

**TRANSPORTATION AND MOBILITY COUNCIL COMMITTEE
MEETING MINUTES
MONDAY, APRIL 19, 2021
2:00 PM
VIDEOCONFERENCE**

Members Present:	Councilmember Shirley Gonzales, Chair, <i>District 5</i> Councilmember Roberto Treviño, <i>District 1</i> Councilmember Melissa Cabello Havrda, <i>District 6</i> Councilmember Ana Sandoval, <i>District 7</i> Councilmember Clayton Perry, <i>District 10</i>
Staff Present:	Jeff Coyle, <i>Assistant City Manager</i> ; David McCary, <i>Assistant City Manager</i> ; Roderick Sanchez, <i>Assistant City Manager</i> ; Katinka Howell, <i>Assistant City Attorney</i> ; Laura Reyna, <i>Assistant City Attorney</i> ; Homer Garcia, <i>Director, Parks and Recreation</i> ; Razi Hosseini, <i>Director, Public Works Department</i> ; Tamika Monterville, <i>Director, Transportation Planning & Operations</i> ; Aurora Perkins, <i>Deputy City Clerk</i> ; Brandon Ross, <i>Parks and Recreation</i> ; Sally Basurto, <i>Government and Public Affairs</i> ; Teena Bailey, <i>Transportation Planning & Operations</i> ; Denice Trevino, <i>Office of the City Clerk</i>
Others Present:	None

Chairwoman Gonzales called the meeting to order.

1. Approval of the Minutes for the March 15, 2021 Transportation and Mobility Committee Meeting.

Councilmember Perry moved to approve the Minutes from the March 15, 2021 Transportation and Mobility Committee Meeting. Councilmember Cabello Havrda seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

Public Comment

Written Testimony

There were no written comments submitted.

Live Testimony

There were no citizens registered to speak.

2. Briefing and update on legislation filed in the 87th State Legislative Session and a Federal Transportation update. [Jeff Coyle, Assistant City Manager]

Assistant City Manager Jeff Coyle reported that one of the main priorities in the State program was ensuring that the funding for transportation in propositions 1 and 7, which was approved by voters was maintained. He stated that Senate Bill (SB) 1 would be debated this week and included the funding in Propositions 1 and 7. He indicated that other funding bills related to transportation included: 1) Registration fee for electric vehicles; and 2) Gas tax increases.

Mr. Coyle reviewed the proposed bills in support of Vision Zero. He stated that the Senate bill for a Prima Facie speed limit had not moved at all and House Bill (HB) 442 for the same had moved out of committee. He reported that HB 443 required various types of vehicles to stop and yield to pedestrians and HB 554 required the safe passing of pedestrians and bicycles. He noted that SB 42 would create a State-wide hands free law and SB 1055 would incur a criminal penalty for causing injury to pedestrians in a crosswalk.

Mr. Coyle stated that the American Jobs Plan was the Federal administration's \$2.25 trillion infrastructure plan. He reported that the transportation related pieces included:

- Rebuild roads, bridges and airports
 - \$115 billion for modernization and repair
 - Funding for air quality, emissions and congestion
 - \$20 billion to improved road safety
- Upgrade utility systems and broadband
- Public Transit
 - \$85 billion for modernization and expansion
 - Estimated \$105 billion in repair/replacement of buses, rail, cars, stations, rail track, signals and power systems
- Rail and Freight
 - \$80 billion for repairs, modernization and improving and expanding corridors
- Electric Vehicles (EV)
 - \$174 billion for EV support, rebates and charging network
- Airports - \$25 billion

Mr. Coyle indicated that it was a plan and would have to be proposed as legislation and passed by Congress.

Mr. Coyle stated that staff received notice last week of the release of the Rebuilding American Infrastructure with Sustainability and Equity (RAISE) Grant which was \$1 billion in total. He reported that this was a competitive grant for surface transportation infrastructure projects with a significant local or regional impact. He noted that the maximum grant award was \$25 million, and no more than \$100 million could be awarded to a single state. He indicated that the criteria included:

- Safety
- Environmental sustainability
- Quality of life
- Economic competitiveness
- Innovation
- Partnership

Mr. Coyle stated that \$30 million of the \$1 billion would be dedicated to planning project grants and at least \$10 million would be dedicated to areas of persistent poverty. He added that the deadline to apply was July 12, 2021.

Mr. Coyle indicated that the City Council was supportive of expanding the Howard W. Peak Greenway Trails System. He noted that the project met many if not all of the criteria and the sections requiring completion ran through many of the high equity score areas in the community. He added that the City should apply in coordination with its partners.

Chairwoman Gonzales asked if the grant was a direct funding opportunity. Mr. Coyle stated that it was and the City could apply directly to the U.S. Department of Transportation. Chairwoman Gonzales asked of projects which the City could apply for. Transportation Planning & Operations Director, Tomika Monterville stated that the key was to submit projects which were a part of a coordinated regional process through the Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO).

