



Project Connect

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



Today's Agenda

1. Call to Order
2. Opening Remarks
3. Public Comment
4. Project Connect Management Report
5. Partnership Agreements & Action Items

Part 1: Concurrent Items

City of Austin Resolution (COA Item 3) & Ordinance (COA Item 4)

ATP Board Resolution (ATP Action Item 1)

CapMetro Resolution (CapMetro Action Item 1)

Part 2: Joint Powers Agreement

CapMetro Resolution (Action Item 2), COA Resolution (Item 5) and ATP Resolution (Action Item 2)

6. Closing Remarks & Year 1 Celebration!





Public Comment





Project Connect Management Report



A Year of Success...



A Year of Success...

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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

News 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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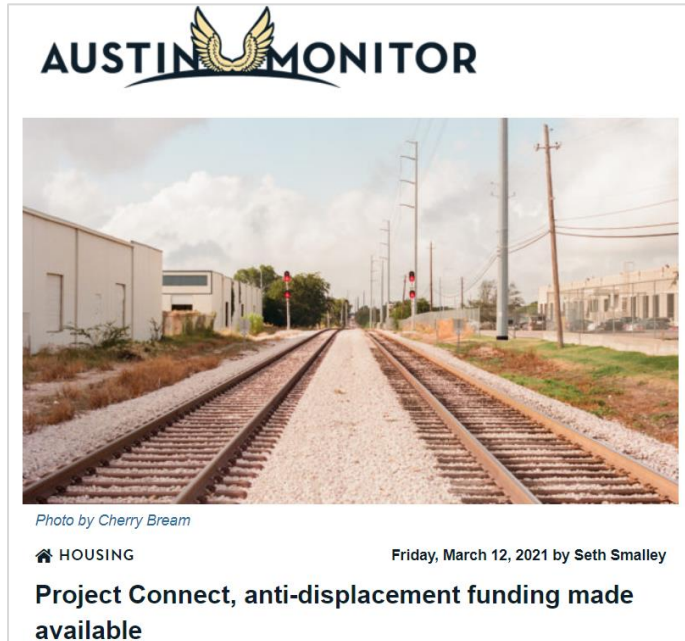
CORONAVIRUS SCHOOLS FOREVER FAMILIES DEFENDERS RADAR

BOOMTOWN

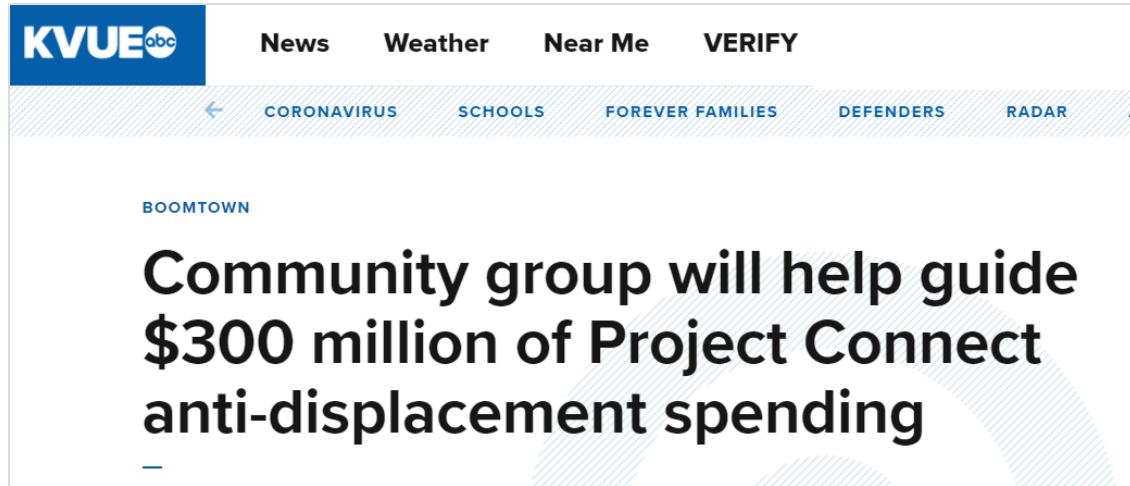
2 Project Connect routes recommended for federal funding



