

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



**DRAFT
Meeting Minutes
City Council Special Session**

City Hall Complex
114 W. Commerce
San Antonio, Texas 78205

Tuesday, August 11, 2015

3:00 PM

Municipal Plaza Building

The City Council of San Antonio convened in the "B" Room of the Municipal Plaza Building. City Clerk Leticia Vacek took the Roll Call with the following Councilmembers present:

PRESENT: 11 - Mayor Taylor, Treviño, Warrick, Viagran, Saldaña, Gonzales, Lopez, Medina, Nirenberg, Krier, and Gallagher

1. Staff presentation on the FY 2016 Proposed Budget focusing on, but not limited to, the following City Departments: [Sheryl Sculley, City Manager; Maria Villagomez, Director, Management and Budget]

A. Transportation and Capital Improvements Department

B. Debt Management Plan

A. TRANSPORTATION AND CAPITAL IMPROVEMENTS

Mike Frisbie presented on the Department's Organizational Structure, Staffing Compliment, and Proposed FY 2016 Budget. He stated that the Department was requesting a Budget Allocation of \$173 Million and detailed allocations for Street Maintenance, Flood Control, Transportation and Traffic, Capital Projects, Mowing and Sweeping, and Sidewalks.

A Report was provided on the condition of City streets which denoted that 27% of the City's 4,066 miles of streets required maintenance. It was noted that a total of \$64 Million was being allocated in FY 2016 to resurface and rehabilitate streets and that said amount was \$23 Million more than from last year. Mr. Frisbie stated that the focus was to make continued investments in street repairs via the Budget and Bond Funds in order to mitigate the deterioration of pavement caused by age, utility cuts, storm water drainage, soil conditions, extreme temperatures, and overloading from heavy trucks and buses. He explained that continued investments in street maintenance would lessen the need for Bond Funds in the future.

Improvements proposed for the Pothole Program include an increase in funding in the amount of \$1 Million, the acquisition of 2 new pothole patch trucks, and the addition of 6 new positions. It was noted that the Program would incorporate a new methodology as well as utilize GIS technology, mapping tools, and calls made to 3-1-1 to identify pothole locations and prioritize repairs. Said Enhancements and Improvements would allow the Department to repair 34,000 potholes in Fiscal Year 2016.

Mr. Frisbie detailed the duties and funding mechanism of the Right-of-Way Management Division and stated that Improvements included the addition of 8 Inspector positions. He noted that 6 positions would be responsible for inspecting major utility projects and repairs while the other 2 positions would support fiber optic network deployment undertaken by AT&T and Google. It was reported that the Division was also proposing a Permitting Fee increase via a 4-Tiered Fee Schedule which would charge entities daily based on the length of the Project and that the Division would operate 6 days a week in order to mitigate the impact to the public.

It was reported that a Budget Allocation of \$15 Million was being proposed for Sidewalk Improvements and that said amount was a 76% increase from last year. Of this amount, \$1.2 Million was dedicated for the addition of new sidewalks and associated repairs. Mr. Frisbie highlighted a Pilot Project initiated by the Department which would focus on using alternate materials and methodologies for making and installing sidewalks. Examples provided included using recycled plastic and pre-cast concrete blocks. He explained that of the \$15 Million being proposed for Sidewalk Improvements, \$5 Million was from Advance Transportation District Funds (ADT) while \$10 Million was from Certificates of Obligation and that said Funding would allow the City to add 17 miles of sidewalks in FY 2016 and 30 miles in FY 2017.

Mr. Frisbie stated that sidewalks were repaired using 2 approaches: 1) As per Ordinance, Property Owners are responsible for repairing sidewalks in front of their home, and 2) The

scope of a City Construction Project may include sidewalks repairs. He added that as part of the FY 2016 Budget, the Department was adding a third option which would allocate \$250,000 as part of a Matching Fund Pilot Program. It was reported that said Program would assist with the funding of sidewalk repairs on a first-come first-served basis and that the City would match the amount allocated by the Property Owner. The intent of said Program was to lessen the financial burden for making needed repairs while decreasing safety concerns associated with broken sidewalks.

