



# Project Connect

City Council, Capital Metro Board, ATP Board  
Joint Meeting  
October 29, 2021





# Project Connect Management Report



# A Year of Success...

# A Year of Success...

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**IMPACT**  
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CENTRAL AUSTIN

IMPACTS   TRANSPORTATION   GOVERNMENT   BUSINESS   DINING   NEWSLETTER

Austin > Central Austin > Transportation

**After historic public transportation vote, here is what's next for Project Connect in Austin**

Austin American-Statesman  
SERVING OUR COMMUNITY SINCE 1871

ws ] Sports   Opinion   USA TODAY   Austin360   Hookem.com   Obituaries   E-Edition   Legals

LOCAL

**Now that voters have said yes, Project Connect's real work starts**

Philip Jankowski  
Published 12:43 p.m. CT Nov. 6, 2020

SECTIONS   SEARCH   THE AUSTIN CHRONICLE

NEWS   FOOD   MUSIC   SCREENS   ARTS   QUEER   EVENTS   CLASS

NEWS

**New Transit Agency Takes Command of Project Connect**  
Let's get rolling!  
BY MIKE CLARK-MADISON, FRI., JAN. 29, 2021

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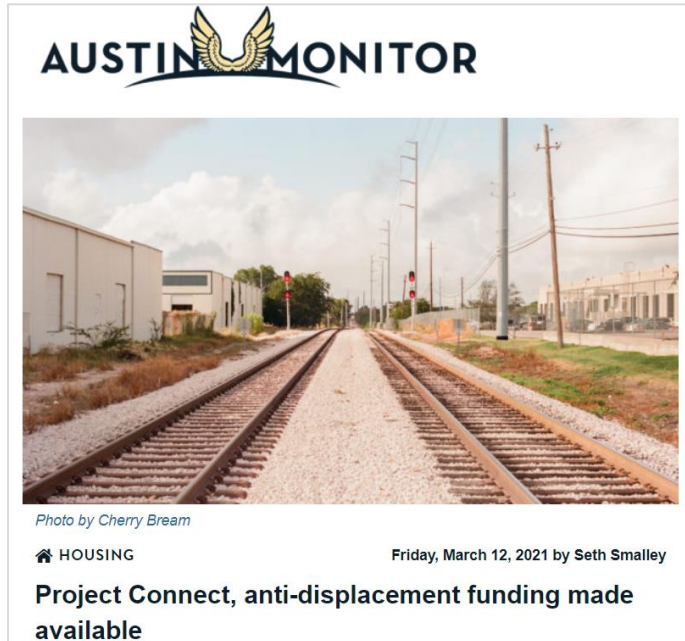
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CORONAVIRUS   SCHOOLS   FOREVER FAMILIES   DEFENDERS   RADAR