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

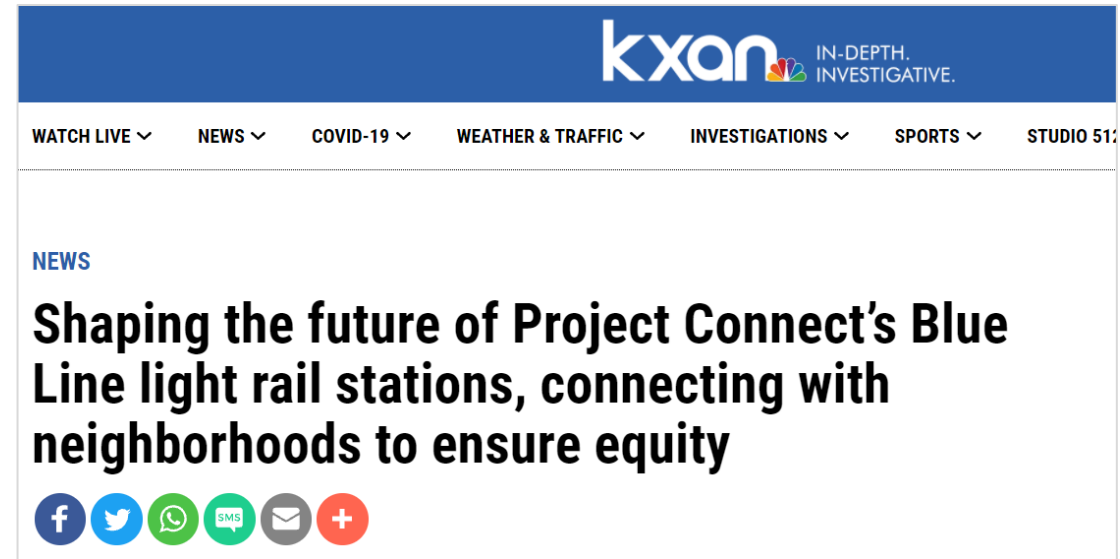
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Austin > Central Austin > Transportation

Project Connect officials promise equity will be at forefront of initiative



A Year of Success...



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
- In September, Capital Metro took a major step toward a zero-emission future for the fleet, ordering **197 electric buses**.
 - First electric buses will arrive in December 2022
 - Electric buses will save 230,000 pounds of greenhouse gases per year, replacing diesel buses



Governance & Management

Seated in January 2021, the independent **ATP Board of Directors** bring diverse lived and professional experiences to the governance of the program.



**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.

Program Values

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.

Program Values

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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.



