

PROJECT CONNECT STATUS REPORT

ATP BOARD BRIEF | MARCH 2023

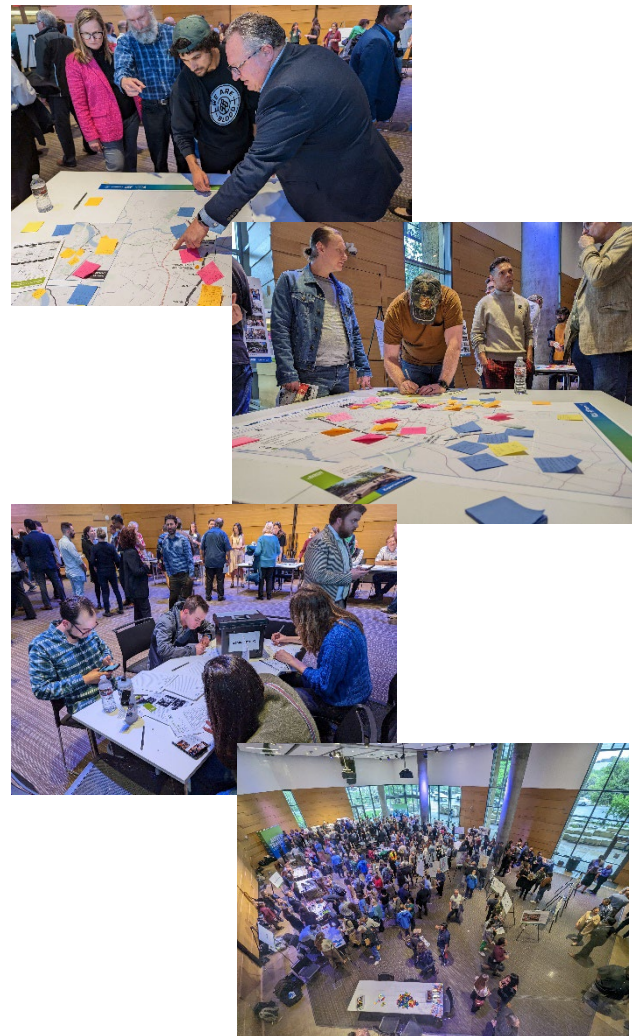
In November 2020, the Austin voters approved Proposition A to dedicate new revenue to the implementation of Project Connect—a program of transit projects designed to provide transportation alternatives for our community. Voters simultaneously created the Austin Transit Partnership (ATP) and tasked its Board of Directors with overseeing the program. This Project Connect ATP Board Brief serves as an update to the ATP Board about the progress of the projects that make up the Project Connect Program.

» PROGRAM UPDATES

LIGHT RAIL COMMUNITY KICK-OFF

Opportunities to learn about Austin’s Light Rail options kicked-off Tuesday, March 21, 2023 with an in-person community open house held at the Austin Central Library. The come-and-go event engaged more than 530 (not including staff and media) community members interested in learning about light rail, including a comprehensive summary of the light rail program and summary of options for implementing Austin’s core light rail investment.

The event marks the start of a six-week public comment period that the Austin Transit Partnership team will use to advance a recommendation to the ATP Board and Joint Partnership in late spring. Launching alongside the in-person event is a [Virtual Open House](#). The Virtual Open House is an online one-stop shop that mirrors the in-person community open house with detailed opportunity to learn about each option. Since launching, the Virtual Open House has accumulated more than 1,200 views with 120 respondents and counting. The community can visit and share input through the Virtual Open House to stay informed and inform others of the latest news about Austin Light Rail, as well as provide feedback.



EQUITABLE TRANSIT ORIENTED DEVELOPMENT (ETOD) UPDATES – CITY OF AUSTIN

Austin City Council accepted the Equitable Transit-Oriented Development (ETOD) Policy Plan with amendments on March 9, 2023, as the document to guide the City’s regulations and investments near Project Connect transit lines in the future. The purpose of the ETOD Policy Plan is to help ensure that future development around the Project Connect transit system supports residents of all incomes and backgrounds, especially those who have been disproportionately burdened by past transportation and land use decisions. The amendments called for the development of an implementation plan for proposed tools, including identifying financing and a tool implementation timeline.

Phase 1 of station area vision planning for the North Lamar Transit Center (NLTC) and South Congress Transit Center (SCTC) concluded on March 21, 2023. Phase 2 of community engagement for the station areas will be moved to later in the spring to allow the public time to comment on the new light rail transit proposals. CapMetro, consultants, and the City of Austin Housing and Planning Department ETOD Team will use the additional time to incorporate community feedback from Phase 1 to develop station area vision planning concept alternatives.

