



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

MEETING MINUTES

August 13, 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
Cutter Gonzalez
Catalina Berry- Secretary
Jay Blazek Crossley
Ruven Brooks
Michael Gorse
Stacey Suits
Liz McGehee

Members Absent:

Marcel Garza
Edgar Handal

Attendees:

Yannis Banks
Nefertitti Jackmon
Lianne Conte
Carla Burrell
Bryan Rivera
Dan Valbracht
Melissa Ortiz
Kevin Conlan
Emmanuel Toutin
Jocelyn Vokes
Sophie Petkus

CALL TO ORDER

The Project Connect Community Advisory Committee was convened in a regular meeting on Thursday, August 13th, 2026. Chair Azhar called the Committee meeting to order at 5:05 PM.

Land Acknowledgement

Chair Azhar 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 July 9th, 2026, general meeting of the Project Connect Community Advisory Committee.**

The minutes of the July 9, 2026, general meeting was approved, on a motion by Member Crossley, seconded by Member McGehee; confirmed unanimously (7-0).

Action Items

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

Official budget recommendations were postponed until the September 2026 meeting to allow the committee to receive additional information from staff.

Discussion Items

- 1. ATP Budget Presentation**

Bryan Rivera, Chief Financial Officer, and Dan Valbracht, Senior Vice President of Budget and Treasury presented on the ATP proposed budget for the fiscal year 2026-27. The presentation was followed by a question-and-answer session.

2. CapMetro Budget Presentation

Emmanuel Toutin, Budget Director, and Kevin Conlan, Chief Financial Officer, presented the proposed budget for the fiscal year 2026-27. The presentation was followed by a question-and-answer session.

3. COA Project Connect Budget Presentation

Lianne Conte, Interim Mobility Officer, presented the budget for the fiscal year 2026-27. The presentation was followed by a question-and-answer session.

4. COA Housing Budget Presentation

Nefertitti Jackmon, Community Displacement Prevention Officer, gave a presentation updating the committee on the anti-displacement funding allocated through Project Connect. The presentation was followed by a question-and-answer session.

Staff Updates

1. Austin Transit Partnership Update

Yannis Banks, Senior Public Involvement Manager, reminded the committee of the budget timeline if they wish to engage with the team further and noted that ATP would be engaging with the committee with updated designs soon.

2. City of Austin Staff Update

Carla Burrell with Austin Planning, invited the committee to the Grove Riverside open house on August 29, and notified the committee of several upcoming engagement opportunities with the ETOD Planning Team throughout August.

3. CapMetro Staff Update

Melissa Ortiz, Director of Community Engagement, gave an update on the CapMetro rail closure, the upcoming service updates and the Bike Share service.

4. Working Group Updates

No updates were provided at this time.

Future Items

Member Gonzalez requested a presentation on the CapMetro Redline impacts and the CapMetro Bike Share.

Vice Chair Somers requested an update on the ATP airport extension, design and vehicle contract.

ADJOURN

Chair Azhar adjourned the meeting at 7:01 PM without objection.