Program Values

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Opportunity and Equity



Environment and Sustainability



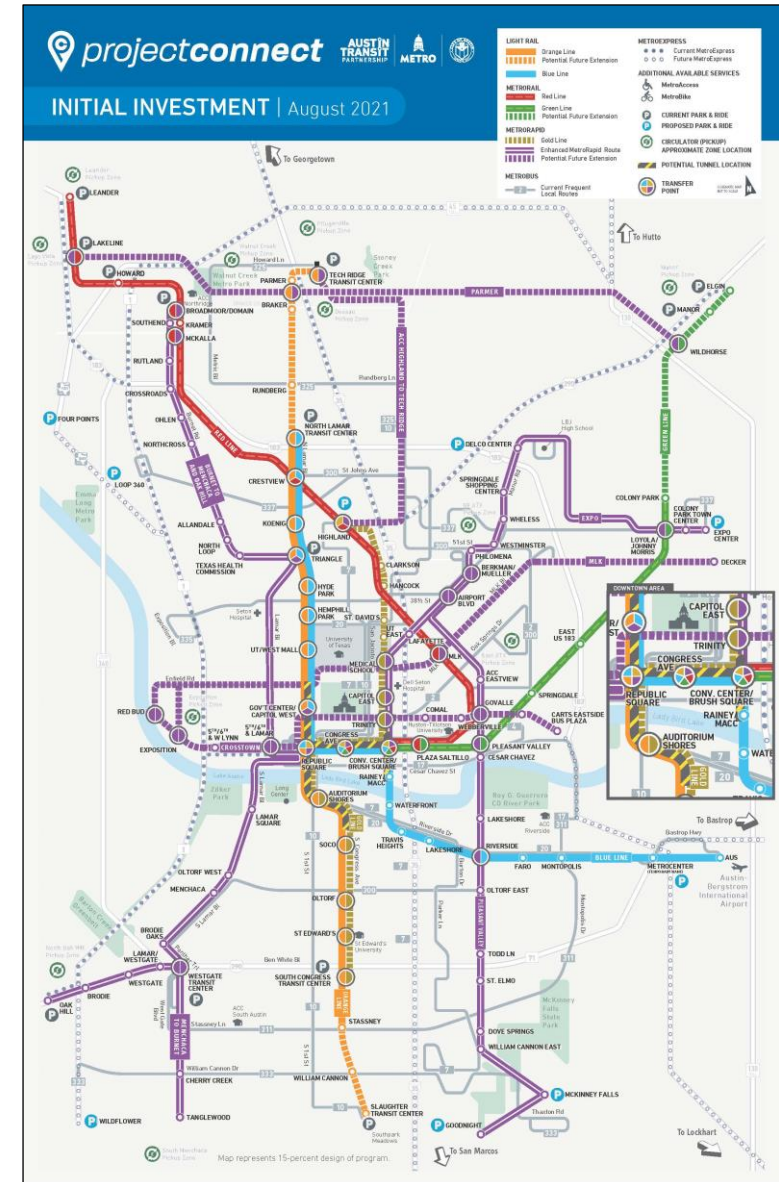
Innovation and Technology

- 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.

