



Project Connect

City Council, Capital Metro Board, ATP Board
Joint Meeting
October 29, 2021





Project Connect Management Report



A Year of Success...



A Year of Success...

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Austin > Central Austin > Transportation

After historic public transportation vote, here is what's next for Project Connect in Austin

Austin American-Statesman
SERVING OUR COMMUNITY SINCE 1871

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LOCAL

Now that voters have said yes, Project Connect's real work starts

Philip Jankowski
Published 12:43 p.m. CT Nov. 6, 2020

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NEWS

New Transit Agency Takes Command of Project Connect
Let's get rolling!

BY MIKE CLARK-MADISON, FRI., JAN. 29, 2021

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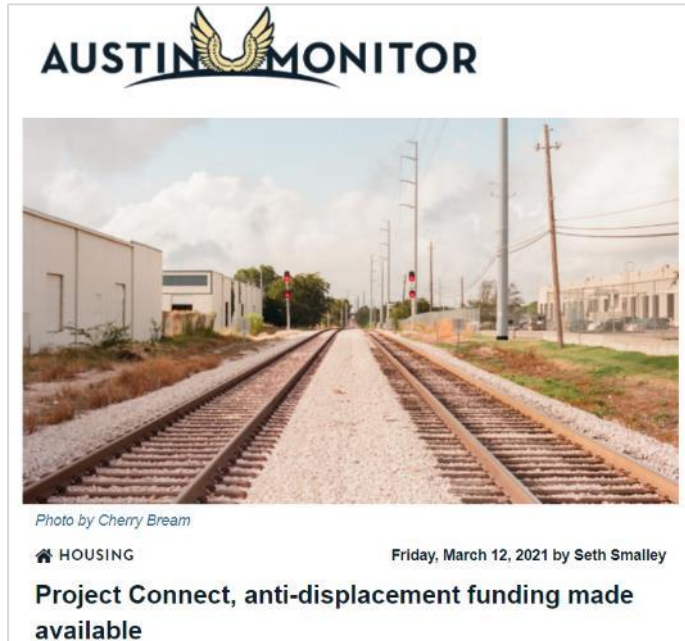
CORONAVIRUS SCHOOLS FOREVER FAMILIES DEFENDERS RADAR

BOOMTOWN

2 Project Connect routes recommended for federal funding



A Year of Success...



A Year of Success...

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CORONAVIRUS SCHOOLS FOREVER FAMILIES DEFENDERS RADAR

BOOMTOWN

Community group will help guide \$300 million of Project Connect anti-displacement spending

kxan IN-DEPTH. INVESTIGATIVE.

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Austin-area high school students in STEM help shape Project Connect

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NEWS

Project Connect hosts first community design workshop on Thursday online

Austin American-Statesman
Published 11:31 a.m. CT Sept. 14, 2021 | Updated 11:32 a.m. CT Sept. 14, 2021

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APTA EXPO COVID-19 NEWS BUS RAIL TECHNOLOGY SAFETY & SECURITY ALT. MOBILITY MANAGEMENT TRANSIT BIDS CAREER CENTER

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CapMetro Marks Another Milestone in Project Connect, Brings On-Demand Service to South Menchaca

A Year of Success...

FOX 7
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Live News Good Day Weather Traffic Contests Email

