

## City of San Antonio



### Streets Bond Committee Meeting Minutes

San Antonio Public Library  
Central Branch  
600 Soledad St.  
Monday, November 7  
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. He acknowledged Co-Chair David Heard.

- Attendance of Committee Members
- Head count of general attendance: 37
- Claudia Mancillas, Interpreter Translation Services, was present

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

Opening comments by Co-Chair Mr. Reed, which included introductions, agenda, Citizens to be Heard guidelines, and translation services. Co-Chair Mr. Reed asked committee members to begin evaluating their project recommendations. Mr. Reed acknowledged Tri-Chair Daryl Byrd and Sheryl Sculley in attendance.

#### **II. Staff Presentation and Initial Analysis on Projects Requested by Residents on October 25, 2016**

Mike Frisbie, Director of Transportation & Capital Improvements, gave a presentation on the committee's tour survey results. Mr. Frisbie noted that more information regarding the tour logistics will be forthcoming. He noted that the survey would be open to committee members until Tuesday, November 8.

Mr. Frisbie presented on alternative funding for the Southcross & Pierian (D5) project, which is smaller scale and could be included in the annual IMP program. Mr. Frisbie presented on seven projects outside of the staff recommended projects that were suggested by residents to be included in the bond program. These include: Rivas Street (D1), a potential D1 Pedestrian Mobility project; Mason Street (D2), a potential D2 Pedestrian Mobility project; W. Baetz Blvd. (D3), from Commercial Ave to Moursund Ave; Castroville Rd (D5), from General McMullen Dr. to Cupples Rd; Southcross & Pierian

(D5), to improve pedestrian and vehicular safety; Jefferson HS Area (D7), to include conversion, landscaping, and crosswalk enhancements; Monticello Park Streets (D7) to include curbs, sidewalks, and driveways. Mr. Frisbie reminded the committee that any projects added must remove other projects to stay within the streets funding allocation. He referenced the handout in the committee members' packets detailing the list of unfunded projects.

Co-Chair Mr. Reed opened the floor to committee members for questions from the Mr. Frisbie's presentation.

District 7: Bianca Maldonado asked if there was an estimate for the Fredericksburg sidewalks. Mr. Frisbie said that staff would have to follow-up on the request.

District 3: George Garcia asked which guidelines West Baetz meets. Mr. Frisbie noted that new projects had not been evaluated for guiding principles and that staff would look into this during the meeting.

District 10: Clayton Perry asked about the status of N. New Braunfels flooding. Mr. Frisbie stated that the City is considering N. New Braunfels as a drainage project and will have information on this project at Thursday's Drainage Bond Committee Meeting.

District 9: Patty Gibbons asked if the Monticello Area was presented to the Drainage meeting. Mr. Frisbie responded that the drainage repairs would be addressed with the street repairs. He noted this project was not brought up at the Drainage meeting, and only at the Streets meeting.

District 2: Gordon Benjamin asked if the Infrastructure Management Program (IMP) is included in the Bond program or if it has a separate funding source. Mr. Frisbie gave an overview of the annual allocation of the IMP program, noting that the two programs are separate, with the IMP being an annual allocation approved by City Council.

District 6: Lucy Hall asked for the status of the unfunded 34<sup>th</sup> street project. Mr. Frisbie responded that the committee will need to evaluate the projects and make cuts to fund the projects on the unfunded list.

District 7: Bianca Maldonado stated to the committee that the Monticello Area project is not included in the 100 year flood plain, and only included the ponding water along the street.

District 5: Yvette Benavides asked if the Castroville Rd in District 5 funding would go toward a study. Mr. Frisbie responded that it would fund both study and improvements for the crossings.

District 8: Mike Garza asked for Mr. Frisbie to describe the annual IMP process. Mr. Frisbie described the request process, selection process, and council finalization. Mr. Kelly asked if the unfunded projects would go back in line or if they would be considered for the IMP. Mr. Frisbie responded that many of the bond projects are too big for the IMP.

District 7: Ed Garza noted the San Antonio Independent School District (SAISD) bond is leveraging funds to complete projects, and asked if staff is considering the investments from other entities in the selection of bond projects. Mr. Frisbie noted that staff is looking at other entities to leverage funding.

Mr. Garza noted that Monticello Street project was on the bond 15 years ago, and asked how the life of the projects would be guaranteed. Mr. Frisbie responded that the goal of all bond projects is at least a 20 year life, however sometimes environmental factors erode projects.

### **III. Citizens to be Heard**

Mr. Heard thanked Mr. Frisbie and opened the floor for Citizens to be Heard for speakers that had not spoken before. It was noted that there was 1 group and 13 individuals signed up to speak.

