6:00 PM

Welcome / Introductions / Call to Order
Ephraim Taylor

**CapMetro Employees:** Katherine Gonzalez, Martin Kareithi, Jackie Nirenberg, Edna Parra

**CSAC Members:** Ephraim Taylor, David Foster, Betsy Greenberg; Diana Wheeler, David Shapiro

**General Public:** Ruven Brooks

**Systems Accessibility**
Martin Kareithi, Director - Systemwide Accessibility
Jackie Nirenberg; Austin Transit Partnership Community Engagement Director

**ADA & Accessibility**
- Americans with Disabilities Act - civil rights legislation
  - Guarantees equal access to transportation for people with disabilities (PWD)
  - Creates a framework for regulations and standards to ensure that PWDs have access to transportation services and facilities

**What is Accessibility?**
- Accessibility - the degree to which a facility, practice, program, service or technology is available and provides access to PWDs.
- What does it mean for something to be accessible?
  - Facility - degree to which it is readily usable by PWDs.
  - Program or practice - degree to which PWDs can participate in full.
  - Technology - Degree to which PWDs can use it with or without assistive technology.

**Systemwide Accessibility**
- Coordinated approach to improving accessibility across the entire Capital Metro transit system:
  - Facilities (transit stops and stations)
  - Vehicles (MetroBus, MetroRapid, future light rail)
  - Technology (customer communication and information, mobile apps, internal systems)

**Facilities**
The built environment
- Where the pedestrian meets the infrastructure
- Incorporate accessibility at concept and design
- Includes pedestrian features such as sidewalks, shared-use paths, traffic signals and crossings
- Capital Metro-owned facilities and buildings
- Readily accessible and useable by PWDs
- Accessible to the public and for public meetings and appointments

Facilities Cont.
- Sidewalks
  - Access to transit begins & ends with a sidewalk
- Curb Cuts
  - Necessary pedestrian feature, must be ADA compliant, & incorporate detectable warning strips
- Shared Use Paths
  - Means of transportation for various users - pedestrians, cyclists & PWDs
  - Requires sufficient ROW for safety & accessibility - minimize conflicts
- Traffic Signals - Audible pedestrian signals
  - Form of effective communication for PWDs, eg low vision & blind - audible queues
- Rectangular Rapid Flashing Beacons (RRFB) & Pedestrian Hybrid Beacons (PHB)

Vehicles
- Light rail, MetroRapid or MetroBus
- Incorporate accessibility features - ramps, audible announcements, securement systems, level-boarding rail platforms
- Be intentional about design
- Seek community input from PWDs
- Design responsive scope

Technology
- Customer information systems to improve the journey.
- Mobile apps and other technology can provide:
  - Information about the built environment
  - Wayfinding and navigation
  - Sense of ease and confidence

MetroAccess – Complementary ADA paratransit Service
- Safety net service for persons with disabilities who cannot use fixed-route due to their disability and functional abilities.
- Despite improvements to the built environment, vehicles, and technology, there will be others who will not be able to use fixed route.
- MetroAccess will continue to be critical to PWDs in need of paratransit service.

Looking Ahead to the future
- What could a systemwide accessible transit system look like?
  - Full accessible paths of travel across the built environment to transit facilities with accessible pedestrian features.
  - Vehicles designed for the future and for all functional abilities operating with precision technology.
  - Customer information systems and apps to facilitate universal access to complete the journey with information at every step.
Project Connect Overview
Jackie Nirenberg; Austin Transit Partnership Community Engagement Director

Transit system Expansion Program
- New light rail network (Orange & Blue) with a subway tunnel under downtown
- 4 MetroRapid routes
- 9 Park and Rides and a regional Transit Center
- Anti-Displacement investments

Progress Timeline
- **August 2020**: CapMetro & City of Austin Interlocal Agreement to create ATP
- **November 2020**: Voter approval of Project Connect Initial Investment
- **March 2021**: Board members, by-laws, and officers approved
- **February 2021**: FY 2021 budget approved
- **May 2021**: Expo & Pleasant Valley MetroRapid Lines – CE approved by FTA
- **May 2021**: Expo & Pleasant Valley – Completed 30% Design
- **March 2021**: Pflugerville Pickup zone launched March 23rd
- **June 2021**: Dessau Pickup Zone launched on June 15th
- **June 2021**: Expo & Pleasant valley – Progressed FTA Small Starts Readiness Documents
- **July 2021**: South Manchaca Pickup Zone launched July 27th
- **August 2021**: North Oak Pickup Zone launched August 24th
- **September 2021**: Electric bus procurement
- **September 2021**: ATP & Capital Metro Board, City Council JPA work session
- **September 2021**: Red Line – Lakeline to Leander double tracking Groundbreaking
- **November 2021**: ATP & Capital Metro Boards and City Council approve JPA
- **December 2021**: Expo & Pleasant Valley – FTA letters of no prejudice
- **December 2021**: Expo Groundbreaking
- **January 2022**: Broadmoor Station Groundbreaking

On The Horizon
- **Orange & Blue Line**
  - **Summer 2022**
    - Finalize 30% design plans for Orange & Blue Lines
    - Submit Rating Package to FTA for New Starts Evaluation for Orange and Blue Lines
    - Draft Environmental impact Statements available for public review
    - Submit Ratings Package to FTA for New Starts Evaluation for Orange and Blue Lines
  - **Winter 2022 / 2023**
    - NEPA – Record of Decision
  - **Summer 2023**
    - FTA – Entry into Project Engineering
- Fall 2024
  - New Starts Full-Funding
  - Grant Agreements (FFGA)

