

**INTERGOVERNMENTAL RELATIONS
COUNCIL COMMITTEE
MEETING MINUTES**

WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 08, 2012

10:00 AM

MUNICIPAL PLAZA ROOM B

Members Present: Councilmember Ray Lopez, *Chair, District 6*
Councilmember Diego Bernal, *District 1*
Councilmember Cris Medina, *District 7*
Councilmember Elisa Chan, *District 9*
Councilmember Carlton Soules, *District 10*

Members Absent: None

Staff Present: Carlos Contreras, *Intergovernmental Relations Director*; Sally Basurto, *Intergovernmental Relations*; Christine Wright, *Intergovernmental Relations*; Gabriel Garcia, *Assistant City Attorney*; Lisa Biediger, *Assistant City Attorney*; Mike Walker, *ITSD*; Martha Lambaria, *Office of the City Clerk*

Also Present: Baltazar Serna, *Patton Boggs*; Tom Downs, *Patton Boggs*; Sarah Vilms, *Patton Boggs*; Jared Fleisher, *Patton Boggs*; Richard Martinez, *VIA*; Tremell Brown, *VIA*

I. Approval of Minutes of the May 30, 2012 Intergovernmental Relations Council Committee Meeting

Councilmember C. Medina moved to approve the Minutes of the May 30, 2012 Intergovernmental Relations Council Committee Meeting. Councilmember Bernal seconded the motion. Motion carried unanimously by those present.

II. Possible Action Items

**a. VIA Grants Update and Consideration of City Support Letter
Priscilla Ingle and Richard Martinez, VIA**

Councilmember Chan entered the meeting at this time.

Carlos Contreras, introduced Mr. Richard Martinez of VIA. Mr. Martinez provided an update on VIA Grants. He reported that VIA currently has two pending grants through Clean Fuels/Federal Transit Administration (FTA), with request for funding totaling \$3.5M. He stated that the program has a two-fold purpose. First, it is designed to assist areas in meeting National Ambient Air Quality Standards and second; to support clean fuel technology applications for transit buses. He reported that two projects were submitted by VIA to the FTA's Clean Fuels Program for funding: 1) Expansion of the CNG Fueling Facility and 2) Replacement of 35 Paratransit Vans. Mr. Martinez introduced Mr. Tremell Brown to speak of the Innovation Transit Workforce Training Grant. Mr. Brown spoke to the importance of said Grant and reported that this program would be the first of its kind in the Country. He stated that they would partner with the Alamo Community College District (ACCD) and San Antonio Housing Authority (SAHA) to help address, educate and employ the underrepresented demographics of women in the San Antonio

Workforce. He reported that the training program would fill 140 positions, such as Commercial License Drivers and Bus Mechanics. He further stated that this model could be replicated throughout the Country.

In response to Councilmember Lopez, Mr. Martinez reported that VIA had requested \$1 Million. Mr. Contreras added that the request from VIA is a letter of support from the Intergovernmental Relations (IGR) Council Committee.

Councilmember Chan spoke in support of said item. She asked if the City of San Antonio (COSA) had ever sought support from other institutions and members for San Antonio Initiatives. Mr. Contreras replied that COSA does seek support from others and has never been denied a request. Mr. Martinez added that VIA has received over 46 letters of support from other entities.

Mr. Baltazar Serna provided history on the grant process and how it has evolved over the years. Chairman Lopez concurred and said that this new process, which includes support letters and a joint initiative, is working at the Federal and State Level.

Councilmember Bernal spoke in support of said grant for VIA and asked for clarification on the CDL Licenses.

In response to Councilmember C. Medina's question, Mr. Martinez replied that via was in a good position for said initiative with regard to time.

Councilmember Chan motioned to approve a City Support Letter. Councilmember Bernal seconded the motion. Motion carried unanimously.

