AUSTIN LIGHT RAIL: COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT REPORT

COMMUNITY DIALOGUE
MARCH 21 – MAY 2, 2023

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SECTION 1: COMMUNITY FEEDBACK THEMES

What We Heard the Most

Mobility and Customer Experience: Light Rail should provide convenient and good transit service.

- Ensure the light rail system provides good coverage
- Move people more efficiently
- Attract riders
- Integrate the light rail system with current and future lines, CapMetro bus service, and bike and pedestrian networks seamlessly
- Manage congestion in Austin
- More reliable commutes
- Ensure a viable plan on how the light rail will interact with cars at the street-level

Access To Opportunities: Light Rail should make meaningful connections, especially for the people who need them most.

- Prioritize transit to where people live and work
- Reach key destinations - schools, medical centers, job centers, as well as areas around Austin including the airport, Downtown, and the University of Texas
- Make the light rail system affordable, including future fares
- Provide more job opportunities and future job growth
- Provide opportunities for Austinites to get to and from work more easily

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SECTION 2: HOW WE LED ENGAGEMENT

Engagement Strategy

**Priority Populations Guided Engagement**

ATP is committed to engaging directly with "priority populations," or communities most likely to be impacted by Project Connect. Last May, ATP assessed previous Project Connect engagement efforts and identified outreach gaps in the following priority populations:

- Youth (ages 18-24)
- Spanish-speaking communities
- Black and Latino communities
- People with disabilities
- Low-income communities

**Focus Groups Prioritized Community Values For Light Rail**

The engagement strategy evolved to adjust and increase the quantity and quality of interactions with priority populations to respond to the outreach gaps. Focus group participants self-identified as a member of a priority population group mentioned above.

**ATP conducted 11 Light Rail Focus Groups between December 2022 and January 2023 in advance of the public launch of light rail options.**

**Focus Group Goals**

- Engage with Priority Populations
- Receive Community Values Criteria feedback
- Evaluate perceptions on key destinations that light rail could serve

**Focus Group Results**

Participants indicated the project team should prioritize:

- Access to Opportunities
- Affordability Benefits
- Who we serve
- Connectivity
- Traffic

**Light Rail Alternative Options Selected Based On Priority Community Values**

Following the conclusion of the focus groups, ATP Community Engagement team provided data collected during the community values exercise to the Engineering & Planning teams to incorporate the feedback (along with previous feedback) into the analysis of feasible option alternatives for Austin's first light rail project.

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Values and Principles Guiding Engagement

When combined, core community values and guiding principles formed the framework for how ATP analyzed feedback to identify community priorities.

Community Values Criteria
Reflect goals rooted in the Austin Strategic Mobility Plan, Climate Equity Plan, and other previous documents in the criteria that will be applied to our work.

Guiding Principles
Build equity, sustainability, and accessibility into community outreach to priority populations and the overall decision-making processes at ATP.

Comment Analysis
Analyze and prioritize the principles and values most important to our community and incorporate feedback into the staff recommendation for the Light Rail Implementation Plan.

Community Values Criteria

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>MOBILITY AND CUSTOMER SERVICE</th>
<th>Are we providing convenient and good transit service?</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>RIDERSHIP</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>BIKE &amp; PEDESTRIAN CONNECTIVITY</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>TRAFFIC</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>TRANSFERS TO BUS AND RAIL</td>
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ACCESS TO OPPORTUNITIES
Are we making meaningful connections, especially for the people who need them most?

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>CURRENT &amp; FUTURE POPULATION DENSITIES</th>
<th>DEMOGRAPHIC DATA</th>
<th>ACCESS TO KEY DESTINATION POINTS</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>

LAND USE AND HOUSING
Are we creating links between affordable/attainable housing and transit?

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<tr>
<th>AFFORDABILITY BENEFITS</th>
<th>CURRENT HOUSING &amp; FUTURE GROWTH OPPORTUNITIES</th>
<th>SUPPORT ANTI-DISPLACEMENT &amp; EQUITABLE TRANSIT-ORIENTED DEVELOPMENT (ETOD) INITIATIVES</th>
</tr>
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ENVIRONMENTAL BENEFITS
How do options compare in terms of potential impacts on sensitive environmental resources and climate change?

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<tr>
<th>GREENHOUSE GAS EMISSIONS</th>
<th>IMPACTS ON COMMUNITY RESOURCES AND AMENITIES</th>
<th>WATER RESOURCES AND FLOODPLAIN IMPACT</th>
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Engagement Activities & Highlights

On March 21, 2023, ATP unveiled five light rail plan options to the community that aligned with community values and needs. This launched a six-week community dialogue process from March 21 through May 2, allowing the community the opportunity to comment on the options.

In-Person Open House Participation
532 people attended March 21st Austin Light Rail Open House and provided 423 handwritten comments

Virtual Open House Participation
Over 19,000 views, ~2,000 participants, and over 5,049 comments received on the site

Bus Stop/Train Station Outreach
Outreach occurred at 45 unique locations around Austin connecting with 3,469 people

Community Conversations, Events, and Boards, Commissions and Committees
Adopting a "say yes" policy to any group or individual who asked for a meeting, ATP participated 90+ events during the six-week dialogue period.

