

AUSTIN TRANSIT PARTNERSHIP BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING

Austin Energy Headquarters
4815 Mueller Blvd. Austin, TX 78723

~ Minutes ~

Board Secretary Casey Burack
512-369-6040

Wednesday, December 15, 2021
2:00 PM

2:05 PM Meeting Called to Order
8:55 PM Meeting Adjourned

I. Public Comment

There was no public comment at this meeting.

II. Technical Advisory Committee Update

The Planning, Sustainability, Equity, and DBE Committee (PSEC) discussed the recent Community Design Workshop for the Drag and the ETOD program. The members talked about the importance of trees and other shade for pedestrians on the Drag. They also discussed the multiple modes of transportation on this street and how to protect both pedestrians and cyclists. PSEC discussed what happens to the ETOD program after 2022 and how the groundwork is being developed for the City of Austin to take over the program.

The Engineering, Architecture, and Construction Committee (EAC) discussed the Drag, 4th Street, and the Blue Line Bridge designs. They focused on the traffic impacts because of lane changes on the Drag, and they suggested larger maps to show traffic impacts to the greater street network.

III. Executive Director Report

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

Mr. Clarke informed the Board that we received a Letter of No Prejudice (LONP) from the Federal Transit Administration (FTA) for the Expo and Pleasant Valley Metro Rapid projects. He explained the importance of an LONP in the grant process, which permits early implementation work that will be reimbursable by FTA in accordance with their agreed upon share of the project costs. He also shared that there was a groundbreaking for the Metro Rapid project at LBJ High School with strong positive feedback from the community. Mr. Clarke reported that the Red Line and the Metro Expo Line are both on schedule.

II. Monthly Program Update

1. *Community Engagement Update*

Director of Community Involvement, Jackie Nirenberg, gave the first part of this report.

Ms. Nirenberg discussed the recent North Lamar Transit Center Community Design Workshop and the community engagement team's pop-up outreach, which successfully increased outreach to those who frequent the station. Jackie also discussed the two Drag Community Design Workshops: one virtually with 153 individuals, and the other in person with 160 participants. The 4th Street Design Workshop had 40 individuals in attendance.

Board Member Elkins asked about buses on the Blue Line Bridge. Chief of Architecture and Urban Design, Peter Mullan, responded that it's not in the plans to date.

Jackie discussed changes to the Community Advisory Committee (CAC) Charter per the Joint Powers Agreement (JPA). All three bodies: ATP, Capital Metro, and the Austin City Council, will need to pass the Bylaws to comply with the JPA. The changes include membership changes to reflect the number of CAC appointments, scope, community involvement plans for CAC review, delegates to the Technical Advisory Committees, and ATP and city staff liaisons. Additionally, Jackie discussed changes to the Technical Advisory Committee Charters, which, along with the CAC Charter, the ATP Board will vote to approve in January 2022.

Chief of Architecture and Urban Design, Peter Mullan, updated the Board on the Community Design Workshops, starting with the North Lamar Transit Center. Mr. Mullan discussed the difficulties faced on North Lamar with the number of traffic lanes and the TXDOT right-of-way. The Drag Community Design Workshop focused on two plans, one of which removes vehicular traffic from the Drag. The team also discussed the 4th Street Community Design Workshop and how best to use placemaking practices in its development.

Board Member Elkins asked about a traffic study on the Drag to analyze the impact on businesses. Board Member Burnette asked which agencies we partner with for traffic studies, and Mr. Mullan replied that we work closely with the Austin Transportation Department. She suggested meetings with the Chamber of Commerce and other business partners. Mayor Adler asked about the impact to retail on the Drag and staff committed to reporting back on this once the design was further advanced.

III. Action Items

1. Approval of minutes from the October 20, 2021 Austin Transit Partnership Board Meetings.

RESULT: ADOPTED [UNANIMOUS]

MOVER: Burnette

SECONDER: Elkins

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

ABSENT:

2. Adoption of ATP Records Management Policy and Approval of Records Management Officer Appointment.

RESULT: ADOPTED [UNANIMOUS]

MOVER: Stratton

SECONDER: Adler

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

ABSENT:

3. Adoption of ATP Investment Policy and authorization to execute each of the (i) Participation Agreement for TexPool/Texpool Prime and (ii) Participation Agreement for Texas CLASS as authorized investment vehicles

RESULT: ADOPTED [UNANIMOUS]

MOVER: Elkins

SECONDER: Burnette

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

ABSENT:

4. Approval of Resolution Authorizing General Counsel to Proceed with the Proposed Process for Independent Analysis, including authorization to engage The Eno Center for Transportation to serve as the Independent Consultant for performance of the Independent Analysis in an amount not to exceed two hundred thousand dollars (\$200,000).

RESULT: ADOPTED [UNANIMOUS]

MOVER: Stratton

SECONDER: Adler

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

ABSENT:

III. Discussion Items

1. Project Connect Program Roadmap.

Chief Program Officer, Dave Couch, Senior Director of Project Controls, Jen Pyne, Orange Line Outreach Team Member, Meg Merritt, and HDR Principal Project Manager, Brian Buchanan, gave this presentation.

Mr. Couch discussed the 30% design and the NEPA process. He talked about how the team moves through the decision process with the Board and how we will continue as we continue to move to 30% design this summer.

Ms. Merritt discussed the project's key milestones, such as the approval by the Capital Metro and Austin City Council in Summer 2020 and the passing of the November 2020 referendum, which created the Austin Transit Partnership. She addressed the steps to build the system map and the NEPA process.

Ms. Pyne discussed the NEPA process, including the technical and community engagement aspects required and the importance of our partnership with the FTA. She addressed risks to the program such as utilities, right-of-way, and real estate acquisition.

Mr. Buchanan discussed the CIG process, the project's long-term plan, and the Federal grant process.

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.