Phil Hardberger, with the Phil Hardberger Park Conservancy, showed support for the Tricentennial Land Bridge. Mr. Hardberger noted that the Conservancy would leverage \$10 million in funding, leaving the City to pay for \$15 million. Mr. Hardberger noted its inclusion in the master plan, the press coverage of the park and the land bridge, park awards, and various notable projects that the City has completed.

Maggie Thompson showed support for funding the Zona Cultural, San Pedro Creek, Broadway Corridor, and Hemisfair. Ms. Thompson described the economic impact of these areas and the impact of the proposed improvements.

Fernando Figueroa showed support for the Tricentennial Land Bridge. Mr. Figueroa described the features of the land bridge and the park. He stated his support for this project in Spanish.

John Beauchamp showed support for the Zona Cultural, San Pedro Creek, Broadway Cultural Corridor, and Hemisfair. Mr. Beauchamp described the importance of downtowns and the economic impact downtowns provide to cities and the appeal of downtowns to millennials.

Janis Ploetz, manager of the Urban Land Institute, showed support for the Zona Cultural, San Pedro Creek, Broadway Cultural Corridor, and Hemisfair projects. Ms. Ploetz described the Urban Land Institute, the importance of walkable neighborhoods, and the impact of these areas to locals and visitors culturally and economically.

Jeffery Moore, with SATX Social Ride, showed support for the Southtown Road improvement. Mr. Moore advocated for this project to be included to improve bike and pedestrian safety through medians and signage, and asked for committee members to remember Vision Zero in all projects.

Chuck Saxer showed support for the City's recommendations for the bond program and for the Tricentennial Land Bridge. Mr. Saxer showed photos of the land bridge and Phil Hardberger Park to the committee.

Raul Sifontes asked for the committee to include a curb and sidewalk in his neighborhood, in the 700 block of Dunbar Street. Mr. Sifontes described the demographics of his neighborhood and his petition that he started with his neighbors.

Maria Louisa Greene showed support for Commerce Street, between Cherry and Palmetto to be included in the bond. Ms. Greene described her family's history on the Eastside, the importance of Commerce Street for businesses and downtown connectivity, and the problems caused by the bricks on Commerce Street. She requested that the bricks be covered before the Tricentennial celebration in 2018.

Drew Hicks showed support for recommended funding for the Hemisfair project. Mr. Hicks described the guiding principles, mission, and history of Hemisfair, and the connectivity that the area provides.

Lilly Kelly, with Bike Texas, spoke about the general streets of San Antonio. Ms. Kelly advocated for bicycle planning in street planning and noted that bikes are a viable method of transportation for all. Ms. Kelly described the need for bicycle friendly streets outside of downtown.

Gloria Zuxman showed support for the Gibsprall Overpass project. Ms. Zuxman described that safety need for this project. She added the need for repairing streets near East Village.

Louis Nanez showed support for the Tricentennial Land Bridge and for curbs and sidewalks on Bexar Drive. Mr. Nanez described his history with the neighborhood and the safety needs. He noted that there is only one block missing the curbs.

Co-Chair David Heard closed Citizen to be heard at 7:07 p.m.

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

Co-Chair Mr. Reed reminded the Committee about the committee's task of identifying \$450 million in projects, the concepts of rough proportionality, and the focus of the committee. Mr. Reed stated that Robert Rules of Order would be used to take any potential votes.

Co-Chair Mr. Heard thanked Co-Chair Mr. Reed for his comments and agreed.

Mr. Reed opened floor to committee discussion at 7:10pm

District 10: Clayton Perry presented a bar chart that was distributed to committee members that reflecting the streets projects by district. Mr. Perry noted the number of city-wide projects, project amounts in other districts, and stated his frustration with the lack of projects in District 10. He asked committee members to remember the needs of each district. He added that he will work on providing the committee with a breakout of all bond projects by district.

Co-Chair Mr. Reed asked Mr. Frisbie to respond to Mr. Perry's comments. Mr. Frisbie described the concept of rough proportionality, noting the importance of the downtown to a major city. He noted that there are always some that would like the bond funding to be split by ten equally. Mr. Frisbie added that while some districts may have fewer streets projects, they would have more projects in drainage, parks, or facilities. He stated that looking at the bond categories by district does not give the full picture of the bond funding.

Co-Chair Mr. Reed asked the committee members if there were projects within the districts they would like to see reprioritized.

District 2: Gordon Benjamin asked that the curbs and sidewalks of 700 block of Porter Street and East Commerce Street be considered in the bond. He stated that staff from Transportation and Capital Improvements (TCI) had already come out to that location to take a report. Mr. Frisbie stated staff would look into this.

