

Capital Metropolitan Transportation Authority

Access Advisory Committee

Wednesday, February 2nd, 2022

5:30 PM - 7:00 PM

Virtual Presentation

Join on your computer or mobile app

[Click here to join the meeting](#)

Or call in (audio only)

[+1 512-910-8291,,376363580#](#) United States, Austin

Phone Conference ID: 376 363 580#

[Find a local number](#) | [Reset PIN](#)

Attendees:

Committee Members: Audrey Diaz, Estrella Barrera, Glenda Born, John McNabb, Otmar Foehner, Paul Hunt, Raul Vela

CapMetro Employees: Edna Parra, Samantha Alexander, Chad Ballentine, Suzie Edrington, Kathrine Gonzalez, Martin Kareithi, Jackie Nirenberg, Belinda Wilson, Tevin Lionel, Brian Booth

5:30 PM

Welcome / Introductions / Call to Order

Chair Hunt

Public Communications

Glenda Born had a comment about ETOD Focus Groups and her conversation with the planning team

Committee asked for the winter weather response for tomorrow, February 2, 2022; CapMetro staff updated the staff on the plan and service update in anticipation of the inclement weather, and also informed the committee that feedback from the 2021 winter storm response guided the service interruption plan.

Project Connect Overview

Jackie Nirenberg; Austin Transit Partnership Community Engagement Director

Transit system Expansion Program

- New light rail network (Orange & Blue) with a subway tunnel under downtown
- 4 MetroRapid routes
- 9 Park and Rides and a regional Transit Center
- Anti-Displacement investments

Progress Timeline

- **August 2020:** CapMetro & City of Austin Interlocal Agreement to create ATP
- **November 2020:** Voter approval of Project Connect Initial Investment
- **March 2021:** Board members, by-laws, and officers approved
- **February 2021:** FY 2021 budget approved
- **May 2021:** Expo & Pleasant Valley MetroRapid Lines – CE approved by FTA
- **May 2021:** Expo & Pleasant Valley – Completed 30% Design
- **March 2021:** Pflugerville Pickup zone launched March 23rd
- **June 2021:** Dessau Pickup Zone launched on June 15th
- **June 2021:** Expo & Pleasant valley – Progressed FTA Small Starts Readiness Documents

- **July 2021:** South Manchaca Pickup Zone launched July 27th
- **August 2021:** North Oak Pickup Zone launched August 24th
- **September 2021:** Electric bus procurement
- **September 2021:** ATP & Capital Metro Board, City Council JPA work session
- **September 2021:** Red Line – Lakeline to Leander double tracking Groundbreaking
- **November 2021:** ATP & Capital Metro Boards and City Council approve JPA
- **December 2021:** Expo & Pleasant Valley – FTA letters of no prejudice
- **December 2021:** Expo Groundbreaking
- **January 2022:** Broadmoor Station Groundbreaking

On The Horizon

- **Orange & Blue Line**
 - *Summer 2022*
 - Finalize 30% design plans for Orange & Blue Lines
 - Submit Rating Package to FTA for New Starts Evaluation for Orange and Blue Lines
 - Draft Environmental impact Statements available for public review
 - Submit Ratings Package to FTA for New Starts Evaluation for Orange and Blue Lines
 - *Winter 2022 / 2023*
 - NEPA – Record of Decision
 - *Summer 2023*
 - FTA – Entry into Project Engineering
 - *Fall 2024*
 - New Starts Full-Funding
 - Grant Agreements (FFGA)
- **MetroRapid**
 - *Winter 2021 / 2022:* Pleasant Valley Groundbreaking
 - *January 2023:* Gold Line Anticipated Construction Start
 - *June 2022:* Menchaca Anticipated Construction Start
 - *Spring 2022:* Expo and Pleasant Valley Small Starts & Grant Agreement
- **Red Line**
 - *May 2021:* McKalla Station Anticipated & Construction Start
- **Central Maintenance Facility**
 - *2022:* Facility Design
 - *2023 – 2024:* Anticipated Construction Start
- **Electric Vehicle Procurement**
 - *Ongoing:* Vehicle Development

