

CAPITAL METROPOLITAN TRANSPORTATION AUTHORITY
BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING
2910 East Fifth Street Austin, TX 78702

~ Minutes ~

Executive Assistant/Board Liaison Gina Estrada
512-389-7458

Monday, February 27, 2017
12:00 PM

12:08 PM Meeting Called To Order
4:01 PM Meeting Adjourned

I. Pledge of Allegiance

II. Safety Briefing

Donna Simmons gave the Safety Briefing. She highlighted pedestrian safety tips for SXSW. Pedestrians account for 1/3 of the traffic fatalities in Austin. Pedestrians should wear bright colors and abide by laws. Drivers should be alert and not assume that pedestrians will abide by laws.

III. Public Comment:

Council Member Ellen Troxclair stated the importance of bus service in Southwest Austin. The 333 and 30 buses service many important landmarks in South Austin including an ACC campus, hospital, and a food pantry. People move to these areas specifically for proximity to bus routes. She supports Board Member Kitchen's amendment to the Connections 2025 plan.

David Foster, Chair of the Customer Satisfaction Advisory Committee presented CSAC's resolution. They support the Connections 2025 plan overall and are in favor of higher frequency service. CSAC is concerned about Routes 5, 7, and 30. CSAC supports grandfathering in mobility-impaired customers who would lose MetroAccess service.

Fill Hendrix, citizen, asked the board when there would be a decision made about Route 29. Chair Cooper responded that the board will vote on Connections that afternoon. Board Member Kitchen noted that the area is on the list of proposed innovations in her amendment.

Ann Simpson, citizen, lives on the West side and stated that her area is underserved. Her closest line is Route 18 and she also uses the 21/22. East-West service is important to reduce car traffic which is such a problem in Austin.

John Woodley, citizen, would like transcription services at the meeting. He has issues with the guidelines for MetroAccess service. President Watson stated that there will be upgrades to the Boardroom which will include improvements for hearing-impaired individuals.

John Laycock, from AURA, presented a report that shows how Connections 2025 will enhance access to frequent service across the Austin area. Frequent transit increases job retention rates and is especially important to people in poverty.

Jay Blazek Crossley, from the Project Connect/MCAC Committee, spoke on the importance of high-frequency service. He lived in Houston and helped with the change to their bus service - the buses there are up to four minute frequency and they are changing people's lives.

Cindy Hintikka, citizen from the Great Hills area, would like her neighborhood considered in the plans for innovation zones. She has done a neighborhood survey and consulted with a planner.

Jerry Spoor, from the Maple Run neighborhood, wants the system to be redesigned and wants to present his idea to the board.

Heidi Ross, citizen, stated again how important Route 21/22 is for her son and his friends at O. Henry Middle School. The innovation zones should connect the routes on either end of Exposition to maintain connectivity. She is concerned that the proposed Route 335 is becoming shorter and less connected.

Mike Gorse, citizen, expressed his broad support for Connections 2025. High-frequency service is important to him and to the public. He hopes that MetroAccess clients will be grandfathered in.

David King, citizen, wants the board to consider Routes 30 and 333 in South Austin and Routes 383 and 392 in North Austin. Low-income families are being pushed to the edge of the city and they deserve bus service even though they are not in high-density areas.

Susan Pantell, citizen, is concerned about the equity analysis for Connections 2025. The equity analysis should be conducted across the board, not route-by-route since this will be too granular. Project Connect should be included as well. Title VI covers income level as well. She will lose Route 7 in St. John's but nobody in her neighborhood knows about the change.

Brian Sullivan, citizen, spoke on the restoration of Route 29. He is a 4th-generation Austinite who rode the bus as a kid and continues to now. The bus is not only about efficiency, it is also about being connected to your fellow citizens.

Timothy Bray, citizen, lives in Austin and has lived without a car in different neighborhoods. He spoke to the practical benefits of high-frequency service.

Heiwa Salovitz, from Adapt of Texas, lives in the Plaza Saltillo area and would like to see access prioritized in that project. He does not want people orphaned by the change of service in Connections 2025.

Hem Ramachandra, citizen, wants the board to look into on-demand transit. Also, if the bus stops were as they used to be in the 1980s with three sides protected, perhaps more people would ride.

Brennan Griffin, from AURA, reiterated the points of his colleagues. He urged the board to consider low-income residents who live in the urban area as well as those in suburban poverty. He thinks that BRT on pedestrian-unfriendly corridors like I-35 should be cut in favor of preserving MetroAccess service.

