

**INTERGOVERNMENTAL RELATIONS COUNCIL
COMMITTEE
MEETING MINUTES**

WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 14, 2013

10:00 A.M.

MUNICIPAL PLAZA B ROOM

Members Present: Councilmember Cris Medina, Chair, *District 7*
Councilmember Shirley Gonzales, *District 5*
Councilmember Ray Lopez, *District 6*
Councilmember Ron Nirenberg, *District 8*
Councilmember Carlton Soules, *District 10*

Members Absent: None

Staff Present: Veronica Zertuche, *Deputy City Attorney*; Lisa Biediger, *Assistant City Attorney*; Carlos Contreras, *Assistant City Manager*; Jeff Coyle, *Director, Intergovernmental Relations*

Also Present: Vic Boyer, *President/CEO, San Antonio Mobility Coalition, Inc.*; Baltazar (Walter) Serna, *Attorney, Patton Boggs, LLP*; Marc Rodriguez, *The Offices of Marc A. Rodriguez*; Denice Trevino, *Office of the City Clerk*

Call to order

Chairman Medina called the meeting to order.

I. Approval of Minutes of the June 12, 2013 Intergovernmental Relations Council Committee Meeting

Councilmember Lopez moved to approve the Minutes of the June 12, 2013 Intergovernmental Relations Council Committee Meeting. Councilmember Gonzales seconded the motion. Motion carried unanimously by those present.

II. Briefing and Possible Action Items:

- i. 83rd State Legislative Session, 3rd Special Session Transportation Funding Briefing [Jeff Coyle, Intergovernmental Relations Director]

Jeff Coyle reported that the State Legislative Session ended last week with the passing of House Joint Resolution (HJR) 1, or the Transportation Funding Bill (Bill), which occurred during the Third Special Session of the Legislature. He noted that the Bill would allocate funding to the State Highway Fund each year based on oil and natural gas production tax revenues, which are estimated to be approximately \$1.2 billion dollars annually. He added that the Bill also requires the Texas Department of Transportation (TXDOT) to identify \$100 million dollars in savings. He noted that as a Constitutional Amendment, HJR 1 would require voter approval in November 2014. He stated that a similar Amendment for Water Infrastructure Funding would be subject to voter approval in November 2013. Mr. Coyle

indicated that Vic Boyer and the San Antonio Mobility Coalition (SAMCo) were very instrumental in achieving this resolution for the region.

Mr. Boyer indicated that SAMCo, Transportation Advocates of Texas, and other partner and affiliate groups focused on educating Legislators of the projected annual funding shortfall by TXDOT of \$4.0 billion dollars beginning in 2015. He indicated that this occurred because TXDOT Funding was based on various forms of debt for the last 10 years. He stated that currently there were a little over \$10 billion in unfunded highway projects. He stated that one group of Legislators proposed a new tax and another group of Legislators proposed the use of funds from other programs at the same level to address said shortfall. He stated that the Legislature instructed TXDOT to distribute funds by formula, with the amount of funding determined by the formula utilized, whether Maintenance, New Construction, or Metro Mobility Formulas. Mr. Boyer reviewed the estimated funds that would be generated by the application of each Formula. The funds for new construction are shared directly with the Bexar County Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO) and the funds for maintenance would be distributed to each district. He noted that Bexar County is part of a 14-County TXDOT District.

Mr. Coyle noted that the Former Chairman of this Committee sent a letter to the City's delegation urging passage of the Bill and stated that this had a very positive effect.

Chairman Medina asked of the next steps for the City in support of said Bill. Mr. Boyer stated that a State-Wide meeting would be held on August 28, 2013 and that he expects a more organized State Campaign would begin in January 2014.

Councilmember Lopez noted that the City would seek to involve the MPO in identifying projects and developing a comprehensive plan for the City should said Bill be approved. Mr. Boyer indicated that such an approach would put the City in a very competitive position. Councilmember Lopez proposed taking a multi-agency approach to develop a well-vetted plan. Mr. Boyer suggested that in addition to this, the City should provide funds to match State Funds.

Councilmember Soules asked of other initiatives that would be placed on the ballot for November 2013. Mr. Boyer stated that, to his knowledge, there were no other local or state initiatives on said ballot. Councilmember Soules asked of a deadline for inclusion of local initiatives on the ballot for November 2013. Mr. Coyle indicated that he would inquire if there was a deadline but does not think one exists. Councilmember Soules asked of the mechanism for collecting the \$10.00 Motor Vehicle Registration Fee. Mr. Coyle stated that Commissioner's Court would have to enact said fee and they have not done so. He added that said fee would be in addition to the existing Motor Vehicle Registration Fee. He stated that funds generated by the fee would be utilized exclusively in this region and would generate \$12 million annually.

Mr. Coyle reported that in June, John Barton, Deputy Director of TXDOT proposed to the Texas Transportation Commission a plan to remove certain Non-Controlled Access Highways from the State Highway System, shifting the responsibility of maintenance of said roads to local jurisdictions. He indicated that the roads identified serve more of a local purpose, such as Military Drive, Bandera, and Blanco Roads. He noted that the City has 134 miles worth of Non-Controlled Access Highways and maintenance of said roads would result

in an estimated \$14 million per year in additional costs. Mr. Coyle indicated that they immediately reached out to TXDOT and stated that he was attending a meeting with TXDOT and the Texas Municipal League to have an initial discussion of this issue on Thursday, August 15, 2013. He stated that he would provide a report on said meeting to the Committee. He provided the Committee with a Memo from Public Works detailing the approximate maintenance costs.

