



City of San Antonio

Agenda Memorandum

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Agenda Date: May 13, 2024

In Control: Planning Commission Technical Advisory Committee

DEPARTMENT: Transportation Department

DEPARTMENT HEAD: Catherine Hernandez

COUNCIL DISTRICTS IMPACTED: Citywide

SUBJECT:

Briefing and Action on the update to the 2011 Complete Streets Policy

SUMMARY:

This item is a briefing and action on the update to the 2011 Complete Streets Policy.

BACKGROUND INFORMATION:

The City of San Antonio created a Complete Streets policy in 2011. At the time of its adoption, the policy met national standards, promoting healthy active living, safety, and access to all types of users and all modes of travel. Since 2011, national standards have improved, and our 2011 policy no longer meets national standards and peer city standards. We did a peer city review and looked at national organizations including Smart Growth America and CityHealth to see how we can improve our 2011 policy. We found six (6) reoccurring elements that highlight what we needed for our Complete Streets Policy Update: Guiding Principles, Expectations/Performance Measures, Coordination with Stakeholders, Design Typologies, Project Selection Criteria, and

Implementation. Now, based on our best practice research we are updating the Complete Streets policy.

A stakeholder group was formed that included representatives from both private and public organizations such as AARP, AAMPO, TxDOT, VIA, ActivateSA, DEIA, Development Services, and Public Works. The stakeholder group provided input to create a framework and guiding document that includes implementation goals and performance measures. An example of the implementation goals includes the call for a review and update of all City policy and practice such as the Unified Development Code and Design Guidance Manual. The update of the Complete Streets policy will improve the overarching implementation of the approach within City departments and private development.

The implementation of the policy update will begin within a year of its approval at Council. The implementation process, also known as Phase 2, will include the above examples of implementation goals. As well as:

- Review and update of policy, code, and practice throughout the City, including but not limited to, Unified Development Code, Design Guidance Manual, and Complete Streets Checklist.
- Review and revise street design standards currently used in the planning, designing, and implementation phases of transportation projects.
- Draft a Complete Streets Design Guide Manual based on current best practice standards.
- Develop a project prioritization tool.
- Create a plan to ensure robust, meaningful, and inclusive community engagement.
- Introduce speed-management strategies and “quick-build” temporary infrastructure as pilot projects.
- Introduce public education campaigns.
- Provide education on policy and practice to City staff.

Although this first step is only the adoption of the amended policy, it is important to brief the Planning Commission and the Planning Commission Technical Advisory Committee in preparation for Phase 2 that includes potential UDC updates.

ISSUE:

Our 2011 Complete Streets Policy no longer meets national best practice and can be improved to provide guidance on City policy, code, and practice. Updating the policy, also known as Phase 1, sets implementation goals and addresses how the City will improve safety and accessibility for all users and all modes of travel on City roadways. Implementing the policy, also known as Phase 2, will require collaboration on the review and update of City code such as the UDC.

Phase 2 includes a review of the UDC for potential revisions, therefore, the Transportation Department is briefing PCTAC and PC during Phase 1 in preparation for the Phase 2 process.

ALTERNATIVES:

The Planning Commission Technical Advisory Committee could choose not to recommend support of the Complete Streets Policy in favor of keeping the adopted policy unchanged. The policy from 2011 would remain in effect however, the policy is over 10 years old and is in need of being updated to address national best practice.

RECOMMENDATION:

Staff recommends moving forward with the proposed policy document for briefing and action to Planning Commission in June and Council Consideration in August.