



**THE GENERAL MEETING OF THE PROJECT CONNECT COMMUNITY  
ADVISORY COMMITTEE  
MEETING MINUTES  
Thursday, February 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  
Jay Crossley  
Katherine Fan  
Michael Gorse  
Jeremy Hendricks  
Elisabeth Meyer

**Members Absent:**

J.P. Connolly

**Attendees:**

Yannis Banks  
Brandon Carr  
Courtney Chavez  
Warner Cook  
Lucy Hall  
Terry Hockens  
Miguel Lopez

Melissa Ortiz  
Eric Robbins  
Jennifer Pyne  
Katherine Sobel  
Gardner Tabon  
Marla Torrado

**CALL TO ORDER**

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

Chair Awais Azhar called the Committee meeting to order at 5:07 PM

**Land Acknowledgement**

Chair Azhar 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 on a motion by Vice Chair Flatau, seconded by Secretary Somers; confirmed with a unanimous vote (10-0).

### **Action Items**

#### **1. Working Group Selection – Awais Azhar**

- a. Chair Azhar led a conversation in developing the working groups for the Calendar Year of 2024. The results of the discussion and member assignments are detailed below. The formation and composition of the five working groups were approved on a motion from Chair Azhar, seconded by member Meyer; confirmed with a unanimous vote (10-0).

- i. Anti Displacement Working Group

1. Azhar
    2. Connolly
    3. Crossley
    4. Flatau
    5. Somers

1. Brooks
      2. Crossley
      3. Gorse
      4. Somers

- iii. Governance Working Group

1. Azhar
      2. Connolly
      3. Flatau

- iv. Light Rail and Design Working Group

1. Brooks
      2. Crossley
      3. Somers
      4. Reed

- v. Public Safety Working Group

1. Azhar
      2. Connolly
      3. Flatau

4. Meyer
  - b. Secretary Somers requested for the rapid line and the bus to be a focus for the working group discussions.

## Discussion Items

### **1. National Environmental Policy Act - Jennifer Pyne & Allan Livingstone, ATP**

- a. Jennifer Pyne, Executive Vice President of Planning, Community, and Federal Programs, and Allan Livingstone, Senior Vice President of Engineering, led a conversation on the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) process including the timeline (between 18-24 months) and engagement schedule. The discussion was followed by a question-and-answer session.
  - i. Member Brooks requested to know if the process involves working and coordinating with Lady Bird Wildlife Center.
  - ii. Member Crossley requested to know if there is ridership analysis to maximize the number of riders that can walk to any given station. This is in conjunction with his expressed desire for more stops/stations.
    1. Member Fan seconds the notion for more stations.

### **2. Equitable Transit Oriented Development (ETOD) Implementation Update – Warner Cook, City of Austin**

- a. Warner Cook, Principal Planner for the City of Austin’s Planning Department, provided an update on the ETOD implantation including recent code amendments, NLTC (North Lamar Transit Center) and SCTC (South Congress Transit Center) station area vision plans, and the current ETOD overlay. The discussion was followed by a questions-and-answer session.
  - i. Contributions to the discussion were provided by Stevie Greathouse, Planner Senior for the City of Austin’s Planning Department.

### **3. History of Racism in Austin Zoning Revolving Loan Fund as Part of Solution – Cat Ridge & Bill McCamley, Transit Forward**

- a. Bill McCamley, Executive Director of Transit Forward, provided a presentation on history of racism and zoning within Austin, TX. Cat Ridge, with St. Ed’s University, provided a presentation on the 1957 Industrial Development Plan and the revolving loan fund. The presentation was followed by a question-and-answer session.
  - i. Contributions to the discussion were made by Peter Mullan, Chief of Architecture and Urban Design for ATP.

## Staff Updates

### **1. Project Connect Office**

- a. The Project Connect Office alerted the CAC about an event that will take place at 10 AM at the Central Library on Saturday, February 24<sup>th</sup>, 2024.

**2. ATP Staff Update**

No updates were provided at this time.

**3. CapMetro**

Tabon Gardner provided an update on the approval of subcommittees.

**4. City of Austin Staff Updates**

Marla Torrado, Community Development Manager for the City of Austin's Housing Department, provided an update on the Community Initiated Solutions (CIS) contracts, programs, and timelines.

**5. Working Group/TAC Updates**

No updates were provided at this time

**Future Items**

Vice Chair Flatau confirmed with the CAC and staff that the next meeting will take place on Thursday, March 7, 2024.

**ADJOURN**

Chair Azhar adjourned the meeting at 6:57 PM without objection.