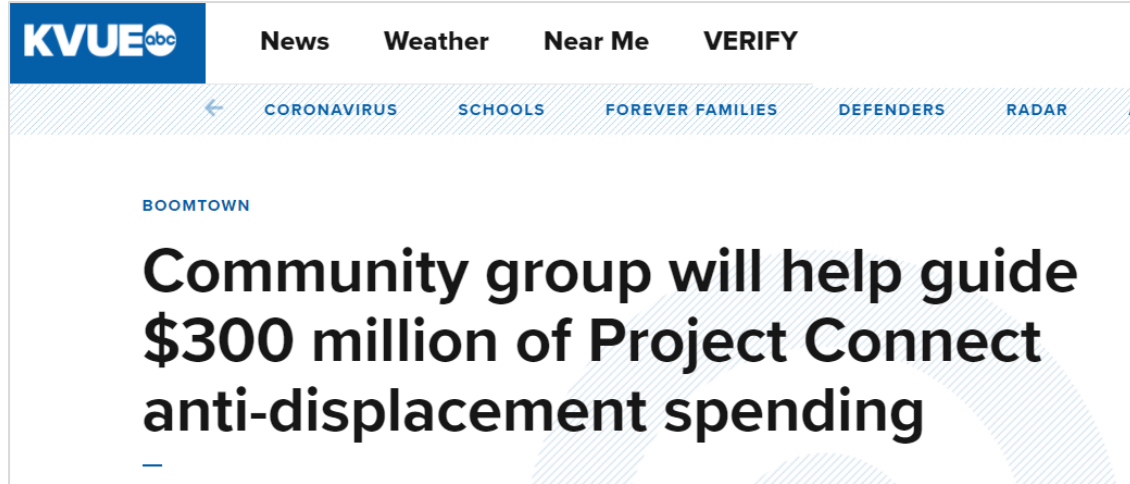
BOOMTOWN

**2 Project Connect routes recommended for federal funding**

# A Year of Success...



# A Year of Success...





# A Year of Success...

**FOX 7**  
A U S T I N

Live News Good Day Weather Traffic Contests Email

## Subway plans proposed for Downtown Austin as part of Project Connect

By Steven Sarabia | Published July 14 | Capital Metro | FOX 7 Austin

**AUSTIN MONITOR**





Photo by ATXN

 TRANSIT

Friday, June 25, 2021 by Seth Smalley

### Transit partnership fields Orange Line updates for Project Connect

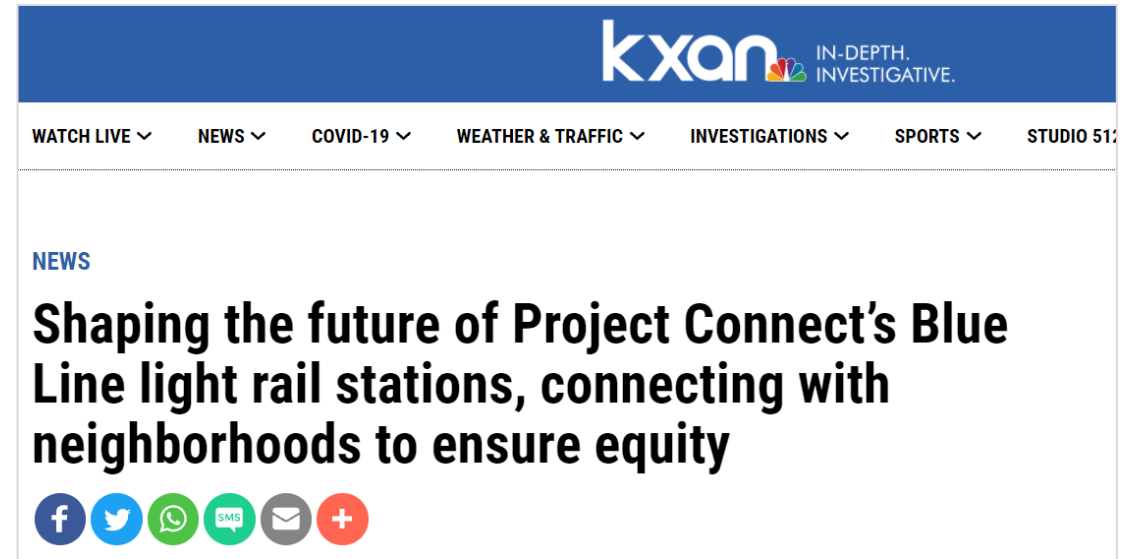
**COMMUNITY IMPACT**  
NEWSPAPER  
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Austin > Central Austin > Transportation

## Project Connect officials promise equity will be at forefront of initiative



# A Year of Success...





# Governance & Management

- Seated in January 2021, the independent **ATP Board of Directors** bring diverse lived and to the govern



**Veronica Castro  
de Barrera**  
Board Chair



**Dr. Colette  
Pierce Burnette**  
Vice Chair



**Mayor  
Steve Adler**  
Board Member



**Eric Stratton**  
Board Member



**Tony Elkins**  
Board Member



**Gina Fiandaca**  
Ex-Officio



**Randy Clarke**  
Executive Director



Over the past year, ATP has hired a talented staff of seasoned professionals from across the country, many with **847** years of professional experience and **363** years of experience in transit and large projects.

# 2021 Program Highlights

- Kickoff ceremony in September for **Leander-Lakeline double-tracking** project. Construction will be completed in Fall 2022.
- Pickup, the on-demand neighborhood circulator service, launched **three** new Project Connect funded zones in 2021, all were delivered on schedule.
  - North Oak Hill, South Menchaca, Dessau
  - **11** total Pickup zones in operation



# Program Values

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- **Project Connect** will create a comprehensive transit system that transforms our community into one of the most sustainable, inclusive and innovative in the country.



