



#### FUTURE TRANSPORTATION CONCEPT

### ELEVATED GONDOLA SYSTEM

★ It may not make a dent in solving all of our traffic problems, but an elevated gondola system is still a really cool idea. The City of Austin, Capital Metro and Central Texas Regional Mobility Authority funded a study for a line that would run along South First Street and stretch 8 miles from Martin Luther King Jr. Boulevard to Slaughter Lane. (Results of the study were unknown when this issue went to press.) As more people move here, every transit idea—no matter how over the top it might seem—is worth consideration.

#### NICHE FILLERS

### NEW RIDE-HAILING COMPANIES

★ In May, transportation network companies Uber and Lyft left Austin after voters decided against Prop. 1, which requires fingerprint background checks for drivers and other regulations. Seeing an opportunity, several new ridehailing companies swooped in to fill the void. Despite some early glitches, RideAustin, Fare, Fasten and GetMe, to name a few, came through to give Austinites more options for getting around town and changed the market to be more competitive than ever.



#### NEW ALL-AROUND HOTSPOT

### HOTEL VAN ZANDT

★ The Live Music Capital of the World deserved a hotel like the Hotel Van Zandt, which opened last November in the Rainey Street District. Boasting trumpet chandeliers, live music 365 days a year at its restaurant, Geraldine's, and a pool that features an underwater soundtrack, it's an ideal place to enjoy dinner and cocktails while hearing some great live music. *605 Davis St., [hotelvanzandt.com](http://hotelvanzandt.com)*

#### NEW MOBILE SHOP

### VELOFIX

★ This June, when Vancouver-based mobile bike shop Velofix finally arrived and began offering expert maintenance and repairs on bikes, cyclists were overjoyed for the convenience and quality care. And having it show up wherever you are? It's a concept that took its time to get here but turned out to be well worth the wait. *[velofix.com](http://velofix.com)*

#### MOST PROMISING CITY INITIATIVE

### AUSTIN MUSIC & CREATIVE ECOSYSTEM OMNIBUS RESOLUTION

★ Affordability has affected the city's most treasured tourist attraction: its musicians. The city leaders seemed to have finally woken up to the fact that artists—in all creative fields—are being forced out because they can't afford to live or pursue their craft here anymore. In response to a study on the issue, Mayor Steve Adler initiated the Austin Music & Creative Ecosystem Omnibus Resolution. The hope is that it will help create solutions in areas such as economic development opportunities and more affordable spaces. So far, the outlook remains positive that artists across all fields will see some relief soon.

**AUTO MECHANIC**  
Juke Auto

**BIKE SHOP**  
Tie: Bicycle Sport Shop / Mellow Johnny's

**DELIVERY APP**  
Favor

**DRY CLEANERS**  
Jack Brown Cleaners

**FLOWER SHOP**  
Freytag's

**HOTEL**  
Hotel Van Zandt

**HOUSE-CLEANING SERVICES**  
The Steam Team

**INTERIOR DESIGN**  
Heather Scott Home & Design

**LANDSCAPING**  
Open Envelope Studio

**MOVERS**  
Einstein Moving Company

**PET DAYCARE/BOARDING**  
A to Z Dog Ranch

**PET GROOMING**  
Dirty Dog

**PET STORE**  
Tomlinson's

**SHOE REPAIR**  
Austin Shoe Hospital

**TAILOR**  
Ace Tailors

**WEDDING VENUE**  
Hotel Van Zandt

**RUNNER-UP:**  
MERCURY HALL

PHOTOS COURTESY HOTEL VAN ZANDT AND RIDE AUSTIN.