



**For Immediate Release:**

Media Contact  
Mandi Thomas  
[mandi@thetrailconservancy.org](mailto:mandi@thetrailconservancy.org)  
(214) 668-7034

## **Butler Trail Detour Announced to Support I-35 Capital Express Central Project**

**Austin, TX** – The Trail Conservancy, in close collaboration with Austin Parks and Recreation and the Texas Department of Transportation (TxDOT), will implement a temporary detour of the Ann and Roy Butler Hike-and-Bike Trail to ensure Trail user safety during construction on the I-35 Capital Express Central project.

“Our top priority is keeping trail users safe throughout this major infrastructure project,” said Julie Fisher, CEO of The Trail Conservancy. “Together with Austin Parks and Recreation, we are working hand-in-hand with TxDOT to minimize disruptions while ensuring the Trail experience remains safe, accessible, and welcoming for everyone.”

### **Trail Detour Route & Design**

The detour, located along the south side of East Avenue, is designed to balance safety and accessibility without crossing traffic. This detour is expected to remain in place throughout the project's duration, with an anticipated completion date of 2033. Key features include:

- A 14-foot-wide path, aligned with recommendations from the *Butler Trail Safety & Mobility Study*
- Decomposed granite surfacing on sections to reflect the Trail’s existing character, with permanent concrete where existing infrastructure allows (e.g., under the north side of I-35 bridge)
- Route planning that prioritizes preserving existing trees where possible
- Safety fencing around active construction areas, including a 6-foot chain-link fence around the dock and TxDOT right of way

Vehicular traffic on East Avenue will remain two-way, but some on-street parking adjacent to the construction site will be restricted. The boat ramp west of I-35, near the Holiday Inn, will be reserved for emergency vehicle access only.

**Construction Timeline** (*subject to change due to conditions and weather*)

- **September 15, 2025** – Parking lot under the I-35 bridge (north shore of Lady Bird Lake) closes
- **Late September/Early October 2025** – Detour west of I-35 opens (construction expected to take 3 weeks)
- **Late November/Early December 2025** – Detour east of I-35 opens following construction in November

## Butler Trail Detour

**Start: October 2025**  
**End: Expected through 2033**

Existing Route ———  
Detour Route - - - - -

**More Information:**  
[TheTrailConservancy.org/detours](https://TheTrailConservancy.org/detours)



### Community Information Session

TxDOT will host a *Community Connectors Meeting* to provide an overview of the Trail-related work and bridge reconstruction:

- **Date:** Thursday, Sept. 4, 2025
- **Time:** 6–7 p.m.



- **Location:** Travis Early College High School – Cafeteria, 1211 E. Oltorf St., Austin, TX 78704

Topics will include:

- Planned north shore trail work for fall 2025
- Detour and closure strategies to minimize disruption
- Phasing of the Lady Bird Lake bridge reconstruction
- Current work in the Lady Bird Lake segment

Meeting materials and project boards will be posted [online](#) following the event.

For updates on this project, visit [TheTrailConservancy.org/Detours](https://TheTrailConservancy.org/Detours) or follow @TheTrailConservancy on social media.

### **The Trail Conservancy**

The Trail Conservancy is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit dedicated to protecting, enhancing, and connecting the Ann and Roy Butler Hike-and-Bike Trail at Lady Bird Lake for the benefit of all. In partnership with the City of Austin, The Trail Conservancy serves as the primary steward of the 10-mile Trail and the surrounding 300 acres of Town Lake Metropolitan Park. While Austin Parks and Recreation retains ownership and management of the park, The Trail Conservancy leads ecological restoration, public programming, and capital projects that ensure the Trail remains a cherished community treasure for generations to come.

# # #