

Capital Metropolitan Transportation Authority

Access Advisory Committee

Wednesday, December 1st, 2021

5:30 PM – 7:30 PM

Attendees

Committee Members: Glenda Born, John McNabb, Mike Gorse, Otmar Foehner, Pual Hunt, Raul Vela, Audrey Diaz

CapMetro Staff: Tevin Lionel, Chad Ballentine, Suzie Edrington, Jacqueline Evans, Martin Kareithi, Anna Lan, Tony Lynch, Edna Parra, Christopher Westbrook

5:30 PM

Welcome / Introductions / Call to Order

Co-Chair Paul Hunt

Public Communications

Audrey Diaz: I noticed when I call Where's my Ride, there is a lengthy pre-recording and when it's late at night, it's a little frightening to have to listen to the recording while exposed to the elements.

Chad Ballentine: Julie and I can investigate the recording and see how best we can get you connected to the purpose of your call quicker.

Approval of the minutes

Equitable Transit-Oriented Development

Anna Lan; Principal Planner

ETOD Corridor Study Area

- 13 stations included in \$900K FTA grant to Capital Metro
- Study area subject to change to include more Project Connect stations

Shift Towards Transit Investment

Population Forecast:

- 2019 – 2 million inhabitants
- 2040 – 4 million inhabitants

How Do We Define ETOD | Challenges of Traditional ETOD

While Project Connect and TOD investments will generate significant benefits for Austin, they may exacerbate current displacement trends without concurrent efforts to ensure equitable growth.

Traditional TOD Returns

- Transit investments connect residents & business to jobs and housing.
- TOD attracts private investment in walkable mixed-use development.

Traditional TOD Externalities

- Rent growth displaces residents that would benefit most from transit.
- Rising rent & declining customer bases drive out local businesses.

ETOD Study Elements

- Continuous community engagement
- Case study research of other ETOD policies & projects
- Analysis of existing conditions and trends in the study area
- Policy recommendations that address community priorities
- Station area vision plans for six key stations
- Update the Capital Metro TOD Priority Tool to include ETOD recommendations

Community Connectors

- 10 paid positions from historically underserved neighborhoods
- Training and support provided
- Mobilize to raise project awareness, obtain feedback

Audrey Diaz: A 15-minute walk may sound ok for an able-bodied person, but for me, it's a challenge walking for 5 minutes. There are facets of the transit system that don't work for individuals with disabilities.

Anna Lan: This is meant to supplement the transit corridors; we are still learning how we need to best serve the people of Austin. MetroAccess is not going anywhere and will continue to serve people who are too disabled to use main line service. ETOD is a steppingstone to be used to further expand the transit system, to get the public aware of how building transit use into the design of neighborhoods is beneficial to all those that are able to use the service. Though it is not all encompassing across the city of Austin, Development rarely is and must be done in phases. Some people will not see the immediate benefit, but that does not negate the continued push for ETOD.

Chad Ballentine: The MetroAccess is meant as a safety net for the mainline service. The mainline service is for most users using public transportation with MetroAccess as the backup to get people who are disabled where they need to go. They work together to create an equitable transit system. Austin has a long way to go before achieving a totally accessible transit system, but we continue to work on that and also a system that works for everyone.

Glenda Born: How is this plan addressing existing neighborhoods, that don't have access to transportation.

Anna Lan: There will continue to be more development with the transit system, but in regards of the ETOD plans, these are more focused on neighborhoods that we can act on with immediacy. The new stations will be interconnected with the rest of the system so they will continue to serve all of Austin, while also helping specific neighborhoods where the plans can be enacted right away.

Pickup Update

Chad Ballentine, VP, Demand Response & Innovative Mobility

We are implementing a dashboard so that the public can see how well the Pick-Up service is doing so they can visualize what it does for the community.

Chad then explains the metrics being measured in the dashboard and its data. People can look at all zones or just their zones and all the data points that can be explored.

2022 Final Access Committee Work Plan

Edna Parra; Community Engagement & Outreach Manager

The Team worked on the Work Plan for 2022

Access Nomination for the Project Connect Customer Advisory Committee (CAC) and the Diversity, Equity and Inclusion (DEI) Committee

Otmar Foehner, Access Committee Member - for CAC reference

Edna Parra, Committee Staff Liaison – for details on DEI and CAC

The committee discussed the details about both committees – time commitment, requirements of each committee, in-person, or hybrid, and the details of the other committees from CAC.

Audrey Diaz let us know that she did not feel like the DEI committee was listening to her from an accessibility standpoint.

Jaqueline Evans proposed meeting in a separate meeting to hear her concerns and to continue the conversation.

Glenda Born: Are the meetings teleconference or in-person?

Jacqueline Evans: It would be a hybrid. With in-person happening in 2021.

Otmar Foehner gave an overview of his experience in the CAC committee.

It was decided that Mike Gorse would sit on the DEI Advisory Group, and Glenda Born would be the backup member.

For CAC, Paul Hunt is considering being the representative, and will decide after consulting with Jackie Nirenberg

Officer Elections

Co-Chair Paul Hunt

Nominations for Chair – Paul Hunt; committee voted and nominated Paul Hunt to serve as the committee chair for year 2021

Nominations for Vice Chair – Estrella Barrera; the committee will wait for the next meeting since Estrella was not present at the meeting. They will check in with her and see if she's interested in the position and then vote

Secretary Nominations – Mike Gorse; committee voted and he will serve for 2022

Next Meeting on January 5th, 2022