

City of San Antonio



Streets Bond Committee Meeting Minutes

San Antonio Public Library
Central Branch
600 Soledad St.

Tuesday, December 13
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 David Heard called the meeting to order. He acknowledged Co-Chair Jim Reed.

- Attendance of Committee Members
- Head count of general attendance: 51
- Claudia Mancillas, Interpreter Translation Services, was present

I. Opening Comments and Meeting Procedures by Committee Chairs

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

II. Bond Program overview by Sheryl Sculley, City Manager

Sheryl Sculley, City Manager, gave thanks to the committee members and recapped first Streets meeting reiterating the purpose of the bond program to address infrastructure community needs. Ms. Sculley explained the history of prior allocation and highlighted the \$2 billion worth of infrastructure projects since 2005. She stated that the bond program is designed to complete larger projects that the City's operating budget cannot fund and only 21% of this bond is dedicated to downtown projects. The timeline for the Bond Program was reviewed which includes the presentation of the recommended projects to the City Council on January 11, 2017 and adopt projects on January 19, 2017.

III. Staff Overview of Bus tour completed and clarification on progress impacts and questions from Committee members answered by Mike Frisbee, Director of TCI

Mr. Heard thanked the City Manager. He noted that these are city wide investments and he reminded

the committee members that each of them have a responsibility to balance the city's projects.

Elizabeth Provencio, First Assistant City Attorney, addressed the committee by providing a recap of past meetings. Encouraged that each member be heard and reiterated that a conflict of interest should be considered when voting on projects.

Mike Frisbie, Director of Transportation & Capital Improvements, spoke on the participation of the bond program so far highlighting the input residents provided throughout the process. He also gave a presentation on the committee's tour survey results.

IV. Bond Committee Discussion and Action

Co-Chair Mr. Reed reminded the Committee that they wanted to get a consensus on the projects and they would follow Robert's Rule of Orders. He reminded the members that if there is a funding request it needs to include a corresponding reduction in a project. Mr. Reed wanted to revisit the motion that was made by Oscar Rosales at the last meeting to reduce funding in the amount of \$3.75 million for the Land Bridge and redirect it to the Ingram Road project in District 6. This motion was tabled at the last meeting.

Art Downey, District 9, spoke to the transformation aspect of the bond projects. He stated that the Bridge is transformational and should be fully funded.

Sonny Collins, District 1, stated that it was an outstanding project and it is the best public/private project he has ever seen. He is supportive of the project.

Mr. Reed asked Mike Frisbee was asked about the private funding versus the City funds. Mr. Frisbie stated that the City likes to spend the matching funds first. The partner's funding must to be there and in hand before a project can begin construction.

Gilbert Morales, District 4, asked what is the approach to getting more attendees from the Westside and Southside to enjoy the park. He asked if there was an approach to boost attendance and is there a way to fix it. Mr. Frisbie replied stating that by tying the two parcels together, the more time people will spend at the park and gets the word out about the park.

District 7 - Bianca Maldonado asked to clarify and explain why the reduction in the Parks Committee to the Land Bridge. Mr. Frisbie explained that there was a project stated Capitol Little League at McAllister Park. He stated that the committee wanted to separate the two projects and then also fund McAllister Park. The Committee looked at the Land Bridge for the funding. During the process, staff worked with the Conservancy and design to see if a reduction of \$2 million to the project would still allow the project to move forward. However, this reduction is the minimum amount needed to complete the project.

John Kelly, District 8 stated that he had visited a land bridge in Banff Canada. He stated that the land bridge is comparable to the one being proposed by the City which allows for pedestrian and wildlife crossing. He also spoke about a land bridge in Florida which is more comparable and typical to land bridge. It does not compare to the proposed bridge for Hardberger Park. He stated that in his view the most important benefit of the bridge is connecting the two sides and completing the vision of the park.

Raymond Garza, District 5, stated that based on the tour he thinks the land bridge is a good deal. He believes that if it gets built the kids from the Westside would come and tourist would visit.

Gloria Martinez, District 5, stated that she has no problem with the land bridge. She asked if the other parts of the city are being actively cultivated to visit the land bridge. She asked what kind of marketing will be done to ensure city wide participation.

Mike Garza, District 8, responded to Ms. Martinez by referencing a survey that was taken last year. He stated that the survey conducted last year shows that it is a city wide park, over 1,000 people visit daily. Out of 3,000 people that were surveyed, the majority of people using the park are outside of D8 and D9. He stated that it was voted the best park and best dog park in 2015. He stated that the SA Tomorrow plan states that we must manage growth while preserving green spaces and expanding green spaces. Additionally, he stated that for every \$1 invested, there is a \$4 return on investment for parks. He stated that it is up to the Committee that their kids can enjoy for the rest of their lives. He asked the Committee to keep the project alive.

