



City of San Antonio

Agenda Memorandum

File Number:
{{item.tracking_number}}

Agenda Item Number: {{item.number}}

Agenda Date: February 20, 2024

In Control: Transportation and Infrastructure Committee

DEPARTMENT: Transportation Department

DEPARTMENT HEAD: Catherine Hernandez

COUNCIL DISTRICTS IMPACTED: Citywide

SUBJECT:

VIA Better Bus Plan Update

SUMMARY:

Briefing on the VIA Better Bus Plan update.

BACKGROUND INFORMATION:

The Better Bus Plan is a comprehensive transit network service evaluation and plan, inclusive of Bus and Link service and designed to strengthen VIA's transit system.

VIA is conducting an Analysis that will include best practices to find opportunities to:

- Reduce wait times
- Increase access to jobs and activities
- Become a more attractive option for customers

- Optimize service and resources
- To adapt service to better serve post-COVID travel patterns
- To adapt service to better serve a growing and changing community

Included in the project will be an evaluation that will include a Market Analysis, Service Analysis, Peer Review, and Project Goals. Also included in the project will be Design that will encompass:

- Prioritization of equity and transit access
- Route alignment
- Service frequency and span (30-min or better)
- New Link zones
- Connections to new areas
- More direct connections
- New transit solutions
- Optimization of bus stop locations

VIA will be engaging with Steering Committees, Internal Stakeholders, the Technical Advisory Business Community, VIA Riders, and the Community. The development of system-level goals and objectives will guide the service planning process. Strategies and initiatives provide a framework for the four guiding principles that will explore enhanced mobility and efficiency, technological innovation, demonstrate improved service in key corridors, economic growth and sustainability, regional connectivity, make service simpler to use, a community centric approach, equity, and accessibility, putting service where it is needed, and safety.

Early feedback has shown VIA needs to keep things simple for the overall project and its recommendations, ensure equity and accessibility, high quality bus stops and transit centers, development of a network that is convenient and intuitive, and encourage transit use to reduce congestion and emissions. The project schedule began in Fall 2023 and will continue through December 2024 and will conclude with a plan activation over a 3-year period beginning in 2025.

ISSUE:

This briefing is for informational purposes only.

FISCAL IMPACT:

This briefing is for informational purposes only.

ALTERNATIVES:

This briefing is for informational purposes only.

RECOMMENDATION:

This briefing is for informational purposes only.