



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

MEETING MINUTES

July 9, 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
Catalina Berry- Secretary
Jay Blazek Crossley
Ruven Brooks
Edgar Handal
Cutter Gonzalez
Michael Gorse
Stacey Suits

Members Absent:

Marcel Garza
Liz McGehee

Attendees:

Yannis Banks
Peter Partheymuller
Carla Burrell
Heidi Ross
Carolina Baumanis
Laurent Escoto

CALL TO ORDER

The Project Connect Community Advisory Committee was convened in a regular meeting on Thursday, July 9th, 2026. 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 communications at this time.

Approval of Minutes

- 1. Approve the minutes of the June 11th, 2026, general meeting of the Project Connect Community Advisory Committee.**

The minutes of the June 11, 2026, general meeting was approved, on a motion by Vice Chair Somers, seconded by Member Brooks, with Secretary Berry abstaining; confirmed unanimously (8-0).

Action Items

- 1. Working Group Appointments**

Chair Azhar moved to appoint Member Brooks and Member Crossley to the Governance Working Group. The motion was seconded by Vice Chair Somers and approved unanimously (9-0).

- 2. CAC Budget Recommendations for CapMetro, COA, & ATP**

The process of the item was discussed by the Committee, and official recommendations were postponed to the next meeting.

Discussion Items

- 1. Central Texas Construction Partnership Program (CPP) and CTX Go Presentation**

Heidi Ross, Senior Technical Director at AtkinsRéalis, and Carolina Baumanis, Senior Transportation Technology Specialist at AtkinsRéalis, presented an overview of the Central Texas Construction Partnership Program and the CTX Go application. The presentation was followed by a question-and-answer session.

Staff Updates

1. Austin Transit Partnership Update

Yannis Banks, Senior Public Involvement Manager, gave an update on the July ATP Board Meeting agenda which includes the approval of the light rail vehicles contract. ATP Internal Auditor is seeking feedback from the Committee Members on the audit items for the upcoming year.

2. City of Austin Staff Update

Peter Partheymuller, Strategic Communications Consultant, gave an update on his departure from the Austin Project Connect Office. Carla Burrell will be taking over Mr. Partheymuller's responsibilities with the CAC. The Austin City Manager will be releasing the proposed budget the upcoming year and invites the Committee to review. Throughout July, all City Council members will be hosting events to discuss the proposed budget. ETOD Planning will be hosting events throughout August to gather feedback on the proposed plans and invite the CAC to attend.

3. CapMetro Staff Update

Melissa Ortiz, Director of Community Engagement, gave an update on the release of the CapMetro budget.

4. Working Group Updates

No updates were provided at this time.

Future Items

Secretary Berry requested an update on the ATP Business Support Initiative.

ADJOURN

Chair Azhar adjourned the meeting at 6:21 PM without objection.