



## Clean Air Coalition (CAC) | Agenda

---

11:30 am, or upon adjournment of the CAPCOG Executive Committee Meeting (whichever is later)

Wednesday, May 14, 2025

CAPCOG Pecan Room

6800 Burleson Road, Building 310, Suite 165

Austin, TX 78744

Council Member Robert Rizo, *City of Kyle* **Chair**

Council Member Heather Jefts, *City of Cedar Park* **1<sup>st</sup> Vice Chair**

Council Member Kevin Hight, *City of Bee Cave* **2<sup>nd</sup> Vice Chair**

Council Member Krista Laine, *City of Austin*

Commissioner Butch Carmack, *Bastrop County*

VACANT, *City of Bastrop*

Council Member Evan Ture, *City of Buda*

Commissioner B.J. Westmoreland, *Caldwell County*

Commissioner Michelle Cohen, PhD, *Hays County*

VACANT, *City of Hutto*

VACANT, *City of Georgetown*

Council Member Kelly Brynteson, *City of Lakeway*

Council Member David McDonald, *City of Leander*

Mayor Lew White, *City of Lockhart*

VACANT, *City of Luling*

Council Member Ceasar Ruiz, *City of Pflugerville*

Council Member Hilda Montgomery, *City of Round Rock*

Mayor Jane Hughson, *City of San Marcos*

Commissioner Ann Howard, *Travis County*

Commissioner Terry Cook, *Williamson County*

### 1. Welcome and Introductions

### 2. Public Comments (3 minutes per speaker)

### 3. Consider Approval of February 12, 2025, Meeting Minutes

City of Kyle Mayor Pro Tem Robert Rizo, Chair

### 4. Consider Location for Nitrogen Oxides (NO<sub>x</sub>) Monitor Site

Anton Cox, Air Quality Program Manager

### 5. Presentation on the Austin Energy's Resource, Generation and Climate Protection Plan to 2035

Lisa Martin - Austin Energy, Deputy General Manager and Chief Operating Officer

### 6. Presentation on Modern Day Mining - Best Practices

Jill Shackelford, Mining Consultant

### 7. CAPCOG Air Quality Staff Updates

Anton Cox, Air Quality Program Manager

### 8. Other Business and Adjournment



## Clean Air Coalition (CAC) | MINUTES

11:30 am, or upon adjournment of the CAPCOG Executive Committee Meeting (whichever is later)

Wednesday, February 12, 2025

CAPCOG Lantana Room

6800 Burleson Road, Building 310, Suite 155

Austin, TX 78744

### Present (11):

Council Member Robert Rizo, *City of Kyle* **Chair**  
Council Member Heather Jefts, *City of Cedar Park* **1<sup>st</sup> Vice Chair**  
Council Member Kevin Hight, *City of Bee Cave* **2<sup>nd</sup> Vice Chair**  
Council Member Krista Laine, *City of Austin*  
Council Member Evan Ture, *City of Buda*  
Commissioner B.J. Westmoreland, *Caldwell County*  
Council Member David McDonald, *City of Leander*  
Council Member Hilda Montgomery, *City of Round Rock*  
Mayor Jane Hughson, *City of San Marcos*  
Commissioner Ann Howard, *Travis County*  
Commissioner Terry Cook, *Williamson County*

### Absent (6):

Commissioner Mel Hamner, *Bastrop County*  
Lyle Nelson, *City of Bastrop*  
Commissioner Michelle Cohen, PhD, *Hays County*  
Council Member Kelly Brynteson, *City of Lakeway*  
Mayor Lew White, *City of Lockhart*  
Council Member Ceasar Ruiz, *City of Pflugerville*  
VACANT, *City of Hutto*  
VACANT, *City of Georgetown*  
VACANT, *City of Luling*

### Guest (1):

Brianna McBride, *Travis County*

### CAPCOG STAFF (6):

Chris Miller, Executive Director  
Andrew Hoekzema, Deputy Director  
Charles Simon, Program Director  
Anton Cox, Program Manager  
Ramon Zarate, Program Specialist  
Robert Jones, Jr, Administrative Coordinator

#### **1. Welcome and Introductions**

Council Member Robert Rizo, Chair, called the meeting to order at 11:30am.

Council Member Rizo, Chair, introduced new CAC members, Council Member Krista Laine, City of Austin and Council Member David McDonald, City of Leander.

