

City of San Antonio



Drainage Bond Committee Meeting Minutes

San Antonio Public Library
Central Branch
600 Soledad St.

Thursday, October 27
6:00 PM

Bond Committee Members

A majority of appointive members, other than ex officio, shall constitute a quorum.

6:04 P.M. - Call to Order, Board Room

Co-Chair Alex Perez called the meeting to order and introduced fellow Co-Chair Ramiro Cavazos.

- Attendance of Committee Members
- Head count of general attendance: 27
- Katherine de la Vega, World Wide Translators, was present

I. Opening Comments and Meeting Procedures by Committee Chairs

Opening comments were by Co-Chair Mr. Perez, which included introductions, and acknowledgements of upcoming meetings.

II. Staff Professional Recommendation of Drainage Projects

Director of Transportation and Capital Improvements (TCI), Mike Frisbie, spoke to the rough proportionality of the proposed bond projects. Mr. Frisbie spoke of the proposed cost for downtown and the total cost of proposed projects for each district. Specifically, Mr. Frisbie spoke to the fact that District 5 does not have any drainage projects, but that it does have proposed street projects which address drainage issues. Additionally, he spoke to on-going projects which have approved funding, but have not been completed such as the project at Fay Avenue and Coyal St. Drainage.

Secondly, Mr. Frisbie addressed questions about projects from the previous meeting. Specifically, issues presented about North New Braunfels (District 10), Overbrook channel (District 7), Laddie Place/Kampmann Area (District 7), Acuna Street (District 6), Griggs Avenue (District 5), and Vidor Avenue Area Drainage (District 1).

III. Citizens to be Heard

Mr. Perez opened the floor for public input and presented the guidelines for Residents to Be Heard (2 minute limit for individuals and 5 minutes for groups). It was noted that 5 groups and 4 individuals had signed up to speak.

St. Andrews Episcopal Church group, District 7, spokesmen David Archibald spoke to the increase of impervious cover near the church due to development. He stated this increase of impervious cover has caused an increase of drainage issues which caused water to collect at the church and neighboring apartment complex. Mr. Archibald stated that a project has been proposed by City staff. The church provided a packet with letters of support from the neighborhood association, church bishop, and apartment complex.

Committee member Eli Edwards asked David Archibald if he has worked with the city. Mr. Archibald said yes. Mr. Edwards asks if this should be funded by the bond or something else. Mike Frisbie stated this is a bond project.

Laura Lye, District 9, spoke as the representative for Blossom Park Neighborhood Association. She stated there is a 100 foot difference between the measured elevation for San Antonio (769 feet) and the elevation of her neighborhood. This difference in elevation causes drainage issues for her neighborhood. Mr. Frisbie stated this is a project in the staff recommendations.

Paul Basaldua, District 6, is representing district 6 and spoke about 3 projects including the Tallahassee land bridge, Pin Road low water crossing, Commerce Street low water crossing. Michael Martinez asked for clarification about the solution for the last project and Mr. Basaldua stated how the low water crossing would help alleviate drainage issues.

Theresa Berlanga, District 1 & 10, stated she has two properties that flood and stated that the City don't understand nature. She stated that we need to better understand the water underground to create real solutions for drainage issues.

Maverick Homeowners Association speaker Frank Fonseca, District 7, stated they are concerned about the areas in Westhill and Overbrook drive. The Homeowners Association wants the alleys to be lowered so the water will be directed to the ends of the blocks so backyards are not flooded.

Cindy Medrano, member of the Maverick Homeowners Association, spoke to flooding issues at her home which caused her garage and backyard to flood during rainstorms.

William Schiller, District 10, spoke to the drainage issues along North New Braunfels. He stated this is due to increased development and that this area has been overlooked for too long and kicked around to many entities including the city, county, corps of engineers, and SARA without any progress over the past 24 years.

Bianca Maldonado, District 7, spoke on behalf of Monticello Park Neighborhood Association. Ms. Maldonado stated her Neighborhood Association is advocating for addressing issues that would take homes out of the flood plain. She stated the numbers provided by city staff are outdated and do not take into consideration recently constructed projects.

