



TO: CapMetro Board of Directors
Austin City Council

FROM: ATP Board Vacancy Nominating Committee

DATE: November 25, 2024

RE: Recommendations to fill the Community Expert Director Positions on the ATP Board

Dear City Council and CapMetro Board Colleagues,

We are pleased to inform you of our recommended candidates to serve on the Austin Transit Partnership (ATP) Board of Directors. As you know, the terms of all three Community Expert Directors expire at the end of this year. A nominating committee was formed, as described in ATP’s governing documents, to recommend candidates to fill the current vacancies on the ATP Board. ATP is responsible for implementing Project Connect, in partnership and collaboration with the City of Austin and CapMetro.

We are pleased today to make the following recommendations for the indicated Community Expert Director positions:

Community Expert in Architecture and Engineering	Veronica Castro de Barrera
Community Expert in Finance	Juan Garza
Community Expert in Planning or Sustainability	Kammy Horne

Ms. Castro de Barrera currently serves as the Chair of the Austin Transit Partnership Board of Directors, a position that she has held for the last four years. During that time, she has led the Board and the organization through its initial growth phases, helping to implement the policies and procedures that will allow ATP to implement Project Connect. In addition, she currently serves as the Lead Campus and Mobility Planner for the Office of Planning, Design and Construction at the University of Texas Austin. In that position, she can assist in implementing Project Connect in areas around the UT campus to successfully serve its employee and student population. Ms. Castro de Barrera has a Bachelor of Science in Architecture from the University of Texas at San Antonio. She is a registered architect in the State of Texas, a LEED Accredited Professional with more than 25 years of experience working on public transportation and multi-modal projects in five cities.

Mr. Garza currently serves on the ATP Board in the Community Expert in Planning or Sustainability position. In addition, he formerly owned a consulting firm, providing financial and management advice to companies and their senior executives for the last twelve years. He continues to provide advice to Central Health on an as-needed basis. In addition, he has held senior financial and executive positions at Central Health, NRG Energy Inc., Pedernales Electric Coop. He has also served as the General Manager of Austin Energy from 2000-2008, the Chief Financial Officer and then City Manager for the City of Corpus Christi, and as Interim Chief Executive Officer at Driscoll Children’s Hospital. It is this collective experience that led the Nominating Committee to move Mr. Garza into the Community Expert in Finance position. Mr. Garza has a Bachelor of Science in Mathematics and an MBA in Financial Administration from Loyola University of Chicago.

Ms. Horne founded and currently serves as the Chief Executive Officer of MPact, a national organization that connects and supports a network of leaders, practitioners and advocates of transit-oriented development and communities. Prior to MPact, Ms. Horne served as Senior Vice President of Development and Planning for Via Metropolitan Transit in San Antonio. In addition, she has served in various senior engineering capacities for two international engineering firms that have performed work for Project Connect, CapMetro, TxDOT, the Utah Transit Authority, and DART. Ms. Horne has a Bachelor in Science in Environmental Science and Biology from Long Island University and a Master in Science in Community and Regional Planning from the University of Texas at Austin.

The vacancy application opened in October and remained open for several weeks. Staff from the City, CapMetro and ATP worked to share the application broadly via a variety of communications methods and community engagement networks. The nominating committee received numerous applications for all three positions from passionate and qualified members of this community who are eager to serve in the implementation of Project Connect. More about the process and requirements is available online here: <https://atptx.org/atp-leadership/atp-board/board-vacancy>.

The candidates to fill the vacancies must be approved by the Austin City Council and CapMetro Board. The Austin City Council will consider this appointment during their regular meeting on December 12, 2024 and the CapMetro Board will consider this during their meeting on December 16, 2024. The appointee will be sworn in during the ATP Board meeting in January 2025.

The Nominating Committee wants to thank the community for supporting this process and helping to share this valuable opportunity with their networks, as well as the staff from each of the Project Connect partners who provided administrative support. Additionally, we want to thank our colleagues for their trust in our work on the nominating committee.

Finally, we want to thank the individuals who applied for this opportunity, and we want to encourage them to stay invested and engaged in the Project Connect transit expansion program.

Regards,



Alison Alter, Council Member and Chair, Audit & Finance Committee, Austin City Council



Paige Ellis, Council Member and Chair, Mobility Committee, Austin City Council



William M. Harriss, Board Member and Chair, Finance, Audit & Administration Committee, CapMetro Board of Directors



Eric Stratton, Board Member and Chair, Operations, Planning & Safety Committee, CapMetro Board of Directors