Subway plans proposed for Downtown Austin as part of Project Connect

By Steven Sarabia | Published July 14 | Capital Metro | FOX 7 Austin

AUSTIN MONITOR



Photo by ATXN

 TRANSIT

Friday, June 25, 2021 by Seth Smalley

Transit partnership fields Orange Line updates for Project Connect

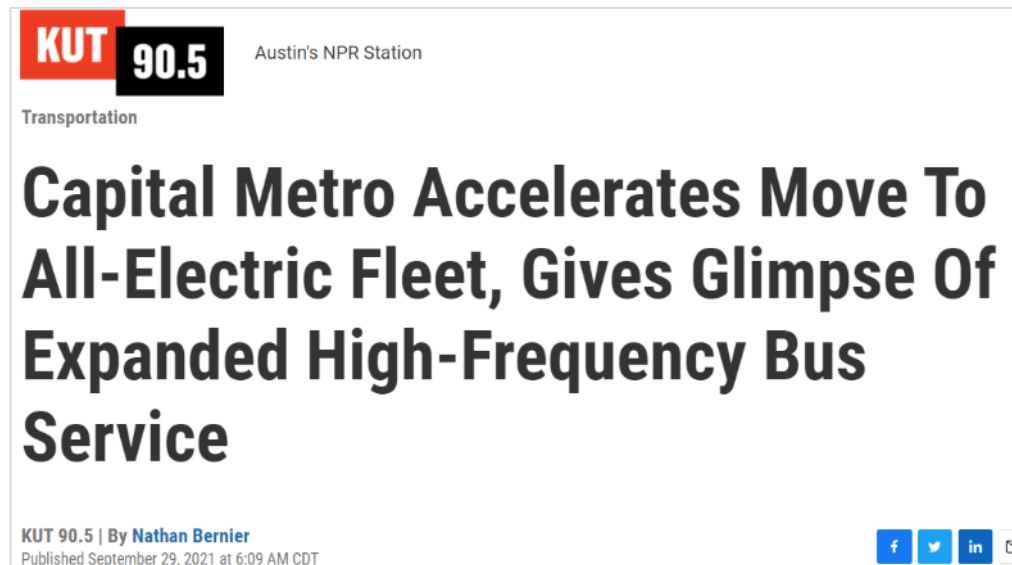
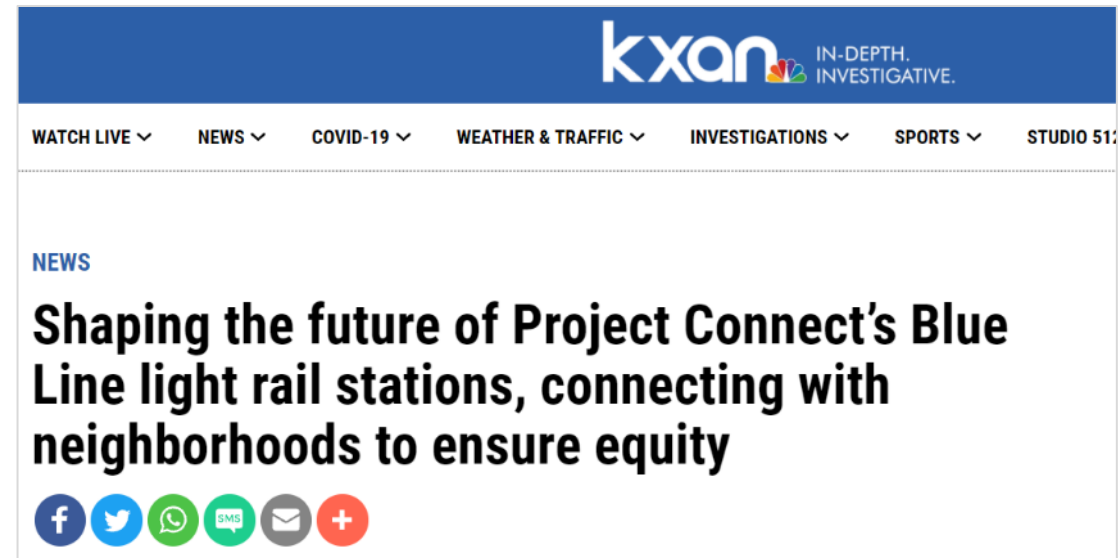


Austin > Central Austin > Transportation

Project Connect officials promise equity will be at forefront of initiative



A Year of Success...