## Opportunity and Equity



## Environment and Sustainability



## Innovation and Technology

- Project Connect will generate thousands of good local jobs and careers.
- Connect more neighborhoods with a comprehensive rail and bus system reaching more areas of Austin and with higher frequency.
- Make it easier for Austinites to access employment opportunities, healthcare, education, and essential services.
- \$300 million anti-displacement fund to create and maintain affordable places to live as well as ensure the benefits of Project Connect are equitably shared.

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Opportunity and Equity



Environment and Sustainability



Innovation and Technology

- Project Connect will reflect the shared passion for the environment in Austin.
- Commitment to diligent stewardship of our climate during design, construction and operations of transit projects.
- Set an industry standard for advanced green transit system operations by managing water use, landfill waste and carbon emissions.
- Operate a zero-emissions transit system.



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Opportunity and Equity



Environment and Sustainability



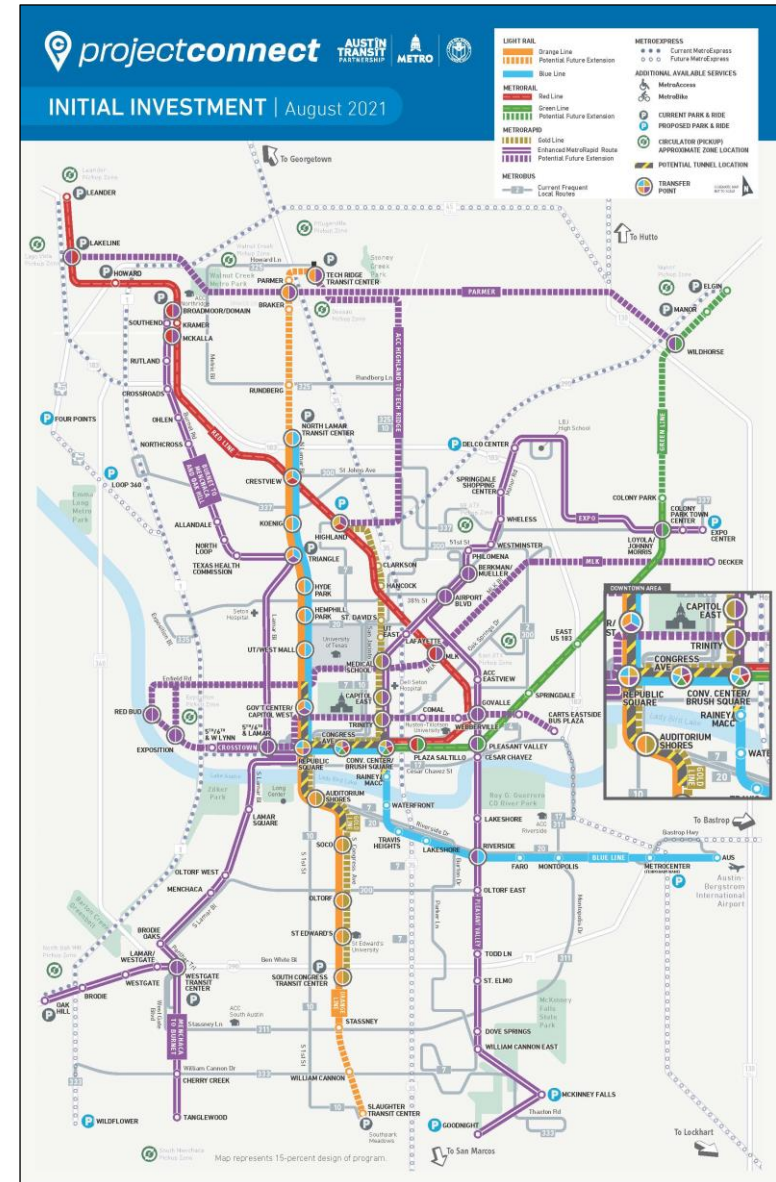
Innovation and Technology

- Project Connect will embrace innovation and technology to make transit in Austin easier, more efficient and safer.
- Make it easier for customers to use the transit system with advanced digital wayfinding and customer fare system technology.
- Integrate modern, innovative design throughout the system, with stations and bus stops that reflect the communities they are in.

