

**AUSTIN TRANSIT PARTNERSHIP  
BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING**  
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~ Minutes ~

Board Secretary Casey Burack  
512-369-6040

Wednesday, March 17, 2021  
2:00 PM

2:06 PM Meeting Called to Order  
4:22 PM Meeting Adjourned

## I. Public Comment

There was no public comment this month.

## II. Action Items

1. Approval of minutes from the February 24, 2021 Austin Transit Partnership board meeting.

**RESULT:** ADOPTED [UNANIMOUS]  
**MOVER:** Colette Pierce Burnette, Vice Chair  
**SECONDER:** Steve Adler, Board Member  
**AYES:** Castro de Barrera, Elkins, Stratton  
**ABSENT:** none

2. Approval of the Committee Charter Statements for each of the following Technical Advisory Committees of the Austin Transit Partnership (“ATP”) Board of Directors: (I) the Engineering, Architecture and Construction Committee (“EAC”); (ii) the Planning, Sustainability, Equity & DBE Advisory Committee (“PSEC”); and (iii) the Finance and Risk Committee (“FAR”).

Director of Community and Engagement Jackie Nirenberg brought this item forward.

Jackie provided an overview of the four ATP Board Advisory Committees: the Community Advisory Committee (CAC); Engineering, Architecture, and Construction (EAC) Advisory Committee; Finance and Risk (FAR) Advisory Committee; and Planning, Sustainability, Equity and DBE (PSEC) Advisory Committee. The CAC is already closed for applications and the process of reviewing the applications is underway with a goal of having those members selected by the end of March. For the three technical committees, the application process should get underway in early April, with appointments taking place at the May board meeting.

Jackie reviewed the process and considerations for drafting the Committee Charters, and then walked the board through the purpose and a summary of each of the three technical committees - EAC, FAR, and PSEC. She also ran through a timeline for the application and appointment process.

Board Member Adler reminded the board of the applicants who had already been through the process of applying for the CAC but who were not chosen - many of those applications are from good candidates who will automatically be considered for some of these positions. Board Member Pierce Burnett asked Jackie how the

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application process for the three committees is being publicized, which Jackie summarized. Board Member Stratton kicked off a conversation about the frequency with which the committees will meet, with Jackie emphasizing that many of the committees' early meetings will focus on educating and bringing members up to speed.

**RESULT:** ADOPTED [UNANIMOUS]  
**MOVER:** Eric Stratton, Board Member  
**SECONDER:** Tony Elkins, Board Member  
**AYES:** Pierce Burnette, Castro de Barrera, Adler  
**ABSENT:** none

3. Approval of a resolution authorizing the Executive Director, or his designee, to finalize and execute a grant agreement with the City of Austin for the provision of \$300,000,000 of the Project Connect tax revenue over the next thirteen (13) years in accordance with the Project Connect Implementation Sequence Plan, as provided in the City's "Contract with the Voters" under City Council Resolution No. 20200812-015.

CFO Greg Canally brought this item forward.

These funds are for programming related to Anti-Displacement efforts per the Contract with the Voters and Program Sequencing Plan. Greg provided a brief review of several of the considerations related to the contract and the plan. Included was an update on the initial tranches of money under the agreement, with a larger portion of the initial \$100 million funding now pulled forward into Year Two.

Board Member Adler summarized some of the reasoning behind trying to accelerate funding under the agreement into early years to try and maximize its impact. Board Member Stratton highlighted that this is a huge win for the community and welcomes further policy discussions on this funding with City Council and the Capital Metro Board. Board Member Colette Pierce Burnett also wanted to confirm that future discussions on the timing of this funding will take place on a regular basis. Board Member Elkins emphasized the importance of understanding that at these early stages there are many unknowns that will become more clear over time, which will inform those decisions, and Board Member Adler added that specific spending decisions on this funding will be made by the City's Planning Department.