2021 Program Highlights

- Kickoff ceremony in September for **Leander-Lakeline double-tracking** project. Construction will be completed in Fall 2022.
- Pickup, the on-demand neighborhood circulator service, launched **three** new Project Connect funded zones in 2021, all were delivered on schedule.
 - North Oak Hill, South Menchaca, Dessau
 - **11** total Pickup zones in operation
- In September, Capital Metro took a major step toward a zero-emission future for the fleet, ordering **197 electric buses**.
 - First electric buses will arrive in December 2022
 - Electric buses will save 230,000 pounds of greenhouse gases per year, replacing diesel buses



Program Values

Project Connect will create a comprehensive transit system that transforms our community into one of the most sustainable, inclusive and innovative in the country.



Opportunity and Equity

- Project Connect will generate thousands of good local jobs and careers.
- Connect more neighborhoods with a comprehensive rail and bus system reaching more areas of Austin and with higher frequency.
- Make it easier for Austinites to access employment opportunities, healthcare, education, and essential services.
- \$300 million anti-displacement fund to create and maintain affordable places to live as well as ensure the benefits of Project Connect are equitably shared.



Environment and Sustainability



Innovation and Technology



Program Values

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Opportunity and Equity



Environment and Sustainability



Innovation and Technology

- Project Connect will reflect the shared passion for the environment in Austin.
- Commitment to diligent stewardship of our climate during design, construction and operations of transit projects.
- Set an industry standard for advanced green transit system operations by managing water use, landfill waste and carbon emissions.
- Operate a zero-emissions transit system.



Program Values

Project Connect will create a comprehensive transit system that transforms our community into one of the most sustainable, inclusive and innovative in the country.



Opportunity and Equity



Environment and Sustainability



Innovation and Technology

- Project Connect will embrace innovation and technology to make transit in Austin easier, more efficient and safer.
- Make it easier for customers to use the transit system with advanced digital wayfinding and customer fare system technology.
- Integrate modern, innovative design throughout the system, with stations and bus stops that reflect the communities they are in.

