

City of San Antonio



Minutes Transportation and Mobility Committee

2021 – 2023 Council Members

Melissa Cabello Havrda, Dist. 6, Chair
Jalen McKee-Rodriguez, Dist. 2 | Teri Castillo, Dist. 5
Ana Sandoval, Dist. 7 | John Courage, Dist. 9

Tuesday, June 20, 2023

1:30 PM

City Hall Complex

The Transportation and Mobility Committee convened a regular meeting in the City Hall Council Briefing Room beginning at 1:32 PM. City Clerk Debbie Racca-Sittre took the Roll Call noting a quorum with the following Committee Members present:

Members Present: Melissa Cabello Havrda, *Chair*
Jalen McKee-Rodriguez, *Member*
Teri Castillo, *Member*
John Courage *Member*

Members Absent: None

Approval of Minutes

1. Approval of minutes from the May 16, 2023 Transportation and Mobility Committee meeting.

Councilmember Castillo moved to Approve the minutes of the May 16, 2023 Transportation and Mobility Committee meeting. Councilmember Courage seconded the motion. The motion carried by the following vote:

Aye: Cabello Havrda, Castillo, Courage

Absent: McKee-Rodriguez

Councilmember McKee-Rodriguez entered after the minute vote was taken.

Public Comment

There were no members of the public signed up to speak.

Briefing and Possible Action on

2. **Briefing on the two Interlocal Agreements between the City of San Antonio and VIA Metropolitan Transit establishing a cooperative partnership to deliver the North/South (N/S) Advanced Rapid Transit (ART) Corridor Project and transferring a portion of Advanced Transportation District (ATD) funds from the City to VIA for advanced transportation and enhanced mobility purposes.** [Roderick Sanchez, Assistant City Manager; Catherine Hernandez, Interim Director, Transportation Department]

Assistant City Manager Rod Sanchez introduced the Item and John Gary Herrera, Senior Vice President for Public Engagement at VIA Metropolitan Transit who provided an overview of the Item. Kammy Horne, Senior Vice President for Development at VIA Metropolitan Transit explained that the purpose of the Interlocal Agreement (ILA) was to establish a cooperative partnership between VIA and the City to deliver the North/South Advanced Rapid Transit Corridor (N/S ARTC). Horne provided a map and description of the N/S ARTC Project including number of vehicles, traffic lanes, and frequency of bus route services.

Horne outlined roles and responsibilities of VIA and the City and advised that future agreements would be forthcoming that would build on the ILA and support future grant applications. Horne provided a timeline of the ILA which was expected to be executed this month.

Herrera outlined the history of the Advanced Transportation District (ATD) Ballot initiative which 68% of voters approved at the November 3, 2020 election which would provide all San Antonio ATD Funding to be allocated to VIA through ILAs. Herrera reported that the Advanced Rapid Transit was a part of the ATD funding with all ATD funding for projects and services allowable under Chapter 451 of the Texas Transportation Code.

Chair Cabello Havrda commented that this was the first step in the N/S corridor and the first real attempt at advanced rapid transit with the second phase being the East/West (EW) corridor.

Councilmember Castillo was interested in learning how the N/S ARTC would provide equity for residents in Southside neighborhoods but noted that the draft term sheet for the ARTs included housing, so she had hoped that public transportation would be made available to residents living along the lines. Councilmember Castillo asked whether this particular ILA would include the E/W line. Herrera stated that the specific ILA was focused on the N/S but the E/W line would be brought back later. Councilmember Castillo recommended reviewing best practices of Transit Oriented Development while protecting existing residents at risk of displacement and encouraging the continuation of affordable housing and access to timely routes. Councilmember Castillo asked about public meetings related to development of the Scobey Building.

Councilmember Courage commented that VIA was surveying residents within a half mile distance on either side of the corridors and noted that residents were concerned with proposals that more apartments would be built in that zone. Herrera stated that a half mile was the minimum, but it had been expanded to include entire neighborhoods. Horne stated that VIA would need to discuss land use with the City as zoning was under the purview of the City.

