

Central Texas Construction Partnership Program - Construction Data Platform, Work Zone Management Tool, and CTX Go Application



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Overview

The Central Texas Construction Partnership Program (CPP) unites the region's seven transportation agencies behind a single, data-driven approach to managing an unprecedented wave of construction, including more than 35 major projects and over \$20 billion in infrastructure investment planned across the next decade. Led by the TxDOT Austin District, CPP built a bi-directional Construction Data Platform (CDP) that aggregates and standardizes lane closure, incident, and traffic data from every partner agency. That shared data feeds a Work Zone Management Tool that coordinates overlapping closures and the public-facing CTX GO app and website, which deliver real-time closures, incidents, travel times, and multimodal trip planning to travelers. By replacing siloed communication with unified, real-time information, CPP works to keep Central Texas safe, moving, and informed while improving coordination, emergency response, and public transparency during a period of intense construction.

In this case study you will learn:

1. How seven Central Texas transportation agencies established a unified governance model, anchored by a Memorandum of Understanding, an Interlocal Agreement, and an Executive Committee, to coordinate construction and traffic management across jurisdictions.
2. How CPP built a bi-directional Construction Data Platform, a Work Zone Management Tool, and the CTX GO app to aggregate, standardize, and share real-time closure, incident, and traffic data across the region.
3. Why real-time, accurate traveler information and AI-enabled traffic monitoring are central to improving safety, mobility, and reliability during a period of unprecedented construction.

BACKGROUND

Central Texas is experiencing unprecedented growth, with the population projected to increase by 35 percent by 2030. This rapid expansion, combined with more than \$20 billion in infrastructure investments over the next decade, has resulted in more than 35 major projects, ranging from highway and toll road reconstructions to a new transit system, airport expansion and convention center remodel, all happening simultaneously. The resulting construction activity, especially along the I-35 corridor, creates significant challenges for mobility, safety and public information.

The Central Texas Construction Partnership Program (CPP) was established in response to these challenges and aligns perfectly with the goals of TxDOT Austin District's TSMO Program Plan: safety, reliability, efficiency and collaboration. The region's seven transportation agencies recognized the urgent need for a unified approach to coordinate construction activities and minimize disruptions to the public. The initial catalyst was the I-35 Capital Express (CapEx) project in Downtown Austin, which required extensive coordination under the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) to ensure effective public and interagency communication.

CPP's mission is to keep Central Texas safe, moving, and informed during this period of intense construction. The program was designed to provide real-time, accurate information to stakeholders, allowing for better route choices, reducing congestion, and improving safety. Early on, the partnership identified the need for a single platform that could aggregate and share construction, lane closure, and traffic data across agencies. This vision evolved to include a comprehensive Transportation Demand Management (TDM) platform offering information on shared rides, carpools, public transport, and more. By bringing together public agencies and leveraging technology, CPP set out to create a model for regional coordination that could serve as a proof of concept for future traffic management and public information initiatives in Texas and beyond.

TSMO PLANNING, STRATEGIES, AND DEPLOYMENT

The CPP is firmly grounded in Transportation Systems Management & Operations (TSMO) principles, beginning with a strong foundation in TSMO planning. Early in development, partner agencies identified the need for a coordinated regional approach to construction and traffic management, aligning with the collaborative, data-driven framework outlined in TSMO Program and Tactical Plans. CPP established a multiagency partnership model with shared objectives, unified governance, and standardized data practices, enabling a shift from siloed communication to proactive, integrated network management.

Building on this foundation, CPP implemented strategies to enhance safety, mobility, and system performance during unprecedented construction levels. Central to this is the Construction Data Platform (CDP), a bi-directional system that aggregates and standardizes data from all partner agencies, enabling real-time, actionable insights. Additional strategies include a regional traffic management system through a standardized data schema and AI-enabled solutions like Rekor for proactive traffic monitoring and incident assessment. The Work Zone Management Tool is an advanced tool that coordinates lane closures, detects conflicts, and streamlines communication across overlapping work zones.

