

**INTERGOVERNMENTAL RELATIONS
COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES
WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 12, 2022 at 10:00 AM
CITY COUNCIL CHAMBERS**

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</i> Commissioner Justin Rodriguez, <i>Co-Chair, Bexar County Commissioner's Court, Precinct 2</i> Commissioner Marialyn Barnard, <i>Bexar County Commissioner's Court, Precinct 3</i>
Members Absent:	

Call to Order

Co-Chairman Pelaez called the meeting to order at 10:07 AM.

1. Approval of the minutes from the Intergovernmental Relations Committee Meeting of November 10, 2021.

Councilmember Rocha Garcia moved to approve the minutes from the October 13, 2021 meeting of the Intergovernmental Relations Committee. Councilmember Perry seconded the motion. The motion prevailed unanimously by those present. Councilmember McKee-Rodriguez was absent for the vote and joined the meeting at 10:46 AM.

Briefing and Possible Action on

2. Bipartisan Infrastructure Law Update and City of San Antonio Strategy

Assistant City Manager Jeff Coyle introduced the Item and introduced Sally Basurto, Assistant Director for the Department of Government and Public Affairs who provided a Federal Legislative update that included an overview of the Federal Infrastructure update and of the October 2021 Washington DC visit. Basurto introduced Lauren Lipkin with The Normandy Group who joined the meeting virtually and provided an overview of the Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act (IIJA) Legislation for five years (FY22 – FY26) including a funding breakdown of \$550 billion in new funding. Lipkin reported that IIJA Transportation Funding comprised half of the funding and detailed the Executive Order establishing implementation priorities signed by President Biden on November 15, 2021 as well as the members of the Infrastructure Implementation Task Force.

Lipkin provided an overview of the funding and programs for Roads and Bridges, Public Transit (\$3.4 billion in formula funds for Texas over the five-year period), new discretionary and formula programs for Energy, Power, and Grid, programs for Resiliency targeting infrastructure and the environment, discretionary grant programs focused on Safety, Water (\$2.9 billion in formula funds for Texas over the 5-year period for water infrastructure), Broadband and

Cybersecurity discretionary and formula programs (Texas was expected to receive formula funding in the amounts of \$42 million to protect against cyberattacks and \$100 million to help provide broadband coverage over the 5-year period), new Pollution discretionary grants, Ports and Waterways discretionary grants.

Ron Eritano from The Normandy Group was present in-person and provided an update on Federal Airport funding programs and grants available including a high-level overview of the process to apply for funding and specific grant applicability to the San Antonio International Airport.

Lipkin provided information on Reconnecting Communities Pilot Program Planning and Construction Grants, as well as programs targeting Electric Vehicle Charging which Texas was expected to receive more than \$405 million over the next 5-years.

Basurto reviewed the City's Implementation Strategy to secure Federal Funding which included Internal and External Coordination, Strategic Outreach to the State and Federal Governments, Project Identification, Federal and State Outreach and Advocacy and ongoing communication with the Intergovernmental Relations Committee.

Discussion:

Co-Chair Rodriguez asked for clarification from Lauren Lipkin on Water Projects related to Rural and Low-Income Grant highlighted as a new program, noting that there were water and sewer issues in the unincorporated areas of Bexar County. Lipkin responded that the programs would target households directly to help them pay bills.

Councilmember McKee-Rodriguez asked about the process for City Councilmembers to set priorities and how equity might be a part of the strategy. Basurto noted that there would be extensive coordination with City Departments which was confirmed by Coyle. Coyle added that the Departments were provided direction to align with existing initiatives, but not new projects and those existing projects had been developed with an equity lens. Councilmember McKee-Rodriguez emphasized the need for failing or "F" streets to be addressed.

Councilmember Rocha Garcia requested the longer presentation detailing all programs and added that there were streets in Council District 4 in dire need of repair and replacement and that Public Works should apply for the Healthy Streets Grant Program. Coyle replied that the existing process for funding transportation projects would be utilized to distribute the new funding.