As part of the Pedestrian and Bicycle Safety Program, the Department proposed implementing an Outreach Campaign focused on educating the public on safety. Mr. Frisbie reported that said Campaign was needed due to the increased number of pedestrian and bicycle accidents and fatalities. He noted that the Department had leveraged \$9.3 Million from the Federal Government to implement the Vision Zero Action Plan in San Antonio and that said Plan was requested to be implemented by Councilmember Gonzales. It was noted that the goal of the Plan was to have zero roadway fatalities and would be utilizing the components of Education, Encouragement, Engineering, Enforcement, and Evaluation to achieve this goal. Each component was highlighted to include Plan of Action, Stakeholders, and Benefits of Improvements and Enhancements.

Mr. Frisbie briefly spoke on the Traffic Signal System and noted that 1,300 intersections had synchronized signals. He reported that \$2 Million had been allocated for updating wireless communication systems that have been in use since 2008. It was noted that the utilization of synchronized signals decreased drive time by 12%, stoppage in traffic by 32%, and emissions by 33%. Additional studies reflected a fuel savings of \$38 Million City-wide and \$209 Million in annually in driver time.

The job responsibilities of the Storm Water Division were detailed to include flood plain management, street sweeping, mowing, channel restoration, natural creekway maintenance, tunnel maintenance, and tree removal. It was noted that a Budget Allocation of \$47.5 Million was being requested which would assist with ensuring the safety of ground water and of the public. Mr. Frisbie provided an overview of the Storm Water Utility Fee Program and a history of Fee increases since 1993. He reported that in September 2014 the Department began to seek input from Stakeholders and conduct research to develop a new methodology and rate structure based on the amount of storm water run-off generated from impervious cover on a particular lot. It was noted that the new methodology met funding requirements for operational services under the MS4 Permit, was equitable, and promoted Storm Water Best Management Practices. He stated that the City expected to generate \$3.7 Million in additional revenue in FY 2016 from the proposed increase in Storm Water Utility Fees and that revenue requirements for rate payers would be gradually increased over 3 years. The Mayor and Council were informed that a Public Hearing was scheduled for

September 9, 2015 and that new rates would be effective January 1, 2016. Mr. Frisbie reported that revenues generated would be used to purchase additional equipment, hire additional personnel, increase the frequency of street sweeping and mowing services, and allow the Department to utilize video equipment to assess tunnel conditions. It was stated that \$12 Million was allocated for Drainage Improvements and that this amount was separate from Bond Funds allocated for same. He highlighted Projects proposed for completion in FY 2016.

Mr. Frisbie stated that the FY 2016 Budget Allocation for the Six Year Capital Improvement Program totaled \$670 Million and provided an overview of Funding allocations for each of the 8 Programs. A Status of 2012 Bond Program was provided and it was reported that 25% of the Projects had been Completed, 46% were under Construction, and 29% were in the Design Phase. He noted that all but the Callahan Road Construction Project in District 7 would be completed by the end of FY 2017 and detailed the reasons for the delay. Mr. Frisbie stated that an additional \$5.6 Million was being requested for the completion of the three (3) Fire Stations in the 2012 Bond Program as construction prices had increased.

He noted that the Department was in the process of identifying Projects for the 2017 Bond Program and that the process would entail leveraging funds and resources from other entities. It was stated that as part of the Recommendations to be made next Summer, the Department would be asking City Council to make Bond Committee Appointments as Community Input would be gathered from October 2016 to December 2016.

Mr. Frisbie provided an overview of the Capital Improvement Projects currently being undertaken at the Airport and highlighted several City-wide Projects proposed for FY 2016. He reported that the City had partnered with the General Land Office to make Improvements at Alamo Plaza and that the City had allocated \$18 Million from various funding sources for said. As part of the Service Center Strategic Plan, it was stated that TCI and Solid Waste would share in the cost of building two (2) new Service Centers at a combined cost of \$73 Million, which would be funded over 2 years. An overview of the Convention Center Expansion Project was provided to include amenities and construction schedule. It was noted that construction was 3 months ahead of schedule and that conferences were already booked for February 2016.

