

**INNOVATION AND TECHNOLOGY COUNCIL COMMITTEE
MEETING MINUTES
TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 22, 2020
2:00 PM
VIDEOCONFERENCE**

Members Present:	Councilmember Many Pelaez, Chair, <i>District 8</i> Councilmember John Courage, <i>District 9</i> Deanne Cuellar, <i>Citizen Committee Member</i> Dirk Elmendorf, <i>Citizen Committee Member</i> Will Garrett, <i>Citizen Committee Member</i>
Members Absent:	Councilmember Roberto Treviño, <i>District 1</i> Councilmember Jada Andrews-Sullivan, <i>District 2</i>
Staff Present:	John Peterek, <i>Assistant to the City Manager</i> ; Jennifer Guerrero, <i>Assistant City Attorney</i> ; Brian Dillard, <i>Chief Innovation Officer, Office of Innovation</i> ; Craig Hopkins, <i>Chief Information Officer, Information Technology Services Department (ITSD)</i> ; Candeleria Mendoza, <i>Smart City Coordinator, Office of Innovation</i> ; Emily Royall, <i>Smart City Coordinator, Office of Innovation</i> ; Nancy Cano, <i>Office of the City Clerk</i>
Others Present:	Brian Ramey, <i>Director, Development at Orange Barrel Media</i>

Call to Order

1. Approval of the June 23, 2020 Innovation and Technology Committee Meeting Minutes.

Councilmember Courage moved to approve the Minutes from the June 23, 2020 Innovation and Technology Committee Meeting. Citizen Member Cuellar seconded the motion. The Motion carried unanimously by those present.

2. Briefing on the City of San Antonio's Digital Kiosks as well as a request to amend the current contract with IKE/Orange Barrel Media. [Brian Ramey, Development Director, IKE Smart City]

Chief Innovation Officer Brian Dillard reported that the City's Digital Kiosk Program was established by Ordinance passed in June 2018. He stated that the initial contract was for 5 years; thereafter, a contract extension would allow for an additional 8 years, with four additional 1-year extensions. He stated that any contract extensions would not include any significant changes to the original contract terms other than with the timeline extension and would include the option to add additional kiosks in the future.

He noted that the pilot program was in its third year. He presented a listing of the 28 kiosks located throughout the City. He noted high usage rates even as the kiosks were being installed in 2019, and downtown kiosks and the Woodlawn Lake location experienced high volumes.

Chief Innovation Officer Dillard reported that in addition to way finding, the kiosks offered nearby wireless internet connection, provided information on nearby restaurants and businesses, and served as a useful tool to distribute messaging and information to the general public. He stated that the downtown kiosks were very useful during the peak of COVID-19 and were utilized to provide resource information for COVID-19. He noted that the kiosks were a source of revenue for the City and did not cost anything. He explained that revenue from the kiosks was based on a minimal annual guarantee (MAG) of 21.5%, with an additional MAG increase of 2% each additional year thereafter. He presents a graphed revenue forecast through year nine. He noted that future revenue amounts could differ or increase based on additional ad revenue.

Chief Innovation Officer Dillard reported that the City entered into a revenue sharing agreement with VIA for 7 kiosks located at VIA-owned facilities and at City Right-of-Way VIA locations. He stated that the City would receive a 50/50 split of revenue for kiosks located at VIA-owned facilities, and a 60/40 split of revenue for kiosks located at City Right-of-Way VIA locations.

Citizen Member Will Garrett asked how the initial ramp-up phase progressed during COVID-19. He noted that wi-fi accessibility was at a premium during the peak of COVID-19 and asked of the usage rates during that time. Chief Innovation Officer Dillard stated that Pilot Year 1 was more challenging than expected due to right-of-way concerns, power distribution, and the many different components of the installation process that were to be considered. He reported that by Pilot Year 2, the installation process was smooth and a rhythm was established. Chief Innovation Officer Dillard stated he would provide further data on COVID-19 usage rates. He noted that the majority of kiosks were located downtown where SAfree WiFi was readily available and many businesses provided free Wi-Fi which was helpful during the COVID-19 peak.

Councilmember Courage noted that McAllister Park was not on the list of kiosk locations and asked of the prospects of adding more kiosks to the City. Brian Ramey reported that McAllister Park was identified as one of two additional sites next to be added. He added that pending bond project issues had delayed further installation of kiosks and would be revisited once the bond projects were completed. He stated that as people were able to move about more in FY 2021 and as kiosk revenue increased, increasing the number of kiosks would be evaluated and the current contract allowed for flexibility to do so.

Citizen Member Garrett moved to recommend and forward the proposed amendments to the City's current contract with IKE/Orange Barrel Media to City Council for consideration. Citizen Member Elmendorf seconded the Motion. The Motion carried unanimously by those present.