Councilmember Treviño asked what steps the City should take to ensure that the City's application stood out when it came to racial equity, climate and job creation. Ms. Monterville stated that the City should correlate priorities of the administration and show the detailed work that the City had completed in establishing the City's history in terms of redlining.

Councilmember Cabello Havrda asked how infrastructure projects would be prioritized for inclusion in the application for a RAISE grant. Mr. Coyle stated that projects would be discussed with the MPO and at the Intergovernmental Relations Committee and staff would host a roundtable with other entities and the chambers to settle on high priorities for the community that would line up with the criteria in the program.

Councilmember Sandoval asked if the Senate bill for a Prima Facie speed limit did not pass, how much it would cost the City to change the speed limit. Public Works Director Razi Hosseini stated that it would cost approximately \$1 million. Councilmember Sandoval suggested that the City look for a source of funding to change the speed limit and requested that it be included for consideration in the FY 2022 Budget.

Councilmember Perry stated that the City did not have the electrical infrastructure to support battery powered cars all over the City. He expressed support for a registration fee for EV and hybrid vehicles. He spoke of the need for enforcement of speed limits.

3. Briefing on Using the Howard W. Peak Greenway Trails System as a Mobility Option.
[Roderick Sanchez, Assistant City Manager; Tomika Monterville, Director, Transportation]

Ms. Monterville stated that the purpose of Proposition 2 was to enhance the quality of life for San Antonio residents and visitors. She reported that the Howard W. Peak Greenway Trails System (Trails System) provided for:

- Outdoor recreation and fitness
- Pedestrian and bicycle mobility
- Park system connectivity and access
- Open space and habitat conservation

Ms. Monterville noted that the Trails System was comprised of approximately 82 miles of trail with 15 miles under construction and 17 miles of trail either in planning or design. She added that over 1,600 acres of creekway land had been acquired to date.

Ms. Monterville reviewed the City departments entities which collaborated on the Trails System:

- CoSA departments: Transportation, public works and others
 - Streets projects (where trails connect with streets and/or cross under bridges)
 - Sidewalk and Bike Land System – coordination of transit alternatives
 - Flood control projects and stormwater maintenance
- SARA – Westside Creeks, San Antonio river trails, Rivers and Trails Plan
- TxDOT – Right of Way agreements, project coordination
- SAWS – Coordination of projects and easements
- CPS – Co-use of easements and trails
- VIA – Public Transit System connections
- CoSA Sustainability – Bike Master Plan
- Bexar County – Flood control and park projects
- Other ongoing coordination with organizations such as Alamo Area MPO, ActivateSA and Great Springs Project

Ms. Monterville reported that design objectives included:

User Friendliness and Safety

- 10 to 12-foot-wide, accessible concrete trails
- Signage, mile markers and flood warnings
- Connections to neighborhoods and other destinations
- Trailhead locations convenient to residents

Environmental Sustainability

- Low Impact Development (LID) principles
- Native landscape materials
- Preserve tree canopy and geology
- Alleviate dumping and off-roading
- No lighting within natural creek areas and near residences
- Removal of invasive species

Ms. Monterville stated that the major Trails System connections included:

- Leon Creek Greenway to Salado Creek Greenway
- Medina River Greenway to San Antonio River Trails
- Westside Creeks to San Antonio River

Ms. Monterville reported that future major Trails System connections included:

- Salado North to Salado South (via Ft. Sam Houston)
- Salado Creek Greenway to San Antonio River
- Leon North to Leon South (around Lackland A.F.B.)

- Leon Creek Greenway to Medina River Greenway

Ms. Monterville stated that the Trails System was a mobility option to those who did not have a vehicle.

Chairwoman Gonzales asked if converting the Westside Creeks from concrete back to nature was an eligible expense for the RAISE Grant. Mr. Coyle stated that restoration of the Westside Creeks combined with the transportation and recreation work needed would contribute to environmental sustainability and alternative transportation criteria which was sought by the Federal Government.

Councilmember Cabello Havrda asked how the trails would be developed to ensure that they were safe and available for everyone. Ms. Monterville stated that the trails would be designed to offer opportunities for individuals with different abilities to be able to access them.

Councilmember Treviño asked what the impact of the improvements would be on property valuations. Brandon Ross stated that it would be difficult to conduct a study which focused on that specific issue. He noted that some realtors listed the Trail System as an amenity for potential home buyers and economic development had occurred due to the expansion of the Mission Reach. Councilmember Treviño requested the cost per square foot for concrete.

Chairwoman Gonzales stated that the projects would address climate, transportation and investment in existing communities.

Adjourned

There being no further discussion, the meeting was adjourned at 3:41 pm.

Shirley Gonzales, Chair

Respectfully submitted,

Denice F. Trevino, Office of the City Clerk