

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 | John Courage, Dist. 9

Tuesday, March 21, 2023

2:00 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 2:12 PM. Deputy City Clerk Aurora Perkins 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*
John Courage, *Member*

Members Absent: None

Approval of Minutes

1. **Approval of minutes from the February 21, 2023 Transportation and Mobility Committee meeting.**

Councilmember Courage moved to Approve the minutes of the February 21, 2023 Transportation and Mobility Committee meeting. Councilmember Castillo seconded the motion. The motion carried by the following vote:

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

Public Comment

There was no public comment.

Briefing and Possible Action on

2. **Briefing and possible action on the VIA Advanced Rapid Transit (ART) North/South**

Project Interlocal Agreement (ILA) between the City of San Antonio and VIA Metropolitan Transit Authority. [Roderick Sanchez, Assistant City Manager; Tomika Monterville, Director, Transportation]

Kammy Horne, Senior Vice President of Planning and Development for VIA Transit, provided an overview of the VIA Advanced Rapid Transit (ART) ILA between VIA Metropolitan Transit and the City of San Antonio along the San Pedro corridor. She reviewed the key responsibilities for both VIA and the City of San Antonio to include costs, permitting, continuity of maintenance and other requirements. She noted that the agreement would be for a period of 50 years. Horne spoke to possible future agreements with stakeholder associations, the City and the Federal Transportation Administration (FTA). She provided an overview of the ILA next steps and timeline.

Horne reviewed the goals of the project to include improved travel times in the corridors and to provide more accessible and frequent transit services and investment in community benefits. She spoke to the North/South ART route components and associated construction and discussed the overall schedule associated with the project through 2027. Horne also reviewed project highlights to include 30% final design completion, FTA meeting discussions and associated approvals. She noted that the project cost was estimated to be \$403 million and reviewed cost shares between the City and other stakeholders.

WSP Consultant representative Tom Hiles spoke on traffic and safety studies conducted and the level of service report card of topics reviewed. He noted that conducted studies identified challenges and safety concerns associated with the ART and other needed improvements under the ART development. He stressed that safety features such as medians were being proposed to improve flow of traffic and pedestrian safety.

DISCUSSION

Chair Cabello Havrda stated that she was pleased with the progress of the project and the close working relationship with the FTA. She asked if there were any mid-block pedestrian crossings being considered under the project. Hiles stated that mid-block crossings were being considered and would follow City standards.

Chair Cabello Havrda stressed that it was important to consider close and surrounding neighborhood housing and the impact to the communities and asked how these neighborhoods were being considered for possible impacts. Horne stated that studies were conducted to review current and future ridership projections when developing the corridor plan and connectivity of the entire network. She stated that VIA continued to work closely with the City to review land use and equity considerations. Chair Cabello Havrda requested to see more concrete examples of impact and support of surrounding neighborhoods and improved transit.

Councilmember McKee-Rodriguez noted that projects such as these faced many challenges and asked for more insight on those challenges and continuation of the East/West project. Horne stated that any project had challenges but that the project team wanted to be realistic in all aspects of the project and noted that she felt that this project had a very solid process and had a positive outlook on the projects outcomes. Hiles stated that the community partnership between the City and VIA had been very positive and motivated to complete a strong project. Horne noted that VIA

continued to and was committed to develop the East/West project. Councilmember McKee-Rodriguez asked for clarification on the possible outcomes for the East/West corridor development and possible challenges. Horne stated that staff would continue to provide updates on the progress and development of the East/West corridor and that the FTA was very interested in the development of that route.

Councilmember McKee-Rodriguez asked for more detailed information on the report card findings and specifics to each category reviewed and graded. Hiles stated that he would provide a more detailed report to the Committee.

Councilmember Castillo noted that she was pleased that the City's Vision Zero concepts were being followed in the ART. She asked that medians and drainage issues follow Vision Zero guidelines. Hiles stated that VIA was working closely with the City's Public Works Department to identify median construction and challenges associated with drainage. Councilmember Castillo reiterated that it was important to consider the rider experience and environmental impacts in completing the plan.

