



MEMORANDUM

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

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

CC: Dottie Watkins, Interim President and CEO, Capital Metropolitan Transportation Authority
Spencer Cronk, City Manager, City of Austin
Gina Fiandaca, Assistant City Manager, City of Austin

DATE: November 10, 2022

SUBJECT: Project Connect Community Advisory Committee Recommendations – Austin Transit Partnership Board Structure and Appointment Process

Earlier this year, the Austin City Council gave direction to the City Manager as a part of the approval for Resolution No. 20220505-033 to consult with the Project Connect Community Advisory Committee (CAC) and other stakeholders to evaluate the potential expansion of the Austin Transit Partnership (ATP) Board of Directors. The CAC has evaluated this matter and recommends that before the ATP board structure is altered, it is critical to address community concerns around transparency and accountability with the board nomination and appointment process.

Specifically, we recommend the following changes be made to the ATP board nomination and appointment process.

1. Provide the CAC and other Project Connect advisory bodies with an opportunity to provide comments on the appointment process for the Community Expert positions, including feedback regarding the overall nomination process and timeline for receiving community applications; the qualities, values, and skills the CAC would like to see in board members; and the Nomination Committee's finalized selection criteria.
2. Ensure that the application process allows sufficient time for community members to apply to the Community Expert positions, and that staff tries to actively seek applicants who possess similar lived experience or perspectives as frequent users of our transit system.

3. Share information regarding the nomination process for the Community Expert board positions with the public in an accessible manner, including the criteria for evaluating applicants, the timeline for final appointments, and details regarding all the applicants and finalists
4. Ensure that the applicant selection criteria for the Community Expert board positions prioritizes the appointment of frequent transit users and those who are familiar with Austin's transit infrastructure, along with possessing a deep understanding of transit equity related issues. In addition, the criteria for the Community Planning or Sustainability Community Expert board position must focus on the applicant's experience in engaging with transit riders and advocates.
5. Appointments of Austin City Council Members and Capital Metro Board Members to the ATP Board must be carried out through a transparent process, providing an opportunity for feedback from the CAC and project connect advisory bodies before the final recommendations are advanced to the City Council and Cap Metro boards, with separate actions for appointment to the board and application of the residency waiver.

Such changes will ensure transparency and accountability in the board nomination and appointment process and allow the community to engage in a meaningful way.

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

Date of Approval: November 10, 2022

Record of the vote: Approved on an 8-0-0 vote (Committee Members Almanza, Gorse, Hendricks, Lopez, and Taylor absent)

Attest:  , Project Connect Community Advisory Committee Chair