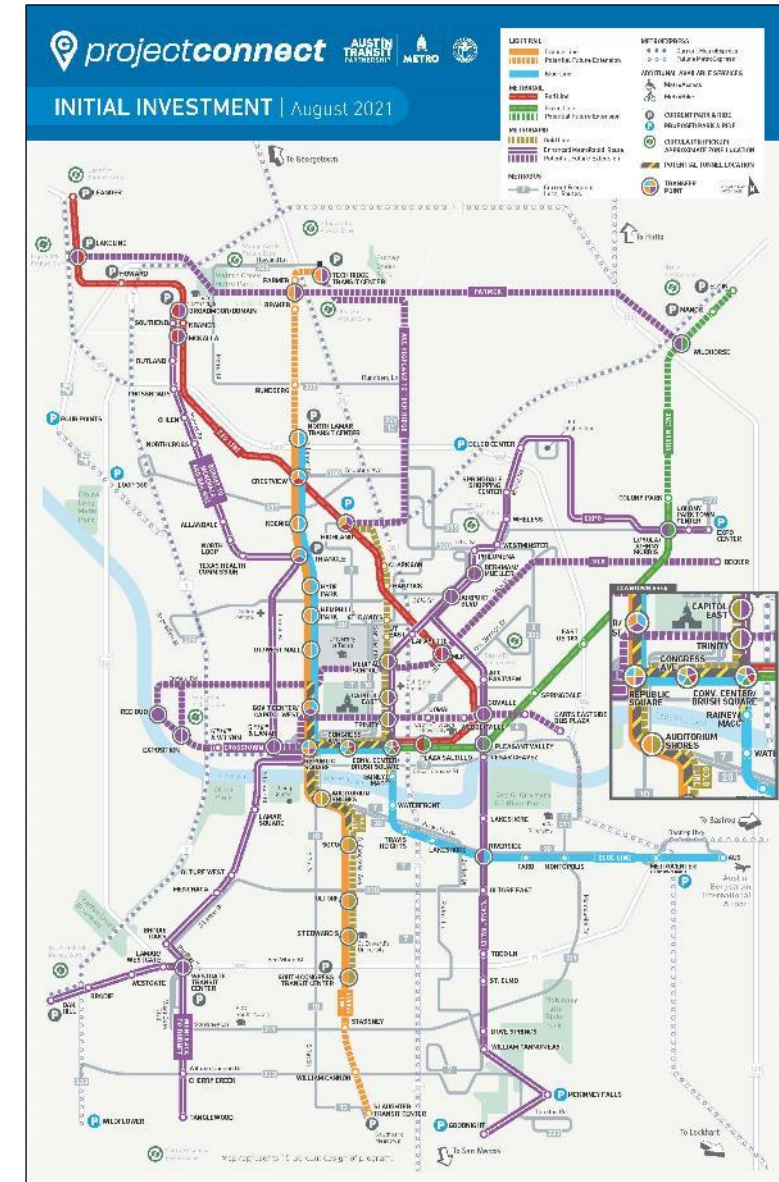


Program Overview

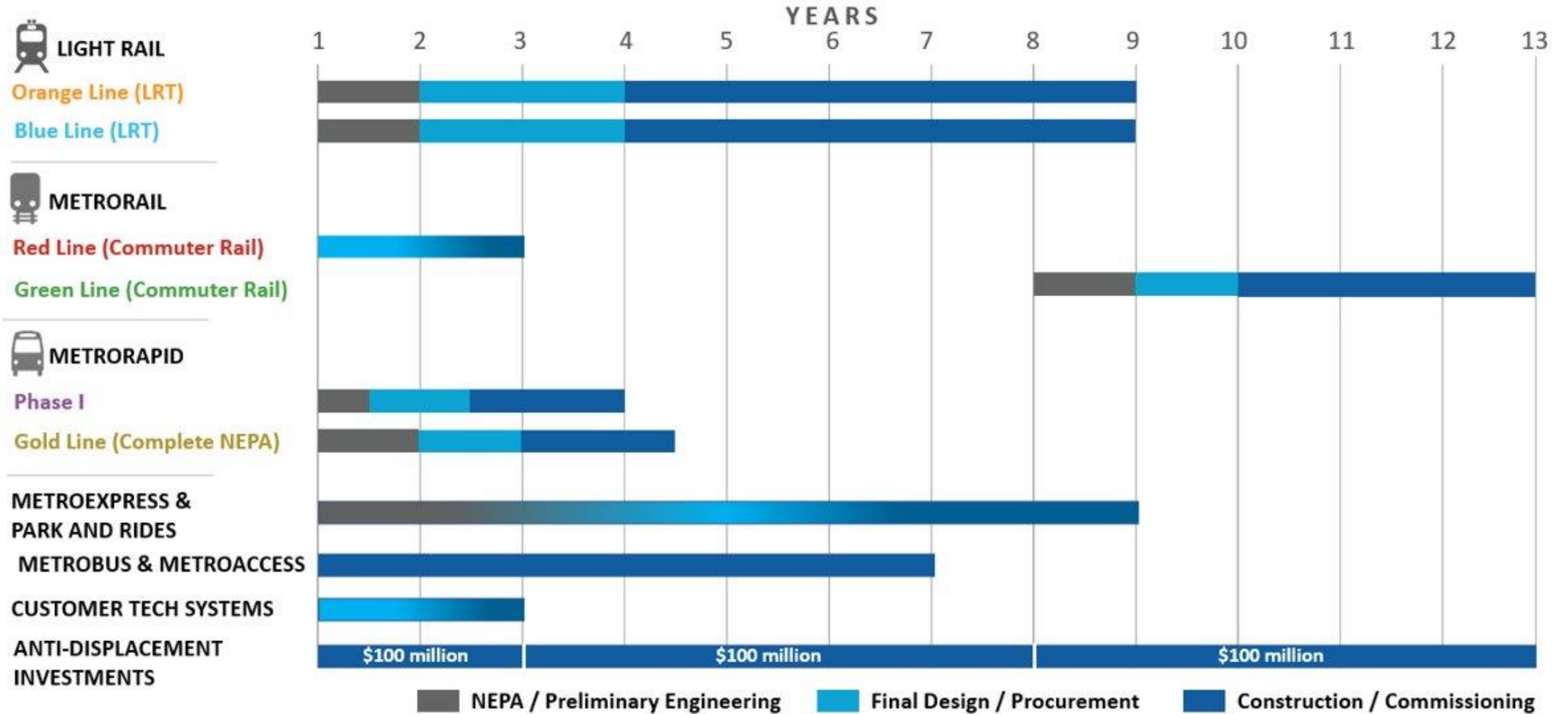
Project Connect is a transformative program of projects, designed to increase community connectivity and make Austin one of the most equitable, sustainable and innovative areas in the country.

