

**ECONOMIC AND HUMAN DEVELOPMENT
COUNCIL COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES
TUESDAY, APRIL 4, 2017
1:30 PM
MUNICIPAL PLAZA BUILDING B ROOM**

Members Present:	Councilmember Joe Krier, <i>Chair, District 9</i> Councilmember Roberto Treviño, <i>District 1</i> Councilmember Rebecca Viagran, <i>District 3</i> Councilmember Ray Lopez, <i>District 6</i> Councilmember Mike Gallagher, <i>District 10</i>
Members Absent:	None
Staff Present:	Carlos Contreras, <i>Assistant City Manager</i> ; Leticia Vacek, <i>City Clerk</i> ; Rene Dominguez, <i>Director, Economic Development Department</i> ; Mike Frisbie, <i>Director, Transportation and Capital Improvements Department</i> ; Russ Handy, <i>Director, Aviation Department</i> ; Brandon Smith, <i>Office of the City Clerk</i> ; Denice F. Trevino, <i>Office of the City Clerk</i>
Others Present:	Holly Reed, <i>Texas Central High-Speed Railway</i> ; Travis Kelly, <i>Texas Central High-Speed Railway</i>

Call to Order

Chairman Krier called the meeting to order.

1. Approval of the Minutes from the March 7, 2017 Economic and Human Development Committee Meeting.

Councilmember Gallagher moved to approve the Minutes of the March 7, 2017 Economic and Human Development Council Committee Meeting. Councilmember Viagran seconded the motion. Motion carried unanimously.

Briefing and Possible Action on:

2. Informational Briefing Regarding High Speed Passenger Rail Between Houston and Dallas by Texas Central.

Holly Reed stated that the Texas Central High-Speed Railway (TCR) planned to build a passenger rail transportation system between Houston and Dallas utilizing Japanese High-Speed Rail Technology. She noted that nearly 50,000 Texans travel between Houston and Dallas/Ft. Worth more than once per week. She stated that the proposed 240-mile high-speed rail line would operate at a speed of 200 miles per hour and offer a total travel time of 90 minutes with convenient departures every 30 minutes during peak periods each day and every hour during off-peak periods. She noted that the purpose of the privately proposed project was to provide reliable, safe, and economically viable passenger rail transportation utilizing proven high-speed

rail technology between Houston and Dallas as a convenient alternative to automobile travel on IH-45 or air travel between the two major metropolitan areas. She stated that the railway would be built without Federal Funds and that the technology utilized was the safest technology in the world. She noted that there would be a dedicated north and southbound track. She stated that the reliability was very high and the train was powered by electricity which made it a very clean alternative. She noted that TCR had begun the Land Option Program along the right of way and would have a final one alignment on the map later this year. She noted that 60% of the route had one alignment and the remainder would be determined. She stated that an announcement would be forthcoming and would be provided once released. She noted that an environment draft was expected back from the Federal Railroad Administration later this year and that TCR was not requesting funds from the State Budget. She noted that more than 8,500 bills had been filed in the Legislature and more than 400 were relevant to passenger rail. She stated that the bills which were relevant regarded: 1) Property; 2) Financial; and 3) Miscellaneous Issues.

Travis Kelly provided a brief overview of high speed rail, general passenger rail, and infrastructure targeted bills. He stated that TCR was working internally to:

- Monitor bills/amendments/riders closely
- “Provide a voice to the majority”
 - Constituent letters
 - Landowner quotes
 - Testimonial videos, etc.
- Work with Texas Legislators to preserve passenger rail industry

Ms. Reed stated that the city could assist in this effort by way of:

- Letters of support to SA Delegation
- Letter of support from SA Delegation
- Drop cards/testify against bills
- Write LTEs/Op-Eds in your local papers

She reviewed the high-speed train supporters and partners and stated that in the North Texas Area, TCR had a memorandum of understanding with the North Texas Council of Governments (COG) to make the high-speed rail accessible to the City of Ft. Worth.

Chairman Krier asked how the City of San Antonio could pursue its interest in high-speed rail. Ms. Reed stated that proving that high-speed rail was viable between Houston and Dallas would serve to further that interest.

Councilmember Gallagher asked if the data was based on air traffic. Ms. Reed replied that it was not and stated that the data was based on volume, frequency and the reasons people were travelling.

Councilmember Viagran asked if the partners knew that high-speed rail could expand beyond Houston and Dallas. Ms. Reed stated that the partners had different reasons for supporting the project such as boosting the Texas and National economy and not necessarily expansion.

Councilmember Lopez asked of the footprint of high-speed rail stations. Ms. Reed stated that high-speed rail stations were comprised of a minimum of 40 acres.

Councilmember Treviño asked of the security for high-speed rail. Ms. Reed stated that security for high-speed rail was not the same as that of airports and noted that the best technology would be employed to attain security at the stations.

Councilmember Lopez moved to refer this item to the Intergovernmental Relations Council Committee at its next meeting and to be included for support in the City's Legislative Agenda. Councilmember Viagran seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

3. Consideration of Applicants to the Airport Advisory Commission (10 Slots). [Leticia Vacek, City Clerk]

City Clerk Leticia Vacek stated that there were 10 slots available on the Airport Advisory Commission. She noted that these were at-large appointments in which the two-year terms would run through March 18, 2019. She stated that the terms had expired for the following categories: 1) One slot for the Alamo Area Council of Governments (AACOG) Category; 2) One slot for the Airport Business Lessee Category; 3) Two slots for the Aviation Industry Category; 4) Two slots for the Business Community Category; 5) Three slots for the Community Category; and 6) One slot for the Travel and Tourism Category. She noted that there were no eligible applicants for the Airport Business Lessee Category and the Travel and Tourism Category. She stated that the appointment of applicants would be brought before the full City Council on April 13, 2017 for consideration.

The following applicants were interviewed:

Diane Rath
Melinda Vasquez
Aurelina Prado
Marsha Hendler
Silvia Hance
John Kuderer
Robert Hendricks
Francisco Cruz
Ted Davis
John Norris
Charles Serafini

Executive Session

Chairman Krier recessed the meeting into Executive Session at 3:03 p.m. to discuss Personnel Matters. He reconvened the meeting at 3:22 p.m. and announced that no action was taken during Executive Session.

Councilmember Treviño moved at approve and forward a waiver to move the Airport Business Lessee Category Slot to the Community Category Slot for four total slots to the full City Council for consideration. Councilmember Viagran seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

Councilmember Treviño moved to approve and forward the following applicants to the full City Council for membership in the Airport Advisory Commission in the following categories: 1) Diane Rath-AACOG; 2) Melinda Vasquez and Aurelina Prado-Aviation Industry; 3) John Kuderer and Francisco Cruz-Business Community; 4) Robert Hendricks, Ted Davis, John Norris, and Charles Serafini-Community; and 5) Marsha Hendler-Travel and Tourism for consideration. Councilmember Viagran seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

Adjourn

There being no further discussion, the meeting was adjourned at 3:22 p.m.

Joe Krier, Chairman

Respectfully Submitted,

Denice F. Trevino