

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

Tuesday, January 16, 2024

1:30 PM

City Hall Complex

The Transportation and Infrastructure Committee convened a regular meeting in the City Hall Council Briefing Room beginning at 1:35 PM. Deputy City Clerk Aurora Perkins took the Roll Call noting a quorum with the following Committee Members present:

Members Present: John Courage, *Chair*
Dr. Sukh Kaur, *Member*
Melissa Cabello Havrda, *Member*
Marina Alderete Gavito, *Member*

Members Absent: Jalen McKee-Rodriguez, *Member*

Approval of Minutes

1. Approval of minutes from the November 29, 2023 Transportation and Infrastructure Committee meeting.

Councilmember Cabello Havrda moved to Approve the minutes of the November 29, 2023 Transportation and Infrastructure Committee meeting. Councilmember Alderete Gavito seconded the motion. The motion carried by the following vote:

Aye: Courage, Kaur, Cabello Havrda, Alderete Gavito

Absent: McKee-Rodriguez

Public Comment

None.

Briefing and Possible Action on

2. Briefing by Union Pacific Railroad on its daily operations and services. [Roderick

Sanchez, Assistant City Manager; Catherine Hernandez, Interim Director, Transportation Department]

Item 2 was pulled from the agenda and will be presented at a later date.

3. Briefing on the FY 2024 Grant Program for the San Antonio Airport System. [Jeff Coyle, Assistant City Manager; Jesus Saenz, Director, Aviation]

Melissa Rivers, Aviation Grant Manager, provided an update on the Fiscal Year 2024 Grant Program for the San Antonio Airport System. She reviewed the Airport Federal Funding Grant which included Airport Infrastructure Grants (AIG) and the Airport Terminal Program (ATP). Rivers noted that the Airport had received \$26.5 million under the Airport Improvement Program (AIP) and \$13.3 million under the AIG.

Rivers stated that the FY 2024 grant funding of \$11.95 million was used for Airport infrastructure to include improvements for the North Taxiway and electronic taxiway improvements. She added that the Airport had applied for \$46.85 million for the ATP which included \$44 million in support for the Terminal Development Program and \$2.85 million in support of the Stinson Municipal Airport.

Rivers reviewed the development of a grant for FY 2024 for \$18 million from the Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) discretionary funds to support the Terminal Development 's South Remain Over Night Project and would be utilized for overnight parking for aircraft. She added that another grant was being developed for \$18.2 million to support Airfield safety enhancements to the San Antonio International Airport (SAIA). She noted that she anticipated the FY 2026 development of a Mega Grant process through the U.S. Department of Transportation with an average award of \$130 million.

Rivers spoke to an anticipated planning grant preparation for \$7.7 million to support Terminal Development Programs Roadway System planning and design components. She reported that the grant would be for 80% of the total project cost.

Rivers reviewed potential future grant funding applications for FY 2025/FY 2026 which would include application for \$20 million in support of a new terminal for final design and construction phases, and a FY 2025 request for \$25 million from the U.S. Department of Transportation for a RAISE Grant for terminal roadway construction.

Chair Courage asked for clarification on taxiway project funding and if the funding would add taxiways to the system. Aviation Deputy Director, Tom Bartlett, stated that runways would be rebuilt and that discussions were continuous with the FAA. He added that additional runways/taxiways would be considered.

Chair Courage asked for the grant applications to be presented in Gant Chart format in order to track progress. He asked for more information on grants that the City was not successful in receiving funding for. Rivers stated that the City had been very successful in obtaining grant funding under the FAA and staff felt well prepared to obtain funding in the new Grant Process. Assistant City Manager Jeff Coyle stated that staff was well prepared to gain additional funding and that they were always seeking other sources of funding for improvements at SAIA.

Chair Courage asked if there were areas that the City Council could assist with gaining grant funding or process. Assistant City Manager Coyle stated that it was important to continue communications and relations with stakeholder partners such as Port San Antonio, Brooks and the chambers of commerce.

Councilmember Alderete Gavito reiterated the need for a Gant Chart presentation. She asked what the confidence level was of staff to obtain grant funding. Rivers stated that FY 2023 was very successful for grant funding in that 100% of the applications were awarded. Rivers stressed that RAISE Grants were very competitive and required high levels of engagement and communications to be considered and successful for funding. Councilmember Alderete Gavito noted that Council District 7 would be hosting an airport vendor orientation on February 13, 2024.

Councilmember Cabello Havrda asked for the percentage of grant awards for airport improvements received in comparison to the total amount needed. Rivers stated that she would provide the information to the Committee. She stated that SAIA had applied for \$122 million in grants for FY 2024 so far. Rivers stated that the Airport worked closely with the Office of Sustainability and other departments to make sure that the City was set for success.

Councilmember Kaur asked for additional information on where the City required matches or funding was identified. Rivers stated that funding was identified under the normal Budget process and she clarified that projects were funded under the Budget and that grants offset the projects as funding was received and then funding would be adjusted to other future projects.

