



I-35 Capital Express Central Project
Attn: Project Team
7901 N. I-35
capexcentral@txdot.gov

March 7, 2023

Re: Comments for I-35 CAPEX Central Public Hearing

On behalf of the East César Chavez Neighborhood Association & Plan Contact Team (ECCNA-NPCT), I'm writing to provide feedback on the draft Environmental Impact Statement (DEIS) for the I-35 Capital Express Central project as it relates to the East César Chavez Neighborhood, a community that's intersected by I-35 between 6th Street and Lady Bird Lake.

As stated in [our 2021 letter](#), the ECCNA-NPCT supports the City of Austin and Travis County goals for I-35 in the context of the [East César Chavez Neighborhood Plan](#):

- Minimize the overall footprint of the highway,
- Improve safe access across the highways by creating gateways into ECC,
- Increase pedestrian safety and accessibility,
- Assure a thorough public process and environmental review.

TXDOT made significant progress in developing a meaningful alternative with the development of Modified Build Alternative 3. However, in reviewing the DEIS, there's a significant opportunity to improve the scope and quality of the environmental analysis. Specifically, we urge TXDOT to:

- Evaluate NO₂, PM_{2.5}, and PM₁₀ in the Air Quality Analysis as the analysis of CO alone in DEIS Appendix P does not provide an accurate representation of the air pollution residents are exposed to;
- Conduct a longer-term greenhouse analysis beyond the construction period in DEIS Appendix V;
- Ensure the above is incorporated into a holistic comparison of alternatives.

The East Cesar Chavez neighborhood is particularly vulnerable to the harmful effects of air pollution due to its proximity to the highway. Considering I-35's history and its future impact on the East Cesar Chavez Neighborhood, a thorough environmental and community impact analysis is imperative.

We trust that TXDOT will continue to work with relevant experts, community members, City of Austin, and Travis County to achieve an effective environmental analysis of the section of I-35 that will impact East Austin residents for the next several decades.

Sincerely,

Eric Pace
Chair, ECCNPCT

cc: Council Member José Velásquez