District 7: Bianca Maldonado asked that mobility money be allocated toward specific projects, instead of having general use. Ms. Maldonado requested the Fredericksburg Road pedestrian safety estimate and noted that she has previously requested this estimate from staff. She asked that District 1 include Fredericksburg Road in their mobility funding recommendations for pedestrian safety improvements. Mr. Frisbie noted that staff would provide the estimate. He added that the mobility money is mainly for sidewalks and that the committee could have the option to commit the mobility money to projects, however, the City Council has prioritized a specific pot of money for sidewalk funding.

Ms. Maldonado asked how District 1 got \$10 million in mobility money. Co-Chair Mr. Reed called a point of order and stated that the topic is setting priorities on projects.

District 6: Oscar Rosaelz stated that District 6 would like to find money for the 34<sup>th</sup> street pedestrian enhancements. Mr. Frisbie noted that the committee could prioritize this, but another project would need to be reduced.

District 7: Frank Fonseca asked if this list was set in stone or if other projects could be added. Mr. Frisbie noted that projects could be added tonight. Mr. Fonseca stated that Lomalinda from Babcock to Williamsburg is in need of sidewalks, curbs, and street resurfacing, and asked that this be made a priority. Co-Chair Mr. Reed asked him to work with staff to create the scope to be presented next meeting.

District 3: Reba Malone asked for S. New Braunfels to 410 be included in the bond. Mr. Frisbie noted that this has been part of the Metropolitan Planning Organization discussions and would qualify for federal funding. He stated that this is an important project, but the reason it is not included is due to the inclusion of the top three projects from Brooks City Base already.

District 5: Gloria Martinez asked for clarification on why it is taking a long time to complete some of the projects like the curbs and sidewalks request in Mr. Nanez's neighborhood. Mr. Frisbie described the development of San Antonio and noted that originally San Antonio was designed to be rural and City Council has been robust in funding to solve these issues throughout the City. City Manager Sheryl Sculley added that the City budgets about \$65 million annually to fix these smaller issues not included in the bond. Ms. Sculley described the previous bond program funding, including \$550 million, with 80 percent for streets and drainage in 2007, \$596 million with a majority for streets and drainage in 2012, and \$850 million with a majority for streets and drainage in 2017. Ms. Sculley added that the bond focuses on the major arterials, and the annual budget fills in the gaps.

District 2: Rose Hill asked for streets and sidewalks to be considered a priority for the bond. She described the need for sidewalks around the city and added that parks close at night, however, people will use the streets and sidewalks after dark.

Co-Chair Mr. Reed asked if there were any projects in the committee member's district that they would like included in the bond.

District 10: Abel Guzman asked if Thousand Oaks at Wetmore, Thousand Oaks at Henderson Pass, and Thousand Oaks at Wurzbach were already in progress, noting he saw signs going up in these areas. He added that if they were not in progress, he would like to prioritize them. Mr. Frisbie he would look into this and would be including information in the follow-up.

District 1: Rosa Valdez asked why the Fredericksburg Road was removed from the last bond. Mr. Frisbie stated that it was removed due to prioritization, but should remain in the dialogue to see if there could be potential funding.

District 1: Sonny Collins asked what the City is doing to satisfy the small projects, such as railings, from residents. Mr. Frisbie responded that the City looks into these, and if these projects are submitted they should be forwarded to TCI. Co-Chair Mr. Reed asked if members could prioritize projects that they are aware of that would qualify for mobility funding. Mr. Frisbie stated that this is correct and there have been several projects mentioned that would be strong candidates for the mobility funding. Mr. Frisbie added that TCI is tracking these projects.

Co-Chair Mr. Reed opened the floor for discussion on the proposed program.

District 7: Frank Fonseca asked if the connectivity of Harberger Park was considered with the donation of the land. Mr. Frisbie stated that this has been in the master plan from the onset to connect the two large pieces of land.

Mr. Fonseca asked if there are other options to connect the two sides of the park, such as tunnels. Mr. Frisbie stated that other options have been explored, but that there are no other options. He noted due to the interchange there are safety concerns with having pedestrians go to the intersections, and tunnels have a number of concerns including flooding.

District 5: Raymond Garza asked for the clarification of the scope for the Land Bridge, and asked why it could not be done cheaper. Mr. Frisbie noted that the purposes are for safety, maintenance, wildlife passage, and the bridge must be wide to maintain the feel of the park.

Mr. Garza asked the dimensions of the bridge. Mr. Frisbie responded that the width of the bridge is expected to be about 155 feet, and span over Wurzbach about 150 feet with the ends extending into the park. He stated that the average road is 30 feet wide, but the intent is for the bridge to have the feel of a park.