- **MetroRapid**
  - **Winter 2021 / 2022**
    - Pleasant Valley Groundbreaking
  - **January 2023**
    - Gold Line Anticipated Construction Start
  - **June 2022**
    - Menchaca Anticipated Construction Start
  - **Spring 2022**
    - Expo and Pleasant Valley Small Starts
    - Grant Agreement

- **Red Line**
  - **May 2021**
    - McKalla Station Anticipated Construction Start

- **Central Maintenance Facility**
  - 2022
    - Facility Design
  - 2023 - 2024
    - Anticipated Construction Start

- **Electric Vehicle Procurement**
  - Ongoing
    - Vehicle Development

- **Project Connect MetroRapid Lines**
  - Expo Center | from Expo Center to UT and Downtown
  - Pleasant Valley | from Mueller to the Goodnight Ranch on Slaughter Lane
  - Menchaca and Oak Hill MetroRapid Extension: multiple phases, merge with 803 to Domain
  - Gold Line | from AAC Highland to Republic Square

- **Orange Line Overview**
  - The Orange Line creates a north/south transit line.
  - Provides high-capacity service within dedicated transitways.
  - Operates along the existing MetroRapid 801 route. Funding from initial Light Rail investment would deliver light rail (LRT) service from North Lamar Transit Center to Stassney Lane.
  - 21 stations are planned along the route, with service approximately every 10 minutes.

- **Blue Line Overview**
  - The Blue Line light rail transit (LRT) will connect Republic Square in Downtown Austin to the northern end to the Austin-Bergstrom International Airport (AUS) on the southern end.
  - Provides high-capacity service within dedicated transitways.
  - Operates along portions of the existing MetroBus route 20.
  - 10 stations are planned along the route, with service approximately every 10 minutes.

- **Community Engagement and Involvement Update**
  - **Orange and Blue Line Scoping Meeting - January – March 2021**: 2,117 Participants
  - **MetroRapid Virtual Community Meeting - January – March 2021**: 919 Participants
Orange and Blue Line Station Alignment Meetings - April – May: 1,528 Participants
Orange and Blue Line 15% Design Meetings - July – August 2021: 981 Participants
Red Line Virtual Community Update - August 2021: 109 Participants
MetroRapid Virtual Community Update - August 2021: 41 Participants
Red Line – Lakeline to Leander Groundbreaking - October 2021
Orange and Blue Line Working Group Meetings - Ongoing since May 2021
Orange and Blue Line Community Design Workshops: 613 Participants
Red Line – McKalla Station Virtual Community Update - September 2021 – Ongoing through early 2022: 122 Participants

MetroRapid Expo Groundbreaking - December 2021
ATP and CapMetro Committees and Groups
Established and ongoing meetings with: FAR, PSEC, EAC, CAC, ITAG, PCAN and CSAC and Access committees

Stay Involved
Get involved: projectconnect.com/get-involved

Upcoming Events
February 7th: 5:30PM – MetroRapid Community Update
February 23rd: 5PM – Encore Community Design Workshop: The Drag
March 1st: Community Design Workshop: Crestview Station
March TBD – Meet the Team event for CapMetro & ATP committees
March 29th & March 31st – Let’s Talk Project Connect

MetroRapid Update
Kathrine Gonzalez, Technical PM/PM III

Service Characteristics
- 10-minute peak service; limited stops
- Corridor-based Bus Rapid Transit (BRT) in mixed traffic
- Transit Signal Priority treatments
- All new vehicles will be zero emissions

MetroRapid Budget & Schedule

Expo & Pleasant Valley
- Half of budget expected to come from federal grants:
  - Expo: $44.6 M
  - Pleasant Valley: $48.9 M
- Federal Transit Administration grant funding included in President’s budget (May 2021)
- 60% design complete
- Expo groundbreaking December 15, 2021
- Pleasant Valley groundbreaking planned February 16, 2022
- In service mid 2023

803 Extension
- Menchaca to Slaughter is the first phase
- In service late 2023 or early 2024
- Extend to Oak Hill in coordination with TxDOT Oak Hill Parkway Project, in service date not yet known
- FTA Bus and Bus Facilities grant application
MetroRapid Gold Line
- Continued coordination with City of Austin, UT, State of Texas, and ACC Highland
- Supports existing downtown service
- Premised on Austin Strategic Mobility Plan
- Using local Project Connect funds

MetroRapid Service Amenities
- New shelter design with full & neighborhood sizes
- Cameras (CCTV)
- Dynamic Message Screens (DMS) Real Time Arrival Info
- Ticket Vending Machines (TVM) at key stations
- 9” near level boarding
- Solar where possible
- Potential for public art, community information panels, trees

MetroRapid Park & Rides
- In development:
  - Expo Center | 150 spaces
  - Goodnight Ranch | 75 spaces
  - AISD Delco Activity Center | TBD
- Ongoing discussion:
  - McKinney Falls
  - Highland/ North Lamar Transit Center

MetroRapid Outreach
- Community Groups and Neighborhood Homeowners’ Associations updates continuing
- Block walking prior to construction
- ATP Meet the Team- Oct 13
- AAC- Sept 2, Feb 2
- CSAC- Sept 8, Feb 9
- Status Update/VOH- Sept 9, Feb 7

Public Communications

Approval of the minutes