- Light Rail
- Regional Rail
- Transit Tunnel
- Enhanced Bus Service
- Park & Rides
- Circulators (Pickup)

The **Austin Transit Partnership (ATP)** was created by Capital Metro and the City of Austin to lead implementation of the voter-approved program.

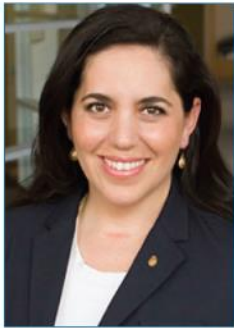


Program Overview



Governance & Management

Seated in January 2021, the independent **ATP Board of Directors** bring diverse lived and professional experiences to the governance of the program.



**Veronica Castro
de Barrera**
Board Chair



**Dr. Colette
Pierce Burnette**
Vice Chair



**Mayor
Steve Adler**
Board Member



Eric Stratton
Board Member



Tony Elkins
Board Member



Gina Fiandaca
Ex-Officio



Randy Clarke
Executive Director



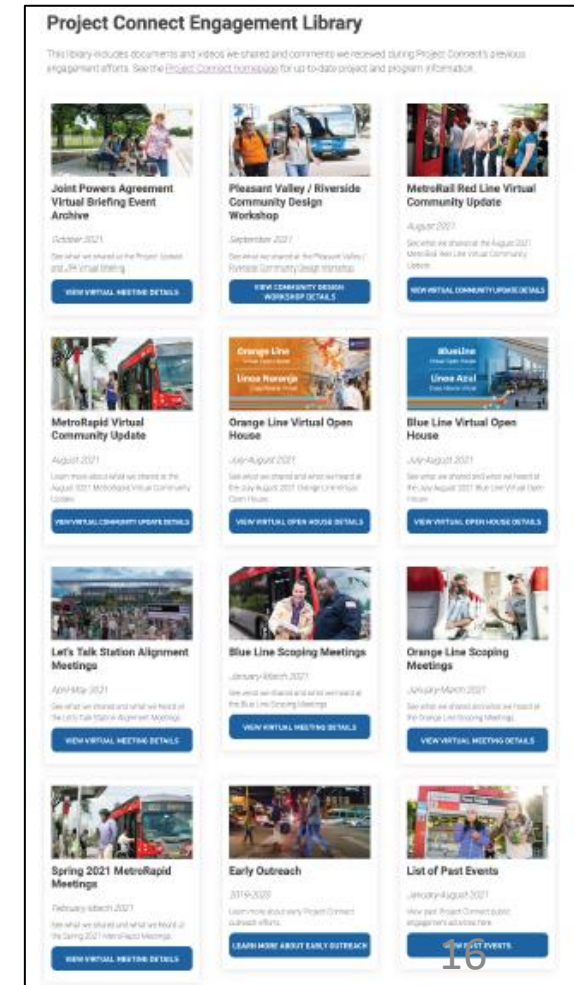
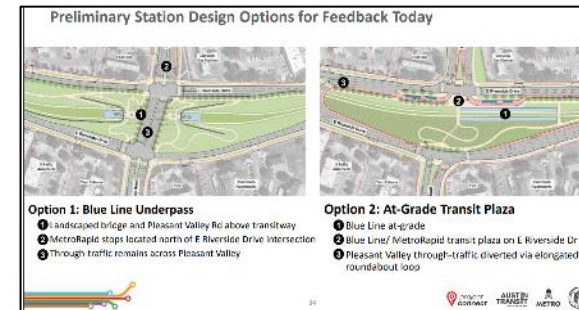
Over the past year, ATP has hired a talented staff of seasoned professionals from across the country, many with **847** years of professional experience and **363** years of experience in transit and large projects.