Mr. Garza stated that the technology of steel and concrete would make it cheaper. Mr. Frisbie stated that this would miss the concept of making it a land bridge, and showed pictures of the bridge stating that the point of the land bridge is to have it be a continuous park.

District 4: Ed Cano stated no District 4 reprioritization and accepted staff recommendations.

District 3: George Garcia asked if the projects would be awarded to low bid contracts. Mr. Frisbie stated that there would be some variety to this, however, with streets bond projects the norm is to award the low bid. He added that there are some exceptions to this, including poor performance history or design build by a low bid contractor.

Mr. Garcia asked if the contractors have a quality control plan for the streets and if this was approved by staff. Mr. Frisbie responded that they are provided a design, and the contractor is responsible for providing a bond and insurance to protect the city if the contractor were to go out of business. He added that contractors are responsible for warranting the projects for one year, and the City conducts inspections of the projects.

District 9: Art Downey stated District 9 has no additional projects and accepted staff recommendations.

District 8: Mike Garza stated District 8 has no additional projects and accepted staff recommendations.

District 2: Leticia Rivera said District 2 has reprioritization, and asked to decrease mobility funding from \$6 million to \$4 million, and redirect \$2 million into the Fort Sam project and prioritize it.

District 2: Rose Hill asked staff to look at Mason Street from Austin Street to Spoford Street to extend the project one block.

District 9: Patty Gibson asked if city-wide projects were able to be moved around by all committee members, or only District 1. Mr. Frisbie stated that these projects could be open to all committee members. Co-Chair Mr. Heard added that city-wide projects shouldn't necessarily be tied to District 1, as these projects affect all districts.

District 1: Michelle Casillas stated that there are only two projects that fall outside of downtown for District 1, totaling about \$20 million. She added that from this perspective, many of the projects are in District 1 are not for the district. Mr. Frisbie added that there are several areas within District 1 that have great need, and District 1 has the least amount of bond allocation as a whole.

District 7: Bianca Maldonado asked if District 1 would prioritize a match to District 7 in mobility funding for the Fredericksburg Road between I-10 and Balcones Heights.

Ms. Maldonado asked who the Call for Projects (CFP) was to for the bond. Mr. Frisbie stated the this CFP was to the Metro Planning Association for federal and county funding, and this is a different than bond funding.

Ms. Maldonado asked for future bonds to have a bond input box, similar to the Budget Input Boxes, so that there would be more input before the recommendations are compiled.

Co-Chair Mr. Reed stated that there are at least five funding sources for streets in San Antonio, outside of the bond, and there is funding from TxDot.

District 10: Clayton Perry asked if it was within the purview to reduce downtown projects and spread the money to the districts. Mr. Frisbie noted that this is not a district decision. Co-Chair Mr. Reed noted that the City Council direction was to include these downtown projects and the committee is not elected.

Mr. Perry added that it is the committee's responsibility to create recommendations and the Council can change the recommendations, and this would be a way to recommend funding go back to the districts. Co-Chair Mr. Reed stated that the committee does not necessarily have the knowledge to judge the value of a downtown project, whereas they are very knowledgeable about the value of projects in their districts.

District 5: Gloria Martinez stated that any City that has a downtown should maintain the heart of the City, and while the funding may not be exactly equitable the City should take care of the downtown.

District 8: Mike Garza stated his support of funding the core of the city, and the concept of rough proportionality. He added that he disagreed with Mr. Perry's handout, noting that districts should make sacrifices for the good of the community.

District 5: Yvette Benavides stated District 5 accepts staff recommendations.

District 9: Marilyn Jowdy asked if the bond categories were independent of each other, for example if parks fails can streets pass. Mr. Frisbie stated that the each committee will make their decisions, then the City Council and Attorney General's office, then voters will vote on each category. Mr. Frisbie noted that there are six projects that span multiple categories that would be affected if a category did not pass. Marilyn asked for a list of the six projects.

District 3: George Garcia asked which projects have leveraged funding. Mr. Frisbie stated that there are 37 out of 158 projects that have leveraged funding, and this list by district would be provided in the follow-up memo.

District 7: Ed Garza asked who is responsible for putting in oversight on the city-wide projects, or if there was a public process to put input in before the vote on the city-wide projects. Mr. Frisbie stated that this bond committee is still the process. Co-Chair Mr. Reed asked if the city-wide projects were vetted by City Council before coming to the committee. Mr. Frisbie responded that all of the projects, including city-wide projects, were presented to all City Council offices before going to the committees.

