



City of San Marcos

630 East Hopkins
San Marcos, TX 78666

Meeting Minutes City Council

Tuesday, February 5, 2019

3:00 PM

City Hall Conference Room

630 E. Hopkins - Work Session

I. Call To Order

With a quorum present, the work session meeting of the San Marcos City Council was called to order by Mayor Hughson at 3:03 p.m. Tuesday, February 5, 2019 in the City Hall Conference Room, 630 E. Hopkins, San Marcos, Texas 78666.

II. Roll Call

Mayor Pro Tem Prewitt arrived shortly after roll call.

Present: 7 - Mayor Pro Tem Lisa Prewitt, Council Member Saul Gonzales, Council Member Melissa Derrick, Mayor Jane Hughson, Council Member Ed Mihalkanin, Council Member Joca Marquez and Council Member Mark Rockeymoore

PRESENTATIONS

1. Receive a Visioning Workshop recap presentation, and hold discussion, regarding the previously adopted Fiscal Year 2018-2019 Priorities and finalize Fiscal Year 2019-2020 Priorities, and provide direction to the City Manager.

Bert provided the council with a brief intro of the Fiscal Year 2019 Priorities and what Staff will do to finalize Fiscal Year 2020 Priorities.

Bert reviewed the presentation which outlined the following priorities:

1. Workforce Housing
2. Multi Modal Transportation
3. City Facilities
4. Workforce Development
5. Downtown Vitalization

Council Member Derrick asked about the status of the housing study. Mr. Lumbreras stated that the Housing study is underway and it will be coming back to council at a later date. Status updates are also available on the City's website quarterly.

Council Member Rockeymoore asked about the multi-modal transportation

strategy additions and removals. Mr. Lumbreras stated this shifted from a key priority in public transit to multi-modal transportation and this will be brought back for adoption at the next meeting.

Discussion was held regarding when the Council would see a timeline. Mr. Lumbreras stated that it would be coming later and built into the plan.

Mayor Hughson asked that we not lose track of Downtown Vitalization (B) III. Review and assess strategies for vacant and neglected buildings.

2. Receive a presentation and hold discussion on the Coordinated Transit Plan Phase II, and provide direction to Staff.

Mr. Lumbreras provided a brief update of Phase II of the Coordinated Transit Plan. He introduced Oscar Hairell and Pete Binion who presented the presentation.

Mr. Binion provided that CARTS will be transferring the direct recipient role to the City of San Marcos effective October 1, 2019. He provided that the fixed route and paratransit service will also be operating. CARTS also provides senior shopping routes. He provided that our fixed route service provide around 5000 riders, the paratransit riders have around 1000 riders and the senior shopper routes have around 350-400 per month. Texas State Bobcat bus system also operates in the City. He stated that this operates during Spring and Fall and a reduced schedule during the summer. There are about 40 service stops and they move around 25,000-30,000 riders per day.

The City and University continue their joint effort to create a Coordinated Transit Plan which enhances efficiency and accessibility by forming a seamless Federally Compliant Transit System for our community. Mr. Binion provided that the City operates approximately 20,000 hours of service and the University operates approximately 60,000 hours of service annually. This is a proposed total of 80,000 hours of transit service.

Mr. Binion reviewed what was previously directed by Council related to KA Associates' work and Phase I of the plan.

Mr. Binion reviewed the models that were considered:

- 1) Model One – Status Quo (Maintain separate transit system)
- 2) Model Two – City Contracts & Texas State University purchases from this contract.
- 3) Model Three- University Contracts & the City purchases from this contract

- 4) Model Four – City & University Issue joint request for proposals and contract separately while coordinating through an interlocal agreement.**
- 5) Model Five – Formal transit authority to operate a combined transit system.**

Model Two achieves the Vision of a Seamless Transit System. The City would Issue the request for proposals, there would be One Federally Compliant Contract and System with a Single Third Party Provider, and an Interlocal Agreement would be created to Coordinate Operations.

Model Four is the Recommended Model and it does achieve the Vision of a Seamless Transit System. With this model, the City and University would Issue Joint request for proposals, there would be two Federally compliant contracts and systems with a single third-party provider, and Interlocal agreement would be created to coordinate operations and funding.

Mr. Binion reviewed how the outcomes of Model Four compare to the Council's Strategic Outcomes:

- Coordinate the City and University Transit Systems**
- Provide Transit Services with Seamless Access for All**
- Ensure Federal Compliance**
- Increase Federal and State Grant Funding**
- Recognize Economy of Scale Cost Savings**
- Provide Efficient Coordinated Bus Routes**

Mr. Binion reviewed the benefits:

- A Federally Compliant Coordinated Transit System**
 - Potential Increase in Federal Transit Administration Competitive Funding**
- FTA 5307 Small Transit Intensive City (STIC) Program**
- FTA 5339 Bus & Bus Facilities Infrastructure Investment Program**
 - Potential Increase in State Urban Area Formula Funding**
- Shared Planning of Transit Operations and Funding**
- Minimize Route Duplication and Expand Access**
- Provides Opportunity for Regional Transit Services**
- Improved Data Collection and Reporting**
- Potential for Single Third Party Contractor for both Systems**

Discussion was held regarding the best times to run routes.

Discussion was held regarding flexibility being available to still provide charter services with non-federally procured busses vs. with federally procured busses.

Mr. Binion provided that we could potentially offer interurban transit from San Marcos to Austin similar to what CARTS does now.

Mr. Binion provided the challenges:

- **Federal Compliance Requirements**
 - **Procurement**
 - **American with Disabilities Act**
 - **Civil Rights**
- **Management & Oversight**
- **Potential Cost Increases**
- **Chartered Services**

Staff will look at all hours of service and make sure we protect those that need the service the most.

Mr. Binion reviewed the next steps:

- **Finalize and Issue Joint Request For Proposals**
 - **Evaluate Two Federally Compliant Systems with a Single Third Party Contractor**
 - **Determine Potential Economy of Scale Savings**
 - **Assess New Marketing and Communications**
- **Draft and Approve Interlocal Agreements**
 - **Coordinated Fixed Routes and Paratransit Services**
 - **Cost-Sharing**
 - **Federal & State Grant Funds**

Mr. Binion reviewed the timeline and stated that a letter will be sent from the City Manager's office this month to TXDot to become the Direct Recipient.

Mayor asked how much it will cost and whether students will continue to pay the bus fee. Mr. Hairell stated that funding must reside under state law for utilization and our system would be subsidized by state and federal funding.

Mr. Eric Algoe, Vice President of Finance at Texas State University, provided that the fee structure would not change so the student bus fee would remain for students. He stated that state law allows the University to charge these fees and they are not looking to obtain any additional funds from this project, they only want to improve public transit for the community as a whole.

Discussion was held regarding federally submitted fixed routes and the approval process.

Council asked that the list of agencies that would be potential resources be placed on the message board.

Discussion was held regarding the differences between model 2 and model 4. Mr. Binion explained that model 4 gives us a little more fiscal control. Model 2 places a lot of the risk and cost on the City. No direction was provided by Council on which model to go with.

III. Adjournment.

Mayor Hughson adjourned the work session of the San Marcos City Council at 4:32 p.m.

Jamie Lee Case, TRMC, City Clerk

Jane Hughson, Mayor