

**INTERGOVERNMENTAL RELATIONS
COUNCIL COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES
WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 12, 2020
10:00 AM
VIDEOCONFERENCE**

Members Present:	Councilmember Manny Pelaez, <i>Chair, District 8</i> Councilmember Rebecca Viagran, <i>District 3</i> Councilmember Adriana Rocha Garcia, <i>District 4</i> Councilmember Clayton Perry, <i>District 10</i>
Staff Present:	Camila Kunau, <i>Assistant City Attorney</i> ; Carlos Contreras, <i>Assistant City Manager</i> ; Jeff Coyle, <i>Director, Government & Public Affairs</i> ; Christine Wright, <i>State Relations Manager, Government & Public Affairs</i> ; Nancy Cano, <i>Office of the City Clerk</i>
Others Present:	Leo Gomez, <i>CEO, Brooks Development Authority</i> ; Jim Campbell, <i>Chair, Board of Directors, Brooks Development Authority</i> ; Lorraine Pulido, Ph.D., <i>Vice Chair, Board of Directors, Brooks Development Authority</i> ; Alex Melo, <i>Finance Committee Vice Chair [District 6], Board of Directors, Brooks Development Authority</i> ; Joe Nix, <i>Planning & Development Committee [District 10], Board of Directors, Brooks Development Authority</i> ; David Christian, <i>Finance Committee Member, [District 2], Board of Directors, Brooks Development Authority</i> ; Alicia Reyes-Barrientez, Ph.D., <i>Planning & Development Committee [District 3], Board of Directors, Brooks Development Authority</i> ; Roland F. Gonzales, <i>Finance Committee Member, [District 8], Board of Directors, Brooks Development Authority</i> ; Tamara Tapman, <i>Planning & Development Committee Member, [District 9], Board of Directors, Brooks Development Authority</i> ; Baltazar R. (“Walter”) Serna, Jr. <i>Attorney, Serna & Serna, San Antonio</i> ; Kevin Kelly, <i>Lead Attorney, Government & Regulatory Affairs Group, Clark Hill, PC</i> ; Shadi Nasabzdaeh, <i>Attorney Legislative Specialist, Government & Regulatory Affairs Group, Clark Hill, PC</i>

Call to Order

Chairman Pelaez called the meeting to order.

Approval of the minutes from the January 9, May 8, September 11, November 13, 2019 and January 14, 2020 meetings of the Intergovernmental Relations Council Committee

Councilmember Rocha Garcia moved to approve the Minutes from the January 9, May 8, September 11, November 13, 2019 and January 14, 2020 meetings of the Intergovernmental

Relations Committee with the requested name correction. Councilmember Viagran seconded the motion with the change as read. The motion carried unanimously.

2020 BUILD Grant – BUILDing Opportunity: Brooks Connectivity Project [Leo Gomez, CEO, Brooks Development Authority]

Leo Gomez reported that the mission and the vision of the Brooks Development Authority (BDA) was to redevelop the 1,308 acres of the former Brooks Air Force Base in a manner that created prosperity in the Brooks region as part of the City's San Antonio Tomorrow Plan. He stated that the BDA took the role of creating prosperity in a region with high levels of poverty very seriously with the goal of creating good paying jobs with good benefits in the surrounding region. He noted his work with Assistant City Manager Carlos Contreras, City Staff, Councilmember Viagran, Councilmember Rocha Garcia and the Economic and Workforce Development Council Committee for the development of subsidized short-term, long-term, and on-the-job training programs in demand occupations. He recalled that in its heyday, the Brooks Air Force Base had 2,200 employees before it was closed. He reported that due to BDA's successful partnerships with the City and private sector stakeholders, over 5,000 jobs were since created in the region with average wages of over \$52,000. He stated that it was the goal of BDA to keep building infrastructure, but that infrastructure could not be built without innovation. He emphasized that investment in infrastructure would lead to the development of properties that attracted employers.

Mr. Gomez recognized Connie Gonzales, BDA Director of Strategy and Communications, Leanna Puente, BDA Government Relations Coordinator and the point on the BDA grant application submitted to the Department of Transportation (DoT), Walter Serna, Washington, DC Lobbyist Representative, and Deborah Richmond, consultant and author of the DoT grant proposal.

