

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, November 29, 2022

1:30 PM

City Hall Complex

The Transportation and Mobility Committee convened a regular meeting in the Council Briefing Room in the City Hall Complex beginning at 1:38 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*
Ana Sandoval, *Member*
John Courage, *Member*

Members Absent: None

Approval of Minutes

1. Approval of minutes from the October 31, 2022 Transportation and Mobility Committee meeting.

Councilmember Castillo moved to Approve the minutes from the October 31, 2022 Transportation and Mobility Committee meeting. Councilmember Courage seconded the motion. The motion carried by the following vote:

Aye: Cabello Havrda, McKee-Rodriguez, Castillo, Courage
Absent: Sandoval

Public Comment

There was no Public Comment.

Briefing and Possible Action on

2. Briefing by VIA Metropolitan Transit on the VIA Advanced Rapid Transit Project Interlocal Agreement with the City of San Antonio. [Roderick Sanchez, Assistant City Manager; Tomika Monterville, Director, Transportation]

Jeff Arndt, President and Chief Executive Officer for VIA Metropolitan Transit, introduced Javier Paredes, City of San Antonio appointee to the VIA Board of Trustees. Arndt provided an overview of the FY2023 funding recommendation for the Capital Investments Grants (CIG) Program from the Federal Transit Administration (FTA) which included \$320 million for the North South Advanced Rapid Transit (ART) Corridor. Arndt explained that an Interlocal Agreement (ILA) between VIA and The City of San Antonio was necessary to set the cooperative partnership and coordination necessary to deliver the project, define project funding and roles and responsibilities of both parties related to the Corridor. He added that the ILA included information on design, construction and a Communications Plan for the Program and set forth the approach for operations and maintenance cooperation for the Corridor.

Arndt introduced Kammy Horne, Senior Vice President of Development with VIA, who provided an overview of the development of the project in collaboration with the FTA which was recommended in the President's Budget and described the need for the ILA at each level of the project beginning at 30% design and progressing through 60% and 100% of the Design phase.

Horne provided key dates and next steps for the ILA which needed to be completed by March 2023.

DISCUSSION:

Chair Cabello Havrda requested information on the expected ridership with ART and a detailed map of the Corridor with an overlay of the affordable housing. She also recommended exploration of opportunities for Transit Oriented Development (TOD). Chair Cabello Havrda asked if the ILA was unique to San Antonio. Horne stated that the ILA was required to get the project started and for any city that received FTA funding for ART, noting that public transit was a department within some cities so it might look different than our model.

Councilmember McKee-Rodriguez was excited to see such a large investment in public transit and looked forward to the East-West Corridor. Horne noted that the East-West Project was expected to be listed in the report in February 2023 and would potentially receive FTA funding.

Councilmember Courage expressed support for public transportation including ART and stated that the East-West Corridor was also critical. Councilmember Courage asked about future development within a half mile of the transit areas and how it might impact existing communities, particularly where San Pedro is not a wide street. Arndt commented that VIA would discuss TOD with the public but VIA was not buying properties, although others might invest. Horne added that the narrow part of San Pedro would be studied for ridership but VIA did not plan to acquire right-of-way to widen the street in that area adding that the National Environmental Policy Act required study of construction impact on the environment and community.

Councilmember Castillo recommended that VIA collaborate closely with the Public Works Department due to drainage and flooding concerns that could be alleviated at the same time as creation of the

Corridors. Horne confirmed that Public Works was an integral partner as the City owned the streets. Councilmember Castillo asked if there was a need for use of eminent domain, would VIA handle that or the City. Horne stated that the right-of-way would be VIA's responsibility.

Councilmember Sandoval requested regular updates from VIA on details about the project as it progressed. Councilmember Sandoval stated that she understood that the ILA was high level and many of the details of the ILA had already been developed. Horne stated that the business points were documented and a draft was expected in a few weeks for review by the Office of the City Attorney and VIA's legal counsel.

Councilmember Castillo requested a line item breakdown of the total project costs.

Councilmember Sandoval commented that when the North-South Corridor was placed in the President's Budget, the project could not be successful without partnership between VIA and the City of San Antonio and offered her full support for ART in San Antonio.

Councilmember Sandoval asked when the East-West Corridor would be ready for an ILA. Horne stated that the East-West Corridor ART would take a couple more years of planning within the community. Councilmember Sandoval requested a more interactive forum for City Council to provide input in the East-West Corridor ART. Arndt stated that VIA was committed to collaboration but funding was still needed.

Chair Cabello Havrda asked if VIA planned to ask for funding from FTA for the East-West Corridor ART. Horne stated that VIA had been trying to get the attention of the FTA and they seemed impressed by the opportunity for that East-West Corridor ART as they were in line with the goals of the President Biden Administration. Chair Cabello Havrda encouraged quick action to take advantage of the administration priorities.

No action was required for Item 2.

3. Briefing on the Gate Expansion Program at the San Antonio International Airport. [Jeff Coyle, Assistant City Manager; Jesus Saenz, Director, Aviation]

Jesus Saenz, Director of Aviation, presented an update on the San Antonio International Airport (SAIA) Gate Expansion Program stating that three additional new gates were expected to be opening soon: two in Terminal B and one in Terminal A. Saenz provided a timeline for Gate Expansion from 2019 to date and the Terminal Gate Expansion Program's integration within the broader Terminal Development Plan.

Saenz reported that the cost of each Gate was \$185 million and the Gate Expansion Program brought an annual Regional Economic Impact of \$555 million through increased air service capacity and improved passenger experience. With the opening of Gate B9, American Airlines would move completely to Terminal B, according to Saenz.

Saenz announced that Spirit Airlines had begun daily flights to Orlando and Las Vegas commencing November 17, 2022 with additional new daily services to Baltimore and Fort Lauderdale beginning in early March 2023. Saenz also provided information on new restaurant concepts including a local brewery, Beercode and Super Bien Restaurant serving tacos, burritos and bowls.

DISCUSSION:

Chair Cabello Havrda commented that it was important that the SAIA reflected our culture. She noted that the airport was the one place that impacted all levels of business in San Antonio so it made sense to upgrade and expand the facility.

Councilmember Courage noted that SAIA was located in City Council District 9 and asked about the new gate B1a being in a tight location. Saenz explained that the “safety envelope” for this gate had been taken into consideration by the designers and there was no concern from the airlines or the Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) about the location.

Councilmember Courage asked how many gates serviced international travel at Terminal A and Terminal B and whether small aircraft were accommodated. Saenz stated that there were no International Gates at Terminal B and five at Terminal A and there was a special location for corporate and private international planes.

Councilmember Castillo expressed that the increased travel in the airport would increase vehicle traffic and recommended expansion of VIA Bus service to the airport, particularly past 12:30 AM to accommodate flight delays, late arrivals and early flights departures.

Councilmember Courage asked if the VIA Park and Ride at US 281 had improved the Airport parking situation. Saenz stated that over the Thanksgiving Holidays, SAIA parked over 10,000 vehicles and the geographic radius of utilization of our airport was expanding which led to more private vehicles needing to park on site, but added that the “Fly Away Valet” was also proving to be a valuable service.

Arndt commented that VIA recently opened the Stone Oak Park & Ride at US281 in October 2022 and were only beginning to see riders use the service.

No action was required for Item 3.

Adjournment

There being no further discussion, Chair Cabello Havrda adjourned the meeting at 2:51 PM.

Approved

Melissa Cabello Havrda, Chair

Debbie Racca-Sittre, City Clerk