Mayor Taylor spoke in support of funding increases for Streets and Sidewalks. She asked of the Department's plan for funding improvements for streets that have been rated as D and F. Mr. Frisbie reported that funding was allocated in the Infrastructure Management Program and Bond Program. He stated that the intent was to mitigate full reconstruction of streets and therefore would be focusing on maintenance of streets.

At the request of Mayor Taylor, Mr. Frisbie explained that Property Owners were responsible for maintenance of sidewalks and that the Department would be implementing a Pilot Program which would assist Property Owners fund repairs that had not been identified for repair in another Construction Project. It was reported that \$250,000 was allocated for this Program and additional information would be provided to Council as Property Owners began to apply. He continued by stating that 34% of neighborhoods did not have sidewalks and that said number included areas with no record of having sidewalks as well as communities that preferred to not have sidewalks. Mayor Taylor noted how maintained streets and sidewalks increased the quality of life for citizens.

Councilmember Saldaña commended Mr. Frisbie and his team for incorporating the Council's direction on Streets and Sidewalks when formulating the FY 2016 Budget and for embracing the Vision Zero Plan. He asked for more information regarding the allocation of Storm Water Fees. Mr. Frisbie responded that the Department had partnered with the San Antonio River Authority (SARA) to develop a Master Plan and that Drainage Improvements identified by the City and via the Master Plan would be funded using Storm Water Revenues and Bond Program allocations. It was reported that the Department would be providing Management with a list of 5 to 10 Projects per Council District for possible inclusion in the 2017 Bond Program and planned on leveraging resources in order to complete Projects in a more cost effective manner.

At the request of Councilmember Saldaña, Ms. Sculley expanded on the process for developing the new Storm Water Fee Schedule and noted that the long negotiation process was due to Stakeholders having concerns with the revised methodology for imposing fees. Councilmember Saldaña spoke in support of the methodology as it was a more equitable and stated that the revenues generated would allow the City to provide additional services.

Councilmember Saldaña spoke in support of the Department allocating \$10 Million for Sidewalk Improvements and asked for clarification on funding sources. Mr. Frisbie reported that the City would be using Certificates of Obligation in FY 2016 while Bond Funds would be used in FY 2017. He stated that the City would be developing a Comprehensive Plan of Sidewalk Improvements for inclusion in the FY 2017 Bond Program.

Councilmember Saldaña stated that a major constituent concern was neighborhood congestion and speeding. He asked for more information regarding the types of Traffic Calming options available. Options identified by Mr. Frisbie included speed humps, increased enforcement, and physical changes to the roadway. It was noted that cost was a major factor in determining the best option for the community. As it relates to installation

of Traffic Calming Devices in newer developments, it was reported that the City was enhancing Development Policies which would require the incorporation of Traffic Calming Devices and Traffic Signalization by Developers.

Councilmember Lopez thanked Mr. Frisbie for his diligence and assistance with identifying Improvement Projects. Councilmember Lopez asked of the process for prioritizing Projects. It was reported that the Department continually coordinated with the Councilmember to identify Projects. He stated that more Street and Sidewalk Improvements could be made in FY 2016 based on increased funding and was recommending that Sidewalk Improvements around schools be completed first.

Councilmember Lopez spoke on the importance of entities communicating regarding the planning and scope of Construction Projects so funding could be leveraged, the impact to the community was minimized, and air quality issues were mitigated.

At the request of Councilwoman Viagran, Mr. Frisbie reported that it would take approximately \$1.4 Million to repair streets categorized as A and B. He clarified that the City was responsible for maintaining 4,066 miles of streets whereas the Texas Department of Transportation (TXDOT) was responsible for 132 miles of streets.

Councilmember Viagran thanked the Department for adding Inspector positions and enhancing services provided. She reiterated the importance of entities communicating on Projects and developing cooperative working relationships.

