

Williamson Creek, McNeil & Davis, Oh My!

Austin Water Embraces Tunneling
for Large-Diameter Utilities

Kane Wei, PE - City of Austin / Austin Water
Chris Mason, PE - Black & Veatch



City of Austin / Austin Water

Austin Metro Shows Record Growth

- 2nd fastest growing metro
- 50,000 new residents '22 - '23
- Population 2.55 million
25th most populous metro in the country

Departments > Austin Planning > New Census Data: Austin Metro Slips from Top Spot, Remains One of the Nation's Fastest Growing Regions

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CITY OF AUSTIN

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Release Date: Mar. 14, 2024

Contact: Caleb Pritchard [512-560-9547](tel:512-560-9547) [Email](#)



Census estimates show the Austin metro is the second-fastest growing region in the country.



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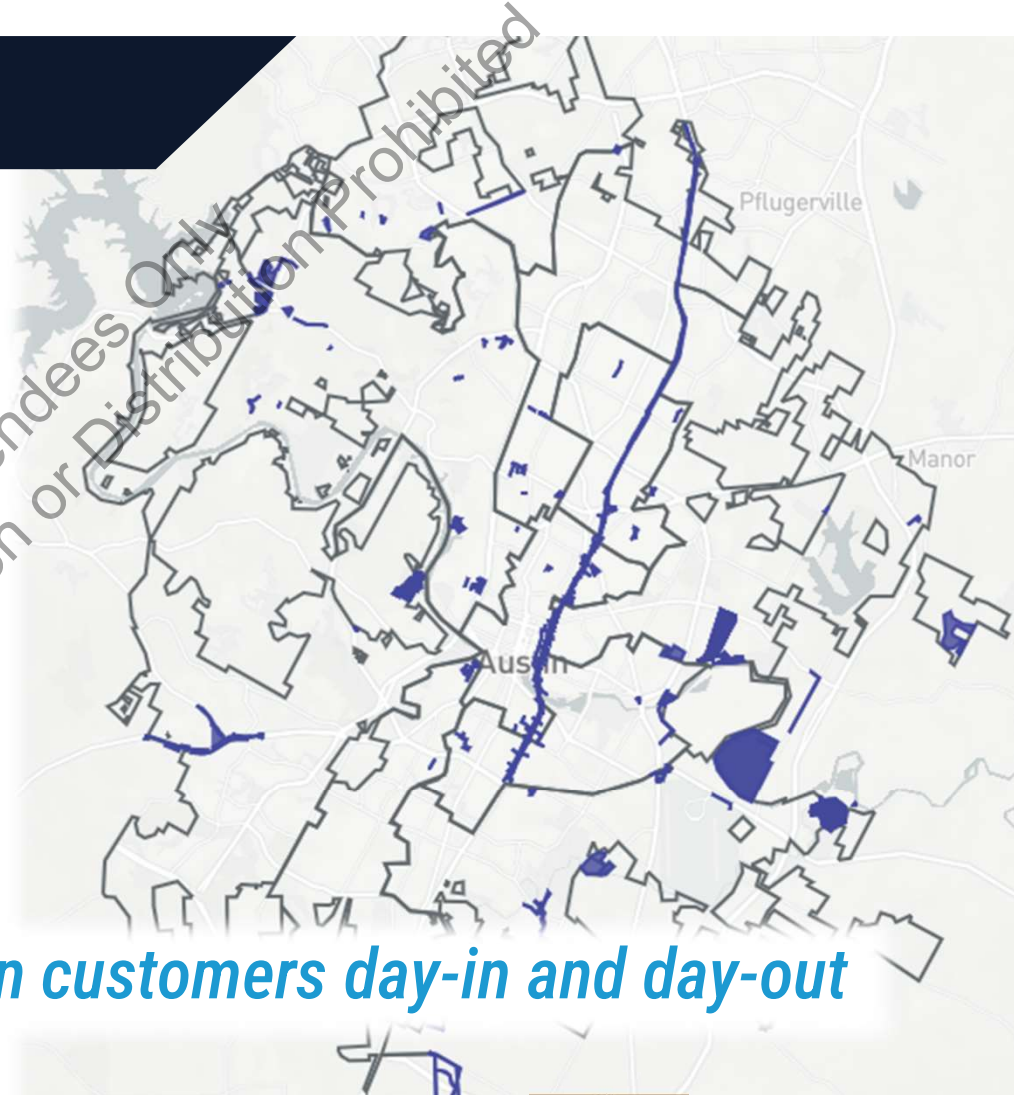


City of Austin / Austin Water

By the Numbers

- 3,800+ miles of water mains
- 2,900+ miles of wastewater mains
- 3 water treatment plants
- 2 wastewater treatment plants
- 44 water pump stations
- 38 water reservoirs
- 142 wastewater lift stations
- 59,000+ manholes