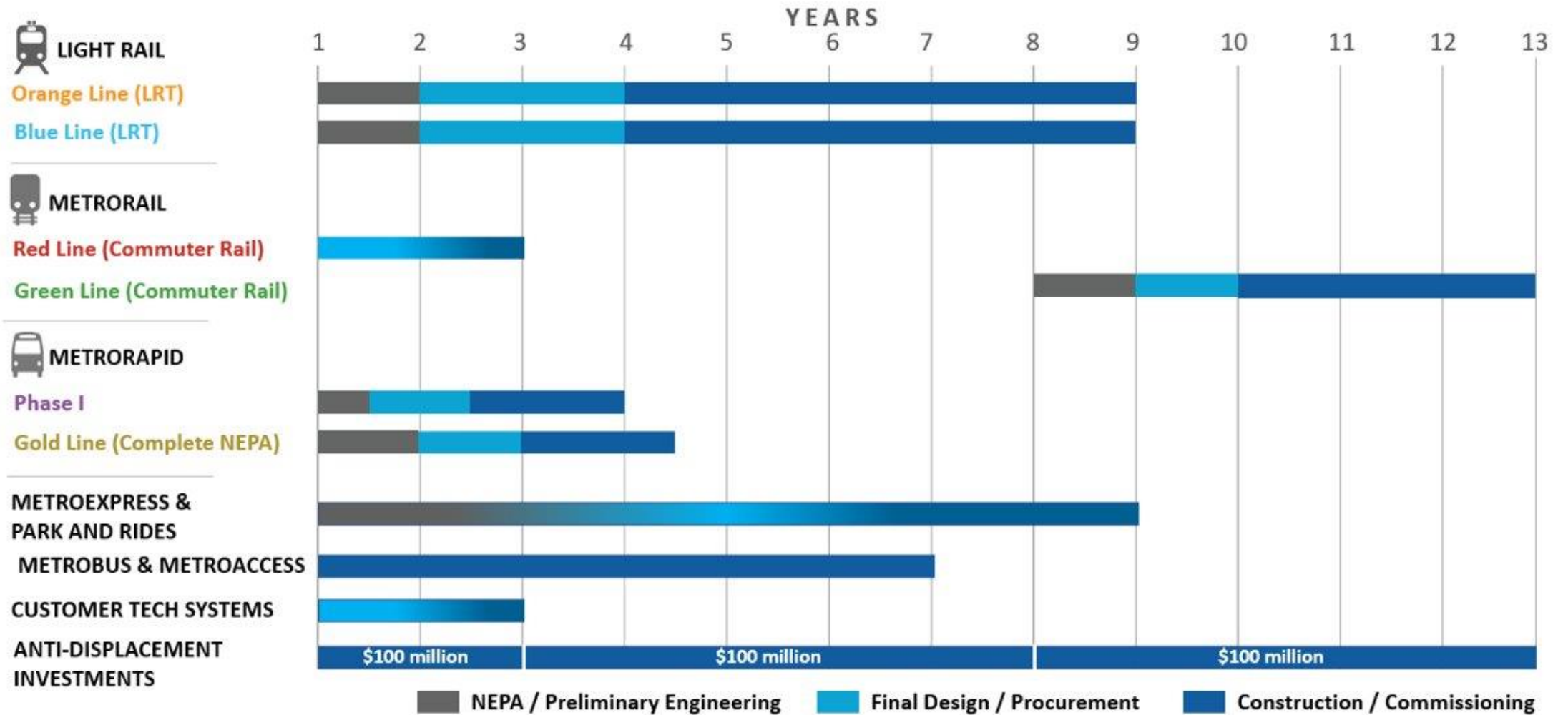


Project Connect is a transformative program of projects, designed to increase community connectivity and make Austin one of the most equitable, sustainable and innovative areas in the country.

- 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

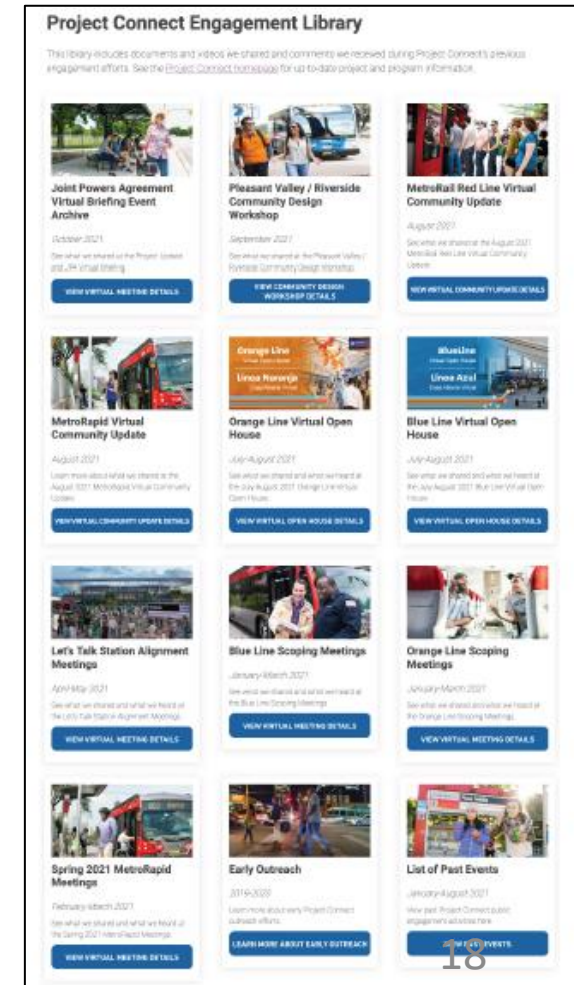
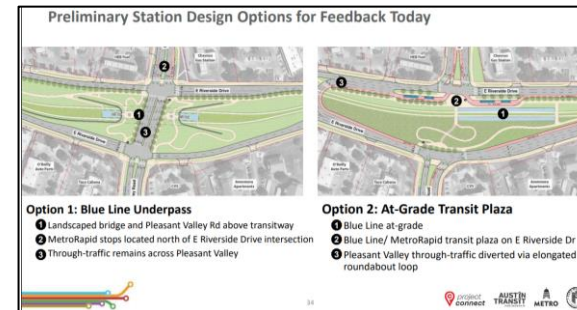


Community Engagement

Community engagement grew out of in-person and virtual public meetings, joint Capital Metro Board and Austin City Council work sessions, and the contributions of tens of thousands of community members.

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.



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 policymakers and staff on specific areas of the Project Connect program.

- **Community Advisory Committee (CAC)**
- **Interagency Technical Advisory Group (ITAG)**
- **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.

Buildout is being completed, and the public will be invited to an open house in early 2022 to introduce this new, innovative space to the community.



City of Austin & Project Connect

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 and the Austin Strategic Mobility Plan.
- The office is funded via an interlocal agreement with ATP to provide services in support of program implementation.

Goals of the team include:

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.

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

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



City of Austin & Anti-Displacement

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.