III. Discussion Items:

a. D-Block National Broadband Network Gabriel Garcia, City Attorney's Office and Mike Walker, ITSD

Mr. Mike Walker, provided an overview and history on D-Block. He reported that a contributing factor to loss of life during 911 was the inability to communicate between Police Department (PD), Fire Department (FD) & other agencies. He clarified that this was due to various manufacturers of equipment that did not communicate with each other. He reported that following the terrorist attack on the World Trade Center on September 11, 2001, Congress directed the Federal Communications Commission (FCC) to auction off wireless spectrum for the purpose of building a national public safety network. He stated that the proposed network was to be interoperable, meaning that local, state, and federal public safety agencies would be able to communicate with each other. He reported that Congress did not allocate any funds for building the network. In addition, he noted that the City of San Antonio was one of 21 jurisdictions granted authority to conduct a pilot project using the D-Block. He reported that in September 2011, San Antonio became the successful recipient of a \$1 million FEMA Grant dedicated to this project. He noted that the grant request was based on using existing City of San Antonio radio infrastructure resources that could help expedite the pilot project and minimize the potential costs of the pilot program to the City. However, Mr. Walker noted that due to regulatory changes at the federal level, the City's FEMA Grant has been repurposed to meet public safety radio communication needs. He stated that Harris Corp. has agreed in principle to

fund the City's Pilot Project of wireless data communications equipment known as LTE, as a public-private partnership contingent on FCC approval to proceed, which is pending.

Mr. Gabriel Garcia, Assistant City Attorney briefed the Committee on the Spectrum Act. He reported that in February 2012, Congress passed the Spectrum Act which allocates \$7 billion for creation of the National Broadband Public Safety Network (NBPSN) and directs the FCC to transfer the D-Block to the First Responder Network Authority (FirstNet). He noted that FirstNet is to engage in consultation with state governments over the development of NBPSN. Furthermore, he stated that the Spectrum Act has set aside \$125 million in grants for state governments to prepare for consultations with FirstNet.

In response to Mr. Lopez, Mr. Garcia stated that there would be a Board of Directors of 15 that would comprise of the FirstNet Agency and 12 other members appointed by the National Telecommunications and Information Administration (NTIA). Furthermore he conveyed that the new Agency would reside within NTIA which is part of the Department of Commerce.

In response to Councilmember Chan, Mr. Contreras stated that the City would receive input from the Department of Public Safety (DPS). He reiterated that DPS would reach out to cities and receive input from them. Councilmember Chan affirmed that FirstNet would require one contact per State and would consult with Cities.

b. Federal Legislative Update
Tom Downs, Patton Boggs

Mr. Tom Downs introduced Jared Fleisher, Patton Boggs to present an overview of the Safe, Accountable, Flexible, Efficient, Transportation Equity Act - a Legacy for Users (SAFETEA-Lu) Reauthorization Law ("MAP-21") Program and structural changes. Chairman Lopez asked for clarification with regard to where funding will be received. He asked of the difference between the old process and new process. Mr. Fleisher replied that the Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO) will absolutely have more control and authority. However, he affirmed that in terms of the STP Program, the process is the same. He stated that the state decides how half of the money will be spent and the other half is sub allocated by law to the MPO.

In response to Mr. Baltazar Serna, Patton Boggs, Mr. Fleiger replied that the transportation incentive program is a formula funded program and that it is a formula that San Antonio is going to receive. He affirmed that the MPO will decide how to spend it, rather than the State deciding.

Tom Downs and Sara Vilms, Patton Boggs presented on the following:

- Highway
- Transit
- "Map-21"
- Innovative Finance and PPPs
- Environmental Streamlining and Accelerated Project Delivery
- Planning
- Sequestration
- Hud Choice Neighborhood Program
- Promise Neighborhood Grant
- Courthouse Funding
- San Antonio Missions National Historic Park

- Education Initiatives
- Energy Initiatives

Mr. Lopez thanked Tom and Sara for their presentation.

**c. Update on State Legislative Program Development
Carlos Contreras, Director, Intergovernmental Relations**

Carlos Contreras provided a brief update on State Legislative Program Development. He stated that he and Mark A. Rodriguez, State Consultant had met yesterday with regard to the State Legislative Work Session to review departmental recommendations for proposal to the City Manager. He reported that there are 15 to 16 proposals for departments. He noted that the process for developing federal programs would begin.

Chairman Lopez conveyed that reality is that the State needs to address administrative issues regarding funding.

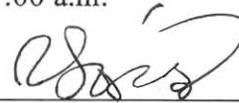
IV. Consideration of items for future meetings

a. Next Meeting Scheduled: September 12, 2012.

Mr. Contreras announced that the next meeting is scheduled for September 12, 2012 and will be held in the Municipal Plaza C Room.

V. Adjournment

There being no further discussion, the meeting was adjourned at 11:00 a.m.



Ray Lopez, Chairman

Respectfully Submitted,



*Martha Lambaria
Office of the City Clerk*