

## City of San Antonio



### Minutes

#### Transportation and Infrastructure 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, September 26, 2023**

**10:00 AM**

**City Hall Complex**

The Transportation and Mobility Committee convened a regular meeting in the City Hall Council Briefing Room beginning at 10:06 AM. 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*  
Jalen McKee-Rodriguez, *Member*  
Marina Alderete Gavito, *Member*

**Members Absent:** Melissa Cabello Havrda, *Member*

#### Approval of Minutes

##### 1. Approval of minutes June 20, 2023 Transportation and Infrastructure Committee meeting.

Councilmember McKee-Rodriguez moved to Approve the minutes of the June 20, 2023 Transportation and Infrastructure Committee meeting. Councilmember Kaur seconded the motion. The motion carried by the following vote:

**Aye:** Courage, Kaur, McKee-Rodriguez, Alderete Gavito

**Absent:** Cabello Havrda

#### Public Comment

Joey Pawlik, Director of Activate SA, spoke in support of Activate SA's Bike Plan noting the importance of bike safety and the need for a plan that was truly implementable for people of all ages and abilities.

#### Briefing and Possible Action on

##### 2. Briefing by the Texas Department of Transportation (TxDOT) on regional projects

**planned and currently under construction for the San Antonio District.** [Roderick Sanchez, Assistant City Manager; Catherine Hernandez, Interim Director, Transportation Department]

Clayton Ripps, Director of Transportation and Development for the Texas Department of Transportation, gave an overview of TxDot projects in place. He stated that the goal was to incorporate safety design to end the streak of deaths on Texas highways (#EndTheStreakTX).

Ripps provided an overview of the current projects and the funding for Fiscal Years 2022, 2023 and 2024 and incorporating safety designs. He stated that the US281 project had been completed and included High Occupancy Vehicle (HOV) lanes.

Ripps provided an overview of the IH35 Northeast Expansion project funded at \$3.4 billion which would add capacity via elevated lanes due to the lack of available right of way options. He stated that the project would include rail options and added that the project would continue until 2029. He reviewed the four phases of the project and the areas each phase would address.

Ripps provided an overview of the Loop 1604 North (State Highway 16 to IH35) project and noted that the project was estimated to cost \$880 million and was six months ahead of schedule. He reviewed the phases of the project.

Ripps provided an overview of the I-10 East project which included the expansion from four to six lanes and the demolition of current lanes due to poor soil issues. He reviewed the 11 phases of the project which included overpass construction and interchange redesign for high industrial traffic. He noted that two more phases still required funding.

Ripps reviewed the SH 151 from Loop 1604 to IH 410 project which still had three years associated with the project. He stated that construction of a continuous frontage road was included in the project and that they were currently building two of the direct connectors. Kipps final project he reviewed was the IH 410 from FM 2536 to Valley Hi Road which included ramp revision, intersection improvements and reconstruction on frontage roads.

Ripps noted that each project was reviewed for investments for the future and benefits to transportation users. He reviewed the timeline for all projects and reviewed funded future projects which included the FM 1560 project, IH37 at Loop 13 (SE Military Dr), IH 410/US 281 interchange improvements, and US 90 from SH 211 to IH 410 of which three would be completed by 2025.

Kipps provided an overview of partially/unfunded projects which included IH 410 Southwest segment which was estimated at \$589 million; IH 410 Eastside segment with an estimated cost of \$20 million; IH 410 Northside improvements with funding yet to be determined; SH16 – IH 410 to Loop 1604 which was in final study need phases; Loop 1604 Northeast from IH 35 to IH 10; US 90 – IH 410 to IH 35 improvements and the completion of a Downtown Transportation Study.

Chair Courage asked about design ready projects for future funding options and Mr. Ripps stated that TxDot always had proct prioritized and ready in case funding became available. Chair Courage stated that the presentation was very informative and would assist the council districts in addressing resident questions. Chair Courage asked why elevated highway projects were not more prevalent since there were more and more congestion issues, especially when traveling north. Kipps stated that there were future studies projected to address expansion of IH 35 and Highway 46 and to address transportation challenges.

Councilmember Alderete Gavito asked for clarification on how TXDoT addressed congestion issues or priorities when investing for the future. Kipps stated that TXDoT always looked at projects for quick impacts but that they did not have a formalized way to prioritize projects. Councilmember Alderete Gavito asked why it had taken so long to address needs for SH 16 (Bandera Road). Kipps stated that there were many challenges to Bandera Road and he worked closely with the City of Leon Valley to address challenges since 1990 which included funding challenges, population expansion and possible toll road design. Councilmember Alderete Gavito noted that there was a large interest and effort to address Bandera Road challenges and she had been working with the Mayor of Leon Valley to reactivate the Bandera Road Transportation Group to address those challenges. She asked if there were places that work could start now. Kipps stated that a Right-of-Way needed to be acquired and it would take some time. Kipps stressed the importance of local interest support for future San Antonio Bexar County Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO) funding.

Councilmember McKee-Rodriguez stated that he appreciated and encouraged more presentations in the future and requested that Union Pacific provide an update to the Committee such as the one provided by TXDoT.

Councilmember McKee-Rodriguez asked that vegetation barriers be included in the projects reviewed. Kipps stated that vegetation barriers were a priority in all projects and spoke to challenges of requests for removal of vegetation due to homelessness encampments and other concerns.

Councilmember McKee-Rodriguez asked how TXDoT established the priority of projects and if equity was included to determine selection of projects. Kipps stated that there were several factors included in the priority to include future congestion. He added that safety and equity was considered for all mobility needs to include pedestrian needs.

Councilmember Kaur asked for an update on the McCullough Bridge and exit reopening. Kipp stated that the fire incident was extensive and that it would take another year before work would begin on the reconstruction of the bridge.

