

City of San Antonio



Streets Bond Committee Meeting Minutes

San Antonio Public Library
Central Branch
600 Soledad St.
Tuesday, October 25
6:00 PM

Bond Committee Members

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

6:05 P.M. - Call to Order, Board Room

Co-Chair David Heard called the meeting to order. He acknowledged Co-Chair Jim Reed and Tri-Chairs.

- Attendance of Committee Members
- Head count of general attendance: 53
- Claudia Mancillas, Interpreter Translation Services, was present

I. Opening Comments and Meeting Procedures by Committee Chairs

Opening comments by Co-Chair Mr. Heard, which included introductions, cellphone etiquette, and translation services. Flor Salas, speaking in Spanish, gave instructions to receive translation services. Also, Mr. Heard noted Eddie Aldrete, Tri-Chair was in attendance. Mr. Heard gave a brief overview of the flow of the meeting.

II. Staff Presentation on Rough Proportionality, Pedestrian Mobility and Initial Analysis on Projects Requested by Residents on October 11, 2016

Mike Frisbie, Director/City Engineer, Transportation & Capital Improvement gave a presentation on rough proportionality, pedestrian mobility and information on projects requested from residents on October 11. Mike provided an overview of the methodology on rough proportionality and how projects are selected based on infrastructure needs. Over the past year, staff has looked at all the projects needs throughout the City and the project that rose to the top of the priority list.

Mr. Frisbie presented a graph showing the full \$850 million dollars broken down by project type: District Projects, District Projects w/Citywide Impact, and citywide Downtown projects and program areas: Streets, Drainage, Parks, Facilities, and Neighborhoods. The graph shows that half of the bond is allocated to District Projects. The other half of the bond is allocated to Citywide projects. He stated 21% of the bond or \$182 million is targeted for Downtown projects. He mentioned that being a big

City downtown is our core and it has to be strong. The other 79% of the bond covers the remaining areas.

Mr. Frisbie presented a chart showing the full \$850 by district, project type, and program area. Neighborhood Improvements has \$20 million designated for this program area and the projects have yet to be determined. He mentioned each district has different needs and it varies what those needs are across each 10 districts.

Mr. Frisbie explained there is about \$80 million dollars in the bond program expected for sidewalks. Staff will work with Council Districts to figure out the best areas for sidewalks. Staff uses 311 calls, distance from schools, and other resources to help fill the sidewalk gaps. Mr. Frisbie noted there is \$53 million dedicated to sidewalk improvements and \$30 million included with the streets and drainage projects to get to the \$83 million total.

Mr. Frisbie presented on the projects that were identified during last meeting. He provided information on the project location, scope, estimated cost, and staff recommendation. The first 3 projects outlined could be funded through the Pedestrian Mobility program category, 1 project is a potential Neighborhood Access Mobility Program (NAMP), and the last 5 are new bond program consideration projects.

Co-Chair David Heard opened the floor to committee members for questions from the Mike's presentation.

John Kelly, District 8, asked for the district locations of the 5 projects mentioned so the committee can compare them.

Mike Frisbie responded Griggs is in District 5, 34th Street is in District 6, Fredericksburg Road is in District 1, Fort Sam ISD is in District 2, and Sligo, Esma & San Juan is in District 3.

Clayton Perry, District 10, wants to meet with Mike to discuss possible ways for the charts to be presented in a more simplified way to show proportionality and different classifications of the projects for the overall bond and individually for Streets portion.

Frank Fonseca, District 7, asked about the Sligo, Esma & San Juan project if the drainage work we are proposing is patch work or a part of a bigger picture issue. Mike Frisbie responded that this project is really localized flooding and not a part of a bigger flood plan. This project and one already recommended is addressing localized flooding issues.

Patty Gibbons, District 9, wants a traffic impact analysis on the Fort Sam ISD project – Winans Road.

Bianca Maldonado, District 7 asked if the District 7 projects be presented to the committee. These projects are in Phase 2 from an previous bond program.

Art Downey, District 9, asked that if after the committee received all projects; is the committee supposed to look at them with rough proportionality in mind. Mr. Frisbie responded that the committee needed to take that in consideration but also what projects does the committee want to recommend, eliminate, or add.

Yvette Benavides, District 5, asked will some of the funding for Griggs Avenue project be shared with the Drainage committee. Mr. Frisbie responded that staff would present this project to the Drainage committee on Thursday since it fits both program areas- Drainage and Streets.