Virtual Community Update
On April 6, ATP staff presented to 149 community members and answered more than 90 questions live

Priority populations and broader engagement tactics included:

- Virtual Open House and virtual meetings in English and Spanish
- Media engagement in English and Spanish-language markets
- Partnered with community groups to support deeper connections with priority populations
- Spoke to core transit riders through outreach at bus stops and train stations
- Attended meetings in community spaces and public events
- Partnered with City Council Members to engage with their constituents
- Presented to City of Austin Boards and Commissions and CapMetro and ATP Committees
- Ensured access to ATP staff for all questions via email, phone, in person, etc.

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SECTION 2: HOW WE LED ENGAGEMENT

Engagement Map

- Boards, Commissions, and Committees
- Community Conversation
- Community Event
- Bus Stop / Train Stop Outreach

8,000+ Direct Interactions

Includes interactions with attendees counted at in-person outreach events, bus/train stop outreach, and self-reported virtual open house participants.

Map shows community interactions conducted between March 21, 2023 and May 2, 2023. See Appendix (A2-A4) for more information on engagement locations and data by zip code.

https://tinyurl.com/lightrailoutreachmap

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Virtual Open House Comments by Zip Code
Demographic Data Analysis

Demographic information was requested, but not required, throughout the community dialogue period to inform ATP about who we were hearing from. The following charts show the demographic information, household income, and transit behaviors of individuals who participated in the Virtual Open House and chose to answer at least one demographic question.
JOINT PARTNERSHIP OUTCOMES

• Action Item 1
  • Approval of a resolution adopting the Austin Light Rail Implementation Plan
AUSTIN LIGHT RAIL IMPLEMENTATION PLAN

- **NORTH LAMAR TRANSIT CENTER**
- **CRESTVIEW**
- **KOENG**
- **45TH ST**
- **38TH ST**
- **29TH ST**
- **UT**
- **15TH ST**
- **CONGRESS**
- **CESAR CHAVEZ**
- **SOCO**
- **OLTORF**
- **ST EDWARD’S**
- **SOUTH CONGRESS TRANSIT CENTER**
- **STASSNEY**
- **WATERFRONT**
- **TRANS HEIGHTS**
- **PLEASANT VALLEY**
- **PARK & RIDE**
- **AIRPORT**
- **YELLOW JACKET**
- **MONTopolis**
- **PARK & RIDE**

**TRANSIT CONNECTIONS**
- MEMORIAL
- RED LINE
- HIGH FREQUENCY
- PROPOSED GREEN LINE

**ESTIMATED TRAVEL TIME**
- **23 MINS**
- **30TH - OLTORF**
- **31 MINS**
- **38TH - YELLOW JACKET**

**ESTIMATED AVG. # OF DAILY RIDERS SERVED**
- **28,500**

**20,000+ AFFORDABLE HOUSING UNITS SERVED**

**ACCESS TO**
- **136,000+ CURRENT JOBS**
- **200,000+ FUTURE JOBS**

**ANTICIPATED CAPITAL COST (CURRENT DOLLARS)**
- **$4.5 - $4.8B**

**LOCAL AND FEDERAL DOLLARS**

**MAY 2023**

**LEGEND**
- AUSTIN LIGHT RAIL
- PHASE I
- PRIORITY EXTENSION
- FUTURE AUSTIN LIGHT RAIL
- MAJOR TRANSFER POINT
The CIG program will constitute the majority of federal assistance to construct the light rail project.

ATP is seeking approximately 50% of capital project costs from the federal government through the CIG program.

Upon adoption of the Austin Light Rail Implementation Plan, ATP will progress through a multi-year process of continuing project development, environmental review, and coordination with FTA on federal grant funding.
JOINT PARTNERSHIP OUTCOMES

• Action Item 2
  • Authorize execution of an amendment and supplement to the Joint Powers Agreement

• Action Item 3
  • Approve amendments to Community Advisory Committee’s bylaws
THANK YOU!
Project Connect
Community Initiated Solutions
Project Summaries
Community Initiated Solutions Programs

$20 million awarded to nonprofit organizations and partnerships for the following priorities:

- Renter/tenant stabilization
- Expansion and preservation of homeownership opportunities
- Other anti-displacement strategies
Project Descriptions – Tenant Stabilization

- El Buen Samaritano We Belong Here: Nuestros Hogares
- Austin Voices for Education and Youth - North Austin/Rundberg Community Stabilization Project
- Meals on Wheels Central Texas: Client Assistance Program
- Communities in School of Central Texas: CIS Student and Family Assistance: Relational, Timely Support to Prevent Housing Displacement
- Mama Sana Vibrant Woman: Rental Assistance for Families of Color in Austin's Eastern Crescent
- Catholic Charities of Central Texas: Financial Stability Program
- Workers Defense Project Building And Strengthening Tenant Action: Combatting Displacement Through Tenant and Worker Power
- Austin Tenants Council (TRLA): Preserving, Asserting & Growing the Rights of Austin Tenants
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Project Descriptions – Homeownership Expansion

Austin Cooperative Business Foundation Asociación de Residentes
Asociación de Residentes North Lamar Anti-Displacement Improvements

Del Valle Community Coalition
Homeowner Resilience Program

Business & Community Lenders
The Austin Community Land Trust Accelerator
Project Descriptions – Economic Mobility

Goodwill Industries of Central Texas
*Connections to Work*

Life Anew Restorative Justice Inc.
*LIFE ANEW ANTI-DISPLACEMENT PROPERTY OWNERSHIP*

Interfaith Action of Central Texas_iACT
*iACT Financial Education & Literacy Program*
Thank you