Tommy Lee Jr., District 2, spoke on behalf of the Denver Heights Neighborhood Association. He stated that the Charles B Shannon Athletic Field floods and takes many days to dry out after rains. This limits the number of days the park can be used and increases risk for mosquito breeding. Stated he has been a resident for 50 years.

Mike Frisbie stated there was a maintenance project recently completed by parks which should address this issue.

Louis Nanez, District 7, stated that he has been waiting for 45 years for curbs and sidewalks in his neighborhood and hopes the committee will help make this happen for him.

Patricia Hernandez, District 1, stated she wants the flooding to be addressed near Kingside Way. She stated she has talked to the council office and just wants someone to help her address this issue.

Mr. Alex Perez, Committee Co-Chair, thanked everyone for coming and providing support to the drainage projects.

IV. Bond Committee Discussion and Analysis

Mr. Alex Perez stated the committee should be looking for survey about bus tour.

District 4: Sam Luna asked about split funding for the Port San Antonio project. Art Reinhart replied stating that the project is partially in District 5 & District 1. Mr. Reinhardt explained the project recommendation that would alleviate the problem.

District 6: Ruben Perales asked about North New Braunfels and wanted more information. Mike Frisbie stated the county addressed larger projects like this since these projects cover several jurisdictions.

District 3: Jennifer Ramos asked how all of the projects are funded and how the committee can add more projects. Mr. Frisbie stated there is a balancing act and the committee will need to figure out how to balance to projects since the dollars are fixed, but the projects are not.

Ms. Ramos requested more information about the Laddie place projects referenced by the Monticello Park Neighborhood Association president who stated the channels were not holding as much water as projected. Ms. Ramos asked if staff has information to confirm this. Art Reinhart stated the project is working, but the project did not take as many home out of the flood plains as originally projected.

District 5: Michael Martinez asked if Balcones Heights has done projects to cause more drainage issues. He also asked why District 5 has no projects. Art Reinhart stated that TCI will look at projects in Balcones Heights and the effect on San Antonio properties.

District 7: Chris Aldrete asks if there are often leftover bond monies from bond project. Mr. Frisbie states it depends on the economy but savings can be allocated within the same program to complete more projects that were not previously given funding.

District 6: Linda Jackson requested a breakdown of projects in each district. Mr. Frisbie referred to

previous slide in his presentation and stated that he would provide the information.

District 5: Sam Luna asked how projects are chosen and why the language is not absolute. Mr. Frisbie replied saying the projects are ideas so they don't have absolute language.

District 6: Ruben Perales asked if there are homes that are not located in the floodplain, but are damaged by drainage issues. Mike Frisbie stated there are homes that are affected by drainage issues. Mr. Perales asked to know the breakdown of cost per home if homes are located in the flood plain. Art Reinhart stated this was addressed in the response memo to include how many homes are in the flood plain. The remaining projects are more localized drainage issues, but homes can be damaged. Mr. Perales states he is very concerned about homes in the flood plain.

District 1: Abe Salinas asked for clarification about flood plain. Art Reinhart stated FEMA determines the floodplain by using the 1% chance a property has of being flooded. Mr. Salinas asked to know number of structures benefiting from the bond project and a general cost/benefit analysis so the committee can consider the projects more objectively. Mike Frisbie stated that a completely objective cost/benefit analysis is hard, but that projects can be considered based on health and safety.

Co-chair: Alex Perez asked what objective criteria is used for evaluating drainage issues and requested that city staff provide objective measures to rate projects. Mr. Frisbie stated staff will work to do that.

District 1: Jay Loudon stated the committee has to grapple with questions that do not have clear answers but people should think about what is of value for themselves and the district they represent.

District 1: Abe Salinas requested a list of projects that were close to making the proposed project list but were not chosen. Mr. Frisbie stated he would provide a list.

District 9: Luis Alday asked if the money is fixed for each districts or if funding can more between districts. Mr. Frisbie stated funding is not fixed. Mr. Alday asked if the list can be re-prioritized with the projects proposed by citizens. Mr. Frisbie stated this will not be done as it is partially objective and there is not a good way to re-organize the list each time a new project is proposed.

V. Next Steps for Community Bond Committee Process

Mr. Cavazos noted the next Drainage Committee Meeting would be held on Thursday, November 10, 2017, at 6pm.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 8:03 p.m.