- **Project Connect** is a transformative program of projects, designed to increase community connectivity and make Austin one of the most equitable, sustainable and innovative areas in the country.
- **Light Rail**
- **Regional Rail**
- **Transit Tunnel**
- **Enhanced Bus Service**
- **Park & Rides**
- **Circulators** (Pickup)

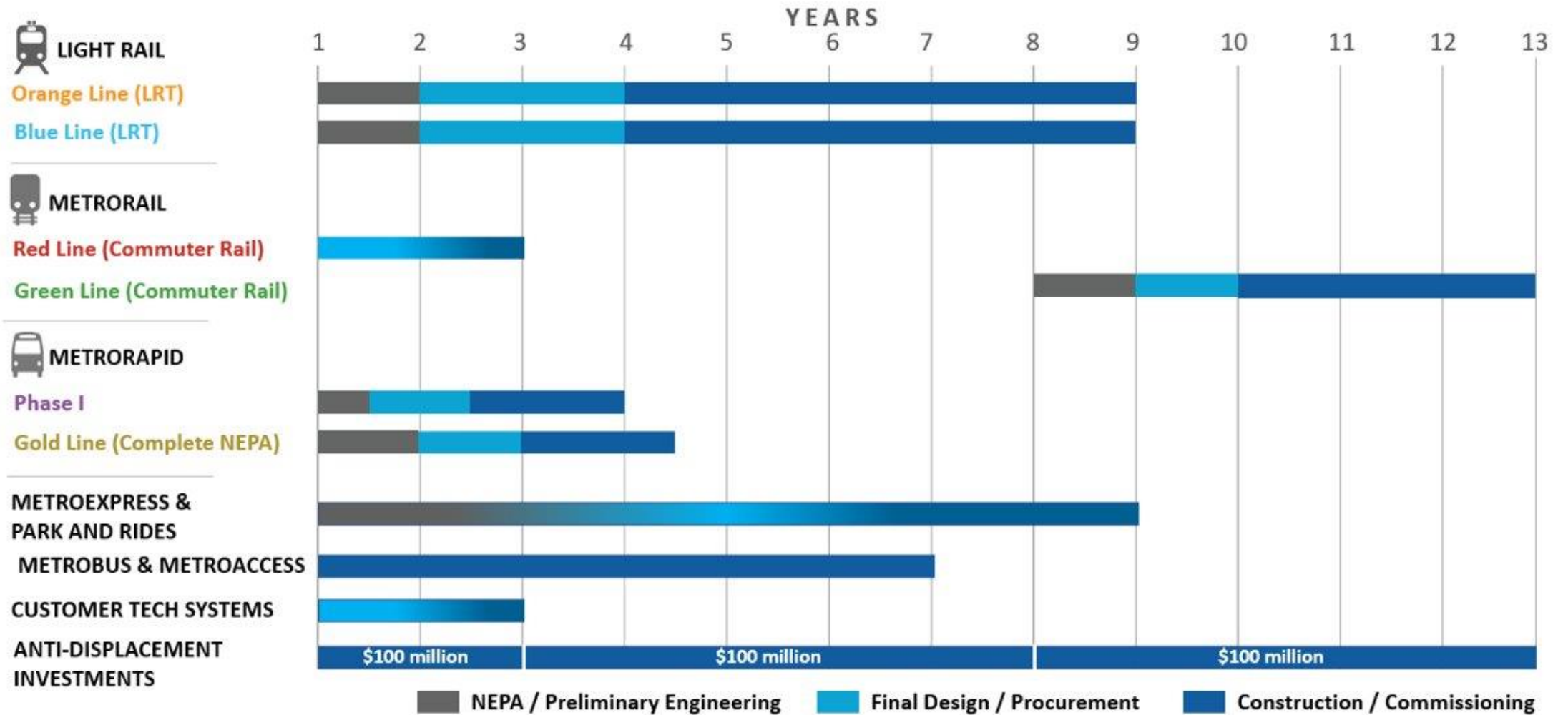
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- **Circulators** (Pickup)

The **Austin Transit Partnership (ATP)** was created by Capital Metro and the City of Austin to lead implementation of the voter-approved program.





# Program Overview



# Community Engagement

- Community engagement grew out of in-person and virtual public meetings, joint Capital Metro Board and Austin