Councilmember Courage asked how much money was originally projected from the sales tax. Herrera stated that originally the estimate was \$40 million, now it was projected to be \$46 million. Councilmember Courage asked if any of the small municipalities received ATD funding.

Herrera stated that the ATD only existed within the City limits of the City of San Antonio.

Councilmember Cabello Havrda asked how Bexar County was involved with ATD. Herrera stated that Bexar County used their ATD for building of roads in the county and matching TXDOT funding.

Councilmember McKee-Rodriguez was hopeful to use the success of the N/S corridor as a model for the E/W corridor and asked what barriers to ridership were anticipated by VIA. Horne stated that timing was good and it had been easy to work with City staff, with the plan to increase frequency through rapid transit which allowed VIA to be flexible and nimble. Horne stated that the Federal Government had also been positive about the N/S ARTC. Herrera stated that the plan was to grow ridership following best practices.

Councilmember McKee-Rodriguez noted the increased frequency of stops with 26 new station areas on the N/S and asked whether the stops would have shelter. Horne stated that all the stops would include shelter/shade structures which made the use of the buses more desirable. Councilmember McKee-Rodriguez requested an update on the Next Gen Shelter Expansion Project.

Chair Cabello Havrda supported more sheltered stops including innovative designs moving forward.

3. Briefing on the Transportation Demand Management (TDM) Plan and the internal employee survey strategy. [Roderick Sanchez, Assistant City Manager; Catherine Hernandez, Interim Director, Transportation Department]

Interim Director of The Transportation Department, Catherine Hernandez, provided an update on the TDM Plan including background, scope, timeline and next steps. Hernandez stated that the project began in 2016 which included a vanpool which was discontinued because of the COVID-19 Pandemic but now was focused on reducing roadway congestion, improving the climate and creation of commuting options. She noted that Consultants were expected to assess needs, document opportunities and develop a plan by early 2024. Hernandez introduced Assistant to the Director Harley Hubbard, who would be project lead for the TDM.

Chair Cabello Havrda commented that many work locations and methods changed as a result of the pandemic.

Councilmember McKee-Rodriguez commented that the project began under former Councilmember Rey Saldana and former Councilmember Ana Sandoval's leadership. Councilmember McKee-Rodriguez recommended including community centers on the East, West, and South Sides to gather more surveys including the Claude Black Center and Parks Headquarters. Councilmember McKee-Rodriguez recommended improved access to the City Tower Gym and other benefit locations, not just work.

Chair Cabello Havrda asked if there was a study of how to get to destinations using other modes. Councilmember Castillo noted that she took a pedi-cab downtown which was faster than any other mode. Hubbard noted that multi-modal transportation was also part of the survey.

Councilmember Castillo recommended increasing e-bike transportation options for City employees to get to their downtown meetings. Chair Cabello Havrda commented that we needed to get more creative transportation options as the population grew and changed.

4. Briefing on the Vision Zero program and status update on projects currently in design and under construction. [Roderick Sanchez, Assistant City Manager; Catherine Hernandez, Interim Director, Transportation Department]

Interim Director of the Transportation Department Catherine Hernandez reported that the Vision Zero Program was adopted in 2016 and originally focused on education and outreach, but in 2022 and 2023 grant funding was received for design and construction of mid-block crossings with rapid flashing beacons. Hernandez provided project updates on four locations already under construction with 14 additional projects in design and eight more locations along Zarzamora Street in predesign.

Chair Cabello Havrda stressed the importance of mid-block crossings as they helped save lives.

Councilmember McKee-Rodriguez commented that there were projects in almost every council district and noted that one of the Council District 2 projects was in front of a charter school which did not have their own transportation, and suggested seeking funding from the State as they were encouraging more charter school enrollment.

Councilmember Castillo agreed that many of those charter schools were in dangerous areas for pedestrians and the mid-block crossings were needed to help keep students safe.

Adjournment

There being no further discussion, the meeting was adjourned at 2:20 p.m.

Approved

Melissa Cabello Havrda, Chair

Debbie Racca-Sittre, City Clerk