Community Engagement

Community engagement grew out of in-person and virtual public meetings, joint Capital Metro Board and Austin City Council work sessions, and the contributions of tens of thousands of community members.

82,000
AND COUNTING
PEOPLE IN THE AUSTIN REGION
ENGAGED IN PROJECT CONNECT

During the pandemic, community engagement grew more innovative, adaptable, and effective. New digital tools were used to ensure that the public is involved and educated on the program during this early, critical phase.



Advisory Committees & Working Groups

A key element of community engagement is consultation with our **advisory committees**. Each was appointed and began meeting regularly this year to advise policymakers and staff on specific areas of the Project Connect program.

- **Community Advisory Committee (CAC)**
- **Interagency Technical Advisory Group (ITAG)**
- **Engineering, Architecture, Construction (EAC) Advisory Committee**
- **Finance & Risk Advisory Committee (FAR)**
- **Planning, Sustainability, Equity and DBE Advisory Committee (PSEC)**

Working Groups, comprised of business and residential stakeholders, have been convened to provide input specific to their area of the Blue and Orange Lines.



Project Connect Program Office

As the program progresses, the ATP, Capital Metro, and City of Austin teams need a collaborative space to work together. The **Project Connect Program Office** (203 Colorado Street) will also provide space for future board, advisory committee, public meetings, and more.

Buildout is being completed, and the public will be invited to an open house in early 2022 to introduce this new, innovative space to the community.



City of Austin & Project Connect

The City of Austin has a team dedicated to Project Connect that is housed within the City's Management Services Department, reporting to Assistant City Manager Gina Fiandaca.

- The City's support of Project Connect is a continuation of the partnership that was created during the development of the Project Connect System Plan and the Austin Strategic Mobility Plan.
- The office is funded via an interlocal agreement with ATP to provide services in support of program implementation.

Goals of the team include:

Unify City departments to support, facilitate & approve technical aspects of Project Connect within the City of Austin's purview to support overall project schedule.

Identify and improve capital project permitting processes, in partnership with Development Services Department and other departments.

Identify and improve utility criteria, in partnership with City of Austin utility departments

Coordinate the City of Austin's National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) participating agency process, and monitor its implementation.



City of Austin & Anti-Displacement

Anti-Displacement Investments:

- Project Connect includes **\$300 million** for transit-supportive anti-displacement strategies, aimed at mitigating potential negative impacts associated with transit investments.
- The approved Project Connect referendum included direction to City staff to create an **Equity Assessment Tool** to analyze potential unintended effects or opportunities to build economic mobility for residents along transit corridors.

Racial Equity Anti-Displacement Tool:

- City staff collaborated with community members with lived experience or risk of displacement to develop a **Racial Equity Anti-Displacement Tool**, which can help guide anti-displacement investments on Project Connect corridors.

In FY2022, City Staff Will:

- Release the Racial Equity Anti-Displacement Tool and Report, host community learning sessions.
- Finalize a grants award process for anti-displacement investments in partnership with the CAC.
- Launch a new program to fund rapid land acquisition for qualified, non-profit affordable housing developers.