Project Connect MetroRapid Lines

- Expo Center | from Expo Center to UT and Downtown
- Pleasant Valley | from Mueller to the Goodnight Ranch on Slaughter Lane
- Menchaca and Oak Hill MetroRapid Extension: multiple phases, merge with 803 to Domain
- Gold Line | from AAC Highland to Republic Square

Orange Line Overview

- The Orange Line creates a north/south transit line.
- Provides high-capacity service within dedicated transitways.
- Operates along the existing MetroRapid 801 route. Funding from initial Light Rail investment would deliver light rail (LRT) service from North Lamar Transit Center to Stassney Lane.
- 21 stations are planned along the route, with service approximately every 10 minutes.

Blue Line Overview

- The Blue Line light rail transit (LRT) will connect Republic Square in Downtown Austin to the northern end to the Austin-Bergstrom International Airport (AUS) on the southern end.
- Provides high-capacity service within dedicated transitways.
- Operates along portions of the existing MetroBus route 20.
- 10 stations are planned along the route, with service approximately every 10 minutes.

Community Engagement and Involvement Update

Orange and Blue Line Scoping Meeting - January – March 2021: 2,117 Participants

MetroRapid Virtual Community Meeting - January – March 2021: 919 Participants

Orange and Blue Line Station Alignment Meetings - April – May: 1,528 Participants

Orange and Blue Line 15% Design Meetings - July – August 2021: 981 Participants

Red Line Virtual Community Update - August 2021: 109 Participants

MetroRapid Virtual Community Update - August 2021: 41 Participants

Red Line – Lakeline to Leander Groundbreaking - October 2021

Orange and Blue Line Working Group Meetings - Ongoing since May 2021

Orange and Blue Line Community Design Workshops: 613 Participants

Red Line – McKalla Station Virtual Community Update - September 2021 – Ongoing through early 2022: 122 Participants

MetroRapid Expo Groundbreaking - December 2021

ATP and CapMetro Committees and Groups

Established and ongoing meetings with: FAR, PSEC, EAC, CAC, ITAG, PCAN and CSAC and Access committees

Stay Involved

Get involved: projectconnect.com/get-involved

Upcoming Events

February 7th: 5:30PM – MetroRapid Community Update

February 23rd: 5PM – Encore Community Design Workshop: The Drag

March 1st: Community Design Workshop: Crestview Station

March TBD – Meet the Team event for CapMetro & ATP committees

March 29th & March 31st – Let's Talk Project Connect

Paul Hunt asked about the Austin Transit Partnership and its length of existence.

Glenda Born talked about the needs of a growing city and its transit response

Paul Hunt inquired about the Pedestrian utilities and their access

MetroRapid Update

Kathrine Gonzalez, Technical PM/PM III

Katherine debriefed about:

Service Characteristics

- 10-minute peak service; limited stops
- Corridor-based Bus Rapid Transit (BRT) in mixed traffic

- Transit Signal Priority treatments
- All new vehicles will be zero emissions

MetroRapid Budget & Schedule

Expo & Pleasant Valley

- Half of budget expected to come from federal grants:
 - Expo: \$44.6 M
 - Pleasant Valley: \$48.9 M
- Federal Transit Administration grant funding included in President's budget (May 2021)
- 60% design complete
- Expo groundbreaking December 15, 2021
- Pleasant Valley groundbreaking planned February 16, 2022
- In service mid 2023

803 Extension

- Menchaca to Slaughter is the first phase
- In service late 2023 or early 2024
- Extend to Oak Hill in coordination with TXDOT Oak Hill Parkway Project, in service date not yet known
- FTA Bus and Bus Facilities grant application

MetroRapid Gold Line

- Continued coordination with City of Austin, UT, State of Texas, and ACC Highland
- Supports existing downtown service
- Premised on Austin Strategic Mobility Plan
- Using local Project Connect funds

