

Underground Parking Garage & Texas Mall

The Texas Mall will extend along Congress Avenue from 16th Street to the new museum plaza at Martin Luther King Jr. Boulevard. The mall will include grass lawn center panels framed by wide walkways and a double row of trees along the east and west sides under which pedestrian pathways, rest and play areas will be interspersed. The pedestrian entrance and exits from the underground parking garage will occur through stairway and elevator portals that pop up along the mall providing easy access to and from the Mall. The stairway portals will be designed using cascading stairs that will allow anyone rising from the garage levels to see daylight as they ascend.

Vehicular access to the garage will occur from both the east and west bound lanes of 17th Street, as well as, through the 1801 Congress Avenue building at Brazos Street. The garage is designed with three lane access that allows for two lanes in and two lanes out at peak travel times. The garage is also designed with speed ramps that allow for high capacity ingress and egress to all levels.

A feature of the 17th Street access to the underground parking garage is the creation of a large plaza area on the Mall at this intersection. This plaza and the natural rise in elevation as the mall extends southwards create a wonderful opportunity for a larger outdoor venue for live music and other events. Spectators can sit facing northward on the sloping lawn panel between 16th and 17th Streets and enjoy an outdoor stage erected on the mall plaza at 17th Street. This portion of the mall will be outfitted with electrical outlets and other infrastructure to support such events.