Raymond Garza, District 5, commented that there were no drainage projects in District 5 and asked if this was still up in the air. Mr. Frisbie responded yes, District 5 has more Streets and nothing in drainage but the Drainage committee has the ability to approve projects in District 5. They would just have to cut somewhere else to do it.

III. Citizens to be Heard

Mr. Heard thanked Mr. Frisbie and opened the floor for Citizens to be Heard. It was noted that there was 5 groups and 18 individuals signed up to speak.

Becky Dinnin, Executive Director of Alamo Endowment, spoke in support of the \$13.7 million in District 1 for Alamo Area Streets projects. This request will be leveraged with State funds and private funds raised through the Alamo Endowment. She spoke of working together with the Dream Team to ensure the work is done right and it addresses the needs of San Antonio citizens.

Mr. Elias Neujahr of the Children's Hospital of San Antonio Group spoke in support of Broadway, Hemisfair, San Pedro, Zona, and Cultural Creek projects. The group liked to focus on the Zona Cultural Street project as it is a part of the City recommended plan. Mr. Elias Neujahr provided an overview of the Children's Hospital and the children it services. Their hope is that the Bond will reduce congestion, improve street lighting, and allow easy access to our facilities.

Mr. Heard noted that the second page was not printed and we actually 22 individuals not 18 signed up to speak. Mr. Jim Reed stated that the list contained repeated speakers from last week's meeting and he ask that they respect our time and that they add new additional information and not repeat information from last week's meeting.

Amy Hardbeger spoke in support of the Land bridge at Phil Hardberger Park for recreation, classroom usage, events, and its national recognition. It has dual purposes to allow wild life to cross safely and enhance the human experience. The landbridge would be an unique feature in the US and help make San Antonio known world-wide.

Mario Guajardo, a small business owner, spoke in support of three bond projects, San Pedro Creek Hemisfair, and Broadway/Cultural Corridor. In the Downtown area, it is extremely important to create the proper infrastructure and proper connectivity because tourism is very important.

Margaret Day, lives in District 7 and spends a lot of time Downtown. She spoke in support of three bond projects Zona Cultural/San Pedro Creek, Broadway, and Hemisfair. Ms. Day had no intentions of staying in San Antonio but she has grown to love these areas and even encouraged her parents to retire here. Also she mentioned that the St. Mary Street improvements area would be good for the people in the area and others visiting.

Bank Smith, a representative from Phil Hardberger Park Conservancy Group spoke in support of the Landbridge for Hardberger Park. Mr. Smith wants the landbridge to be something that last for

hundreds of years like the famous Riverwalk. The Voelcker Fund is seeking to partner with the City to make something spectacular for the citizens.

Fort Sam Houston ISD Group made a request to the City for an access road from Rittiman Road across James Park to Fort Sam Houston ISD. The school system will contribute \$150,000 to the design phase. They suggested it could be split between the Streets and Park committees.

Steven Darby spoke in support of the connectivity between Hemisfair, Southtown, and Broadway corridor. This area is important to his company, Heavy Heavy and others that we build a strong Downtown so people can get around safely.

Milo Nitschke, a representative from Brooks' group spoke in support of the \$23.4 million dollar Brooks City Base street projects. These streets improvements would greatly help the 32 businesses on the campus and increase the number of companies moving to the Base.

William Shiller, District 10, requested funding for streets and drainage improvements at N. New Braunfels Ave.

John Ontiveros, District 3, requested funding for West Baetz Blvd between Moursund Blvd. and Commercial Ave for an sidewalk and drainage improvements.

Nettie Hinton, Hay Street Bridge Restoration Group, requested the committee provide funds to complete the Hay Street Bridge project.

Ashley Riley spoke in support of the Hemisfair, Broadway Corridor, San Pedro Creek, and Zona Cultural projects. These types of projects will bring people down to the City.

Hemisfair Park Group spoke in support of Hemisfair Internal Streets Phase 2 for \$5 million. Their model is that great Cities have great downtowns and great downtowns have great urban parks. They have dedicated 19 acres of park land for these Bond improvements.

Ben Hodge spoke in support of three bond projects Zona Cultural/Broadway, San Pedro Creek and Hemisfair. As an anthropologist and small business owner, he is focused on retaining three primary populations that would be serviced by these bond projects that are the Urban Chic, Metropolitan, and College Students.

