



## Reflecting on 2019

This last year we accomplished so much with Project Connect. We are excited to see what 2020 has in store, but before we talk about the present, let us reflect on the great successes of 2019!

### **We Witnessed Ridership Increases!**

We have reached 15 straight months of ridership increases, specifically 26.3% on MetroExpress and 5.7% on MetroRapid. This is huge because we are one of a few cities in the nation that is seeing an increase. Showing both a need and want for Austin's transportation system to grow.

### **We Started Creating a New Generation of Transit Users!**

Since the start of our Kids Ride Free Program a year ago, we have supplied rides to over 3 million students K-12, creating a new generation of transit users! We have received overwhelmingly positive feedback from parents and children on how they love the program because it provides safety, freedom, and instills independence.

### **We Have Expanded Our On-Demand Pickup Service!**

We created and expanded the On-Demand Pickup Service, which is currently servicing 6 different zones. This equitable system picks you up and connects you to the nearest stop or your destination within that zone for \$1.50. This has helped get many of our elderly and mobility-impaired riders to their destination while maintaining the efficiency of the system.

### **We Have Been Recognized for Our Success!**

This year we are proud to say we have won Texas Agency of the Year Award along with various safety, mobile technology recognitions, and state and national awards. We hope to continue our success in 2020!

Your confidence in us has allowed us to make CapMetro and Project Connect a success thus far, so we thank you for your continued participation and look forward to continued collaboration in 2020!

## Clean Air for Our Tomorrow

As part of the Project Connect Transit Plan, we are rolling out a new all-electric fleet of buses powered by Austin Energy's 100% Texas wind power! Being a direct partner in ASMP's Air & Climate Policy #1: "Reduce emissions generated by the transportation sector," we are committed to improving Austin's air quality

and doing our part to curb climate change.

To honor the generation that will inherit the planet, we had students from AISD's Lee Lewis Campbell Elementary Media and Performing Arts Institute design the bus wrapping! We partnered with Creative Action to manage a contest in which all students helped create artwork that they believe best illustrates what they think a healthy planet should look like. A panel of judges chose 23 winners and the two buses were unveiled Wednesday, January 22nd. You can expect to see the buses go into regular service next week!



Photo Credit: Brio Photography

## Joint Work Session Recap

Last Tuesday, Cap Metro's Board of Directors met with Austin City Council to discuss federal investment options, Capital Metro's investment options, and potential scenarios for the development of Project Connect. A key takeaway was that up to 40% of the cost could be covered through federal investment, specifically in the form of grants, if 60% is covered by locally committed funds.

We want to continue gathering your input on the exact features and lines you want in the final system plan. For that reason, from now until our next work session in March, you can find us putting on various events throughout Austin!

## Corridor Program Office: Call for Artists

The City of Austin's Corridor Program Office and Cultural Arts Division's Art in Public Places (AIPP) have partnered together to search for artists who are interested in being apart of the Artist Pool. Being apart of the Artist Pool will give you the opportunity to design art installations planned for one of the nine Austin corridors. Details on Artist Pool Information Sessions can be found below.

For full details, please visit the [AIPP Call-to-Artists website](#). Interested artists should apply [here](#) by February 13, 2020, at 5:00 p.m.

## Upcoming Event Calendar

### **Artist Pool Information Session #2:**

**When:** Feb. 8, 2020 11:00 a.m. - 1:00 p.m.

**Where:** Asian American Cultural Center  
11713 Jollyville Rd, Austin, TX 78759



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### **Visit the Project Connect Community Office located at 607 Congress Ave.**

Stop by any time between 9 a.m. and 4 p.m. Talk with project staff, ask questions and provide feedback.



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