

**TRANSPORTATION COUNCIL COMMITTEE  
MEETING MINUTES  
WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 20, 2017  
3:00 PM  
MUNICIPAL PLAZA BUILDING, B ROOM**

<b>Members Present:</b>	Councilmember Rey Saldaña, Chair, <i>District 4</i> Councilmember Shirley Gonzales, <i>District 5</i> Councilmember Greg Brockhouse, <i>District 6</i> Councilmember Ana Sandoval, <i>District 7</i> Councilmember Manny Peláez, <i>District 8</i>
<b>Members Absent:</b>	<i>None</i>
<b>Staff Present:</b>	Peter Zaroni, <i>Deputy City Manager</i> ; Art Reinhardt, <i>Assistant Director of TCI</i> ; Alicia K. Beckham, <i>Office of the City Clerk</i>
<b>Others Present:</b>	Jeffrey Arndt, <i>VIA Metropolitan Transit</i> ; Brian Buchanan, <i>VIA Metropolitan Transit</i> ; Hector Garcia, <i>Taxis Organization</i> ; Pavel Herrera, <i>Taxis Organization</i> ; Octavio Manresa, <i>Taxis Organization</i> ; Antonio Reyes, <i>Taxis Organization</i>

**1. Approval of the Minutes for the October 16, 2017 Transportation Council Committee Meeting.**

Councilmember Sandoval moved to approve the Minutes for the October 16, 2017 Transportation Committee Meeting. Councilmember Brockhouse seconded the motion. Motion carried unanimously by those present.

***Citizens to be heard***

Chairperson Saldaña called upon the citizens to be heard.

Hector Garcia spoke in support of permits to be issued to taxi drivers because it would help them financially.

Octavio Manresa stated that he supported the permits because taxi drivers could no longer support taxi organizations.

Pavel Herrera asked if the Committee could consider the families of taxi drivers when making a decision on taxi permits.

Antonio Reyes stated that taxi drivers were in need of help and no one was listening to them.

Councilmember Peláez entered the meeting at this time.

**2. Briefing on the VIA Metropolitan Transit Rapid Transit Corridor Studies.** [Jason Rodriguez, VIA Metropolitan Transit, Manager of Strategic Planning; Art Reinhardt, Assistant Director, Transportation & Capital Improvements]

Brian Buchanan reported that VIA had collaborated with the Alamo Area Metropolitan Planning Organization (AAMPO) on the Mobility 2040 Plan, to move people around the Bexar County

Area. He stated that from the Mobility 2040 Plan, the City created the SA Tomorrow Long Range Comprehensive Plan and VIA created their Vision 2040 Long Range Plan. He added that in 2017, transportation implementation began with the City's SA Corridors Study identifying locations that would work and VIA's Corridor Studies identifying locations for Rapid Transit Corridors. He stated that VIA's implementation plan would develop a Rapid Transit System Plan within the City's Implemented Regional Center Plans.

Mr. Buchanan stated that the goal was to strengthen regional mobility, development and sustainability. He noted that connecting communities, supporting growth, providing choices, and ensuring stewardship would help to accomplish the goal. He stated that enhancing access, ensuring efficiency and reliability, promoting engagement, and supporting safety would get VIA closer to their objective of providing an outstanding transportation system.

Mr. Buchanan stated that there were seven corridors that VIA located in their study. He noted that in the Winter of 2018, VIA would have a recommendation for Rapid Transit Service for each corridor and how it could be implemented. He added that in Spring of 2018, VIA would provide rapid transit configurations locating any overlaps within in the corridors. In Summer 2018, VIA would have a draft of the rapid transit network to share with the public and gather input. He described the implementation plan:

- Approval of the Rapid Transit System Plan
- Local Agreement on Funding Approach
- Determine Funding and secure Authority
- Implement Project

Mr. Buchanan stated that focus and vision; regulations and policies; and permanent public realm investments were needed to implement a successful transit project.

In response to Chairperson Saldaña, Mr. Buchanan stated that 50% of capital costs would come from the federal government and would reduce the cost of local spending.

Mr. Jeffrey Arndt stated that Houston had built its first light rail line within five years because there were few restraints. He noted that Houston had built the light rail line in the streets, taking lanes away from general purpose traffic.

Chairperson Saldaña asked why there was more than one corridor conversation. Mr. Arndt responded that the City's corridors interests were broad and VIA's interest was transportation. Art Reinhardt noted that the VIA Corridor Project was being implemented in conjunction with the SA Corridor Project. Chairperson Saldaña asked of the funding from the AAMPO. Mr. Buchanan stated that funding would be used toward the application for the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) Process. He noted that requirements must be met before requesting funding from the federal government.

Councilmember Brockhouse stated that he would like for VIA to be the lead agency on transportation at SA Corridor Meetings. He noted that the City had to find a way to get VIA its full cent tax.

Councilmember Peláez stated that he supported VIA's efforts and requested that VIA start benchmarking their efforts.

In response to Councilmember Sandoval, Mr. Arndt stated that five Councilmembers had taken a tour of the Charlotte, North Carolina Light Rail System. Councilmember Sandoval expressed concern that having two planning processes around corridors was confusing.

No action was required for Item 2.

### **Adjourn**

There being no further discussion, the meeting was adjourned at 4:26 p.m.

*Respectfully Submitted,*

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*Rey Saldaña , Chairman*

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