Oscar Rosales, District 6, stated that he thinks we could get a smaller bridge for less money and still get the effect we need. He is here for the residents and the bond is for streets and sidewalks. He supports SATomorrow by putting in streets and sidewalks. He reviewed the guiding principles. He asked the committee to think about the handicapped and elderly that streets and sidewalks are the only way they can get around.

Patty Gibbons, District 9, made a motion to amend the current motion and distribute the funds equally among all districts to their priority projects.

Oscar Rosales seconded the motion.

Patty Gibbons, District 9, stated that the land bridge is beautiful, but does not like how it pays. She does not think the land bridge is a priority project. She stated that conservancy can find the money. She stated she has a hard time with dollars and putting this as a priority project. She stated that distributing the money equally to the district, there are projects that can use the funding. She stated that the land Bridge in Florida is a state bridge and it is maintained by the Florida. She expressed concerns about maintaining the bridge. She encouraged the committee to look at the list again because it is not money it is people. She hopes that the committee would support the motion.

Mr. Heard asked Mr. Frisbie to confirm the amount per district. Mr. Frisbie stated it would be \$750,000. This money could pay for smaller type projects or sidewalks. He stated that there are a lot of sidewalks in the bond. Mr. Frisbie then addressed that the 2017 Bond is building in those safe crossing points at arterial streets as those are the areas where there are fatalities. In regard to Hardberger Park, some pedestrians will cross Wurzbach rather than going to one of the crossing areas. The land bridge will address this issue. Ms. Sculley stated that \$750,000 would cover about 2 blocks.

Marilyn Jowdy District 9, the other projects that have leverage funds. Mr. Frisbie stated that there a number of projects leveraging funding and specifically in this proposal there is developer participation specifically for the Military and Ingram/Potranco. She asks about charity organizations. Mr. Frisbie responded that there are a number of non-profits that providing funds from projects to include the Guadalupe cultural arts center, rape crisis for women.

Ed Garza, District 7, stated that the deliberation is healthy. He stated he can see that the two motions could be attractive to Districts where the needs are deep. However, he stated that this is less than 2% of the total and it is something that we don't want to affect the passage of the other projects. He stated he supports the funding of the land bridge. He stated that this project will leverage fund and bring the political support needed. He stated he will not be supporting the main motion or amended.

Gloria Martinez, District 5, asked about the impact of the project and where the City was in regard to Vision Zero and pedestrian safety. Mr. Frisbie stated that the Land Bridge is an iconic structure and it will grab national and international attention. Regarding Vision Zero, he stated that the effort from the City has been robust but the numbers are going the wrong way. He stated that education on bike safety and driver safety is the key to make things safer.

Frank Fonesca, District 7, he stated that the Brackenridge Conservancy is minimizing the number of people in Brackenridge Park which is going to push people to Hardberger. Speaks to Vision Zero and thinks that the City is encouraging people to act defiantly when sharing the road. He stated he thinks we are encouraging this type of behavior. He stated that he feels that the \$25 million is too much and asked about other sources of funding. Mr. Frisbie stated that the City does not think there will be other funding. The Bond and private funding will be it. He also stated that the \$23 million is based on 30% design.

Gilbert Morales, District 4, asked about the Master Plan for Hardberger. Mr. Frisbie stated that the Land Bridge is the final phase. Mr. Morales asked about additional parking. Mr. Frisbie stated that there was not more parking planned. Mr. Morales stated there were 200 spaces; however, Mr. Frisbie stated it was 400 spaces. Mr. Frisbie stated that the City see people using all types of modes of transportation.

Rose Hill, District 2, asked if there would be possibilities for children of the eastside to be bused to the park for education opportunities. She asked how the kids would benefit from this and how could we impact the kids.

Ed Garza, District 7, stated that it would be a great thing to add to the field trip list and get the information out to the schools.

Mike Garza, District 8, stated that he asked a lot of statistics on the educational programs and he referenced these statistics. He then stated that the project is a bridge and it should be discussed by the committee. He is frustrated that the committee is discussing the \$750,000 and we should be looking at more city-wide projects.

Art Downey, District 9, called for questioned. A vote was talked to call the question and it was passed.

Mr. Reed reiterated the amendment to the motion to reduce the \$7.5 million from the land bridge and allocated equally among all District. The motion failed.

Mr. Reed reiterated the main motion to take \$3.75M from the Land Bridge and allocate it to Ingram Road. The motion failed.

Co-chair Mr. Jim Reed asked about any updates to projects within Districts 3, 7, and 10.

George Garcia, District 3, asked if the Roosevelt 90/loop 410 would be phase 1. He asked that it is stated as phase 1. He stated that they had no changes to the projects.