Andy Castillo requests the committee consider sidewalks along Southcross Road near Dwight Middle School and along Quintana Road as part of the bond for the safety concerns within the neighborhood.

Anne Kruse, Executive Director of Hemisfair Park Conservancy, spoke in support of the Hemisfair Park projects.

Tony Valdivia spoke in favor of the Prue Road project and pointed out that it is a recommended project that supports 9 of the 11 guiding principles.

John Linkhart spoke in support of the Phil Hardberger Park Landbridge and how it will continue being an destination place for the visitors and residents alike for many generations.

Marise McDermott, President of Witte Museum, spoke in support of Broadway Corridor, Houston to Hildebrand project. This project would increase parking, provide greater street landscapes, and increase accessibility to housing, and amazing museums.

Giles Gonnsen, an active US Airman, spoke in support of considering the Pine/Porter St. - Aransas Project in the Bond program. He also mentioned that the surrounding areas (Florida St., Delaware St., and Utah St.) could benefit from increased pavement and sidewalks.

Cynthia Spielman, President of Beacon Hill Neighborhood Association, advocated for Fredericksburg Road projects which is still home to some iconic businesses in San Antonio.

Gary Houston urged Mr. Frisbie to work with neighborhood associations to solve these issues in the Porter, Pine, & Aransas. Also, Mr. Houston requested the Hay Street Bridge be included in the 2017 Bond Program.

Elena Gonzales requested new speed bumps or pedestal lights for Castroville Road near YWCA and Las Palmas Library (515 Castroville Rd).

Rick Trevino spoke in support of the 34th street project in District 6 to assist elderly mobility and improving the sidewalks in the area.

Andrea Garza, District 7, advocated for two streets within Woodlawn Area to be considered North Drive and Furr Drive. Both streets are in need of repairs to sidewalks, curbs, and driveways due to the flood damage and old age of the road.

Amanda Merck requested consideration of Southton Road as a potential project and there needs to be an infrastructure change on this road to slow traffic, increase pedestrian safety, and increase bike cyclist safety.

Co-Chair David Heard closed Citizen to be heard at 7:50pm.

IV. Bond Committee Discussion and Analysis

Co-Chair Jim Reed reminded the Committee about hosting two Citizens to be Heard sessions which they had. He noted that they had 37 citizens to be heard tonight and he counted 5 projects that are not part of the plan with majority of sidewalk request. Mr. Reed talked about the agenda for the next meeting which would include (a) District Discussion, (b) Discussion on Recommended projects, and (c) Discussion on projects not in the current plan to give some structure to the meeting. He asked for any objections or suggestions and there were none. He mentioned a survey monkey would be going out within the 3rd and 4th meeting to decide when they would have their bus tour and what projects the Committee would like to see on the tour.

Opens floor to committee at 7:55pm

Bianca Maldonado, District 7, mentioned that there was significant amount of funding spent in the last bond for the reconstruction of streets and sidewalks for Broadway Corridor. She asked how the \$43 million of funding would impact the scope and how the funding would be used.

Mr. Frisbie responded in the 2007 Bond program funds were allocated to the Broadway/ Hildebrand intersection and that corridor. Major flooding issues were resolved from those improvements. This is the segment to design from Hildebrand all the way south to Houston which is over 3 miles. As Ms. McDermott mentioned from the Witte Museum, the plan really is to design the whole thing and do complete street concept to take care all modes of transportation. Funds are being leveraged; \$9 million from Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO) and \$5 million from TX DOT.

Ms. Maldonado asked if the project included redesigning the entrance on Mulberry as a part of the complete streets project and looking to widen that street on Mulberry as it intersects into Hildebrand.

Gordon Benjamin, District 2, with the TX DOT can you define the parameters of that location for the \$5 million dollars.

Mr. Frisbie responded that TX Dot's ownership is by the freeway where 281 crosses over Broadway to the North through Hildebrand through Alamo Heights all the way through. The City would improve, Houston to the Freeway and TxDOT would have the Freeway and behind. After the project, we would receive the rest of Broadway back for our maintenance.

Marilyn Jowdy, District 9, inquired about the private money being used as a match with the City and if there is a time limit for the City to receive the funds. She also asked what would happen if they do not come up with the pledged amount. Also, she asked if Mr. Frisbie could confirm the landbridge would not be used for cars to cross.

