

City of San Antonio



Minutes Transportation and Infrastructure Committee

2023 – 2025 Council Members

John Courage, Dist. 9, Chair

Dr. Sukh Kaur, Dist. 1 | Jalen McKee-Rodriguez, Dist. 2

Melissa Cabello Havrda, Dist. 6 | Marina Alderete Gavito, Dist. 7

Tuesday, October 15, 2024

1:30 PM

City Hall

The Transportation and Infrastructure Committee convened a regular meeting in the City Hall Council Briefing Room beginning at 1:34 PM. Deputy City Clerk Aurora Perkins took the Roll Call noting a quorum with the following Committee Members present:

Members Present: John Courage, *Chair*
Dr. Sukh Kaur, *Member*
Jalen McKee-Rodriguez, *Member*
Melissa Cabello Havrda, *Member*
Marina Alderete Gavito, *Member*

Members Absent: None

Approval of Minutes

- 1. Approval of minutes from the September 30, 2024, Transportation and Infrastructure Committee meeting.**

Councilmember Cabello Havrda moved to Approve the minutes of the September 30, 2024 Transportation and Infrastructure Committee meeting. Councilmember Kaur seconded the motion. The motion carried by the following vote:

Aye: Courage, Kaur, McKee-Rodriguez, Cabello Havrda, Alderete Gavito

Public Comment

None.

Briefing and Possible Action on

- 2. Briefing on a Council Consideration Request by Councilmember Dr. Sukh Kaur (District 1) on Improvements to the Accuracy, Effectivity, and Expediency of Construction Projects.** [John Peterek, Interim Assistant City Manager; Razi Hosseini, Director, Public Works]

City Manager Erik Walsh introduced the Item which addressed Council Consideration Request (CCR 2024-0015) submitted by Councilmember Kaur addressing Accuracy, Effectivity and Expediency of Construction Projects. He spoke to recent discussions with SAWS Chief Executive Officer Robert Puentes on the development of a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) to address the coordination of street improvement projects and including SAWS utilities as an approver to design components of large projects. He noted that under the MOU, the City would coordinate with and have SAWS sign off on high-profile construction projects so they could identify older water lines and other utilities to be addressed simultaneously on large-scale street projects.

City Manager Walsh stated the importance of addressing construction issues/concerns at the construction design level on these large-scale street construction projects especially in the 2022 Bond Project schedule. He reiterated that under the MOU, SAWS would be a signatory on large projects that would address joint projects and work to be done in complicated or high-risk projects which could include approval by the SAWS Board.

City Manager Walsh stressed the importance for both the City and SAWS to have “skin in the game” for the completion of projects in a timely, efficient, and cost valued manner. He added that projects could come to the Committee as a first stop before going to the full City Council for consideration.

Chair Courage stressed the need for coordination not only on roads but also with large-scale construction projects. He noted that high-level coordination would be needed in future projects.

City Manager Walsh introduced Public Works Director Razi Hosseini who provided an overview of the CCR submitted by Councilmember Kaur which addressed the need to improve the accuracy, effectivity, and expediency in construction projects. He stated that the CCR requested that all utility companies maintain accurate As-Built records of their infrastructure and that the City would lead SUE work for large-scale projects.

Hosseini stressed that utility companies were to increase their design and planning efforts to ensure efficiency in their delivery of capital projects. He added that utility companies would need to be proactively budget for Subsurface Utility Engineering (SUE) costs and reimbursement to the City of San Antonio.

Hosseini reviewed the current utility coordination process which had the City coordinate with all applicable utilities to identify the locations and associated work related to their infrastructure to complete City projects. He stressed that SUE work was completed to confirm utility locations and identify any potential conflicts. Hosseini spoke to the challenges of utility companies performing limited SUE work to identify all potential conflicts and approvals for reimbursements to the City-performed SUE work. He added that the City wanted to minimize the risk of utility

conflicts and project delays under the MOU.

Hosseini spoke to current efforts by the City and SAWS to develop an MOU to include project design phase identification of underground utility conflicts and constructability review by the contractor in this phase. He reiterated that SAWS would be a signatory approver for construction contracts which would greatly improve dispute resolutions and categorizing of projects.

Hosseini reviewed the staff recommendation of approving the preliminary step to proceed with the execution of the MOU with utility agencies SAWS and CPS Energy.

