

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, December 17, 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. Executive Assistant SueAnn Reyes took the Roll Call noting a quorum with the following Committee Members present:

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

Members Absent: Jalen McKee-Rodriguez *Member*

Approval of Minutes

1. Approval of minutes from the October 15, 2024, Transportation and Infrastructure Committee meeting.

Councilmember Cabello Havrda moved to Approve the minutes of the October 15, 2024 Transportation and Infrastructure Committee meeting. Councilmember Alderete Gavito seconded the motion. The motion carried by the following vote:

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

Public Comment

Joey Pawlik, Executive Director ActivateSA; Emily Hutcheson, Beacon Hill Resident; Lily Terra, Community

Outreach Coordinator ,Earn-a-Bike; Brian Martin, Vice President, Bike San Antonio; Tina Beecham, Bike San Antonio; Janice Perez, Disability SA, all spoke in support of the Quick Builds for Safe Communities Program and the Bike Network Plan.

Briefing and Possible Action on

2. Briefing on the Safe Streets for All (SS4A) Grant Award for the Quick Builds for Safe Communities program. [John Peterek, Interim Assistant City Manager; Catherine Hernandez, Director, Transportation Department]

Catherine Hernandez, Director of Transportation provided a briefing on the Safe Streets for All (SS4A) Grant award for the Quick Builds for Safe Communities Program (Quick Builds). She noted that as part of the Bike Network Plan (BNP) scope of work, a competitive grant application was required to be submitted. She noted that the SS4A Grant was submitted and awarded in August 2024 to the City of San Antonio for a total amount of \$650,000.00 that would be used for the Quick Builds. According to Hernandez, Quick Builds used low-cost application methods and materials to detail their desired change.

Hernandez indicated that the projects were rapidly implementable with the ability to be applied to a roadway at a fraction of the time than traditional construction practices. She stated that they were used as a method of testing roadway improvements without having to cause major traffic disruptions and allowed behavior transportation changes, safety improvement and concerns within the Quick Builds limits to be observed. Hernandez mentioned that the observation would help determine the effectiveness of the Quick Builds and if it was permanent, modified, or removed.

Hernandez stated that the first goal was to develop a preliminary Quick Builds Guide to include guidance on identifying Quick Builds demonstration locations, Quick Builds materials, methods of demonstrated Quick Builds and establishing a performance evaluation methodology. She noted that the second goal was to complete the demonstration phase which would include installing five Quick Builds Pilot Projects incrementally over a three-month period and monitored over a period of six months to two years.

Hernandez stated that the Transportation Department would partner with the local research institution to collect safety data and observe the transportation behavior of all modes of transportation along with public input and written feedback. She reported that during the evaluation phase, data would be evaluated and used to make refinements to the Quick Builds Guide and determine if any permanent solutions would be required at the pilot project locations. Hernandez stated that the finalized guide would include replicable designs, performance data, crash modification factors, cost estimates for the implementation, and implementation time frames.

Hernandez noted that the next steps were to complete and finalize the grant agreement with the Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) by mid-January of 2025. She stated that once completed, the procurement process would begin. She added that the consultant would assist the Transportation Department with all phases of the Quick Build for Safe Communities Program. She added that the grant was required by the FHWA to be completed in five years.

DISCUSSION

Chair Courage expressed concern regarding the number of years it would take to complete the Program and the level of safety it would provide. He asked if the demonstration route would be safe enough to encourage more people to ride in them. Hernandez stated that this would be the first time they would be able to explore what the Program looked like and test the infrastructure but that did not mean that they would be moving forward with projects in the queue or those that were planned. Interim Assistant City Manager John Peterek stated that staff was

willing to challenge the timing.

Councilmember Alderete Gavito asked where the Pilot Projects would be implemented. Hernandez stated that the locations would be identified in Year One of the identification phase. Councilmember Alderete Gavito encouraged a push for activation of the grant.

