



To: Austin City Council
CapMetro Board of Directors
Austin Transit Partnership Board of Directors

From: Nominating Committee:
Paige Ellis, Austin City Council
Eric Stratton, CapMetro Board
Juan Garza, Austin Transit Partnership Board
Renee Lopez, Community Advisory Committee

Date: December 6, 2023

RE: Recommended appointments for the Project Connect Community Advisory Committee

The purpose of this communication is to advise the CapMetro Board, Austin Transit Partnership (ATP) Board, and City Council of the joint Project Connect Community Advisory Committee (CAC) Nominating Committee's recommended appointments to the CAC.

As you know, all three governing bodies, as well as the CAC, recently approved CAC Bylaws changes and kicked off a process to appoint and reappoint members. A Nominating Committee consisting of the Chair of the City's Mobility Committee, the Chair of the CapMetro Operations, Planning and Safety Committee, the ATP Board Community Expert Director in Planning and Sustainability, and a current member of the CAC formed to review applications and recommend a slate of candidates to the CAC. CAC members must be approved by the CapMetro Board, ATP Board, and City Council.

The Nominating Committee was tasked with recommending community members representative of Austin's diverse community, inclusive of geographic representation, diversity of experience, current transit use, connection to community/neighborhood/labor organizations, and a variety of interests and experience. The goal of this work is to equip the CAC with the experience and expertise to successfully advise all three agencies as we jointly seek to implement an equitable and sustainable Project Connect program.

The Nominating Committee is also happy to share that we received 61 applications throughout the four-week application window, including 6 reappointment requests from existing CAC members, and 55 new applicants. Of these, 52 were eligible for consideration, and 3 were disqualified due to residency (i.e., they lived outside of Austin and the CapMetro service area). A summary of demographic data received from new applicants is attached to this letter as Appendix A.¹

¹ CAC members Awais Azhar, João Paulo Connolly, Gretchen Flatau, and Jeremiah Hendricks participated in the first application and nomination process in 2021 and were not required to complete a full application. Instead, these individuals submitted a shortened re-application request only. Therefore, their demographic information is not included in the summary data collected.

We are pleased to recommend an exceptional, diverse, and qualified group of 11 members to the CAC, including six people being reappointed, and five new members:

1. Awais Azhar
2. Ruven Brooks
3. João Paulo Connolly
4. Jay Blazek Crossley
5. Katherine Fan
6. Gretchen Flatau
7. Mike Gorse
8. Jeremiah Hendricks
9. Elisabeth Meyer
10. Cshamari Reed
11. Susan Somers

The applications of the finalists are attached as Appendix B. In addition, we are providing a full list of names of all individuals who submitted applications as Appendix C.

The ATP Board will consider this recommendation during the December 13 Board meeting; the Austin City Council will consider this on December 14; and the CapMetro Board will consider this on December 18. Assuming the CAC membership is approved by all three bodies in December, the first meeting of this group of CAC members will occur in January 2024. During the meeting, the new members will draw straws for a two- or four-year initial term, and subsequent terms will be four years each.

We are impressed by the applicants we received for consideration. As always, this is a difficult recommendation to make when many passionate community members seek to provide their time and commitment to support the successful implementation of Project Connect. We encourage all applicants to stay involved in the many opportunities to engage with Project Connect.

The Nominating Committee looks forward to a bright future with the CAC continuing to advise and push ATP, the City, and CapMetro, and thanks the recommended appointees for their commitment to this work.