Mr. Gomez reported that the City invested approximately \$60 million in infrastructure development in the region in since the inception of BDA as a redevelopment authority. He stated that the BDA has made efforts in the past 10 years to obtain funding for a \$31 million project to develop a one-mile area from the intersection of S. New Braunfels and Lyster Road to intersect with Loop 410. He stated that the project had already obtained a \$9.5 million commitment from the Alamo Area Metropolitan Planning Organization and the BDA sought the \$22 million balance in funding from the 2020 BUILD Grant through its submitted proposal.

Mr. Gomez reported that the proposed roadway section would consist of two northbound and two southbound travel lanes extended through signalized intersections at Lyster Road, South Presa, and frontage roads on the north and south sides of Loop 410. He added that signalized intersections would also provide pedestrian crosswalks connecting to a concrete multiuse path providing access to recreational and retail areas. He stated that the project would be key in connecting the Brooks campus to the greater San Antonio area and would provide access to another major highway, and would alleviate expected traffic as the Brooks campus developed. He cited key community connections include connectivity to major employers, emergency access, and access to other amenities in the Brooks area, such as Toyota Motor Manufacturing, Texas, Inc., HOLT CAT, Texas A&M San Antonio, Mission Trail Baptist Hospital, San Antonio Emergency Operations Center, and the Brooks (VIA Metropolitan Transit) Transit Center. He highlighted proposed safety features and amenities, including 10' multi-use pathways for pedestrians and cyclists, enhanced lighting, landscaping, and storm water detention.

Mr. Gomez acknowledged the 25 letters of support the BDA received from the private sector and the public internet provider in the region. He reported that the grant award would be announced in September. He called upon the Subcommittee and the leaders of San Antonio to assist with final advocacy efforts. He added that Federal Lobbyist Attorney Walter Serna would coordinate with Jeff Coyle to do so.

Chairman Pelaez asked what further help was needed from the Subcommittee and City staff. Mr. Gomez stated that advocacy by not only local congressional delegation, but the Senators representing Texas would be key. He recommended re-engagement with the two state Senators to see what they can do for San Antonio once the grant finalists are determined.

Councilmember Viagran thanked Mr. Gomez and the BDA for their hard work. She noted that the region was the second fastest growing zip code in the City.

Councilmember Rocha Garcia thanked Mr. Gomez and the BDA for their wonderful work with BUILD grant. She acknowledged the BDA for their outreach microbusinesses in the area and the distribution of 13,000 doorhangers and flyers as part of its COVID-19 response. She expressed gratitude for the BDA's leadership and for identifying the households and microbusinesses that did not have internet. She thanked the BDA for coordinating a virtual job fair in the community.

Councilmember Perry requested a detailed summary of the proposed funding to include funding sources, funding commitments, items completed and items pending. He asked of the amount of funds in the Tax Increment Reinvestment Zone (TIRZ). He observed that the City's major MPO projects have been identified. He stated that he would coordinate a meeting with Bexar County Commission Wolff and officials from the Texas Department of Transportation (TxDot) to further discuss future plans for road expansions. He added that he would coordinate a meeting with Councilmember Viagran to further examine MPO projects in the BDA region. Mr. Gomez stated that the TIRZ capacity was used with the last investment and redevelopment of two buildings and it would take another 2-3 years for capacity to build up again with the expected growth of approximately \$2 million per year.

Jeff Coyle reported that there were no competing grant applications from the City and he was hopeful that the BDA Grant Application would be the only Texas application that would make it to the next selection round. He stated that the Government & Public Affairs Department (GPA) would assist as needed with the direction of the Committee.

Chairman Pelaez addressed the BDA Board Members in attendance and reassured the Board that none of the BDA expansion efforts would be possible without Mr. Gomez's outpouring of energy and his dedication. He thanked Mr. Gomez for his leadership. He stated that the City would continue to support the BDA.

Federal Legislative Update – Coronavirus Relief [Jeff Coyle, Director, Government & Public Affairs]

Jeff Coyle reported that negotiations between the House and Senate over the next COVID-19 stimulus package was stalled. He stated that the White House took action on its own over the weekend with a debatable effect.

