

# INFRASTRUCTURE & GROWTH COUNCIL COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES

WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 18, 2013

11:30 A.M.

MUNICIPAL PLAZA B ROOM

<b>Members Present:</b>	Councilmember Rey A. Saldaña, Chair, <i>District 4</i> Councilmember Rebecca Viagran, <i>District 3</i> Councilmember Shirley Gonzales, <i>District 5</i> Councilmember Cris Medina, <i>District 7</i> Councilmember Ron Nirenberg, <i>District 8</i>
<b>Members Absent:</b>	None
<b>Staff Present:</b>	Peter Zaroni, <i>Deputy City Manager</i> ; Jed Maebius, <i>Liaison, Mayor's Office</i> ; Carlos Contreras, <i>Assistant City Manager</i> ; Norbert Hart, <i>Deputy City Attorney</i> ; Audrey Zamora, <i>Assistant City Attorney</i> ; Anthony Chukwudolue, <i>Interim Director, Public Works</i> ; Michael S. Frisbie, <i>Director, Capital Improvement Management Services</i> ; Shanon Miller, <i>Director, Office of Historic Preservation</i> ; Denice Trevino, <i>Office of the City Clerk</i>
<b>Others Present:</b>	Jeffrey Arndt, <i>President, VIA Metropolitan Transit</i> ; Brian Buchanan, <i>Chief Development Officer, VIA Metropolitan Transit</i>

## Call to order

Chairman Saldaña called the meeting to order.

### 1. Citizens To Be Heard

There were no items addressed by citizens.

### 2. Briefing on VIA's Streetcar Route Selection Process and VIA's Streetcar Project Implementation Schedule [Jeffrey Arndt, VIA President and Chief Executive Officer]

Jeffrey Arndt stated that on September 10, 2013 the VIA Metropolitan Transit (VIA) Board of Trustees (Board) recommended Alternative 6 as the Locally Preferred Alternative (LPA) for the Modern Streetcar System (Streetcar System). He noted that the Board's designation of the LPA allows VIA Staff to move to the next stage of project development to include detailed environmental evaluations and preliminary engineering on the LPA. He indicated that designation of the LPA was necessary to permit VIA to begin discussions with the Federal Transit Administration regarding leveraging local funds with Federal Funds. He stated that the Streetcar System may be developed incrementally based upon funds available. He added that by 2014, additional information from the Federal Government would be available regarding said environmental evaluations and the Federal Funding Process.

Brian Buchanan stated that the process to develop the Streetcar System began in November 2012. He noted that the goals identified would improve the circulation choices and increase capacity for downtown San Antonio. He reported that over 100 hearings were held with the public and key stakeholders. He reviewed the LPA Streetcar System Route. He indicated that

the Streetcar System would require an investment of \$280 million with Operation and Maintenance costs of \$8.5 million per year. He stated that there were 5.9 route miles in the Streetcar System with an estimated ridership of 1.4 million per year. He mentioned that a public open house would be held on September 18, 2013 at 6:00 PM at the VIA Metro Center Board Room with submission of the LPA to the Board of Trustees for approval on September 24, 2013 at 5:00 PM.

Councilmember Medina asked of the capacity of a Streetcar. Mr. Buchanan indicated that a Streetcar's capacity is two to three times that of a VIA Bus.

Councilmember Gonzales asked of the funding sources for the Streetcar System. Mr. Buchanan stated that the \$210 million dollar budget is made up of funding from the City of San Antonio in the amount of \$32 million; \$92 million from Bexar County and the Texas Department of Transportation; and the remainder from VIA. He stated that this local investment gives the Streetcar System an advantage when requesting Federal Funds.

Councilmember Nirenberg expressed concern that the project was implemented with the expectation that it would be supported by Federal and Private Funds. Mr. Arndt stated that when he came to VIA 18 months ago; the Board's position was that Federal Funds would not be pursued. He noted that when local funds became available, the Board became open to the potential opportunity to leverage those funds. Councilmember Nirenberg asked of the potential investment of private funds. Mr. Buchanan stated that private investment would be discussed now that the LPA has been identified. Councilmember Nirenberg asked what a scaled-back version of the Streetcar System would look like. Mr. Buchanan stated that a scaled-back version would contain logical stopping points.

Councilmember Viagran asked if sales tax revenue was used to support the Streetcar System. Mr. Buchanan stated that a portion of the ½ cent VIA Sales Tax and Bearer Bond Revenues would be used to support this project. Councilmember Viagran asked of the current and future infrastructure to be provided by the City. Mike Frisbie stated that City Funds of \$32 million would be used for construction and all permitting and review for the Streetcar System would be processed by the City. He indicated that the Streetcar System Route overlaps four 2012 Bond Projects downtown and the issue would be addressed. Mr. Arndt stated that VIA would support a position to assist with City Processes.

Chairman Saldaña asked how the Streetcar System would co-exist with the Circulator System (Primo Bus) and if the timeline for the Westside Multimodal Center and the Robert Thompson Transit Center (Transit Center) would be in alignment with the Circulator and Streetcar Systems. Mr. Buchanan replied that the Circular System will continue to operate as intended. He indicated that ground breaking for Phase II of the Westside Multimodal Center would begin in the Spring of 2014 with an anticipated opening in 2015. He stated that the Robert Thompson Transit Center would go through the Request for Proposal (RFP) Process engaging the public sector for its development potential. He noted that a Master Developer would be engaged to promote this and other City Assets. He stated that VIA has committed \$10 million dollars in improvements for the Transit Center. He added that the Streetcar System would open in late 2017.

