



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

MEETING MINUTES

Thursday, May 9, 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
J.P. Connolly
Reed Cshamari
Jay Blazek Crossley
Katherine Fan
Michael Gorse
Jeremy Hendricks
Elisabeth Meyer

Members Absent:

J.P. Connolly

Attendees:

Tamara Atkinson
Yannis Banks
Peter Breton
Brandon Carr
Courtney Chavez
Cheyanne Conyer
Michele Gregory
Mary Hager
Terry Hockens

Chad Kinchen
Miguel Lopez
Peter Mullen
Peter Parthymueller
Eric Robins
Adam Rosenfield
Gardner Tabon
Marla Torrado
Amber Warren

CALL TO ORDER

The Project Connect Community Advisory Committee convened in a regular meeting on Thursday, May 9, 2024.

Chair Awais Azhar called the Committee meeting to order at 5:04 PM

Land Acknowledgement

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

Citizen Communication

Barbara Epstein – Senior needs in transit with advocacy for targeted destinations and circulating routes.

Approval of Minutes

- 1. Approve the minutes of the April 11, 2024 general meeting of the Project Connect Community Advisory Committee.**

The minutes of the April 11, 2024, general meeting were approved on a motion by Vice Chair Flatau, seconded by Secretary Somers; confirmed with a unanimous vote (10-0).

Discussion Items

- 1. Mobility and Infrastructure Partnership – Courtney Chavez, Tamara Atkinson, Amber Warren, Austin Transit Partnership and Workforce Solutions Capital Area**
 - a. Courtney Chavez, Senior Vice President for Equity and Community Partnership for ATP, and Tamara Atkinson, CEO, and Amber Warren, Senior Director of Business Engagement, both with Workforce Solutions Capital Area, provided an overview, summary, and future steps for the Mobility Workforce Development Study. The key findings of the study include the number of potential jobs, training needs, and hiring practices, as well as potential details on the needs and preferences for a proposed Austin Infrastructure Academy, which will aim to develop Austin's workforce to accommodate the expanding infrastructure projects in Central Texas. The presentation was followed by a question-and-answer session.

- 2. Public Safety Update – Peter Breton, Eric Robins, and Cheyanne Conyer, CapMetro**
 - a. Peter Breton, Community Engagement Coordinator for CapMetro, Eric Robins, Chief Administrator for the Police Department of CapMetro, and Cheyanne Conyer, Chief of Staff for CapMetro, provided an update on the Public Safety Program for CapMetro. The presentation provided information on the Community Intervention Specialist program, the Public Safety Ambassadors, the Transit Police Officers, and the feedback process and results. The discussion was followed by a question-and-answer session.

- 2. Discussion on the Ex-Officio Appointment and Member Appointment– Awais Azhar and Gretchen Flatau, Community Advisory Committee**
 - a. Chair Awais Azhar and Vice Chair Gretchen Flatau provided a description of the process for instating a new member to sit on the CAC to fill the vacancy for Member Joao Paulo Connolly. The Vice Chair also mentioned that members must have their cameras on during the meeting. The presentation was followed by a question-and-answer session.

Staff Updates

1. Austin Transit Partnership Update

Courtney Chevez announced that Katie Houston, Director of Internal Audits for ATP, will attend the next general meeting to speak with the CAC concerning what may be included in the FY2025 audit of ATP. Additionally, there will be a governance assessment public discussion in July. In congruence with the request from Committee Member Brooks, there will be a discussion in the Fall of 2024, that will include the findings of the Scoping Report, the results of the environmental analyses, and the feedback from public engagement sessions.

2. City Of Austin Staff Update

Marla Torrado, Division Manager for the City of Austin's Housing Department, provided an update on the Community Initiated Solutions (CIS) programs. The update included information on the full participation from all organizations including over 826 households serviced with direct assistance, and 80% of them are in chronic displacement areas, and 73,000 residents connected with during outreach or events. The City of Austin organized a meeting with the CIS organizations in order facilitate communication, foster relationships, and encourage possible partnership opportunities among the organizations. Dr. Torrado also announced that El Buen Samaritano has been able to disperse all \$1 million on direct rental assistance to 196 households. This disbursement will conclude El Buen Samaritano's current contract.

3. Project Connect Office Update

Peter Partheymuller, Strategic Communications Consultant, provided an update on the

Transit Supportive Code Amendment process. The City has had multiple engagement events and the updated code amendments will go before City Council on Thursday, May 16, 2024. The City's Project Connect Office has been supporting ATP for their federal Capital Investment Grant process. The process will be presented to the City's Housing Department to show the current status of the Austin Light Rail.

4. CapMetro Update

Peter Breton, Community Engagement Coordinator for CapMetro, provided an update on the timeline for the Transit Plan public engagement schedule. Additionally, Peter provided an update on the public engagement schedule for the MetroBike Strategic Expansion Plan including a Community Group Ride and open house to be held on May 18, 2024.

5. Working Group/TAC Updates

No updates were provided at this time.

Future Items

Chair Azhar has asked to include a future item for the appointment of a working group for the selection process of the Committee and Ex-officio members.

Member Blazek Crossley asked for the appropriate time for the Equitable Transit Oriented Design (ETOD) working group to provide input on the ETOD II development.

ADJOURN

Chair Azhar adjourned the meeting at 6:58 PM without objection.