

# City of San Antonio



## Minutes

### Transportation and Mobility

#### 2021 – 2023 Council Members

Melissa Cabello Havrda, Dist. 6

Mario Bravo, Dist. 1 | Teri Castillo, Dist. 5

Ana Sandoval, Dist. 7 | Clayton Perry, Dist. 10

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**Tuesday, September 20, 2022**

**1:30 PM**

**Municipal Plaza Building**

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**Members Present:** Melissa Cabello Havrda, *Chair*  
Mario Bravo, *Member*  
Teri Castillo, *Member*  
Ana Sandoval, *Member*  
Clayton Perry, *Member*

**Members Absent:** None

#### Approval of Minutes

##### 1. Approval of minutes for the August 29, 2022 Transportation and Mobility Committee meeting.

Councilmember Perry moved to Approve the minutes from the August 29, 2022 Transportation and Mobility Meeting. Councilmember Castillo seconded the motion. The motion carried by the following vote:

**Aye:** Cabello Havrda, Bravo, Castillo, Sandoval, Perry

#### Public Comment

George Mery spoke in opposition of Item 2 and asked that a Transportation Advisory Board stakeholder member be allowed to Chair the Board.

Javier Tristan asked that the City amend Chapter 33 of the City Code related to electric vehicle and alternative vehicles for hire rentals.

Robert Gonzales, a taxicab driver and advocate, spoke of his concerns related to the shrinking number of taxicab operators in the City and noted the challenges taxicab operators faced in running their businesses. He stated that it was important to keep taxicab options open for tourists and residents for alternative transportation options.

Linda Thomas spoke in support of taxicab rate increases and spoke to the challenges faced by the taxicab industry. She asked the Committee to consider increases in taxicab rates.

## **Briefing and Possible Action on**

### **2. Briefing and possible action on amendments to Chapter 33 of the City Code and to the ordinance restricting an industry representative as the Transportation Advisory Board Chairperson. [Maria Villagomez, Deputy City Manager; William P. McManus, Chief of Police]**

Assistant City Police Chief Rick Riley provided an overview of the proposed amendments to Chapter 33 of the City Code recommended by the Transportation Advisory Board (TAB) and the San Antonio Police Department (SAPD). Riley reviewed amendments associated with the taxicab industry to include replacement of vehicles, permit and permit request qualifications, vehicle standards, fuel surcharges, insurance requirements and removal of references to Transportation Network Companies.

Riley provided examples of other Texas cities rates and reviewed the proposed rates for City of San Antonio taxicab rates. The proposed rate amendments included drop rates, per mile rates, extra passenger rate, wait time per hour rates and five mile average trip rate. Riley spoke to amendments associated with minimum rate structures for airport and downtown districts.

Riley provided an overview of amendments associated with alternative Vehicle for Hire (VFH), Group Cycle Services and composition of the Transportation Advisory Board (TAB). He noted that City staff did not recommend proposed amendments to the VFH and membership of the TAB.

## **DISCUSSION**

Chair Cabello Havrda thanked members of the community who spoke on the proposed amendments and stated that the proposed amendments were long needed. She stated that she supported the recommendations of City staff and that the TAB chair should not be a stakeholder.

Councilmember Sandoval stated that when the Committee met in August 2022, she supported amendments by the TAB to include electric vehicles and integrated those amendments to the Chapter 33 City Code. She moved to add VFH electric vehicles to proposed amendments. The motion was seconded by Councilmember Bravo. Discussion then resumed on the proposed amendment.

Chair Cabello Havrda asked for clarification on due diligence associated with inclusion of electric vehicles in the VFH recommended amendments. Assistant City Manager Maria Villagomez stated

that staff went with initial recommendation to not include electric vehicles in the Chapter due to current usage of vehicles.

Chair Cabello Havrda asked that more due diligence be conducted prior to the Item being brought before to the full City Council for consideration which staff stated they could conduct prior to that. Chair Cabello Havrda asked that stakeholders of the electric vehicle industry be included in discussions.