Serving Austin Water's 1 million customers day-in and day-out



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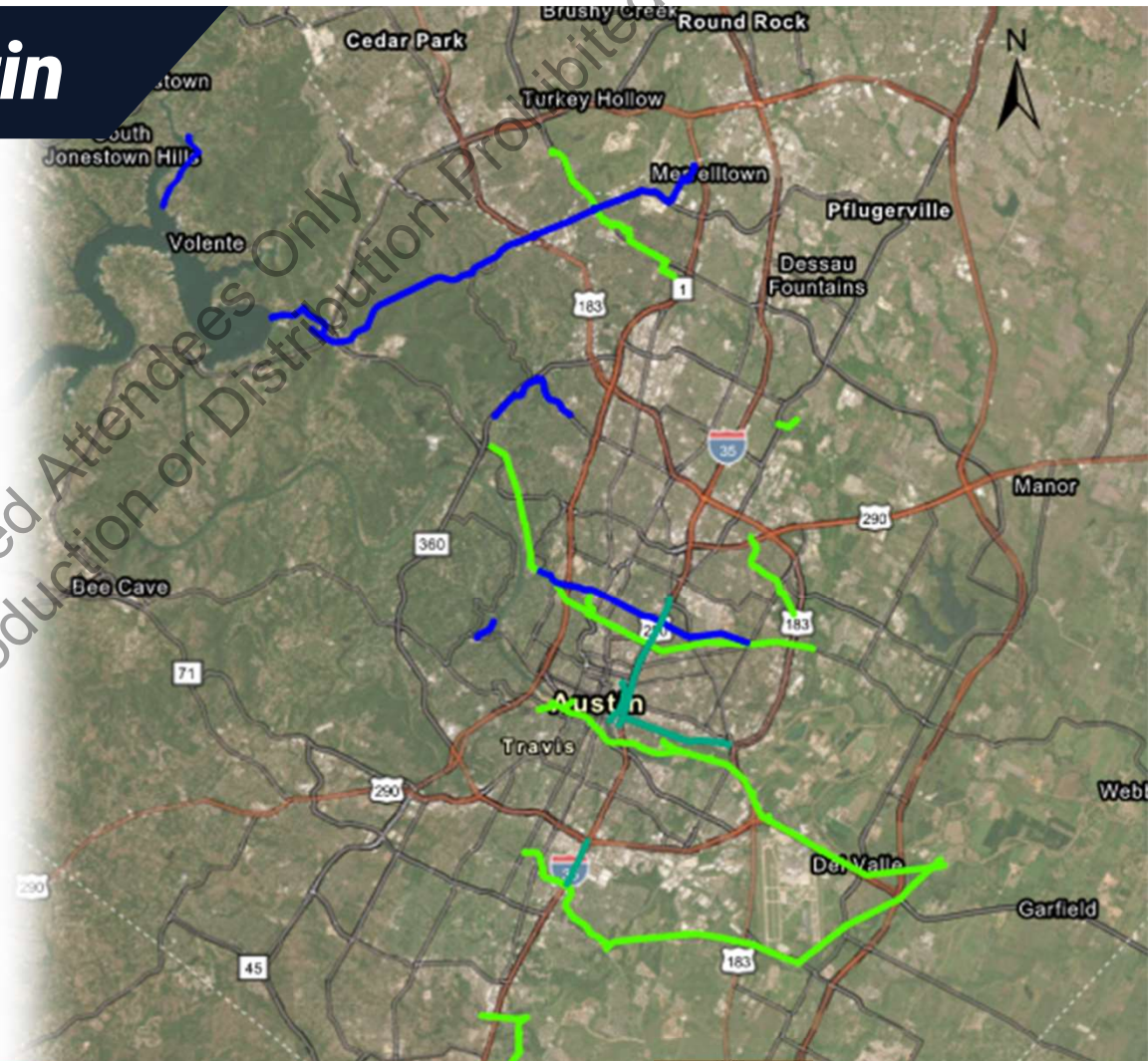
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Tunneling Projects in Austin

Long History of Tunneling

- Starting in 1970s
- Wastewater Tunnels
 - Crosstown
 - Onion Creek
 - Govalle
 - Downtown
 - Parmer Lane
- Water Tunnels
 - Jollyville WTM
 - Martin Hill TM



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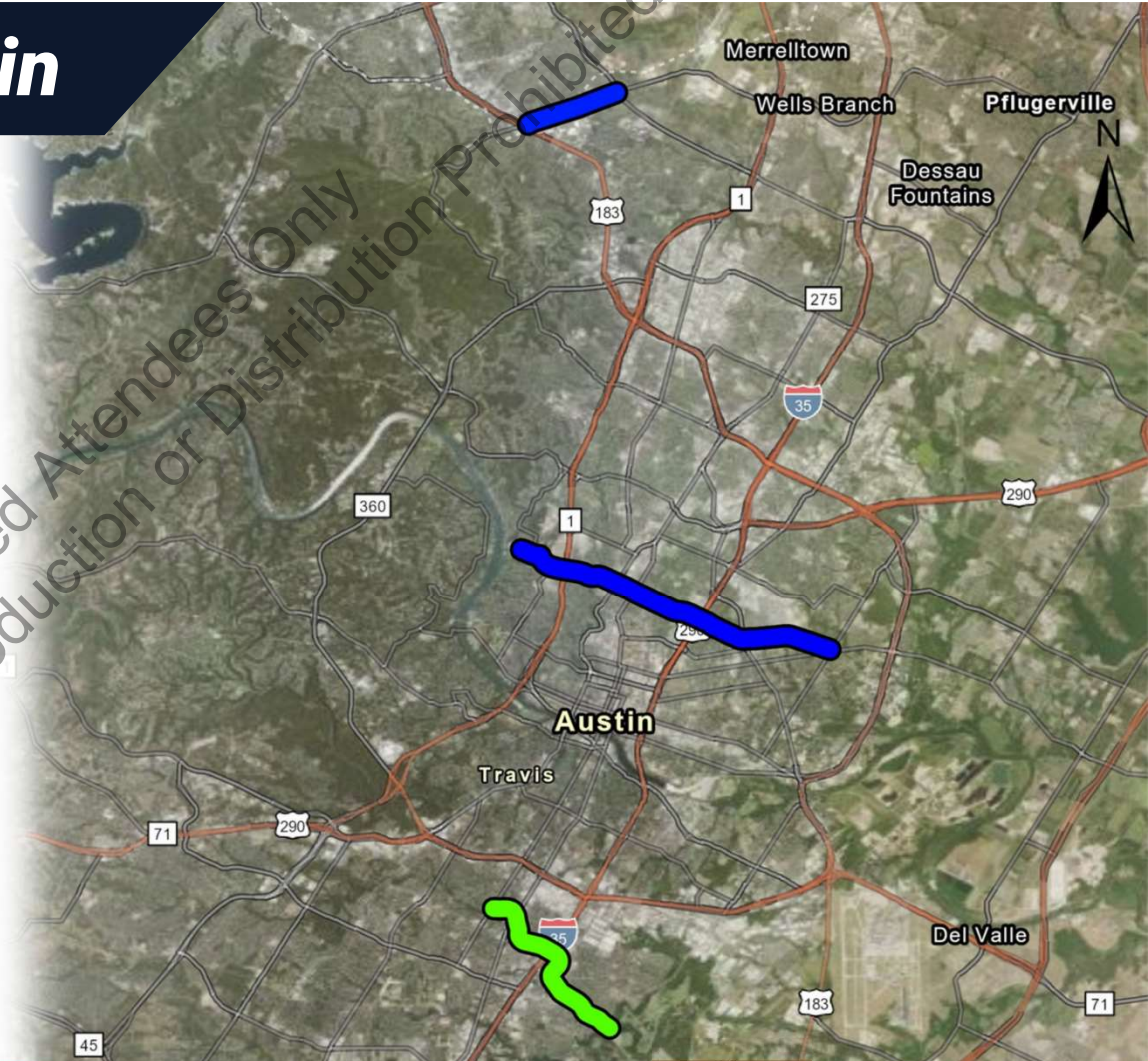
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Tunneling Projects in Austin