District 6: Melinda Smith showed support for the 34<sup>th</sup> street and asked how the street lights would be corrected if the project scope was reduced. Mr. Frisbie stated that the project would address the outer edges of the corridor to address the sidewalks and power poles. He added that it would go to design first, which would have public input, then would go to construction.

District 7: Frank Fonseca showed opposition for the categorization of downtown funding as city-wide funding, stating that there are many residents that do not go downtown. Mr. Frisbie added that there are other areas of the city that are considered city-wide, including the San Antonio Port Authority and the Medical Center.

District 1: Michelle Casillas noted that while there are residents that do not go downtown, they may still benefit in less obvious ways from downtown via jobs, tourism, and retention of new residents.

District 8: Mike Garza asked if the field trip schedule and timeline was finalized. Mr. Frisbie noted that it is typically from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. Co-Chair Mr. Reed asked if there was enough interest for it to be a go. Mr. Frisbie responded yes, more information will be sent out after the survey closes.

District 9: Patty Gibbons asked if more parking would be necessary once the Land Bridge is completed.

Ms. Gibbons asked that the bridge be called Volker Ranch Bridge, and not Phil Hardberger Bridge. Mr. Frisbie noted that the official name of the park is the Phil Harberger Park.

District 3: George Garcia asked if there would be a bond only for neighborhood streets and related infrastructure. Co-Chair Mr. Reed noted that some districts just recruited members to review

projects, while some build from the bottom up and maybe it could be a recommendation for future bond programs to have the recommendations built from the bottom up. Mr. Frisbie added that the annual program of \$80 to \$100 million invests in these issues. He added that the bond addresses the large issues that cannot be addressed with the annual program. Ms. Sculley added that the majority of the annual program is for these smaller neighborhood issues.

Ms. Sculley noted that only 21 percent of projects are in the downtown area, even though many are considered city-wide. She noted that Brackenridge, Hardberger, and the Port are also considered city-wide projects due to being used by people from all over the City.

District 8: Mike Garza asked that for the next bond identify an at-large group to address city-wide projects.

District 5: Yvette Benavides asked about the commitment to fund the bridge. Mr. Frisbie responded that this project and funding had been envisioned since the master plan, and this is the last major piece of the park. Mr. Frisbie added that \$10 million is a significant funding match in comparison to other bond projects. Co-Chair Mr. Reed clarified that no City funding would be used until the full \$10 million was raised. Mr. Frisbie responded that the contract could not be awarded without full funding.

District 5: Gloria Martinez stated it was a good time to go to the market for the bond funding, noting the City's AAA bond rating, and asked the committee to support projects in other districts.

District 10: Nathan Cobler asked how much the City has put forth toward Hardberger only, and that he hears it was close to \$75 million. Mr. Frisbie noted that with the land acquisition and amenities that is the rough cost. He added that if the City had not acquired this land it would be apartment complexes and commercial development, and the focus was preservation of the space. Mr. Cobler showed opposition for spending more money on Hardberger.

District 1: Sonny Collins described a park in Houston, Central Park, and the importance of spending on parks.

District 2: Gordon Benjamin asked for the staff to reach out to the districts prior to the bond to get input before the bond process starts.

District 9: Art Downey stated that he agrees with Mr. Benjamin, but added that this is a council responsibility. He added that District 9 began meeting last year and District 9 priorities are on this list.

Co-Chair Mr. Reed noted the committee was going over time and reminded the committee that there are two more meetings for discussion.

District 10: Clayton Perry thanked the committee for their comments on his chart and said he would bring the full list next time.

Co-Chair Mr. Reed asked for the districts to prepare their recommendations for discussion at the next meeting. Mr. Perry asked which districts had accepted the recommendations. Co-Chair Reed stated District 4, District 9, District 8, District 5, District 1, District 2 with two modifications, and

District 6. Leaving Districts 3, 7, and 10 to provide recommendations.

Co-Chair Mr. Reed asked for other input before close.

District 6: Oscar Rosalez asked if the committee had to accept all of the projects. He noted that there are 2,675 families annually mourning the loss of pedestrians, versus spending \$7.5 million on a land bridge to protect an unknown number of animals. Co-Chair Mr. Reed stated this would be up to the committee.

District 8: Steve Perez stated there have been at least five animal related accidents on Wurzbach with large animals, there could be fatalities. He added that the speed limit is 60 miles per hour on this section of road.

District 8: Mike Garza stated that in the eight year span there have been 84 animal related issues, with multiple fatalities. He added that there are 34,000 trips per day that could be impacted by animals. He added that for \$7.5 million, the city is gaining safety and an iconic project to impact future generations.

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

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 8:33 p.m.