Councilmember Lopez asked if TXDOT had provided a list of Non-Controlled Access Highways that could potentially be turned over to local jurisdictions for maintenance. Mr. Coyle stated that they had not but expects that said list would be provided by TXDOT at the meeting on Thursday.

ii. Federal Appropriations Briefing [Jeff Coyle, Intergovernmental Relations Director]

Jeff Coyle reported that he and the Federal Team, along with Councilmember Lopez traveled to Washington, DC in July 2013 to meet with Three Federal Agencies and the General Services Administration (GSA) regarding the Federal Courthouse Project in San Antonio. Mr. Coyle stated that at issue is whether or not Congress appropriates funds for said Courthouse. He noted that the proposed Federal Courthouse would be built at the location of the former Police Headquarters and this area was turned over to the GSA in January 2013. Mr. Coyle stated that they spoke with the GSA about revising the contract to include language stating that if the appropriate funding was not provided by Congress by a certain date; said area would be returned to the City of San Antonio. He noted that the GSA expressed that this could serve to promote funding for the Courthouse but also expressed concern that this could jeopardize the project.

Mr. Coyle indicated that they met with the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) regarding the Urban Waters Partnership. He stated that a series of meetings with up to 13 Federal Agencies are scheduled later this month to review all water projects across the urban area to see what funding might exist within agency budgets.

Mr. Coyle noted that he and his team met with the Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) regarding the Pre-K 4 San Antonio (Pre-K4SA) Program and Early Childhood Education. He stated that HHS is monitoring the progress of the Pre-K4SA Program especially in the areas of Infrastructure, Eligibility, and Teacher Training. He stated that HHS communicated that there are several proposals by the President in his budget for new Early Childhood Education Initiatives, one of which would be funding from the Federal Government for Full-Day Pre-K. He noted that Texas would be eligible for about \$308 million in funding from said proposals. He indicated that HHS stressed that said initiatives were not dependant on Congressional Funding. He stated that Texas has not always applied for or accepted Federal Funding so the City would consider applying directly if the State chooses not to. He stated that the President has appointed Libby Doggett, wife of Senator Lloyd Doggett, to oversee Early Childhood Education Initiatives. He noted that meetings were held with Representatives Castro, Doggett, and Cuellar and with Senators Cornyn and Cruz in which the Courthouse, Urban Area Security Initiative (UASI) Funding Issue, and our continued desire to received Brownfields Funding were discussed.

Tom Downs, of Patton Boggs, LLP stated that Congress is 10 days into their summer recess and will reconvene on September 7, 2013. He noted that four of the 12 Annual Funding Bills have passed the House, while none of the Senate versions of those bills has been brought to the Senate Floor for consideration. He added that given this lack of movement on Appropriations, Congress is certain to pass a Continuing Resolution (CFR) after it reconvenes in September, in order to continue spending at current levels and to prevent a government shutdown after September 30, 2013. He added that it is likely that Congress will wrap up budget appropriations before the end of the calendar year. Mr. Downs reviewed the highlights of these Bills significant to the City's effort.

Mr. Coyle noted that the City had applied for the Community Oriented Policing Services (COPS) Program Grant for 10 Police Officers with funding provided in Fiscal Year 2013.

He indicated that the Financial Services Appropriations Bill which includes spending of \$16.96 billion by the House and \$23.03 billion by the Senate funds GSA Federal Buildings and new construction. He noted that this includes \$816 million dollars allocated for new construction by the Senate and \$275 million dollars allocated by the House.

Marc Rodriguez indicated that the cities of Nashville, Mobile, Savannah and San Antonio are in line for construction of courthouses, in that order. He noted that the San Antonio Federal Courthouse could be funded in Fiscal Year 2015.

Mr. Downs indicated that the Interior/Environment Appropriations Bill includes funding for the San Antonio Missions National Historical Park in the Senate Bill.

Councilmember Lopez asked of the T56 Request for Proposal (RFP). Mr. Coyle stated that Standard Arrow performs overhaul repairs to T56 engines at Port San Antonio. The Department of Defense has issued an RFP for same at Tinker Air Force Base in Oklahoma. He noted that the selection process is underway and a decision would be made in January 2014.

Mr. Coyle stated that the Interlocal Agreement with Bexar County was on the City Council Agenda this week. He indicated that the County has chosen to pick up their own stray animals and have purchased access to the City Kennels for strays that they pick up, capped at a set amount with a set amount charged for each animal. He indicated that they have contracted with a Third Party Vendor to perform Food Service Inspections. He noted that in response to a discussion at the last meeting with Councilmembers Chan and Soules regarding a tax the City charges for leased vehicles; he noted that a document addressing said issue had been distributed to the Committee.

Councilmember Soules noted that said tax creates a competitive disadvantage for dealers in the City. He stated that he would investigate whether an increase in sales tax subsequent to said tax being removed would offset this tax.

Mr. Coyle stated that an Emergency Service District located in the Extraterritorial Jurisdiction has petitioned the County to allow them to tax themselves in order to provide Emergency Services. State Law requires that once this occurs, said ESD must get permission from the City to incur debt at a certain level.

III. Consideration of items for future meetings:

Next Meeting Scheduled: September 11, 2013

- i. Military Affairs Update

IV. Adjourn

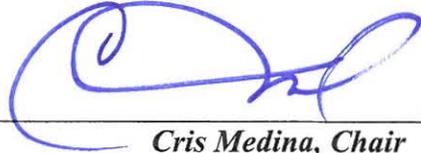
There being no further discussion, the meeting was adjourned at 11:08 a.m.

Respectfully Submitted,



Denice Trevino

Office of the City Clerk



Cris Medina, Chair