



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

MEETING MINUTES

Thursday, May 8, 2025

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
Michael Gorse
Catalina Berry
Jay Blazek Crossley
Marcel Garza
Ruven Brooks
Cshamari Reed

Members Absent:

Jeremy Hendricks
Elisabeth Meyer
Susan Somers – Secretary

Attendees:

Kelsey Lammy
Yannis Banks
Sophie Petkus
Jennifer Pyne
Stevie Greathouse
Surya Dhanekula
King Kaul

Laura Dierenfield
Peter Partheymuller
Warner Cook
Tim McCarthy
Melissa Ortiz

CALL TO ORDER

The Project Connect Community Advisory Committee convened in a regular meeting on Thursday, May 8th, 2025.

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

Land Acknowledgement

Member Berry read the CAC Land Acknowledgement statement, on behalf of the CAC.

Community Communication

No comments at this time.

Approval of Minutes

- 1. Approve the minutes of the March 6th, 2025, general meeting of the Project Connect Community Advisory Committee.**

The minutes of the March 6th, 2024, general meeting was approved on a motion by Member Garza, seconded by Member Crossley; confirmed with 6 in favor and 1 abstaining. (6-0).

Action Items

- 1. Officer Elections**

Secretary Somers was appointed Vice Chair and Member Garza was appointed Secretary with a motion from Chair Azhar, seconded by Member Berry, passing unanimously (7-0). Awais Azhar was reappointed as Chair with a motion from Member Berry, seconded by Member Crossley, passing unanimously (7-0).

Discussion Items

- 1. Equitable Transit- Oriented Development (ETOD) Updates**

- a. Warner Cook, ETOD Planner with the City of Austins Planning Department and Tim McCarthy, Station Area Planner with the City of Austin, gave a presentation which provided updates on ETOD. This presentation was followed by a question-and-answer session.
 - i. Contributions to the conversation were provided by Stevie Greathouse, Division Manager with the City of Austins Planning Department.

- 2. CapMetro East 5th Rail and Trails**

- a. Surya Dhanekula, Project Manager with CapMetro Capital Construction and

Engineering Department and Laura Dierenfield, Division Manager with the City of Austin Active Transportation and Street Design Division presented on the CapMetro East 5th Rail and Trails project. The presentation was followed by a question-and-answer session.

- i. Contributions to the conversation were provided by Kelsey Lammy, Manager of Community Engagement and Public Involvement for CapMetro and King Kaul, Director of Capital Projects for CapMetro.

3. Recognition of former CAC members

- a. Chair Azhar led a recognition of former Vice Chair Flatau.

Staff Updates

1. Austin Transit Partnership Update

Jennifer Pyne, Executive Vice President of Planning, Community and Federal Programs, gave an update on the progress of the Draft and Final Environmental Impact Statements and the timeline for the upcoming procurement opportunities and upcoming Connect and Build event.

2. City of Austin Staff Update

Peter Parthymuller, Strategic Communications Consultant with the Project Connect Office, gave an update on the FY26 Budget.

3. CapMetro Staff Update

Melissa Ortiz, Director of Community Engagement and Public Involvement with CapMetro, gave an update on the Umo App and Metro Rapid lines as well as the upcoming Transit Plan 2035 engagement opportunities.

4. Working Group/TAC Updates

Chair Azhar gave an update on the Anti-Displacement and Governance working groups and Vice Chair Somers gave an update on the ETOD working group.

Future Items

ADJOURN

Chair Azhar adjourned the meeting at 6:51 PM without objection.