Councilmember Viagran asked for more information regarding maintenance of Right-of-Ways. It was reported that Property Owners are responsible for maintaining easements, but had established relationships with various City Departments and entities to ensure the maintenance of said. Mr. Frisbie stated that the City was working with TXDOT to obtain control of specific areas of the community and that the City would be responsible for maintenance once land was released. He noted that the Department had developed a website which denoted properties maintained by the City and respective maintenance schedule.

Ms. Sculley stated that the Department would provide a list of properties maintained by the City and TXDOT.

In the area of Storm Water Fees, Mr. Frisbie clarified for Councilmember Viagran that State law exempts Universities from paying said fee.

Councilmember Warrick asked for more details on the process for making street repairs.

Mr. Frisbie stated that the Department assessed the condition of the street and determined the best method for making repairs. If it was determined that the street needed to be reconstructed, the Department would assess the feasibility of incorporating repairs into other Construction Projects. He further expanded on the grades given to streets and scoring system.

Councilmember Warrick voiced his concern with the Department not assessing streets properly resulting in streets being repaired multiple times but different entities. Mr. Frisbie noted that funding determined the type of improvements to be made and that communicating the plan of action to those impacted was vital.

At the direction of Councilmember Warrick, Mr. Frisbie detailed the process for completing Drainage Projects and noted that the City considered all aspects of the Project to include Street Maintenance. He highlighted the various options available for proper drainage of ponding water and stated that each street was assessed individually.

Councilmember Warrick asked for more information regarding the installation for speed humps. It was reported that the City would be using asphalt in the future due to concerns with using rubber speed humps.

Mr. Frisbie expanded on the Sidewalk Improvements and clarified the number of missing sidewalks.

Councilmember Nirenberg asked Mr. Frisbie for an assessment on the restructuring of the Department undertaken last year. It was reported that said integration was a success as all components of a Construction Project could be viewed simultaneously. He further stated that more improvements could be made.

Councilmember Nirenberg asked for clarification on missing sidewalks. It was stated by Mr. Frisbie that the Department had allocated \$1.2 Million to install missing sidewalks and that the number of missing sidewalks was not broken down by location such as Right-of-Way or Railroad Tracks. He expanded on the Matching Fund Pilot Program and noted that the Program was open to all property owners. Councilmember Nirenberg requested that the Department partner with Economic Development to identify potential Vendors who could provide construction services to Property Owners as well as Vendors that use alternative construction materials and methods. Mr. Frisbie reported that the Department was exploring the use of alternative construction materials and took into consideration durability, location and surroundings, esthetics, ADA compliance, and cost. He noted that the intent was for Improvements to last 20 to 30 years.

Councilmember Nirenberg spoke in support of synchronized signals and asked for more information on tracking mechanisms for assessing synchronization to include technology updates. Mr. Frisbie reported that the Department had allocated \$2 Million for technology upgrades and was in the process of integrating said. He stated that signals were wirelessly synchronized at midnight each day against the world clock.

Councilmember Nirenberg reiterated the importance of establishing collaborative relationships with other partners and noted that Councilmembers were available to assist in ensuring that Projects were coordinated. He asked of the status on incorporating IT specifications when developing a Construction Plan. Mr. Frisbie responded that the Department was working with IT to develop language for inclusion in future Bids and that agreements would be signed if other entities needed to access the City-owned conduit.

Councilmember Nirenberg thanked the Department for their handwork in getting Stakeholders to agree on the new Storm Water Fees and asked that the Department provide a Briefing on said in the future. Mr. Frisbie reported that a Public Hearing was scheduled for September 9, 2015 and would be available to meet with the Mayor and Councilmembers.

Councilmember Medina thanked the Department for developing the new methodology on Storm Water Fees and also asked that a future Briefing be scheduled.

