

TRANSPORTATION COUNCIL COMMITTEE
MEETING MINUTES
MONDAY, AUGUST 20, 2018
3:00 PM
MUNICIPAL PLAZA BUILDING - B ROOM

Members Present:	Councilmember Rey Saldaña, Chair, <i>District 4</i> Councilmember Shirley Gonzales, <i>District 5</i> Councilmember Ana Sandoval, <i>District 7</i>
Members Absent:	Councilmember Greg Brockhouse, <i>District 6</i> Councilmember Manny Peláez, <i>District 8</i>
Staff Present:	Peter Zanonì, <i>Deputy City Manager</i> ; Lori Houston, <i>Assistant City Manager</i> ; John Jacks, <i>Director of Center City Development & Operations</i> ; Alicia K. Beckham, <i>Office of the City Clerk</i>
Others Present:	None

1. Approval of the Minutes for the June 19, 2018 Transportation Committee Meeting

Item 1 was not addressed.

2. Briefing on proposed policies and regulations for dockless vehicles. [Lori Houston, Assistant City Manager; John Jacks, Director, Center City Development & Operations Department]

John Jacks provided a briefing on the proposed policies and regulations to address dockless vehicles. He stated that dockless vehicles had been introduced to several cities. He noted that the Center City Development & Operations Department was seeking a comprehensive approach to regulating dockless vehicles. He added that there were two public meetings held on July 31 and September 12, 2018 to allow the community an opportunity to provide input.

Mr. Jacks reported the City had two companies who were currently operating dockless motor scooters. He stated that Bird operated 400 motor scooters and Lime operated 345 motor scooters. He noted there were eight other companies interested in launching their services in the City. He added that companies had been working with key stakeholders to develop a regulatory framework that would as mitigate concerns related to parking and safe operation of this transportation alternative.

Chairperson Saldana asked who was responsible for mitigating these concerns. Mr. Jacks stated that the idea was to have minimum enforcement from the City. He noted that it was in the interest of the City to enforce in areas where there could be imminent danger. He added that they would prefer the companies and operators to address these issues. In response to Chairperson Saldana, Mr. Jacks stated that the companies could partner with Centro to relocate the scooters to appropriate destinations.

Chairperson Saldana asked of the permit fee that staff proposed. Mr. Jacks stated that staff proposed that the companies pay a permit fee every six months to operate within the City. He noted that the fee would be applied to process the permit and the City's administration costs. He added that there could be a fee to contract with Centro.

Chairperson Saldana asked if the regulations were going to be phased in or if it would be a pilot program approach. Mr. Jacks stated that the six-month permit would allow the City to reassess

the regulations and the available technology. He noted that geofencing was such a technology that utilizes the GPS in the scooters and would allow companies to use it as a parking enforcement tool. He added that geofencing could discourage users from parking dockless vehicles in restricted areas or it could encourage users to park their vehicles in designated areas.

Councilmember Gonzales asked if scooters are only downtown. Mr. Jacks answered that the vehicles were not confined only to the downtown area. She suggested that the City limit regulations, but also stated that she was in support of generating fees as a way of collecting data.

Councilmember Sandoval asked of the effective date October 4, 2018 to receive permits. Mr. Jacks stated that the effective date would allow 30 days for companies operating dockless vehicles to purchase a permit. She asked him to describe the application requirements to receive a permit. Mr. Jacks explained that the companies would be given six months after receiving a permit to meet the City's requirements. She asked when the applications would become available and Mr. Jacks stated that they would be available upon adoption by the full City Council.

Councilmember Sandoval asked of enforcement for the dockless vehicles. Mr. Jacks stated that similar to bicycle regulations, the dockless vehicles would be enforced by the San Antonio Police Department. He noted that it would be a Class C Misdemeanor if an operator of the vehicle received a ticket.

Chairperson Saldana suggested that staff return with a draft plan that could be evaluated with companies, consumers, and key stakeholders. He asked if there were any prohibition regarding the use of dockless vehicles on sidewalks. Mr. Jacks stated that sidewalk use was difficult to regulate, but staff recommended prohibition on sidewalks, similar to bicycles. Chairperson Saldana stated that he would not feel comfortable supporting said staff recommendation.

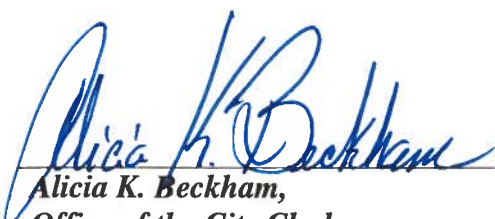
Chairperson Saldana asked of VIA Metropolitan Transit's (VIA) opinion on dockless vehicles in regards to first and last mile transportation needs. Mr. Jacks stated that VIA was not opposed to dockless vehicles but their concern was safety with parked vehicles obstructing passengers from getting on and off the bus. He noted that a solution was to place corrals in areas with high ridership.

No action was required for Item 2.

Adjourn

There being no further discussion, the meeting was adjourned at 4:13 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,


Alicia K. Beckham,
Office of the City Clerk


Rey Saldana, Chairman