

**INTERGOVERNMENTAL RELATIONS
COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES
WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 10, 2021 at 10:00 AM
MUNICIPAL PLAZA BUILDING, B ROOM**

Members Present:	Councilmember Manny Pelaez, <i>Co-Chair, District 8</i> Councilmember Jalen McKee-Rodriguez, <i>District 2</i> Councilmember Adriana Rocha Garcia, <i>District 4</i> Councilmember Clayton Perry, <i>District 10 ((Teleconference))</i> Commissioner Justin Rodriguez, <i>Co-Chair, Bexar County Commissioner's Court, Precinct 2</i>
Members Absent:	Commissioner Trish DeBerry, <i>Bexar County Commissioner's Court, Precinct 3</i>

Call to Order

Co-Chairman Pelaez called the meeting to order at 10:06 AM.

Citizens to be Heard

Joshua Triana spoke about his start-up mobility which was able to provide alternative mobility options and asked the Committee to consider businesses like his when considering funding options.

1. Approval of the minutes from the Intergovernmental Relations Committee Meeting of October 13, 2021.

Councilmember Rocha Garcia moved to approve the minutes from the October 13, 2021 meeting of the Intergovernmental Relations Council Committee. Co-Chair Rodriguez seconded the motion. The motion prevailed unanimously by those present.

Briefing and Possible Action on

2. Federal Infrastructure Legislation Update

Assistant City Manager Jeff Coyle introduced both Items 2 and 3.

Sally Basurto provided a Federal Legislative update that included an overview of the Federal Infrastructure update and of the October 2021 Washington DC visit. Basurto noted that the Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act was passed by both the House and Senate for a \$1.2 billion package and reauthorized the Surface Transportation Legislation for five years (FY22 – FY26). She reviewed the investment categories which included transportation, water, broadband, energy and power, resiliency, environmental remediation and water storage and recycling. Basurto reviewed key funding and provisions for Cities and States and possible funding sources which included funding from the RAISE Grant, INFRA Grant, Bridge Investment Grants, National Infrastructure Project Assistance Grants and others.

Basurto reviewed the next steps for the Act implementation and provided an overview of the Build Back Better Act (BBB) which proposed \$1.75 trillion for a reconciliation framework.

Discussion:

Councilmember Perry noted his concern on the funding provided for these efforts and impacts to the City with rising inflation. Councilmember Perry requested clarification on the available funding for programs. Basurto provided clarification on what funding could be used and Assistant City Manager Coyle also provided further clarification on available projects. Councilmember Perry stated that it was important to identify possible projects ready for funding. Councilmember Perry requested clarification on how funding would be delivered. Basurto stated that an analysis was being conducted on how funding would flow but expected that much of the funding would flow through the State.

Councilmember Perry asked if a notification of grant awards had been made. Transportation Director Tamika Monterville stated that grant award notifications were still pending but expected announcements in early 2022 and expressed her excitement on how the funding would be used to fill project fund gaps. Monterville also provided clarification of challenges on how funding could be used to implement projects and the importance of community communications for project identification. Councilmember Perry reiterated that it was important to identify projects for funding for quick implementation and requested a larger conversation to discuss project identification.

Co-Chair Rodriguez asked about the resiliency category and if it had been defined by the Administration. Basurto clarified that language had been defined. Co-Chair Rodriguez asked if a formula for distribution had been identified. Basurto stated that it had not been specifically identified but expected that certain categories would be prioritized and further formula identification was expected. Co-Chair Rodriguez asked if in-land ports would be eligible for funding. Basurto stated that they would be eligible for funding.

Co-Chair Rodriguez asked that the Von Army Water Project be considered. Bexar County representative Melissa Shannon stated that she would note make a note of that.

Councilmember Rocha Garcia asked if partner organizations had been coordinated with for possible funding. Coyle stated that partner conversations would be conducted. Councilmember Rocha Garcia stated that it was important to identify shovel ready projects and recommended that apprenticeships program development should be considered for project implementations.

Councilmember Rocha Garcia stated that the Office of Innovation should be engaged in the area of broadband implementation due to their already conducted reports and gathered data.

Councilmember McKee-Rodriguez stated that BBB was important and asked what could be done to support the Bill's passing. Basurto stated that much work had been done in building advocacy and coordination to the delegation for passing of the Bill.

Chair Pelaez thanked the staff for their presentation and work completed to pass the Infrastructure Bill.

3. October Washington D.C. and RAISE Grant Advocacy

Basurto thanked the Committee for their advocacy of the Washington D.C. visit and stated that the visit concentrated on the \$25 million Grant Request and Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act (IIJA). She stated that Mayor Nirenberg and Chair Pelaez were well met by legislators. Basurto reviewed the letters of support for the IIJA and noted that staff was able to meet with National League of Cities representatives to discuss the completion of the San Antonio Greenway Trails System.

Tamika Monterville introduced a video highlighting the RAISE Grant Proposal and identified City Staffer Margarita Hernandez and her work on the grant application. Monterville presented a video highlighting the Howard W. Peak Greenway Trails System. Assistant City Manager Coyle recognized Lalo Gonzales of the Governmental and Public Relations Department who did the videography for the video.

Basurto reviewed the next steps for the RAISE Grant and stated that the Department of Transportation expected to announce awards on November 22, 2021.

Councilmember Perry asked if a letter from the City to the House related to CARES Act funding could be sent. Coyle stated that staff was supportive of providing a letter which would be sent out by the end of the week.

Chair Pelaez stated that staff had done a great job of building the BBB support and he recognized Monterville for her efforts. Chair Pelaez stated that it was important to communicate to the Council Districts that were the most impacted by the Grant and asked when communications had occurred. Monterville stated that at least five presentations had been conducted at the Council Committee level and full City Council level. Monterville noted that it was important to communicate the competitiveness of the grant and its priorities. Chair Pelaez requested that when staff applied for similar grants as these that individual Councilmembers be contacted and conversations occur to provide information on projects and efforts.

Basurto stated that the Federal Team was joining the meeting via teleconference. Kevin Kelly with Clark Hill stated that the City, County and Federal representatives worked well together and stressed the importance of continued coordinated efforts to meeting city and county priorities. Ron Eritano of the Normandy Group also spoke in support of efforts and continued coordination.

POINT OF PERSONAL PRIVILEGE

Pelaez stated that the Greater Chamber of Commerce would be joining in the January/February SA to DC visits. Coyle stated that meetings would be in person and that if Councilmembers were not able to attend to please send staff to insure representation.

Adjournment

There being no further discussion, the meeting was adjourned at 11:23 AM.

***Councilmember Manny Pelaez,
Co-Chair***

***County Commissioner Justin Rodriguez,
Co-Chair***

Respectfully Submitted,

***Debbie Racca-Sittre
Interim City Clerk***