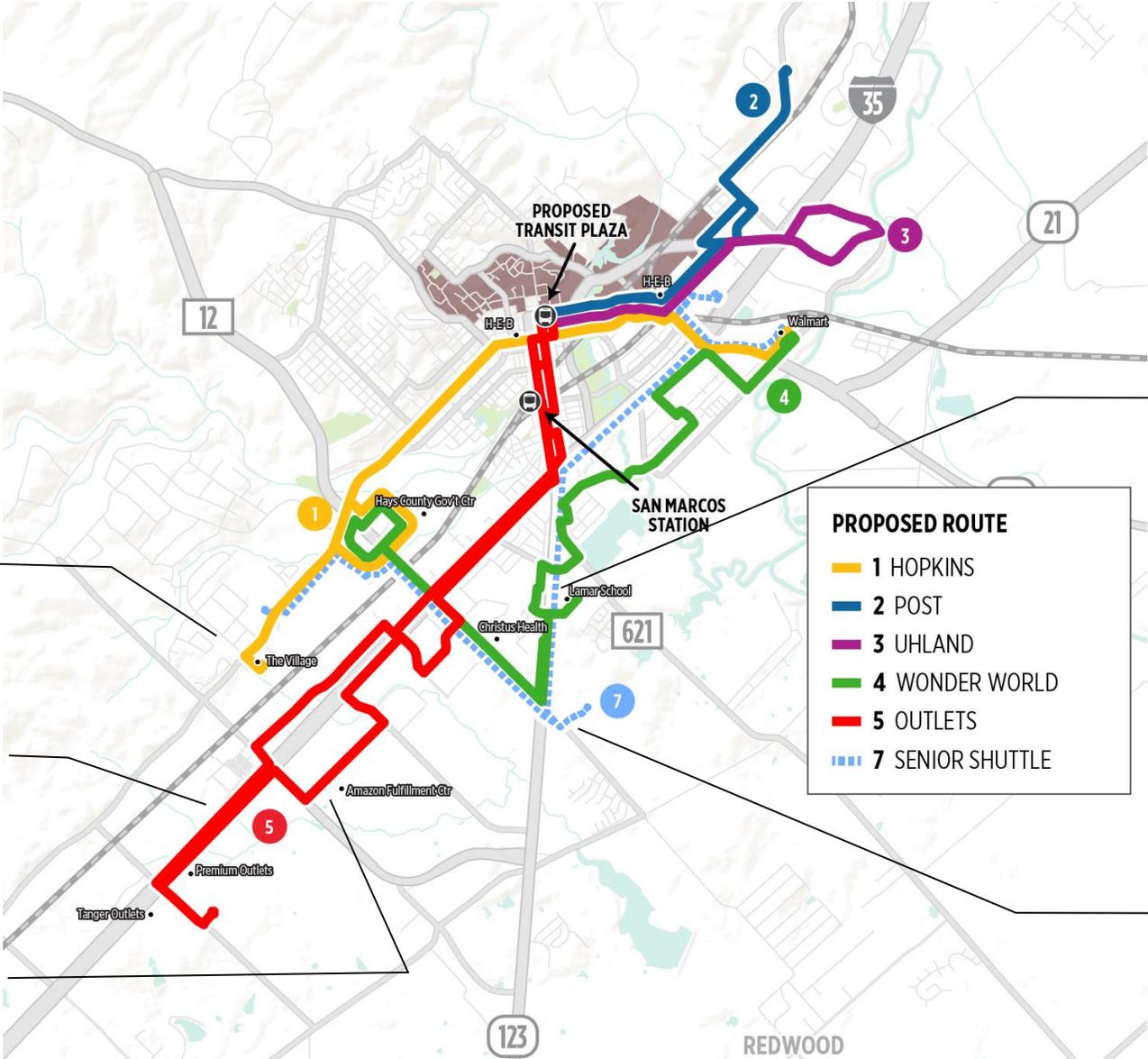
Discontinue service along RR 12

Discontinue service along Bishop



Discontinue service to Redwood

Proposed City Routes



Extend service to The Village

Upgrade Route 5 to 30-minute service

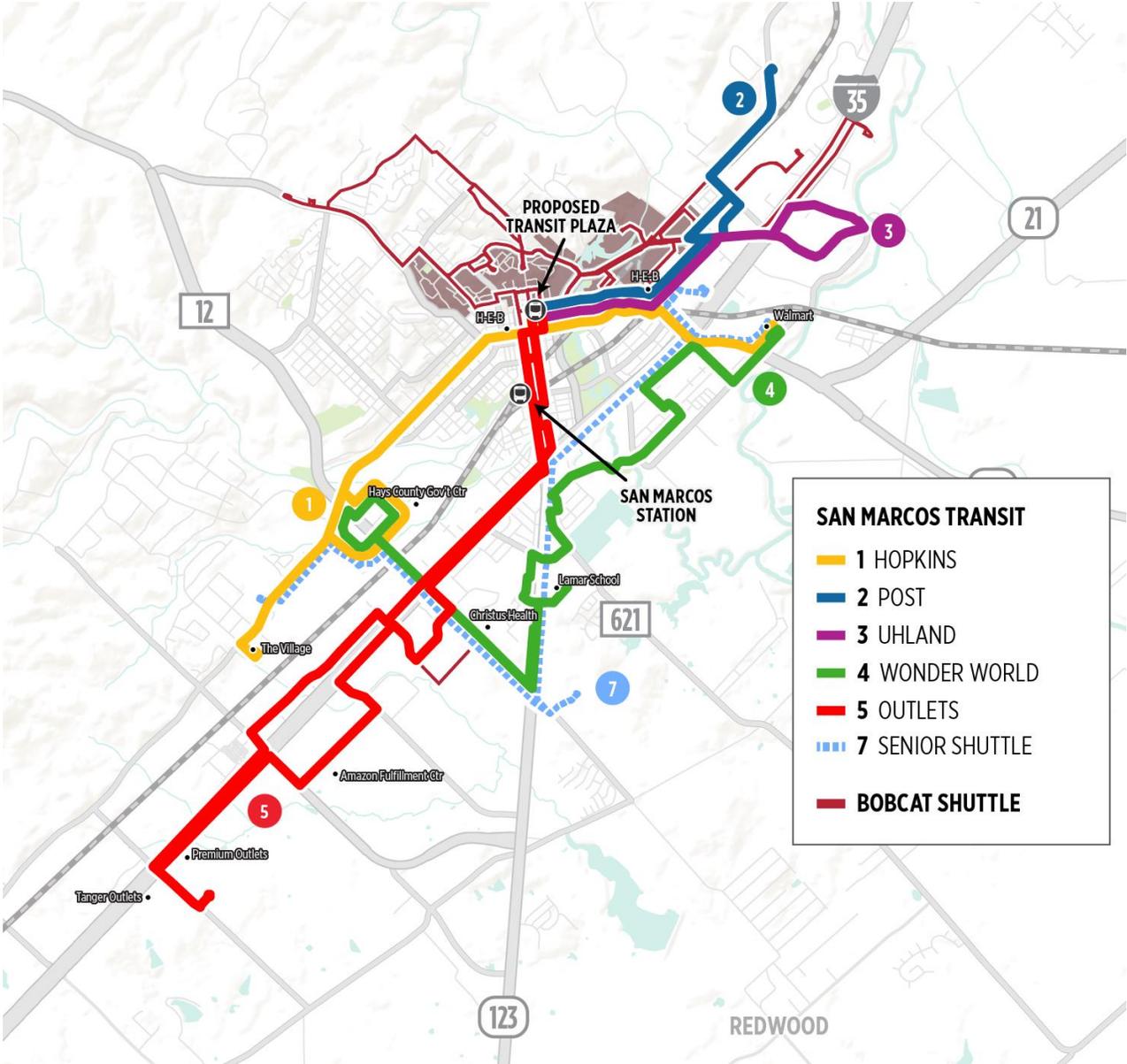
Extend service to Amazon Fulfillment Center

Increase 30-minute service to 85% of city stops

Increase service to Sunrise Village and Lamar School

Increase service on Senior Shuttle

Proposed Coordinated City and University Network



Service Plan

- **Establish Downtown Transit Plaza (9-12 months)**
- **Phase 1:**
 - Revise city routes
 - Expand Senior Shuttle from 2 to 4 days per week
 - Introduce new coordinated branding and information
 - Eliminate on-board fare collection

Service Plan

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- **Phase 2:** Add Saturday service on city routes

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- **Phase 2:** Add Saturday service on city routes
- **Phase 3:** Extend weekday evening span on city routes

