



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

MEETING MINUTES

May 14, 2026

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
Susan Somers-Vice Chair
Michael Gorse
Jay Blazek Crossley
Ruven Brooks
Catalina Berry
Edgar Handal
Cutter Gonzalez
Stacey Suits

Members Absent:

Marcel Garza- Secretary
Liz McGehee

Attendees:

Yannis Banks
Jennifer Pyne
Brittani Kaim
Kim Taylor
Esme Orozco
Peter Partheymuller
Melissa Ortiz

Sophie Petkus
Susana Almanza

CALL TO ORDER

The Project Connect Community Advisory Committee was convened in a regular

meeting on Thursday, May 14th, 2026. Chair Azhar called the Committee meeting to order at 5:10 PM.

Land Acknowledgement

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

Community Communication

Susana Almanza gave a presentation and requested that the CAC add the adoption or resolution for City of Austin to use Project Connect Anti-Displacement Acquisition funding to purchase Montopolis-Fairway Properties as a future agenda item.

Approval of Minutes

- 1. Approve the minutes of the April 9th, 2026, general meeting of the Project Connect Community Advisory Committee.**

The minutes of the April 9, 2026, general meeting was approved, on a motion by Member Brooks, seconded by Member Gonzalez, with Member Berry abstaining; confirmed unanimously (10-0)

Action Items

- 1. Working Group Appointments**

No appointments were made at this time.

- 2. Drawing by lots to determine terms of newly-appointed members of the Community Advisor Committee**

Term lengths were determined by drawing straws at random. The results were as follows: Member Suits – two year term; Member Gonzalez – one year term; Member Handal – two year term; Member McGehee – two year term.

- 3. Officer Election**

Upon a motion by Member Brooks, seconded by Member Suits, Awais Azhar was elected Chair, Susan Somers Vice-Chair, and Cataline Berry Secretary. The motion passed unanimously (9-0).

Discussion Items

1. ATP Light Rail Project Update

- a. Jennifer Pyne, Executive Vice President of Planning, Environment and Community Partnerships gave a presentation that included updates on the Austin Light Rail Project. This presentation was followed by a question-and-answer session.
 - i. Contributions to the conversation were added by Brittani Kaim, Community Engagement Manager for Austin Rail Constructors as well as Kim Taylor and Esme Orozco, Community Engagement for Kiewit Austin Partners.

Staff Updates

1. Austin Transit Partnership Update

No updates were provided at this time.

2. City of Austin Staff Update

Peter Partheymuller, Project Connect Office Strategic Communications Consultant, gave an update on the Delfi, Trends and Imagine Austin report, the Strategic Housing Blueprint scorecard and acknowledged the issues related to the Boards and Commissions email addresses.

3. CapMetro Staff Update

Melissa Ortiz, Director of Community Engagement and Public Involvement, gave an update on the CapMetro June service changes.

4. Working Group Updates

No updates were provided at this time.

Future Items

Member Brooks requested a presentation on the CTX GO application.

ADJOURN

Chair Azhar adjourned the meeting at 6:40 PM without objection.