Austin Transit Partnership releases community engagement findings on Austin Light Rail

Community feedback will inform ATP recommendation on Austin Light Rail implementation plan

AUSTIN, Texas—Today, Austin Transit Partnership released a report following its six-week long community engagement process on the five proposed options ATP presented on March 21 to the community for Austin Light Rail. During this six-week period, ATP had community interactions with over 8,000 people through 90 in-person events and virtual events. Key findings of the feedback support the advancement of a light rail project that prioritizes ridership, connectivity and access to opportunities, and that also maximizes coverage and seamless integration into other transportation systems.

“Austin Transit Partnership worked diligently to operate in full transparency as we sought community feedback during this vital process,” Greg Canally, executive director of ATP, said. “We know how crucial it is to have this feedback from people all over our city with different levels of current transportation access, and we believe we were able to reach those who need this system the most. We continue to see support and excitement for light rail and feedback on the options focused on reaching key destinations and serving the most people. It is clear that the people of Austin want this project to move forward, and for us to continue surging ahead with a plan to make our city a much more mobile and accessible place. Our team will carefully consider the key themes among the feedback we received to ensure that our staff recommendation is an option that reflects the community it will serve.”
The key themes from the community feedback were categorized into two main community values: mobility and customer experience, and access to opportunities. Among these comments, the community expressed their feedback on multiple topics, including impacts on traffic, access to the airport, integration to other public transportation systems, access to key destinations, and economic impact in Austin.

Outreach included paid and unpaid media, with a focus on reaching out to Black, Indigenous and People of Color participants, low-income participants and current transit riders as well as groups who invited the ATP to share more information.

“This community engagement period really allowed Austin Transit Partnership to strengthen its relationship with the Austin community,” Courtney Chavez, senior vice president of equity and community partnership for ATP, said. “We went about this process in a very open and transparent manner and we are looking forward to providing a staff recommendation for Austin’s core light rail system that best reflects the needs and values of the Austin community.”

ATP will publicly unveil its recommendation for the Austin Light Rail Implementation Plan the week of May 22 and present it to the ATP Board, City Council and CapMetro. ATP will continue to listen to community feedback throughout the implementation process and do so in a transparent manner.

The full report can be found on the ATP website at atptx.org. In addition, ATP continues to provide FAQ reports that address key topics related to light rail. Two new reports addressing “Expandability,” “On-Street Light Rail” and an updated version of the “Finance FAQ” report are now accessible on the Light Rail FAQ page: atptx.org/faqs.

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**About Austin Transit Partnership**

Austin Transit Partnership is the independent entity, accountable, and responsible for the financing, design, construction, and overall implementation of Project Connect—the transformative, voter-approved investment in new transit services. ATP’s charge is to deliver on the Austin voters’ transit vision in partnership with the community—and in a way that embeds equity, sustainability, and transparency as overarching priorities.