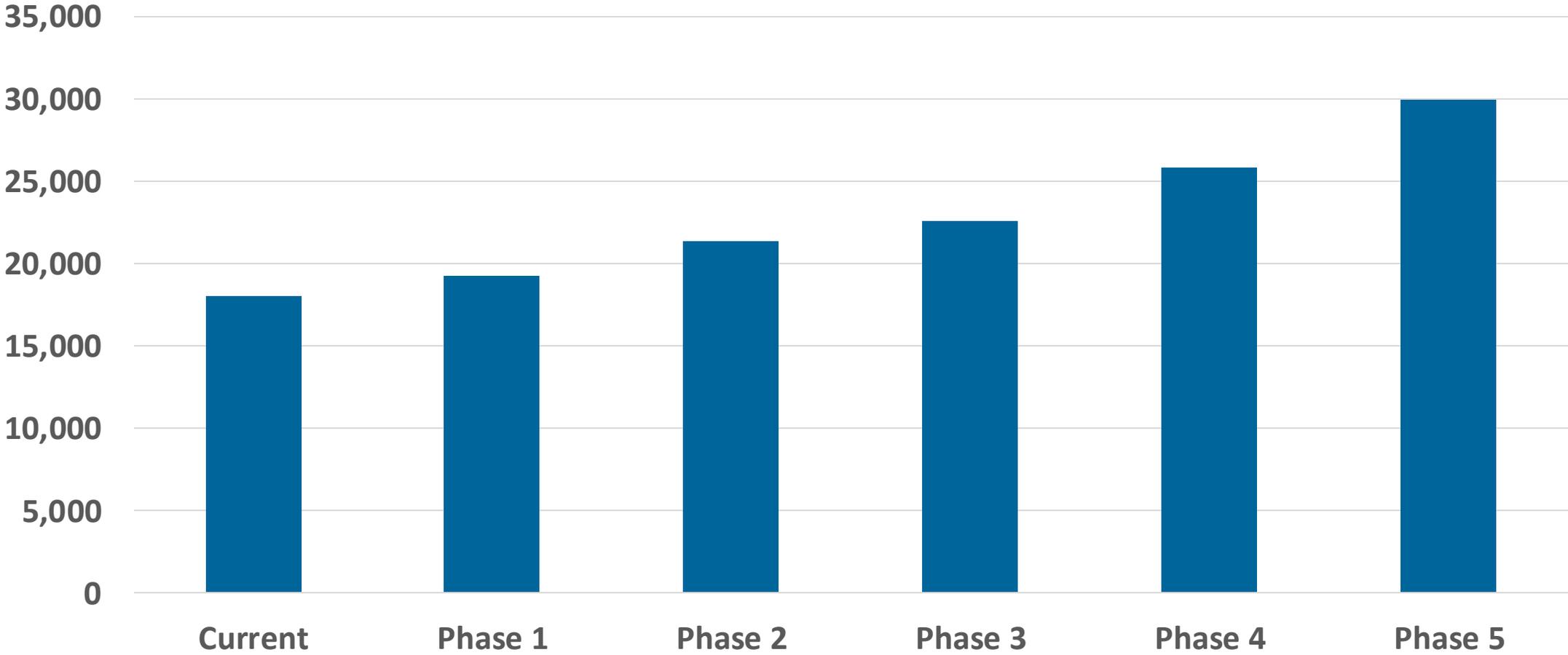
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- **Phase 4:** Increase frequency during morning and evening periods

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- **Phase 2:** Add Saturday service on city routes
- **Phase 3:** Extend weekday evening span on city routes
- **Phase 4:** Increase frequency during morning and evening periods
- **Phase 5:** Increase frequency on Route 1 to every 15 minutes