MetroRapid Service Amenities

- New shelter design with full & neighborhood sizes
- Cameras (CCTV)
- Dynamic Message Screens (DMS) Real Time Arrival Info
- Ticket Vending Machines (TVM) at key stations
- 9" near level boarding
- Solar where possible
- Potential for public art, community information panels, trees

MetroRapid Park & Rides

- **In development:**
 - Expo Center | 150 spaces
 - Goodnight Ranch | 75 spaces
 - AISD Delco Activity Center | TBD
- **Ongoing discussion:**
 - McKinney Falls
 - Highland/ North Lamar Transit Center

MetroRapid Outreach

- Community Groups and Neighborhood Homeowners' Associations updates continuing
- Block walking prior to construction
- ATP Meet the Team- Oct 13
- AAC- Sept 2, Feb 2
- CSAC- Sept 8, Feb 9
- Status Update/VOH- Sept 9, Feb 7

Audrey Diaz: inquired about the safety of sidewalks and who was responsible.

Systems Accessibility

Martin Kareithi, Systemwide Accessibility Director

ADA & Accessibility

- Americans with Disabilities Act - civil rights legislation
 - Guarantees equal access to transportation for people with disabilities (PWD)
 - Creates a framework for regulations and standards to ensure that PWDs have access to transportation services and facilities

What is Accessibility?

- Accessibility - the degree to which a facility, practice, program, service or technology is available and provides access to PWDs.

- What does it mean for something to be accessible?
 - Facility - degree to which it is readily usable by PWDs.
 - Program or practice - degree to which PWDs can participate in full.
 - Technology - Degree to which PWDs can use it with or without assistive technology.

Systemwide Accessibility

- Coordinated approach to improving accessibility across the entire Capital Metro transit system:
 - Facilities (transit stops and stations)
 - Vehicles (MetroBus, MetroRapid, future light rail)
 - Technology (customer communication and information, mobile apps, internal systems)

Facilities and things that involve the built environment, where the pedestrian meets the infrastructure, incorporate accessibility at concept and design, readily accessible and useable by PWDs, accessible to the public and for public meetings and appointments, plus other items that fall under facilities.

Facilities Cont.

- Sidewalks
 - Access to transit begins & ends with a sidewalk
- Curb Cuts
 - Necessary pedestrian feature, must be ADA compliant, & incorporate detectable warning strips
- Shared Use Paths
 - Means of transportation for various users - pedestrians, cyclists & PWDs
 - Requires sufficient ROW for safety & accessibility - minimize conflicts
- Traffic Signals - Audible pedestrian signals
 - Form of effective communication for PWDs, eg low vision & blind -audible queues
- Rectangular Rapid Flashing Beacons (RRFB) & Pedestrian Hybrid Beacons (PHB)

Vehicles

- Light rail, MetroRapid or MetroBus
- Incorporate accessibility features - ramps, audible announcements, securement systems, level-boarding rail platforms
- Be intentional about design
- Seek community input from PWDs
- Design responsive scope

Technology

- Customer information systems to improve the journey.

- Mobile apps and other technology can provide:
 - Information about the built environment
 - Wayfinding and navigation
 - Sense of ease and confidence

MetroAccess – Complementary ADA paratransit Service

- Safety net service for persons with disabilities who cannot use fixed-route due to their disability and functional abilities.
- Despite improvements to the built environment, vehicles, and technology, there will be others who will not be able to use fixed route.
- MetroAccess will continue to be critical to PWDs in need of paratransit service.

Looking Ahead to the future

- What could a systemwide accessible transit system look like?
 - Full accessible paths of travel across the built environment to transit facilities with accessible pedestrian features.
 - Vehicles designed for the future and for all functional abilities operating with precision technology.
 - Customer information systems and apps to facilitate universal access to complete the journey with information at every step.

Estrella Barrera: Appreciated the effort and thoughtfulness to ensure that accessibility is a subject that gets taken seriously.

Paul Hunt: Asked about the 30% design and what opportunities there will be to weigh in on the draft

Approval of the minutes