Bianca Maldonado, District 7, stated that city staff estimated that Crossett would cost \$2.7 which would be sidewalk and curbs hillcrest and sunshine ranch is not a priority but is still a need of the district. There is no change to OP Schnabel. Ms. Maldonado read the recommendation for her District. Regarding Woodlawn Area Streets, the funds were split into two categories, a complete reconstruction of Furr Drive for cost of \$3.9 million. Also Thomas Jefferson High School area improvements to make the sidewalks ADA accessible at the intersections surrounding the school, fountain restoration and landscaping in the medians created in last bond. This is in lieu of three streets. The District 7 Mobility of \$2 million and converted to District 7 Sidewalk improvements.

Mr. Reed stated that the recommendation needs to be supported by the Committee. Mr. Reed called for the vote and it passed.

Abel Guzman, District 10, stated that we adopted two projects and modified one. He stated that he would like to revise the previous recommendations. He recommends \$17 million for Bulverde Phase 1 and \$3 million for the Thousand Oaks Projects.

Mr. Reed asked for discussion on the change and then called for the vote. Motion carries.

Mr. Reed opened the floor to discussion.

Leticia Rivera, District 2, stated that they were restoring funding for New Braunfels Phase 1 from Houston to Burlison to \$9 million and reduces the Rittman Road/Gibbs Sprawl Overpass Project from \$6 million to \$4 million and changes to the Rittman Road Project. Mr. Frisbie asked for clarification on the grade separation project was going to be converted to a Rittman Road Project so no grade separation.

Mr. Reed opened the recommendation for discussion.

Patty Gibbons, District 9, asked if they had considered Delmar. District 2 responded that they were being considered in the Pedestrian mobility.

Mr. Reed asked for a vote on the District 2 suggestions.

Rosa Valdez, District 1, asked about bike lanes on McCullough. Asked to clarify what the citizen submitted and what is included. Staff responded that the bike lanes are from Oblate S. to Olmos Park.

Art Downey, District 9, made a motion to adopt the list of projects and it was seconded.

Clayton Perry, District 10, made a friendly amendment and Broadway be taken from the list and distributed to the district equally in the amount of \$4.3 million. The motion was seconded by Frank Fonesca.

Clayton Perry, District 10, stated that the project is taking a major thoroughfare from 6 to 4 lanes. The project is not listed in the multi-modal plan. He thinks it is a big mistake to reduce the lanes especially

as the City is planning for an increase in population. This would bring \$4.3 million into each district.

Bianca Maldonado, District 7, asked if this was a phased project as she believes it is \$100 million projects and asked about the funding from TxDOT and MPO. Mr. Frisbie stated that there was matching. TxDOT has \$5 million and the MPO has \$9 million. Mr. Frisbie stated that it was not included in the multi modal plan because it has already taken the steps needed to move forward. He stated that we do not need a 7 lane street, need to reallocate the space to make them friendlier to bike and pedestrian traffic. Mr. Frisbie stated that it would severely hamper the project if funding was removed.

Ms. Maldonado asked if it was fair that this project received this amount of money. She stated District 7 and District 10 have the lowest amount. She stated that \$4.3 million looks great for District 7.

Mr. Reed responded with how much the districts are getting from the other propositions and discussed rough proportionality.

Mr. Frisbie stated that this is a City wide project, if it goes back to each district, the project is jeopardized.

Frank Fonesca, District 7, stated that narrowing of Broadway poses a serious traffic problem and he questioned narrowing streets.

Gordon Benjamin, District 2, stated that he supported the Broadway project because of the economic impact of the project to District 1 and 2. Mr. Frisbie stated that traffic projections will work with a 4 lane Broadway project and we know there is a huge economic impact in that corridor.

Patty Gibbons, District 9, stated that this would pose a traffic problem by changing from a 6 lane to a 4 lane. She showed support for the amendment.

Marilyn Jowdy, District 9, expressed her concerns about the traffic this project would cause and concerns residents have discussed with her regarding the project.

Mike Garza, District 8, is not in favor of the motion and supports the project because people want to have multimodal options.

Sonny Collins, District 1, stated that he was in favor of the project and opposed the motion.

Patty Gibbons, District 9 called for questions Committee votes in favor to cease discussion.

Mr. Reed reiterated the motion to take the funding from the Broadway Project and equally redistributed to the Districts in the amount of \$4.3 million. The motion fails.

Co-Chair Jim Reed reiterated the motion to approve the staff recommendation as amended by the four districts and he opened the floor for discussion.

Patty Gibbons, District 9, thanked the City staff. She stated that she thinks there is some fiscal waste in the projects.

Bianca Maldonado, District 7, thanked the City Staff and she stated there is concern about the money that is going to the downtown. She stated we could look at improving the bond process.

Mr. Reed asked if there were any additional comments on the motion on the floor. Mr. Reed called for the vote. The motion carried.

V. Next Steps for Community Bond Committee Process

The co-chairs provided closing remarks. There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 8:15.