Councilmember Bravo asked if alternative electric vehicles were able to operate in the City. Riley confirmed that they were able to drive legally.

Councilmember Perry asked for clarification on the amendment and noted that other cities currently allowed for electric vehicles to operate and was not opposed to their inclusion in the Chapter 33 City Code.

A vote was conducted on the proposed amendment by Councilmember Sandoval which passed unanimously.

Councilmember Perry asked for clarifications on the amendments to VFH safety requirements. Riley spoke to the current standards and proposed amendments. Councilmember Perry requested additional information on the inspection process for higher occupancy vehicles and the need for additional inspections.

Councilmember Perry stated that he did not support all the proposed taxicab rate changes and noted that San Antonio currently had higher rates than other cities. Councilmember Perry asked why only five permits would be given for group cycle services. Riley stated that current demand was only for two operators and that five gave room for growth and could be adjusted at a later date if demand increased. Councilmember Perry stated that he did not support a cap for group cycle operators.

Councilmember Perry asked how long the TAB had not had a chairperson. Riley stated that the TAB had not had a chair for over two years. Councilmember Perry stated that he supported a stakeholder to be chair.

Councilmember Castillo stated that she supported the recommendations for the taxicab industry but was concerned in that the City needed to further support the taxicab industry as well as UBER and Lyft.

Councilmember Bravo stated that he supported the proposed rate increases and that it was important to keep taxicab affordable for users. He noted that further consideration was needed on the age of taxi vehicles and fuel surcharges.

Councilmember Bravo noted that the TAB was an advisory board and did not make decisions for the transportation industry and that he supported an industry representative as a chair.

Councilmember Cabello Havrda asked for clarification on the TAB membership. Riley stated that stakeholders held a majority of the seats on the TAB. Chair Cabello Havrda stated that due to that,

she did not support a stakeholder holding the chair position and that the TAB was charged to advise on residents' best interest and not of industries.

Councilmember Sandoval moved to amend staff recommendations to include electric vehicles to the Chapter 33 of the City Code pending due diligence of City Staff and the Transportation Mobility Committee. Councilmember Bravo seconded the motion. The motion carried by the following vote:

**Aye:** Cabello Havrda, Bravo, Castillo, Sandoval, Perry

Councilmember Castillo moved to Approve for full City Council Consideration. Councilmember Bravo seconded the motion. The motion carried by the following vote:

**Aye:** Cabello Havrda, Bravo, Castillo, Sandoval, Perry

**3. Briefing and possible action on the Culebra Road Multi-Modal Corridor Planning Study.** [Roderick Sanchez, Assistant City Manager; Tomika Monterville, Director, Transportation Department]

Transportation Director Tomika Monterville provided an update on the Culebra Road Multi-modal Corridor Planning Study and introduced Transportation staff and consultants managing the Study. Monterville reviewed the background of the Culebra 2022 Bond Project and stated that approximately \$18 million was allocated for the project and spoke to the study schedule which began in March 2021 and was anticipated to be completed in December 2022 with a final report.

Monterville introduced Art Reinhart with WSP Consultants who provided an overview of the corridor study project deliverables to include assessing current conditions, preparing a Needs Assessment, conducting alternative analysis, conducting community engagement and preparing a final report. Reinhart reviewed specifics of outreach and community engagement conducted since 2020. He also reviewed the different road segments comprising the Culebra Road Project, the characteristics of each segment and proposed improvements.

Monterville reviewed the next steps in the Study process.

## DISCUSSION

Chair Cabello Havrda thanked staff for their report and noted that Culebra Road was a very dangerous road and that she was pleased to see that improvements were finally being considered. She stated that she supported the project and mobility improvements. Chair Cabello Havrda asked if VIA Metropolitan Transit (VIA) and other entities were being consulted for the future community meetings. WSP Representative Julio Ramos reviewed the outreach steps conducted to include door flyers to residences and businesses half a mile around the corridor.

Chair Cabello Havrda asked for clarification on the different segments and proposed concepts for each of them. WSP Consultants Project Manager Julio Ramos provided clarification on the segments and considerations for each of the segments. Chair Cabello Havrda stressed the importance of extensive community engagement and communications.