Councilmember Rocha Garcia asked if micro-grants were included in the program. Lipkin responded that she would research the opportunity. Councilmember Rocha Garcia wanted to ensure that the information would be presented to the rest of the City Council. Coyle stated that it would be provided in the form of a memo. Councilmember Rocha Garcia commented that funding was available for Kelly Field and asked for an update from General Juan Ayala, Director of Military Affairs.

Councilmember Perry recommended that San Antonio line up its priorities and infrastructure requirements alongside the Federal Grant Program Opportunities to take care of our

community's infrastructure needs such as drainage and "F" Streets. Councilmember Perry also suggested coordination with Bexar County priorities and designing the projects up-front to be ready for funding as it became available.

Commissioner Barnard noted that she was new to the Committee and asked for an individual briefing to be brought up to speed on the program. Commissioner Barnard asked about the timing of the funding and if there was funding available for the Military. Basurto stated that staff would schedule a briefing with the Commissioner and explained that the funding was for a five-year period. General Ayala described the process of seeking funding for Military projects and mentioned that Roundtable had been set up to discuss infrastructure needs of the Military.

Co-Chair Pelaez noted that there was great opportunity and asked how staff identified the best opportunities that our community should seek. Coyle agreed that there were many opportunities and noted that there was a great deal of coordination needed which was ongoing. Co-Chair Pelaez asked about the status of the City's application for the Defense Economic Adjustment Assistance Grant Program (DEAAG) which General Ayala announced that the City of San Antonio was awarded a \$5 million grant to provide backup electrical power, potable water, and repair of some fence line for force protection at Joint Base San Antonio (JBSA), as well as the undergrounding of electrical power lines at Randolph Air Force Base.

Co-Chair Pelaez asked Director of Planning, Tomika Monterville, for her input and update on the City's application for the Rebuilding American Infrastructure with Sustainability and Equity (RAISE) Grant. Monterville reported that the City was not awarded a RAISE Grant, likely because other projects had a better cost benefit than our Trails Project but felt that the process was valuable since it included a planning effort for bicycle infrastructure and allowed projects to be identified for future discretionary grant opportunities.

Co-Chair Pelaez asked Coyle if there was sufficient staffing for lobbying at both the Federal and State Level, which Coyle explained that both conversations would be with agencies and not legislatures and that a Lobbyist team had been enhanced for State efforts through Mark Rodriguez and Jesse Ancira who would focus on the Governor's Office and Comptroller's Office, respectively. Co-Chair Pelaez recommended adding advocacy for additional partners such as the University of Texas at San Antonio (UTSA) in addition to the current local partners. Coyle noted that since UTSA and the local Independent School Districts are a part of State University and State Education Systems, funding would be funneled through the State and confirmed that more coordination in these areas was planned.

Councilmember Perry noted that he was not supportive of the Trails Project submitted under the RAISE grant and suggested that a street project would have been more attractive. Councilmember requested a debrief from Monterville on the shortcomings of the application, which Monterville stated would be provided once the Federal Government provided their debriefing to the City.

Co-Chair Pelaez requested that if a grant was being sought for a project within a particular City Council District, that the respective Councilmember should be briefed.

3. San Antonio Chamber of Commerce SA to DC Planning

Assistant City Manager Jeff Coyle introduced the Item and introduced Cacie Madrid, Vice President of Public Policy for the San Antonio Chamber of Commerce. Madrid explained that the trip to Washington D.C. had been postponed due to restrictions implemented by the Mayor of Washington D.C. related to COVID-19. Madrid provided a list of individuals on the Leadership Team for the SA to DC visit.

Councilmember Perry requested that the team document who they visited, topics discussed and action items moving forward. Madrid stated that a report on the visit would be provided.

Councilmember McKee-Rodriguez asked if other Chambers of Commerce could be included such as the Black, African American, Women's and LGBTQ Chambers. Madrid responded that the current legislative agenda had been set by its Chamber of Commerce members but that they would work with others for future agendas.

Co-Chair Pelaez supported Councilmember McKee-Rodriguez's request to "widen the tent" and include more Chambers of Commerce. Co-Chair Pelaez also requested that the Chamber of Commerce include Commissioners Rodriguez and Barnard in the delegation.

Adjournment

There being no further discussion, the meeting was adjourned at 11:35 AM.

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

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

Respectfully Submitted,

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