#### **2. Public Comments (3 minutes per speaker)**

No public comments provided.

#### **3. ACTION ITEM: Consider Approval of November 13, 2024, Meeting Minutes**

City of Kyle Council Member Robert Rizo, Chair call for a motion to approve November 13, 2024, meeting minutes. Council Member Heather Jefts made a motion, Council Member Kevin Hight seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

#### **4. Consider 2025 Clean Air Coalition Officers**

Anton Cox, Air Quality Program Manager, discussed the CAC officer's election rules according to the bylaws and stated the current officers have agreed to maintain their officer roles. Council Member Rizo asked if there were any other nominations to consider for the officer elections. No other nominations were provided. Commissioner Ann Howard made a motion to accept the current officers continuing their officer roles. Mayor Hughson seconded the motion. There was no opposition to this motion and it carried unanimously by the committee.

**5. Consider Resolution Supporting TCEQ - Rider 7, Local Air Quality Planning Funds**

Anton Cox, Air Quality Program Manager presented the committee members with a resolution to consider supporting the TCEQ – Rider 7, Local Air Quality Planning Funds regarding the increases to the types of activities TCEQ considers acceptable within Rider 7. Commissioner Terry Cook asked if it were possible to explore increasing additional funding or would this request for increased funds potentially bring scrutiny from the Texas Legislature. Mr. Cox explained the resolution only focuses on increasing the various activities and he was unable to predict what sort of response the Texas Legislature may have regarding an increase in funding. Council Member Rizo asked for a motion to accept the resolution supporting TCEQ – Rider 7. Council Member Hilda Montgomery made a motion. Mayor Jane Hughson seconded the motion. There was not any opposition to the motion, and it was carried out unanimously by the committee members.

**6. Presentation on the Air Quality Benefits of Freight Rail**

Brett Sebastian – GoRail, State Director presented on the Air Quality Benefits of Freight Rail.

Commissioner Cook wanted to know what type of charger was being used in the electric rail systems. Mr. Sebastian was uncertain of the specifics to the operations but was aware the long-term goal is to use hydrogen models.

Mayor Hughson inquired if there were any sensor monitoring systems that can recognize railcar failures or issues. Mr. Sebastian explained there are some sensors monitoring systems in place, but the rail industry is looking into shortening these monitoring times from the current 5 miles as well as looking into implementing a visual monitoring system that provides a human element in this independent monitoring system.

Council Member Rizo described how the City of Kyle was working on grants to provide Quiet Zones through areas impacted by noise from engine horns and several railway crossings.

Commissioner Howard asked if districts should place an emphasis on increasing passenger rail on the current freight system. Mr. Sebastian explained historically, the high increase in capital costs to increase passenger rail has hindered any momentum in increasing passenger rail plans. Commissioner Howard then asked if there is a possibility that increasing the speed and passenger rail upgrades would facilitate sharing rails with freight. Mr. Sebastian stated this would depend on the various types of terrain found in Texas and the capacity needed to do rail expansions to accommodate these types of upgrades.

**7. Presentation on Travis County's Commute Connections Program**

Adele Noel, Travis County, Air Quality Environmental Project Manager presented on Travis County's Commute Connections Program and provided results and benefits of the program for Travis County Employees.

Council Member Rizo asked if rural areas w/o bus or alternative modes of transportation available were considered in the Travis County Commute Connections Program. Ms. Noel stated yes, and she can provide additional alternative transportation solutions to include carpooling and other modes of transportation.

Mr. Hoekzema added most agencies may already have emergency ride home services in place through their Employee Assistance Programs (EAP) which could be incentivized if not currently being used even though they are being paid through EAP costs. Mr. Hoekzema asked if Travis County still has telecommuting work credits while logged on during carpooling, ridesharing or train commuting which create operations policy changes for work while commuting? Ms. Noel stated yes, this was still in place and part of operations policy.

**8. Other Business and Adjournment**

Council Member Rizo opened the meeting discussion for any other business.

Andrew Hoekzema, CAPCOG Deputy Director, wanted to recognize former CAPCOG employee Ashley Fisher who is now currently working as Chief of Staff for City of Austin Council Member Krista Laine.

No other business was presented.

Council Member Rizo adjourned the meeting at 12:48pm.



