

**State of Texas  
County of Bexar  
City of San Antonio**



**Meeting Minutes  
City Council B Session**

City Hall Complex  
San Antonio, Texas 78205

**2021 – 2023 Council Members**

Mayor Ron Nirenberg

Mario Bravo, Dist. 1 | Jalen McKee-Rodriguez, Dist. 2  
Phyllis Viagran, Dist. 3 | Dr. Adriana Rocha Garcia, Dist. 4  
Teri Castillo, Dist. 5 | Melissa Cabello Havrda, Dist. 6  
Ana Sandoval, Dist. 7 | Manny Pelaez, Dist. 8  
John Courage, Dist. 9 | Clayton Perry, Dist. 10

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**Wednesday, November 10, 2021**

**2:00 PM**

**Municipal Plaza Building**

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The City Council convened a regular meeting in the Norma S. Rodriguez Council Chamber in the Municipal Plaza Building beginning at 2:04 PM. Interim City Clerk Debbie Racca-Sittre took the Roll Call noting a quorum with the following Council Members present:

**PRESENT:** 11 – Nirenberg, Bravo, McKee-Rodriguez, Viagran, Rocha Garcia, Castillo, Cabello Havrda, Sandoval, Pelaez, Courage, Perry

**ABSENT:** None

**ITEMS**

- 1. Briefing on the Strategic Development Plan for the San Antonio International Airport** [Jeff Coyle, Assistant City Manager; Jesus Saenz, Director, Aviation]

City Manager Erik Walsh introduced the item and Aviation Department Director Jesus Saenz who presented the San Antonio International Airport Strategic Development Plan. Saenz introduced the Aviation Department team, the WSP, Inc consultant team and thanked them for their work. Saenz introduced John Dickson, Chair of the Airport System Development Committee who introduced the rest of the Committee Members and noted that the planning process began in 2017. Dickson provided an overview of the initial recommendations which included the vision of a world class regional airport that optimized the user experience, reflected our rich history and culture, focused on the future, and accommodated future technology innovations.

Saenz presented the economic impact of the San Antonio International Airport (SAIA) on the community and outlined goals for increasing capacity as well as the status of current plans. Saenz provided an overview of the community engagement and planning processes with next steps.

#### DISCUSSION:

Mayor Nirenberg commented that the plan was laid out in an achievable way and needed to be delivered immediately. Mayor Nirenberg declared that developing SAIA was the most important capital investment San Antonio would ever make to grow its economy as San Antonio was quickly becoming a metroplex. Mayor Nirenberg provided his full commitment to the Plan.

Councilmember Pelaez spoke in support of the Plan, pointing out that the Texas economy was larger than Brazil and a competitive airport was needed because it served as the “welcome mat” to San Antonio. Councilmember Pelaez suggested the airport should be smart in its delivery of the Plan and recommended that SAIA collect data about travelers to better serve them citywide. Saenz agreed that better predictive analytics were needed but should be conducted on a real-time basis.

Councilmember Sandoval expressed her appreciation for the Airport and recommended that there be a larger conversation about ground travel between cities. Councilmember Sandoval suggested that the conversation should be expanded to a world class travel system that includes multiple modes of transportation. City Manager Walsh noted the decentralized ground transportation system and Saenz added that the Plan included a ground transportation center. Councilmember Sandoval asked if any ground transportation partners collected data that could be utilized for the plans. Saenz said the airport would look into utilizing all data. Walsh said he would confirm available data with the Transportation Department.

Councilmember McKee-Rodriguez stressed that the customer experience was crucial and should represent San Antonio’s best food, art, and culture. Councilmember McKee-Rodriguez asked about the impact of noise to Airport neighbors. Saenz explained that an environmental assessment would be required to move the Plan forward noting that a noise exposure mapping exercise was already done. Councilmember McKee-Rodriguez asked about accessibility of the facility. Saenz described a process of using design standards to ensure accessibility. Councilmember McKee-Rodriguez noted that he was excited about the parking system but was disappointed that the parking signage on parking availability didn’t seem to be accurate. Saenz said he would look into possible issues with the parking system.

Councilmember Cabello Havrda recommended innovation and accessibility should be a key

component of the Plan. Councilmember Cabello Havrda suggested innovation in public safety, workforce development and the Airport System was an economic driver. Saenz mentioned that the airport had a security plan approved by the Transportation Security Administration (TSA) which was amended regularly and explained a canine partnership as well as perimeter checks conducted at the facility. Councilmember Cabello Havrda asked if staff receive cultural sensitivity training, which Saenz confirmed was being done.