Councilmember Kaur asked if there was an opportunity to work with the traffic engineers on the pilot projects and if the BNP would be utilized. Hernandez stated that the BNP and the Vision Zero Action Plan would be utilized. Councilmember Kaur requested training for City Council staff on the Quick Builds Guide.

Councilmember Cabello Havrda asked if staff would look at how this approach would apply to local businesses. Hernandez stated that staff would ensure that local businesses would be included in the public input process. Councilmember Cabello Havrda asked if there was a way to quantify the benefits with the data.

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

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

3. Briefing on the Bike Network Plan (BNP). [John Peterek, Interim Assistant City Manager; Catherine Hernandez, Director, Transportation Department]

Hernandez provided a briefing on efforts to update the Bike Network Plan (BNP) which would be brought before the full City Council for consideration in January 2025. She stated that during the last briefing to the Committee in April of this year, staff provided an update on the first two phases of public engagement, which provided the feedback needed to establish existing conditions, goals and visions of the Plan with over 2,800 survey responses received. Hernandez indicated that at the April meeting, staff received feedback from the Committee about the timeline, and as a result, staff worked with the consultant to move up the completion of the Plan to January 2025. She reviewed the phases of engagement and noted that feedback was gathered on both online and in-person surveys with over 3,600 survey responses received through 348 engagement events.

Hernandez reported that there were four stakeholder committees to help guide the process and receive input from the many different organizations and groups, each with a different outlook on what the Plan should look like for the City. She noted that the stakeholder committees included the Internal Advisory Committee, the Technical Advisory Committee, the Mobility Working Group, and the Health Impact Assessment Committee. Hernandez indicated that the five stakeholder round tables that feedback was received on included the development community, disability advocacy organizations, partner cities, school districts, and partner institutions.

Hernandez stated that in the existing conditions assessment, staff documented the current state of the bike facilities and where they were located. She indicated that there were different types of facilities that had been constructed, including traditional bike lanes to shared use paths. Hernandez noted that all of the designs were important parts of the bike network, but they needed to be applied with sensitivity to roadway context, including motor vehicle speeds and volumes, roadway classification, whether local, collector or arterial, and surrounding land uses. She stated that the proposed land included the options for different designs of bike facilities to provide guidance depending on that type of roadway.

Hernandez reported that the Plan included considerations for bike facilities, guidance to get through intersections, guidance for special circumstances, and guidance in other areas. She noted that all of these designs were important parts of the bike network, but they needed to be applied with sensitivity to roadway context, including motor vehicle speeds and volumes, roadway classification, whether local, collector or arterial, and surrounding land uses.

Hernandez reported that the Plan provided a recommended network that included a primary network of recommended miles, feasibility on the network, policy recommendations, needed guidance to get positive outcomes, and the assessment of funding opportunities.

Hernandez stated that as part of the adoption process, since the BNP was a component of the City's Master Plan, staff presented to the Planning Commission last week and they recommended approval.

DISCUSSION

Councilmember Alderete Gavito expressed her appreciation for staff's partnership for the Woodlawn Lake Bike Plan.

Councilmember Cabello Havrda asked when the public engagement began. Hernandez stated that the first phase of engagement began in January of 2023. Councilmember Cabello Havrda asked how success would be measured. Hernandez that there were performance metrics and targets in the Plan.

Councilmember Kaur asked of the difference between the neighborhood network and the primary network. Harley Hubbard, Assistant to the Director, Transportation Department stated that the neighborhood network was used for individuals to move around in the neighborhoods and the primary network was used for individuals to get to key destinations in the City. Councilmember Kaur requested the council district profiles for all council districts.

Councilmember Kaur asked of the funding for the Plan. Hubbard stated that \$3.5 million was allocated for the Plan in the FY 2025 Adopted Budget.

Councilmember Cabello Havrda moved to recommend and forward the BNP to the full City Council for consideration. Councilmember Alderete Gavito seconded the motion. The motion carried by the following vote:

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

Adjournment

There being no further discussion, the meeting was adjourned at 2:33 p.m.

Approved

John Courage, Chair

*Debbie Racca-Sittre
City Clerk*