

**MINUTES  
STREETS, BRIDGES & SIDEWALKS BOND COMMITTEE MEETING**

**MONDAY, NOVEMBER 14, 2011**

**6:00 PM**

**CLIFF MORTON DEVELOPMENT AND BUSINESS SERVICES CENTER  
1901 SOUTH ALAMO**

Committee Members Present:	Frank Fonseca, J.C. Dwyer, Dona Liston, Jesse Cortinas, Andrew Anguiano, Irene Keller, Michael Tejada, Edward Cano, Mari Garza Bird, Millie Borelli, Cristina Castro, Luis Marotta, Susan Powers, Emil Moncivais, Sylvia Diaz, Ed Garza, Bianca Maldonado, Ted Guerra, Jacob Dell, Jim Reed, Ken Lawrence, Aaron Seaman, Mike Villyard, Jesse Herford, John Clamp, Chris Alderete, Co-Chair; and Duane Wilson, Co-Chair
Committee Members Absent:	Richard Ramos, Jane Gonzalez, Kelli O’Keefe, Jeff Webster, and Ken Thomas
Staff Present:	Peter Zanoni (Assistant City Manager), Mike Frisbee (Director of Public Works), Maria Villagomez (Budget Director)

**CALL TO ORDER**

Ms. Chris Alderete Co-Chair, called the meeting to order.

**I. Opening Comments, Roll Call, and Approve Minutes**

Co-Chair Alderete, asked that each member speak into the microphones and state their names for the record. Following the roll call Ms. Alderete introduced two of the three co-chairs of this committee, Mayor Lila Cockrell and Tessa Martinez Pollack of Our Lady of the Lake.

A motion was made to approve the minutes for the October 24<sup>th</sup> Bond Committee Streets, Bridges and Sidewalks Bond Committee meeting, seconded and unanimously approved. Mr. Edward Cano wanted to have his name added to the record as attending the October 24<sup>th</sup> meeting as he arrived after the roll call.

**II. Updates from October 24<sup>th</sup> Meeting**

**a. Review Responses to Unanswered Questions from October 24<sup>th</sup> Bond Committee Meeting**

Mike Frisbee, P.E., Director of Capital Improvement Management Services stated that the meeting was being broadcast live on NOWSACast.com and welcomed all listeners.

Mr. Frisbee distributed a written memo to answer the questions from the previous meeting on the SAWS project on W. Magnolia Street, Bulverde Thoroughfare Amendment Plan, the

various developer agreements that we are proposing, Thompson Place and Cumberland project, and a list of unfunded projects that are not a part of staff recommended projects.

**b. Review of List of Projects Requested to Date from Committee Members and Community**

Mr. Frisbee, presented a list of the requests made prior to the October 24<sup>th</sup> meeting and another listing requests since that meeting. The lists include the requester's name, the council district and a project name. Any additional requests may be made through the web site using a project request form.

Mr. Frisbee presented an update to the \$40 million Downtown Street Reconstruction. Staff is working with a group of consultants to do a comprehensive study of the traffic flow, how they come in and out of downtown and how they circulate. The City wants to make traffic move better and spruce up the street level. Some difficult multi-point intersections, with odd angles, have been identified to improve and allow for traffic to move better. These intersections are Commerce/ Market at Alamo/ Losoya, San Pedro/ Main/ Navarro, St. Mary's/ Navarro/ Nueva, Pecan Street Realignment, and Santa Rosa/ IH-10/ Cameron. Pedestrians have a difficult time with these intersections as well as vehicles. The downtown study will work to reduce the confusion and improve the flow through the intersections.

These are the early ideas for downtown projects which total \$225 million but \$40 is designated to spend. The committee will look at reconstructing streets to make downtown more pedestrian friendly and all modes of vehicular traffic to be able to move in and out of downtown in an effective way.

**III. Review and Discuss Recommended Tour Itinerary**

Mr. Frisbee, reviewed the itinerary for the Tour of board members to sights scheduled for December 3, 2011, 10:30am – 3:30pm. The tour will begin at the Cliff Morton Development Services Center and view the streets downtown. After lunch the tour will move to Redland Road 1604 to Jones Maltsberger then to Hausman, Callaghan, Ingram Culebra to Mabe.

