

View results

Respondent

51

Anonymous

29:50

Time to complete

Introduction

Thank you for your interest in the Project Connect Community Advisory Committee (CAC). Please complete the following application to the best of your ability. The nominating committee will review the applications and make a recommendation to the City Council, CapMetro Board, and the Austin Transit Partnership (ATP) Board about who should be appointed to the CAC. The nominating committee may contact you to request an interview prior to making their recommendation.

Basic Information & Acknowledgements

Please complete this section to provide basic contact information and general acknowledgements

1. Public Information Acknowledgement:

In the event a public information request is submitted for the applications to either the City, CapMetro or the Austin Transit Partnership, the application will be provided to the requestor. The only information that may be able to be redacted is personal email addresses. *

☒ I acknowledge my information and my application could be provided to a public information requestor.

2. Conflict of Interest and Lobbying:

The Project Connect Advisory Committee members shall not have a contract for property, goods or services with the City, CapMetro, or the Joint LGC (Austin Transit Partnership), or be employed by such a contractor. Advisory Committee members also shall not be a person who is registered or required to register as a lobbyist under City Code Chapter 4-8 or who is employed by a person registered or required to register under City Code Chapter 4-8. If any of these conditions apply to you, you will not be considered for the Project Connect Community Advisory Group and should not complete this application.

Please confirm that you do not have a conflict, are not a lobbyist as described above, and that, if appointed to the committee, you will identify any future conflicts of interest to the committee staff. *

- ☒ I DO NOT have a conflict as described above and am not a lobbyist required to register under City Code.
- ☐ I DO have a conflict as described above or am a lobbyist required to register under City Code.
- ☐ I DON'T KNOW if I have a conflict

3. Full Name *

Joseph El Habr

4. Address

*Note: Address Format: Street, City, State, Zip **

[REDACTED], 78705

5. Are you a resident of Austin or the CapMetro Service Area?

*Note: The CapMetro Service Area includes Austin, Jonestown, Lago Vista, Leander, Manor, Point Venture, and San Leanna, as well as portions of unincorporated Williamson and Travis Counties. **

- ☒ Yes
- ☐ No

6. Email Address *

[REDACTED]

7. Phone Number *

[REDACTED]

8. Preferred Language for Communications *

- ☒ English
- ☐ Spanish
- ☐ Other

9. Please list the names of relevant community, neighborhood, civic or labor organization(s), that you have, or are currently serving on. *

None

Demographic Information

The Austin City Council and CapMetro Board have made equity and community representation a priority for the Project Connect Advisory Committee. The following demographic questions will help ensure this priority is met. On each question, you may select "I prefer not to answer" if you do not wish to provide an answer, however the most complete applications may be prioritized.

10. Which of the following best represents your race/ethnicity? Select all that apply *

- ☐ American Indian and/or Alaska Native
- ☐ Asian
- ☐ Black and/or African American
- ☒ Hispanic and/or Latinx
- ☐ White
- ☐ Another race/ethnicity
- ☐ I prefer not to answer

11. Do you identify as someone with a disability? *

- ☐ Yes
- ☒ No
- ☐ I prefer not to answer

12. What is your age range? *

- ☒ Under 25 years old
- ☐ 26-50 years old
- ☐ 51 years and above
- ☐ I prefer not to answer

13. Do you have children residing in your home or are you a caregiver? *

- ☐ Yes
- ☒ No
- ☐ I prefer not to answer

14. Are you currently a student? *

- ☒ Yes
- ☐ No
- ☐ I prefer not to answer

15. What is your annual household income? *

- ☐ 0-\$24,999
- ☐ \$25,000-\$49,999
- ☐ \$50,000-\$74,999
- ☐ \$75,000-\$99,999
- ☐ \$100,000-\$149,000
- ☐ \$150,000+
- ☒ I prefer not to answer

16. Do you currently (select all that apply): *

- ☒ Rent your home
- ☐ Own your home (including with a mortgage)
- ☐ Live with family or roommates to share costs
- ☐ Live with parents or a caretaker who pay for your housing
- ☐ Live in a shelter, halfway house, or other temporary housing
- ☐ Live in senior housing or assisted living facility
- ☐ Do not currently have housing

17. Please list the top three ways you normally get around Austin. Please list your most-used first.

*Note: Options: Walk, bicycle, drive alone, carpool/vanpool, micromobility (i.e., scooter, bikeshare), Public Transportation, or Ridehail (i.e., Uber, Lyft, etc.) **

Walk, Public Transportation, Drive Alone

Experience & Interests

The purpose of this committee is to advise on anti-displacement and equity matters related to Project Connect. The following open-ended questions will help the nominating committee understand your experience and interests.

18. Briefly describe why you're interested in serving on this advisory committee, and why you think you'd be an ideal member. Please include an experience you've had in your life that made you interested in serving in this role. *

I am eager to serve on this advisory committee, inspired by a pivotal experience at the ATP Open House event just this past April. During the unveiling of the new design for the Project Connect system, I observed the significant disparity in representation within the room. The event did not mirror the diversity of Austin's population. I remember thinking, "this does not look like the population that I typically see using CapMetro services." This experience highlighted a critical gap in ensuring that our transportation initiatives are equitable and justly serve all communities.

As one of the few visible minorities present, this moment was transformative for me, solidifying my commitment to address issues of mobility justice and equity within our transit system. I believe that diversity in representation is fundamental to the success of this advisory committee, and I'm motivated to actively contribute to making out transportation initiatives more inclusive.

I think that I can bring a unique perspective shaped by both my academic knowledge and lived experience, and I am dedicated to serving underrepresented communities.

As a potential member for this committee, I am not only passionate about advocating for mobility justice, but also possess the practical understanding of the issues faced by diverse communities. I am committed to working collaboratively to ensure that our transportation policies address the needs of all residents, fostering a more inclusive and equitable urban environment for everyone in Austin.

19. Briefly describe how your personal, professional, or lived experience has contributed to meeting the needs of people experiencing homelessness, mobility justice, the advancement of criminal justice reform, housing and land-use policy, workforce/labor policy, or increasing economic or other opportunities for underserved transit users. *

My commitment to addressing the needs of underserved populations is deeply rooted in my current academic pursuits at UT Austin, where I am a current graduate student studying Community and Regional Planning. My research focus revolves around transportation equity, with a particular emphasis on enhancing food access for low-income communities. Through my work, I aim to bridge the gap between marginalized populations and quality grocery stores, recognizing the critical role that transportation plays in ensuring access to essential resources.

Further, I am also an intern and have accepted a full-time position at a transportation infrastructure and planning firm here in Austin. As a result, I believe in the power of transit-oriented developments to create vibrant, sustainable communities. By strategically densifying around transit stops, we not only enhance housing options but also create more inclusive neighborhoods. This approach not only addresses the pressing issue of housing scarcity, but also aligns with my broader goal of fostering thriving, accessible environments.

Through my academic and professional endeavors, I am dedicated to contributing to the advancement of urban planning policies that prioritize the well-being of underserved populations, mobility justice, housing and land-use reform, and the advancement of local economic development.