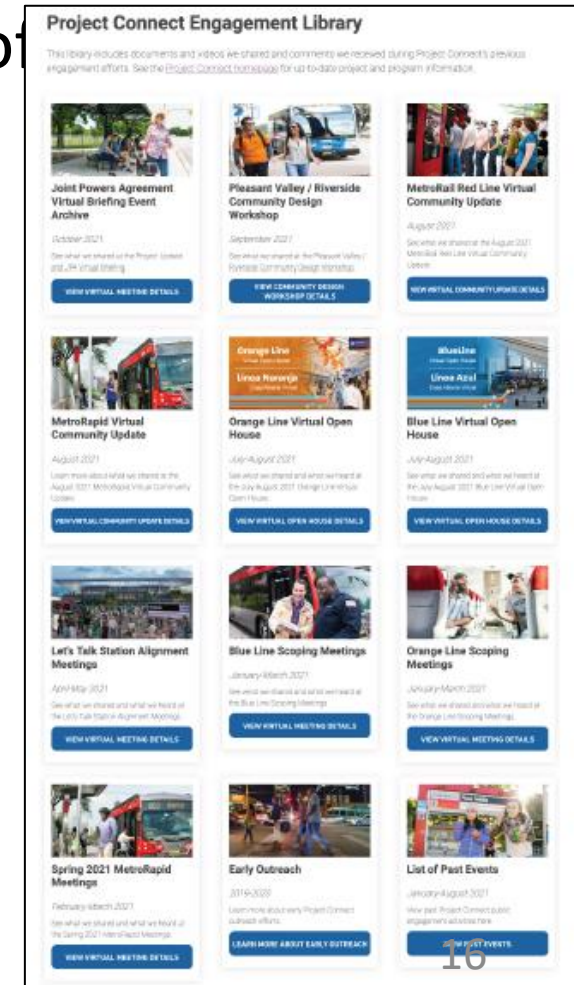
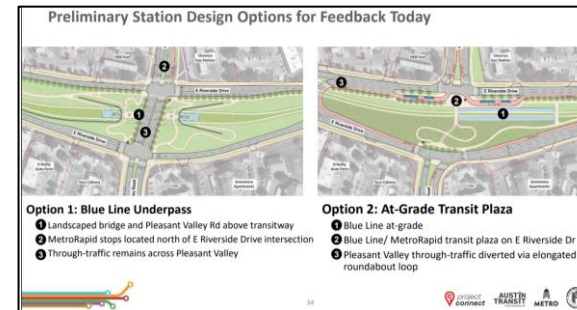
**82,000**

**AND COUNTING**

**PEOPLE IN THE AUSTIN REGION  
ENGAGED IN PROJECT CONNECT**

During the pandemic, community engagement grew more innovative, adaptable, and effective. New digital tools were used to ensure that the public is involved and educated on the program during this early, critical phase.

the cor



# Advisory Committees & Working Groups

- A key element of community engagement is consultation with our **advisory committees**. Each was appointed and began meeting regularly this year to advise **policy makers and staff on specific areas of the Project Connect program.**
- **Community Advisory Committee (CAC)**
- **Engineering, Architecture, Construction (EAC) Advisory Committee**
- **Finance & Risk Advisory Committee (FAR)**
- **Planning, Sustainability, Equity and DBE Advisory Committee (PSEC)**

**Working Groups**, comprised of business and residential stakeholders, have been convened to provide input specific to their area of the Blue and Orange Lines.





# Project Connect Program Office

- As the program progresses, the ATP, Capital Metro, and City of Austin teams need a collaborative space to work together. The **Project Connect Program Office** (203 Colorado Street) will also provide space for future board, advisory committee, public meetings, and more.



# City of Austin & Project Connect

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- The City of Austin has a team dedicated to Project Connect that is housed within the City's Management Services Department, reporting to Assistant City Manager Gina Fiandaca.

- The City's support of Project Connect is a continuation of the partnership that was created during the development of the Project Connect System Plan, which is a key component of the City's Mobility Plan.

Unify City departments to support, facilitate & approve technical aspects of Project Connect within the City of Austin's purview to support overall project schedule.

Identify and improve capital project permitting processes, in partnership with Development Services Department and other departments.

- The office is funded via an interlocal agreement with ATP to provide

Identify and improve utility criteria, in partnership with City of Austin utility departments

plem

Coordinate the City of Austin's National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) participating agency process, and monitor its implementation.