Councilmember Kaur expressed concern regarding the trash and who picked it up. Kipp stated that TxDot picked up the trash.

Councilmember Kaur asked if bike lanes were considered on projects. Kipps stated that all

projects were considered such as bike lanes or other mobility.

Councilmember Kaur asked for clarification on Loop 410 North changes and the impacts to neighborhood entrances along the removal of exits. Kipps stated that alternate routes were identified and designed and spoke to design elements.

Chair Courage asked for clarification on the right-of-way acquisition process. Kipps explained the process for identification of right-of-way space needed, removal of utilities and making the landowner whole for the acquisition of the property.

Chair Courage also expressed concern regarding the dirty highways.

**3. Briefing on a planning grant application to the Reconnecting Communities and Neighborhoods program.** [Jeff Coyle, Assistant City Manager; Sally Basurto, Director, Government Affairs]

Assistant City Manager Lori Houston provided an overview of a grant application to the Reconnecting Communities and Neighborhoods Program for projects to reconnect the eastside portion of the City to the downtown area. She noted that the grant would be used to fund a strategic plan, a public outreach campaign and conceptual design. She stated that the project summary was to fund a study on how to overcome those barriers with community stakeholders, Council District 2 representatives and City staff. She stated that the grant request was for \$2.96 million which would only cover the design component of the project.

Assistant City Manager Houston reviewed the stakeholders considered for the study to include City Departments, VIA, the State and Federal delegation, San Antonio for Growth on the Eastside (SAGE), the Alamo Area Metropolitan Planning Organization (AAMPO), chambers of commerce and higher education institutions. She stated that once the study was completed, data would be gathered to request construction grant funding of the project.

Councilmember McKee-Rodriguez asked when the next grant phase would occur. Assistant City Manager Houston stated that the next phase had not been released but she felt that it was important to address the planning and design component at this time.

Councilmember McKee-Rodriguez stated that he was supportive of the Item but stressed the need to consider impacts to vulnerable neighborhoods in the area. He stated the need to be cautious is what ended up being the reality as to the intent. Councilmember McKee-Rodriguez requested inclusion of neighborhood leaders in the stakeholder group.

Chair Courage stated that he was supportive of the Item and noted the connectivity segregation of the area and noted that it was important to address all disconnection issues within the eastside. He felt it was a good step in the right direction and hoped it could be looked at more long-term and for other funding in the future.

Councilmember Kaur asked how the funding would be used. Assistant City Manager Houston stated that part of the funding would be used for department and contracted job

order vendors and that a solicitation would be released for a stakeholder communications firm for \$500,000 to provide community engagement efforts.

**4. Briefing on the Bike Network Plan and report on the implementation of the 2011 Bike Master Plan.** [Roderick Sanchez, Assistant City Manager; Catherine Hernandez, Interim Director, Transportation Department]

Catherine Hernandez, Interim Transportation Department Director, provided an update of the 2011 Bike Network Plan (BNP) and the future of the Plan. She noted that the 2011 BNP was a road map that reviewed current conditions and the design and construction of a Bike Master Plan. She reviewed the bike infrastructure prior to 2011 and following implementation of the Plan.

Hernandez stated that in 2011 there were only 204 miles of biking infrastructure and that the BNP proposed 1,288 miles of new bike facilities and infrastructure. She noted that currently there were 523 miles of bike infrastructure and noted that not all recommendations had been implemented. She added that 48% of Tier 1 facilities and 27% of Tier 2 facilities had been implemented. Hernandez reviewed projects implemented from the BNP and addressed projects that were not implemented by council district.

Hernandez stressed the importance of the implementation of a new Bike Plan to take into consideration the change in policies and programs now in place. She noted that the funding strategy and key policies were considered in the Plan but there was a need to address legislative, fiscal and safety needs in a new Plan.

Hernandez stated that the next phase of the Bike Plan would include the implementation of the next phase of stakeholder communications which would begin in the following week.

Chair Courage expressed his disappointment in the results of the 2011 BNP and that the next plan needed to address connectivity issues on a more realistic and safety focused approach. He stressed the need for protected bike lanes as implemented in other countries for the safety of individuals commuting to work.

Chair Courage encouraged the use of greenway spaces for commuting purposes but noted his concern of the current state of the Greenway Trails and its multi-use with pedestrians and associated safety.

Councilmember Alderete Gavito expressed concern regarding the current state of bike lanes and mobility to include areas such as Woodlawn Lake. She stressed the need for protecting bike lanes, enforcement for lanes and speeding. Councilmember Alderete Gavito requested policy updates and timelines.

Councilmember Kaur asked if bike lane improvements would continue on current projects or if they would be interrupted during the reevaluation of the Bike Plan. Hernandez stressed that coordination of bike mobility improvements would continue.

Councilmember Kaur asked if the Phase 2 Communications Survey and discussions

would be different than those conducted in Phase 1. Consultant David Bemporad, RSNH, stated that findings from the Phase 1 survey would be reviewed and then expanded within Phase 2. He discussed the process and components of the new survey process.

Councilmember Kaur asked if survey results projects have proposed funding allocations and recommendations. Bemporad stated that funding to include grant applications would be recommended.

Councilmember Kaur stated that Councilmember McKee-Rodriguez asked that the new plan include consideration of expanded funding and be adaptable to any changes that might occur.

Chair Courage requested that the Plan include the development of a map of proposed infrastructure components and connectivity. He suggested that an update be presented on which streets were getting specific upgrades and which ones were being prioritized for bike safety. He suggested that the proposed process for consideration of changes to residential streets be brought to the residential community to gain their input and approval for impacted streets.

### **Adjournment**

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 12:04 p.m.

**Approved**

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*John Courage, Chair*

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*Debbie Racca-Sittre, City Clerk*