



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

MEETING MINUTES

Thursday, March 7, 2024

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
Gretchen Flatau – Vice Chair
Susan Somers – Secretary
Ruven Brooks
Reed Cshamari
Jay Crossley
Katherine Fan
Michael Gorse
Elisabeth Meyer

Members Absent:

J.P. Connolly
Jeremy Hendricks

Attendees:

Yannis Banks
Brandon Carr
Lawrence Detter
Darryl Jamel
Miguel Lopez
Anna Muessig
Emma Martinez

Melissa Ortiz
Edna Parra
Peter Parthymueller
Eric Robbins
Gardner Tabon
Marla Torrado

CALL TO ORDER

The Project Connect Community Advisory Committee convened in a regular meeting on Thursday, March 7, 2024.

Chair Awais Azhar called the Committee meeting to order at 5:02 PM

Land Acknowledgement

Miguel Lopez read the Land Acknowledgement statement.

Citizen Communication

Two citizens provided their comment at this time.

Approval of Minutes

1. Approve the minutes of the January 11, 2023 general meeting of the Project Connect Community Advisory Committee.

The minutes of the January 11, 2023, general meeting were approved, with two corrections, on a motion by Vice Chair Flatau, seconded by Chair Azhar; confirmed with a unanimous vote (9-0).

Action Items

1. Working Group Selection – Awais Azhar

- a. Chair Azhar led a discussion of the appointment of ex-officio members for the CAC in the 2024 calendar year . It was agreed that the Governing Working Group would discuss and provide recommendations that will be brought to the full committee for approval.
- b. Members are encouraged to share their suggestions with staff to avoid quorum violations.
- c. Chair Azhar acknowledged a comment from the chat that suggested utilizing community outreach sessions, stating that the Governance Working Group will consider that option as well.

Discussion Items

1. Engagement Report Feedback – Peter Parthymueller, City of Austin

- a. Peter Parthymueller, Strategic Communications Consultant for the City of Austin Project Connect Office’s Communications and Public Information Office, and Anna Muessig and Devin Fields, Consultants with GeHL, provided an overview, feedback and insights from the Fall 2023 Public Engagement report. The

presentation was followed by a question-and-answer session.

- 2. CapMetro Public Safety Update – Gardner Tabon and Eric Robbins, CapMetro**
 - a. Gardner Tabon, Executive Vice President of System-wide Accessibility and Chief Safety Officer, and Eric Robbins, Chief Administrator of the Transit Police, for CapMetro provided an update on the Texas Commission on Law Enforcement (TCOLE) certification for the CapMetro Police Department. The presentation provided information on the expected timelines, proposed budget, and public engagement schedule. The discussion was followed by a questions-and-answer session.
 - i. Contributions to the discussion were provided by Nina Lamm, Program Manager for the Executive Department of CapMetro.

- 2. CapMetro Subcommittees and Feedback Process – Edna Parra and Peter Breton, CapMetro**
 - a. Edna Parra, Community Engagement and Involvement Manager, and Peter Breton, Community Engagement Coordinator, for CapMetro provided an update on the subcommittees and feedback process from the Public Safety Advisory Committee (PSAC). The presentation was followed by a questions-and-answer session.
 - i. Contributions to the discussion were provided by Darryl Jamel, Senior Director of Public Safety and Emergency Management for CapMetro.

- 3. Capmetro Title VI Policy Update – Emma Martinez, CapMetro**
 - a. Emma Martinez, Planner with CapMetro, provided a presentation on the existing Title VI policies and proposed changes. Title VI is the federal code that prohibits discrimination on the basis of race, color, and national origin in programs and activities receiving federal financial assistance. The presentation was followed by a question-and-answer session.
 - i. Member Brooks requested to know if the CapMetro Ridership or Destination survey data would be released to the general public.
 1. Emma Martinez has said she will follow up with the CAC to confirm if the data will be publicly available.

Staff Updates

1. ATP Staff Update

Yannis Banks, Community Engagement Manager for ATP, confirmed that an update on the timelines and process for the TACS will be forthcoming.

2. Project Connect Office

- a. Peter Parthymueller provided an update on the Code amendment process

including the confirmation that the public notice will be mailed out in the beginning of April 2024 as well as posted to the City of Austin Project Connect website. The notice include the Equitable Transit-Oriented Development (ETOD), City-Wide Compatibility, and Electric Charging Station studies. Additionally, the proposed SouthCentral Waterfront regulations have been presented and are available for public access.

- b.** Mr. Parthymueller also shared that the Housing department is in the middle of five year effort with the intention of securing more funds from the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD). He will share the web address (speakupaustin.org/mycommunityneeds) with staff for distribution.
- c.** Mr. Parthymueller shared that the City of Austin Planning Department's ETOD team has filled all vacancies and work has begun on Stationary Planning efforts around the East Riverside corridor, North Mueller, and South Congress Transit Centers.

3. CapMetro

Yannis Banks provided an update that CapMetro has completed the work on their scoping engagement and the report will be provided sometime in April 2024.

4. City of Austin

No updates were provided at this time.

5. Working Group/TAC Updates

No updates were provided at this time

Future Items

Chair Azhar stated that he will not be available for the general meeting set to be held on April 11, 2024. Vice Chair Flatau will be heading the meeting.

Secretary Somers requested more information on the transit interactions for the Southeast Riverside Waterfront.

ADJOURN

Chair Azhar adjourned the meeting at 7:03 PM without objection.