

City of San Antonio



Drainage Bond Committee Meeting Minutes

San Antonio Public Library
Central Branch
600 Soledad St.

Thursday, November 10
6:00 PM

Bond Committee Members

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

6:01 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: 20
- Katherine de la Vega, World Wide Translators, was present

I. Opening Comments and Meeting Procedures by Committee Chairs

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

II. Staff Professional Recommendation of Drainage Projects

Director of Transportation and Capital Improvements (TCI), Mike Frisbie, spoke about the tour survey results and potential locations to visit. It was determined that the tour will take place on December 3rd.

Mike Frisbie then provided follow up information about several projects:

- District 7: Overbook alley which staff recommends to be handled outside of the bond program
- District 7: Laddie Place/Kampmann Area which would be a mega-project requiring approximately \$35 million to address the issue. The citizen proposed detention options would not address the issues in the area.
- District 6: Tallahassee low water crossing was recommended to have alternative funding.

Lastly, Mr. Frisbie spoke to projects that could be added to the bond project list and include the following:

- District 1: Capitol St. Drainage project is estimated to cost 6.2 million for street reconstruction and drainage outfall
- District 6: Commercial Street Drainage project which is estimated to cost 16.8 million and would include improvements to the low water crossing
- District 6: Pinn Rd. Low Water Crossing project estimated to cost \$15.6 million for improvements to the low water crossing
- District 7: Bexar St. Reconstruction estimated to cost \$1.4 million for street reconstruction which includes sidewalks
- District 7: De Chante (Westhill Place) estimated to cost \$6.2 million for alley, street, and drainage improvements
- District 7: Wigwam Dr. Area Drainage project which will cost approximately \$1.6 million for culvert crossing replacement and channel restoration
- District 10: N. New Braunfels project costing approximately \$60 million for drainage improvements along N. New Braunfels. Mr. Frisbie states this would need to be a cooperative effort with other institutions and entities such as SARA and Alamo Heights, and SAWS. City staff is recommending including \$350,000 to \$500,000 for analysis and study completion which would, in turn, create a plan of action for drainage projects to address this issue.

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 2 groups and 1 individual signed up to speak.

Paul Ditullio, with St. Andrews Episcopal Church, Mikayla Harley and David Archibald spoke in favor of the Wigwam drainage project. Mr. Ditullio stated the church was built over 50 years ago and since that time development around the church has increased. The increased development has increased impervious cover and caused drainage issues. In 2011, the church paid \$440,000 in damage due to basement flooding. Additionally, Wigwam drive becomes impassable during heavy rains. Mr. Ditullio states this not only affects the church, but also the surrounding apartments and homes as well.

Richard Ramos and John Bitner of North San Antonio Hills HOA stated the neighborhood was established in 1976 and annexed into the City of San Antonio in 2000. Mr. Ramos is concerned about septic tanks in his neighborhood. He stated SAWS came to give a presentation about septic tanks and provided a \$4.7 million estimate to replace the septic tanks. Mr. Ramos stated he also wants lights, sidewalks and curbs for his neighborhood as well.

Committee member Janie Ramirez (District 3) asked if this was a SAWS issue. Mike Frisbie stated his issue is a SAWS issue and not drainage. Committee member Linda Jackson (District 6) asked if the city owns SAWS and if city staff can work with SAWS to get Mr. Ramos an answer. Mike Frisbie stated this was possible. Co-Chair Ramiro Cavazos suggested the Home Owners Association should reach out to SAWS directly.

JR Trevino, councilmen from the City of Castle Hills, spoke about storm water runoff in his city. Mr.

Trevino states a study was done in conjunction with District 10 in the City of San Antonio. This study found that a new business did not handle their detention pond correctly and this is causing drainage and water runoff issues for homes in castle hills.

Committee Member Eli Edward Elias (District 2) asked if Castle Hills had damage to homes or traffic issues due to increased water runoff and Mr. Trevino confirmed both.

Art Reinhardt addressed this concern by stating that TCI is aware of the study done with District 10 and confirmed there is tension due to the new development. However, Mr. Reinhardt states the development met drainage and construction standards for the City of San Antonio and any project to address draining issues in the future would need to be a joint project between Castle Hills and the City of San Antonio.

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

IV. Bond Committee Discussion and Analysis

Co-chair Alex Perez set the agenda for committee discussion to focus on project and then follow by discussing the proposed criteria for ranking proposed projects.

District 6: Linda Jackson asked for clarification about the Tallahassee and Waverly Street projects. Art Reinhardt stated that Tallahassee has flashing lights at the low water crossing and TCI sent a team out to deal with erosion at the low water crossing. He continued stating that city staff is not recommending the Tallahassee project for a full scale bond project. Mr. Reinhardt stated there are multiple entry points in the area if flooding occurs. Ms. Jackson asked if there could be a phased in portion or project. Mr. Reinhardt stated that phasing the project would not increase the priority of the project due to multiple access points.

District 6: Linda Jackson continued by questioning asked about North New Braunfels asking if this project would include reaching out to Terrell Hills and Alamo Heights. Mike Frisbie affirmed and stated that Alamo Heights, Bexar County, SARA, and other county entities would coordinate this effort through the Bexar regional watershed group. Chairman Perez clarified that the first phase of North New Braunfels would be a study which would create a plan for future improvements. Mr. Frisbie affirmed this and stated the study should be done through the Bexar regional watershed group.

