

# City of San Antonio



## Meeting Minutes Street, Bridges & Sidewalks Advisory Board

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**Tuesday, February 13, 2024**

**6:00 PM**

**City Tower 100 W. Houston**

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Street, Bridges & Sidewalks Advisory Board

*A majority of appointive members, other than ex officio, shall constitute a quorum.*

John Bailey, Chair

Arturo Veliz, District 1	David Zachary Magallanez, District 6
Jamie Coleman, District 2	Matthew Baiza, District 7
Suzanne Baker, District 3	Michael P. Kennick, District 8
Eduardo Reyes, District 4	Arthur Downey, District 9
Mark Camann, District 5	Jonathan Melendez, District 10

### **6:04 P.M. - Call to Order, City Tower Concourse B-Room**

Advisory Board Chair John Bailey called the meeting to order:

- Attendance of Advisory Board Members: 10 members attended
- Non-Attendance of Advisory Board Members: 1
- Head count of general attendance: 18
- Razi Hosseini, P.E., R.P.L.S., Director/City Engineer; Luis Maltos, P.E., Assistant Director; Anthony Chukwudolue, P.E., Deputy Director, Roberto Reyna, P.E., Assistant Director; Christie Chapman, Assistant Director, Nick Olivier, were present.

### **I. Opening Comments and Meeting Procedures by Advisory Board Chair**

The meeting was called to order, and opening comments were made by Chair John Bailey, which included each Advisory Board member and City staff introducing themselves. Chair John Bailey introduced Razi Hosseini to begin his presentation. Which consisted of an overview of the board members' roles and responsibilities and the status of FY 2024 Adopted Budget Capital Programs including the City's 2017 and 2022 Bond Programs. It was noted that 97% of 2017 Bond Program projects are complete or under construction. Razi Hosseini also highlighted significant steps Public Works has taken to complete the delivery of the 2017 Bond and ensure the timely implementation of the 2022 Bond Program. He provided an overview of the mass selection of consultant firms, the use of on-call contracting, and shovel-ready projects that have begun or will begin construction.

## II. 2017 & 2022 Bond Overview, Program Delivery and Current Status

City Engineer and Director of Public Works Department Razi Hosseini presented a general overview of the 2017 Bond Program projects and implementation strategy for the 2022 Bond Program. After and during Mr. Hosseini's presentation, Advisory Board members were able to ask questions.

## III. Advisory Board Discussion

Arthur Downey (District 9) asked why the City changed the board meeting from Citizen Bond Oversight Committee (CBOC) to Street, Bridges & Sidewalks Advisory Board Meeting.

Mr. Hosseini explained that the City staff completed a review of the CBOC and other City Council committees, including the feedback received from former board and commission members. Based on the analysis completed, it was recommended that the City leverage existing boards to help facilitate bond program oversight. He further explained that there was an existing board for all bond propositions except streets, bridges, sidewalks, and stormwater drainage. Hence, two new advisory boards were created. This change was meant to provide appointed members with a more tailored focus and expertise needed to understand projects with which these boards are already familiar with.

Arthur Veliz (District 1) asked, "Does the City grade design consultants as well as on projects?"

Mr. Hosseini responded, Yes. He further explained that the City grades the design consultants, and the design consultants also grade the City. For example, how quickly we've paid invoices, responded to requests for information, and so forth.

Arthur Veliz (District 1) asked about A+B Bidding and the time component involved.

Mr. Hosseini responded that the City attempted this type of procurement years ago; however, it could have been more successful and worked better. Additionally, the City Attorney's Office was not in support of it.

Michael Kennick (District 8) asked about a joint bid with the utility agencies.

Mr. Hosseini responded that many utilities are bidding jointly on our City projects.

Jonathan Melendez (District 10) inquired about the City's station of the board and whether the members would receive a list of all the projects.

Mr. Hosseini stated that the staff will provide the members with a list of the projects.

Chair John Bailey inquired about the City's communication plan and requested more details on how the City would communicate with the public.

Mr. Hosseini responded that we notify the public in many notifications, including tri-fold mailers and e-blasts on all our projects. He recommended to the Chair that Public Works Communications and Engagement Public Relations & Marketing manager, Nick Olivier can present on the department's communication efforts.

Jessica Shirley-Saenz also responded that the Public Works project management staff and Communication & Engagement teams update the newly developed SASpeakUp page for each project. These project pages provide the most current information on the project, including community meetings and documents, closures (if applicable), schedule, and staff contact information.

Chair John Bailey inquired if there were any other questions from the board members and if not, turned them over to Jessica Shirley-Saenz for a presentation on the new dashboard.

