



**CAPITAL METROPOLITAN TRANSPORTATION AUTHORITY**  
**Joint Board/Austin City Council Meeting**

**Videoconference Meeting**  
**www.capmetrotx.iqm2.com**

**~ MINUTES ~**

**Board Liaison Ed Easton**  
512-369-6040

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**Wednesday, June 10, 2020**  
**12:00 PM**

**12:09 PM Meeting Called to Order**  
**05:30 PM Meeting Adjourned**

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**I. Public Comment:**

Quincy Dunlap, President and CEO of the Austin Area Urban League, spoke of the importance of exploding our transit and transportation systems in light of the Austin area's growing population and economy.

Zeeshan Malik, citizen, spoke in favor of the investment in Project Connect and stressed that we should not miss this opportunity

Tom Wald, Executive Director of the Red Line Parkway Initiative, supports the Project Connect initiative and emphasized the success of cycling when combined with transit to provide a great commuting option.

Tanner Blair, citizen, stated that Project Connect is great opportunity for Austin and goes to all the right places - where people work and want to go. He and his wife have avoided purchasing a second car by using transit.

Nancy Crowther, community advocate for persons with disabilities, is in favor of the Locally Preferred Alternative. This is the 30<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Americans with Disabilities Act, and public transit is critical for access to employment, inclusiveness, and environmental benefits it provides.

Mike Andry, citizen, is especially impressed with the section of the Blue Line that would run between downtown and the airport. This would have real benefits to the community.

Matthew Gonzales, Business Manager of Labor International Local #1095, represents hundreds of service employees who utilize transit for access to employment and employment opportunities. Safe, reliable, and efficient transit is critical.

Lyndon Henry, citizen, has worked on transit in Austin for 47 years. Light rail will have many benefits to the city and citizens of Austin and revitalize our urban center. He also suggested that the Cap Metro Red Line be converted to electric light rail to become part of the new system.

Laura Huffman, President and CEO of the Austin Chamber of Commerce, thanked the board and councilmembers and relayed that the Austin Chamber Board of Directors passed a resolution yesterday endorsing the Project Connect plan. She complimented the initiative for its thoroughness and adherence to best practices.

Jesse Pendergrass, citizen, spoke in support of the resolution and Project Connect. He spoke of his experience with living in South Korea and both getting around and saving money with transit there.

Elizabeth Jane Bradbury, citizen, supports Project Connect and loves that we are talking about climate change and equity as part of transit expansion. She would like to prioritize racial and economic equities as goals for the project, and see them implemented and not just talked about. Councilmembers Pool and Harper-Madison and Board Members Kitchen and Travillion acknowledged her comments and the importance of them.

David King, citizen, spoke on the importance of ensuring that Project Connect improvements do not result in greater gentrification and displacement of low-income residents and communities of color.

Chandler Gandy, citizen, is in favor of Project Connect and hopes it can lead to an even further-expanded system. It would be wise to have a Red Line stop near the Hancock Shopping Center.

Carlos Leon, citizen, wants greater bus operator accountability. He has been harassed and filed many complaints. Project Connect will fail unless these rogue operators are fired.

Bob Hendricks, member of the Austin Sierra Club Executive Committee, says that his organization strongly supports Project Connect for the social equity and environmental benefits it would provide.

Bay Scoggin, Director of the Texas Public Interest Research Group, supports the initiative and said that we absolutely must provide more options for people to get around. He also complimented the Capital Metro public engagement plan for Project Connect.

## **II. Discussion Item**

### **1. Update on Project Connect Community Engagement and Recommended System Plan and Locally Preferred Alternatives.**

Jackie Nirenberg, Community Engagement Manager, gave a presentation summarizing community engagement to date, and also reviewed the Project Connect timeline that has led us to this point.

Jackie then turned the presentation over to Jose Marrero from Sherry Matthews Group. Sherry Matthews was engaged to conduct a survey Austin-area residents on their perceptions of public transit, Capital Metro, and Project Connect. Jose shared an overview of the results, which included how attitudes have changed over time.

President Clarke and Dave Couch, Project Connect Program Officer, then gave an overview of the Project Connect team and what has led to this point in the initiative. He then reviewed recent changes to the recommended system plan, and presented Locally Preferred Alternatives for each of the routes and modes. Dave further drilled down and provided more detail for the major components of the system. Finally he laid out the details of the actions that the Capital Metro Board and Austin City Council are expected to take today - for the board to approve the system plan, and for the council to support the plan and amend the Austin Strategic Mobility Plan.

Comments and a discussion between the board and council members followed.

### III. Action Item

1. Adoption of Project Connect System Plan and Locally Preferred Alternatives.

Chair Cooper introduced the Capital Metro action. Board member Garza made a motion to approve the resolution with a second from Board member Stratton.

Discussion and comments from each of the board members - largely focused on the importance of encouraging equity - followed. Chair Cooper summarized the discussion by highlighting how transformational this plan would be for future generations of Austinites.

A roll call vote of the Capital Metro board followed. Chair Cooper then turned the meeting over to Austin Mayor Adler, who led the discussion and corresponding unanimous council action in support of the initiative and recommendation to amend the Austin Strategic Mobility Plan.

**RESULT: ADOPTED [UNANIMOUS]**

**MOVER:** Delia Garza, Vice Chair

**SECONDER:** Eric Stratton, Board Secretary

**AYES:** Mitchell, Cooper, Garza, Kitchen, Renteria, Travillion, Stratton, Hill

### IV. Discussion Item

1. Update on Project Connect Proposed Governance Framework and Funding and Investment Strategy.

Capital Metro's Chief of Staff and Chief Counsel Kerri Butcher introduced Natalie Butler from Boston Consulting Group, the firm engaged to present an initial governance model to the board and council for discussion. Ms. Butler presented the process, feedback, and background that led to the recommendation, and then laid out characteristics that the firm felt were important. Included in these recommendations were the board's role, membership, size, term, and the appointment process. The recommended framework, which would be structured as a Local Government Corporation (LGC), is being referred to as the Austin Transit Partnership.

President Clarke added further detail on the possible opportunities for input and decisions on the governance structure.

Comments and a discussion between the board and council members on the merits of the proposal followed. The powers and responsibilities of the LGC were a primary focus.

City of Austin Deputy Chief Financial Officer Greg Canally then introduced Jill Jaworski, Managing Director of PFM, who walked the board and council through a presentation on Project Connect financial scenarios and models. PFM developed an integrated financial model for the project that is Federal Transit Administration (FTA) compliant. She walked through both the assumptions in the model and the initial results. Mr. Canally then wrapped up the presentation with the steps necessary to put the initiative forward for a tax rate election in November.

## V. Items for Future Discussion:

## VI. Adjournment

### ADA Compliance

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**BOARD OF DIRECTORS:** *Wade Cooper, Chair; Delia Garza, Vice Chair; Eric Stratton, Secretary; Terry Mitchell; Troy Hill; Ann Kitchen, Jeffrey Travillion and Pio Renteria.*

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