



City of San Antonio

Agenda Memorandum

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Agenda Item Number: {{item.number}}

Agenda Date: June 12, 2024

In Control: Planning Commission Meeting

DEPARTMENT: Transportation Department

DEPARTMENT HEAD: Catherine Hernandez

COUNCIL DISTRICTS IMPACTED: Citywide

SUBJECT:

Briefing and Action to approve the 2024 Complete Streets Policy.

SUMMARY:

This item is a briefing and action to approve the 2024 Complete Streets Policy.

BACKGROUND INFORMATION:

The City of San Antonio adopted by Ordinance a Complete Streets policy in 2011 as a component of the City's Master Plan. 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. Additionally, the policy was awarded a Gold Medal by CityHealth for the policy recognizing its efforts to improve health and quality of life. 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 over 30 representatives from both private and public organizations such as AARP, AAMPO, TxDOT, VIA, ActivateSA, DEIA, Development Services, and Public Works. The stakeholder group met three times and 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.

The Department conducted extensive public engagement to reach our residents. This included an SASpeakUp website that included a survey, the draft policy, and a section to provide comments. Additionally, there were 8 events held between October 2023 through June 2024 that included meetings with organizations, two Townhalls, a virtual public meeting, and pop up events. Over 500 comments in support were received of the update to the policy.

The department presented the policy update to the Disability Access Advisory Committee in April 2024, Planning Commission Technical Advisory Committee in May 2024, and provided a briefing to the Transportation and Infrastructure Council Committee in May.

Although this first step is only the adoption of the amended policy, we presented to 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 briefed the PCTAC during Phase 1 in preparation for the Phase 2 process.

ALTERNATIVES:

The Planning Commission 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:

On May 13, 2024, Planning Commission Technical Advisory Committee recommended approval of the proposed policy.

Staff recommends approval of the adoption of the 2024 Complete Streets Policy as a component of the City's Master Plan and moving forward with the proposed policy document for briefing and action to City Council in August.