DISCUSSION

Councilmember Kaur thanked staff for the work on the CCR and coordination with SAWS. She stressed the impact of construction projects to residents and businesses which was evident in the Broadway Street Projects. Councilmember Kaur spoke to hidden issues which could arise when roads were dug up but it was important to address those in a timely manner and making the roads accessible when delays were caused by hidden utility or construction issues. She noted that doing so would lessen the impact to local businesses and users of the street during unforeseen issues.

Councilmember Kaur noted her support of the Item and taking the next steps in the approval process. She asked if the CCR could be addressed directly at an A Session or if it needed to come back to the Committee. Interim Assistant City Manager John Peterek stated that staff looked to bring the Item back to the Committee level before going to the full City Council at an A Session. City Manager Walsh stated that staff would address as directed by the Committee and that staff could work going straight to A Session and brief the Committee Members individually.

Councilmember Kaur asked if projects had been identified for this review process. Hosseini stated that projects were being reviewed but had yet to be finalized. He stated that staff was looking at previous projects to review lessons learned and what could have been done to lessen the impact of construction conflicts. City Manager Walsh stated that the upcoming Marbach Street Project would be considered under the MOU since there was already identified SAWS utility work that was complicated and would require coordination to address efficiently and effectively. He added that the Marbach Project was the largest 2022 Bond Project under the Bond Program and was a very high-profile project.

Councilmember Kaur requested a list of the 2022 Bond Projects that the project would be reviewed under the MOU and she supported this directly going to A Session with individual briefings to Committee members. Chair Courage supported the MOU going directly to City Council with individual meetings with all City Councilmembers.

Councilmember McKee-Rodriguez asked what type of bids were used on street construction projects. Hosseini reviewed the different types of solicitations used and spoke to types used for high-risk projects to include Construction Manager at Risk (CMR) and Request for Competitive Sealed Proposals (RFCSP). Councilmember McKee-Rodriguez asked for data on the completion of contracts under different solicitations. Hosseini stated that most issues were under low-bid contracts and that larger contracts used CMR which took longer but had more checks in place for quality work outcomes. City Manager Walsh spoke to challenges with low-bid contracts and

stressed that CMR would be used in future projects including the Marbach Street Project.

Councilmember McKee-Rodriguez stated that he would not want to use low-bid contracts on street projects. Hosseini stated that very few projects were completed under low-bid contracts and that most used CMR or RFCSP. Chair Courage agreed with Councilmember McKee-Rodriguez regarding the need for data to be presented.

Councilmember McKee-Rodriguez noted that utility issues were not always the reasons for project delays. He stressed that staff needed to address contractor actions and quality. Hosseini acknowledged that utilities were not the only issues but that contractors would be reviewed to address concerns.

Councilmember McKee-Rodriguez asked how long the MOU had been worked on by staff since January 2024. City Manager Walsh noted that he entered conversations with Puente to address the process for a timely resolution and development of an MOU. He noted that there were lesser issues with CPS but that the MOU would include both CPS and SAWS.

Chair Courage noted that SAWS had inherited challenges from a previous water utility entity in regard to accurate maps and updates of street improvements. He stressed the need for corrected utility maps for street construction projects and other high-profile areas.

Councilmember Alderete Gavito stated that it was important for SAWS to update its maps in a timely manner. She reiterated that all utility companies including CPS sign the MOU and that fiber companies also need to be added to the MOU since they also had road construction issues and resident services.

Councilmember Alderete Gavito noted her support for the Item and the importance of this to residents.

Councilmember Cabello Havrda stressed the importance to hold utilities accountable but noted the challenges in addressing aging utilities. She asked what construction cycles the MOU would address. Peterek stated that it would impact Cycle 22 and that the current MOU addressed Cycle 17. City Manager Walsh clarified that the MOU would address design and construction phase coordination which was not covered in the current MOU.

Councilmember Cabello Havrda requested clarification on the process for review from the utility companies. Hosseini stated that the MOU would review design, cost scoping, and construction components of the projects. He stressed that the MOU would work with all utilities to include SAWS, CPS, and fiber companies.

Councilmember Cabello Havrda addressed the need for fiber companies to be held accountable for their poor project completion including resident homes.

Councilmember Cabello Havrda stressed that the Marbach Street Project would be a crucial test of the MOU.