Mr. Frisbie replied that the landbridge will not be utilize by cars. It will used by pedestrians, have a few biking and hiking trails, and animals would be able to cross. He then addressed her first question and stated that we use funding agreements to help leverage dollars and make projects better. In the current bond proposal, we have proposed 37 projects that leverage dollars together to make them better. Leverage funds are used by creating funding agreements, a legal document, that outlines what each party is bringing to the table.

Co-Chair Jim Reed asked about the projects that did not make the list that the funding could cover those projects that are in the Streets, Bridges, and Sidewalks category, is that right.

Mr. Frisbie responded yes that is true, ultimately when you approve a slate of projects to recommend to City Council you might add some projects outside of the \$450 million and if there are savings or issues where an project cannot be built City Council and staff can look at the list of other future projects to consider.

Oscar Rosalez, District 6, looking at the Hardberger Park getting \$7.5 million from Streets and \$7.5 million from Parks, is there any data showing that these animals are not making it across the street. He stated we have an quality of life issue here in our City, he asked are our human lives not as worthy as our animal lives. Mr. Rosalez noted that \$15 million dollars on a park or tunnel.

Raymond Garza, District 5, asked if this was a total recreational type endeavor or is it a right to live endeavor.

Mr. Frisbie, responded it is two-folds it is definitely an recreational component because you have 200

acres of the park on one side and 100 acres on the other side separate by the major expressway but it is also safety related as well. You will have people and events utilize both parts of the park.

Mike Garza, District 8, the 34th street project has \$9 million dollars worth of investment and you mentioned that \$890,000 dollars could alleviate the sidewalks issues. There is \$5 million dollars set aside for District 6 Pedestrian Mobility funds and at a bare minimum we could resolve the sidewalks issues with those funds. He asked if staff determine that \$9 million is actually needed in order to make it work or can we alleviate some of the issues by taking care of the Pedestrian Mobility.

Mr. Frisbie responded that he showed the \$9 million total alternative of the reconstruction of the corridor but they could show the District 6 Pedestrian Mobility as an option. He added that it was under \$900,000 dollars to fix the sidewalks.

Gordon Benjamin, District 2, asked if staff would link some of the Streets projects with drainage so the project is completed with two different sources of funding because some of these projects are a combination of both streets and drainage.

Mr. Frisbie responded we have made sure that we costed out these projects to include drainage for street projects. If it is a drainage problem, we are taking care of the streets as needed with the projects.

Gilbert Morales, District 4, wanted to touch on the community safety aspect of the park, for the landbridge, will the emergency services have access across the each side or just pedestrians.

Mr. Frisbie, responded no there will not be any motor vehicle access across the bridge.

Clayton Perry, District 10, if the committee could accept additional or new projects even though we won't have Citizens to be Heard.

Mr. Reed, yes but we need to get them in because some of them need to have an cost-estimate applied to them.

Mr. Frisbie urged the committee to get the project request form in for a potential new project to consider so they can get the estimated price for that project.

Gloria Martinez, District 5, asked about District discussions on priorities. She asked if we will have a list of priorities and a list of recommended projects. Also, she asked will we have a list of those items that has been presented to the committee but we do not have information on yet.

Mr. Reed responded he was trying to break them down in lists, such as the staff recommended ones, the project brought to the committee and that we feel should be considered and those projects that we are not recommending to be considered.

Gloria Martinez, District 5, asked if information will be provided on the current projects and the stages of each one that will connect with what we will be recommending.

Mr. Reed reiterated the question, stating that the last bond issue and then the projects on here, will we have an update on how those two mash together.

Mr. Frisbie responded over the last year, this process started with the projects that did not make the last bond list and then looked at the best projects throughout the City.

Gloria Martinez, District 5, did we complete all the projects from the last bond and were they all funded and complete projects.

Mr. Frisbie responded that 94% of projects from the last bond are completed or under construction. Yes, all 140 projects were funded.

Bianca Maldonado, District 7, stated that the City lacks fundamental infrastructure for Pedestrian mobility for streets in District 7. District 7 only has \$2 million while District 1 has \$10 million for Pedestrian Mobility, she would request looking at allocating more funds into District 7 pedestrian infrastructure. Also, Mrs. Maldonado mentioned her concerns about the Landbridge being funded to protect animals and the City does not have enough money to protect our own people and our City's infrastructure.

V. Next Steps for Community Bond Committee Process

Co-Chair Jim Reed reminded the committee about the change of meeting date to Monday, November 7, 2016 due to the elections.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 8:23 p.m.