District 2: Eli Edward Elias asked if monies can be shifted between projects. Mike Frisbie stated that the committee can decide which projects to provide funding.

District 7: Ms. Rogers stated that people who have water in their homes and garages should be at the top of the list for flooded streets.

District 3: Janie Ramirez asked about the proposed \$500,000 for the study of North New Braunfels. She asked if it should be part of annual budget so the families don't have to wait so long or if this could be added as part of streets. Mike Frisbie said it could be part of the annual budget perhaps as part of the pedestrian mobility category.

District 8: Calvin Finch asked if the study of North New Braunfels would actually make anything happen. Mike Frisbie stated this study would be the design for phase 1 of construction and would create an implementation plan for the future. Calvin Finch asked how much money has been spent on studies in the past as it makes him nervous to provide money for more studies, but no committed action. Art Reinhardt stated the goal is to put together plan sheets and cost of phases for moving forward to address the draining issues.

District 7: Joe Diaz asked about Bexar Street and if this proposal would include implementing curb to curb reconstruction. Art Reinhardt stated it would be a complete reconstruction to include curb and sidewalks on both sides.

District 6: Linda Jackson asked for a list of district projects with city-wide impact. Mike Frisbie stated these projects include San Pedro Creek project, Port SA and the Vance Jackson low water crossings.

District 1: Abe Salinas asked about projects which were reviewed by city staff, but not included such as Vidar Avenue. Art Reinhardt stated it was inadvertently left off and it will be add back to the list as it should have been included.

Mike Frisbie took time to explain the difference between the blue list, staff projects recommended before meetings began, and the green list, an on-going list of projects collected during the meetings which are currently unfunded.

District 9: Joel Garcia stated he has taken time to look at the issues in Castle Hills and he believes San Antonio drainage is doing the job properly. Mr. Garcia stated that nothing should be done without partnering with Castel Hills so drainage issues are not exacerbated.

It was noted that the Waverly project is listed as being located in District 1 but should be listed at District 7. TCI confirmed the project is located in District 7.

District 6: Robbin Lopez asked if there have been any rescues at the low water crossings at Commerce and Pinn. Robbin Lopez confirmed there are flashing lights.

Co-chairman Ramiro Cavazos asked for examples of a drainage project that took the collaboration of several entities to complete. Mike Frisbie stated Seeling channel, Menger Creek project and Hausman Road were all projects done in conjunction with Bexar County.

District 8: Eduardo Parra stated he would like for preference to be given toward natural channels and not concrete channels. Mike Frisbie stated that is the goal of the City which is in line with the Army Corps of Engineers, however when capacity is an issue concrete channels are necessary.

District 3: Janie Ramirez asked if SAWS and CPS infrastructure plans coordinate with TCI projects. Mike Frisbie stated that they do and that coordination with SAWS, CPS, TxDOT, is done as well. Ms. Ramirez asked if the city could work with MPO to utilize more funding and overall coordination.

District 5: Al Rocha asked how street and sidewalks overlap when considering projects. Mike Frisbie stated streets and sidewalks do impact one another and are both addressed with drainage projects.

Co-chairman Perez asked to what extent the committee should consider reducing funding for projects to allow for a portion of a project to be completed in an effort to include more projects in overall bond. Mike Frisbie stated this is not likely to happen as the projects are usually not done through phase, but all at once. Mr. Frisbie stated if funding for a project is reduced then the project will not likely happen.

District 10: Jeff McKinnie asked if any of the proposed projects on the staff recommendation list are shovel-ready if the vote is approved. Mike Frisbie affirmed that several of the projects are shovel-ready.

Mr. Perez asked committee members to consider which projects they would add and which projects would be reduced to fund the projects and then opened discussion to agree on objective metrics to determine projects to be on bond proposal. The following suggestions were mentioned by committee members:

- Co-chairman Alex Perez recommended safety.
- Co-chairman Ramiro Cavazos recommended projects with leveraged dollars.
- District 2: Eli Edward Elias stated he believes that number of structures being flooded could be added.
- District 1: Abe Salinas suggested the addition of fatalities due to flooding.
- District 3: Juan Mancha wanted to include the proximity of the project to schools.

Co-chairman Alex Perez then led a discussion about how these objectives should be weighted. Art Reinhardt suggested using a yes/no system to determine starting point for the project ranking. Eduardo Parra, Council District 8, clarified that the criteria is for new projects not original projects recommended by staff.

District 7: Joe Diaz wants to know how many homes are being removed from the flood plain for each project. Mike Frisbie stated this information is available for the originally proposed projects, but not for new projects proposed by the committee or the public. Art Reinhardt stated they can get an approximate number for new projects by utilizing data from 311 call center and reports from staff.

Co-chairman Alex Perez asked for a vote of the proposed criteria to be utilized through a yes or no strategy. District 9: Joel Garcia seconded the proposal.

District 5: Michael Martinez stated he was concerned about equitability between districts and asked for clarification about moving money between districts.

Assistant City Manager, Lori Houston, clarified that TCI staff will first prioritize the list of projects, return the list of projects to the committee and then the committee can then finalize the list of proposed projects. She also emphasized that this list would set the project priority in the case of savings.

The committee voted on the criteria resulting in all in favor of the proposed guidelines and none opposed.

V. Next Steps for Community Bond Committee Process

Mr. Cavazos noted the next Drainage Committee Meeting would be held on Monday, November 28, 2017, at 6 PM.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 8:01 PM.