Councilmember Kaur asked for clarification on when projects would be reviewed under the

MOU. Hosseini stated that the review would occur at the beginning for design which was well ahead of when construction digging began. City Manager Walsh stressed the need for review and timeliness of each phase.

Councilmember McKee-Rodriguez asked how the potholing process would be used in this process. Hosseini reviewed when potholing was done and was usually under the Public Works process. City Manager Walsh stressed that SAWS would be required to do more potholing under their reviewing of the process. He stressed that both the City and utilities had an obligation to complete projects in a timely and efficient manner and that coordination was crucial in all large-scale projects.

Councilmember McKee-Rodriguez asked for clarification on whether this MOU would only address Bond Projects. Hosseini stated that the MOU would be held for all large-scale projects and any construction projects.

Councilmember Kaur asked if only potholing would be used. Peterek stated that potholing would not be the sole technology to be used in identifying project issues and utilities.

3. Briefing on a Council Consideration Request by Councilmembers Jalen McKee-Rodriguez (District 2) and Marina Alderete (District 7) regarding a Citywide Traffic Impact Analysis. [John Peterek, Interim Assistant City Manager; Razi Hosseini, Director, Public Works]

Public Works Director Razi Hosseini provided an overview of the Council Consideration Request (CCR 2023-0019) addressing the conducting of a Citywide Traffic Impact Analysis submitted by Councilmembers McKee-Rodriguez and Alderete Gavito. He noted that the CCR requested to use analysis to relieve congestion and mitigation of traffic delays, identify warranted calming solutions and mitigate the need for constituents to request them.

Hosseini stated that the requested traffic analysis would analyze existing traffic patterns and identify areas of the City that experienced traffic-related issues. He spoke to the desire for determined recommendations to support long-lasting improvements to increase safety and used to support the strategic deployment of appropriate traffic calming applications and the re-examination of criteria to qualify for traffic mitigation measures.

Hosseini reviewed the current efforts under traffic engineering requests and data on the number of requests for traffic signals, pavement markings and traffic calming. He noted that Citywide there were over 1,470 signalized traffic intersections, 137,000 traffic signs and 3,687 miles of pavement markings to maintain. He stated that annually there were over 5,000 requests annually for traffic engineering and that there was a backlog of over 700 signs and marking requests. He added that the Public Works Department sought to be more efficient in prioritizing and responding to traffic engineering requests.

Hosseini spoke to the FY 2025 Traffic Engineering Improvements Program which continued to use updated traffic calming eligibility criteria that was presented to City Council during a B Session in December 2023. He noted that under the Program, \$200,000 of one-time funds had been used to address approximately one-third of the 700 backlogged sign and pavement marking requests. Hosseini spoke to the prioritization of critical requests and working with 3-1-1 Customer Service

to better filter requests and improve updates to requestors. He added that Public Works continued with the installation of radar feedback and flashing stop sign implementation.

Hosseini stated that staff recommended, as a preliminary step, to proceed with the execution of traffic engineering improvements approved as part of the FY 2025 Adopted Budget followed by future briefing of staff's progress during the FY 2025 Mid-Year Budget briefing to City Council.

DISCUSSION

Councilmember McKee-Rodriguez stated that when the CCR was submitted both he and Councilmember Alderete Gavito were experiencing traffic engineering issues within their council districts. He noted that his hope was that staff recommendations would be expanded from the FY 2025 Traffic Improvements Program and the need for further action recommendations under the policy.

Councilmember McKee-Rodriguez requested data on the cost of conducting a large-scale traffic analysis or a phased traffic study for identified problem areas within each council district. He stated that his intention of the CCR was to receive those types of recommendations and asked that staff come back to address this request.

Councilmember Alderete Gavito reiterated the concerns of Councilmember McKee-Rodriguez and the continuous issues of speeding and traffic concerns. She asked if this had been identified as a challenge area. Hosseini clarified that this was a priority for the City to address but that it was challenging to hire and keep quality staff in the traffic engineering area. Councilmember Alderete Gavito stated that she understood that challenge but she supported Councilmember McKee-Rodriguez's request for expanded recommendations for phased or a pilot program to address issues within each council district.

Councilmember Cabello Havrda spoke to discussions with residents of traffic concerns and she supported a pilot program initiative and phased efforts within a neighborhood plan.

