



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

MEETING MINUTES

Thursday, August 8, 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
Michael Gorse

Members Absent:

Jay Blazek Crossley
Katherine Fan
Jeremy Hendricks
Elisabeth Meyer

Attendees:

Brandon Carr
Courtney Chavez
Kevin Conley
Liane Conte
Rebecca Giello
Lucy Hall
Terry Hockens
Nefertitti Jackmon

Miguel Lopez
Melissa Ortiz
Alex Radtke
Peter Parthymueller
Marla Torrado
Ana Villareal
Amber Warren
Holly Winge

CALL TO ORDER

The Project Connect Community Advisory Committee convened in a regular meeting on Thursday, August 8, 2024.

Chair Azhar called the Committee meeting to order at 5:08 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 July 11, 2024, general meeting of the Project Connect Community Advisory Committee.**

The minutes of the July 11, 2024, general meeting were approved on a motion by Vice Chair Flatau, seconded by Secretary Somers; confirmed with a unanimous vote (6-0).

Action Items

- 1. Recommendation of CAC Member Appointment – Awais Azhar, Community Advisory Committee**
 - a. Chair Azhar led a discussion on the process for recommending a new member to be selected by the nominating bodies of the CAC. Chair Azhar identified Marcel Garza, as the candidate selected by the Governing Working Group to be nominated for membership. Chair Azhar motioned to recommend Marcel Garza to fill the vacancy of Member Katherine Fan, seconded by Secretary Somers. The motion passed unanimously (6-0).

Discussion Items

- 1. Austin Transit Partnership (ATP) Budget Update – Brian Rivera & Jamie Atkinson, ATP**
 - a. Brian Rivera, CFO, and Jamie Atkinson, Budget Director, both from ATP, provided an update on the current and projected FY25 ATP budget. The projected budget will be presented for approval to the ATP Board on September 18, 2024. The presentation was followed by a question-and-answer session.
- 2. AHFC Budget Presentation- Alex Radtke, CapMetro**
 - a. Alex Radtke, Housing Development Manager for the City of Austin’s Housing

Department, provided an overview of the Austin Housing Finance Corporation (AHFC) Project Connect Anti-Displacement Land Acquisition and Preservation Investments. The discussion included updates for the available funds, real estate investments, and the Anti-Displacement Community Acquisition Program. The presentation was followed by a question-and-answer session.

- i. Contributions to the conversation were provided by Nefertitti Jackmon, Displacement Prevention Officer, for the City of Austin Housing Department's Displacement Prevention Division.

1. Project Connect FY2025 Budget Proposal– Kevin Conlen, CapMetro

- a. Kevin Conlen, Deputy CFO for CapMetro, provided an overview on the projected FY25 CapMetro budget. The presentation was followed by a question-and-answer session.

Action Items (continued)

1. Approval of Memorandum for CAC Budget Recommendations- Awais Azhar, CAC

- a. Chair Azhar led a discussion to vote on budget recommendations for all governing parties of the CAC. These recommendations seek to increase connectivity, support public safety efforts, stabilize adjacent communities and boost future ridership, and provide enhanced mobility options for residents.
- b. The recommendations are detailed below:
 - i. CapMetro and ATP should explore opportunities to advance planning for the Green Line and Austin Light Rail Phase I Priority Extensions to move those programs forward swiftly and meaningfully, to address the mobility needs of communities in the Eastern Crescent.
 - ii. CapMetro should expand the Community Intervention Program and hire at least two additional Community Intervention Specialists, so that multiple teams can support public safety priorities within the transit system.
 - iii. CapMetro should continue to accelerate all the Metro Rapid projects included in Project Connect and provide regular updates to the CAC regarding program advancement.
 - iv. COA should prioritize the preservation and development of affordable housing and land acquisition along the Austin Light Rail Phase I, including priority extensions to ensure that communities and residents in these priority areas are stabilized.
 - v. COA should increase the housing and employment capacities along the Project Connect routes, in alignment with the Austin Strategic Mobility Plan goals to expand transit ridership.
 - vi. All three parties should continue their community engagement efforts, with a focus on reaching out to priority communities, providing multilingual and accessible opportunities, and expanding communication efforts to share ongoing progress
- c. Member Brooks motioned to approve the memo, seconded by Vice Chair Flatau; the memorandum is approved on unanimous vote (6-0).

Staff Updates

1. Austin Transit Partnership Update

Liane Conte, Chief of Staff for the City of Austin's Project Connect Office, and Rebecca Giello, Chief of Staff for ATP, provided an update on ATP Board structure and the leadership positions that will be filled in the coming months.

2. City of Austin Staff Update

No updates were provided at this time.

3. CapMetro Staff Update

No updates were provided at this time.

4. Working Group/TAC Updates

No updates were provided at this time.

Future Items

Chair Azhar stated the December meeting might be moved, to the first week of the month, so that it will be more accessible for all members.

Discuss the process to fill the position of Member Fan, following her resignation.

ADJOURN

Chair Azhar adjourned the meeting at 6:55 PM without objection.