Jennifer McPhail, from Adapt of Texas, is concerned about people that ride Paratransit. There are ways to keep innovating so that those customers feel integrated into the community. She rides the 320 every day and would like to see this route kept and improved.

Pamela Rogers, President of the Maple Run Neighborhood Association, spoke after the Connections 2025 presentation. She stated that the bus in her neighborhood is needed, but the public has not attended meetings. Board Member Kitchen clarified that they are not cutting any routes today.

April Stady, citizen, is a MetroAccess client. She has had to change churches because of changes to routes and does not want that to happen again. She is concerned about being grandfathered in since she is dependent on the service for her daily life.

IV. Advisory Committee Updates:

Chris Prentice, Chair of the Access Advisory Committee, gave an update from the Committee meeting. The AAC finalized their resolution regarding Connections 2025, which was distributed to the board. He is concerned that the plan cuts routes and will leave customers with disabilities without transportation. Capital Metro should prioritize those that need transit over those that simply want it or are potential customers. The resolution states that anyone who was qualified for MetroAccess on 2/15/2017 will not be disqualified from service.

1. Update on the Access Advisory Committee (AAC)

V. Executive Session of Chapter 551 of the Texas Government Code: Section 551.072 for real property issues - Real Estate - Downtown Rail Property.

The executive session was moved to the end of the meeting. The board entered Executive Session at 2:28 and returned at 3:34.

VI. Board Committee Updates:

1. Operations, Planning and Safety Committee

Because the meeting was running long a report was not given this month.

2. Finance, Audit and Administration Committee; and

Because the meeting was running long a report was not given this month.

3. CAMPO update

Because the meeting was running long a report was not given this month.

VII. Consent Items

1. Approval of minutes for the January 23, 2017 Public Hearing and the January 23, 2017 Board Meeting

2. Approval of a resolution authorizing the President/CEO, or her designee, to amend an existing Interlocal Agreement (ILA) with Travis County to include RideShare services for the term of the agreement of October 1, 2016 until October 30, 2017 and in an amount not to exceed \$15,000 for RideShare services.

3. Approval of a resolution authorizing the President/CEO, or her designee, to finalize and execute a contract with Piatra, Inc. for the relocation of exhaust fans at the North Operations and Maintenance Facility in an amount not to exceed \$400,000.

4. Approval of a resolution authorizing the President/CEO, or her designee, to finalize and execute a contract with Railworks Track Systems, Inc. for the expansion of the North Operations Rail Maintenance Facility in an amount not to exceed \$182,800, for the construction of a rail turnout to provide a storage area for four new rail cars.

5. Approval of a resolution authorizing the President/CEO, or her designee, to finalize and execute contracts with Verizon Wireless and Level3 to renew the telecommunications contracts for an additional year with four additional option years, in an amount not to exceed \$3,114,540 (which contains a 10% contingency of \$283,140) over a five-year period.

6. Approval of a resolution authorizing the President/CEO, or her designee, to execute a modification of the contract with Huitt-Zollars, Inc. for engineering consulting services for the TIGER V grant projects to add \$489,105 for additional engineering work to be performed, for a total contract amount not to exceed \$3,333,404.

VIII. Action Items:

1. Approval of a resolution authorizing President /CEO, or her designee, to initiate the implementation of the recommendations of Connections 2025.

Board Member Kitchen made the motion to approve the Connections 2025 resolution with her amendment. She noted that analysis under Title VI will be conducted before any routes are cut or changed. She said that mobility innovation zones will not be successful without the community's help. Her amendment includes a specific list of mobility innovation zones. Barton Hills / Zilker has been added, although it is not the highest priority area. MetroAccess service will be maintained while alternatives are considered, and changes will be approved by the board. The board will have the ability to exempt MetroAccess customers from changes to their service. Capital Metro will continue to work with the community in areas that are growing. Staff will develop metrics that indicate progress and report on them regularly.

Todd Hemingson, Vice President of Planning and Development, presented on Connections 2025. Budget and land use constraints drive the need to make choices, which is what Connections 2025 is. The process has lasted 15 months thus far. Goals are to build ridership, to match service to markets, enhance the customer experience, and ensure financial sustainability. There will be a focus on mobility innovation zones where the goal is to lower the per passenger cost. The service change process will begin once the plan is approved, but it will be a period that will involve Title VI analysis as well as approval from the public and the board.