Councilmember Cabello Havrda asked for additional information being gathered under the 3-1-1 Program. Peterek clarified that many calls into 3-1-1 could be easily identified as a TXDOT or non-City managed road issues which were forwarded to those entities to expedite addressing concerns. Councilmember Cabello Havrda supported the direct communication with TXDOT or Bexar County to address traffic issues and resolutions.

Councilmember Cabello Havrda spoke to "homemade" traffic control measures being taken by residents and stressed that this was being done due to resident frustration and taking matters into their own hands. Hosseini spoke to the importance of addressing timely traffic studies due to ever-changing roads and developments which was improved with the use of 3-1-1 notices. He also noted the importance of accurate and timely traffic studies due to the ever-changing land uses and developments and he supported smaller studies to address issues in a timely manner.

Councilmember Cabello Havrda stressed the need for addressing smaller traffic areas and the challenges of doing it in a timely manner. Peterek stated that staff would address smaller neighborhood traffic calming areas and the need to address them in a timely manner. He spoke to

the challenges and timeliness of a larger scale traffic analysis, but that staff could address the desire to have one and report back to the Committee.

Councilmember Kaur stated that it was important to address the backlog of issues and acknowledged the ability of staff to accept digital signature under petitions for requests for a traffic study. Councilmember Kaur stated that it was important to identify costs for a large-scale traffic study to gain data and costs for the total traffic issues using current technology.

Councilmember Alderete Gavito stated that Public Works was a great partner in addressing traffic concerns but it was important to address larger-scale issues and not on a micro level for addressing small projects at one time. She stated that it could be beneficial to look at larger areas that had several issue areas rather than one at a time.

Chair Courage asked why speed limits were set the way they were. Hosseini stated that speed limits were set at the State level. Chair Courage stated that a largely identified issue was that people were speeding in larger numbers and that enforcement was crucial in addressing traffic calming issues and that it was important to address the personal responsibility of drivers.

Councilmember McKee-Rodriguez stressed that it was not just about signs or markings on roads but also the design of roads which included the width of roads in residential areas. He spoke to the need for improved road design and spoke to challenges of road intersections such as the one at Eisenhower and Austin Highway.

Councilmember McKee-Rodriguez spoke to the challenges of funding identification for street and traffic improvements and the need for traffic studies which could be at a smaller level. He stressed that when the CCR was submitted the expectation was that staff recommended funding or pilot programs to address concerns outlined in CCRs.

Councilmember Cabello Havrda spoke about the psychology of driving to include the use of electronic signing and if staff considered other components to this psychology to address traffic calming. Peterek stated that staff continued to identify methods to address traffic challenges to including psychological components of road medians, signage, speed bumps, and road widths.

Chair Courage asked the Committee for clarification on the requests from staff. Councilmember McKee-Rodriguez stated that he requested staff to come back with recommendations for traffic analysis or code changes of 10 areas within the City by January 2025. He added that the recommendations should include a cost analysis to implement a pilot program or large-scale initiative.

Hosseini stated that staff would like to gain data on priority neighborhoods and/or areas that would be considered in discussion with consultants. Councilmember McKee-Rodriguez stated that he would like a list of priority areas by council district and the time for analysis.

Councilmember McKee-Rodriguez moved to Approve. Councilmember Cabello Havrda seconded the motion. The motion carried by the following vote:

Aye: Courage, McKee-Rodriguez, Cabello Havrda, Alderete Gavito
Absent: Kaur

4. Briefing and possible action on the Peer-to-Peer Agreement for Vehicle Sharing Service Operators at the San Antonio International Airport [Jeff Coyle, Assistant City Manager; Jesus Saenz, Director, Aviation]

Ryan Rocha, Assistant Director at the San Antonio International Airport (SAT), provided an overview of the Peer-to-Peer Agreement for Vehicle Sharing Service Operators at the San Antonio International Airport. He noted that over eight Texas airports had approved Peer-to-Peer (P2P) Program agreements.

Rocha reviewed the P2P Program which was very similar to an Airbnb which sharing services provided an alternative to rideshare operators and more traditional ground transportation service operators by allowing customers to rent a personal vehicle for a short time. He noted that these vehicle exchanges already occurred at the SAT garage and parking lots.

