

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, April 18, 2023

1:30 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 1:34 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 March 21, 2023 Transportation & Mobility Committee Meeting

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

Aye: Cabello Havrda, Castillo, Courage
Absent: McKee-Rodriguez, 7

Councilmember McKee-Rodriguez entered the meeting after the approval of minutes vote was taken.

Public Comment

None.

Briefing and Possible Action on

2. A briefing on the Alamo Area Metropolitan Planning Organization (AAMPO). [Roderick Sanchez, Assistant City Manager; Tomika Monterville, Director, Transportation Department]

Isidro Martinez, Director with the Alamo Area Metropolitan Planning Organization (AAMPO), provided an overview of the scope of charge of the AAMPO which was a Federally-mandated agency that guided transportation issues within the area to include Bexar, Kendall, Comal and Guadalupe Counties. He noted that the study area was an area of 4.22 million in population with 13,000 lane miles and 116 million miles traveled daily on those roads by 2050.

Martinez reviewed the 3-C Planning Process which he noted was a cooperative with all the major cities within the Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO). He noted that over 400 MPOs existed in the United States and there were 27 in Texas. He stated that MPOs addressed comprehensive mobility modes and was a representative of the metropolitan regions.

Martinez reviewed the board and committees of the AAMPO which was comprised of 21 members with representatives of each of the four counties and large cities. He noted that Councilmembers Cabello Havrda, Castillo and Viagran were members of the Board and thanked them for their service to the Board.

Martinez provided an overview of the transportation funding resources which included Federal, State and local funding. He stated that several State Propositions funded MPOs to include funding from gas, oil and natural gas taxes. He spoke to project funding categories for different transportation areas to include preventive maintenance and rehabilitation of roads, bridges, strategic plans and several other categories.

Martinez provided an overview of documents/reports that mandated MPOs to include the Unified Planning Work Program, Metropolitan Transportation Plan (MTP), Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) and the Transportation Conformity Determination document. He reviewed the relevance of each document and noted that each had timeframes for implementation of document requirements. Martinez provided examples of MPO funded plans and studies completed by the MPO or by hired consultants.

Martinez noted that the MTP provided guidance for long term and strategic plans. He stated that the TIP addressed short range projects to include shovel ready projects and that the plan set up budgets for those projects. He noted that the TIP called for projects from three MPO funding programs and required 20% of project funding. Martinez reviewed the type of projects that would be called for funding to include congestion mediation, carbon reduction programs and transportation alternative projects. He stated that project call would officially begin on May 1, 2023 and he reviewed the FY2025 through FY2028 TIP timeline through May 2024.

Martinez spoke to the Transportation Conformity Document and stated that it ensured Federally-funded or approved transportation projects and requirements for each of those categories. He reviewed the Bexar County Ozone level and noted that Bexar County had designated marginal non-attainment in 2018 which was increased up to moderate level due to increased smog levels within the County. He noted that funding had been provided for the MPO to address ozone

levels within the area.

Martinez spoke to stakeholder groups and programs that the MPO worked with to address transportation and mobility issues within the MPO.

Chair Cabello Havrda thanked Martinez for the report and stated that her participation on the board had greatly educated her of transportation and mobility concerns/issues within the MPO area. She noted that a great deal of collaboration occurred with the members of the board. She noted that the AAMPO study area was expected to greatly expand by 2050 and that the foundation and planning set by the MPO was crucial to meet the transportation demands and concerns in the area. She stressed that it was important to address all mobility categories and not just vehicle traffic.

Chair Cabello Havrda asked how the City could better collaborate and coordinate with the MPO for transportation concerns directly impacting the City. Martinez stated that City staff was very active in the MPO and provided technical expertise to the MPO at all levels of committees and processes. Assistant City Manager Rod Sanchez reiterated the work of City staff at all levels of the MPO.

Councilmember Courage expressed concern in public safety and asked how City programs such as Vision Zero, Hero and the Bike Master Plan were incorporated into MPO projects. Martinez stressed that the technical scoring of projects took into consideration the City's plans to make sure that goals were achieved for those identified projects.

Councilmember Courage asked if the MPO had input on speed limits. Martinez clarified that speed limits were governed at the Federal and State level.

Councilmember McKee-Rodriguez asked how an equity lens was incorporated into transportation and infrastructure project identification. Martinez stated that the current administration had a large focus on equity for transportation projects and that the AAMPO had long used an equity lens when identifying projects to address environmental justice issues and concerns by using mapping tools and studies. Martinez noted that the MPO also worked on equity projects within the entire MPO area and not just within Bexar County.

Councilmember McKee-Rodriguez noted that he hoped that projects could be identified with unified funding within the County and City to address area transportation concerns. Chair Cabello Havrda stated that the diverse board worked well together and practiced high levels of collaboration.