Councilmember Kaur asked how much funding was anticipated for this application process. Rivers stated that 40% of project funding was provided from grants. Assistant City Manager Coyle reiterated that grant funding was not taken into consideration on infrastructure improvements but as received would offset current and future projects. Councilmember Kaur asked that at the future budget process that the Airport staff provide data on what projects were originally funded at, what was offset by grants, and how funding was shuffled into future projects.

Chair Courage asked if airlines and transportation companies were engaged in expansion or improvement projects. Rivers stated that all stakeholders to include aviation partners were crucial in advocating for grant funding. Chair Courage stated that it was important to make sure that these partners were engaged.

Councilmember Kaur asked if grant funding included noise mitigation projects. Rivers stated that noise mitigation was included.

This Item was for briefing only.

4. Briefing on the Howard W. Peak Greenway Trails System [David McCary, Assistant City Manager; Homer Garcia III, Director, Parks and Recreation]

Parks and Recreation Director Homer Garcia introduced the Item and Brandon Ross, Senior Special Projects Manager, who provided a presentation on the Howard W. Peak Greenway Trails System (Greenway System). Ross stated that the Greenway System enhanced the quality of life

for residents and grew a network of developed multi-use trails and noted that over 1,650 acres of creekway lands were acquired to expand the system.

Ross stated that the design goals of the program were to increase mobility and safety and increase environmental sustainability. He stated that staff considered use of the Greenway System by all people of all abilities and it greatly assisted in the meeting of goal of park space being accessible to individuals within 10 minutes of their residence.

Ross stated that approximately 101 miles of the Greenway System had been completed with 31 additional miles in production. He added that 25 miles of trails were being constructed in partnership with Bexar County. Ross stated that improvements included expanding trail widths to meet multi use usage.

Ross reviewed future Greenway System needs including a recent increase in road cyclist which was likely due to longer connected segments of the Greenway System. He added that a snapshot study of trail user numbers was needed to identify the highest use areas. He noted that there was a need to expand current pathways.

Ross spoke to recent improvements to include the Leon to Salado Greenway connection expansion, the Medina River to San Antonio River Greenway System connection, the Westside Creeks Greenway trails improvements, and improvements in public art and butterfly gardens. Ross noted that improvements also focused on increasing accessibility to other park areas such as in the Leon to Salado Greenway connection.

Councilmember Cabello Havrda noted her support of the Greenway System and improvements. She noted that the Council District 6 district office was close to the Greenway System and noted that it was very positive to her community. Councilmember Cabello Havrda expressed concern of criminal activity that occurred on the Greenway System and asked if funding was being used to address concerns. Ross stated that increased design and entrances would enhance safety and connectivity. She requested more information on the improvements.

Councilmember Cabello Havrda noted that it was important to consider accessibility for all users but noted concern for added safety features for hearing impaired and visually impaired users of the Greenway System. Ross stated that the design did consider Department of Transportation safety and accessibility standards and he would look into improvements in high usage areas.

Councilmember Alderete Gavito agreed with Councilmember Cabello Havrda's concerns with accessibility and connectivity improvements. She stressed the need for safety on the Greenway System and issues with unsheltered individuals' usage of the space and the perception of an unsafe environment. Ross clarified that the department worked closely with Park Police, Parks Trail Stewards, the Department of Human Services and other partners addressing safety for all using the Greenway System and providing services to the unsheltered from partners. Ross also stressed that it was important for the users of the Greenway System to communicate concerns to staff in order to address them.

Councilmember Alderete Gavito asked for the status of a lighting project at the trail head at the Alazan entrance. Garcia stated that a study was still being conducted and reviewed by the San Antonio River Authority to make sure proper lighting was installed.

Councilmember Kaur asked of the status of the flyway by the Quarry area. Ross stated that the project was not one from the Parks Department and would require partnership with the Texas Department of Transportation and Union Pacific. Councilmember Kaur expressed support of connectivity for the flyway design which would greatly expand connectivity and usage of the Greenway System.

Councilmember Kaur asked if infrastructure such as benches were to be included in future projects. Ross stated that bench installations were always being considered but issues of flood plains sometimes hindered certain installations or infrastructure.

Councilmember Kaur asked what type of Geographic Information Services (GIS) Programs or directional guidance was available for the Greenway System. Ross noted that Google Maps was utilized within the Greenway System along with other web based applications.

Chair Courage expressed concern regarding traffic congestion and multi-use of the Greenway System which required expansion of trails and retro fitting some of the existing trails. He added that additional signage and wayfinding was needed. He also asked for consideration of speed bumps for users who speed on their bikes on the trails. He noted that there were many complex issues with lighting, congestion and usage of the system. Chair Courage noted that input from the community was needed and he requested data on the findings.

This Item was for briefing purposes only.

Adjournment

There being no further discussion, the meeting was adjourned at 2:49 PM.

Approved

John Courage, Chair

Debbie Racca-Sittre, City Clerk