Current Tunnel Projects

- Williamson Creek Interceptor
- McNeil WTM
- Davis Medium WTM



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Williamson Creek Wastewater Interceptor

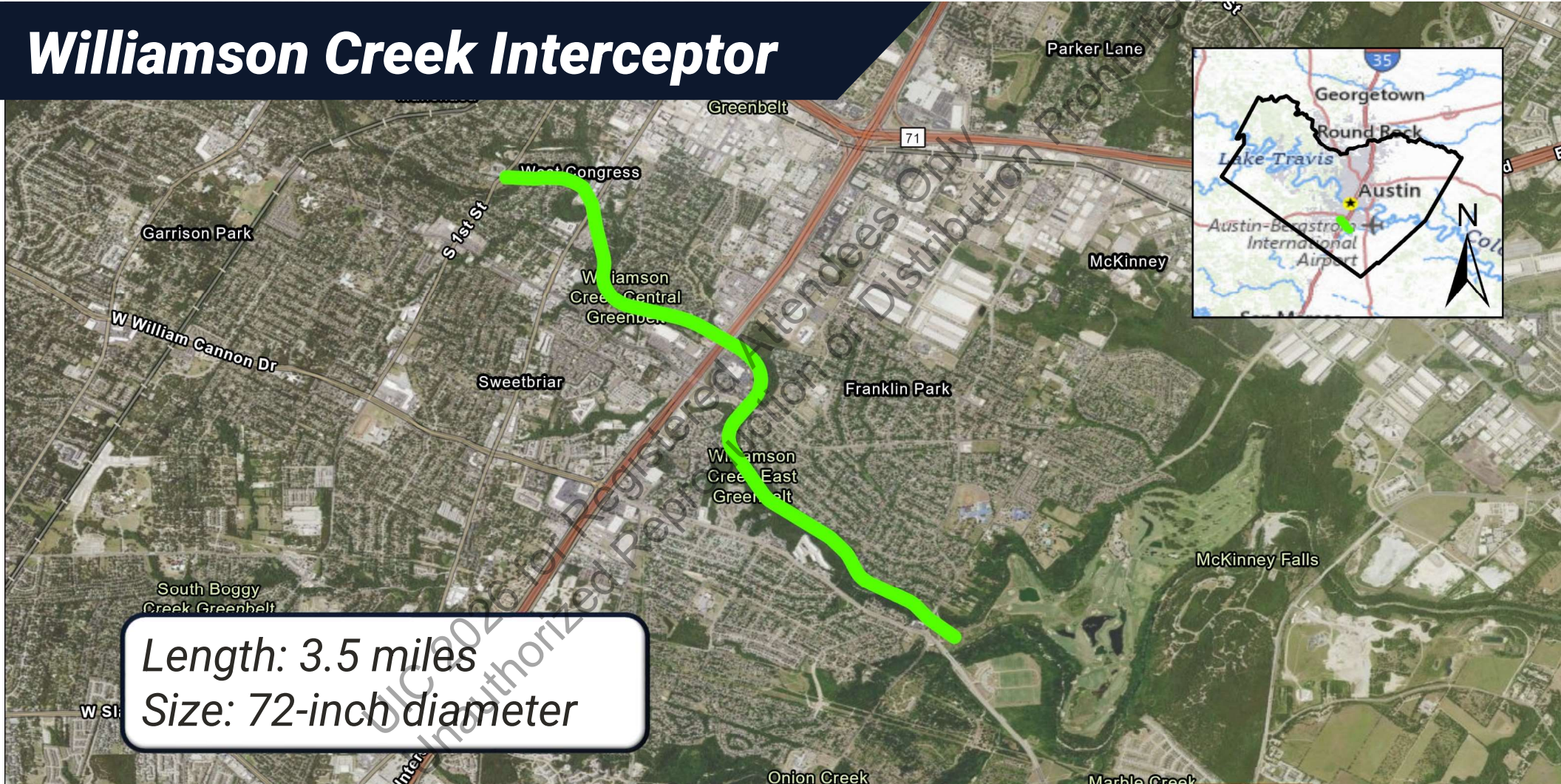
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Williamson Creek Interceptor



Length: 3.5 miles
Size: 72-inch diameter



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Williamson Creek Interceptor

Project Drivers

- Replaces 1960s interceptors
- Increases pipe capacity

Why Tunneling?