Co-Chair Alderete asked for a show of hands to indicate who would be available on Saturday, December 3, 2011, 10:30 – 3:30, for the tour. About 15 members raised their hands and agreed to the date. Mr. Frisbee added that members could attend all or part of the tour. Co-Chair Alderete indicated that Mr. Frisbee would send the detailed information out to each of the committee members.

**IV. Citizens to be Heard**

Ms. Charlotte Kale, with the Old Spanish Trail Celebration Association, requested design funds only for a few thousand dollars for the Westside Creeks Project that go along with the development of the VIA VRT going out Fredricksburg Road.

Mr. Al Ramon, III, with the Port Authority of San Antonio (Port), requested \$6 million for the extension of 36 Street Phase 3B. He stated the Port has over 80 employers with 14,000 employees that come from all over the City. This would make the connection easier for employees coming from the far west and northern portions of the City. Earlier this year the

Port received a \$1.7 million grant from the Federal Highway Administration for the completion of Phase 3B section of the road.

Mr. Terry Britton, with the Port, East Kelley Rail project, spoke about the continuation of the project co-funded with the City on the Frio ramp. It is south of the previous project. This entrance is subject to flooding and traffic congestion for a cost of \$7.8 million. It adds lanes, bike lanes, and traffic lights. It allows better access to St. Phillips SW Campus.

Mr. Frisbee indicated this project would be presented to the Drainage Committee and to the Streets Committee because it affects both.

Mr. James Rodarte, District 5, Voters for Progress, expressed his concern with the train delays. Citizens would like to have an overpass built for train tracks on Zarzamora. This would make the streets safer for students and emergency vehicles.

Ms. Lana Aires, District 2, Woodglen Subdivision – This neighborhood was originally established in 1969. The streets need repair from broken water mains. There has been some patching. The five-year plan for street repairs does not include this project and she asked that funding be considered for this project in the bond proposal.

Mr. James Devno, District 2, East Village Neighborhood Association, stated the Rittiman to Walzam project is a priority with their four subdivisions because of the lack of sidewalks and lighting and the many dips in the road.

Ms. Henrietta LaGrange, District 7, Westside AARP, felt the district was split in two parts, one is developed and the other is underdeveloped. She requested more money designated to the underdeveloped.

Mr. Frisbee stated this project is part of the drainage project recommendation.

Ms. Bianca Maldonado, District 7, stated there are meetings focused on the ongoing District 7 drainage project, 9:00 at the District 7 field office, every Monday morning and citizens may attend for more information on the status of the project.

Mr. Richard Acosta, Las Angeles Heights, was called but was absent.

Mr. Milton Guess, Mission Trail Advisory Group – stated they were responsible for the surface and streets from the Alamo to Mission Espada Project. The organization asked that this project move forward and emphasized the need to restore the aqueduct. If the neighborhood is improved it will attract more tourists.

Mr. Charles English, East Side Neighborhood President. This area is near AT&T and has a high volume of traffic. Canton Street was paved 30 years ago and no improvements have been made since then. There is a strong need for sidewalks and historic preservation.

Mr. JC Dwyer, District 1, stated he had driven down East Commerce, one of the streets Mr. English spoke about, and agreed with how bad it was and how great the need in that area was for the safety of students walking to school.

Ms. Sylvia Esgamer, District 2, East Gate Neighborhood Association, stated the repair projects were long overdue and added that the citizens in the area were discouraged.

Mr. Jesse Guzman, District 7, stated his support for the overpass on Zarzamora Street near Frio City Road.

Co-Chair Aldrete asked if there was a cost estimate for that project.

Mr. Frisbee stated the early estimates are between \$30 and \$40 million. There were safety concerns with the design and there is a need for it to be refined. Staff continues to work with the citizens that have spoken and welcomed their passion for the project.

Ms. Maldonado, District 7, asked if MPO could bear some of the cost of the design and how does that work.

Mr. Frisbee stated that the MPO, TXDOT and the Federal Government were all involved in the project and were working to share the costs, but money continues to be tight now.

Mr. Ted Guerra, District 7, asked when the automated train switching station would be completed.

Mr. Frisbee replied it should be in the next few months.

Ms. Geri Galloway, District 2, North Hampton Subdivision is a 20 year old community and needs repair. Kids are no longer bused by the school district and sidewalks are needed to keep students safe while walking to school. She also asked for signs to alert traffic to pedestrian traffic.

