

**ADVANCED TRANSPORTATION DISTRICT
AD HOC COMMITTEE
MEETING MINUTES
THURSDAY, APRIL 21, 2016
12:30 P.M.
MUNICIPAL PLAZA BUILDING**

Members Present:	Councilmember Ray Lopez, <i>Co-Chair, District 6</i> Councilmember Rey Saldaña, <i>Co-Chair, District 4</i> Victor M. Boyer Alex Briseño Darryl Byrd James Lifshutz Sid Martinez Patti Radle
Members Absent:	Brad Parscale Eddie Aldrete
Staff Present:	Peter Zaroni, <i>Deputy City Manager</i> ; Terry Bellamy, <i>Assistant Director, Transportation & Capital Improvements</i> ; Christie Chapman, <i>Interim Assistant Director, Transportation & Capital Improvements</i> ; Denice F. Trevino, <i>Office of the City Clerk</i>
Others Present:	Jeffrey Arndt, <i>President and CEO, VIA Metropolitan Transit Authority</i> ; Brian Buchanan, <i>Senior Vice President-Development, VIA Metropolitan Transit Authority</i>

Call to order

Co-Chairman Saldaña called the meeting to order. He stated that obligations of Advanced Transportation District (ATD) Funds would be discussed and noted that the goal of the Committee was to present its funding recommendations to Mayor Taylor by the end of May 2016 so they may be included in initial Budget deliberations.

1. Approval of Minutes for the March 23, 2016 Advanced Transportation Ad Hoc Committee Meeting

Victor M. Boyer moved to approve the March 23, 2016 Advanced Transportation Ad Hoc Committee Meeting Minutes. Patti Radle seconded the motion. Motion carried unanimously by those present.

Briefing and Possible Action on

2. Briefing and Committee Discussion on the City's Current ATD Funding Used to Pay for its Traffic Signal System Modernization (TSSM) Program. [Peter Zaroni, Deputy City Manager; Mike Frisbie, Director, Transportation & Capital Improvements]

Christie Chapman presented an overview of the Fiscal Year (FY) 2016 ATD Budget:

		FY 2016 Plan	
ATD Program	FY 2016 Budget	Projects	Positions
Sidewalks	\$5,099,611	27	1
Traffic Signals	\$5,038,377	TSSM	11
<i>TSSM Debt Service</i>	\$3,030,350	N/A	N/A
Intersections	\$ 875,000	25	N/A
Bike Facilities	\$1,101,267	11	1
Pedestrian Safety/Traffic Calming	\$313,238	51	1
Infrastructure Project Planning	\$369,496	N/A	3
Bus Pads	\$400,000	16	N/A
Markings & Signs	\$320,194	N/A	6
Indirect Costs/Fiscal	\$387,888	N/A	1
TOTAL	\$16,935,421	130	24

Peter Zanoni stated that the Committee should discuss the type of funds to be utilized to replace ATD Funds supporting projects and positions, if they were redirected to VIA.

Christine Chapman stated that prior to the utilization of the TSSM Program which was introduced in 2008, the City did not have synchronized communication for traffic signals. She noted that the City invested \$30 million in the TSSM Program. She reported that in 2013, the Office of Management and Budget conducted a study of the TSSM Program and found that drive time, number of vehicular stops and vehicle emissions were decreased by 12%, 32% and 33% respectively, which resulted in \$37.6 million in fuel savings Citywide. She stated that in 2016, the City Council approved funds of a little over \$2 million for improvements to the TSSM Program. She reported that the total payment for the TSSM Program Debt Service was \$3,030,350 in FY 2016; and would be \$3,031,600 in FY 2017. She stated that the average annual payment on the TSSM Program Debt Service was \$3 million for the past ten years. She noted that the debt would end in FY 2017. She noted that it was necessary to make improvements to the TSSM Program in order for it to function at an optimal level. She stated that in 2016, the City Council approved a little over \$2 million in funding for the TSSM Program.

Alex Briseño asked of the type of bonds which were issued. Ms. Chapman stated that Certificates of Obligation were issued.

James Lifshutz asked of the scope of the TSSM Program. Terry Bellamy stated that the TSSM Program encompassed all 1,400 traffic signals in the City. He stated that the Central Business District was equipped with wireless connections, Suburban Areas were equipped with wireless service from A.T.& T. and other areas of the City were equipped with Fiber Ray and LTD Connections. He noted that the objective was to create redundancy in the system.

The Committee discussed funding of the ATD Programs and the positions for each. Mr. Zanoni stated that generally ATD funding was limited to sidewalks, the TSSM Program and intersection improvements.

Victor M. Boyer asked if ATD Funding for sidewalks was tied to VIA Bus Routes. Mr. Zaroni replied that ATD Funding for sidewalks was focused around and leading to schools.

Jeffrey Arndt noted that VIA had \$30 million for funding of sidewalks focused on the State Highway System, high volume Bus Stops and Transit Corridors.

No action was required for Item 2.

3. Committee Discussion on the Amount of City Funding, if any, that Could be Provided to VIA Metropolitan Transit (VIA), the Corresponding Impact to VIA's Level of Service and the Implication on the City's Capital Improvements Program and Service Levels. [Peter Zaroni, Deputy City Manager; Mike Frisbie, Director, Transportation & Capital Improvements]

Jeff Arndt stated that VIA was supported by funds from the Local Sales Tax and Federal Formula Funding. He noted that the amount of Federal Formula Funding was determined by the U.S. Federal Transit Administration (FTA). He stated that Federal Formula Funding was limited to Capital Expenditures. He noted that one third of said funds were to be utilized for Transit Systems with fixed guideways and the second third was distributed according to the amount of service and population for an area. He stated that Federal Discretionary Funds were limited and that State Funding was limited to streets and bridges.

Co-Chairman Saldaña stated that the Committee must determine where ATD Funds would have the highest impact.

Mr. Arndt stated that in order for VIA to operate at the Houston Metro Service Level; the cost would be \$30 million per year. He noted that another \$90 million would be required for capital expenses. He stated that if one hour service were to be reduced to 30 minutes; the cost would be \$17 million and the cost for capital expenses would be \$11.5 million. He noted that \$17 million would fund existing and two additional Primo Routes.

Victor M. Boyer noted that ATD Funds could not be utilized for operational costs. Mr. Zaroni stated that this might involve some risk.

Mr. Zaroni stated that the \$17 million allocated for streets could go into ATD Funds.

Co-Chairman Saldaña stated that the City was in a better position to fund ATD Programs.

Patti Radle suggested that staff compile the suggestions made in the meeting.

Adjourn

There being no further discussion, the meeting was adjourned at 2:05 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

Denice F. Treviño
Office of the City Clerk

Rey Saldaña, Co-Chair

Ray Lopez, Co-Chair

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