- Lowest impact to environment
- Multiple TxDOT crossings



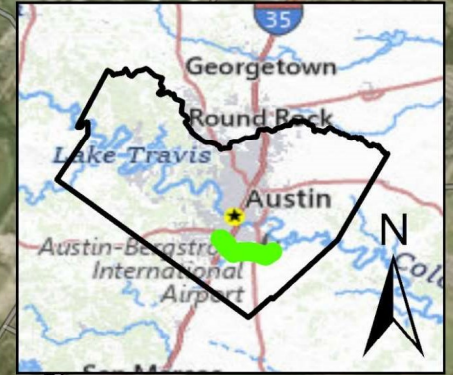
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Onion Creek Wastewater Interceptor

Completed in 1986
Length: 9.5 miles
Size: 84-inch diameter



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McNeil Drive Water Transmission Main

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McNeil Drive WTM

Length: 1.6 miles
Size: 72-inch diameter



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McNeil Drive WTM

Project Drivers

- Eliminates conveyance constraint
- Upsized existing 36-inch pipeline
- Systems interconnects
- Yard valve replacements



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McNeil Drive WTM

Why Tunneling?

- Developed project corridor
- High traffic density
- Construction in the Edwards Aquifer Recharge Zone
- Possible karst features



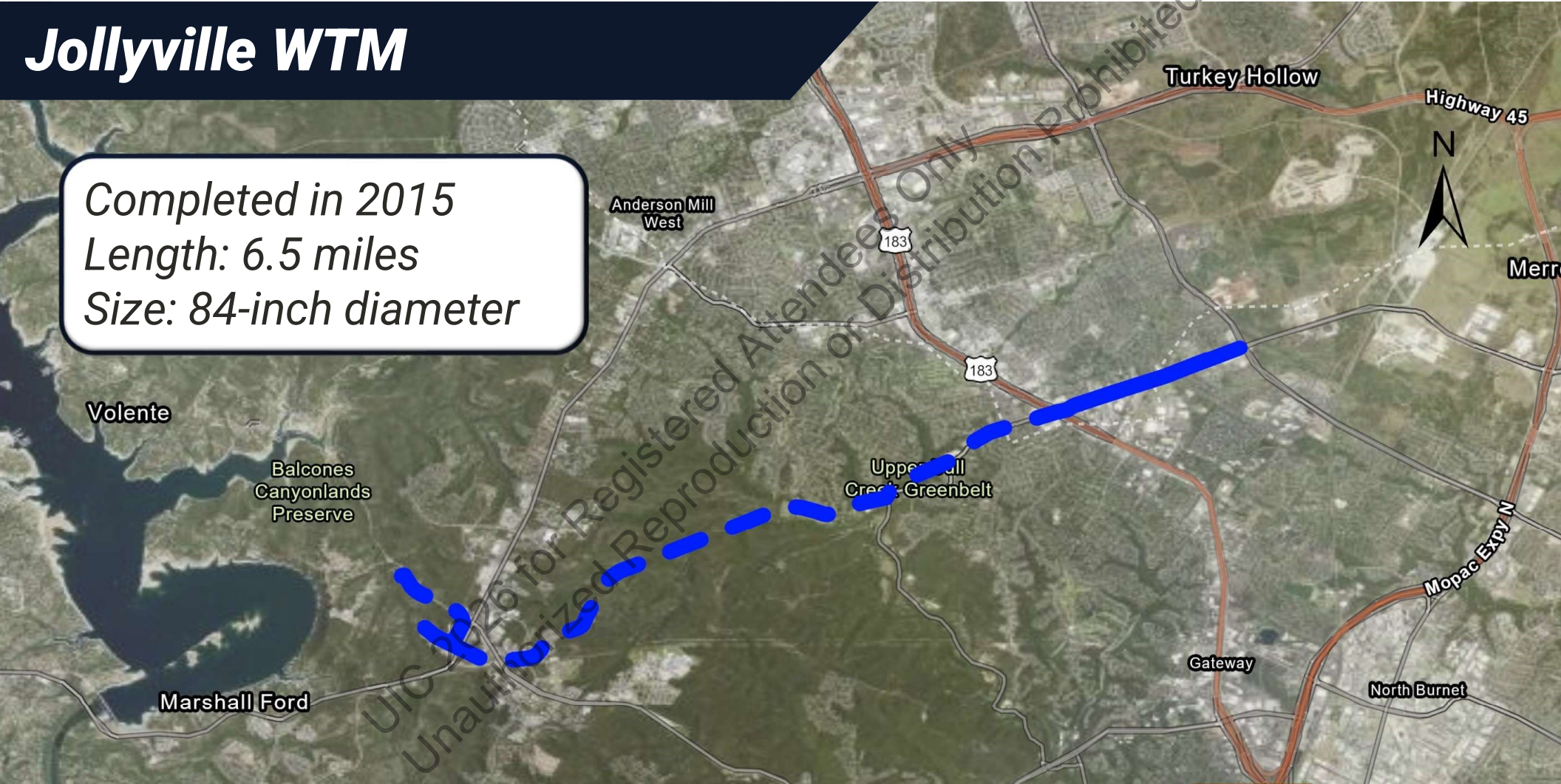
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Jollyville WTM

Completed in 2015
Length: 6.5 miles
Size: 84-inch diameter



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Davis Medium Service Water Transmission Main