City Fixed Route Service Hours



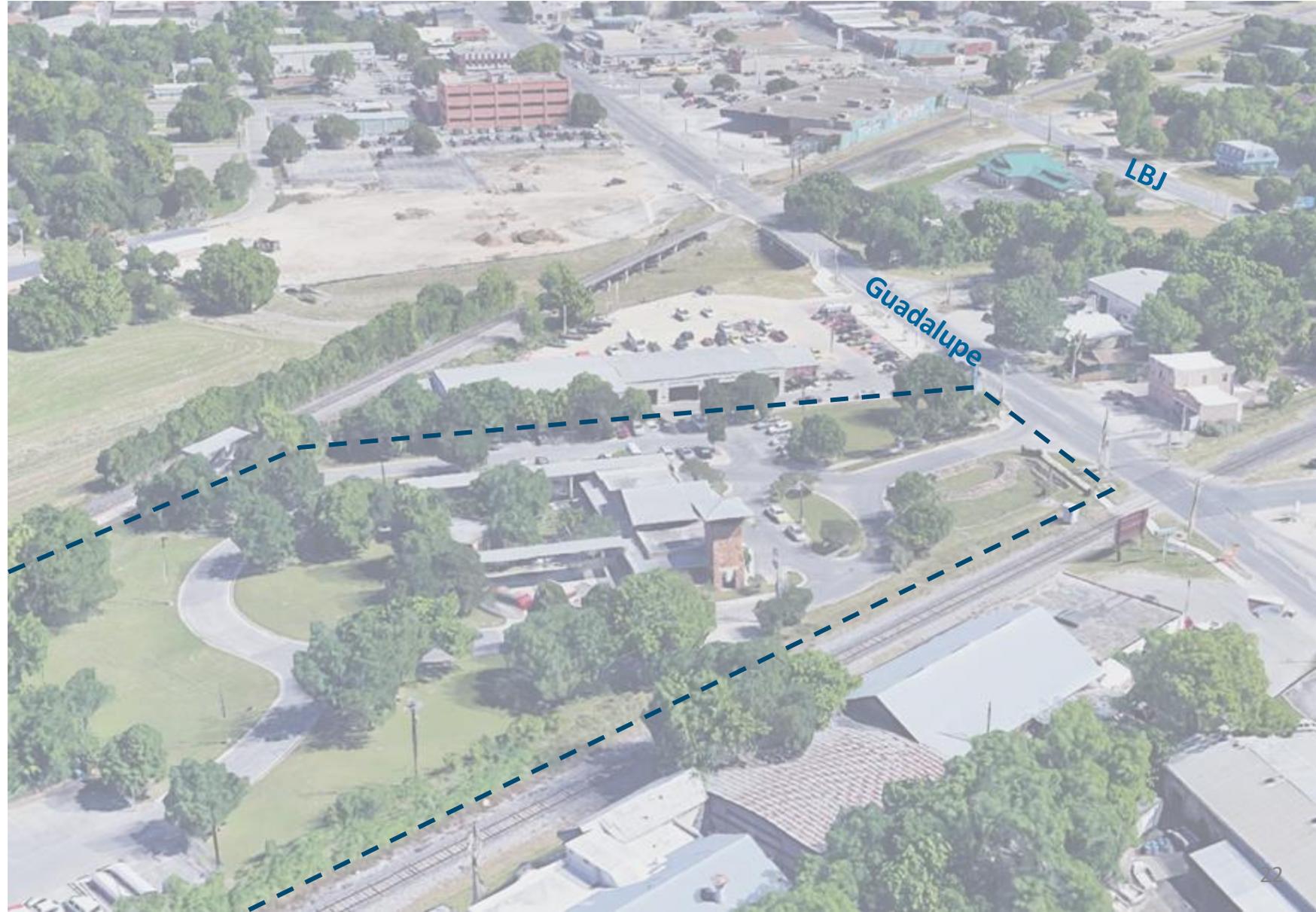
San Marcos Station

Strengths

- Regional connections
- Passenger amenities
- Operator facilities

Challenges

- Proximity to downtown
- One-way streets
- Rail impacts



Proposed Downtown Transit Plaza

Transit Plaza Enhancement Opportunities



- Support bus operations, rider experience, and communications
- Extend beyond transit plaza to nearby sites (mobility hub and parking garage)

