



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

MEETING MINUTES

September 10, 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
Michael Gorse
Stacey Suits
Liz McGehee
Edgar Handal
Cutter Gonzalez

Members Absent:

Attendees:

Yannis Banks
Rick Fine
Carla Burrell
Melissa Ortiz
Terry Hockins
Jennifer Pyne
Sophie Petkus

Alphonse Smith
Emily Eisenhart

CALL TO ORDER

The Project Connect Community Advisory Committee was convened in a regular

meeting on Thursday, September 10th, 2026. Chair Azhar called the Committee meeting to order at 5:06 PM.

Land Acknowledgement

Secretary 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 August 13th, 2026, general meeting of the Project Connect Community Advisory Committee.**

The minutes of the August 13, 2026, general meeting was approved, on a motion by Member Gorse, seconded by Member Suits; confirmed unanimously (10-0).

Action Items

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

CAC budget recommendations for CapMetro and ATP was approved on a motion by Chair Azhar, seconded by Secretary Somers with Member Brooks abstaining (9-0-1).

- 2. CAC Working Group Appointments**

Chair Azhar moved, and Vice Chair Somers seconded, that Members Crossley and Brooks be removed from the Governance Working Group, that Secretary Berry be appointed to the Governance Working Group, and that Member McGehee be appointed to the CapMetro Services and Infrastructure Working Group. The motion passed unanimously (10-0).

Discussion Items

1. ATP Art Program Overview

Alphonse Smith, Art Program Manager, Emily Eisenhart, Artist and Creative Consultant, and Sophie Petkus, Public Involvement Manager, gave a presentation on the ATP Art Program. This presentation was followed by a question-and-answer session.

2. CAC Member Replacement Process

Chair Azhar gave the committee an overview of the CAC member replacement process which was followed by a questions-and-answer session from the committee.

Staff Updates

1. Austin Transit Partnership Update

Jennifer Pyne, EVP Planning, Community and Federal Partnerships, gave an update on the progression of Austin Light Rail, the updates that can be expected to see this fall and highlighted the agenda for the September ATP Board meeting.

2. City of Autin Staff Update

Carla Burrell with Austin Planning, gave an updated on the East Riverside Corridor team previous and upcoming engagement.

3. CapMetro Staff Update

Melissa Ortiz, Director of Community Engagement, gave an update on the upcoming CapMetro Public Hearing.

4. Working Group Updates

No updates were provided at this time.

Future Items

Secretary Berry requested a presentation from the ATP Business Support Team and the City of Austin Economic Development Department.

ADJOURN

Chair Azhar adjourned the meeting at 7:06 PM without objection.