

PROJECT CONNECT STATUS REPORT

ATP BOARD BRIEF | MAY 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.

» LIGHT RAIL COMMUNITY DIALOGUE

The ATP team published the [Austin Light Rail Community Engagement Report](#) this month. This document captures community dialogue about light rail between March and May 2023 and summarizes that feedback into themes. Over 8,000 in-person interactions, 90 events and 45 bus stop/train station locations resulted in over 5,600 comments on the Austin Light Rail Project.

Community members were reached through in-person meetings, virtual engagements, and presentations to community organizations. Supplementing outreach included [Frequently Asked Question Reports](#), website/data portal updates, advertising in multi-market media platforms in multiple languages, as well as social media. A full listing of outreach activities,



results and data is referenced in the [Austin Light Rail Community Engagement Report](#) on ATP's website at www.atptx.org.



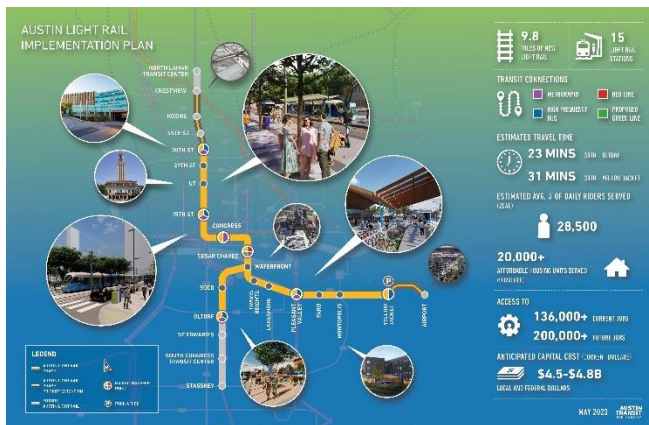
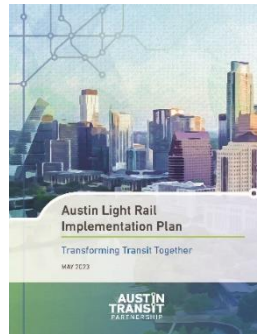
• COMMUNITY ADVISORY COMMITTEE

This month, the Community Advisory Committee (CAC) discussed light rail options being analyzed by ATP staff. The CAC produced a recommendation consistent with community feedback themes. Letters of recommendation by the CAC (as well as other community organizations) can be found in the Appendix of the Austin Light Rail Community Engagement Report.



• LIGHT RAIL IMPLEMENTATION PLAN

ATP will reach a key milestone this month in advancing an updated [Austin Light Rail Implementation Plan](#). ATP staff will bring a recommendation for the Austin Light Rail Implementation Plan to the ATP Board. This recommendation will allow the program to progress through a multi-year process of continuing project development, environmental review, and coordination with the Federal Transit Administration on federal grant funding.



» INDUSTRY ENGAGEMENT

The **Austin Light Rail Industry Expo** occurs Thursday May 25, 2023. With over 370 registrations to date, the Project Delivery team will provide information about the expected contracting opportunities to partner and delivery light rail in Austin. The Expo is open and designed to facilitate potential partnership opportunities between large and local/small business contractors vital to the construction of the Austin Light Rail. The event will be at the Distribution Hall, 1500 E. 4th St. from 9:30am-3:30pm. Additional details about the event can be found: atptx.org/industry-expo.



• ANTI-DISPLACEMENT UPDATE

At the April 13, 2023 meeting, the Austin City Council [approved a resolution](#) to allocate the Project Connect anti-displacement funding for Fiscal Years 2023-2025 as summarized below:

3-YEAR TOTAL:
Years 2023-2025 (Funding available: \$75 million)

- Land acquisition, preservation, and rehabilitation: \$43 million
- Affordable housing development: \$14 million
- Programs and other strategies addressing immediate needs: \$14 million
- Staffing, community engagement, and marketing: \$4 million

» ADMINISTRATIVE UPDATE

ATP awarded two professional service contracts to AECOM Technical Services, Inc and HNTB Cooperation for Conceptual Engineering Services in support of the light rail portion of Project Connect and currently in negotiations with HDR Engineering, Inc. for Program Management and NEPA services, and expects to award by the end of the month. ATP plans to issue the solicitations in Spring 2023 to include the Owner’s Engineer, Utilities and Maintenance Facility, which will provide qualified technical and professional personnel to perform services in the following areas:

- Project Supervision, Coordination, and Quality
- Site Investigation/Field Work
- Advance/Early Utility Relocations Design
- LRT Operations and Maintenance Facility Design
- Project-Wide Support Services/Technical Requirement Support
- Solicitation Support Services and Design Services During Construction

Another solicitation will include Legislative and Regulatory Consulting Services to provide legislative and regulatory consulting services for the purpose of implementing the Austin Light Rail Implementation Plan.