Bike and Pedestrian Enhancements

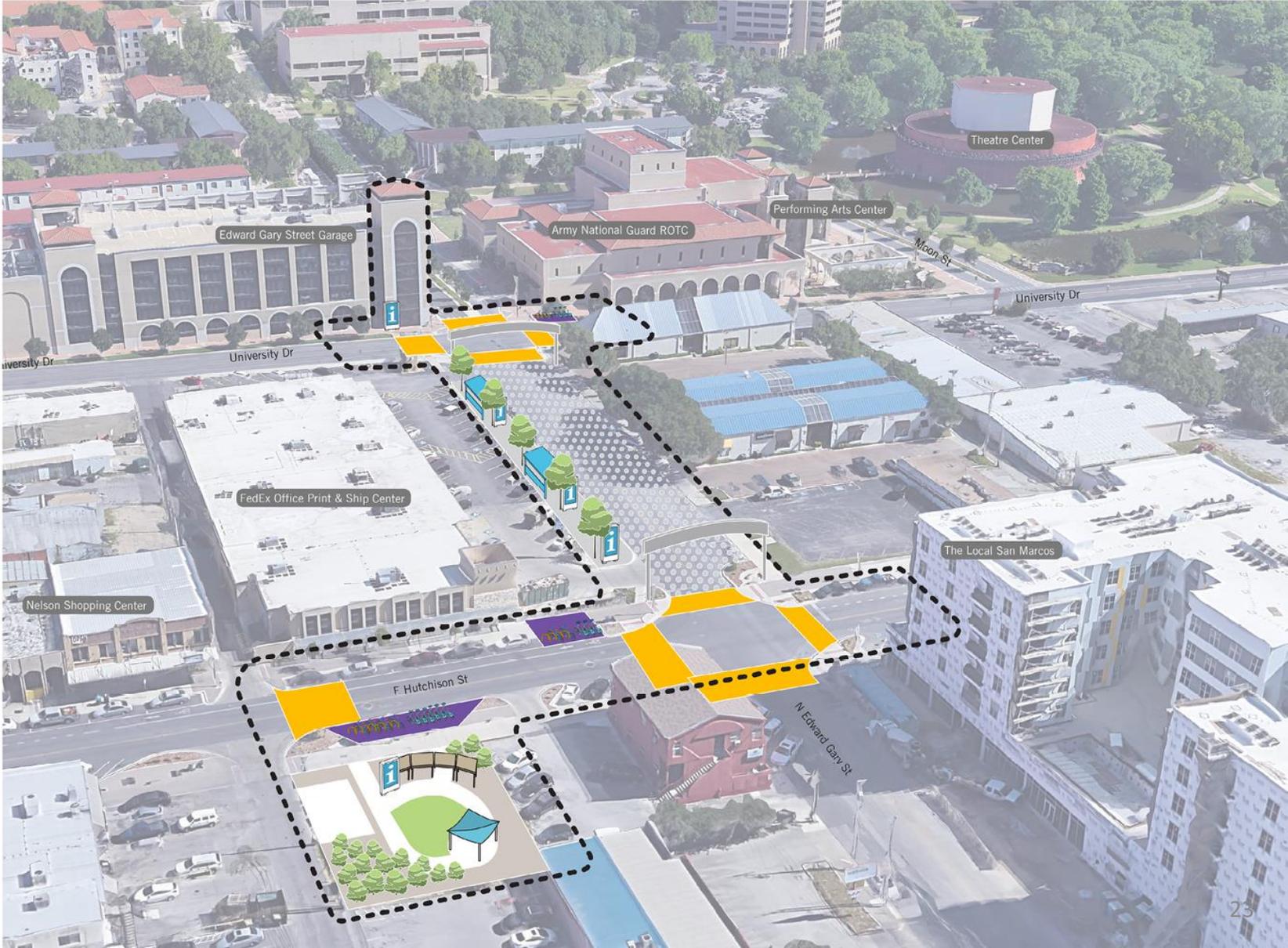


- Provide easy-to-find bike storage on Hutchinson
- Prioritize buses and pedestrians/riders on Edward Gary

Crosswalks & Pavement Treatments



- Highly-visible and attractive pavement treatments to support pedestrian access
- Function as traffic calming tools, wayfinding tools, and placemaking features