- 3. Briefing on updates on the City of San Antonio's Digital Inclusion Pillar of the Recovery and Resiliency Plan "Connected Beyond the Classroom."** [John Peterek, Assistant to the City Manager; Brian Dillard, Chief Innovation Officer, Office of Innovation]

Chief Innovation Officer Dillard provided an update on the Connected Beyond the Classroom Project (CBTC) to expand fiber capability and student access and to mitigate digital divide issues, specifically for underserved student populations, K-12, colleges and universities between the City and other governmental entities to provide flexible distance learning access for up to 20,000 students within priority neighborhoods. He stated that several short term, tactical strategies were implemented mid-term.

Chief Innovation Officer Dillard reported that prior to COVID-19, WiFi coverage was not offered in all public library parking lots. He stated that SA Free WiFi coverage was now expanded to all 29 public libraries across their parking lots for those who did not have internet access in their homes to serve as a short-term gap solution in digital inclusion until the CBC project was completed.

Chief Innovation Officer Dillard reported that hotspot distributions were also expanded. He stated that at the peak of COVID-19, eight school districts within targeted vulnerable neighborhoods were in need of additional hotspots for their underserved student populations. He noted that an additional 1,000 hotspots were distributed to Edgewood and Northeast School Districts to reach their Pre-K SA Departments, and Parks and Recreational facilities. He added that San Antonio ISD, South San ISD, Northside ISD, Harlandale ISD, Southwest ISD, and Judson ISD would be provided hotspots through Operation Connectivity, which was a Texas Education Agency grant-matching fund.

Chief Innovation Officer Dillard reported that eight community hubs would be established over the next few months at community centers within the identified 50 priority neighborhoods throughout the City. He stated that these facilities would provide space for students to do homework and download their assignments and included access for parents, families, and local residents to utilize center resources to submit housing applications, utility, rental and mortgage assistance applications.

Chief Innovation Officer Dillard stated that the CBTC project timeline established a pilot program to begin in September 2020. He noted that the processes for vendor bids, contract planning, and procurements were accelerated in response to COVID-19. He reported that major component installation efforts were currently in progress and in alignment with the projected timeline to date, as follows:

- September 2020: Pilot in demonstration neighborhoods (Westside)
- October 2020 - December 2020: Expand to Proof of Concept in 3 – 5 additional neighborhoods
- January – September 2021: Expansion to remaining neighborhoods

Chief Innovation Officer Dillard presented a mapping of the CBTC fiber infrastructure plan, antenna and vertical asset structuring plan, and student home access point equipment to be established permanently upon project completion. He reported that the City would implement funding approaches, sustainability measures, and major capital investments necessary to address technology concerns, neighborhood density concerns, and local infrastructure gaps projected to be filled on an annual basis going forward.

Citizen Member Cuellar voiced concern about the unforeseeable challenges that could slow down project completion and asked of any contingency plans in place. She offered her continued support from the private sector to ensure the CTBC plan would proceed without delay.

Councilmember Courage asked if school district Wi-Fi systems currently had the ability to enable parents and family members to link to the City's website during COVID-19 so that they could receive information on available resources and keep informed on the COVID-19 response and city government developments. He requested that the loosening of restrictive limitations to public access broadcasts be placed on the City's Legislative Agenda. John Peterek stated that each school had a different set of filters and library settings. He added that vital, public access information websites accessible through schools and libraries were also available in the home. He clarified that the long-term, in-home solution would cover the entire home; whereas, the current short-term hotspot in-home solution had a one or two room range. Chief Innovation Officer Dillard noted that public access to information was available outside of a subscription cable tv service.

Citizen Member Garrett noted that digital inclusion and connectivity efforts would remain on the innovation forefront for a long period of time going forward. He recommended that the Committee and the City remain at the very cutting edge of digital inclusion innovation and continue to push the boundaries of normal civic government action and continue to provide innovative ideas for internet access and connectivity. Chief Innovation Officer Dillard noted that the Committee and the City were open to innovative ideas received from the public and private sector.

Citizen Member Cuellar recommended that the Committee and/or City Staff present the CTBC plan to the local chapter of the Institute for Electrical and Electronic Engineers (IEEE). She noted that IEEE members were the original innovators and developers of the City's current broadband network in place. She stated that a meeting with IEEE would be resourceful and the Committee could extract their observations and receive sage advice on innovative ways to shorten the length of time to deploy the CTBC plan.

Adjourn

There being no further discussion, the meeting was adjourned at 3:01 p.m.

Manny Pelaez, Chairman

Respectfully Submitted,

Nancy Cano
Office of the City Clerk