

AUSTIN TRANSIT PARTNERSHIP BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING

Austin Central Library

710 W Cesar Chavez St, Austin, TX 78701

~ Minutes ~

Board Secretary Casey Burack
512-369-6040

Wednesday, March 23, 2022
2:00 PM

2:12 PM Meeting Called to Order
7:43 PM Meeting Adjourned

I. Public Comment

There was no public comment at this meeting.

II. Technical Advisory Committee Reports

ATP Board Chair, Veronica Castro de Barrera, provided the March Engineering, Architecture & Construction Committee (EAC) report. The agenda items were:

- Orange and Blue Line updates
- 30% design decision-making process
- Upcoming community design workshops
- Highlights from the March 2, 2022 tri-party work session

ATP Vice-Chair, Dr. Collette Pierce Burnette, updated the Board on the February meeting of the Planning, Sustainability, Equity and DBE Committee (PSEC). This was a combined meeting of PSEC and the Finance and Risk Committee (FAR). The primary agenda items were:

- Update related to Project Connect equity goals and metrics
- Discussion of our upcoming "Let's Talk Project Connect" community conversations on March 29 and 31

Board Member Elkins asked for an updated cost estimate for Project Connect, citing the need for complete transparency with the public. Specifically, he requested that Executive Director Clarke produce cost estimates that HDR (Capital Metro's Program Manager Owner Representative for Project Connect) delivered to ATP staff in the middle of 2021 when they'd reached 15% design, as well as the 2020 pre-vote cost estimates for comparison purposes, including explanations of any significant variances. Additionally, he asked for current cost estimates specific to the 30% design options. Board Member Elkins asked for this information by April 13. Mayor Adler echoed the need for transparency with the public.

ATP General Counsel, Casey Burack, stated that the matter be tabled and suggested it be posted for discussion at a future meeting because it was not in the posted agenda for the March Board meeting.

III. Executive Director Report

Executive Director Clarke highlighted the APTA Legislative Conference in Washington, D.C. where Mr. Clarke and Capital Metro Board Chair, Jeff Travillion, met with members of Austin's Congressional Delegation and the Presidential Administration. Mr. Clarke also discussed U.S. Transportation Secretary Buttigieg's visit to Austin during SXSW. The Secretary rode the Red Line and met with local elected officials, policymakers, community advocates, and key partners in both transportation and community advocacy.

IV. Monthly Program Update

1. *Monthly Community Engagement Update*

Ms. Nirenberg provided a three-month Community Engagement Look-Ahead. She reviewed the community meetings over the last month and the participation numbers for each. Assistant City Manager/Board Member Gina Fiandaca asked how the Community Engagement team is getting this information out to the public, and Ms. Nirenberg explained that ATP works with City of Austin staff to reach as broad a group as possible. They also promote the meetings by going to door-to-door in certain neighborhoods, and advertise on social media. Dr. Burnette asked if there has been any thought around co-hosting meetings with local groups to reach an even larger audience, and Ms. Nirenberg explained this is something they are looking into as ATP moves towards 30% design. Mayor Adler stressed the importance of not surprising the public. Board Member Elkins discussed the importance of recording and reporting back the high-level themes the team is seeing in community feedback.

2. *Monthly Administrative Update*

ATP General Counsel, Casey Burack, updated the Board on upcoming Interlocal Agreements with the City of Austin and Capital Metro necessary to implement Project Connect. She presented the current plan for timing to bring the agreements to the ATP Board for discussion and approval.

V. Action Items

1. Approval of minutes from the January 19 and February 16 Austin Transit Partnership Board Meetings.

RESULT: ADOPTED [UNANIMOUS]

MOVER: Burnette

SECONDER: Elkins

AYES: Castro de Barrera, Stratton, Elkins, Pierce Burnette, Adler

ABSENT:

VI. Discussion Items

1. Systemwide Accessibility

Martin Kareithi, Capital Metro Director of Systemwide Accessibility, and Peter Mullan, Chief of Architecture and Urban Design, provided this update.

Mr. Kareithi explained that systemwide accessibility is a way of looking at the program with a holistic and coordinated approach to accessibility and improvements to the entire transit system. He walked the Board through all the aspects of the program that will need to be accessible and explained his team's process to meet with various community groups to hear their feedback. Mr. Mullan addressed portions of the project with significant accessibility implications.

2. Independent Analysis Presentation and Report Summary by the Eno Center for Transportation

The Eno Center for Transportation (Eno) presented the results of the independent leadership and governance analysis they conducted of ATP under the direction of the Austin Transit Partnership Board. The Board did not take action on this topic at the March 2022 Board Meeting but listened to Eno's presentation and asked questions to understand their methodology and findings.

Board Member Elkins addressed the importance of clearly defining the roles and responsibilities of the three parties and the need to define independence. Eno recommends a further discussion with the three groups to continue to define the roles and responsibilities of ATP.

Board Member Stratton asked if the Eno team had an opportunity to watch the March 2 tri-party work session and whether they had any feedback about the discussion. The Eno team did watch the meeting and reiterated the importance of the talks the parties are beginning to have about roles and responsibilities.

Mayor Adler recommends that everyone read page 31 of the Eno Report, which discusses independence and the difference in opinions between what this means and looks like in practice.

Board Member Elkins asked about determining the proper designated federal grant recipient, and Eno replied that they think the more important aspect of this is clarity with the Federal Transit Administration.

Chair Castro de Barrera asked Eno if they had seen examples of special purpose delivery vehicle entities with shared leadership nationally. They responded that in the United States, there are none with shared leadership. The Chair followed up with a question about clarity in the federal grant process, to which they reemphasized the importance of clarity in the grant process.

Board Member Stratton asked about the recruitment process for the Executive Director position and the length of time this process would take. Eno did not look into this while completing their research, but they recommend proceeding as quickly as possible to mitigate any negative impacts on the program.

VII. Adjournment

ADA Compliance

Reasonable modifications and equal access to communications are provided upon request. Please call (512) 369-6040 or email chloe.maxwell@austintransitpartnership.org if you need more information.

BOARD OF DIRECTORS: *Veronica Castro de Barrera, Chair; Colette Pierce Burnette, Vice Chair; Steve Adler, Tony Elkins, Eric Stratton and Gina Fiandaca (ex officio).*

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.