- **Goals of the team include:**

# City of Austin & Anti-Displacement

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- **Anti-Displacement Investments:**

- Project Connect includes **\$300 million** for transit-supportive anti-displacement strategies, aimed at mitigating potential negative impacts associated with transit investments.
- The approved Project Connect referendum included direction to City staff to create an **Equity Assessment Tool** to analyze potential unintended effects or opportunities to build economic mobility for residents along transit corridors.
- Release the Racial Equity Anti-Displacement Tool and Report, host community learning sessions.
- Finalize a grants award process for anti-displacement investments in partnership with the CAC.
- Launch a new program to fund rapid land acquisition for qualified, non-profit affordable housing developers.
- **Racial Equity Anti-Displacement Tool:**



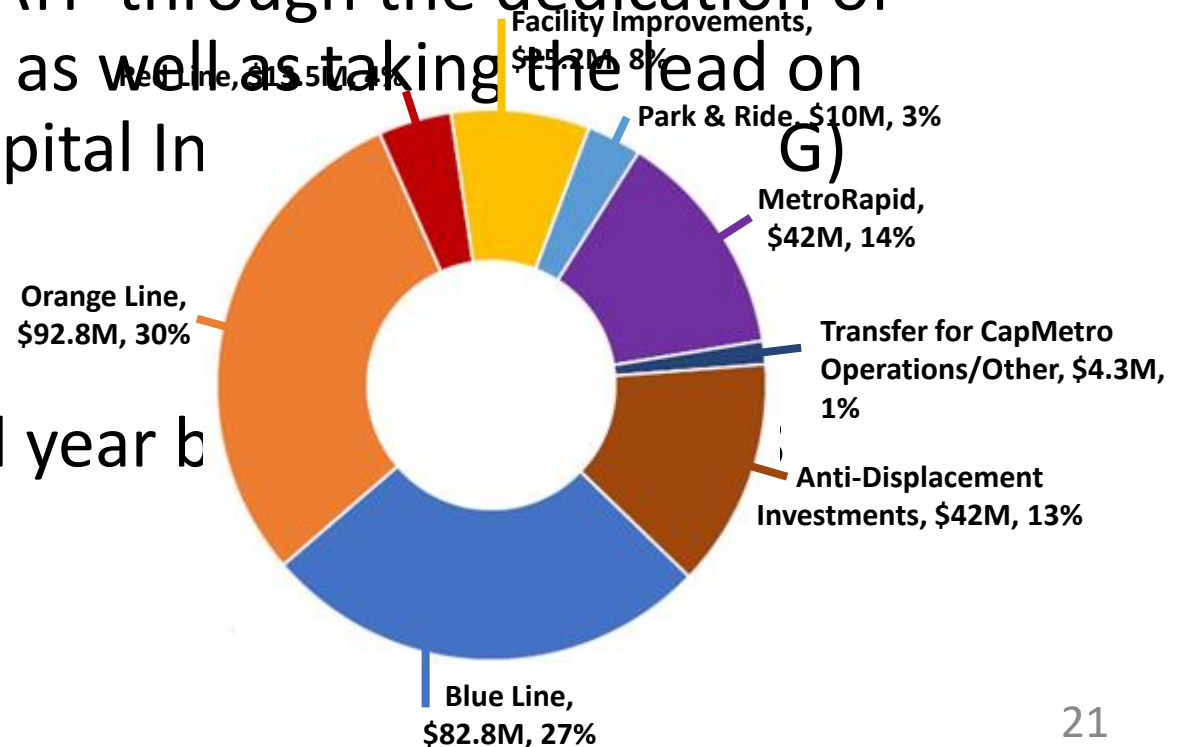
# ATP Funding & Budget

- With the approval of the Project Connect referendum, 8.75 cents of the City of Austin's property tax rate is dedicated to the ATP to fund implementation of Project Connect.

- Capital Metro is also contributing to ATP through the dedication of the agency's Capital Expansion Fund, as well as taking the lead on

- the Federal Administration's (FTA) Capital Investment Program
- 13% of budget for transfer to the City of Austin for transit supportive, anti-displacement investments

- 1% of budget for transfer to Capital Metro for neighborhood circulator (Pickup) operations
- The ATP Board approved its first fiscal year budget for FY 2022.