TECHNICAL ADVISORY COMMITTEE UPDATES – AUSTIN TRANSIT PARTNERSHIP

ATP will open an application process to fill vacancies on the Technical Advisory Committees (TACs). The application process will kick off the first week in April and allow for a 30-day application process. The TACs consist of the following: the Finance & Risk Advisory Committee; the Planning, Sustainability, Equity & DBE Advisory Committee; and the Engineering, Architecture & Construction Advisory Committee. Appointed in May 2021, the TAC Members provide guidance and feedback to the ATP Board of Directors and staff through their lived experience and extensive expertise in their respective fields. The ATP Board is expected to appoint new members at its May 2023 Board Meeting. For more information about the ATP TACs, visit the ATP website, www.atptx.org.

ATP GOVERNMENT AFFAIRS ACTIVITIES

In coordination with the City and CapMetro, Austin Transit Partnership representatives are making the rounds with elected officials at the local, state and federal levels, providing representatives or their staff members with information about Austin Transit Partnership and Project Connect. The objective is to educate elected officials about the light rail options under consideration. Casey Burack, Executive Vice President of Business and Legal Affairs, is leading ATP’s government affairs activities, working with Delisi Communications at the state level to keep the Austin delegation informed about Austin Light Rail, as well as represent ATP’s position on specific applicable legislation.

At the federal level, ATP is coordinating closely with CapMetro’s Government Affairs Team to keep federal legislators informed about Project Connect.

Meetings with local, state and federal officials may be coordinated through Casey Burack, Casey.Burack@atptx.org.

ATP BOARD CHAIR RECEIVES NATIONAL LEADERSHIP RECOGNITION

Chair Veronica Castro de Barrera was honored on March 15, 2023, in Washington D.C. at the Conference of Minority Transportation Officials (COMTO) 2023 *Celebrating Women Who Move the Nation Award* in recognition of her professional achievements and exemplary leadership.



Pictured: ATP Board Chair Veronica Castro de Barrera accepts COMTO award.

COMTO began in 1971 at Howard University to provide a forum for minority professionals in the transportation industry with a mission to ensure opportunities and maximum participation for minority individuals, veterans, persons with disabilities and certified minority, women owned and disadvantaged businesses. COMTO works to advocate for the underrepresented and reshape the face of transportation leadership so that it will better reflect all communities served. Known as the voice for equity in transportation, COMTO activates a curated network of 37 chapters across North America to strengthen the workforce pipeline and advise its members on how to actualize their diversity and inclusion goals to better the industry at large. COMTO members include multi-modal transportation agencies, private industry, women, minority and veteran owned firms and individual professionals in the transportation industry.

One of ATP's core values is to ensure high-quality opportunities for Disadvantaged, Minority-Owned, and Women-Owned Business Enterprises, and other local businesses to participate in both prime and subcontracting roles. ATP encouraged these firms or others that do not meet the criteria to respond to the RFIF to explore opportunities to partner with firms meeting the criteria for the purpose of attending the one-on-one meetings.

We are excited to work closely and creatively with industry to define and implement this transformative mobility program for Austin, Texas.

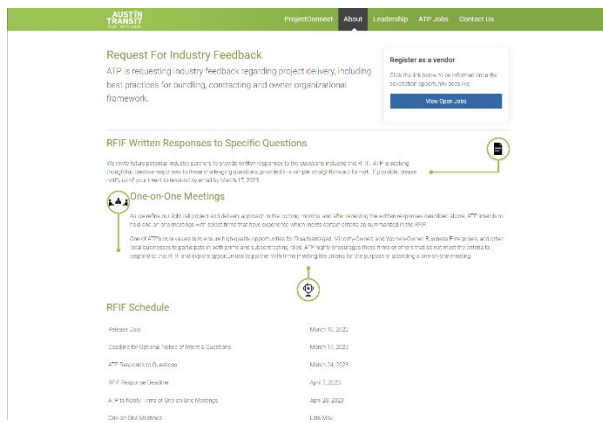
More information, to include ATP points of contact, visit atptx.org/RFIF.

ATP and the Project Connect team members extend their congratulations to Chair Castro de Barrera in acknowledgment of her transit industry leadership.

ATP LAUNCHES REQUEST FOR INDUSTRY FEEDBACK

ATP launched a Request for Industry Feedback (RFIF) to seek thoughtful, creative responses to advance Austin Light Rail. This RFIF is ATP's first formal step toward launching its partnership with industry.

As ATP refines the light rail project and delivery approach in the coming months, the RFIF provides industry an opportunity to deliver written feedback for ATP's proposed project delivery framework, as well as meet one-on-one with ATP, as summarized in the RFIF.



Pictured: Screenshot of dedicated RFIF web page.