CPP's iterative deployment approach included a Minimum Viable Product workshop and technical sessions to refine the CDP, Work Zone Management Tool, and CTX GO app. Public-facing tools like the CTX GO app and website provide real-time closures, incidents, and alerts, supporting TSMO's traveler information objectives. By unifying agencies, leveraging AI, coordinating work zones, and preparing for a Regional Traffic Management Center, CPP exemplifies the ability to improve safety, mobility, and reliability during Central Texas's construction boom.



COMMUNICATIONS PLANNING AND EXECUTION

Effective communication has been at the core of the CPP's success. The program's communications strategy was designed to reach three key audiences: the public, internal TxDOT teams, and CPP agency partners. Coordination with external agencies such as the City of Austin, CTRMA, CAMPO, Travis County, ATP, CapMetro and UT Austin CTR was done through collaborative workshops. These sessions were used to jointly define goals, identify operational objectives, establish the fundamental requirements, review progress, address action items, coordinate with agency leadership, and plan for future improvements. The partnership was further strengthened through the CPP's governance framework, including the Memorandum of Understanding (MOU), Interlocal Agreement (ILA), and the Executive Committee. These structures guide strategic decisions, formalize responsibilities, and ensure consistent communication across organizations. The collaborative approach ensures that all partners are aligned and that communication strategies are consistent across organizations.

For stakeholders, CPP developed and launched the CTX GO app and companion website, providing real-time traffic maps, work zone activities, incidents, and travel times. The app features a customizable trip planner that uses real-time data from multiple agencies, offering multimodal travel options and construction alerts for both planned and unplanned events. Public engagement included user testing sessions, which informed app improvements and ensured the platform met community needs.

Internally, TxDOT conducted district and area office meetings to introduce the app and train staff in its use. Area offices play a critical role by entering closure data into the platform, ensuring information is current and accurate. The Work Zone Management Tool empowers inspectors and area offices to update lane closures on the go, streamlining data entry and enhancing the quality of information available to the public. CPP also developed brochures, presentations, and FAQs to explain the benefits of TSMO and the new tools to both internal and external stakeholders. The program's emphasis on transparency and responsiveness has built trust and fostered a culture of continuous improvement.

OUTCOMES, BENEFITS, AND LEARNINGS

The CPP has delivered measurable benefits to Central Texas residents, agencies, and the traveling public. Partner agencies now share construction and traffic information through a unified, bidirectional Construction Data Platform (CDP), transforming how data is collected, standardized, and used to support decision-making across the region. This shift will improve coordination by allowing agencies to proactively manage regional mobility impacts instead of responding after closures occur. The development of the Work Zone Management Tool and the CTX GO application will modernize the way the region communicates closures, incidents, and travel conditions, enabling more accurate and timely updates to both internal teams and the public. These outcomes represent a major advancement in multi-agency coordination and traffic management practices.

The most significant outcome is the improved access to accurate real-time information, which has empowered travelers to make better route choices and avoid construction-related delays. The development of the CTX GO app and platform empowers the public and agency partners by supporting incident response, emergency dispatch, and coordinated lane closure management.

Key community impacts include supporting enhanced mobility during major construction events, improving emergency response coordination, and reducing congestion through proactive lane closure management. The use of AI-driven insights and proactive traffic management reduces the likelihood of secondary crashes and supports more reliable travel through major construction corridors. Public transparency is also greatly improved with real-time updates, trip planning tools, and unified messaging across agencies. The platform can also support special events, such as University of Texas games, by providing timely information on closures and alternative routes.

With the launch of the CTX GO app and platform, the region anticipates improvements in incident response times, reductions in conflicting closures, and increased public satisfaction with construction information. CPP's commitment to innovation, transparency, and public service has minimized disruptions and kept Central Texas moving forward during a period of unprecedented construction activity.

