

**Intergovernmental Relations  
Council Committee Special Meeting  
Minutes**

**February 11, 2009  
Municipal Plaza Room C  
1:30 p.m.**

Council Present:	Councilmember Sheila McNeil, Chair, <i>District 2</i> Councilmember Philip Cortez, <i>District 4</i> Councilmember Diane Cibrian, <i>District 8</i> Councilmember Louis Rowe, <i>District 9</i>
Staff Present:	A.J. Rodriguez, <i>Deputy City Manager</i> ; Carlos Contreras, <i>Intergovernmental Relations Director</i> ; Veronica Zertuche, <i>Deputy City Attorney</i> ; Matthew Polanco, <i>Intergovernmental Relations Manager</i> ; Sally Basurto, <i>Intergovernmental Relations</i> ; Christine Wright, <i>Intergovernmental Relations</i> ; Lisa Biediger, <i>City Attorney's Office</i> ; Mandy Milam, <i>Office of the City Clerk</i>
Others Present:	James Jonas, <i>Holland + Knight</i> ; Walter Serna, <i>Patton &amp; Boggs</i>

**1. Call to Order**

Chairperson McNeil called the Meeting to order.

**2. Approval of minutes from the meetings of December 10, 2008 and January 27, 2009**

Councilmember Cortez moved to approve the minutes of the December 10, 2008 and January 27, 2009 meetings as submitted. Councilmember Cibrian seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously by those present.

**3. Issues to be considered**

**a. State Legislative Program Update and Possible Action**

Presented by Carlos Contreras

Mr. Contreras noted that House Committee assignments had not been made, but were expected to occur on February 12, 2009. He stated that the Senate had their assignments and bills had begun to be assigned to the Committees. He spoke of the Military Installation Protection Act and noted that Representative Ruth Jones McClendon had filed HB 143, which would grant counties the authority to regulate development around bases. He added that she had also drafted a substitute for that bill and was seeking comments on it. Mr. Contreras stated that Senator Leticia Van de Putte was also intending to file a bill on Military Installation Protection. He noted that his staff was coordinating with Mr. Pat DiGiovanni, Deputy City Manager, to ensure that the Land Use Committee's recommendations were incorporated into the comments.

Councilmember Cibrian spoke of the possibility that military protection legislation may not pass and asked for copies of both Representative McClendon's and Senator Van de Putte's bills. She stated that the Matrix Design Group were experts on the Joint Land Use Study (JLUS), but were not from the area or experts in the legislative process. Because of this, both the Council and the group would require staff's expertise in determining what legislation to move forward. Mr. Rodriguez stated that this had also been a concern of the Lobbyist Team and that a meeting with the Matrix Design Group had been set for February 17, 2009. It was noted that this date may conflict with the Vive San Antonio legislative day in Austin. Councilmember Cibrian asked for a report from the Matrix Design Group focused on providing feasible protections so that it could be read into the record in place of a meeting.

Councilmember McNeil asked if San Antonio was in a unique position regarding the development around Camp Bullis. Mr. Jonas replied it was not, but that it was unique for a major metropolitan area. He stated that this was the reason why many of the suggestions provided by the Matrix Design Group were not feasible for San Antonio. Councilmember Cibrian noted that there were encroachment issues all over the State of Virginia, but due to differences in state legislatures, their solutions may not be good solutions in Texas.

Councilmember Rowe entered the meeting at this time.

Councilmember McNeil asked if efforts were being coordinated with members of the legislature to file bills. Mr. Contreras replied that they were but since Committee assignments had not been made, bills had not been assigned. He noted that San Antonio was also coordinating with entities who share similar interests.

Mr. Contreras spoke of the Local Option Funding Bill for transportation from Representative Mike Villareal. He stated that it would provide an array of options that could be funded at the local level through alternative funding mechanisms and may include toll roads. Mr. Jonas noted that there was concern on whether or not to include toll roads since inclusion would provide more options, but could also turn some constituencies away from the entire package. The Committee noted their support for more options. Mr. Rodriguez explained that if passed, the bill would go from the Legislature to the County and then the County would put it into a referendum for the citizens to vote on. He noted that staff believed that toll roads would dominate the referendum. Councilmember McNeil stated that she had heard that opposition would be in favor of a referendum.

