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# THE GENERAL MEETING OF THE PROJECT CONNECT COMMUNITY ADVISORY COMMITTEE CONVENEDThursday, May 11, 2023ATP Office | Conference Room

# 203 Colorado Street, Austin, TX 78701

# (with some members of the CAC participating via video conference)

**Members in Attendance: Members Absent:**

Awais Azhar – Chair Brianna Snitchler

Susana Almanza – Vice Chair Noe Elias

Kathryn Broadwater

 Joao Paulo Connolly – Chair Pro Tem

 Gretchen Flatau

 Teddy Fong

Michael Gorse

Jeremy Hendricks

Alex Karner

Renee Lopez

Susan Somers

Ephraim Taylor

**Attendees:**

Annick Beaudet

Brandon Carr

Veronica Castro de Barrera

Courtney Chavez

Liane Conte

Terry Hockens

Nefertitti Jackmon

Rose Lisska

Deron Lozano

Miguel Lopez

Bill MCcamley

Jennifer Pyne

Andrew Skabowski

Lisa Storer

Mark Thompson

Marla Torrado

Jocelyn Vokes

# CALL TO ORDER

Member Joao Paulo Connolly was elected to serve as Chair Pro Tem on the approval of a motion from Member Flatau, seconded by Member Lopez. The motion passed with a unanimous decision (11-0).

The Project Connect Community Advisory Committee convened in a regular general meeting on Thursday, May 11, 2023.

Chair Pro Tem Connolly called the Committee meeting to order at 5:06 PM

# Land Acknowledgement

Vice Chair Almanza read the Land Acknowledgement statement.

# Citizen Communication

One citizen shared their comment at this time.

## **Discussion Items**

1. **Austin Light Rail Recommendation Discussion – Awais Azhar, Community Advisory Committee**
	1. Chair Azhar led the committee in a discussion about the recommendations for the Light Rail.
		1. Chair Pro Tem Connolly requested an amendment to the proposed Memo with the following language: “if there is only one flex option, it should be to given priority to the option that can reach the highest ridership.”

# Action Items

1. **Austin Light Rail Recommendation Memorandum - Awais Azhar, CAC**
	1. Chair Azhar presented the memorandum, drafted by the Project Design and Equitable Transit Oriented Development working group, and raised the option to adopt the document to distribute to the City of Austin City Council, Austin Transit Partnership Board, and the CapMetro Board.
		1. The Memorandum was finalized for distribution on the approval of a motion from Chair Azhar, seconded by Member Taylor. The motion passed with a unanimous decision (11-0).
		2. The motion was approved, with the inclusion of additional language, represented below, inclusion of supporting data (compiled with the support of ATP Staff and Dr Alex Karner, Ex Officio member of the CAC), and a note conveying the direct vote count.
	2. Amended language to be included in the final document:
		1. “…of the greater number of riders served by these options and…providing…enhancing”
		2. “Furthermore, both of these options provide greater accessibility for people with disabilities and other users such as those utilizing a stroller.”
		3. “…locating the maintenance facility in East Austin will necessitate mitigation of any potential impacts and engaging with the neighboring community throughout the design process to address the concerns they have voiced.”
		4. Furthermore, with enhanced design elements, similar to what is recommended below, this option could provide opportunities for seamless future expansion of the light rail system…includes elements such as…that need to be resolved and addressed in the future…
		5. If, during further planning for this option, the opportunity should arise to build only one of the two proposed flex segments in the first phase of the light rail implementation, the CAC recommends that as priority is given to segments that serve the most riders. Should the North Lamar to Pleasant Valley option be selected, the CAC recommends that tie-in infrastructure, including track switch, be included in the initial phase of development to allow for expandability of the light rail system with minimal disruption to future light rail operation.
		6. Ensure that all community spaces provided on the site, or surrounding it, are accessible for people with disabilities and other users.

# Approval of Minutes

1. **Approve the minutes of the October 11, 2022, meeting of the Project Connect Community Advisory Committee.**

The minutes of the February 20, 2023 Special Called meeting and the March, 9, 2023 general meeting, were approved on a motion by Member Flatau, seconded by Member Somers; confirmed with a unanimous vote (11-0).

# Staff Updates

1. **ATP Staff Updates**

Lonny Stern, Public Involvement Manager for ATP, provided an update on the next ATP Board meeting (May 24, 2023), the availability of the Community Engagement Report, the City Council Workshop at City Hall (May 30, 2023), as well as the Joint Partnership Meeting (June 6, 2023).

1. **CapMetro Staff Updates**

 No updates were provided at this time

1. **City of Austin Staff Updates**

No updates were provided at this time

1. **Working Group/TAC Updates**

Chair Azhar shared with the CAC that Secretary Brianna Snitchler has stepped down from current membership, with updates to be provided at a later time.

# Future Items

 Member Somers requested dates, and possibly metrics, for future public facing engagements.

Chair Azhar requested to review how to engage with youth for future community outreach efforts.

Chair Azhar has asked to have a discussion about the aligning of current schedules with the future Light Rail implementation.

# ADJOURN

Chair Pro Tem Connolly adjourned the meeting at 6:52 PM without objection.