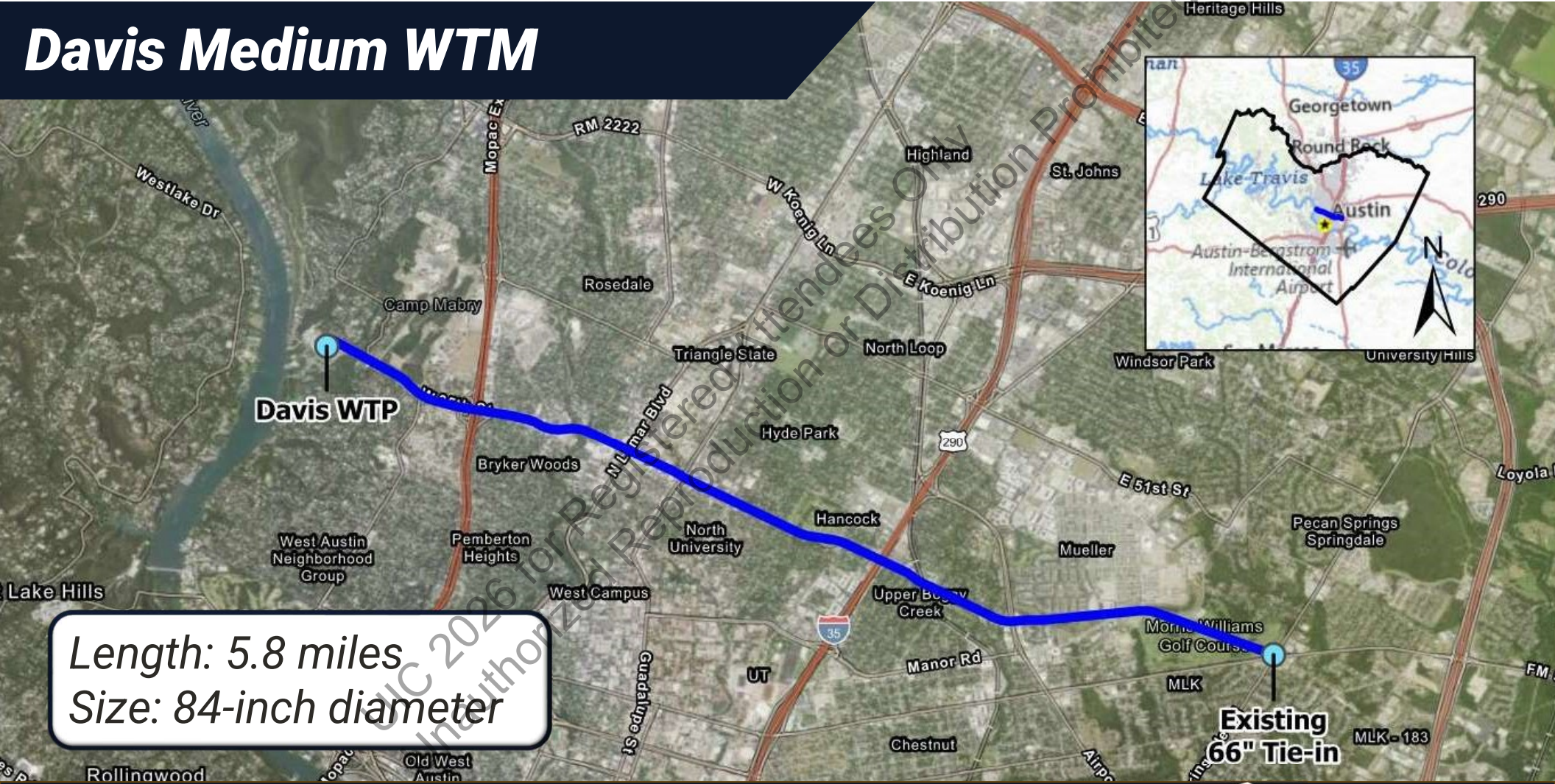
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Davis Medium WTM



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Davis Medium WTM

Project Drivers

- Capacity in the Central PZ
- System resiliency
- Austin's Water Forward Plan

Why Tunneling?

