



MEMORANDUM

TO: Mayor and Council Members

THROUGH: Robert Goode, Assistant City Manager

FROM: Annick Beaudet, Mobility Officer, Project Connect Office *AB*

DATE: August 12, 2024

SUBJECT: **Project Connect Community Advisory Committee FY 2025 Budget Recommendations**

On August 8, 2024, the Project Connect Community Advisory Committee (CAC) approved their recommendations for the Fiscal Year 2024-25 budgets for the City of Austin, CapMetro, and the Austin Transit Partnership. Attached is their recommendation for your consideration. If you should have any questions, please contact Annick Beaudet, Mobility Officer, at annick.beaudet@austintexas.gov or CAC Chair Awais Azhar at bc-awais.azhar@austintexas.gov.

CC: T.C. Broadnax, City Manager
CMO Executive Team

ATTACHMENT: Project Connect Community Advisory Committee FY 2025 Budget Recommendations Memo, August 8, 2024



MEMORANDUM

TO: City of Austin Mayor and Council Members, Austin Transit Partnership Board Chair and Board Members, Capital Metropolitan Transportation Authority Board Chair and Board Members

FROM: Awais Azhar, Chair, Project Connect Community Advisory Committee

CC: Greg Canally, Executive Director, Austin Transit Partnership
Dottie Watkins, President and CEO, Capital Metropolitan Transportation Authority
TC Broadnax, City Manager, City of Austin
Robert Goode, Assistant City Manager, City of Austin

DATE: August 8, 2024

SUBJECT: Project Connect Community Advisory Committee FY 2025 Budget Recommendations

As the City of Austin (COA), Austin Transit Partnership (ATP), and Capital Metropolitan Transportation Authority (CapMetro) move towards adoption of their FY 2025 budgets, the Community Advisory Committee (CAC) recommends prioritizing the following programs and strategies. These recommendations should help advance Project Connect and ensure the success of the existing mobility network in the Austin region.

The CAC Recommends that:

- CapMetro and ATP should explore opportunities to advance planning for the Green Line and Austin Light Rail Phase I priority extensions in order to move those programs forward swiftly, and meaningfully address the mobility needs of communities in the Eastern Crescent.
- CapMetro should expand the Community Intervention Program and hire at least two additional Community Intervention Specialists so that multiple intervention teams can support public safety priorities within the transit system.
- CapMetro should continue to accelerate all the Metro Rapid projects included in Project Connect and provide regular updates to the CAC regarding program advancement.
- 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.

- COA should advance the utilization and development of the Tokyo Electron property to provide affordability and anti-displacement benefits as early as possible.
- 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.
- 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.

Together, these recommendations will increase connectivity, support public safety efforts, stabilize adjacent communities and boost future ridership, and provide enhanced mobility options for residents.

If you should have any questions, I can be reached at bc-awais.azhar@austintexas.gov.

Date of Approval: August 8, 2024

Record of the vote: Approved on a 6-0-0 vote (Committee Members Crossley, Hendricks, and Meyer absent; two vacancies)

Attest:  , Project Connect Community Advisory Committee Chair