

**Capital Metropolitan Transportation Authority  
Customer Satisfaction Advisory Committee (CSAC)**

**Wednesday, February 9<sup>th</sup>, 2022**

6:00 - 7:30 pm

***Virtual Presentation***

Microsoft Teams meeting

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6:00 PM

**Welcome / Introductions / Call to Order**

*Ephraim Taylor*

***CapMetro Employees:*** *Katherine Gonzalez, Martin Kareithi, Jackie Nirenberg, Edna Parra*

***CSAC Members:*** *Ephraim Taylor, David Foster, Betsy Greenberg; Diana Wheeler, David Shapiro*

***General Public:*** *Ruven Brooks*

**Systems Accessibility**

*Martin Kareithi, Director- Systemwide Accessibility*

*Jackie Nirenberg; Austin Transit Partnership Community Engagement 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**

- The built environment
- Where the pedestrian meets the infrastructure
- Incorporate accessibility at concept and design
- Includes pedestrian features such as sidewalks, shared-use paths, traffic signals and crossings
- Capital Metro-owned facilities and buildings
- Readily accessible and useable by PWDs
- Accessible to the public and for public meetings and appointments

### **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.

## **Project Connect Overview**

*Jackie Nirenberg; Austin Transit Partnership Community Engagement Director*

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*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 23<sup>rd</sup>
- **June 2021:** Dessau Pickup Zone launched on June 15<sup>th</sup>
- **June 2021:** Expo & Pleasant valley – Progressed FTA Small Starts Readiness Documents
- **July 2021:** South Manchaca Pickup Zone launched July 27<sup>th</sup>
- **August 2021:** North Oak Pickup Zone launched August 24<sup>th</sup>
- **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](http://projectconnect.com/get-involved)

## **Upcoming Events**

February 7<sup>th</sup>: 5:30PM – MetroRapid Community Update

February 23<sup>rd</sup>: 5PM – Encore Community Design Workshop: The Drag

March 1<sup>st</sup>: Community Design Workshop: Crestview Station

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

March 29<sup>th</sup> & March 31<sup>st</sup> – Let's Talk Project Connect

## **MetroRapid Update**

*Kathrine Gonzalez, Technical PM/PM III*

## **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

## **Public Communications**

## **Approval of the minutes**