Racial Equity Anti-Displacement Tool:

- City staff collaborated with community members with lived experience or risk of displacement to develop a **Racial Equity Anti-Displacement Tool**, which can help guide anti-displacement investments on Project Connect corridors.

In FY2022, City Staff Will:

- 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.



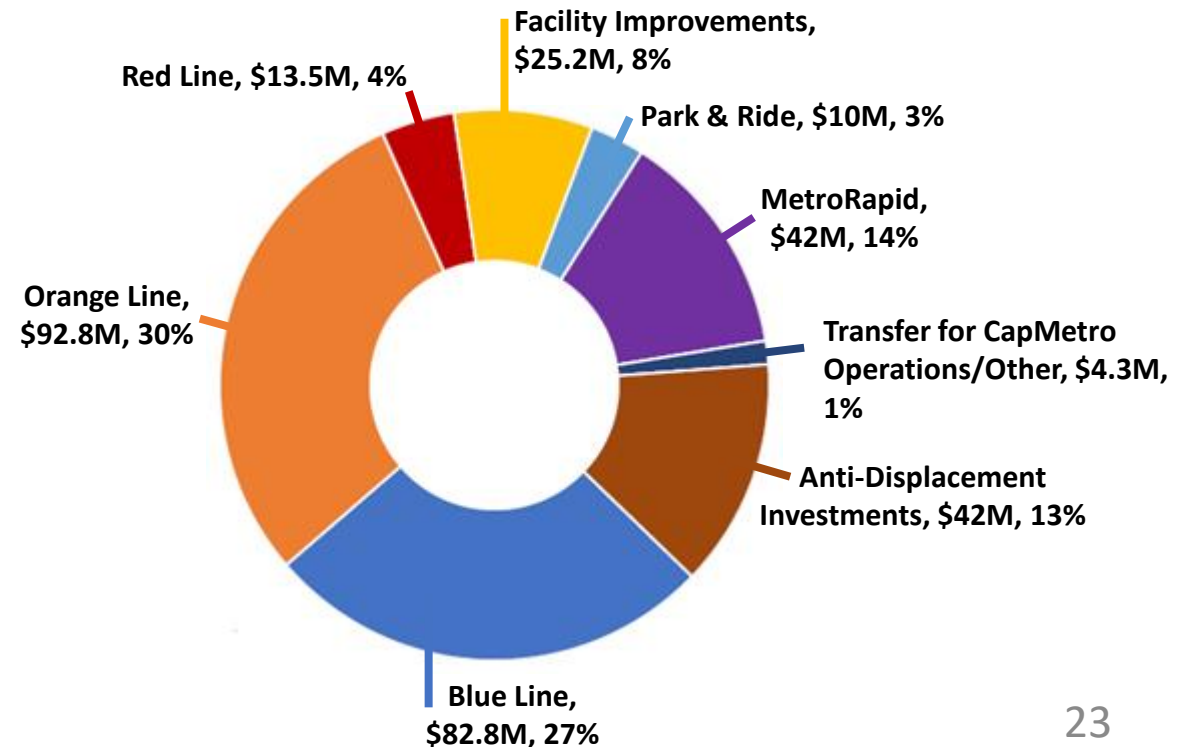
ATP Funding & Budget

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 Grant (CIG) program.

The ATP Board approved its first fiscal year budget, with **\$312.8 million** for **FY 2022**:

- \$266.5 million or 86% to fund capital projects
- 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 and other administrative costs.



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 completeJuly 2021
- 2. Track improvements construction started October 2021
- 3. Anticipated Lakeline-Leander construction completion Fall 2022