Rocha stated that staff recommended an agreement with Turo which was the largest vehicle-sharing company which would have a one-year term with two additional one-year extensions. He spoke to the recommended privilege fee to the operator of 10% of gross receipts and that the vehicle driver would pay for posted parking fees.

Rocha noted that the term agreements would require monthly data reporting and payment, parking exchange areas would include garages and lots, which were subject to change at any time for any reason. He stated that vehicles were subject to inspection, and recreational vehicles, trailers, cargo haulers were not permitted in the Program. He added that penalties were set for violations to the agreement.

DISCUSSION

Chair Courage asked why it had taken two years to develop the Program. Rocha stated that it had proven to work with P2P operators and that it had been a challenge nationally.

Chair Courage asked how many P2P companies existed. Rocha stated that there were currently five companies but not all operated in Texas. Chair Courage asked if there was a way that agreements could be limited due to challenges encountered with scooters. Rocha stated that staff would be limited to the number the City Council requested.

Chair Courage asked if there would be restrictions on drivers. Rocha clarified that restrictions would only be held to vehicles and that included liabilities for drivers. He added that the driver's vehicle insurance would be liable for any driving issues.

Chair Courage asked if there were any challenges identified by other airports with P2P. Rocha stated that there were no large-scale issues under an open program but there were some under a limited closed system where limited spaces were used. He stated that the SAT was proposing an open system where there would be more flexibility and options for users.

Chair Courage asked for clarification on parking fees for vehicles in the Program. Rocha stated that parking fees would be covered by the driver.

Councilmember Cabello Havrda asked how many drivers/vehicles were in a program. Rocha stated that P2P would have to provide numbers of vehicles, but that staff had a number of parked vehicles. Turo Representative Aaron Barraza stated that currently no data was covered since there was no agreement in place but that he could provide data on similar airports within Texas and that he would share the information with the SAT. Assistant City Manager Coyle stated that the Program did have vehicles in place but that the formal agreement would benefit the City on metrics and provide revenue to the Airport Fund. Councilmember Cabello Havrda requested some data for current usage. Barraza stated that they would provide.

Councilmember Alderete Gavito asked what collected fee funds would be used for. Rocha stated that revenue would be used to support Airport operating expenses.

Councilmember Kaur asked what the analysis was on impact to car rental companies and if it caused higher rental rates. Rocha stated that no data was currently gathered. Councilmember Kaur requested an impact data analysis.

Councilmember McKee-Rodriguez asked what the projected income was. Rocha clarified that the City of El Paso Airport reported approximately \$100,000 per month in gross revenue but that airport was considered small in scale compared to SAT. He estimated that the SAT would raise more than El Paso but he did not have the data to confirm.

Councilmember McKee-Rodriguez asked if there were any impacts to other services such as taxi and rental car fees based on P2P agreements. Rocha stated that car rentals had experienced lower revenues within the past two years, but he could not attribute that to P2P.

Councilmember McKee-Rodriguez stated that it was important to analyze the total experience of San Antonio starting at the airport and he asked consideration for agreement terms on the broader experience of the Airport and the City. He asked for clarification on how P2P transactions worked. Peterek clarified that many if not most of the P2P transactions were not face-to-face and were performed electronically with remote access to vehicles. He also stated that P2P vehicles were more diverse with a wider spectrum of availability to include motorcycles and exotic vehicles.

Councilmember McKee-Rodriguez asked how compliance would be monitored and how P2Ps would be held compliant. Rocha stated that airport personnel would know that transactions were occurring, and that data would be collected from the P2P to make sure exchanges were monitored based on collected data.

Chair Courage asked how these types of businesses would be accountable to the City. Rocha stated that in terms of taxes Turo would submit to the SAT all transactions completed at the airport and would address issues. Rocha stated that an agreement would be generated for every company that would use this type of platform.

Chair Courage asked if there was a consideration of the impact to smaller car rental businesses that had left due to the agreements with P2P. He requested review of any businesses impacted at other areas.

Councilmember Cabello Havrda moved to Approve. Councilmember Kaur seconded the motion. The motion carried by the following vote:

Aye: Courage, Kaur, McKee-Rodriguez, Cabello Havrda, Alderete Gavito

Adjournment

There being no further discussion, the meeting was adjourned at 3:18 p.m.

Approved

John Courage, Chair

Debbie Racca-Sittre, City Clerk