Councilmember Cabello Havrda asked how the Plan considered the growth of San Antonio into a metroplex. Saenz replied that there were urban air mobility plans as well as ground plans which were developed and implemented to address the City's growth. Councilmember Cabello Havrda asked about the plan as associated with the Federal Infrastructure Bill. Saenz provided an updated on Federal Funding and assured SAIA would get its fair share. Assistant City Manager Jeff Coyle added that all Federal Funding was being coordinated through the Intergovernmental Relations Committee.

Councilmember Rocha Garcia expressed the importance of incorporating authentic San Antonio components into the plan. Councilmember Rocha Garcia recommended review of the economic impact and plans for the SAIA to the Economic and Workforce Development Committee. Dickson explained that many economic partners had been a part of the planning process.

Councilmember Rocha Garcia suggested that an apprenticeship program could be created at SAIA and this could be funded by Federal Infrastructure grants. Councilmember Rocha Garcia also thought it would be beneficial to have a better partnership with Mexico.

Councilmember Castillo brought up that departing from the Airport could impact persons working in the service industry. Councilmember Castillo asked about accommodations that were planned for VIA Transit to connect to the Airport. Councilmember Castillo mentioned the partnership with Visit San Antonio and other non-profits doing the work to showcase the City's culture. Saenz noted design standards had been shared with partners and the community and would be developed further and brought back to City Council for briefing. Councilmember Castillo asked for pertinent data on travelers which Saenz said he would provide.

Councilmember Perry requested data on demand and current capacity by terminal Gates. Saenz replied that the data was included within the packet and described flow rate as a metric utilized to analyze capacity. Councilmember Perry wanted to see where the Gate growth was required, Saenz said he would share Passenger Activity Levels data with the City Council.

Councilmember Perry asked for a description of the feedback received through the conducted community engagement. Saenz and consultant Gretchen Roufs provided examples of survey questions and described the sampling techniques used. Councilmember Perry asked for a breakdown of costs for each of the components in the Plan.

Councilmember Viagran asked how Councilmembers could assist in accessing more Federal Infrastructure Funds to help implement this Plan. Coyle stated that a plan was being developed to seek the Federal funding and cited that the Plan was being approved at an opportune time to access that funding. Councilmember Viagran stated that meditation space and space for dogs, ultra-

accessibility, broadband and internet access should be considered for funding.

Councilmember Bravo asked what companies looking to relocate to a City were looking for in an airport. Dickson replied that nonstop flights to everywhere that occur often, clean facilities, local restaurant choices and comfortable airport lounges were features that companies desired.

Councilmember Bravo asked for clarification on the increased capacity analysis conducted and Consultant John Van Huenzel explained the forecasting methodology used.

Councilmember Courage asked if the Airport collected data on percentage of visitors/leisure travelers versus business travelers, as well as numbers on local, in-state, and out of state passengers. Saenz described the regional area and explained that pre-pandemic levels were 60% leisure and 40% business, and that had changed with the pandemic. Aviation Department staffer Brian Pratte described the local and regional aspect of travelers and said he would provide information on out-of-state travelers' analytics. Councilmember Courage asked of available and projected concessions at the Airport. Aviation Department staffer Jennifer Pysher provided data on current and projected concession operations. Councilmember Courage asked what the average time to get baggage and whether this was expected to be improved and suggested that travelers should be made aware of how much time it would take to get out of the Airport if collecting baggage.

Councilmember Perry requested the total cost of the plan implementation by component and source of funding. Councilmember Perry clarified that businesses needed to fly more in order for the airlines to bring more non-stop flights.

Councilmember Rocha Garcia asked how the Airport system would prepare for the future of technology. Dickson explained that the Airport design must include space to anticipate future City growth and it would be a mistake to build to the minimum specifications of today.

## **EXECUTIVE SESSION**

Mayor Nirenberg recessed the meeting at 4:30 PM to enter into Executive Session to discuss the following Items:

- A. Economic development negotiations pursuant to Texas Government Code Section 551.087 (economic development).
- B. The purchase, exchange, lease or value of real property pursuant to Texas Government Code Section 551.072 (real property).
- C. Legal issues related to collective bargaining pursuant to Texas Government Code Section 551.071 (consultation with attorney).
- D. Legal issues related to litigation involving the City pursuant to Texas Government Code Section 551.071 (consultation with attorney).
- E. Legal issues relating to COVID-19 preparedness pursuant to Texas Government Code Section

551.071 (consultation with attorney).

Mayor Pro-Tem Perry reconvened the meeting at 5:31 PM and stated that no action had been taken during the Executive Session.

## **ADJOURNMENT**

Mayor Pro-Tem Perry adjourned the meeting at 5:31 PM

**Approved**

**Ron Nirenberg  
Mayor**

Attest:

**Debbie Racca-Sittre  
Interim City Clerk**