



MEMORANDUM

TO: City of Austin Mayor and Council Members, Austin Transit Partnership Board Chair and Board Members, Capital Metropolitan Transportation Authority Board Chair and Board Members

FROM: Awais Azhar, Chair, Project Connect Community Advisory Committee

CC: Randy Clarke, President and CEO, Capital Metropolitan Transportation Authority; and Executive Director, Austin Transit Partnership
Spencer Cronk, City Manager, City of Austin
Rodney Gonzales, Assistant City Manager, City of Austin
Rosie Truelove, Director Housing and Planning Department, City of Austin
Project Connect Community Advisory Committee Members

DATE: January 26, 2022

SUBJECT: Project Connect Community Advisory Committee Anti-Displacement Fund Budget Recommendations for Year 1 and 2

In the Contract with the Voters, Austin City Council directed that \$300 million of the Project Connect Tax Revenue be dedicated to acquiring real property and financing tools and other anti-displacement strategies related to the implementation of the program. In year 1 and 2 of the program, \$65 million of these funds have been made available to address the potential for transit induced displacement.

The Project Connect Community Advisory Committee has worked with city staff to streamline priorities and budget allocation for the available funds, while utilizing the Nothing About Us Without Us: Racial Equity Anti-Displacement Tool as the foundation for this work. Based on this work, we recommend that Council immediately direct staff to utilize these funds in areas identified as vulnerable to displacement that are along the Project Connect high capacity transit corridors.

These recommendations are based on the Contract with the Voters, Racial Equity Anti-Displacement Tool, Austin City Council Resolution No. 20210204-062, neighborhood-level demographic data, and other community proposals and priorities. While we recommend that in future years additional community engagement opportunities be created to further gain feedback on community priorities in relation to the anti-displacement funding, we ask that the funds from year 1 and 2 are immediately directed towards programs and priorities to ensure meaningful impact. We support the intent of the

Contract with the Voters and ask the City to develop a targeted approach to funding in future years based on planning and engagement with the communities in areas along high capacity Project Connect lines identified as vulnerable to displacement.

We recommend that the anti-displacement fund budget for years 1 and 2 is committed as following:

1. Commit \$23 million towards land acquisition and affordable housing preservation, in alignment with direction from Austin City Council Resolution No. 20210204-062.
2. Commit \$21 million towards the development of affordable housing through the City's housing development assistance programs.
3. Commit \$20 million towards Anti-Displacement Initiatives as outlined in the soon to be available notice of funding availability, based on Project Connect anti-displacement priorities and rooted in the Contract with the Voters, Racial Equity Anti-Displacement Tool, and data-informed maps.

In addition, we recommend that a portion of the funds for year 1 and 2 be committed to implementing anti-displacement programs and efforts by supporting staff needs. However, we recommend that in future years, staffing should not be funded from the \$300 million but from other alternative funding sources. It is critical to prioritize anti-displacement programs and strategies when making funding decisions in the future, while ensuring that staff has the necessary resources to implement programs and efforts successfully and sustainably.

If you should have any questions, I can be reached at bc-awais.azhar@austintexas.gov.

Date of Approval: January 26, 2022

Record of the vote: Approved on a 10-0-0 vote (Committee Members Almanza and Shapiro absent; one vacancy)

Attest: , Project Connect Community Advisory Committee Chair