

**ADVANCED TRANSPORTATION DISTRICT  
AD HOC COMMITTEE  
MEETING MINUTES  
WEDNESDAY, JUNE 1, 2016  
12:30 P.M.  
CITY HALL, MEDIA BRIEFING ROOM**

<b>Members Present:</b>	Councilmember Rey Saldaña, <i>Co-Chair, District 4</i> Councilmember Ray Lopez, <i>Co-Chair, District 6</i> Alex Briseño Eddie Aldrete Victor M. Boyer Patti Radle James Lifshutz Darryl Byrd Sid Martinez
<b>Members Absent:</b>	Brad Parscale
<b>Staff Present:</b>	Peter Zaroni, <i>Deputy City Manager</i> ; Martha Sepeda, <i>Acting City Attorney</i> ; Jeff Coyle, <i>Director of Government &amp; Public Affairs</i> ; John Woodruff, <i>Director of Management &amp; Budget</i> ; Mike Frisbie, <i>Director of Transportation &amp; Capital Improvements</i> ; Christie Chapman, <i>Interim Assistant Director of Transportation &amp; Capital Improvements</i> , Andrew Solano, <i>Policy Advisor to the Mayor</i> ; Christine Wright, <i>Government &amp; Public Affairs</i> ; Alexander Perkowski, <i>Office of the Mayor</i> ; Joseph Cortez, <i>District 6</i> ; Denice F. Treviño, <i>Office of the City Clerk</i>
<b>Others Present:</b>	Jeffrey Arndt, <i>President and CEO, VIA</i> ; Brian Buchanan, <i>Senior Vice President-Development, VIA</i> ; Shawna Russell, <i>VIA</i> ; Leroy Alloway, <i>VIA</i> ; Arturo Herrera, <i>VIA</i> ; Eloy Laque, <i>VIA</i> ; Stephanie Reyes, <i>San Antonio Chamber of Commerce</i> ; Katherine Blunt, <i>San Antonio Express News</i> ; Andres Peña, <i>Kaufman-Killen Law Firm</i> ; Edward Ortiz, <i>Rivard Report</i> ; John Butchkosky, <i>Texas Alliance for Human Needs</i>

**Call to Order**

Co-Chairman Saldaña called the meeting to order.

**1. Approval of Minutes for the May 12, 2016 Advanced Transportation District (ATD) Ad Hoc Committee Meeting**

Alex Briseño moved to approve the May 12, 2016 Advanced Transportation Ad Hoc Committee Meeting Minutes. Victor Boyer seconded the motion. Motion carried unanimously by those present.

## Briefing and Possible Action on

### **2. Committee Discussion and possible Committee Action 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.**

Mr. Mike Frisbie reported that the Advanced Transportation District was created in 2004 with the following guiding principles:

- ❖ Improving traffic flow at busy intersections
- ❖ Improving sidewalks and neighborhood connectivity
- ❖ Minimizing highway congestion
- ❖ Utilizing technology to provide faster bus trips and extend bus service hours
- ❖ Offering more transit options

Mr. Frisbie stated that the ATD was funded by a quarter-cent dedicated sales tax which was shared among the City, County, Texas Department of Transportation, and VIA Metropolitan Transit. He added that funds were used to improve sidewalks, establish the Traffic Signal System, and improve bike lanes and facilities. He mentioned that other cities receive 1% dedicated sales tax and that increased sales tax would require legislative action.

Mr. Jeff Coyle reported that there are a number of ways to raise revenue locally. He added that previous attempts to change the Sales Tax Cap had been unsuccessful. He noted that there was a proposal put forth by the City of Copperas Cove to allow for a quarter-cent tax increase for transit programs. He mentioned that the Bexar County Commissioner's Court had approved a Local Registration Fee two years ago and that the precedent had been established for as much as \$20 Registration Fee.

Co-Chairman Saldaña highlighted transportation projects underway in District 4.

Mr. Alex Briseno suggested that funding from Pre-K 4 SA and the Edwards Aquifer could be utilized upon expiration. He noted that State Funding for Pre-K 4 SA would free up City Funding for re-allocation. He mentioned City Bonds as possible avenues for funding with City Council approval. Co-Chairman Saldaña noted that said funds are not constrained by strict policy or City Council direction.

Mr. Jeff Arndt stated that VIA services cannot grow without added funding. He reported that next year would be constrained if current funding was not improved.

Mr. Brian Buchanan provided an overview of the Proposed Service Plan. He stated that the Plan would:

- ❖ Focus on increasing Public Transit reliability
- ❖ Decrease wait times
- ❖ Increase major corridor capacity
- ❖ Enhance connectivity to Activity Areas of residential and employment growth

Mr. Buchanan added that VIA would require time to purchase capital associated with the Plan and that VIA would provide all Capital Funds associated with improvements including 24 new vehicles. He detailed transit corridor improvements along major travel routes to areas such as Central Plaza and Brooks City Base. He detailed the different Phase Options of the Plan and provided a Rider Testimonial Video.

Mr. Peter Zaroni mentioned that Mayor Taylor had intended the Committee to take findings and recommendations to the Transportation, Technology, and Utilities (TTU) Council Committee for further review. He noted that the TTU Committee was scheduled to meet later in June.

Mr. Darryl Byrd asked for more information about City Funding Priorities. Mr. Zaroni replied that City Council determined funding priorities. He added that the City Council provides the policy direction and that City Staff would increase or decrease funding accordingly.

Mr. Frisbie reported that sidewalks could be funded as part of the Bond Program. He noted that traffic improvements were drawn from the General Fund among competing priorities such as Street Maintenance and Libraries.

Co-Chairman Lopez asked for more detail regarding the amount of funding necessary for the Proposed Service Plan. Mr. Zaroni replied that this year would entail \$15 million for transportation but that more funding was needed.

Co-Chairman Saldaña stated that the current recommendation would be for the City to transfer \$10 million to the ATD Fund and utilize the remainder for infrastructure and sidewalk investment. He added that it would be prudent to re-evaluate fiscal allocations in 10 years and that the proposal would allow enough time to work on finding solutions for larger funding needs.

Mr. Peter Zaroni explained the difference between the Phases of implementation. Mr. Jeff Arndt explained that it would be beneficial to improve infrastructure and conduct public outreach and education in phases. Ms. Patti Radle added a recommendation that the City maintain its regular commitment to transportation projects and utilize Bond Funding to address further needs. It was recommended to provide a list of options to the TTU Council Committee for further review and to engage the San Antonio Legislative Delegation to assist with securing further funding.

Co-Chairman Lopez stated that more discussion could take place at next week's Budget Goal Setting Session. He added that City Staff could examine the fiscal impact of proposed options for future action.

Mr. Peter Zaroni noted that the Committee could take time to deliberate and propose a recommendation to the TTU Committee at a later time. He added that VIA would require direction by Fall 2016 in order to plan for new drivers and that the absolute deadline would be Spring 2016 to purchase new buses.

Co-Chairman Saldaña stated that the Committee would compile a set of findings to put forward as a recommendation for the next meeting as part of Budget Process.

No action was required for this Item.

## **Adjourn**

There being no further discussion, the meeting was adjourned at 1:57 p.m.

*Respectfully Submitted,*

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*Alexander J. Pytel,  
Office of the City Clerk*

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*Rey Saldaña, Co-Chair*

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*Ray Lopez, Co-Chair*