



**THE GENERAL MEETING OF THE PROJECT CONNECT
COMMUNITY ADVISORY COMMITTEE**

MEETING MINUTES

Thursday, June 8, 2023

ATP Office | Conference Room

203 Colorado Street, Austin, TX 78701

(with some members of the CAC participating via video conference)

Members in Attendance:

Awais Azhar – Chair
Joao Paulo Connolly
Noe Elias
Teddy Fong
Michael Gorse
Renee Lopez
Susan Somers
Ephraim Taylor

Members Absent:

Susana Almanza
Kathryn Broadwater
Gretchen Flatau
Jeremy Hendricks
Alex Karner

Attendees:

Brandon Carr
Courtney Chavez
Veronica Castro de Barrera
Terry Hockens
Nefertitti Jackmon

Miguel Lopez
Peter Mullan
Jennifer Pyne
Marla Torrado

CALL TO ORDER

The Project Connect Community Advisory Committee convened in a regular meeting on Thursday, June 8, 2023.

Chair Azhar called the Committee meeting to order at 5:06 PM

Land Acknowledgement

Miguel Lopez read the Land Acknowledgement statement.

Citizen Communication

No citizens shared their comment at this time.

Approval of Minutes

- 1. Approve the minutes of the April 13, 2023, and the May 4, 2023, and the May 11, 2023, meetings of the Project Connect Community Advisory Committee.**

The minutes of the April 13, 2023, general meeting, and the May 4, 2023, Special Called meeting, and the May 11, 2023, general meeting were approved on a motion by Member Somers, seconded by Member Lopez; confirmed with a unanimous vote (8-0).

Staff Updates

- 1. ATP Staff Updates**

Brandon Carr, Senior Vice President of Legal Services and General Counsel for the Austin Transportation Partnership, provided an update on the processes, potential legislation, ATP interaction, and outcomes of the 88th Texas Legislature Session. The update was followed by a discussion session.

- 2. CapMetro Staff Updates**

No updates were provided at this time

- 3. City of Austin Staff Updates**

Housing Department

Marla Torrado, Community Development Manager for the City of Austin, provided an update on the process, and progress, of the \$20 million awarded to the 14 non-profits and organizations within the Community Initiated Solutions Program.

- 4. Working Group/TAC Updates**

No updates were provided at this time

Discussion Items

- 1. ATP Adoption of Light Rail recommendations - Veronica Castro de Barrera, ATP**
 - a. Veronica Castro de Barrera, Chair of ATP Board of Directors, discussed the approval of an at-grade design for the Light Rail, expressing her gratitude by stating:

“I hope you see the work and the influence [the CAC] had, specifically with accessibility issues, making it the most accessible system by having it at-grade, because I know that took a lot of negotiations, and education, and to make it data driven with Cap-Metro, as well. The fact that all three partners

embraced an alignment...it's remarkable... I really want to commend us for having the courage to highlight that this should serve the communities that most need it, and our communities that have really been hoping for more effective and efficient transit...I hope that we have a really solid foundation from which to build.”

- b. Jennifer Pyne, Executive Vice President of Planning and Risk Management for ATP, discussed the forthcoming process, including the interaction with the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA), which is a federally-mandated public planning process for projects involving federal funds or federal involvement. The presentation was followed by a question-and-answer session.

2. JPA Project Update and Outcomes - Brandon Carr and Courtney Chavez, ATP

- a. Brandon Carr provided an update on the outcomes of the Action Items from the Joint Partnership meeting. The Actions taken are listed below:
 - i. Action Item 2: Authorize execution of an amendment and supplement to the Joint Powers Agreement,
 - ii. Action Item 3: Approve amendments to the CAC bylaws
- b. Courtney Chavez, Senior Vice President of Equity & Community Partnership for ATP, provided an update on the outcome of Action Item 3 from the Joint Partnership meeting, stating that the CAC terms will be extended through the end of the year. The presentation was followed by a question-and-answer session.

3. Austin Light Rail: Community Engagement Report - Courtney Chavez ATP

- a. Courtney Chavez provided an update on the findings of the public engagement process for the ATP outreach utilized to inform recommendations and community priorities.
 - i. Contributions were provided by Peter Mullan, Jennifer Pyne, and Lonny Stern.
 - ii. The presentation was followed by a question-and-answer session.

4. Working Group/TAC Updates

- a. Chair Azhar provided updates on the Community Engagement, Design, and Governance working groups.

Action Items

- 1. No Action Items were presented at this time.

Future Items

Member Connolly requested a conversation about the new member process. He would like to see a process to engage the community and integrate their ideas into the selection process for CAC members.

Staff will return and provide more information on feasibility.

Member Somers requested an update on possible July agenda items.

Chair Azhar provided examples of possible items including Rapid Transit

future steps and an update on Community Initiated Solutions contracts.

Member Somers requested an update on the RedLine.

Chair Azhar agreed and said CapMetro staff may be able to provide it in July or August.

Chair Azhar discussed the updating of technology and the process of a more complete hybrid format for future meetings, as well as the appointment and process of electing officers.

ADJOURN

Chair Azhar adjourned the meeting at 6:39 PM without objection.