TRANSPORTATION, TECHNOLOGY, & UTILITIES COUNCIL COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES
WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 14, 2016
11:00 AM
MUNICIPAL PLAZA BUILDING, B ROOM

Members Present:	Councilmember Ray Lopez, Chair, *District 6* Councilmember Rey Saldaña, *District 4* Councilmember Shirley Gonzales, *District 5* Councilmember Ron Nirenberg, *District 8* Councilmember Joe Krier, *District 9*
Members Absent:	*None*
Staff Present:	Peter Zanoni, *Deputy City Manager;* Douglas Melnick, *Chief Sustainability Officer;* Liza Meyer, *Office of Sustainability;* Alicia Beckham, *Office of the City Clerk*
Others Present:	Leroy Alloway, *VIA Metropolitan Transit*; Jeanne Geiger, *Alamo Area Metropolitan Planning Organization*

1. Approval of Minutes for the August 10, 2016 Transportation, Technology, and Utilities Committee Meeting.

Councilmember Krier moved to approve the Minutes for the August 10, 2016 Transportation, Technology, and Utilities Council Committee Meeting. Councilmember Gonzales seconded the motion. Motion carried unanimously.

2. A Briefing on a proposed Employee Commuter Benefits Ordinance, a policy requiring large employers to offer alternative transportation options to employees. [Peter Zanoni, Deputy City Manager; Douglas Melnick, Chief Sustainability Officer]

Douglas Melnick reported that in June 2017, the Governor would receive the Environmental Protection Agency's (EPA) Preliminary Determination that the City of San Antonio would be in non-attainment by October 2017. He noted that the City would be classified as Marginal the lowest classification level. He stated that staff proposed a Citywide Ordinance that would require organizations with over 1,000 fulltime employees one of four Commuter Benefit Options to include:

1. Employee Paid Transportation Pre-Tax Benefit up to $255 per month
2. Employee Paid Direct Transit Subsidy Benefit up to $38 per month
3. Employer Provided Vehicle for an Employee Carpool or Transit Program
4. Alternative Employer Provided Commuter Benefit, an Employer would choose one option:
    a. Option A: Carpool and Bicycle Subsidies
    b. Option B: Telework Program
    c. Option C: Compressed Work Week

Mr. Melnick mentioned that there would be exemptions for employers that demonstrated economic hardships. He described the anticipated cost of each Commuter Benefit Option:

1. Employee Paid Transportation Pre-Tax Benefit would have no direct cost.
2. Employee Paid Direct Transit Subsidy Benefit would be $38 per month per employee.
3. Employer Provided Vehicle for an Employee Carpool or Transit Program Cost would be based on the number of vehicles and the type of vehicles needed for the service.
4. Alternative Employer Provided Commuter Benefit:
   a. Carpool and Bicycle Subsidies cost would be $38 per month per employee.
   b. Telework Program would have no direct cost.
   c. Compressed Work Week would have no direct cost.

Mr. Melnick provided the results of New York City, San Francisco Bay Area and Washington D.C. Commuter Benefit Programs. He noted the policy's benefits to the City would be tax savings to employers, monetary savings to employees, reduction in traffic congestion, employee attraction and retention, maintenance of transit, vanpool and carpool ridership, and a reduction of 354 tons of NOx a year. He stated that staff would bring the policy to the City Council in October 2016 for implementation in September 2017.

Councilmember Krier asked what the Governor's recommendation was based on. Mr. Melnick stated that the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality (TCEQ) makes the recommendation to the Governor based on the City's Air Quality. Peter Zanoni stated that staff sent a letter to the Governor that objected to Bexar County being the only county designated as non-attainment when there were other counties contributing to the air quality in the region. Councilmember Krier asked of the options that employers are currently offering to their employees. Mr. Melnick stated that the current options ranged from VIA's Vanpool Program to flex scheduling. Liza Meyer added that most of the employers offered their employees the Employer Provided Transit or Vanpool Subsidy. Councilmember Krier suggested that staff have a visual of the policies that would be placed on the City when it reaches non-attainment.

Councilmember Gonzales asked if there would be opportunities to offer incentives to the whole community instead of mandating employers. Mr. Melnick replied that the City would need to provide many incentives and noted that 58% of employers currently offer Commuter Options. Councilmember Gonzales asked if there could be a way to incentivize a Regional Center. He stated that he would look into ways to incentivize a Regional Center.

Councilmember Krier suggested that staff return to the Committee with information on what would be required of the City when it reaches in non-attainment and associated costs from recourse.

Chairman Lopez suggested that staff figure out a way to reduce the amount of vehicles on the road.

Councilmember Saldaña asked if there would be any discretion in the EPA's decision to position the City into non-attainment. Mr. Melnick replied that once the City is in non-

attainment, it will be classified as Marginal; therefore, there would not be a formal recommendation plan from the EPA.

Councilmember Nirenberg recommended that staff communicate with the Department of Defense on how non-attainment would affect security emissions.

No action was required for Item 2.

3. A Briefing on Climate Action Planning and potential next steps should one be developed for the City of San Antonio. [Peter Zanoni, Deputy City Manager; Douglas Melnick, Chief Sustainability Officer]

Mr. Melnick reported that the scope of a Climate Action Plan would be to build upon the existing Community Greenhouse Gas (GHG) Inventory. He discussed the benefits of a Climate Action Plan and stated that the GHG impacted the environment during higher temperatures. He noted that historically, from 1960, the climate trend is that the frequencies of hot days and cold days have increased. He highlighted that some of the local long term climate projections would be vulnerable to extreme heat, vector borne diseases, lower water crossings, and wildfires. He stated that if the City Council decided on a Climate Action Plan; they would have to decide where they would focus reduction either in waste, transportation or buildings. He discussed the six steps to a Climate Action Plan:

1. Inventory Greenhouse Emissions
2. Adopt a Target
3. Develop a Climate Action Plan
4. Implement Policies
5. Monitor and Track Progress
6. Recognize Achievement

Mr. Melnick stated that the next step would be to educate the community from November 2016 to March 2017. He added that staff would return to the Committee in April 2017 to discuss the next steps. He noted that they would secure potential consultants added that the timeline of the Climate Action Plan would be a one year public process.

Chairman Lopez asked of the City's Role for the 2016 Summit. Mr. Melnick replied that this would be the City's Second Annual Forum where the City is engaged with the Community. He stated that this year's forum would be an exchange of ideas with Community Leaders on Food, Green Buildings and Infrastructure.

Councilmember Nirenberg asked when the Climate Action Plan is completed; what will the City deliver to the Community. Mr. Melnick stated that it would be a road map of the GHG Inventory.

Councilmember Krier suggested that staff generate an incentive for Real Estate Developers that offer green and energy efficient products in their real estate development.
No action was required for Item 3.

Adjourn

There being no further discussion, the meeting was adjourned at 12:29 p.m.

Ray Lopez, Chairman

Respectfully Submitted,

Alicia K. Beckham,
Office of the City Clerk