

TRANSPORTATION, TECHNOLOGY, & UTILITIES COUNCIL COMMITTEE
MEETING MINUTES
WEDNESDAY, APRIL 12, 2017
11:00 AM
MUNICIPAL PLAZA BUILDING, B ROOM

Members Present:	Councilmember Ray Lopez, Chair, <i>District 6</i> Councilmember Rey Saldaña, <i>District 4</i> Councilmember Shirley Gonzales, <i>District 5</i> Councilmember Joe Krier, <i>District 9</i>
Members Absent:	Councilmember Ron Nirenberg, <i>District 8</i>
Staff Present:	Peter Zaroni, <i>Deputy City Manager</i> ; Douglas Melnick, <i>Chief Officer of Sustainability</i> ; Art Reinhardt, <i>Assistant Director of TCI</i> ; Alicia K. Beckham, <i>Office of the City Clerk</i>
Others Present:	Robert Puente, <i>SAWS</i> ; Jeremy Rice, <i>Freese and Nichols</i>

1. Approval of Minutes for the March 7, 2017 Transportation, Technology and Utilities Committee Meeting

Councilmember Nirenberg moved to approve the Minutes for the March 7, 2017 Transportation, Technology, and Utilities Council Committee Meeting. Councilmember Saldaña seconded the motion. The motion prevailed by the following vote:

AYES: Saldaña, Krier, and Lopez

ABSENT: Gonzales and Nirenberg

Councilmember Gonzales entered the meeting at this time.

2. Briefing by the San Antonio Water System (SAWS) on the SAWS 2017 Water Management Plan process and Permanent Stage 1 Water Restrictions. [Robert R. Puente, SAWS President & CEO]

Robert Puente provided a briefing on the 2017 Water Management Plan and noted the importance of Water Conservation Programs. He stated that water consumption had been reduced because of current Water Conservation Programs. He added that San Antonio had 10 different sources of water and added that water consumption was expected to be reduced by 30% in the year 2070.

Mr. Puente stated that as part of the 2017 Water Management; Plan Permanent Once A Week Water Restrictions was up for consideration and public input. He noted that in SAWS' analysis of Permanent Once A Week Water Restrictions, they found little value in water savings and high volatility. He added that they brought in independent firm Freese and Nichols to conduct an analysis on Permanent Once A Week Water Restrictions.

Jeremy Rice reported that the independent analysis was an estimate of the potential water savings as a result of the City adopting a Permanent Once A Week Water Restriction. He stated that the analysis concluded that there would be less savings during winter months and greater savings during summer months. He noted that there would be no additional savings if SAWS would be in Drought Stage 2. He added that savings from adopting a Permanent Once A Week Water Restrictions would be approximately 1.25%.

Councilmember Nirenberg submitted a written statement noting that the purpose of the Council Consideration Request was to ensure that customers were able to meet the long term per capita goal and ensure that a conservation ethic tightened policies on water management. He acknowledged that SAWS had done a great job spreading the conservation message and that the presentation exhibited that Permanent Once A Week Water Restrictions would have a small impact on demand. He added that until the City was able to encourage better conservation to high-volume water users; such use would continue to have a negative impact on the overall goal of the gallons per capita per day.

Chairman Lopez asked how SAWS had been able to manage water supply. Mr. Puente responded that implementing plans that focused on water supply, population, and the sources of water prevented the City from exhausting water supply. Chairman Lopez acknowledged the Rate Program SAWS integrated to reward customers for consuming less water and charge customers that over consume water.

Councilmember Krier acknowledged Mr. Puente for his leadership, solutions, and commitment to SAWS and the City.

Councilmember Gonzales asked when were rate increases expected to cease. Mr. Puente responded that by the year 2020 customers could expect to see smaller or no rate increases.

Councilmember Saldaña asked of a solution to water conservation if not Permanent Once A Week Water Restrictions. Mr. Puente responded that the solution to water conservation was water management of a diversified water supply.

No action was required for Item 2.

Item 4 was addressed at this time.

4. Briefing and possible action on a Resilient SA Action Plan and potential next steps should such a plan be developed for the City of San Antonio. [Roderick Sanchez, Assistant City Manager; Douglas Melnick, Chief Sustainability Officer]

Douglas Melnick presented information on the Resilient SA Action Plan and the potential next steps. He reported that there were currently Resilient Programs in place. He stated that the Resilient Action Plan would leverage, deploy, and supplement existing resources into targeted neighborhoods. He stated that staff had identified the five components to implement a Resilient Action Plan:

1. Resilient Neighborhoods Program
2. Climate Action Plan
3. Vulnerability Assessment
4. Climate Projections
5. Greenhouse Gas Reduction Target

Chairman Lopez stated that it was important to identify funding mechanisms to move the Plan in action. He noted that air quality should be a concern for Local Government to get involved in. He acknowledged Mr. Melnick for forming a Comprehensive Plan.

Councilmember Krier asked which Resilience Program would he suggest adding funding toward. Mr. Melnick responded that the approach would be to leverage the existing programs to receive more of a financial impact.

No action was required for Item 4.

3. Briefing on the Texas Smart State Alliance and Texas Automated Vehicle Proving Ground Partnership. [Peter Zaroni, Deputy City Manager; Mike Frisbie, Director, Transportation and Capital Improvements]

Art Reinhardt provided a briefing on Texas Smart State Alliance and Texas Automated Vehicle Proving Ground Partnership. He stated that nine Major Texas Cities were members of the Alliance. He noted that the Texas Smart State Alliance was created in December 2016 to leverage City resources and create solutions collectively. He added that the objective would be for Texas to keep the mobility and remain competitive as a state.

Mr. Reinhardt reported that the Texas Smart State Alliance submitted a proposal to the United States Department of Transportation in November 2016 to be designated as Automated Vehicle Proving Grounds. He stated that in January 2017, the Texas Smart State Alliance along with nine other cities across the country, were selected for the proposal. He noted that Texas Smart State Alliance would utilize urban roadways for Real World Urban Test-Bed Sites and utilize research institutions for Proven Grounds.

Chairman Lopez asked of the difference between a Real World Urban Test-Bed Site and Closed Campus Test-Bed Site. Mr. Reinhardt responded that Real World Test-Bed Sites would be conducting testing on the roadways of seven Texas Major Cities and the Proven Grounds Testing would be conducted in a controlled environment.

No action was required for Item 3.

Adjourn

There being no further discussion, the meeting was adjourned at 12:51 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

Ray Lopez, Chairman

*Alicia K. Beckham,
Office of the City Clerk*