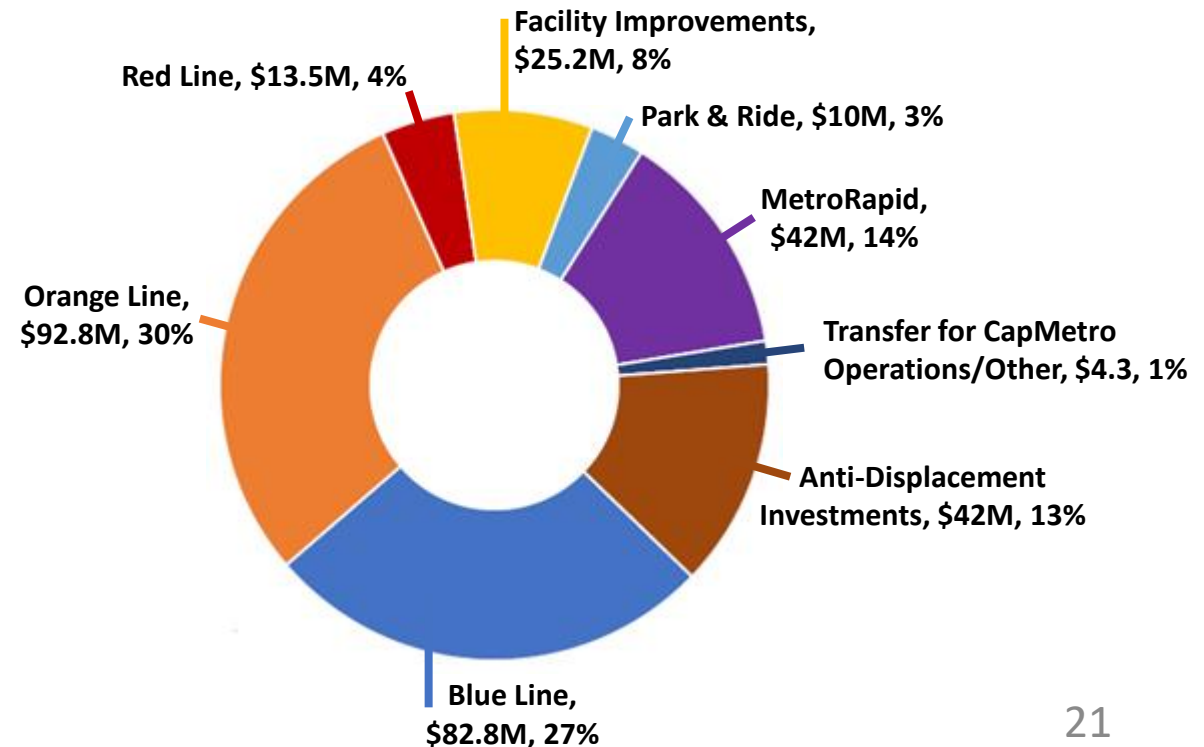
ATP Funding & Budget

With the approval of the Project Connect referendum, 8.75 cents of the City of Austin's property tax rate is dedicated to the ATP to fund implementation of Project Connect.

- Capital Metro is also contributing to ATP through the dedication of the agency's Capital Expansion Fund, as well as taking the lead on the Federal Administration's (FTA) Capital Investment Grant (CIG) program.

The ATP Board approved its first fiscal year budget, with **\$312.8 million** for **FY 2022**:

- \$266.5 million or 86% to fund capital projects
- 13% of budget for transfer to the City of Austin for transit-supportive, anti-displacement investments
- 1% of budget for transfer to Capital Metro for neighborhood circulator (Pickup) operations and other administrative costs.



MetroRapid Progress

METRORAPID

DEVELOPMENT

TIMING

Expo & Pleasant Valley, Status: *On Schedule*

- 1. Categorical Exclusion approved by FTA..... May 2021
- 2. Completed 30% design May 2021
- 3. Published in President Biden's FY22 Annual Report on Funding Recommendations..... May 2021
- 4. Project Management Oversight Consultant assigned by FTA; kickoff meeting held..... June 2021
- 5. Bus procurement approved..... September 2021
- 6. Anticipated IDIQ construction contract award..... October 2021
- 7. Anticipate start of construction Winter 2022
- 8. Anticipate start of revenue service Summer 2023

Gold Line, Menchaca and Oak Hill, Status: *On Schedule*

- 1. Analyzed options for federal funding and project implementation phasing August 2021
- 2. Gold Line anticipated start of construction..... January 2023
- 3. Gold Line anticipated start of revenue service June 2024
- 4. Menchaca anticipated start of construction..... June 2022
- 5. Menchaca anticipated start of revenue service January 2024