300 block of Edward Gary Street



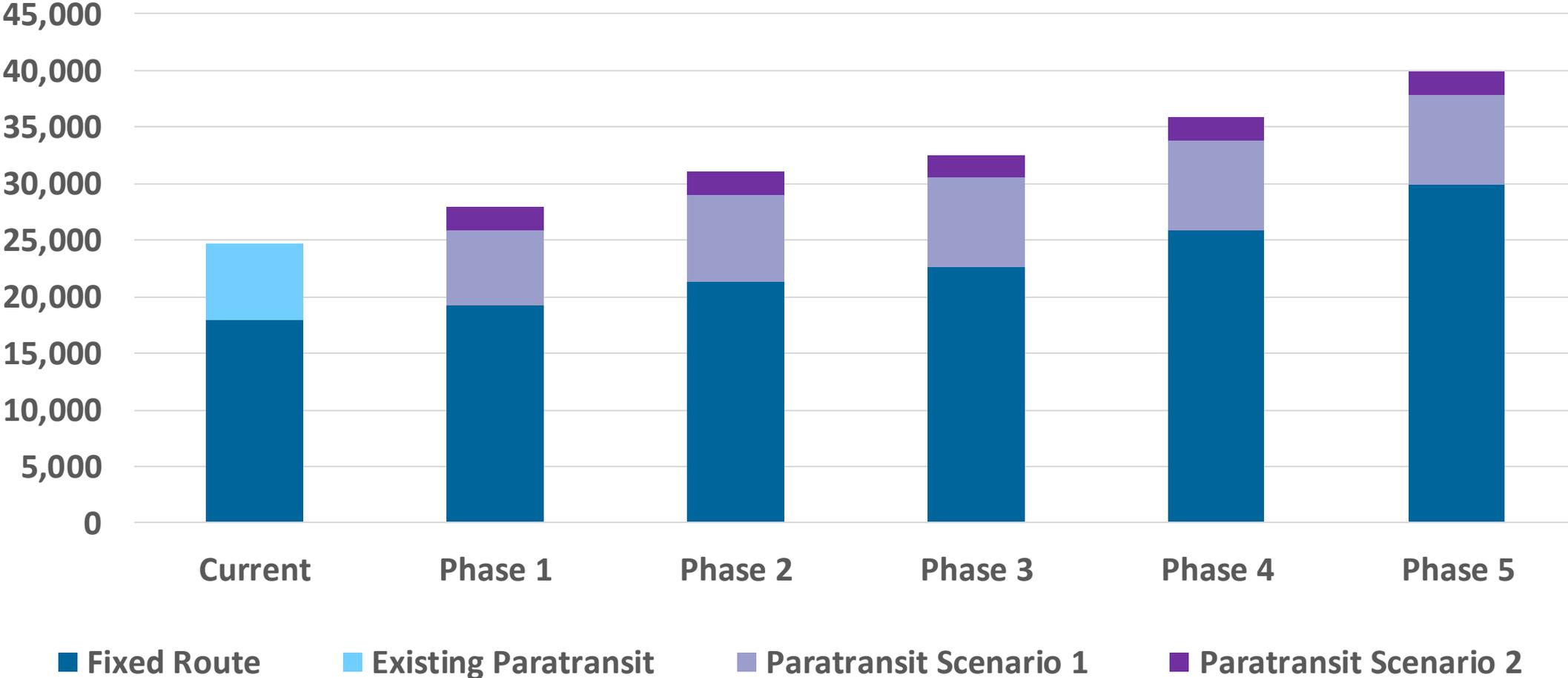
Proposed Downtown Transit Plaza



Paratransit Policy

- **Elimination of fares for fixed-route service would also eliminate paratransit fares**
- **FTA minimum requirements**
 - Persons with a disability traveling within $\frac{3}{4}$ mile of a fixed route
- **Current City policy**
 - Also includes seniors age 65 and older and entire city limits
- **Scenario 1**
 - Reduce service area to $\frac{3}{4}$ mile of fixed routes
 - Cost neutral
- **Scenario 2**
 - Maintain existing service area policy
 - Requires one extra vehicle and 2,000 additional hours