- Highly-developed corridor
- Numerous utilities crossings

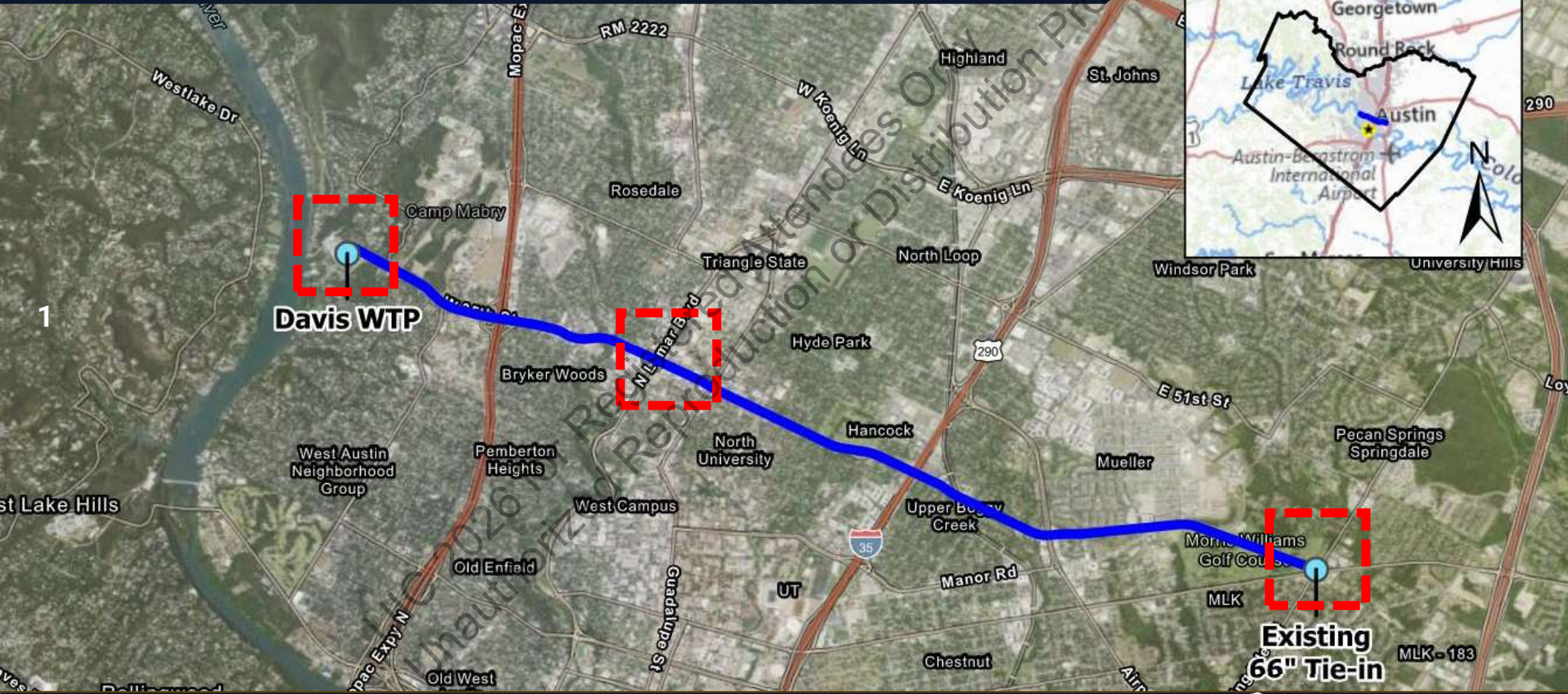


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Davis Medium WTM – Project Constraints

