Public Hearing on Travis County Expo Center Land Acquisition

This hearing will be livestreamed at capmetrotx.legistar.com

I. Call to Order

II. Purpose of Hearing:

Land Acquisition to Support the Expo Center Park and Ride Project - Eminent Domain Authority - This is a public hearing for Texas Parks and Wildlife Code Chapter 26 Action and Transportation Code Chapter 451 Eminent Domain Action for the Use and acquisition of a portion of Walter E. Long Park for construction of the Expo Center Park and Ride as part of Project Connect. The proposed acquisition includes an 8.010 acre tract of land out of Walter E. Long Park, located at 6614 Blue Bluff Road, Austin, TX. Capital Metro will take testimony pursuant to Chapter 26 of the Texas Parks and Wildlife Code for proposed non-park use and acquisition of the property. Capital Metro will also take testimony related to the acquisition of the 8 acre site through the exercise of eminent domain under Transportation Code 451.059 (b).

III. Public Comment:

IV. Adjournment

ADA Compliance

Reasonable modifications and equal access to communications are provided upon request. Please call (512) 369-6040 or email ed.easton@capmetro.org if you need more information.

BOARD OF DIRECTORS: Jeffrey Travillion, Chair; Ann Kitchen, Vice Chair; Leslie Pool, Secretary; Becki Ross; Eric Stratton, Wade Cooper and Matt Harriss.

The Board of Directors may go into closed session under the Texas Open Meetings Act. In accordance with Texas Government Code, Section 551.071, consultation with attorney for any legal issues, under Section 551.072 for real property issues; under Section 551.074 for personnel matters, or under Section 551.076, for deliberation regarding the deployment or implementation of security personnel or devices; arising regarding any item listed on this agenda.
Land Acquisition to Support the Expo Center Park and Ride Project - Eminent Domain Authority - This is a public hearing for Texas Parks and Wildlife Code Chapter 26 Action and Transportation Code Chapter 451 Eminent Domain Action for the Use and acquisition of a portion of Walter E. Long Park for construction of the Expo Center Park and Ride as part of Project Connect. The proposed acquisition includes an 8.010 acre tract of land out of Walter E. Long Park, located at 6614 Blue Bluff Road, Austin, TX. Capital Metro will take testimony pursuant to Chapter 26 of the Texas Parks and Wildlife Code for proposed non-park use and acquisition of the property. Capital Metro will also take testimony related to the acquisition of the 8 acre site through the exercise of eminent domain under Transportation Code 451.059 (b).
Expo Center Park & Ride

Project Benefits

• Located at end of Expo Center Rapid Line.
• Establish high-quality service east of IH35.
• Provides service from NE Austin to downtown.
• Connects and improves access to major destinations such as UT, the Capitol, Mueller, Delco Activity Center, & Travis County Expo Center.
• Provide 10-minute peak service to downtown.
Expo Center Park & Ride

Existing Site Condition
Expo Center Park & Ride

Expo Center Tract:

- Owned by City of Austin and Leased to Travis County.
- City concurs with Chapter 26 report that there were no other suitable options for acquisition.
- Following federal “Uniform Act” for land acquisition.
- Final Offer to City made on August 10, 2022.
- Acquisition Funding Source: Project Connect Local Funds
- In process of rezoning from Single Family to Public.
  - August 16, 2022: Approved by the City of Austin Zoning and Platting Commission.
  - Austin City Council consideration set for September Regular Session.
Expo Center Park & Ride

Improvements:

- 150 parking spaces
- Large shelter
- CCTV cameras
- Dynamic Message Screens with real time arrival information
- 8 bus bays with connections to other routes
- New signal and pedestrian connections at Decker Lane & Colony Loop
- Zero emission buses with charging
- Transit priority treatments
Expo Center Park & Ride

Proposed Transit Facility

Tech Ridge Park & Ride Example

Colony Loop Drive

150 Spaces

Bus Bays

Carnival Drive

Gate 2

Travis County Expo Center Pavilion

CapMetro
Public Outreach Events

- MetroRapid Virtual Open House
  - September 9, 2021

- Project Connect "Meet The Team Event"
  - October 13, 2021

- MetroRapid Park & Ride Virtual Open House
  - February 7, 2022

- Colony Park Neighborhood Association
  - February 24, 2022

- Expo Center Rapid Line Groundbreaking
  - December 9, 2021

- Meeting with Colony Park Neighborhood Association President
  - June 22, 2022
Purpose of Public Hearings

Texas Transportation Code Section 451 for eminent domain proceedings
• The purpose of the public hearing is to determine that the acquisition is necessary and proper for the construction, extension, improvement, or development of the transit authority system.

Texas Parks & Wildlife Code, Chapter 26 Protection of Public Parks & Recreational Lands
• The purpose of the public hearing is when a permanent change in use from dedicated parkland to a non-recreational use is proposed and the following determination is required:
  1. There is no feasible and prudent alternative to the use or taking of such land; and
  2. The program or project includes all reasonable planning to minimize harm to the land, as a park, resulting from the use or taking.
Public Comment
Thank you!