Councilmember Castillo asked for clarification on transportation alternative projects. Martinez stated that those projects were primarily made up of bike or pedestrian projects such as bike trails, sidewalks or hiking trails. Councilmember Castillo asked if the Call for Projects included electric buses for school districts. Martinez confirmed that those projects could be funded and that school districts needed to work with the state or MPO to apply for grants for those sort of projects.

Chair Cabello Havrda asked for clarification on where smog sensors were installed and the determination of location. Martinez stated that all sensor locations were determined at the State or

Federal level and were usually located where smog/emission control was most needed. Councilmember Courage asked when it was anticipated for vehicles to have emissions inspections. Martinez stated that emission testing was anticipated sooner than later but did not have a specific timeline for those tests.

No action was required for Item 2.

3. A briefing on the Transportation Demand Management (TDM) Plan. [Roderick Sanchez, Assistant City Manager; Tomika Monterville, Director, Transportation Department]

Transportation Director Tomika Monterville provided an update on the Transportation Demand Management (TMD) Plan and noted that the Plan kicked-off in February 2023 and that the study would be completed in 12 months of Notice to Proceed action. She noted that staff were currently assessing data needs, locations and peer reviews and benchmarking for the study. She thanked the AAMPO for the grant funding provided for the study.

Monterville reviewed the next steps in finalizing the plan's communication efforts and would engage with the Finance, Innovation, Human Resources and Center City and Development Departments.

Chair Cabello Havrda stated that she was pleased that the study was moving forward and asked if the outreach would be moved beyond the City. Monterville stated that the study was currently addressing the City of San Antonio as an employer but was looking at expanding to other large employers within the City to address all transportation needs.

Chair Cabello Havrda asked if managers at all levels of the City were included in the study. Monterville confirmed that it was important to address all levels of employees to meet their transportation needs and address any digital divide concerns for line staff.

Councilmember Castillo asked for clarification on the questions on the TDM survey. Monterville stated that questions would be provided to the Committee for their review. Councilmember Castillo asked if it was known how many employees used public transportation. Monterville stressed that data was currently being gathered to obtain information on all uses of transportation for work and what priorities staff had to commute to work.

Councilmember Courage noted his support of the study and data gathered from it. Monterville stated that it was important to gather transportation data to include challenges and incentive benefits.

No action was required for Item 3.

4. A briefing on the Bike Network Plan (BNP). [Roderick Sanchez, Assistant City Manager; Tomika Monterville, Director, Transportation Department]

Transportation Director Tomika Monterville provided an update on the San Antonio Bicycle Network Plan (BNP) and Implementation Strategy which began in 2011. She stated that beginning in 2016, the Master Plan received \$1 million dollars per year to address the Plan. She noted that the program was currently in the data collection stage in partnership with the Information Technology Services Department

(ITSD) and that the communication plan was currently being developed. She stated that the BNP was estimated to be completed by August 2023. She reviewed the next steps to include finalization of branding and the website by the Spring of 2023. In addition, completion of data auditing and collection was to be completed in the Spring of 2023.

Chair Cabello Havrda stated that it was crucial to address bike transportation needs. Monterville stated that it was important to address and educate those not traveling on bikes to understand what was needed for bike transportation and encouraged bike transportation by more individuals. Chair Cabello Havrda noted that there was a very high pain point for individuals to get out of their cars and start using bike transportation and it was crucial to spread education of the BNP.

Chair Cabello Havrda asked of the next studies after the study was completed. Monterville stated that the BNP would educate the implementation plan for expansion of the BNP and associated projects. She noted that data collected would educate grant applications and funding requests at all levels of funding sources.

Councilmember Courage noted the importance of bike transportation throughout the world and stressed the use of infrastructure in those areas. He stressed that there were challenges or obstacles in expanding bike lanes and flow of vehicular traffic and working with TXDoT to complete projects. He expressed concern of using Greenway Trails as bike transportation paths since there was a large number of pedestrians that used the paths. He requested more information on recommended safety components to meet his concerns. Monterville stated that it was important to review State and Federal policy guidelines in building out bike trails.

Councilmember Castillo expressed concern of some of the Westside pedestrian paths as bike paths since they were already narrow, and safety was crucial for all using the paths. She supported an audit of bike lanes and paths to gather data of lane usage and conditions. Monterville stated that communications with the community was important and that she welcomed meeting with homeowner associations and stakeholders to discuss concerns with bike lanes.

No action was required for Item 4.

Adjournment

There being no further discussion, the meeting was adjourned at 3:02 PM.

Approved

Melissa Cabello Havrda, Chair

Debbie Racca-Sittre, City Clerk

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