

# AUSTIN TRANSIT PARTNERSHIP BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING

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~ Minutes ~

Board Secretary Casey Burack  
512-369-6040

Wednesday, May 19, 2021  
3:00 PM

2:10 PM Meeting Called to Order  
3:40 PM Meeting Adjourned

## I. Public Comment

There was no Public Comment this month.

## II. Discussion Items

### 1. Monthly Community Engagement Update

Manager of Community Involvement, Jackie Nirenberg, gave the update. During the “Let’s Talk Station Alignment” virtual community meetings we’ve had 990 unique visitors and 78 surveys received. There are additional Orange and Blue Line 15-percent design virtual public meetings planned for July. Her team’s focus this month has been developing neighborhood working groups for the Blue Line and the Orange Lines. Recently, ATP sent postcards to residents who live within a half-mile of these corridors with information on community involvement. The groups are divided into the following areas for the Orange Line: Tech Ridge and the North Lamar Transit Center, North Lamar, North Guadalupe, Drag, SoCo, St. Edwards to Stassney, and the South Line to Slaughter. The Blue Line working groups will include: the South Shore, East Riverside, and the Metro Center/ Airport group. Finally, a Downtown Working Group will consist of both the Orange and Blue Lines. The Community Advisory Committee (CAC) held its inaugural meeting was held on April 26, and the next meeting will be on May 26. Members of the Technical Advisory Committees will be approved at the June ATP Board meeting. Chair Castro de Barrera acknowledged that she participated in the April CAC meeting and thanked those involved for developing a large and diverse network for community involvement in Austin.

### 2. Project Connect Technical Update

Program Officer, Dave Couch, gave the update. The 15% design package for the Blue Line has been submitted, and the review with stakeholders is ongoing. Dave’s team is working to finalize the 15% Design Package for the Orange Line, which will be finished in the next few weeks. Additional plans are being made regarding the Right of Way (ROW) impacts and necessary real estate acquisitions. Dave recognized that the utilities will be the most challenging aspect, and his team is working to mitigate any problems early by coordinating with the City. The heritage tree survey is complete, and the archeological and environmental field investigation is underway. ATP continues to work with the City on guideways, roadways, bike and pedestrian facilities, and planned development. The FTA has approved a Categorical Exclusion for MetroRapid Pleasant Valley line, and we will complete the 30% design for the Burnet to Menchaca and Oak Hill MetroRapid by this summer. Completion of the FTA Entry into Project Development letter and materials is underway and will go to FTA to kick off the CIG Process. Randy Clarke thanked Dave’s team for their hard work in completing the FTA process.

Attachment: ATP May Board Meeting Minutes May 3 (4882 : May 2021 Board Minutes)

### 3. Administrative Update

CFO, Greg Canally, started the presentation by discussing the FY2022 budget and the deadlines associated with its completion. In August, a presentation of the proposed budget is expected, and the budget will be adopted at the September Board Meeting.

Juliana Harris, Director of Human Resources, shared ATP hiring and recruitment updates. The cumulative experience of those hired to date is 561 years of government, non-profit, private sector professional experience, and 280 years of public transit professional experience. Board Member Elkins recognized the hiring challenges and the success of the HR Team. Board Member Pierce-Burnette commended the HR Team for their diverse hiring and the broad experience. Board Member Stratton provided his comments regarding the recent team additions, and Board Member Adler made similar comments. Chair Castro De Barrera asked Juliana about challenges in the hiring process and offered Board support.

## III. Action Items

1. Approval of minutes from the April 21, 2021 Austin Transit Partnership board meeting.

**RESULT: ADOPTED [UNANIMOUS]**

**MOVER:** Colette Pierce Burnette, Vice Chair

**SECONDER:** Mayor Steve Adler, Board Member

**AYES:** Castro de Barrera, Adler, Burnette, Elkins

**ABSTENTION:** Stratton (due to previous absence)

**ABSENT:** none

2. Approval of the Austin Transit Partnership Board Procedures Policy.

General Council Casey Burack provided background on the Board Procedures policies. Board Member Elkins asked about the feasibility of future updates to board policies. Casey assured Board Member Elkins the Board could adopt revisions should the Board deem it necessary.

**RESULT: ADOPTED [UNANIMOUS]**

**MOVER:** Eric Stratton, Board Member

**SECONDER:** Tony Elkins, Board Member

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

**ABSENT:** none

## IV. Discussion Item

1. Project Connect Blue Line Alignment Review

Deputy Program Officer, John Rhone, and Chief of Architecture and Urban Design, Peter Mullan informed the Board they would update them on the Blue Line (Airport to Lady Bird Lake) today, the Orange Line (South: Stassney to SoCo, North: Government Center to North Lamar Transit Center) at the June Board Meeting and the Orange and Blue Lines (Government Center to Downtown and SoCo/urban core) at the July Board Meeting. Peter discussed the selection of Blue Line Stations and the numerous factors that go into making these selections and various design features of the Blue Line adapted to fit the City. Board Member Fiandaca acknowledged her excitement and recognized Jackie Yaff, Austin Bergstrom International Airport (ABIA)

Director, for her update about the Airport's financial recovery at a separate meeting and the future impacts of the Blue Line on ABIA. Board Member Elkins asked whether various forms of multi-modal transportation and park and rides would be incorporated into station designs. John addressed plans to help residents access the Blue and Orange Lines in response. Peter mentioned plans for park and rides at Metro Center Station. Randy Clarke brought up the adjustment of the bus routes as these rail lines open to build network connections. Board Member Pierce-Burnette asked for additional details about the Blue Line ABIA station, and the distance riders would have to walk to reach the airport entrance. Peter responded that the walk would be about 3-5 minutes. Burnette also asked whether ATP is coordinating the schedules with the Texas Department of Transportation (TxDOT) IH-35 reconstruction schedule. John answered yes and discussed a meeting that took place with TxDOT the day before (May 18). Board Member Stratton asked for additional clarity regarding how station locations are selected and if that process has evolved as the planning phase moves forward. Mayor Adler spoke to comments he's receiving and suggested information that would be helpful to have online, so his office has a place to send people. Peter suggested the Mayor's office refer residents to the working groups. Board Member Pierce-Burnette suggested an animated/visual feature for residents to utilize. Board Member Elkins brought up concerns about the impact on retail during the construction phase. Chair Castro de Barrera highlighted pedestrian safety, and Peter talked about the human-centric focus of development and construction.

## V. Executive Director's Report

Executive Director Clarke began his Monthly Report by discussing challenges related to recruiting and relocating people to Austin and the general excitement he's hearing from people coming to ATP from outside of Texas. Next, he talked about workforce coordination. He also discussed federal updates which will impact development and the work being done to secure the federal partnership funding. Board Member Elkins expressed his hope that this group will be open to suggestions as they come in. Mayor Adler said he hopes that this will be the largest jobs program the City has ever had, especially with the reconstruction of IH-35 and continued downtown development. He emphasized the potential for significant workforce needs.

## VI. Adjournment

### ADA Compliance

*Reasonable modifications and equal access to communications are provided upon request. Please call (512) 369-6040 or email [ed.easton@capmetro.org](mailto:ed.easton@capmetro.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.