Councilmember Bravo asked how decreasing the number of lanes would impact driver conditions. Ramos reviewed the proposed changes and how community outreach was considered in making recommendations for a more community conscious approach. Councilmember Bravo asked how the Texas Department of Transportation (TXDoT) felt on the proposed changes. Monterville stated that staff worked closely with TXDoT and took their input into consideration and that safety was at the forefront of discussions. Reinhart stated that TXDoT controlled approximately 1.5 miles of the total project area.

Councilmember Bravo asked that staff consider alternatives assisting the Urban Heat Island impact be considered in the Plan.

Councilmember Castillo thanked Councilmembers Sandoval and Cabello Havrda for their advocacy of the corridor project. She asked if the proposed drainage improvements were considered in other Bond Projects. David McBeth, Public Works Administrator, stated that staff looked at each Bond Project to incorporate as many drainage improvements based on cost and options.

Councilmember Castillo asked if lighting improvements were being considered for safety and energy conservation. Monterville stated that the study would assist in identifying best options along with terrain and specific Segment characteristics.

Councilmember Perry asked for clarification on what other corridor studies would be conducted. Monterville stated that the Harry Wurzbach, Marbach, and West Avenues would be conducted in the future as funding was available and in a timely manner. Councilmember Perry asked for a meeting to discuss coordination of the future projects.

Councilmember Perry asked which segments would be covered with the project funding. Monterville stated that Segments A and B would be covered under the funding and that staff was working to identify available funding sources to include Federal grants. Councilmember Perry asked for clarification on the proposed concepts and implementation process of the concepts. Monterville clarified that the proposed concepts would be reviewed with Public Works to determine implementation and cost analysis.

Councilmember Sandoval stressed the importance of the project in terms of safety and equity. Councilmember Sandoval asked how land use would be supported in this study. Monterville stated that multi-modal studies were important in determining future land use of areas to include this corridor in relation to economic impact and suggested that a charrette be conducted to determine possible land use and operations of the roadway.

Councilmember Sandoval asked what Public Works needed to move forward with the Bond Project. McBeth stated that the study was crucial to determining what was needed to design the project and assisting in the Bond project.

No action was required for Item 3.

#### **4. Briefing and possible action on the Transportation Demand Management (TDM) Plan.**

[Roderick Sanchez, Assistant City Manager; Tomika Monterville, Director, Transportation Department]

Transportation Director Tomika Monterville provided an update on the Transportation Demand Management (TDM) Plan and noted that in August 2022 staff revised the TDM scope of work due to impacts from COVID-19, staff moving into City Tower and hybrid work schedules. Monterville reviewed next steps for the TDM to include having a draft TDM Plan by September 2023 and a final plan in October 2023.

## DISCUSSION

Chair Cabello Havrda stated that she was excited for the TDM Plan movement and asked if the Plan would expand to consider other than City Staff. Monterville stated that the Plan would address City staff and then possibly expand to other city groups.

Councilmember Sandoval stated that she at first wanted the Plan to address the entire City and not just City staff but understood the importance of addressing on a smaller scale. Councilmember Sandoval asked if any of the \$750,000 would be used for implementation operations. Monterville stated that approximately one third of the program would be used for the study and the remainder of funds would be used for implementation of pilot programs which could include bus routes, van pools and shuttles. Monterville stressed that staff oversight and data review were crucial in determining pilot programs which would take approximately one year. Councilmember Sandoval asked staff to consider possible pilot programs sooner since the study had initially been launched in 2018. Monterville reviewed steps to be taken to determine pilot programs in an efficient and effective manner and the importance for data to determine programs.

Councilmember Castillo asked if staff had proposed B-Cycle options. Monterville stated that B-Cycle was being considered in the study along with other vehicle options.

No action was required for 4 Item.

## Adjournment

There being no further discussion, the meeting was adjourned at 3:36 PM.

**Approved**

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***Melissa Cabello Havrda, Chair***

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***Debbie Racca-Sittre, City Clerk***