City Service Hours



City Fleet Options

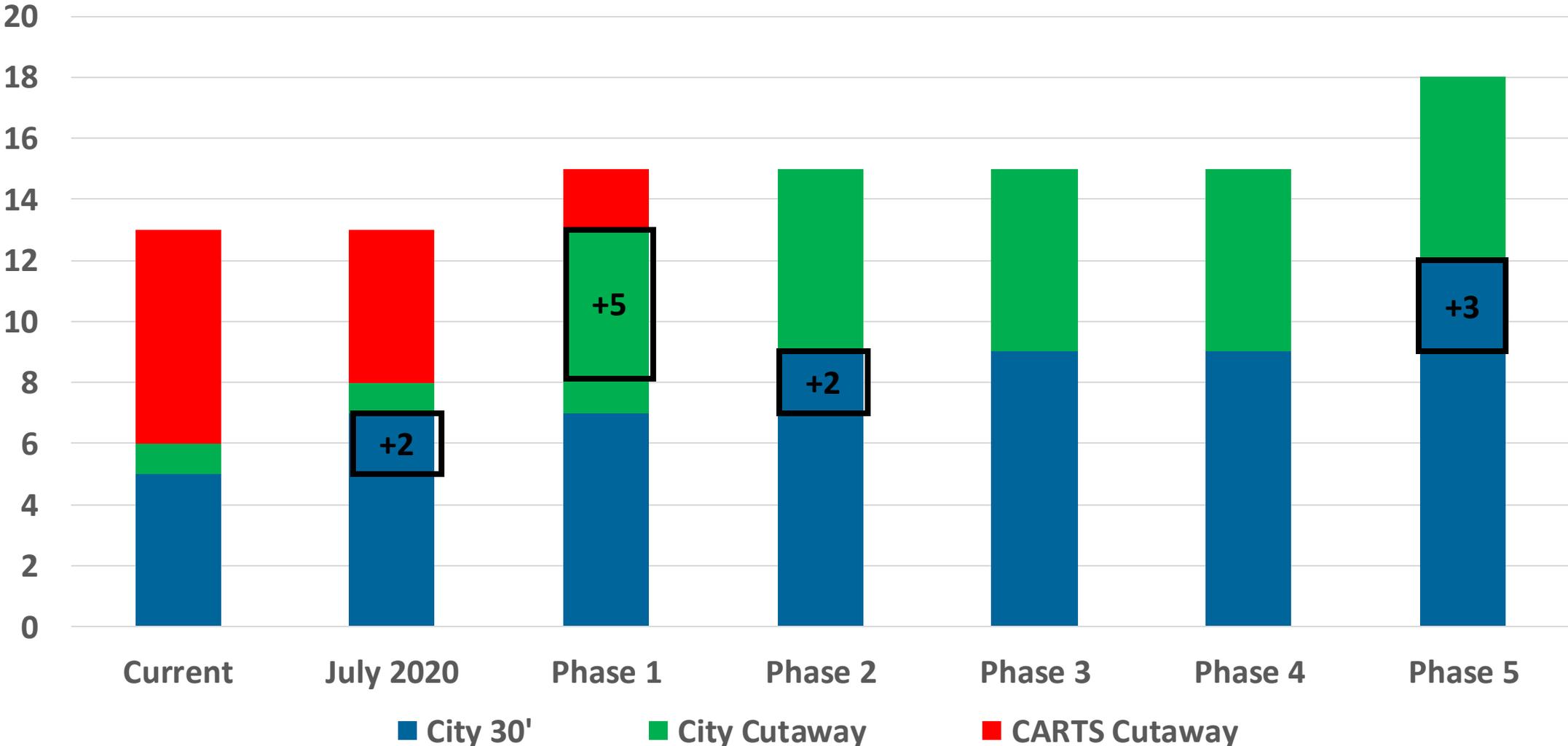


30' heavy-duty bus



25' light-duty cutaway

City Fleet Plan



Potential Downtown Transit Center



Funding Opportunities

- CARES Act Funding
 - \$3.8M of \$6.4M allocated for operating costs through 2021
- Expend awarded FTA 5339 funds (\$500K) to purchase 5 new paratransit vehicles
- FTA 5307 Small Transit Intensive Cities Funding (\$2.6M for FY 19 and FY 20)
 - Awarded based on combined performance of City and University systems
 - Establish a reasonable and equitable share for both entities

Council Direction



Service expansion plan



Downtown Transit Plaza



Paratransit policy



Zero fare policy



Transit Center



Interlocal agreement with Texas State University

Next Steps

- Finalize interlocal agreement with Texas State University
- Finalize transit plan report
- Present final recommendations to City Council



Legislation Text

File #: ID#20-317, **Version:** 1

AGENDA CAPTION:

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Meeting date: 6/2/2020

Department: City Clerk's Office on behalf of the City Council

Amount & Source of Funding

Funds Required: Click or tap here to enter text.

Account Number: Click or tap here to enter text.

Funds Available: Click or tap here to enter text.

Account Name: Click or tap here to enter text.

Fiscal Note:

Prior Council Action: Click or tap here to enter text.

City Council Goal: [Please select goal from dropdown menu below]

Choose an item.

Choose an item.

Choose an item.

Comprehensive Plan Element (s): [Please select the Plan element(s) and Goal # from dropdown menu below]

Economic Development - Choose an item.

Environment & Resource Protection - Choose an item.

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Transportation - Choose an item.

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Master Plan: *[Please select the corresponding Master Plan from the dropdown menu below (if applicable)]*

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Alternatives:

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Recommendation:

Click or tap here to enter text.