Jessica Shirley-Saenz (Assistant to the Director) showed a video demonstration of the dashboard, which explained how to navigate council districts, maps, programs, projects, lists, etc. Mrs. Shirley-Saenz also highlighted that this dashboard was the first of its kind to include streets, sidewalks, service alleys and storm water drainage projects.

After the video demonstration, Ms. Shirley-Saenz offered to send each board member an access link to the dashboard and provided her assistance via Webex if needed. She then handed the meeting back to Chair John Bailey.

Chair John Bailey asked the Advisory Board if there were any additional questions related to the dashboard video.

Arturo Veliz (District 1) inquired if there will be a frequently asked questions & answer page.

Ms. Shirley-Saenz responded that each project has an access link for the public on the SASpeakUp page. She also mentioned that she will explore adding a question-and-answer section to the SASpeakUp pages.

Matthew Baiza (District 7) inquired about transparency and feedback. “How will it interact with Transportation for the next Bond committee?”

Mr. Hosseini responded that the City will bring forward a list of staff-recommended projects and seek input and feedback from the Advisory Board.

Matthew Baiza (District 7) also inquired what information the Advisory Board would receive between meetings.

Mr. Hosseini responded that all updates will be provided at the next quarterly meeting. Still, he encouraged Advisory Board members to submit presentation topics or questions they’d like to discuss or hear more about to be incorporated as future agenda items.

Chair John Bailey stated he could also coordinate with the Advisory Board members if there are specific topics of meeting items and would provide them to Jessica Shirley-Saenz.

Matthew Baiza (District 7) inquired, “What happens after a project is complete?” “Does the City have a process to talk to the community that could take it back to Council?”

Mr. Hosseini stated that the communications and project teams are working on improving the collection of feedback from the community after a project is complete. He also mentioned that it would be helpful for

advisory committee members to provide any recommendations or feedback they receive from their community members to staff on how best to capture this type of information.

David Zachary Magallanez (District 6) inquired about the use of Neighborhood Access and Mobility Program (NAMP) funds, which Mr. Hosseini provided an overview of in the presentation.

Mr. Hosseini responded that Deputy Director Anthony Chukwudolue meets with eight Council Districts twice a year. Mr. Hosseini further explained that Public Works prepares a cost estimate and submits it to the Council offices for their review and approval. If approved, a Council Concurrence Memo is initiated and signed by the Council member. Mr. Hosseini clarified that NAMP funds can be used for eligible projects that serve a public use and is within public right-of-way or on city property. He also stated that each Council Office is allocated a budget each fiscal year.

Arturo Veliz (District 1) inquired about the radar feedback. “How do we gather speed information?”

Mr. Hosseini responded that “speed is captured through the placement of a temporary radar speed feedback trailers. The trailers are placed upon request through coordination of City Council Office and SAPD. These trailers are used to make drivers aware of their speed by providing an instant displayed message.” He also mentioned that as part of the adopted FY 2024 Budget City Council approved \$700,000.00 for up to 100 Radar Feedback signs to be strategically located throughout the City in areas where they are experiencing high speed occurrences.

Mark Camann (District 5) expressed his enthusiasm about serving on the 2022 Bond [Streets and Drainage Committees](#). He remarked that he appreciated the public process but [was disappointed/regretted](#) that [even though the when the](#) committee recommended prioritizing street and drainage funding over public art, the committee’s recommendation [was not upheld as initially submitted](#) [became a matter of controversy](#). Mr. Camann also mentioned that he had written an article for Express-News and suggested [a separate bond committee for Public Art instead of being included as part of the](#) [that the public art portion of the bond proposals not be within the purview of the](#) infrastructure bond committees.

#### IV. Announcements

During the meeting, Chair John Bailey asked the Advisory Board if the proposed calendar dates were suitable or not.

Mark Camann, (District 5) stated the 2nd Tuesdays of the month conflict with another committee that he serves on.

Michael Kennick (District 8) proposed that the quarterly meetings be moved to the 3rd Tuesday of the month which was seconded by Jonathan Melendez (District 10).

Chair John Bailey informed the Advisory Board he would be out of the country for the June 11th quarterly meeting and requested to meet on June 25th instead.

The Committee members collectively agreed to meet quarterly on the 3<sup>rd</sup> Tuesday of the month with the only exception of June.

**V. Next Steps**

Chair John Bailey noted the next Street, Bridges & Sidewalks Advisory Board Meeting would be held in April and June 2024.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 7:08 p.m.

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