As it relates to Sidewalk Funding, Ms. Sculley clarified that the City was allocating \$15 Million for Sidewalk Improvements and that said amount was an increase from previous years. Mr. Frisbie reported that the development of Complete Streets was an adopted City Policy but that said Policy did not apply in all situations. He further explained that funding determined if the Department could incorporate all Improvements into one Project. It was also stated that the Department was identifying other Improvements while making Street repairs.

Councilmember Medina voiced his concern with utility poles blocking access to sidewalks and the resulting ADA compliance issues. Mr. Frisbie stated that he would work with the Councilmember to identify a solution.

Councilmember Medina asked for clarification on maintenance of Rights-of-Way. Mr. Frisbie responded that maintenance was the responsibility of Homeowners; however, in some situations it was easier for the City to undertake the responsibility. He stated that said situation would be remedied in FY 2016 as additional funding had been allocated for mowing Rights-of-Ways.

Councilmember Gonzales asked for more information regarding funding for the maintenance of alleys. Mr. Frisbie reported that both TCI and Solid Waste were each contributing \$400,000 for the maintenance of alleys. He clarified that maintenance would only be completed for service alleys in which Solid Waste used to collect garbage and that in all other situations, the Property Owner was responsible for maintaining the alley.

Councilmember Gonzales asked on the process for identifying potholes. It was reported that potholes were identified using mapping tools, calls to 3-1-1, and surveying completed by Inspectors. Mr. Frisbie stated that said tools allowed the Department to be more proactive and efficient and that the Department filled potholes within 48 hours of receiving a 3-1-1 call.

Councilmember Gonzales thanked the Department for implementing the Vision Zero Plan and asked for funding allocations for said. Mr. Frisbie reported that the Department had secured a Grant totaling \$9.3 Million from the Federal Government.

Councilmember Gonzales asked of obligations placed on Developers for damage done to streets and sidewalks when working on Construction Projects. It was detailed that during Construction Projects the Company was required to clean debris and control dust and that the City did not have a mechanism in place to require Companies to fix damage they caused.

Councilmember Krier spoke on School Safety Improvements and asked how the Department was prioritizing said Projects. Mr. Frisbie reported on the process of completing said Improvements in each of the Council Districts and noted that priority was given to elementary schools with middle and high schools next. He stated that School Improvements would be completed in 5 years and that \$1 Million would be allocated each Fiscal Year. Councilmember Krier asked that the Department look at securing additional funding in order to complete Improvements sooner.

Councilmember Krier reported that Military Installations were concerned with the Storm Water Fee increase and asked of the process for getting them exempt from paying the Fee. Mr. Frisbie reported that the City could not exempt them as State Law did not exempt Military Installations from paying the Fee and Federal Law required Military Bases to pay local fees. He stated that the Department was meeting with Military Officials to identify Improvement Projects that could be funded and performed by the City with other Improvements to be included in the City's FY 2017 Bond Program.

Councilmember Krier stated that Military Installations would be lobbying the State Legislature in 2017 to exempt them from paying the Storm Water Fee. He discussed

possible solutions available to the Military for rectifying their concerns.

Councilmember Gallagher asked for clarification on the amount of Sidewalls needing repair. Mr. Frisbie explained that the 3% denoted in Slide 22 equaled 208 miles of damaged City sidewalks. Councilmember Gallagher spoke in support of the Matching Fund Program but voiced concern with requests exceeding funding. As it relates to Storm Water Fee, he spoke in support of the City assisting the Military with Improvements as said would strengthen the City's commitment to retaining a Military Presence.

Councilmember Treviño spoke on the condition of the streets in the inner city. Mr. Frisbie reported that street and sidewalk deterioration was attributed to the age of the infrastructure and development over clay soil. He highlighted the Pilot Program which would use pre-cast materials when installing sidewalks.

Mayor Taylor thanked staff for the presentation.

Item B was not addressed.

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further discussion, Mayor Taylor adjourned the meeting at 6:00 pm.

APPROVED

IVY R. TAYLOR
MAYOR

ATTEST:

LETICIA M. VACEK, TRMC/CMC/MMC
CITY CLERK