

**INNOVATION AND TECHNOLOGY COUNCIL COMMITTEE  
MEETING MINUTES  
TUESDAY, AUGUST 26, 2019  
2:00 PM  
SOUTHWEST RESEARCH INSTITUTE**

<b>Members Present:</b>	Councilmember Manny Peláez, Chair, <i>District 8</i> Councilmember Jada Andrews-Sullivan, <i>District 2</i> Councilmember Melissa Cabello Havrda, <i>District 6</i> Committee Member DeAnne Cuellar, <i>Citizen</i> Committee Member Dirk Elmendorf, <i>Citizen</i> Committee Member Will Garrett, <i>Citizen</i>
<b>Members Absent:</b>	Councilmember Clayton Perry, <i>District 10</i>
<b>Staff Present:</b>	John Peterek, <i>Assistant to the City Manager</i> ; Brian Dillard, <i>Chief Innovation Officer</i> ; Emily Royall and Candelaria Mendoza, <i>Smart City Coordinators of the Innovation Officer</i> ; Alicia K. Beckham, <i>Office of the City Clerk</i>
<b>Others Present:</b>	Mike Brown and Jerry Towler, <i>Southwest Research Institute</i>

**1. Approval of the June 27, 2019 Innovation and Technology Committee Meeting Minutes.**

Councilmember Andrews-Sullivan moved to approve the Minutes from the June 27, 2019 Innovation and Technology Committee Meeting. Committee Member Garrett seconded the motion. Motion carried unanimously by those present.

**2. Southwest Research Institute Introduction [Mike Brown, Institute Engineer]**

Mike Brown provided an introduction of the Southwest Research Institute SwRI. He noted that the Institute conducted projects for government clients, commercial clients, and internal research. He added that staff from SwRI would be presenting today on different automated vehicles.

No action was required for Item 2.

Councilmember Cabello Havrda entered the meeting at this time.

**3. Briefing on the Autonomous Vehicles Project at Brooks [John Peterek, Assistant to the City Manager; Brian Dillard, Chief Innovation Officer]**

Brian Dillard provided a briefing on the partnership between Brooks, VIA Metropolitan Transit Authority (VIA), and the City on exploring by what methods autonomous vehicles could utilize to solve for last-mile/first-mile problems within the Brooks Innovation Zone. He stated that Smart Cities operate at three model levels 1.0, 2.0, and 3.0. He added that the City was operating at a 2.0 level which was government motivated and that staff was focused on moving the City to a 3.0 model which was government and community driven.

Mr. Dillard stated that safety, mobility, environment, equity, access, and human factors were advantages to utilizing autonomous vehicles. He noted that the senior population, individuals

with disabilities, low income communities, and general public transportation customers would use autonomous vehicles to connect to local transit centers.

Councilmember Andrews-Sullivan asked how autonomous vehicles would benefit Council District 2. Mr. Dillard stated that it would provide mobility to communities that needed solutions for last-mile/first-mile commute and that there were communities on the borders of Council District 2 that would value autonomous vehicles.

Committee Member Cuellar suggested that staff address how the mode of transportation would be inclusive for the aging population with autism and people with non-physical disabilities.

Committee Member Garrett asked how the pilot program would be deployed. Mr. Dillard replied that Brooks would communicate the needs of their community and that the City would partner with VIA to assist in engineering the pilot program. In response to Committee Member Garrett; Mr. Dillard replied that staff would be exploring private vendor opportunities to supply the autonomous vehicles.

Chairperson Peláez suggested that staff allow local high schools an opportunity to participate in the projects.

No action was required for Item 3.

**4. Tour and Demonstration of Automated Vehicle Technologies at SwRI** [Mike Brown, Institute Engineer; Jerry Towler, Senior Research Engineer]

Jerry Towler provided a demonstration of automated vehicles at the Southwest Research Institute.

No action was required for Item 4.

The meeting was adjourned at 3:21pm.

*Respectfully Submitted,*

---

*Manny Peláez , Chairman*

---

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