I-35 CAPITAL EXPRESS CENTRAL PROJECT
LADY BIRD LAKE BRIDGE OVERVIEW

Lady Bird Lake Segment Overview

Project Limits: Holly Street to SH 71/Ben White Boulevard

Details: Add two high-occupancy-vehicle (HOV) managed lanes in both directions, reconstruct the Lady Bird Lake bridge and build a single-point urban interchange (SPUI) at Riverside Drive. Construct bicycle and pedestrian paths along the corridor and add a pedestrian-only bridge at Woodland Avenue to enhance safety and connectivity. The project will also accommodate future Capital Metro routes.

Anticipated completion date: 2033, weather permitting.

Improvements to Pedestrian Paths

Lady Bird Lake is the southern gateway into downtown Austin and a source for tourism and recreation in the capital. The Lady Bird Lake bridge was originally constructed in 1956 with five-foot-wide pedestrian sidewalks on the I-35 vehicular bridge and has not been updated to meet user demand. As a part of the Lady Bird Lake segment, The Texas Department of Transportation (TxDOT) will reconstruct the bridge to enhance safety, improve mobility and help reduce congestion. Construction will include two new standalone pedestrian bridges, up to 24 feet in width. The new bridges will offer shade structures and scenic lookouts to better serve all users.

Figure 1- Rendering of future Lady Bird Lake bridge.

WHAT TO EXPECT

- Closure of existing east pedestrian sidewalk on the Lady Bird Lake bridge beginning in early 2026.
- Reduced to one lane on the northbound I-35 frontage road bridge over Lady Bird Lake beginning in early 2026.
- Multi-day closures are limited to three times per year, each lasting no more than one week.
- Nightly trail closures along Lady Bird Lake will be limited to 10 p.m. - 5 a.m.

In early 2026, waterway traffic under the I-35 bridge will be limited to a 75-foot-wide passage under the center portion of the bridge and away from work zones. Public safety signs and barriers will be in place.

CONSTRUCTION OVERVIEW

Construction along the Lady Bird Lake bridge and local trails will take place in multiple phases:

BEGINNING 2026	
Construction Lady Bird Lake East pedestrian bridge	Reconstruct northbound I-35 frontage road bridge.

2029-2033		
Reconstruct northbound and southbound I-35 mainlane bridges.	Reconstruct southbound I-35 frontage road bridge.	Construct Lady Bird Lake west pedestrian bridge.

**All dates are subject to change.*

NORTH SHORE

Trail users on the north shore of Lady Bird Lake can expect:

- A slight trail detour around the dock site.
- Loading dock construction site.
- Barge operations to transport construction materials and equipment needed for reconstruction of the Lady Bird Lake bridge.
- Holiday Inn boat ramp access restrictions.
- Staging of equipment and materials under the I-35 bridge.

Figure 2- Map of Lady Bird Lake North Shore Access Changes

SOUTH SHORE

Trail users on the south shore of Lady Bird Lake can expect:

- East pedestrian boardwalk ramp closure at the northbound I-35 frontage road.
- Lower boardwalk and staircase to remain open outside of intermittent closures.
- Other entry points available east and west of I-35.
- Pedestrian shifts along Edgecliff Terrace and Manlove Street during Lady Bird Lake bridge and Riverside Drive reconstruction.

Figure 3- Map of Pedestrian Boardwalk Ramp Closed at I-35

CONTACT INFORMATION

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