



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

MEETING MINUTES

Thursday, June 13, 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 Blazek Crossley
Michael Gorse
Jeremy Hendricks
Elisabeth Meyer

Members Absent:

J.P. Connolly
Katherine Fan

Attendees:

Yannis Banks
Brandon Carr
Courtney Chavez
Terry Hockens
Katie Houston
Nefertitti Jackmon
Miguel Lopez

Melissa Ortiz
Peter Parthymueller
Adam Rosenfield
Will Swinton-Ginsberg
Rachel Thomas
Marla Torrado
Amber Warren

CALL TO ORDER

The Project Connect Community Advisory Committee convened in a regular

meeting on Thursday, June 13, 2024.

Chair Awais Azhar called the Committee meeting to order at 5:03 PM

Land Acknowledgement

Miguel Lopez read the CAC Land Acknowledgement statement, on behalf of the CAC.

Citizen Communication

No Citizen provided comment at this time.

Approval of Minutes

- 1. Approve the minutes of the May 9, 2024, general meeting of the Project Connect Community Advisory Committee.**

The minutes of the May 9, 2024, general meeting were approved on a motion by Vice Chair Flatau, seconded by Chair Azhar; confirmed with a unanimous vote (10-0).

Action Items

- 1. Election of Officers – Awais Azhar, Community Advisory Committee**
 - Chair Azhar led a discussion about the process to elect officers for the next calendar year for the Community Advisory Committee. Awais Azhar, Gretchen Flatau, and Susan Somers were nominated for Chair, Vice Chair, and Secretary, respectively. Member Hendricks motioned to nominate the three individuals. The motion was seconded by Member Mayer. The motion passes unanimously (10-0).
 - Chair – Awais Azhar
 - Vice Chair – Gretchen Flatau
 - Secretary – Susan Somers
- 2. Working Group Creation for Member Vacancy & Ex Officio Nominations – Awais Azhar, Community Advisory Committee**
 - Chair Azhar provided a description of the process for selecting a new member to serve on the CAC to fill the vacancy of Member Joao Paulo Connolly. Chair Azhar recommended creating a working group for the selection and appointment of a future member, as well as the selection of ex-officio members. Chair Azhar motioned for the working group to consist of the members listed below. The motion passes unanimously (10-0).
 - The working group will consist of the following members:

- i. Chair Awais Azhar
- ii. Member Jay Blazek Crossley
- iii. Vice Chair Gretchen Flatau
- iv. Secretary Susan Somers

Discussion Items

- 1. Scoping and Engagement Process Report– Courtney Chavez and Rachel Thomas, Austin Transit Partnership**
 - a. Courtney Chavez, Senior Vice President for Equity and Community Partnership for ATP, and Rachel Thomas, Environmental Transit Planner with ATP, provided an overview of the Scoping Summary Report for public engagement. The presentation was followed by a question-and-answer session.

- 2. Audit Plans and Feedback – Katie Houston, Austin Transit Partnership**
 - a. Katie Houston, Director of Internal Audit with ATP, provided an overview of the ATP audit process. The presentation was followed by a question-and-answer session.

- 2. Displacement Risk Area Maps/Dashboard 2022 Update – Marla Torrado, Will Swinton-Ginsberg, City of Austin**
 - a. Dr. Marla Torrado, Division Manager for the Displacement Prevention Division of the City of Austin’s Housing Department, and Will Swinton-Ginsberg, Senior Planner, with the Displacement Prevention Division of the City of Austin’s Housing Department, provided an update on the Displacement Risk Area Maps and Dashboard. The presentation was followed by a question-and-answer session.
 - i. Member Blazek Crossley asked if he could be part of conversations to discuss potential changes to methodology and/or data used.

Staff Updates

1. CapMetro Update

Melissa Ortiz, Director of Community Engagement & Involvement, informed the CAC that the CapMetro Police Department has received authorization from the Texas Commission of Law Enforcement (TCOLE) to continue the process to create a new police agency. CapMetro will continue to provide information to TCOLE and updates to the CAC.

2. Austin Transit Partnership Update

Courtney Chavez, Senior Vice President for Equity and Community Partnership for ATP, provided an update on the date and current schedule of the upcoming trial, which is set to take place on Monday, June 17, 2024.

3. Project Connect Office Update

No updates were provided at this time.

4. City Of Austin Staff Update

Marla Torrado, Division Manager for the City of Austin's Housing Department, provided an update on the Project Connect Anti-Displacement Spending Dashboard. In addition to informing the CAC that the dashboard is updated every month, the Community Initiated Solutions (CIS) organizations have been able to serve 905 households through direct assistance and over 78,000 people have been reached through outreach or events.

Chari Azhar requested that the link to the updated Displacement Risk Area maps be shared with the entire CAC.

5. Working Group/TAC Updates

No updates were provided at this time.

Future Items

Member Hendricks requested an up-to-date report on the pending lawsuit.

Member Blazek Crossley requested a discussion on the next phase of the Equitable Transit Oriented Development (ETOD).

Member Brooks requested a more thorough discussion, and a future Action Item, concerning the community outreach efforts.

ADJOURN

Chair Azhar adjourned the meeting at 6:45 PM without objection.