After two additional public comments, there was discussion. Vice Chair Silas is not comfortable with the added sentence in Item 3 that would give the board the authority to exempt MetroAccess customers from changes. She does not want to get that far into the details of individual cases. She asked Todd what the implications are of doing this. Todd responded that exempting individuals would cost up to \$1 million / year. Board Member Kitchen wants to state these issues clearly for the public in this document. Board Member Garza would have appreciated more options and choices in the process. She is afraid that we are prioritizing people who may use the service over people who do use it. President Watson suggested changing the word "utilized" on page 2 to "evaluated." This was approved by Kitchen and Garza. On page 3 in Item 4, Chair Cooper suggested the addition of "as appropriate" after "and develop plans." This was accepted. Todd suggested changing the guideline for monthly reporting on metrics to monthly and / or quarterly. This was accepted. Board Member Mitchell stressed the importance of communication with the areas and governments that Capital Metro serves. Vice Chair Silas reminded the board that the service area and Austin city limits do not perfectly align. Chair Cooper suggested a change to the last item on page 3 of the amendment, to add "and surrounding jurisdictions" after "Travis County." This was accepted. Board Member Renteria stated that low-income people who live on the outskirts of the city are the people that need transit most since they probably do not have cars. The motion carries 8-0.

RESULT:	ADOPTED AS AMENDED [UNANIMOUS]
MOVER:	Ann Kitchen, Board Member
SECONDER:	Delia Garza, Board Member
AYES:	Silas, Mitchell, Word, Cooper, Garza, Kitchen, Jonse, Renteria

2. Elections of Capital Metro Board Officers

Vice Chair Silas would like to compare the structure and practices of the Capital Metro Board with those of peer agencies. This can be discussed at the next board worksession. Chair Cooper added that it may be helpful to form committees / task forces to do deep dives into issues of Access and Innovation Zones. Vice Chair Silas wants to look at term limits, rotation through executive positions, and how the executive positions are structured.

RESULT:	ADOPTED [UNANIMOUS]
MOVER:	Ann Kitchen, Board Member
SECONDER:	Rita Jonse, Board Member
AYES:	Silas, Mitchell, Word, Cooper, Garza, Kitchen, Jonse, Renteria

3. Approval of a resolution authorizing the President/CEO, or her designee, to negotiate, finalize and execute provisions of the Master Development Agreement and/or Ground Lease with Plaza Saltillo TOD, Ltd., related to the development of the owned property locally known as the Plaza Saltillo project.

Board Member Mitchell presented the resolution for the ground lease with Endeavor/Plaza Saltillo TOD, Ltd. Board Member Kitchen clarified that the amount in Item 1 is in fact in addition to Item 2. She proposed the following change: "The amount will be matched by the developer in addition to any existing fee in lieu commitment and in addition to the amount of Capital Metro's participation through the rent abatement in Item 1 above."

RESULT:	ADOPTED AS AMENDED [7 TO 0]
MOVER:	Terry Mitchell, Board Member
SECONDER:	Sabino Renteria, Board Member
AYES:	Silas, Mitchell, Word, Garza, Kitchen, Jonse, Renteria
RECUSED:	Cooper

IX. Presentations:

1. Economic and Traveler Impact Analysis

Because the meeting was running long this item was not presented. It will be rescheduled for March.

2. Bus Stop Improvements and Amenities

Because the meeting was running long this item was not presented. It will be rescheduled for March.

X. Reports:

1. Planning/Development

Because the meeting was running long this report was not given this month.

2. Operations

Vice President of Bus and Paratransit Operations Dottie Watkins presented the report.

3. Finance

Reinet Marneweck gave the highlights from the Finance report. Revenues are on track for the YTD. Sales tax receipts are also tracking close to budget. There is a decline in sales tax growth as a trend.

4. President's Report

Because the meeting was running long this report was not presented.

XI. Items for Future Discussion:

XII. Adjournment

ADA Compliance

Reasonable modifications and equal access to communications are provided upon request. Please call (512)389-7458 or email gina.estrada@capmetro.org if you need more information.

BOARD OF DIRECTORS: *Wade Cooper, Chairperson; Beverly Silas, Vice Chair; Juli Word, Board Secretary; Delia Garza, Terry Mitchell, Ann Kitchen, Rita Jonse and Pio Renteria. Board Liaison: Gina Estrada (512)389-7458, email gina.estrada@capmetro.org if you need more information.*

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.