

## City of San Antonio



### Streets Bond Committee Meeting Minutes

San Antonio Public Library  
Central Branch  
600 Soledad St.  
Tuesday, October 11  
6:00 PM

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#### 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 Jim Reed called the meeting to order and introduced fellow Co-Chair David Heard (currently not present, will be arriving soon)

- Attendance of Committee Members
- Head count of general attendance: 70
- Claudia Mancillas, Interpretation Translation Services, was present

#### **I. Opening Comments and Meeting Procedures by Committee Chairs**

Opening comments by Co-Chair Jim Reed, including introductions, guidelines for Residents to Be Heard, and acknowledgements of upcoming meetings. Opening remarks regarding bond background, the City's AAA bond rating, and debt capacity were also made by Sheryl Sculley, City Manager. Ms. Sculley recognized Tri-Chair Darryl Byrd and Councilman Warrick along with City Staff Members.

#### **II. Community Committee Roles and Responsibilities and Status Update of City's 2012 Bond Program**

City Manager Sheryl Sculley gave a brief presentation highlighting the roles and responsibilities of the Committee Members and provided a status on the City's 2012 Bond Program. It was noted that the 2017 Bond Program continued to focus on improving infrastructure needs. Mrs. Sculley detailed funding allocations for each of the five infrastructure categories that totaled \$850 million. The focus of this committee is Streets, Bridges & Sidewalks, which totals \$450 million. Mrs. Sculley spoke on the concept of rough proportionality and how it is applied to the bond allocations. Mrs. Sculley also spoke on the importance of the AAA Bond rating and how the City of San Antonio has maintained the rating since 2008. Mrs. Sculley spent some time on providing guiding principles for project selection. During the latter of her presentation, Mrs. Sculley acknowledged the arrival of Co-Chair David Heard and Tri-Chair Carri Baker.

### **III. Open Meeting, City Ethics, and Lobbying Activity**

City Attorney Andy Segovia provided the Committee Members with a brief overview of local and state regulations regarding Open Meetings, ethical conduct, meeting requirements, and lobbying activity. He cautioned Committee Members on the use of e-mail, and urged the members to keep the conversation and discussion in the meeting room.

### **IV. Staff Professional Recommendation of Facilities Projects**

Mike Frisbie, Director/City Engineer, Transportation & Capital Improvement, presented the PowerPoint presentation. He provided a general overview of the recommended streets, scope of work, and funding allocations. He noted that a total of 59 projects were identified for inclusion in the 2017 Bond Program that totaled \$450 million.

Art Downey, District 9, asked if there were more information for each project readily available. Mr. Frisbie replied that the scope of the projects would be assessed and more information will be provided in future meetings.

### **V. Bond Committee Discussion and Analysis**

Co-Chair Mr. Reed discussed the importance of citizens being heard and urged the committee members to save questions and deliberation for individual projects for a later date. Mr. Reed also introduced and gave Co-Chair David Heard the floor for comments.

Mr. Heard applauded the committee for their service and recognized Mrs. Scully and City Staff.

District 7: Bianca Maldonado wanted to know if a project estimator request form would be provided to the committee like previous years. Mr. Frisbie replied that any further information could be provided upon request.

District 5: Raymond Garza inquired about Zarzamora Project amount being so low at \$10 million. Mr. Frisbie explained that the city would be getting additional funding for the project through different resources.

District 7: Frank Fonseca asked if there are plans for an underpass being considered for the Zarzamora project. Mike Frisbie replied that the Department is currently studying different options for that particular area.

District 9: Art Downey asked what happens to funds for a project when the anticipated match funding cannot be used for the project. Mr. Frisbie said they will try to complete project with available funds and if there is not enough funding, the Council will have capacity to reallocate those funds.

District 2: Rose Hill asked how City staff came up with the project amounts. Mr. Frisbie responded, There are two consultants that were hired to determine the scope and price of each project.

District 10: Clayton Perry requested a bar chart to illustrate how the funds for streets are allocated by each district. Mr. Frisbie agreed to follow up with the chart but reminded Mr. Perry about the proportionality of the entire Bond Program.

District 7: Ed Garza asked about the historical data on some of the projects to more fully understand the project and the lifespan of each. Mr. Frisbie explained that sidewalks should last about 30 years and streets should be maintained on a cyclical plan to ensure you get the maximum use out of the street.

## **VI. Citizens to be Heard**

Mr. Reed opened the floor for public input. It was noted that 18 individuals and 2 groups had signed up to speak.

The Broadway Group spoke in support of the urban core area projects to help build on the core of the city's economy.

Zona/San Pedro Creek group spoke in support of downtown area projects to build the city core to ensure the city continues to move forward in going from good to great.

Diane Coliz owner of Red Star Property Management spoke in support of the projects in the Hemisfair area to build on the tourism area of the city.

Diane Warrant, user of the Hardberger Park, spoke in support of the land bridge project mainly because it will help with preserving the wildlife through the access of the bridge. She also noted that the bridge will enable emergency responders to react faster to park users in case of emergency.

