



For Immediate Release

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Connect to the Future
*Capital Metro Seeking Community Feedback
on Next Steps for the All Systems Go Plan*

AUSTIN, Texas, Jan. 19, 2006 –Capital Metro will host an All Systems Go Future Connections Study Workshop on Saturday, Feb. 4 at the Austin Convention Center to gain public feedback on further development of the All Systems Go Long-Range Transit Plan.

Following a successful referendum in November 2004, Capital Metro is working to implement new transit services, including Urban Commuter Rail and Rapid bus service, and is evaluating ways to connect more of the region to these services in the future. Mayor Will Wynn will serve as keynote speaker for the community-wide workshop, which will provide an update on the status of current All Systems Go projects and will feature two tabletop group exercises.

Circulator Study Exercise

A central Austin transit circulator system will enhance overall connectivity for current and future potential transit services in the long-range plan, including Urban and Commuter Rail lines. The All Systems Go Future Connections Study examines several areas in central Austin that might benefit from enhanced bus circulators or possibly a modern streetcar. Downtown bus transfer facility needs are also being studied. The study areas include the downtown central business district, the Capitol complex, the University of Texas main campus, the Mueller redevelopment area and east central Austin. Participants will have an opportunity to mark up draft circulator maps to help determine where a circulator should go and the destinations it should serve. Feedback also will be sought on route priorities and vehicle preferences. Any streetcar or rail options would require a future referendum.

All Systems Go Plan Priorities Exercise

A second tabletop exercise will take a fresh look at the All Systems Go plan from a regional perspective. Participants will give input on what they think should come next in the plan, discuss potential future phases and services and recommend ways to prioritize them to best serve the region's transit needs now and in the future.

“We’re not only interested in getting people downtown using commuter rail, we want to make sure they are able to move around once they get there, or up to UT or Mueller without using a car,” said Lucy Galbraith, project co-manager. “We need to find the best ways to connect core destinations to each other using Rapid bus and commuter rail.”

A group of community representatives who serve on the Future Connections Steering Committee is already reviewing these issues. Capital Metro is also asking the community at-large for its help by providing input and feedback on these studies at the upcoming open house.

“As with all of our planning efforts, community feedback is essential,” said Galbraith. “The All Systems Go Long-Range Transit Plan is moving forward and we want to know what the community’s priorities are for the next phases.”

Future Connections Workshop

WHEN: Saturday, February 4th, 8:30 a.m. – 12:30 p.m. (complimentary lunch to follow)

WHERE: Austin Convention Center, 500 E. Cesar Chavez St., Ballroom G

WHAT: Attendees will participate in tabletop map exercises to plan transit circulator connections and prioritize the regional transit plan.

About Capital Metropolitan Transportation Authority

The Capital Metropolitan Transportation Authority provides bus service on flexible, convenient schedules at more than 3,000 bus stops throughout Central Texas, providing riders with an average of 130,000 one-way trips each day. Capital Metro’s fixed route bus service includes 66 metro and flyer routes, seven downtown circulator ‘Dillo routes, seven express routes and 22 UT shuttle routes. Capital Metro also offers 30 AISD school routes, van and carpooling coordination, shuttles to special events and special transit services for the disabled. Plans are underway to begin Rapid bus service in 2007 and urban commuter rail service in 2008. For more information, including an online trip planner and a commute cost calculator, visit www.capmetro.org or call (512) 474-1200.

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