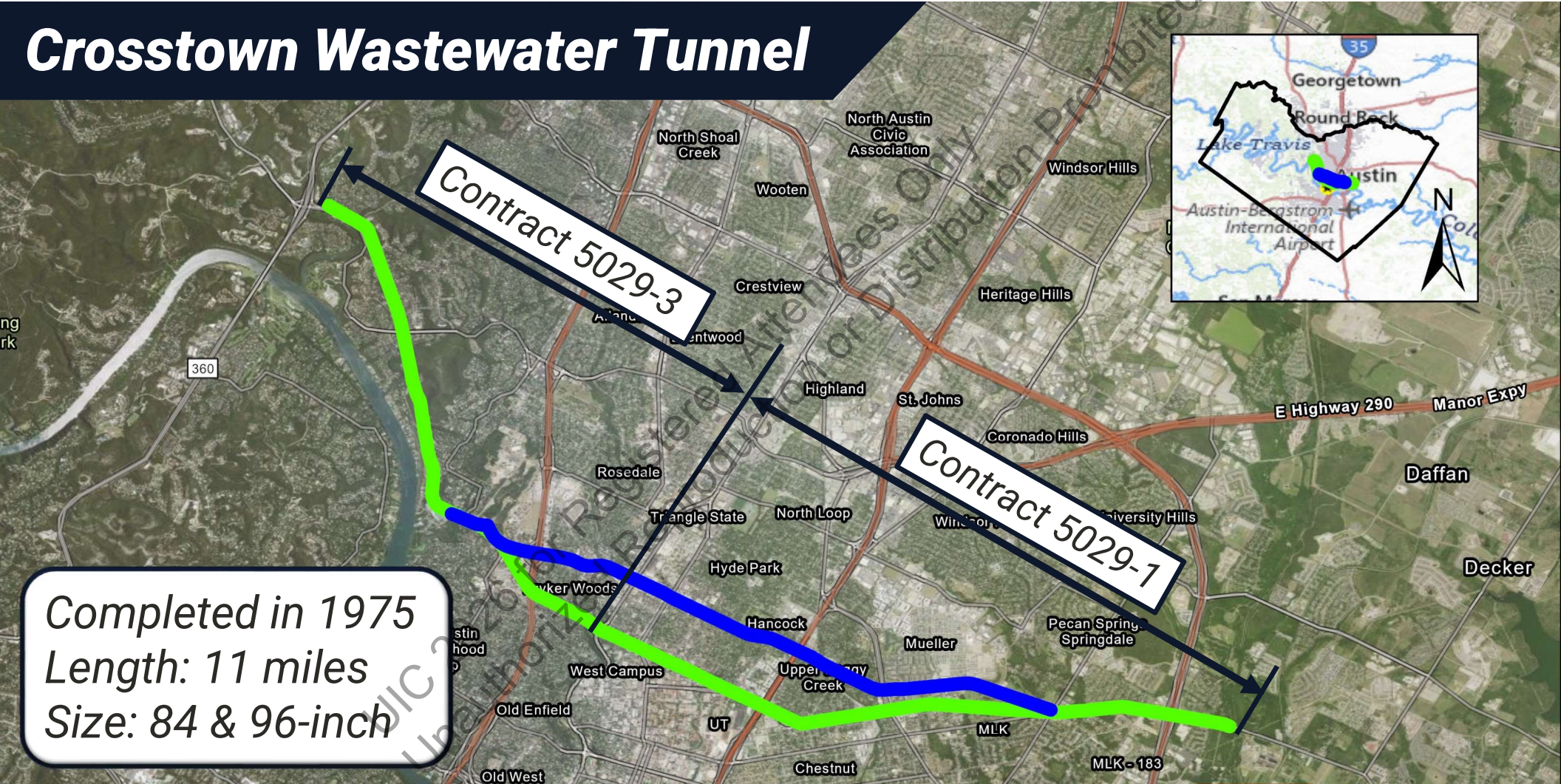


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Crosstown Wastewater Tunnel



Completed in 1975
Length: 11 miles
Size: 84 & 96-inch

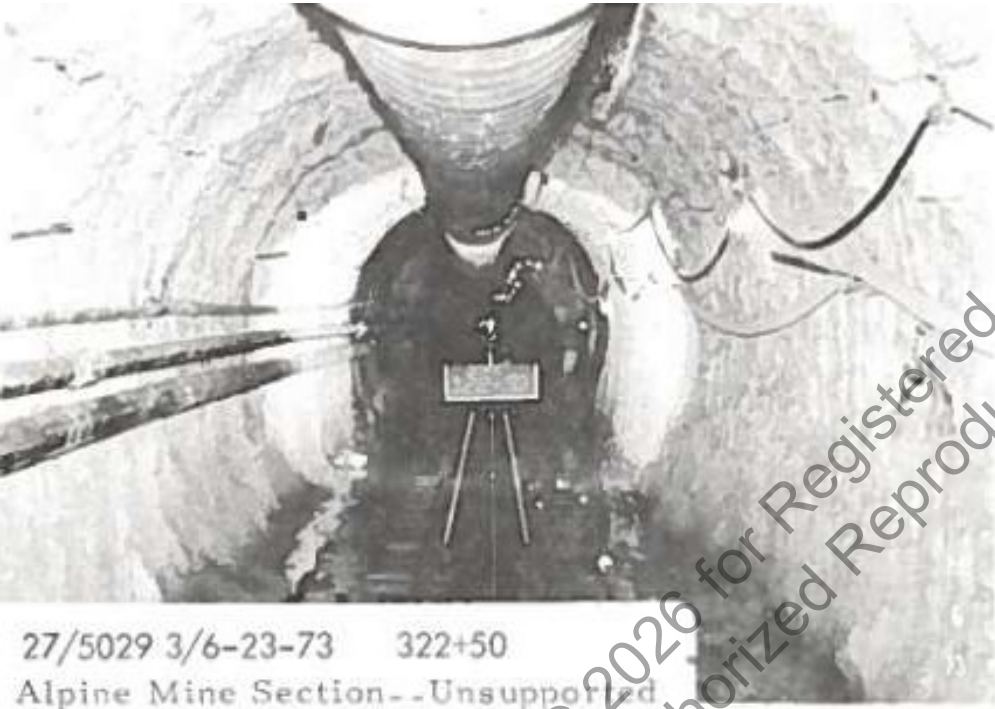


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Crosstown Wastewater Tunnel



27/5029 3/6-23-73 322+50
Alpine Mine Section--Unsupported



58/5029 1/7-7-73 21+50

Photo No. 15

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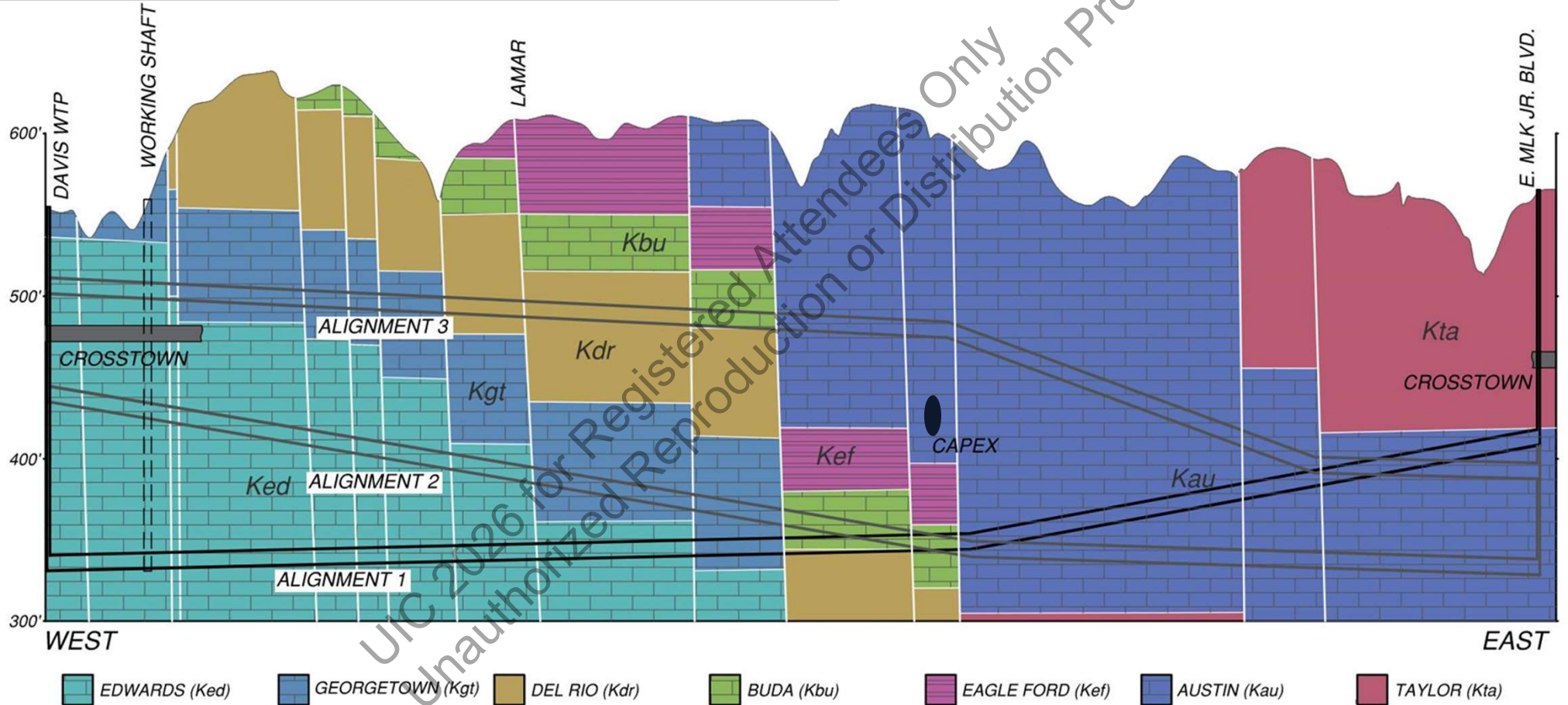


