



City of San Antonio

Agenda Memorandum

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Agenda Date: February 21, 2023

In Control: Transportation and Mobility Committee Meeting

DEPARTMENT: Transportation Department

DEPARTMENT HEAD: Tomika Monterville

COUNCIL DISTRICTS IMPACTED: Citywide

SUBJECT:

Briefing and possible action on the VIA Advanced Rapid Transit North/South Project Interlocal Agreement between the City of San Antonio and VIA Metropolitan Transit Authority.

SUMMARY:

Briefing and possible action on the VIA Advanced Rapid Transit North/South Project Interlocal Agreement between the City of San Antonio and VIA Metropolitan Transit Authority.

BACKGROUND INFORMATION:

VIA and the City of San Antonio (City) are establishing an Interlocal Agreement for the VIA Advanced Rapid Transit (ART) North/South (N/S) Project.

ART N/S Project ILA

The ART N/S Project ILA will establish the processes and mutually beneficial roles and responsibilities that will ensure the Project is completed within the anticipated schedule and

budget. The City and VIA agree to coordinate their actions in good faith and in the best interests of the Project. The ART N/S Project ILA defines the scope of the Project as well as a process by which the City can request “betterments”, or elements integrated with the Project but not necessary for the Project purpose and funded outside of the federal funds.

The ART N/S Project ILA focuses on VIA and City roles and responsibilities for the capital portion of the Project. VIA is the Project sponsor and recipient of federal funding responsible for delivering the Project according to federal requirements; in that role, VIA will lead the Project for purposes of federal environmental approvals, grants, and funding. VIA will lead the design and construction of the Project, to the applicable local standards, inclusive of the letting of applicable contracts, method of delivery determination, and start-up and commissioning activities. VIA will procure the transit vehicles and set the transit service schedule. The City will serve as a collaborator with VIA in support of VIA’s efforts to complete the Project, as well as to assist VIA with stakeholder and public communication and assistance in obtaining permits.

The ART N/S Project ILA also sets out the processes by which City staff will review and comment on the Project design plans, issue applicable permits, and conduct inspections. The ART N/S Project ILA also identifies the process for coordination concerning utilities, property acquisition, and transit signal priority. The ART N/S Project ILA identifies individuals who will serve as the primary points of contact between the City and VIA for purposes of resolving issues at the lowest level, as well as a dispute escalation ladder to quickly and decisively resolve issues that require escalation.

The ART N/S Project ILA is a precursor for future agreements that outline details of operations and maintenance once the Project design is completed. In general, VIA will be responsible for operating and maintaining all transit elements of the Project, such as all improvements within the station areas, and the City will continue to operate and maintain the public right of way as it does today.

ISSUE:

VIA and the City have continued to work cooperatively to advance efforts for the development of the ART N/S Project ILA. VIA and City leaders, attorneys and staff met in May 2022 to kick off a joint effort to develop the ART N/S Project ILA. VIA organized technical workshops with key staff from the Transportation and Public Works departments, held virtual information sessions with City staff from most City departments, and held a meeting to introduce the Project Design Criteria Manual and the distribution of the 30% design plans for City review. City and VIA leaders also met to develop the key business terms of the ART N/S Project ILA. VIA distributed a draft business points document and received comments on the document. On November 16 and 17, 2022, VIA and City staff held a two-day workshop to review and further develop the business points as well as a schedule for completion of the agreement. The City Council Transportation and Mobility Committee was updated on the ART N/S Project ILA on November 29, 2022, and January 17, 2023.

The February 21, 2023, briefing serves as staff’s update to the City Council Transportation and Mobility Committee on the draft ILA agreement inclusive of key highlights such as agreed upon

roles and responsibilities, corrective action processes, and other agreed upon provisions to demonstrate to Federal Transit Administration (FTA) that a partnership framework exists to manage risk on the project.

The briefing also serves as an update on the ART N/S Project ILA schedule as it is anticipated that the City Council will consider approval in March 2023.

FISCAL IMPACT:

No fiscal impact related to the ART N/S Project ILA.

ALTERNATIVES:

No alternative is considered as the ART N/S Project ILA is a critical steppingstone for VIA and the City to deliver the KSAM plan and to secure FTA funding but also to establish a framework for a partnership throughout the ART N/S Project.

RECOMMENDATION:

Recommend the Transportation and Mobility Committee's approval of the Advanced Rapid Transit (ART) North/South (N/S) Project ILA for full council consideration in March 2023.