Councilmember Rowe noted the benefits of voting on each option separately. Mr. Rodriguez stated that he had inquired whether this was possible and was under the impression that the options would have to be voted on as one item. Mr. Jonas added that the City would be able to select which options would be included on their referendum. The Committee requested clarification on whether or not the options could be voted on individually.

**b. Federal Legislative Update and Possible Action**  
Presented by Carlos Contreras

Mr. Contreras noted the February 13, 2009 deadline to submit funding requests to Congressman Lamar Smith.

**i. Washington D.C. Trip**

Mr. Contreras noted that staff was hoping to schedule the trip for the last week of February, but that conflicted with Committee Members' schedules. He stated that it was necessary to go before the second week of March if they wanted to have an impact on the decisions being made. Councilmember Cibrian suggested selecting alternate councilmembers for the trip.

Mr. Contreras also noted that Vive San Antonio was scheduled for February 17, 2009.

**c. Federal Stimulus Package Discussion**  
Presented by Carlos Contreras

Mr. Contreras stated that on February 10, 2009, the Senate passed an amendment to the original Senate Stimulus Bill. He noted that a Conference Committee had been established to reconcile the differences between the House and Senate versions of the Bill. He added that earlier in the day, staff had been notified that an agreement had been reached on the amount of \$789.5 billion. He stated that details on spending versus tax relief had not been outlined.

Councilmember Rowe spoke of the Investment Committee Meeting in which he was informed that the 400-point market dip was indicative that the recession would last at least another quarter. Mr. Contreras noted that this was due to the public's perception of Bank bailouts.

**d. Grants Update**  
Presented by Sally Basurto

Ms. Basurto spoke of the Department of Energy Clean Cities Grant. She stated that it would convert, replace, or purchase over 150 vehicles running on gas and diesel with vehicles that run on propane or compressed natural gas. She added that the total program was worth \$850K and due at the end of February. She also noted that since 2006, the Federal Government had allotted local government a \$.50 per gallon rebate on propane vehicles and the City of San Antonio had received \$102K from that program.

**e. Interlocal Agreement Briefings**  
Presented by A.J. Rodriguez

Mr. Rodriguez stated that he had a meeting with Judge Wolff on Friday and staff was close to finalizing the three year agreement on library services. He added that he thought that they would be able to find some middle ground with the County on Animal Care Services from a funding perspective.

**4. Consideration of items for future meetings**

Councilmember McNeil stated that they would keep the Legislative Agenda, Grants, and Interlocal Agreements on the Committee's Agenda. It was noted that the next meeting would be on March 11, 2009.

**5. Executive Session**

Item not addressed.

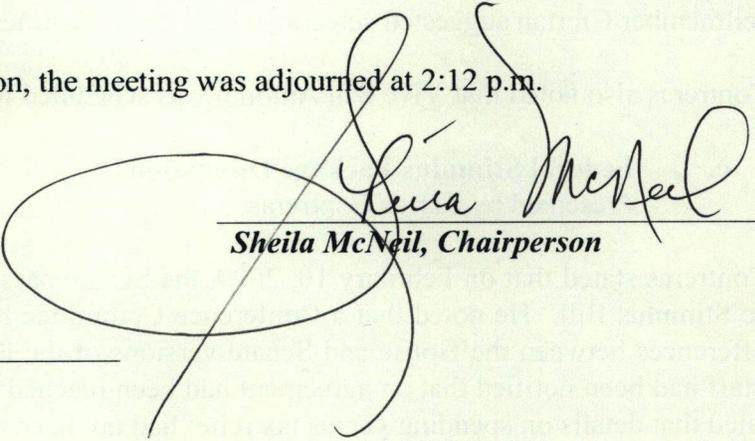
**6. Adjourn**

There being no further discussion, the meeting was adjourned at 2:12 p.m.

*Respectfully Submitted,*



*Mandy Milam*  
*Office of the City Clerk*



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*Sheila McNeil, Chairperson*