MetroRail & Pickup Progress

RED LINE

DEVELOPMENT

TIMING

McKalla Station, Status: *On Schedule*

- 1. Categorical Exclusion submitted to FTA in June; approved in August 2021.....August 2021
- 2. 30% design completed.....August 2021
- 3. Anticipated contract approval.....January 2022
- 4. Anticipated construction start.....May 2022
- 5. Anticipated station opening..... Fall 2023

Lakeline-to-Leander Double Tracking, Status: *On Schedule*

- 1. 100% design completeJuly 2021
- 2. Track improvements construction started October 2021
- 3. Anticipated Lakeline-Leander construction completion Fall 2022



NEIGHBORHOOD CIRCULATORS

Status: *On Schedule*

TASK

TIMING

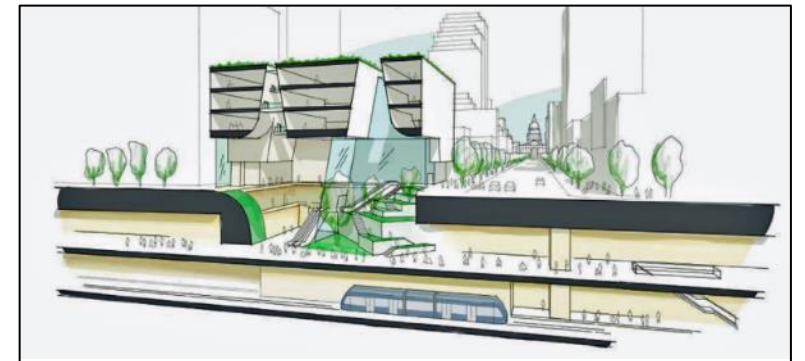
- 1. Dessau zone launched June 2021
- 2. South Menchaca zone launched.....July 2021
- 3. Integrated Pickup into trip planning module of CapMetro AppJuly 2021
- 4. North Oak Hill zone launched.....August 2021
- 5. Public-facing dashboard for an early 2022 release In Progress

Orange & Blue Line Design Progress

ORANGE AND BLUE LINE FIELD AND ENGINEERING ACTIVITIES

Status: *On Schedule*

TASK	TIMING
1. Surveys completed for geotechnical boring locations	January 2021
2. Heritage tree surveys	In Progress
3. 15% Draft Design Package comment disposition, reviewed with technical stakeholders, and revisions for final submittal underway	June 2021
4. Completed scheduled borings for subway tunnel.....	July 2021
5. Archeological, noise and vibration, and environmental field investigation underway	In Progress
6. Continuing coordination with COA on guideway, roadway, bike/ped facilities and planned development	In Progress
7. Initiated next round of Subsurface Utility Engineering for 30% design	In Progress
8. Ongoing development of traffic analysis.....	In Progress
9. Hydraulic analysis of FEMA creek crossings.....	In Progress
10. Continued water quality and drainage impact analysis.....	In Progress



Looking Ahead



- 1. Groundbreaking for MetroRapid Expo constructionWinter 2021/2022
- 2. Groundbreaking for Pleasant Valley constructionWinter 2021/2022
- 3. Small Starts Grant Agreements for Expo and Pleasant Valley Spring 2022
- 4. Groundbreaking for McKalla Station Spring 2022
- 5. Submit Ratings Package to FTA for New Starts Evaluation
for Orange and Blue LinesSummer 2022
- 6. Draft Environmental Impact Statements available for public reviewSummer 2022
- 7. Finalize 30% design plans for Orange and Blue LinesSummer 2022
- 8. NEPA-Record of Decision..... Winter 2022/2023
- 9. FTA: Entry to Project EngineeringSummer 2023
- 10. FTA: Full Funding Grant Agreement..... Fall 2024

Orange and Blue Lines Key Project Milestones





Questions?

