

**TRANSPORTATION, TECHNOLOGY, & UTILITIES COUNCIL COMMITTEE  
MEETING MINUTES**

**WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 10, 2016**

**11:00 AM**

**MUNICIPAL PLAZA BUILDING, B ROOM**

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| <b>Members Present:</b> | Councilmember Ray Lopez, Chair, <i>District 6</i><br>Councilmember Rey Saldaña, <i>District 4</i><br>Councilmember Shirley Gonzales, <i>District 5</i><br>Councilmember Ron Nirenberg, <i>District 8</i><br>Councilmember Joe Krier, <i>District 9</i> |
| <b>Members Absent:</b>  | <i>None</i>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                            |
| <b>Staff Present:</b>   | Peter Zanoni, <i>Deputy City Manager</i> ; Ed Guzman, <i>Interim First Assistant City Attorney</i> ; Mike Frisbie, <i>Director of TCI</i> ; Chris Anderson, <i>Executive Management Assistant</i> ; Alicia Beckham, <i>Office of the City Clerk</i>    |
| <b>Others Present:</b>  | Hope Andrade, <i>Board of Trustee Chair, VIA</i> ; Jeff Arndt, <i>President and CEO, VIA</i> ; Brian Buchanan, <i>Senior Vice President of Development, VIA</i>                                                                                        |

**1. Approval of Minutes for the June 14, 2016 Transportation, Technology, and Utilities Committee Meeting.**

Councilmember Saldaña moved to approve the Minutes for the June 14, 2016 Transportation, Technology, and Utilities Council Committee Meeting. Councilmember Krier seconded the motion. Motion carried unanimously.

**2. Briefing and possible action on the Advanced Transportation District (ATD) Ad Hoc Committee's recommendation to provide a portion of the City's ATD Funds to VIA Metropolitan Transit, the corresponding improvements to VIA's level of service, and the implication on the City's ATD service levels and capital improvement projects.** [Peter Zanoni, Deputy City Manager; Mike Frisbie, Director, Transportation & Capital Improvements]

Mike Frisbie stated that the ATD Ad Hoc Committee provided an overview of the City's ATD Program, VIA's ATD Program, VIA's Current and Preferred Level of Service, and Potential Funding Options. He reported that the ATD Ad Hoc Committee's recommendation was to transfer \$10 million in City ATD Funding Annually to VIA phased over a four-year period. He noted that the City would maintain \$5 million in City ATD Funding toward sidewalks and that the proposed 2017 Bond Program include a substantial sidewalk program.

Mr. Frisbie stated that the ATD Ad Hoc Committee's Recommendation could eliminate 24 positions along with ATD Programs including Traffic Signal System, Intersection Improvements, Bike Facilities, and Pedestrian Safety Improvements. He noted that because of

the impact to eliminate the ATD Programs and Positions; staff did not recommend the transfer of the City's \$10 million of ATD Funding to VIA.

Brian Buchanan stated that VIA has the lowest per square mile funding compared to Capital Metro Austin, DART Dallas, and Metro Houston. He noted that in calendar year 2015, VIA's Service Area was 1,213 sq. miles and Metro Houston Service Area was 1,285 sq. miles; however, the Sales Tax and Federal Formula Funding for VIA was \$198.96 per sq. miles and Metro Houston was \$631.38 per sq. miles.

Mr. Buchanan stated that with \$10 million per year in funding from the City, VIA would increase frequency on 10 productive routes and improve travel times and capacity on five major transit corridors. He stated that by fiscal year 2017, VIA would acquire an additional 24 peak vehicles to operate the proposed service plan. He noted that the service plan would be implemented in fiscal year 2018 and phased over a three-year period.

Hope Andrade stated that she would be willing to meet with Council to examine how VIA could partner with the City to better serve the community.

Chairman Lopez stated the importance of VIA's presence in the community. He stated that VIA was doing a lot with a modest amount of funding and that the funding was not enough.

Councilmember Saldaña stated that he agreed that VIA had a significant funding gap. He noted that he recognized that VIA was in need of operating funding. He suggested that staff develop an objective that would meet the transit needs for the \$10 million and a solution that would keep the City's commitment to the 2004 ATD Agreement.

Councilmember Nirenberg asked of the legal implication to transfer funds from ATD to VIA. Ed Guzman stated that the City's obligation is mobility enhancement and some advanced transportation. Councilmember Nirenberg inquired on the City's \$32 million contribution provided to VIA for the Streetcar Project. Jeff Arndt stated that the \$32 million was reverted back to the City's Capital Fund. Councilmember Nirenberg recommended that staff received a legal written opinion from the City's Legal Counsel on the transfer of ATD Funds to VIA.

Councilmember Krier suggested that VIA and the City seek alternative sources to support VIA's need for operating funds.

Councilmember Gonzales asked if VIA only needed operational funding. Mr. Arndt replied that VIA was in need of operating funds. He added that Federal Programs provided capital only to large transit systems and the State did not allot public transportation funds to Metropolitan Transit Authorities (MTA). He noted that VIA was a MTA. Councilmember Gonzales asked if the City could issue a bond for public transportation. Peter Zanoni stated that the City's Practice is to issue bonds every five years.

Councilmember Saldaña moved to forward the Item to the full City Council for consideration. Councilmember Nirenberg seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

### **Executive Session**

Chairman Lopez recessed the Transportation, Technology, and Utility Council Committee into Executive Session at 12:24 p.m. for deliberations regarding economic development negotiations and issues pursuant to Texas Government Code Section 551.087 (economic development).

Chairman Lopez reconvened the meeting at 12:52 p.m. and stated that no action was taken during the Executive Session.

### **Adjourn**

There being no further discussion, the meeting was adjourned at 12:52 p.m.

*Respectfully Submitted,*



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*Ray Lopez, Chairman*



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