Rosanna Patterson, resident of District 5 spoke in efforts to improve Griggs Avenue. She mention about the quality of life of the residents in the neighborhood.

Esther Martinez lives at the 1400 Block of West French and requested consideration of curbs and sidewalks in the neighborhood. Since most of the homes in the area are older and have had little or no maintenance, she hopes that something is done about this to improve mobility of the citizens in the area.

Colleen Wheusepack, a resident of District 9, spoke in support of Hardberger land bridge over Wurzbach Parkway. She noted that this barrier will prevent car accidents as well as accidents involving the wildlife.

Lauro Deleon, from District 6, wants the committee to consider repairing of 34th Street from Castroville to Enrique Barrera Parkway mainly to support the elderly. They are not able to maneuver through sidewalks because of light poles blocking the sidewalks.

John Linkhart, a District 9 resident, spoke about the pedigree of the Hardberger Land Bridge's origin of design and how the city is on its way to building a world class park.

Cynthia Spielman, President of Beacon Hill Neighborhood Assoc., wants to remind committee that great cities often include great downtown neighborhoods. She noted that the improvements on Fredericksburg Road will add to the economic revitalization in the downtown area.

Ben Brewer, resident of District 1, spoke in favor of projects proposed in Hemisphere area. Mr. Brewer insisted that as the selections move forward, they should include accommodation of pedestrians.

Emilia Devno, from District 2, urged the committee to improve the railroad tracks in the area of Castle Cross (Rittman) to improve elderly and children mobility.

Jon Turton wanted to urge the committee to consider the complete street concept for all the projects recommended to allow the use of pedestrians, bike riders, cars and via buses to access the street together and safely.

Barbara Klower, a resident of District 1, stated that street maintenance needs to improve in order for residents to read street names and pavement markings.

Diane Rath, on behalf of Fort Sam Houston ISD, requested to provide a \$2 million Safeway in efforts to avoid potential danger zone for the school district. The request will provide access from Rittman road to the school district and housing areas.

Lynda Cortez, Brook City Base area resident, described the area to be in dire need of sidewalks, curves and signage to eliminate the danger things that have taken place.

Elena Gonzales requested that City of San Antonio fix the sidewalks and drainage problems on Leroux Street.

Todd Mernin wants the committee to consider replacing the sidewalks on Austin Street and New Braunfels.

Raul Saucedo, a representative of the Government Hill Assoc., requested sidewalks from Mason and Carson Street.

Lowah Romo was called but not present.

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Co-Chair Mr. Reed requested updates from 8 projects that were not included on the list. Mr. Reed urged committee members to provide more contexts to projects in their respective districts not included to help staff better assess the projects.

Co-Chair Mr. Heard request that the staff provide a breakout list of the projects that are included in the recommended list for pedestrian mobility fund. Mr. Frisbie noted that staff has taken notes and will research all the projects mentioned.

District 8: Mike Garza wants to see big picture of department to assess other projects that may be included in other funding programs. Mr. Frisbie explained that street maintenance program has a \$64 million per year to maintain the streets. He noted that there is an additional \$15 million to assist with sidewalks through the city and that some of the projects mentioned can possibly benefit from.

District 2: Rose Hill wants to understand how to prioritize projects without knowing all the needs within each district. Mr. Reed explained that each citizen request should flow through the representative of their respective districts to determine what the districts highest priority.

District 1: Michelle Casillas requested the range of the potential projects used for pedestrian mobility. Mr. Frisbie ensured that staff will respond to her request.

District 3: George Garcia, District 3, asked for clarification on the district for certain projects. Mr. Frisbie noted the District where the project resides.

District 7: Bianca Maldonado wants the entire scope of projects before deciding on projects to be considered. She noted in previous year projects have grown and the scope for the project amount has increased significantly. Mr. Frisbie noted that when they start on projects, they sometimes have to be taken in consideration of the adjacent streets surrounding the initial project area.

District 5: Raymond Garza wants to re- route train to go a different route and pull up the current tracks at the bridge at Zarzamora.

District 7: Frank Fonseca asked about the rough proportionality dollars to be consistent with dollars presented on the bar chart given to committee. Mr. Reed explained that the committee needs to look at all areas of the bond and add all dollars for each district. Mr. Frisbie noted that District 1 may have more dollars in a chart because of the regional projects (city-wide impact) which consist of the downtown area that all residents use.

District 2: Gordon Benjamin asked if individual districts are responsible for rating priorities. Mr. Frisbie replied that is a collaborative effort between staff, council and public input.

District 9: Marilyn Jowdy requests for magnitude of traffic impact for each project to better assess the priority of each projects. Mike Frisbie noted that staff will provide feedback.

## **VII. Next Steps for Community Bond Committee Process**

Mr. Heard noted that follow-up to questions would be provided to the committees.

Mr. Heard noted the next Neighborhood Improvements Committee Meeting would be held on Tuesday, October 25, 2016, at 6pm.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 8:50 p.m.