Land Acknowledgement
Public Comment
Role of the CAC

Mission: The Community Advisory Committee will assist the Board, City Council, and Capital Metro Board in engaging the community and advising on anti-displacement and equity matters related to Project Connect as well as to assist the community and the City Council in the creation and evaluation of neighborhood-level anti-displacement strategies and priorities and the identification of Key Performance Indicators related to equity and displacement and triggers thereof. The recommendations made by the Committee related to displacement mitigation measures or social equity issues that impact historically underserved populations must be considered at a public meeting of the Board, City Council, or the Capital Metro Board, as appropriate in accordance with the recommendations made.
Bylaws Checklist

1. Name of organization
2. Purpose
3. Membership
   • Eligibility
   • Types of membership (voting, non-voting, honorary, student, etc.)
   • Resignation and reinstatement
4. Officers & Executive Committee
5. Committees
   • Standing
   • Ad Hoc
6. Meetings
   • Cadence
   • Voting (number for quorum)
   • Open Forum (public comment)
   Policy
Project Connect Equity Tool Update

May 26, 2021
Agenda

1. Context
2. Challenge + Opportunity
3. Our Commitment
4. Ask / What We Need for Success
Context
Equity & Mobility– Interrelated Policies

2016 Corridor Program Contract with the Voters

Austin Strategic Mobility Plan Equity Analysis Zones

Proposition A- Project Connect Contract with Voters

Proposition B- Transportation Infrastructure Contract with Voters

Mandate for Equity & Mobility

April 2020 Project Connect Resolution No. 20200423-038

Sept 2020 Project Connect Resolution No. 20200903-044

Feb 2021 Project Connect Resolution No. 20210204-062

March 25, 2021 Execution of Interlocal Grant Agreement
Successfully Fulfilling the Mandate

What we have

- $277,000,000 of the Project Connect Tax Revenue for:
  - Acquiring real property
  - Anti-displacement strategies

What we are doing

- Define environment to advance racial equity
- Consultant-led, resident-centered co-creation of the tool
- Implementation and assessment of the tool

What we need

- Centering on the values of and having a shared mandate for racial equity
- Rebalancing power and decision-making structures, and
- Accountability to those most directly impacted by displacement pressure
Environment to Advance Equity

The Spectrum of Community Engagement to Ownership

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>STANCE TOWARDS COMMUNITY</th>
<th>IGNORE</th>
<th>INFORM</th>
<th>CONSULT</th>
<th>INVOLVE</th>
<th>COLLABORATE</th>
<th>DEFER TO</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>IMPACT</td>
<td>Marginalization</td>
<td>Placation</td>
<td>Tokenization</td>
<td>Voice</td>
<td>Delegated Power</td>
<td>Community Ownership</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT GOALS</td>
<td>Deny access to decision-making processes</td>
<td>Provide the community with relevant information</td>
<td>Gather input from the community</td>
<td>Ensure community needs and assets are integrated into process &amp; inform planning</td>
<td>Ensure community capacity to play a leadership role in implementation of decisions</td>
<td>Foster democratic participation and equity through community-driven decision-making; Bridge divide between community &amp; governance</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>MESSAGE TO COMMUNITY</td>
<td>Your voice, needs &amp; interests do not matter</td>
<td>We will keep you informed</td>
<td>We care what you think</td>
<td>You are making us think, (and therefore act) differently about the issue</td>
<td>Your leadership and expertise are critical to how we address the issue</td>
<td>It’s time to unlock collective power and capacity for transformative solutions</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ACTIVITIES</td>
<td>Closed door meeting, Misinformation, Systematic</td>
<td>Fact sheets, Open Houses, Presentations, Billboards, Videos</td>
<td>Public Comment, Focus Groups, Community Forums, Surveys</td>
<td>Community organizing &amp; advocacy, House meetings, Interactive workshops, Polling, Community forums</td>
<td>MOU’s with Community-based organizations, Community organizing, Citizen advisory committees, Open Planning Forums with Citizen Polling</td>
<td>Community-driven planning, Consensus building, Participatory action research, Participatory budgeting, Cooperatives</td>
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The Process

**February**
Select paid residents most at risk of displacement to co-create the tool

**March**
Develop a shared understanding of racial equity

**April**
Catalysts co-create components of the tool in five policy workshops

**May**
Begin using the tool to ensure Project Connect investments benefit residents most at risk of displacement

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We are here
The Co-creation Team

Community Catalysts

- **30 people** selected from a pool of **117 applicants**. They are being compensated for their time.
- Participants were selected based on displacement risk.