**RESULT:** ADOPTED [UNANIMOUS]  
**MOVER:** Steve Adler, Board Member  
**SECONDER:** Collette Pierce Burnett, Vice Chair  
**AYES:** Castro de Barrera, Stratton, Elkins  
**ABSENT:** none

### III. Discussion Items

#### 1. Monthly Community Engagement & Involvement Update

Director of Community and Engagement Jackie Nirenberg provided the update.

Jackie provided an update on recent community involvement activity. A series of virtual community meetings for Blue and Orange Line National Environment Policy Act (NEPA) scoping are now complete, with 1487 participating live and 945 people choosing a self-guided “virtual open house” option. Live virtual community meetings and a virtual open house for the next two MetroRapid lines were also held in February. Upcoming opportunities for engagement include further virtual community meetings on the Blue and Orange Lines.

Jackie then summarized themes and metrics collected during the scoping meetings. For the Orange Line the two most commented-on themes were community engagement and project design and elements. For the Blue Line those two themes also predominated, but environmental considerations were close behind. On the MetroRapid Expo and Pleasant Valley meetings the two leading themes were project design and elements, and station design and amenities.

## 2. Monthly Project Connect Technical Update

Chief Program Officer Dave Couch provided the update.

Dave provided the board with an update on recent Blue and Orange Line field and engineering activities. A survey of the right of way for both lines is now complete, and along with that a survey of utility locations is also being conducted. Initial track geometry is also under development, and there is ongoing coordination with the City of Austin on guideway development.

Dave also summarized some of the remaining NEPA scoping tasks and process now that community meetings have wrapped up.

Dave concluded by providing updates on recent Red Line developments, and update on engineering and other progress on the two new MetroRapid Lines, and an update on Neighborhood Circulators/Pickup Service.

Board Member Elkins asked for a little further detail on Orange and Blue Line preliminary engineering. Dave replied that there are several areas of focus for his team, but he does not anticipate any major problems. Board Member Stratton asked Dave if he could better explain the term “track geometry” and how that work influences the vehicle type and how they are powered. Chair Castro de Barrera asked Dave for further detail on the number of stations planned and what factors and criteria come into play as the locations for the stations are chosen.

## 3. Federal Grant Program Overview

HDR’s Principal Project Manager Brian Buchanan presented this item.

Brian kicked off his presentation by reviewing the different types of federal grant programs and funding opportunities for initiatives like Project Connect, including: Infrastructure for Rebuilding America (INFRA), Better Utilizing Investments to Leverage Development (BUILD), Bus and Bus Facilities, Low or No Emission Vehicle Program, and a pilot program for Transit-Oriented Development Planning. He also discussed other financial programs that could potentially be utilized including Transportation Infrastructure Finance and Innovation Act (TIFIA) and Railroad Rehabilitation & Improvement Financing (RRIF). He reviewed the federal Capital Investment Grants (CIG) program and the New Starts and Small Starts categories within the CIG program. He closed with a review of the steps in the CIG development

process and a review of the “three pillars of success” when seeking this type of funding.

## IV. Executive Director Report

Executive Director Randy Clarke provided his monthly report.

This month’s update focused on several new hires and an updated org chart for the ATP team. Randy also reviewed upcoming procurements and then had CFO Greg Canally give a preview of some potential solicitations over the next 3 to 12 months in the Legal, Finance, and Program areas. He closed his report with a list of potential board informational presentations at future meetings.

Board Member Pierce Burnett spoke and asked for assurances that equity is being taken into consideration as decisions on staff are being made. Randy spoke of how seriously he takes that topic and relayed that the national recruiter working on behalf of ATP believes that so far it is the most diverse transit expansion team in the country. He will continue to make diversity a priority as the hiring process continues.

Board Member Elkins spoke to Greg solicitation update on the importance of having a robust DBE/SBE program and procurement policy.

## V. Adjournment

### ADA Compliance

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**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.