

AUSTIN TRANSIT PARTNERSHIP BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING

Rosa Parks Board Room
2910 E. 5th St. Austin, TX 78702

~ Minutes ~

Board Secretary Casey Burack
512-369-6040

Wednesday, October 20, 2021
2:00 PM

2:05 PM Meeting Called to Order
5:03 PM Meeting Adjourned

I. Public Comment

Two people signed up for public comment, Mr. Jeremy Hendricks and Ms. Jessica Wolf.

II. Technical Advisory Committee Update

Chair Castro de Barrera provided this update. The Engineering, Architecture, and Construction Committee (EAC) discussed the Joint Powers Agreement (JPA). The Committee recommended including timelines, milestones, and deadlines for critical path items in the program to hold all parties accountable for the schedule and each party's responsibilities in maintaining the schedule. Second, the EAC discussed the Pleasant Valley Design Workshop feedback. They supported the emphasis on placemaking and facilitating multi-modal transit use and connections, according to Austin Strategic Mobility Plan (ASMP), particularly in Option 2. The Committee is very excited about Lady Bird Lake Bridge Workshop and the signature element of the program and recommends we maintain our aspirational approach towards creating an inspiring architectural icon that addresses multi-modal connectivity and placemaking for our community. The Committee also recommended adding bike racks, trees, and public art at future Metro Rapid stations. They also submitted a detailed list to the design team on various elements. The Committee would like more information on the throughput for all mobility modes (autos, rail, bus, pedestrians, bicycles) for each of the two Pleasant Valley/ Riverside design options. They asked to be included in the design refinement of the bus shelters as these will also be essential elements of the light rail system's architectural language and rider amenities. The EAC recommended the development of 3D modeling of the tunnels. They asked to discuss the merits of a tunnel compared to a bridge downtown and the challenges encountered by the technical team. Additionally, they requested graphics showing the difference between the vehicles (Light Rail, Commuter Rail, Streetcar) to allow the public to understand the transit system better.

Director of Community Involvement Jackie Nirenberg then gave the Planning, Sustainability, Equity, and DBE Committee (PSEC) update. PSEC reviewed Joint Powers Agreement, Sustainability Initiatives, and the Community Design Workshops. Committee members expressed that the presented content volume was overwhelming

and suggested that meetings be less presentation-focused and more conversational. The PSEC committee asked about the connection points between the Joint Powers Agreement and the City of Austin's newly passed equity plan.

III. Executive Director Report

Austin Transit Partnership Executive Director, Randy Clarke, provided this update.

Mr. Clarke updated the Board on important milestones for the Orange and Blue Lines, including the Locally Preferred Alternative designation in June 2020 and the Project Connect Referendum in November 2020. Upcoming milestones include the NEPA Record of Decision in Winter 2023, the FTA Entry to Project Engineering in Summer 2023, and the FTA Full Funding Grant Agreement in Fall 2024. Randy also discussed the building of the team and resources.

II. Monthly Program Update

1. Community Engagement Update

Director of Community Involvement, Jackie Nirenberg, gave this report.

The Metro Rail meeting on September 10 had 109 people in attendance, and the Metro Rapid community meeting had 41 people. The Pleasant Valley Design Workshop had 92 participants. The JPA community meeting included 29.

During the Orange Line and Blue Line meetings, several people advocated for bike and pedestrian connections and were pleased that the plan showed an increase in those connections. The Community Engagement team has developed the engagement library to track and share feedback, accessible on the Project Connect website. The Blue Line Bridge Design Workshop had 191 people participate.

Ms. Nirenberg also discussed the Community Engagement Dashboard housed on the Project Connect Website. The Community Engagement team included information to demonstrate the feedback loop so the public can see our process.

2. Project Connect Technical Update

Dave Couch, Chief Program Officer, discussed the utilities moved through the advancement of the Program. Dave addressed continued progress on the Metro Rapid Projects.

3. Administrative Program Update

ATP General Counsel and Chief Administrative Officer, Casey Burack, provided this update.

Ms. Burack updated the Board that the team has added 190 years of professional experience through recent hires and since the last Board hiring update.

III. Action Items

1. Approval of minutes from the September 15, 2021 Austin Transit Partnership Board Meetings.

RESULT: ADOPTED [UNANIMOUS]

MOVER: Stratton

SECONDER: Elkins

AYES: Castro de Barrera, Adler, Stratton, Elkins

ABSENT: Pierce Burnette

2. Approval of Resolution Awarding On-call Legal Services Contracts to the following law firms for a base period of three years in an amount not to exceed \$13,217,000 with two, twelve-month option periods for a total of five years in an amount not to exceed \$23,000,000: Ashurst; Dubois, Bryant & Campbell; Greenberg Traurig; Hogan Lovells and Hunton Andrews Kurth; Husch Blackwell; Hyatte O. Simmons; Kaplan Kirsch & Rockwell; Mayer Brown, LLP; McCall Parkhurst & Horton; Nossaman LLP; Orrick, Herrington & Sutcliffe; and Winstead PC.

RESULT: ADOPTED [UNANIMOUS]

MOVER: Adler

SECONDER: Stratton

AYES: Castro de Barrera, Adler, Stratton, Elkins

ABSENT: Pierce Burnette

3. Approval of Resolution to Direct Staff to Develop a Construction Mitigation Program and include in Future Construction Contracts certain Workforce Protection and Living Wage Provisions in accordance with the JPA.

RESULT: ADOPTED [UNANIMOUS]

MOVER: Stratton

SECONDER: Elkins

AYES: Castro de Barrera, Adler, Stratton, Elkins

ABSENT: Pierce Burnette

III. Discussion Items

1. Community Design Workshop Update

Peter Mullan, Chief of Architecture and Urban Design, provided this update.

Mr. Mullan discussed the Pleasant Valley Design Workshop, which included demonstrating why the intersection of Pleasant Valley and Riverside Drive is a complicated intersection. He emphasized that the topography and grade changes are

the primary driver behind the design choices. Peter discussed the two design options and the critical aspects of both designs.

Mayor Adler asked about the at-grade train crossings and an option that would elevate the turn lanes. Peter explained that making horizontal curves on a vertical slope creates immense challenges for vehicular and roadway standards. You must have a wider turn radius to accomplish this, and there is not the space to accommodate it.

Board Member Stratton asked how the Board is included in the final decision-making in situations like this moving forward. Specifically, whether the Board will take a vote, or be updated as the Program continues to move forward. Mr. Mullan replied that it would likely be a combination of both.

V. 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.