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Davis Medium WTM – Geology



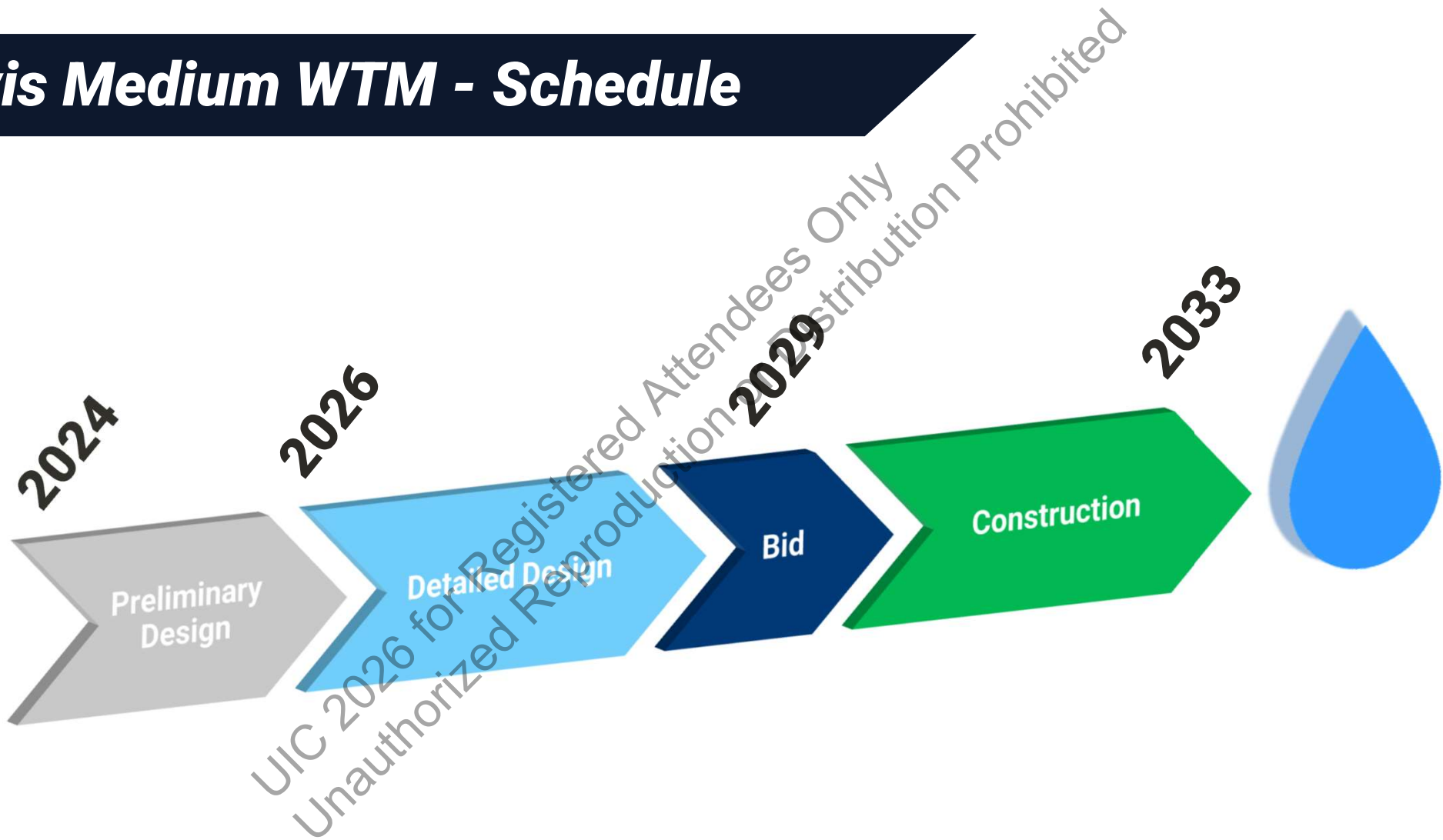
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Davis Medium WTM - Schedule



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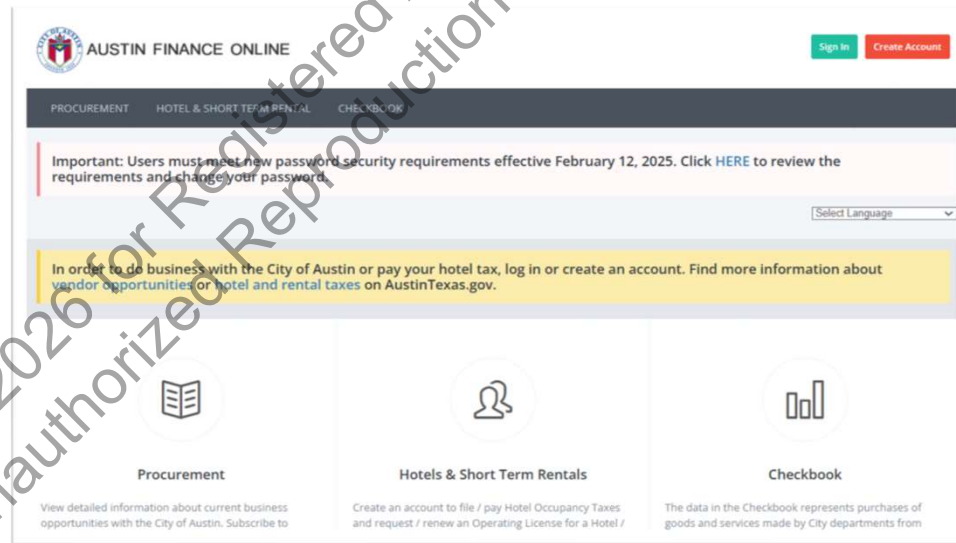


For More Information

For more information on upcoming construction projects visit:

- <https://financeonline.austintexas.gov/afo/finance/>
- <http://austintexas.gov/davismain>

*Reminder!
Davis WTM
Bid Date
Late-2028*



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Contact Information

Kane Wei, PE, ENV SP

Austin Water, Pipeline CIP

Kane.Wei@austintexas.gov



Chris Mason, PE

Black & Veatch

MasonCE@bv.com



**BLACK &
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