NEIGHBORHOOD CIRCULATORS

Status: *On Schedule*

TASK

TIMING

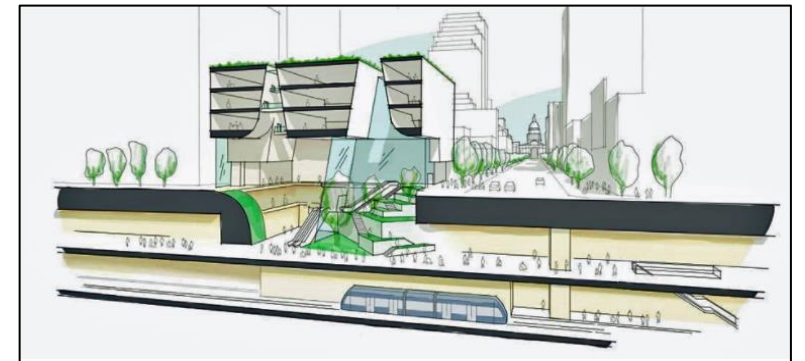
- 1. Dessau zone launched June 2021
- 2. South Menchaca zone launched.....July 2021
- 3. Integrated Pickup into trip planning module of CapMetro AppJuly 2021
- 4. North Oak Hill zone launched.....August 2021
- 5. Public-facing dashboard for an early 2022 release In Progress

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 constructionWinter 2021/2022
- 2. Groundbreaking for Pleasant Valley constructionWinter 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 LinesSummer 2022
- 6. Draft Environmental Impact Statements available for public reviewSummer 2022
- 7. Finalize 30% design plans for Orange and Blue LinesSummer 2022
- 8. NEPA-Record of Decision..... Winter 2022/2023
- 9. FTA: Entry to Project EngineeringSummer 2023
- 10. FTA: Full Funding Grant Agreement..... Fall 2024

Orange and Blue Lines Key Project Milestones





Comments or Questions?





Discussion & Action on posted items



October 29 Action Item Summary

Discussion and Action Part 1

City of Austin Action (*City Items 3 and 4*)

- Resolution directing staff regarding permitting and regulations
- Predictability ordinance

ATP Board Action (*ATP Action Item 1*)

- Resolution supporting COA staff direction & Predictability Ordinance

Capital Metro Board Action (*CapMetro Action Item 1*)

- Resolution supporting COA staff direction & Predictability Ordinance

Discussion and Action Part 2

Tri-Party Action (*CapMetro Discussion Item 2 and Action Item 2; City Items 2 and 5; ATP Discussion Item 1 and Action Item 2*)

- Joint Powers Agreement

Concurrent Items – City Item 3

COA Resolution directs the City Manager to:

- Review the City Code, criteria and permitting procedures to identify impediments to Project Connect
- Develop new regulations and present recommendations to City Council no later than April 2022

Summary of Changes since Oct. 4:

- Added language to expand staff review to consider "implementation and operation" of Project Connect
- Added language recognizing the policy framework established by the Contract with the Voters, Joint Powers Agreement, environmental protections, and other applicable City plans and policies in the development and interpretation of code requirements
- Removed forgoing review by planning commission
- Added language directing staff to follow appropriate procedures to issue any necessary rules related to Code amendments



Concurrent Items – City Item 4

COA Predictability Ordinance

- Provides predictability while staff review is occurring
- Sets Oct. 29, 2021 as the permit application date for all permits and approvals submitted prior to Dec. 31, 2022 required for implementation of Orange and Blue Lines of the Project Connect System Plan
- With approval from the City Manager, allows for the use of updated rules, regulations and ordinances

Summary of Changes since Oct. 4:

- Added language requiring city manager to maintain a record of requests and responses regarding applications to use updated code (Part 2)
- Clarified that all current criteria manuals will continue to apply to permit applications (Part 3)



Discussion & Action Items – Part 1

I. City of Austin

1. COA Agenda Item 3: Approve a resolution relating to the design, construction, and operation of Project Connect and applicable City Code requirements, regulations, and permitting procedures; and potential code amendments.
2. COA Agenda Item 4: Approve an ordinance relating to permits and approvals required to implement Project Connect that sets the permit application date, establishes exceptions, and creates a process to use subsequent changes in City Code, rules, and other regulations.

II. Austin Transit Partnership

1. ATP Action Item 1: Approval of a resolution directing the President & CEO to continue coordination with the City of Austin on opportunities for regulations and procedures that ensure the on time delivery of the Project Connect program.

III. CapMetro

1. CapMetro Action Item 1: Approval of a resolution directing the Executive Director to continue coordination with the City of Austin on opportunities for regulations and procedures that ensure the on time delivery of the Project Connect program.



