



**AUSTIN CITY COUNCIL
MINUTES**

**COUNCIL DISCUSSION
TUESDAY, JUNE 17, 2014**

The City Council of Austin, Texas convened in a Council Discussion Meeting of the Austin City Council and Capital Metro Board on Tuesday, June 17, 2014, at the Austin Convention Center, 500 E. Cesar Chavez Street, Room 6AB for the purpose of conducting a Project Connect: Central Corridor Joint Meeting.

The meeting began at 10:05 a.m.

The following Council Members were in attendance:

Mayor Lee Leffingwell

Mayor Pro Tem Cole

Council Member Martinez

Council Member Morrison

Council Member Riley

Council Member Spelman

Council Member Tovo

1. **Welcome & Introductions**
2. **Recap of the Recommended Locally Preferred Alternative (LPA): Urban Rail Line from East Riverside to Highland**
Presentation was made by Kyle Keahey, Project Connect, Javier Arguello, Capital Metro, Scott Gross, City of Austin and Nancy Evans, Project Connect.
3. **Discussion of Recommended Locally Preferred Alternative (LPA)**
Direction was given to staff to provide additional information on: cost differences if the plan eliminated the section North of the University of Texas and extended it South to the airport; details on the O&M costs and how these costs compare with peer cities; provide the ledger that explains the pins identified on slide 21 of the presentation; and provide the current fare recovery rate and a comparison of fare recovery over time from other peer cities.
4. **Next Steps for Action on the Locally Preferred Alternative (LPA)**

Background

Project Connect is a partnership and a vision for a Central Texas high-capacity transit system.

The Central Corridor is one of the region's two highest priority corridors and includes the region's core employment, education, and cultural destinations. As the foundation of Central Texas' envious success, it also faces some of the greatest pressures due to our explosive growth.

The Central Corridor is also home to an emerging high-capacity transit system – the vision – with multiple investments in high-capacity transit beginning to take shape. The MetroRail Red Line, from Leander to Downtown, opened in 2010 and there are currently two other investments in Bus Rapid Transit (BRT), MetroRapid #801 on North Lamar/South Congress and MetroRapid #803 on Burnet/South Lamar, and one in express lanes on MoPac converging on the Central Corridor.

Input Opportunities

The Central Corridor Study project team is committed to providing ample opportunities for community input on the Urban Rail proposal. Citizen Communication is anticipated at both the Capital Metro Board of Directors and Austin City Council meetings (June 23rd and 26th, respectively). Community members may also comment on the proposal by visiting SpeakUpAustin.org until June 23, and may attend one of the many public open houses scheduled throughout Austin. For more information about upcoming public involvement activities or to request a briefing from the Project Connect team, visit ProjectConnect.com/connect/Central-Corridor.

The meeting concluded at 12:04 p.m.

The minutes were approved on this the 26th day of June, 2014 on Council Member Spelman's motion, Mayor Pro Tem Cole's second on a 7-0 vote.