Sally Basurto reported that the \$3.4 trillion HEROES Act proposal by the House was passed on May 15, 2020, and the \$1.1 trillion HEALS Act was introduced by the Senate on July 27, 2020 with allocations as follows:

	HEROES Act	HEALS Act
State and Local Aid	\$951 billion	N/A
Unemployment Benefits	\$433 billion	\$113 billion
PPP/Small Business	\$16 billion	\$158 billion
Payments to Individuals	\$1,200	\$1,200
Education	\$291 billion	\$105 billion
Housing	\$200 billion	\$3.3 billion
Child Care	\$132 billion	\$14.7 billion
Transportation	\$31 billion	\$10.4 billion
Defense	N/A	\$29.4 billion
Telecommunications	\$5.5 billion	\$1 billion
Census	\$410 million	\$448 million
Healthcare	\$468 billion	\$106 billion
Family Violence Prevention, Elderly & Disabled Individuals	\$340 million	\$265 million

Ms. Basurto stated that each proposed legislative stimulus package served as the opening bid for negotiations between the two chambers. She added that negotiations were far apart on state and local aid and unemployment benefits. She reported that on August 8, 2020, the President signed an Executive Order that provided \$400 weekly in enhanced unemployment benefits, payroll tax cuts, eviction moratorium, and deferred student loan payments. She noted that no further negotiations between the House and the Senate were scheduled as of today.

Councilmember Perry stated that the concept of the Committee was to meet with state legislators prior to developing the City's legislative agenda. He requested further discussion with the Committee to coordinate such a plan. He stated that SAWS and CPS Energy were utility companies owned by the City and he observed each entity developed their own legislative agendas. He recommended that the Committee meet with both entities to discuss and develop coordinated efforts in a united front.

Mr. Coyle reported that the GPA would submit a list of recommended state lobbyists to the Audit & Accountability Council Committee for approval process next week; thereafter, the GPA would return to the Committee to present the recommendations. He added that once a state lobbyist team was in place, the GPA would develop a state legislative agenda with the appointed state lobbyist team. He concurred with Councilmember Perry's recommendation to initiate meetings with state delegates prior to drafting an agenda. He reported that GPA regularly worked with SAWS, CPS Energy, and the BDA in support of their prioritized legislative agendas. He added that the GPA incorporated those high priorities into the City's agenda or would provide a letter of support to be added to their agendas.

Chairman Pelaez proposed the implementation of an interagency dashboard by the GPA to monitor the status and progress of legislative action of the City, SAWS, CPS Energy and the BDA.

Councilmember Rocha Garcia asked of the status of the stimulus tracker. She asked of the status of the City's legislative priorities and expressed concern due to COVID-19 for continued engagement with Washington delegates since the SA to DC Trip in February. Ms. Basurto reported that very limited Federal funding opportunities were rolled out since the implementation of the stimulus tracker. She added that she would provide a copy of the June stimulus tracker report. Mr. Coyle stated that the GPA could provide an update on a future Committee agenda. He added that Ms. Basurto and Mr. Kelly maintained frequent contact with the City's delegation team at least 3-4 times per week. Ms. Basurto added that she maintained frequent contact with the City's advocacy organizations such as the U.S. Conference of Mayors and the National League of Cities. Mr. Kelly reported that a continuing resolution would need to be in place by September 30, 2020 to avoid a shutdown. He stated that the looming September 30, 2020 deadline would be a flashpoint for the House and the Senate to potentially force a stimulus package deal. He added that the volatility of the presidential and senate level races would drive some activity before the November elections. Walter Serna stated that his role was to engage with local state delegates and approach them with any direct questions from the City with the GPA's direction. Mr. Coyle proposed a mid-year legislative agenda update be presented to the Committee and that local delegate offices would be invited so that the Committee could engage with them.

Councilmember Perry asked of the status on the lobbyist selection. Mr. Coyle reported that the GPA solicited proposals in February and invited over 70 lobbyist firms and 8 proposals were submitted. He stated that after the Audit & Accountability Committee reviewed and approved of the proposal process, GPA would return to this Committee with its recommendations for approval; thereafter, final approval from City Council would take place in September.

Adjourn

There being no further discussion, the meeting was adjourned at 11:20 am.

Manny Pelaez, Chairman

Respectfully Submitted,

***Nancy Cano
Office of the City Clerk***