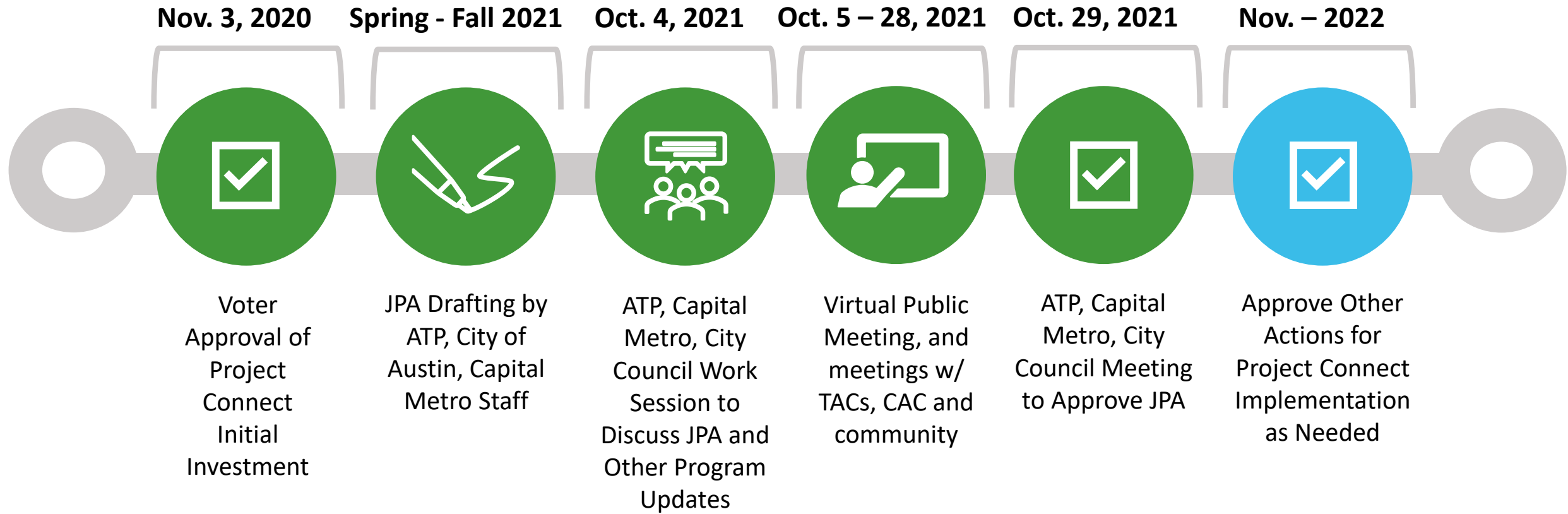
Documents with JPA Direction

As a commitment to the community and the partners, certain documents required elements or terms to be included in a Joint Powers Agreement between the City of Austin, Capital Metro and Austin Transit Partnership:

- City of Austin Contract with Voters (Aug. 2020)
- Capital Metro Community Commitment Resolution (Aug. 2020)
- Interlocal Agreement between the City of Austin and Capital Metro regarding ATP (Aug. 2020) and Creation of ATP Resolutions (Dec. 2020)



JPA Timeline



JPA Actions to Date

Date	Purpose	Parties
August 2020	Interlocal agreement committing to the creation of the ATP local government corporation.	Capital Metro & City of Austin
December 2020	Joint resolutions creating the ATP, approving and adopting the corporations Articles of Incorporation and Bylaws, and appointing the initial Board (Articles of Incorporation were subsequently filed with the Attorney General's Office and Bylaws adopted by the ATP Board).	Capital Metro & City of Austin
December 2020	Amendment to the August 2020 Interlocal agreement related to the Project Connect Community Advisory Committee.	Capital Metro & City of Austin
January 2021	Interlocal agreement for Capital Metro to provide certain administrative and corporate support functions to ATP, and for Capital Metro to implement certain projects that are part of the Project Connect program.	Capital Metro & ATP
March 2021	Interlocal agreement to transfer funding from ATP to the City of Austin for the City of Austin's support in the implementation of the Project Connect transit program.	ATP & City of Austin
March 2021	Interlocal agreement to transfer funding from ATP to the City of Austin for transit-supportive anti-displacement programs, as required by the Contract with Voters.	ATP & City of Austin
July 2021	Interlocal agreement establishing procedures to transfer Proposition A revenue from the City to ATP to implement Project Connect, as required by the Contract with Voters	City of Austin & ATP



