



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

**MEETING MINUTES**

**Thursday, June 12, 2025**

**ATP Office | Conference Room**

**203 Colorado Street, Austin, TX 78701**

**(with some members of the CAC participating via video conference)**

**Members in Attendance:**

Susan Somers- Vice Chair  
Michael Gorse  
Catalina Berry  
Jay Blazek Crossley  
Marcel Garza- Secretary  
Ruven Brooks  
Cshamari Reed  
Elisabeth Meyer  
Jeremy Hendricks

**Members Absent:**

Awais Azhar- Chair

**Attendees:**

Rachel Tepper  
Yannis Banks  
Sophie Petkus  
Jennifer Pyne

James May  
Peter Partheymuller  
Chase Bryan  
Joseph El Habar

**CALL TO ORDER**

The Project Connect Community Advisory Committee convened in a regular meeting on Thursday, June 12th, 2025.

Vice Chair Somers 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**

One community member presented at this time.

## **Approval of Minutes**

### **1. Approve the minutes of the May 8th, 2025, general meeting of the Project Connect Community Advisory Committee.**

The minutes of the May 8th, 2025, general meeting was approved on a motion by Vice Chair Somers, seconded by Member Berry; confirmed with 8 in favor and 1 abstaining. (8-0).

## **Action Items**

### **1. Recommendation of CAC Member Appointment**

Vice Chair Somers motioned for the recommendation of Joseph El Habar to be appointed as the new CAC member. This motion was passed unanimously (9-0).

## **Discussion Items**

### **1. Anti- Displacement Community Advisory Program Update**

- a. Rachel Tepper, Planner with City of Austin Housing Department and Chase Bryan, Policy and Data Analyst with the City of Austin Housing Department, gave a presentation on the Anti Displacement Community Acquisition Program. This presentation was followed by a question-and-answer session.
  - i. Contributions to the conversation were provided by James May, Community Development Officer with the City of Austin Housing Department.

### **2. CAC Budget Priorities for CapMetro/COA/ATP**

- a. Vice Chair Somers gave an overview of the CAC budget recommendation process as well as the budget timelines for the City of Austin, CapMetro and Austin Transit Partnership and led the CAC in a discussion on budget priorities. The

presentation was followed by a question-and-answer session.

- i. Contributions to the conversation were provided by Peter Partheymuller, Strategic Communications Consultant with the City of Austin and Yannis Banks, Public Involvement Manager with Austin Transit Partnership.

## **Staff Updates**

### **1. Austin Transit Partnership Update**

Yannis Banks, Public Involvement Manager with Austin Transit Partnership gave an update on the legislative session.

### **2. City of Autin Staff Update**

No updates were provided at this time.

### **3. CapMetro Staff Update**

Melissa Ortiz, Director of Community Engagement and Public Involvement with CapMetro, gave an update on the Transit Police Department.

### **4. Working Group/TAC Updates**

Member Crossley gave an update on the Anti-Displacement working group.

## **Future Items**

Member Crossley requested an update on Metro Bike, CapMetro bus stop location selection and maintenance process and an update on the ETOD density bonus program. Member Berry requested an update on the Transit Police Department.

## **ADJOURN**

Chair Azhar adjourned the meeting at 6:49 PM without objection.