# MetroRapid Progress

## METRORAPID

### DEVELOPMENT

### TIMING

#### Expo & Pleasant Valley, Status: *On Schedule*

- 1. Categorical Exclusion approved by FTA..... May 2021
- 2. Completed 30% design ..... May 2021
- 3. Published in President Biden's FY22 Annual Report on Funding Recommendations..... May 2021
- 4. Project Management Oversight Consultant assigned by FTA; kickoff meeting held..... June 2021
- 5. Bus procurement approved..... September 2021
- 6. Anticipated IDIQ construction contract award..... October 2021
- 7. Anticipate start of construction ..... Winter 2022
- 8. Anticipate start of revenue service ..... Summer 2023

#### Gold Line, Menchaca and Oak Hill, Status: *On Schedule*

- 1. Analyzed options for federal funding and project implementation phasing ..... August 2021
- 2. Gold Line anticipated start of construction..... January 2023
- 3. Gold Line anticipated start of revenue service ..... June 2024
- 4. Menchaca anticipated start of construction..... June 2022
- 5. Menchaca anticipated start of revenue service ..... January 2024



# MetroRail & Pickup Progress

## RED LINE

### DEVELOPMENT

### TIMING

#### McKalla Station, Status: *On Schedule*

- 1. Categorical Exclusion submitted to FTA in June; approved in August 2021.....August 2021
- 2. 30% design completed.....August 2021
- 3. Anticipated contract approval.....January 2022
- 4. Anticipated construction start.....May 2022
- 5. Anticipated station opening..... Fall 2023

#### Lakeline-to-Leander Double Tracking, Status: *On Schedule*

- 1. 100% design complete .....July 2021
- 2. Track improvements construction started ..... October 2021
- 3. Anticipated Lakeline-Leander construction completion ..... Fall 2022



## NEIGHBORHOOD CIRCULATORS

### Status: *On Schedule*

### TASK

### TIMING

- 1. Dessau zone launched ..... June 2021
- 2. South Menchaca zone launched.....July 2021
- 3. Integrated Pickup into trip planning module of CapMetro App .....July 2021
- 4. North Oak Hill zone launched.....August 2021
- 5. Public-facing dashboard for an early 2022 release ..... In Progress

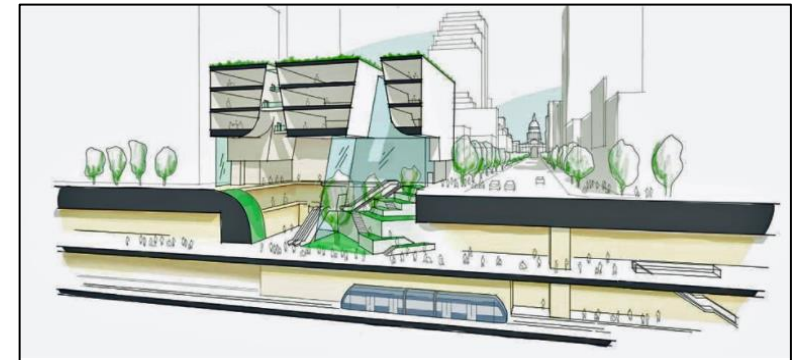


# Orange & Blue Line Design Progress

## ORANGE AND BLUE LINE FIELD AND ENGINEERING ACTIVITIES

Status: *On Schedule*

TASK	TIMING
1. Surveys completed for geotechnical boring locations .....	January 2021
2. Heritage tree surveys .....	In Progress
3. 15% Draft Design Package comment disposition, reviewed with technical stakeholders, and revisions for final submittal underway .....	June 2021
4. Completed scheduled borings for subway tunnel.....	July 2021
5. Archeological, noise and vibration, and environmental field investigation underway .....	In Progress
6. Continuing coordination with COA on guideway, roadway, bike/ped facilities and planned development .....	In Progress
7. Initiated next round of Subsurface Utility Engineering for 30% design .....	In Progress
8. Ongoing development of traffic analysis.....	In Progress
9. Hydraulic analysis of FEMA creek crossings.....	In Progress
10. Continued water quality and drainage impact analysis.....	In Progress



# Looking Ahead



- 1. Groundbreaking for MetroRapid Expo construction .....Winter 2021/2022
- 2. Groundbreaking for Pleasant Valley construction .....Winter 2021/2022
- 3. Small Starts Grant Agreements for Expo and Pleasant Valley ..... Spring 2022
- 4. Groundbreaking for McKalla Station ..... Spring 2022
- 5. Submit Ratings Package to FTA for New Starts Evaluation  
for Orange and Blue Lines .....Summer 2022
- 6. Draft Environmental Impact Statements available for public review .....Summer 2022
- 7. Finalize 30% design plans for Orange and Blue Lines .....Summer 2022
- 8. NEPA-Record of Decision..... Winter 2022/2023
- 9. FTA: Entry to Project Engineering .....Summer 2023
- 10. FTA: Full Funding Grant Agreement..... Fall 2024

## Orange and Blue Lines Key Project Milestones





# Questions?