6800 Burleson Road, Building 310, Suite 165  
Austin, Texas 78744-2306  
Ph: 512-916-6000 Fax: 512-916-6001  
[www.capcog.org](http://www.capcog.org)

BASTROP BLANCO BURNET CALDWELL FAYETTE HAYS LEE LLANO TRAVIS  
WILLIAMSON

## MEMORANDUM

May 14, 2025

**TO:** Clean Air Coalition

**FROM:** Anton Cox, Air Quality Program Manager

**RE:** Location for New Nitrogen Oxides (NO<sub>x</sub>) Monitor

CAPCOG is seeking approval from the Clean Air Coalition (CAC) to place new nitrogen oxides (NO<sub>x</sub>) monitoring equipment at the East Austin monitoring site. The CAC-Advisory Committee (CACAC) voted to recommend this location to the CAC at the April 29, 2025, CACAC meeting.

### Background

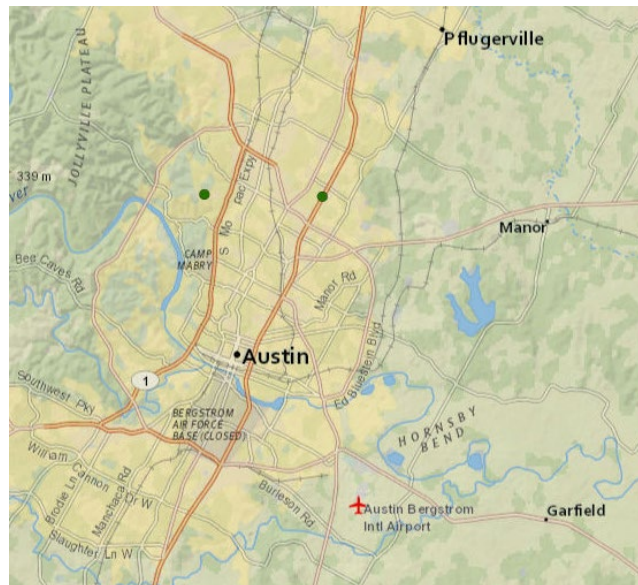
CAPCOG's 2024-2025 Ozone Near Nonattainment Rider 7 Grant with the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality (TCEQ) includes a task to install and operate NO<sub>x</sub> analyzers in the region. In this statement of work CAPCOG states, we will install and operate up to three NO<sub>x</sub> analyzers at existing CAPCOG monitoring sites in the region. Based on projected funding availability, CAPCOG staff can confidently install and operate one site in 2025.

Currently, there are two NO<sub>x</sub> monitoring sites in the Austin Metropolitan Statistical Area (MSA), one at Austin North Hills Dr northwest of central Austin and another off North Interstate Highway 35 north of central Austin near IH-35. Both sites are operated by TCEQ and are used for regulatory compliance. The new site managed by CAPCOG will be used for research purposes, like all CAPCOG's other monitoring sites.

At the last CACAC meeting, CAPCOG staff suggested two sites for placement of the new equipment; East Austin, which the committee recommended, and Dripping Springs. The rationale for these locations is:

1. East Austin – this is CAPCOG's most urban monitoring site, it is measuring an airshed with the highest population density and is closest to a major roadway (IH-35). The drawbacks to this

Figure 1. Location of Existing NO<sub>x</sub> Monitors in Austin MSA



location are that there are two NO<sub>x</sub> sites in Austin already, and the monitoring shelter at this site is too small and will need to be replaced to fit the new equipment. Replacing the shelter with a larger one will cost roughly \$3,500, however, this cost will likely need to occur at some point in the future anyway.

2. Dripping Springs – this site has recorded the highest ozone levels over the past three years; having NO<sub>x</sub> data could provide insights about what is occurring in this area. Drawbacks to this site include concerns about the ozone data collected from the site and the suburban location. The data concern regarding the ozone analyzer at Dripping Spring is that the site is routinely collecting higher ozone values than other analyzers in the region. CAPCOG is looking into a co-location study where we place another ozone analyzer at the site and run them simultaneously to verify the accuracy of the data, adding an additional NO<sub>x</sub> analyzer may complicate this study.

CAPCOG staff anticipates that the new equipment will be in operation as early as late June 2025 and will continue collecting data through mid-November.