APPENDIX A

APPENDIX A

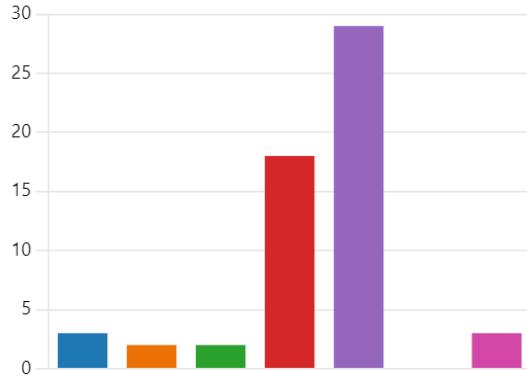
Community Advisory Committee New Applicant Demographic Summary Data

12. Which of the following best represents your race/ethnicity? Select all that apply

[More Details](#)

[Insights](#)

● American Indian and/or Alaska ...	3
● Asian	2
● Black and/or African American	2
● Hispanic and/or Latinx	18
● White	29
● Another race/ethnicity	0
● I prefer not to answer	3

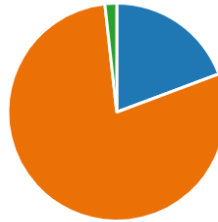


13. Do you identify as someone with a disability?

[More Details](#)

[Insights](#)

● Yes	11
● No	45
● I prefer not to answer	1



14. What is your age range?

[More Details](#)

[Insights](#)




● Under 25 years old	4
● 26-50 years old	39
● 51 years and above	14
● I prefer not to answer	0



15. Do you have children residing in your home or are you a caregiver?

[More Details](#)


 Insights




 Yes	19
 No	38
 I prefer not to answer	0



16. Are you currently a student?

[More Details](#)

 Insights

 Yes	7
 No	49
 I prefer not to answer	1

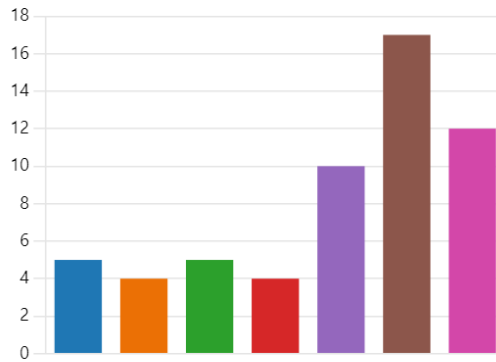


17. What is your annual household income?

[More Details](#)

 Insights

 0-\$24,999	5
 \$25,000-\$49,999	4
 \$50,000-\$74,999	5
 \$75,000-\$99,999	4
 \$100,000-\$149,000	10
 \$150,000+	17
 I prefer not to answer	12



APPENDIX B

Applications available upon request

APPENDIX C

APPLICANT NAME	
Haseeb	Abdullah
Arlin	Alvarez
Awais	Azhar
Catalina	Berry
Ruven	Brooks
Joshua	Brown
Scott	Burns
Rodrigo	Cantu
Joao Paulo de Mello	Connolly
John	Crilly
Jay Blazek	Crossley
Jeff	Darco
Marshall	Durrett
Joseph	El Habr
Katherine	Fan
Daniel	Fernandez
Sarah Jocasta "Cassie"	Fitzgerald
Gretchen	Flatau
Alejandra	Flores
Jacques	Fuselier
Austin	Gardner
Marcel	Garza
Glenn	Gaven
casey	giles
Mike	Gorse
Betsy	Greenberg
Timothy	Grywalski, Jr.
Jeremiah B.	Hendricks
Sara	Ibarra
Linda	Jackson
Eric Jeffrey	Kaufman
Turner	Kerr
Kimberly	Levinson
Kurt	Lockhart
Fangda	Lu
Cynthia	Martinez
Ronnie	Medrano
Emily Clare	Meier
Elisabeth	Meyer
Michael	Mosser

John Scott	Neal
Michael Anthony	Orona
Javier Enrique	Perez
Jen	Ramos
Cshamari	Reed
Amy	Rister
Julian	Rodriguez, Jr.
Jacob Reuben	Rosenberg
John	Ruffier
Monica	Sanchez
Jennifer America	Smith
Susan Claire	Somers
David William	Sullivan
Ryan D.	Sullivan
Jose	Vasquez
Eugene	Washington
Joshua	Webb
Sarah	Wildberger
Christopher C	Wilson
Ian Sherif	Wilson
Robert	Zimmer, Jr.