Joint Powers Agreement Highlights

- Commitments of the Parties (3)
 - Commitments regarding delivery of Project Connect in line with governing docs.
 - Joint Commitments to Community Engagement and Inclusion (3.2)
- Roles and Responsibilities of the ATP (4)
 - Commitments of ATP and Workforce and Equity Policies (4.3)
 - Financial Modeling and Planning (4.4)
- Roles and Responsibilities of the City and Capital Metro (5)
 - Joint responsibilities of the Council and CapMetro Board (5.1)
 - City Commitments related to project delivery and City processes (5.2)
 - Capital Metro Responsibilities related to project delivery, FTA processes and operations



Activities since October 4

- Oct. 5 – Virtual Public Meeting: Project Connect Program Update/Joint Powers Agreement (JPA) Briefing
- Oct. 6 – Engineering, Architecture and Construction Committee (EAC)
- Oct. 6 – Capital Metro Access Advisory Committee (AAC)
- Oct. 7 – Project Connect Community Advisory Committee (CAC)
- Oct. 7 – Planning, Sustainability, Equity & DBE Advisory Committee (PSEC)
- Oct. 13 – Capital Metro Customer Satisfaction Advisory Committee (CSAC)
- Oct. 14 – Project Connect Ambassador Network (PCAN)
- Oct. 19 – Project Connect Community Advisory Committee (CAC)
- Oct. 20 – ATP Board w/ action on Workforce & Equity policies
- Oct. 27 – Project Connect Community Advisory Committee (CAC)

- Board and Council 1:1s as requested



Key Themes of What We Heard

- Functions and engagement of the Community Advisory Committee
- Establishing a process for the succeeding ATP Executive Director
- Adding transparency around the public process, providing opportunities for the community to engage in a meaningful way, including on supplemental agreements
- Highlighting commitment to equity, joint equity analysis tool for entire Project Connect program
- Workforce and safety policies



Summary of Staff Proposed Redline Changes

See JPA V3 Redline

- Added additional details around the Parties' commitments to and prioritization of equity, including the creation of transit equity goals and metrics (*Sections 3, 4.3, 5.2.1*)
- Added additional details regarding the role of the Project Connect Community Advisory Committee (*Section 3.2.3, 3.2.5, 3.2.7*)
- Added flexibility for the Parties to be able to call additional joint meetings and added requirements for the joint annual meeting (*Section 4.2.3*)
- Related to worker safety, added specific language regarding the development of a construction careers (apprenticeship) program, a commitment to providing the higher of living or prevailing wage for workers, and specific requirements related to on-site monitoring (*Section 4.3*)
- Added language regarding the annual review of cashflows to identify opportunities to accelerate transit-supportive anti-displacement dollars while maintaining the transit projects' required cashflow and schedules (*Section 4.4.1*)
- Added language regarding the commitment of ATP to provide funding for the City's Project Connect Office, in accordance with an ILA (*Section 4.4.6*).
- General clean-up of typos and grammatical errors throughout

Discussion & Action – Part 2

I. CapMetro

1. CapMetro Discussion Item 2: Staff briefing and discussion on public feedback received on the Joint Powers Agreement between the City of Austin, Capital Metro and the Austin Transit Partnership and on other action items for consideration.
2. CapMetro Action Item 2: Approval of a resolution authorizing the President & CEO to finalize and execute the Joint Powers Agreement between the City of Austin, Capital Metro and the Austin Transit Partnership.

II. City of Austin

1. COA Agenda Item 2: Staff briefing and discussion on public feedback received on the Joint Powers Agreement between the City of Austin, Capital Metro and the Austin Transit Partnership and on other action items for consideration.
2. COA Agenda Item 5: Authorize negotiation and execution of the Joint Powers Agreement between the City of Austin, Capital Metro and the Austin Transit Partnership.

III. Austin Transit Partnership

1. ATP Discussion Item 2: Staff briefing and discussion on public feedback received on the Joint Powers Agreement between the City of Austin, Capital Metro and the Austin Transit Partnership and on other action items for consideration.
2. ATP Action Item 2: Approval of a resolution authorizing the Executive Director or his designee to finalize and execute the Joint Powers Agreement between the City of Austin, Capital Metro and the Austin Transit Partnership.

Thanks for joining us.
Visit ProjectConnect.com for more information.

