

# City of San Antonio



## Minutes Transportation and Infrastructure Committee

### 2023 – 2025 Council Members

John Courage, Dist. 9, Chair

Dr. Sukh Kaur, Dist. 1 | Jalen McKee-Rodriguez, Dist. 2

Melissa Cabello Havrda, Dist. 6 | Marina Alderete Gavito, Dist. 7

Wednesday, November 29, 2023

10:00 AM

City Hall Complex

The Transportation and Infrastructure Committee convened a regular meeting in the City Hall Council Briefing Room beginning at 10:03 AM. City Clerk Debbie Racca-Sittre took the Roll Call noting a quorum with the following Committee Members present:

**Members Present:** John Courage, *Chair*  
Melissa Cabello Havrda, *Member*  
Marina Alderete Gavito *Member*  
**Members Absent:** Sukh Kaur, *Member*  
Jalen McKee-Rodriguez, *Member*

### Approval of Minutes

#### 1. Approval of minutes from the October 17, 2023 Transportation and Infrastructure Committee meeting.

Councilmember Alderete Gavito moved to Approve the minutes of the October 17, 2020 Transportation and Infrastructure Committee meeting. Councilmember Cabello Havrda seconded the motion. The motion carried by the following vote:

**Aye:** Courage, Cabello Havrda, Alderete Gavito

### Public Comment

Sheikh Kenneth with Activate SA spoke in support of the Complete Streets Policy. He stated that street updates were crucial and there was a need for an updated policy. Kenneth also asked for better coordination between City departments.

## **Briefing and Possible Action on**

### **2. Briefing on the Public Works Department's Neighborhood Pedestrian Safety and Traffic Calming Program and refinements to the installation and location selection criteria for traffic calming device options.** [Roderick Sanchez, Assistant City Manager; Razi Hosseini, Director, Public Works Department]

Razi Hosseini, Director of Public Works, gave a briefing on the traffic calming device options. Hosseini talked about the funding sources for the FY 2024 Budget. He noted that the Neighborhood Traffic Calming Program was designed to address operational issues on residential streets which could include curb extensions, roundabouts, bulb-outs, chicanes, medians and speed humps. He added that eligible neighborhood traffic calming projects were prioritized for implementation based upon speed, traffic volume, crash history and proximity of pedestrian destinations.

Hosseini recommended the installation of speed humps which were uncomfortable to negotiate at high speeds, Flashing All-Way Stop Signs, that would provide motorists with additional visual reminders to stop, Flashing Non All-Way Stop Signs, new All-Way Stop Signs and Traffic Signals to allow for pedestrians and vehicles to cross an intersection safely and reduce conflicts between vehicles entering intersections from different directions.

Councilmember Courage stated that he was pleased with the recommendations because they related to community concerns and he felt that the San Antonio Police Department (SAPD) could enforce as well.

Councilmember Alderete Gavito echoed Councilmember Courage regarding speeding and SAPD involvement and stated that the proposed recommendation was great. She asked how long the traffic evaluation would take. Hosseini stated that it would depend on if it was performed by the City or not and it could take up to three months. Councilmember Alderete Gavito stated that she hoped the process could be sped up and Hosseini stated that Public Works was looking to purchase traffic lights to have them available when needed so they would not have to wait for them to be ordered.

Councilmember Cabello Havrda stated she felt the speed humps were sometimes not as effective. She stated she would like the City, going forward, to move more aggressively on being a more walkable City.

Councilmember Alderete Gavito asked about the process for speed humps and if the process would still remain the same with requesting 51% signatures. Hosseini stated that the process would remain the same and that when installing ballouts and accommodating cyclists, it would depend on the project.

Councilmember Courage asked about the process for citizens to request a speed bump. Hosseini stated that the requestor would have to take the lead and obtain 51% signatures of block residents. Councilmember Courage thanked Hosseini for the presentation and suggested including SAPD and the Municipal Court to address enforcements of the new traffic calming devices being installed.

**3. Briefing on the Vision Zero Action Plan and the High Injury Network Report.** [Roderick Sanchez, Assistant City Manager; Catherine Hernandez, Interim Director, Transportation]

Catherine Hernandez, Interim Director of the Transportation Department, gave an overview of Vision Zero and the traditional approach vs Vision Zero. She stated that the Vision Zero Action Plan was adopted in 2016 with five essential elements including education, encouragement, enforcement, engineering and evaluation. Hernandez explained the development of Vision Zero and presented the latest Vision Zero achievements which included \$5 million for the Sidewalk Implementation and Repair Program, completed design of four mid-block crossings, awarded a \$4.4 million Safe Streets for All Users (SS4A) Implementation Grant, construction of four mid-block crossings and construction of a Highway Safety Improvement Program (HSIP) funded median project on Pleasanton Road.

Hernandez explained the next phase for Vision Zero which included a new plan due to population growth, strain on infrastructure with more ethics. She stated that the new Plan would evolve with the City. Hernandez presented annual fatality data and the plan update to align with the best practices, refresh key actions and produce a list of 20 high impact projects. Hernandez identified a stakeholder's group to include a diverse group consisting of advocacy groups, health agencies, partners and City departments to provide guidance. She noted that the group would review the High Injury Network (HIN) report and provided feedback in two crucial areas which included prioritizing Vision Zero key action and high impact projects. Hernandez highlighted the timeline of the Action Plan to be completed by June 2024.

Councilmember Courage suggested focusing on pedestrian right of way signage on major streets.

Councilmember Alderete Gavito expressed concern about Culebra Road and noted that any improvements there would be helpful. She asked about the timeline and the HIN Report and Hernandez stated that the reports would be placed on the website and could also be sent to City Council as a draft for their input.

Councilmember Cabello Havrda expressed concern about Culebra Road and spoke in support of Vision Zero.

**4. Briefing on the 2011 Complete Streets Policy and proposed update.** [Roderick Sanchez, Assistant City Manager; Catherine Hernandez, Interim Director, Transportation]

Hernandez gave an overview of the Complete Streets Project noting a Complete Street was safer and more accessible for all users, accommodated the needs of all modes of travel and took a context-based approach recognizing that not every street was the same. Hernandez reviewed the Complete Streets Elements and reviewed the current policy which consisted of five points of emphasis: vision, activation goals, definitions, encouragement and recommendations. Hernandez stated that the Transportation Department compared the Policy with City Health & Smart Growth America's new criteria and with the existing policy of eight peer cities and discussed lessons learned. She noted that the research showed that there were five key elements missing: performance measures, coordination, design updates, project selection criteria and prioritization of equity. Hernandez gave an example of key elements that lead to a successful implementation of a Complete Street Policy which included: applies to all projects and phases,

adopts excellent design guidance, measures progress, allows only clear exceptions, creates a plan for implementation and these elements provided the basis for the Complete Streets Policy Update.

Hernandez highlighted the timeline with the expectation of presenting the Policy to the City Council in the summer of 2024.

Councilmember Courage asked that the Planning Commission be involved and hoped the public would be involved as well. Councilmember Courage asked for a report on how many complete streets were completed to date.

Councilmember Alderete Gavito asked for information regarding Zarzamora Street and if it would become a Complete Street. She expressed concern about plans being put on a shelf and felt it needed to be tied to Public Works' metrics and what was going to be worked on next.

Councilmember Cabello Havrda asked if the Policy was being incorporated with the proposed state's criteria change and if not, could they.

Councilmember Courage asked if the Bike Plan would be part of the integration and if not, could it be considered.

## **ADJOURNMENT**

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 11:19 a.m.

## **Approved**

*John Courage, Chair*

---

---

*Debbie Racca-Sittre, City Clerk*