No action was required for Item 2.

**3. Briefing on the FY 2014 Infrastructure Management Program (IMP) implementation strategy and public awareness efforts [Anthony Chukwudoule, Interim Director, Public Works]**

Anthony Chukwudoule stated that the Infrastructure Management Program (IMP) is a five-year rolling program that identifies planned infrastructure projects designed to improve and sustain the City's Infrastructure. He noted that City Council approved the IMP and funding for the first year. He reported that the total cost of the Programs identified was \$54.9 million with the majority of those costs dedicated to streets. He stated that Streets would receive funding from the General Fund in the amount of \$36.1 million. He noted that funding would be provided by the General Fund for pavement markings and traffic signals. He stated that drainage and alley maintenance would be funded by the Stormwater and the Solid Waste Operating Funds. He indicated that the remainder of the Programs which include sidewalk maintenance were funded by the Advanced Transportation District Fund (ATD).

Mr. Chukwudoule stated that streets were maintained by use of a Program that initiates cycled street maintenance based on street conditions and a Structural Rehabilitation Program which minimizes the deterioration of streets by the application of sealants. He reviewed the items to be addressed by the Traffic Signals Program, the Pavement Markings Program, Drainage and Alley Maintenance and Improvement, and the Bike Facilities Program. He indicated that City Council added \$2.5 million for sidewalk improvements bringing the total funding for sidewalks to \$8.5 million. He noted that the focus would be on gaps in an overall sidewalk network within a ¼-mile radius of schools, hospitals, and commercial centers. He reported that the ATD Funds are used for intersection improvements, Uninterruptable Power Supply (UPS), Audible Pedestrian Signal (APS), School Zone Improvements, and Bus Pads. He reviewed the IMP Implementation Plan and work that would be accomplished by contract or by City Staff. He indicated that Public Works would be conducting outreach to inform the community of the IMP, as well as other Department services, projects, and programs. He stated that the majority of the IMP Projects for FY 2013 are anticipated to be completed by the end of the Fiscal Year. He added that Public Works would work with individual Councilmembers regarding projects in their Districts.

Councilmember Viagran asked of sidewalk improvements in older neighborhoods. Mr. Chukwudoule indicated there was no dedicated funding source for sidewalk repairs in said neighborhoods.

Councilmember Medina suggested that Public Works work with the Office of Historic Preservation to address the need for sidewalk improvements in historic neighborhoods. Mr. Chukwudoule stated that he would follow up on same.

Councilmember Gonzales asked of the funding sources for the Stormwater and Solid Waste Operating Funds. Peter Zaroni stated that the Stormwater Operating Fund was billed by the City through the San Antonio Water System and funds are used for street sweeping and vegetation control along the Creekway System. He noted that the Solid Waste Operating Fund was billed by the City through City Public Service and funds are used to address garbage and recycling. He indicated that the ATD was funded by an eighth of a cent sales tax collected by VIA which funds Mobility Projects.

Chairman Saldaña asked of scheduled Bus Pad Maintenance and of the cost of placing speed humps. Mr. Chuwudolue stated that his department would meet with individual Councilmembers to provide the information.

Councilmember Nirenberg recommended a review of the Unified Development Code (UDC) as it relates to traffic and traffic calming devices. Mr. Zaroni stated that this would be explored.

There was no action required for Item 3.

- 4. Briefing and Committee consideration of an amendment to Article VI of the Unified Development Code and the addition of the Brooks City Base School of Aerospace Medicine (SAM) Historic Design Guidelines to the City of San Antonio Historic Design Guidelines** [David Ellison, Assistant City Manager; Shanon Shea Miller, Director, Office of Historic Preservation]

Shanon Miller stated that the City of San Antonio Historic Guidelines were adopted by City Council on November 9, 2012. She noted that the proposed UDC amendments are necessary to provide clarity and consistency in the interpretation of design guidelines. She stated that the proposed amendments were approved by the Historic and Design Review and the Zoning Commission. She noted that staff recommends the amendment of Article VI of the UDC and the adoption of Design Guidelines for the Brooks City Base School of Aerospace Medicine (SAM) Historic District as an appendix to the City of San Antonio Historic Design Guidelines.

Councilmember Viagran moved to forward said amendments to Article VI of the Unified Development Code and the the Brooks City Base SAM Historic Design Guidelines and Master Plan to the full City Council for approval. Councilmember Medina seconded the motion. Motion carried unanimously by those present.

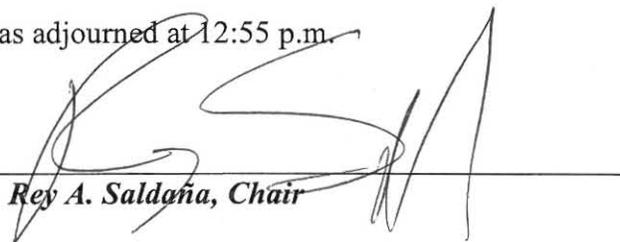
#### **5. Adjourn**

There being no further discussion, the meeting was adjourned at 12:55 p.m.

*Respectfully Submitted,*



**Denice Trevino**  
**Office of the City Clerk**

  
**Rey A. Saldaña, Chair**