Mr. Roberto Anguiano, President of NPO near the missions, emphasized the need to preserve the historic aqueducts and continue the project in the mission area. About a quarter of a million people visit the site each year and this will increase with improved streets.

Mr. Craig Alstack, District 2, would like the roads in Cantura Mills rebuilt because they are so bumpy and holey.

Mr. Jonathan Ashkaneza, Beacon Hill Improvements, did not show up to speak.

Ms. Diane Lang, District 5 and Port Authority San Antonio, requested funds for the road and drainage upgrades that would cure the flooding and traffic around the Port. St. Phillips continues to grow and attract more students causing the intersection to become even more crowded.

Two other no shows to speak were Ms. Molly McAdams and Mr. Walter Flores.

**V. Bond Committee Discussion and Analysis**

**a. Committee Member Project Input and Deliberation**

Co-Chair Wilson asked Mr. Guerra to speak regarding the mission of the Committee. Mr. Guerra stated the projects are beneficial for the City as a whole and emphasized the importance of getting citizens to vote yes for the bond.

Mr. Frisbee stated this is the last meeting for Citizens to be Heard. After the tour the staff will present draft recommendations to the Committee.

**b. Begin Initial Development of Committee Recommendations**

Co-Chair Alderete asked that take a voice poll be taken of each district as to whether they are ready to vote yes.

District 1 – Ready to vote yes.

District 2 – Ms. Dona Liston – Highly recommend Peggy Road Project and ready to vote yes.

District 3 – Requested that money be moved from the Pecan Valley project, because it has been removed, to the Vestal Road Project which was not funded on the list. Please refer to the email that was sent requesting this change. Mr. Frisbee indicated staff would review the request.

District 4 – Ms. Mari Gaza Bird said District 4 is good to vote yes.

District 5 – Mr. Luis Marotta asked that money be moved to other roads. Give UTSA money from Frio Road. Mr. Frisbee responded by suggesting members review the one page of staff recommendations and added staff was comfortable with this change.

District 6 – Mr. Emil Moncivias stated members are comfortable with the recommendations for their district and joint projects.

District 7- Ms. Maldonado stated \$16.5 million was the amount that matched up with requests until additional projects were added. It will be a challenge to reduce the costs with additional requests coming in.

District 8 - Mr. Jim Reed stated that District 8 was happy.

District 9 – are happy with the recommendations.

District 10 – are happy with recommendations.

Mr. Moncivias asked for time with staff concerning the Hemisfair Park projects and regarding pedestrian traffic. He stated a concern that money had already been set aside for sidewalks and wanted to know how the new money affects all of the projects. Mr. Frisbee indicated much of this would be covered on the tour.

**VI. Next Steps for Community Bond Committee Process**

Co-Chair Alderete stated it was late for citizen input. She asked what the time line was for formalizing the recommendation. The next meeting is scheduled for December 5, 2011.

Mr. Frisbee indicated that the week before the tour a draft could be prepared for the Committee.

Mr. Reed (District 8) stated that of the \$340 million, most of the money goes for repair and reconstruction. His recommendation to staff would be to seek better ongoing maintenance to reduce the need for so much rebuilding in the future.

Mr. Guerra (District 7) asked if additional meetings can be held if necessary.

Co-Chair Alderete answered yes and asked what the time frame to report back to the City Council was.

Mr. Peter Zaroni, Assistant City Manager, indicated the charge to the committee was to report back to the City Council the first meeting in January and the Committee needs to adhere to the original charge.

Ms. Maldonado stated she still has questions and concerns as to how the City-wide projects overlap with the Hemisfair money. She asked if a clause could be set in the Bond for excess spending.

Mr. Zaroni indicated that could not be done and the Committee must stick to the charge from the City Council to recommend projects.

Ms. Bird asked when the Hemisfair issue could be addressed.

Mr. Frisbee stated that the questions would be answered on the Tour.

Co-Chair Wilson stated that no meeting could be held on the 19<sup>th</sup>, but possibly one could be scheduled for the 12<sup>th</sup> of December. He also stated the email correspondence would outline the phases of construction and how to address each request.

There was discussion regarding the District 1 Mobility Project and which streets would be included. Mr. Frisbee indicated the City would continue to work with citizens to identify the streets to be included.

There being no further discussion, Co-Chair Alderete adjourned the meeting at 7:50 p.m.

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**Chair**

**Respectfully submitted by Carri Wiggins**