Councilmember Castillo asked what VIA defined as equitable housing when considering the project. Horne stated that equitable housing took into consideration equitable access to transit and making improvements across the transit system overall. Councilmember Castillo asked for continued consideration of the equitable housing especially within the ILA and asked for continued updates on equitable housing challenges. Councilmember Castillo also noted her support for the completion of the East/West corridor and requested continued updates on progress of the route.

Chair Cabello Havrda asked if there was a possibility to expand the ART in the future. Horne stated that it was an option to expand and that it would be considered but reminded everyone that there were other corridors that were being considered. Chair Cabello Havrda stated that it was important to identify expansion as funding became available.

Councilmember Courage asked for clarification on mixed traffic characteristics of the corridor and asked that additional information be provided. He asked for clarification on business transit lanes and impacts to businesses along the route. Hiles stated that modeling studies showed continued access to the traffic and parking lanes and that there should be little negative impact.

Councilmember Courage asked for clarification on traffic restrictions and asked for additional information on possible impacts to right hand turns and flow of traffic issues.

Councilmember Courage asked for clarification on the bus route connections within the project. Horne stated that there were a number of routes available on the current corridor and access and connectivity would be improved within sidewalks and bus platforms.

Chair Cabello Havrda expressed her support of the ART route improvements and noted that this project was a large investment in the City's future.

Councilmember McKee-Rodriguez moved to Approve and Forward to the full City Council for consideration. Councilmember Courage seconded the motion. The motion carried by the following vote:

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

3. Briefing on the Culebra Road Multi-Modal Corridor Planning Study Final Report.
[Roderick Sanchez, Assistant City Manager; Tomika Monterville, Director, Transportation]

Transportation Director Tomika Monterville introduced the Culebra Road Multimodal Corridor Transportation Study participants to include Art Reinhart with WSP Consultants and Razi Hosseini with the Public Works Department. Reinhart provided an overview of the study background and reviewed the map of the corridor and associated five segments of the corridor. He noted that segments A & B were part of the current Bond Program. He spoke to the study deliverables to include existing conditions, needs assessments, development of an implementation strategy, community engagement summary report and the development of the final Corridor Plan concepts.

Reinhart provided an update on the study which reached out to 215,000 families through community outreach and meetings. He noted that study recommendations included that funding for the corridor project would need to include local, State and Federal sources; prioritize segments within the 2022 Bond project limits, and use 2022 Bond Project funding to leverage additional funding from State and Federal sources,

David McBeth with the City's Transportation Department spoke to recommendations within the 2022 Bond Program Project to include leverage of \$18 million of funding for Segment B grant applications. He reviewed proposed improvements in terms of sidewalks, medians, shared used paths and traffic lanes.

McBeth noted that a RAISE Planning Grant application had been submitted for Segment B with a project cost estimate of \$10.7 million with City's portion of \$3 million. He spoke to stakeholder partners that assisted in the grant application.

DISCUSSION

Chair Cabello Havrda noted her concern of proposed work on Segment A since the City did not own that segment of Culebra Road and recommended that all funding be spent in Segment B. McBeth confirmed that funding would only be used for City owned Segment B and not on any segments owned by the Texas Department of Transportation (TXDOT).

Chair Cabello Havrda asked for information on feedback received from community meetings. WSP representative spoke to concerns raised in community meetings to include pedestrian safety and traffic. Chair Cabello Havrda stated that community concern received in the study was accurate and that it was important to address.

Councilmember Castillo requested that storm water and increased vegetation be considered in improvement plans.

Councilmember Courage asked for clarification on the total costs associated with the corridor project. Reinhart stated that the project would include multi-source funding and that the City would only provide part of the total cost. Councilmember Courage asked if SAWS and CPS

Energy would be conducting work during this project and if they would share in costs associated with improvements. Hosseini stated that work would be coordinated with the utility companies but associated costs were only those of the City's.

No further discussion on the Item was conducted or action was taken.

Adjournment

There being no further discussion, the meeting was adjourned at 3:18 p.m.

Approved

Melissa Cabello Havrda, Chair

Debbie Racca-Sittre, City Clerk