**Who’s in the Catalyst Group?**

- **88%** Current or former residents of the Eastern Crescent
- **100%** Earn less than the median income for Austin
- **50%** No personal vehicle or depend on transit
- **90%** Are people of color
  - 57% African American
  - 37% Hispanic, Latino/a, Latinx, Chicanx
  - 20% Indigenous
  - 7% Asian American, Native Hawaiian, or Pacific Islander
  - 13% White

Note: Some members identify as more than one racial or ethnic group.
The Facilitators

Consultants:
Nora Liu & Ryan Curren

City of Austin Departments:
● City of Austin Equity and City of Austin Resilience
● Center for Excellence and Innovation
● Housing and Planning Department
● Austin Transportation Department
● Economic Development Department
Challenge + Opportunity
Transit Investment Equity Considerations

- Impacts to BIPOC organizations, homeowners and cultural anchors
- Impacts to fares and services
- Impacts to BIPOC owned businesses
- Fair wage employment
- Affordable housing near transit
- Tenant rights
- Affordable transit
- Rent and property tax increases
- Distance between stations in BIPOC communities
- Right of Way acquisition along routes
- Construction impacts
Evidence of Transit Oriented Displacement: Portland, OR
Community organized together across identities and interests -- very early
Transit learned it has to improve the lives of those who live and work along the alignment
City explicitly countered anti-gentrification forces for residents and businesses
Philanthropy formed a collaborative to focus funding along the alignment
Community-based organizations built affordable housing and cultural and commercial space in advance
Equitable Development Initiative: Seattle, WA

**Community’s vision, strategies, priorities**

- Community on the Advisory Board and informs funding decisions
- City holds the funds and has increased fund size
- Community-based organizations to build capacity and power
- Community-based organizations to build cultural space, jobs centers, affordable housing

**Funded Projects:** (3 of 22 excerpted below)

### Little Saigon Landmark Project
*Friends of Little Saigon, Chinatown International District*

A gathering place for the regional Vietnamese community in the Little Saigon business district... cultural, shopping, and culinary ...anchor.

### Rainier Beach Food Innovation District
*Rainier Beach Action Coalition, Rainier Beach*

An employment, education and entrepreneurship project prioritized and driven by the community with a new model of transit oriented development (TOD) that is based on production and decent quality jobs rather than consumption and low-wage jobs. This new model is in contrast to the more common model of “high cost housing over low-wage jobs.”

### William Grose Center for Cultural Innovation
*Africatown, Central Area*

Create a space that supports small businesses, creative entrepreneurs and creating pathways to the knowledge-based economy... support entrepreneurship, innovation, and economic development located in the ... serve Seattle’s historically Black community that has been and continues to face high risk of displacement...
Challenge: displacement is layered

- Broader City as a System and outside forces
- Multi-family properties, Community, Churches, Schools
- Individuals & Families
Opportunity: trigger important conversations

Process
Who is making decisions?

Time
Preventive or responsive?

Leverage
What's the most effective play?

Accountability
What are the outcomes?
Our Commitment
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>DELIVERABLES</th>
<th>AREAS OF INFLUENCE</th>
<th>INFORMED BY</th>
<th>PROJECTED COMPLETION DATE</th>
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</table>
| **Project Connect Equity Tool (framework)** | • Evaluate Project Connect elements benefits and burdens  
• Frame neighborhood level plans  
• Inform equitable development policies  
• Other City investments | City Staff & Catalysts | June 2021 |
| **Anti-Displacement Funds Scorecard (evaluation)** | • $300,000,000 Anti-Displacement Funds | Catalysts | June 2021 |
| **Key Performance Indicator (dashboard)** | All of the above  
(Online dashboard, Annual Council report, Council discussions) | | Recommended Future work |
Environment to Advance Equity

For an equity scorecard or tool to be effective, it needs an environment conducive to receiving and using the data and information it yields, including:

1) Centering on the values of and having a shared mandate for racial equity,

2) Identify and correct imbalances to power and decision-making structures, and

3) Accountability to those most directly impacted by displacement pressures.
Thank you! Questions?
Items to Consider for Next Meeting

- Schedule of Regular Meetings
- Election of Officers
- Adoption of Charter & Bylaws
- Development of Work Plan