



JOINT SUSTAINABILITY COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES

**REGULAR MEETING
March 26, 2025**

The Joint Sustainability Committee convened in a hybrid meeting via videoconferencing and at Austin Energy Headquarters.

Board Members in Attendance in Person: Anna Scott, Haris Qureshi, Kaiba White, Charlotte Davis

Board Members in Attendance Remotely: Heather Houser, Christopher Campbell, Marissa Bell, Lane Becker, Rodrigo Leal, Melissa Rothrock, Yure Suarez

Board Members Absent: Chris Maxwell-Gaines, Amy Noel, Chris Crookham, Alberta Phillips, Diana Wheeler

City Staff in Attendance: Rohan Lilauwala, Braden Latham-Jones, Michelle Marx

CALL TO ORDER

Chair Kaiba White called the meeting to order at 6:29 pm.

Public Communication

- Adam Greenfield on item 2, in favor of the Austin Core Transportation Plan. Suggestion to convert all remaining one-way streets to two-way streets. Also in support of protected bike lanes, bus lanes, trees.
- Scott Johnson speaks in favor of low-carbon concrete and residential landscape incentive program.
- Zenobia Joseph speaking in opposition to light rail plans on civil rights grounds.

1. Approval of minutes from the February 26th, 2025 meeting of the Joint Sustainability Committee.

- Qureshi motion, Scott second, passes on a 10-0 vote (Suarez off dais).

DISCUSSION ITEMS

2. Austin Core Transportation Plan Update – Michelle Marx, Transportation and Public Works Department.

- Qureshi – does this change transit routing? Marx – CapMetro has provided info on routing that has been incorporated into the plan.

- White – should JSC consider recommendation to maximize one-way to two-way conversions. Marx – not a panacea for improving safety. With tight intersection spacing in East Downtown, allows for signal coordination to reduce speeds. Context dependent – would work in places with wide streets, widely spaced intersections.

3. CapMetro Sustainability Updates – David Carr, CapMetro

- Qureshi – can you comment on lack of electric buses on new rapid routes? Carr – Proterra bankruptcy has affected commissioning of new buses. New Flyer buses in service now. Charging infrastructure still being installed – especially in-route charging.
- White – why is CapMetro backing away from electric bus purchases? Carr – very expensive. MetroRapid costs being covered by grants and other sources. Range performance capabilities aren't there yet.
- Carr – issues with a lack of parts and service from Proterra. New company has taken over – CapMetro pause until they catch up with servicing and parts. Nationwide issue.
- Rothrock - can charging infrastructure be shared? Carr – theoretically, yes. New buses use pantograph chargers (tech not readily available). 450kw charging – does not exist for commercial vehicles. Overnight at 60kw charging possible but might take all day. Could be used for small vehicles.
- White – is CapMetro coordinating with ARR on plans to electrify garbage trucks. Carr – different types of vehicles, duty cycles, technologies. Opportunities for some synergies, but not at the moment. Discussions with AISD, airport, etc. happening.

4. Internal Climate and Efficiency Revolving Fund Proposal – Rohan Lilauwala, Office of Climate Action and Resilience.

- Davis, White – how are savings measured? Lilauwala – by certified energy manager. SOP to keep fund robust and healthy over time.
- White – could things like refrigerants be paid for? Lilauwala – projects need to have savings/revenue to keep the fund capitalized.
- Campbell – would it need funding every year? Lilauwala – theoretically, seed funding could sustain it for a long time.
- Scott – what is amount needed? Lilauwala – comprehensive climate implementation plan has the number at \$5 million seed funding.

7. Recommendation on the Austin Core Transportation Plan.

- Scott – feels safer on two-way streets.
- Bell amendment – exploring additional one-way to two-way conversion of streets– no objections to friendly amendment, approved
- Davis amendment another be it resolved 'ACT plan includes protected bike lanes in both directions on all downtown streets'– no objections to friendly amendment, approved
- Qureshi motion, Davis second, passes 11-0.

8. Recommendation on Internal Climate and Efficiency Revolving Fund Proposal.

- Item skipped, embedded in Sustainable Buildings recommendations.

9. JSC Sustainable Buildings Working Group FY 25/26 Budget Recommendations.

- White motion, Scott second. Amendment to clarify all FTE asks to be annual. Amendment to fix typo. No objections.

- Passes 11-0.

10. JSC Consumption Working Group FY 25/26 Budget Recommendations.

- Davis motion, Qureshi second. Amendment to clarify first sustainable purchasing recommendation so FTE ask is annual – no objections. Amendment to strike food hub recommendation – no objections. Passes 10-0 with Bell abstaining.

11. JSC Natural Systems Working Group FY 25/26 Budget Recommendations.

- Davis motion, Becker second. Amendment to remove ACCC recommendation, to be considered in cross-sectoral recommendations – no objections. Passes 11-0.

12. JSC Transportation Working Group FY 25/26 Budget Recommendations.

- Davis motion, Leal second. Amendment to clarify that FTE costs are annual – no objection. Amendment to change Project manager position to \$110,000 and Resilience coordinator position to \$90,000 annually – no objection.
- Zenobia Joseph – public comment; speaking in favor of equitable transportation infrastructure.
- Amendment to add ‘and that have been historically disinvested in the Eastern Crescent’ after ‘tree canopy cover’ – no objection. Amendment to add numbers to each recommendation – no objection.
- Passes 11-0

13. JSC Cross Sector Working Group FY 25/26 Budget Recommendations.

- Amendment to clarify that all costs are annual expenditures, amendment to correct Office of Sustainability name – no objection.
- White motion, Bell second. Passes 11-0.

6. Water and Wastewater Commission update on recent approvals that affect water conservations efforts. – Chris Maxwell-Gaines

- Item skipped

7. Environmental Commission updates on PARD Concessions Report Presentation, Austin Energy Green Building Program overview and WPD FY25 Budget, programs, and projects. – Haris Qureshi.

- Summary of updates from Environmental Commission

FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS

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ADJOURNMENT

White adjourned meeting at 9:15 pm with no objections.