

To: CapMetro Board of Directors  
Austin City Council

From: ATP Board Vacancy Nominating Committee

October 27, 2022

RE: Recommendation to fill the vacancy on the ATP Board

Dear City Council and CapMetro Board Colleagues,

The purpose of this letter is to inform you of our recommended candidate to serve on the Austin Transit Partnership (ATP) Board of Directors. As you know, a Nominating Committee was formed, as described in ATP's governing documents, to recommend a candidate to fill a current vacancy on the ATP Board. ATP is responsible for implementing Project Connect, in partnership and collaboration with the City of Austin and CapMetro.

The vacant seat requires 10 years of cumulative experience in one or more of the following: urban planning, community planning, equitable transit-oriented development, and sustainability and/or environmental planning. The application process opened in August and remained open for several weeks. Staff from the City, CapMetro, and ATP worked to share the application broadly through our community utilizing a variety of communication methods and community engagement networks. The Nominating Committee received fourteen applications from passionate members of this community who are eager to serve in the implementation of Project Connect. We were very impressed by the applicants' diverse perspectives and experience, and especially their desire to ensure the success of this program which will impact this area for generations to come. The committee interviewed six candidates, including four women and two men, with four of those interviewed identifying as BIPOC.

The candidate to fill the vacancy must be approved by the Austin City Council and the CapMetro Board. The Austin City Council will consider this appointment during their regular meeting on November 3, 2022, and the CapMetro Board will consider this during their special board meeting on November 4, 2022. The appointee will be sworn in during the ATP Board meeting on November 16, and will serve until January 2025.

**We are very pleased today to unanimously and enthusiastically recommend that the CapMetro Board and Austin City Council appoint Mr. Juan Garza to serve on the ATP Board of Directors.** Mr. Garza was determined by ATP Staff to meet all five criteria required in the application process. Moreover, Mr. Garza has extensive experience leading governmental entities and a long history of serving the public. In that regard, he has served as a city manager of Corpus Christi, Texas, as an interim hospital administrator, and as the chief executive of two electric power companies. He also served as the VP of Finance and Development for Central Health where he led financial functions, contract negotiations, community relations, and project management, and was extensively involved in the redevelopment of the Brackenridge Hospital site. He has extensive experience working with citizens on difficult and challenging projects, including, for example, the closing of the Holly Power Plant and the development of Evanston's comprehensive plan.

His education includes a Bachelor of Science in Mathematics and an M.B.A. in Financial Administration, both from Loyola University Chicago.

In his private time, he has been actively involved on the Board of Directors of Capital Idea which promotes low-income individuals returning to school. He also has served on the Board of Directors of the Hispanic Chamber of Commerce where he led the creation of a scholarship fund for students of Eastside Memorial Early College High School. He has been described as “an expert who understands the journey of the poor and most vulnerable.”

The Nominating Committee wants to thank the community for supporting this process and helping to share this valuable opportunity with their networks, as well as the staff from each of the Project Connect partners who provided administrative support. Additionally, we want to thank our colleagues for their trust in our work on the Nominating Committee.

Finally, we want to thank the fourteen excellent individuals who applied for this opportunity, and we want to encourage them all to stay involved, and in particular, to stay engaged in the Project Connect transit expansion program.

Regards,

Alison Alter  
Mayor Pro Tem, Austin City Council  
Chair, City Council Audit & Finance Committee

Paige Ellis  
Austin City Council  
Chair, City Council Mobility Committee

Eric Stratton  
CapMetro Board  
Chair, CapMetro Operations, Planning & Safety Committee

Wade Cooper  
CapMetro Board  
Chair, CapMetro Finance, Audit & Administration Committee

## **Juan Garza Bio**

Mr. Juan Garza is a longtime public servant with more than 30 years of experience working for a variety of public agencies in leadership roles.

Mr. Garza currently owns his own consulting firm, Juan Garza & Associates, and prior to that served as the Vice President of Finance and Development for Central Health in Austin Texas from 2012-2018. With Central Health he led agency financial functions, including negotiating a master agreement with Seton Family of Hospitals and other key partnership agreements. Prior to his work for Central Health, Juan was a leader in the energy sector, serving as President of Advanced Technologies for NRG Energy (2010-2012) and General Manager & CEO of Pedernales Electric Co-op (2008-2011), where Mr. Garza worked to restore trust among co-op members and stabilize the agency following a period of significant mismanagement.

In all of his professional roles, he was required to interact with the public; manage complex, multi-agency issues while maintaining or restoring public trust; and work to find common ground among all stakeholders in order to advance missions and projects.

Juan has a Masters in Business Administration and a Bachelor of Science in Mathematics from Loyola University of Chicago. Mr. Garza is a long-time Austin resident.

## Austin Transit Partnership Board of Director Application

Austin Transit Partnership's (ATP's) charge is to deliver on the voters' transit vision in partnership with the community — and in a way that embeds equity, sustainability, and transparency as overarching priorities. ATP's seven-member Board of Directors provides strategic oversight of the program and convenes the community, experts and partners who are crucial to delivering the program and achieving the public's vision and goals.

### **Board Vacancy:**

Position: Community Expert Director in Community Planning or Sustainability

Term: Date of Appointment through January 2025

The ATP Board vacancy is one of three community experts. The community expert in Community Planning or Sustainability should have expertise in community planning or sustainability. In accordance with ATP's Articles of Incorporation, applicants shall meet the following criteria:

- At least 10 years cumulative experience across one or more of the following fields: urban planning, community planning, equitable transit-oriented development (ETOD), sustainability and/or environmental planning
- Experience with community engagement with preferably three (3) to five (5) years of specific experience; and
- Community expert members of the ATP Board must be a resident of Austin.

If you do not meet the minimum criteria, please keep in mind the nominating committee also considers Austin's diversity, and an applicant's ability to consider wholly Project Connect's benefits and potential impacts particularly on vulnerable communities aimed to be served by transit.

Following the appointment of the Community Expert in Community Planning or Sustainability, this board member will also serve as the ATP Board liaison to the Planning, Sustainability, Equity and DBE Advisory Committee (PSEC). PSEC is made up of community experts in this field and works to inform decisions made by the ATP board and staff members regarding Diversity Business Enterprise (DBE) and local business support programs, community planning and engagement, program equity, urban design, accessibility and environmental programs.

### **Application Process:**

To apply for the Community Expert Director in Community Planning or Sustainability, please provide the following documents.

### ***Required documents:***

1. Resume (maximum two pages) with information related to the above criteria;
2. Letter of interest (maximum 2 pages) detailing your relevant experience related to community expertise in Community Planning or Sustainability; and
3. Residency, Conflict of Interest & Lobbying Form.

***Optional document:***

Applicants may choose to submit a Voluntary Self-Identification of Demographic Information Form (Optional). Applicants are not required to submit demographic information as a part of the application process but may opt to submit the form along with the required documents listed above.

Please email your application information to [ATPboardapp@atptx.org](mailto:ATPboardapp@atptx.org) no later than the application deadline of **5 p.m. on August 12, 2022**.

**Date was extended to 5 p.m. September 5, 2022.**

**EEO/ADA:** Austin Transit Partnership is committed to compliance with the American Disabilities Act. If you require reasonable accommodation during the application process or have a question regarding an essential job function, please contact us at [ATPboardapp@atptx.org](mailto:ATPboardapp@atptx.org).

**Appointment Process:**

ATP Board member appointment is subject to approval by a nominating committee of the City of Austin and Capital Metro. Well qualified applicants may be asked to interview with the nominating committee and consent to a criminal background investigation.

See the Frequently Asked Questions for more information.