

Kendall County – Boerne – Fair Oaks Transportation Committee Minutes

**18 January 2022
2:00 – 3:19 p.m.**

In Attendance:

Bob Manning, Northern Hendricks, Rich Sena, Bitsy Pratt, Marcus Garcia, Jeff Carroll, Rankin D’Spain, Steve Sharma, Ben Eldredge, Bryce Boddie, Bobby Balli, and Gary Louie.

Not in Attendance:

Don Durden, Del Eulberg, Henry Acosta, John Kight, Jonah Evans, Josh Limmer, Kim Blohm, Stephen Zoeller, and Tim Bannwolf.

Item 1: OPENING REMARKS

Bob Manning calls the meeting to order at 2:00 p.m. He explains that Don Durden contacted him earlier that day and said he wasn’t feeling well. Out of an abundance of caution, he will not be attending today. Del Eulberg is dealing with a family medical situation as well, so he will not be attending. Tim Bannwolf had a legal thing to tend to and will also not be in attendance.

Manning opens the floor to any committee member who has comments as the meeting begins.

Ben Eldredge notes that the Kendall County Trails Subcommittee meetings have commenced a couple times now, and there have been productive conversations. He says they are being careful not to get ahead of the Transportation Committee or put anything into the public realm that would not actually be something of consideration.

Manning directs the room to one of the agenda items for this meeting, saying that the goal is to wrap up the Committee’s meetings hopefully by mid-year. That means there are only 12 meetings left, including this one, and he wants everyone to look at the schedule they have come up with to hopefully accomplish that timeline. As a list of projects rolls out, he asks that the local media keep in mind that the list will not necessarily contain

projects that the Committee expects the City to take seriously. They are still very much in the discussion and drafting stage.

Bitsy Pratt asks for an update on the StreetLight data. Jeff Carroll says he and Commissioner Durden have a phone call with the StreetLight folks this upcoming Thursday. He also says that the City of Boerne has subscribed to another program, which he says he and the Assistant City Manager have been looking at their software versus the City's physical street counts to gain some trust with that software as well.

Eldredge asks about what the timeline would be regarding hiring a consultant to create traffic models for potential solutions. Carroll replies and says that there is a date to look at 15 intersections, but it will all be weather dependent.

Item 2: CONSIDER APPROVAL OF MINUTES OF DECEMBER 21, 2021 AND JANUARY 4, 2022

Manning opens the floor for consideration of the minutes for December 21, 2021. Bobby Balli makes a motion to approve and Rich Sena Seconded the motion. There are no objections, and the minutes are approved and adopted.

Item 3: PUBLIC COMMENT

Manning opens the floor for the first opportunity for public comment.

Wanda McCarthy approaches the lectern, saying that she has approached the Committee several times with alternative suggestions to avoid a bypass being built over ecologically sensitive areas. At a previous meeting, she submitted 2 maps; the second map she wishes to rescind as the route she suggested appears to cut through the Cibolo Nature Center. Looking at her first map with suggested ROW that is already owned by the City, she suggests an expansion of the intersection at Herff and Highway 46 for a roadbed correction to help with the flow of traffic and will not hurt the water that we drink.

Lance Kyle approaches the lectern next. He mentions a comment that was made at a previous Transportation Meeting about green space development, asking why they aren't building roads in the green spaces if they are developing anyway? He discusses Lemon Creek Ranch, which

Mayor Maxton discussed in his presentation at the last Committee meeting. He expresses his concerns about foundation cracking within neighborhoods that are being developed.

Alex Rudd approaches the lectern next. She discusses the issue of air quality in San Antonio and its surrounding area, including Kendall County. San Antonio's ozone pollution was given an "F" in 2019 according to the American Lung Association report. The issue of air quality directly affects many factors regarding health and transportation, and it could become very expensive. She says Kendall County is not exempt from dealing with this issue simply because there is a border between it and Bexar County.

Item 4: DISCUSS ACQUIRING SYNCHRO MODELS OF HERFF ROAD AND RALPH FAIR ROAD AT IH-10

This is a tag-on to the StreetLight Data that they were introduced to a few meetings ago. There is a knowledgeable Committee Member who knows a lot about this data—Steve Sharma.

Sharma takes the floor. Synchro is a traffic simulation model. You get traffic counts, input signal timings, and get a feel for the operations of an intersection. Create an existing model, see how cars stack up, and apply a growth factor to see operations in the future. He looked at Herff Road, River Road, 3351, and I-10. He discusses some examples at Highway 3351 and Old Fredericksburg Road. Balli makes some comments about car stacking at Camp Stanley as well.

Manning asks the Committee what the general interest is in seeing a model of some of this information. Marcus Garcia notes that he thinks it plays an important role. There are no objections to his comments from the Committee, and Manning asks Sharma if he would bring something from these models to present to the Committee. Carroll also says he has something things he can share and add to it as well.

Item 5: DISCUSS COMPLETION OF THE REPORT AND RECOMMENDATIONS

Manning moves on to the next agenda item, which he previously mentioned in the opening remarks. He hands out a spreadsheet to everyone in the room, saying that this is the timeline that should help the Committee meet their charge by mid-2022. He is looking for some details to surround this

timeline. What will it take to conclude with their phase of the work? There are three major categories: Short-Range Recommendations, Long-Range Recommendations, and Policy Recommendations.

He also explains that the City of Boerne is intending to put forth a bond election next November. They want the Committee to prioritize and select projects to include in that bond election. He says it is obvious those will most likely come from short-term recommendations. Therefore, Manning says he wanted to focus on bike and pedestrian recommendations for this matter so that the City can begin their deliberations.

Manning asks if Northern Hendricks will give an update on where they are in reviewing the public comments from the crowdsourcing materials. Hendricks says they have not yet touched what they would consider “controversial projects.” She says she cannot predict what amount of time those project suggestions will take. There is some discussion on how those projects and suggestions will be scored among the Committee when the time comes. Pratt suggests having some of the short-term information available for Sharma to include in the Synchro modeling. She says the Projects Subcommittee had about 10-15 projects that could use some immediate attention that have been problematic for 20 years or so. Some more discussion between Pratt and Sharma ensues about modeling intersections in Synchro.

Sena echoes Pratt by saying that the Projects Subcommittee list wouldn't include an extensive list for the City's consideration because not all their project recommendations would fall within the City's jurisdiction anyway. Manning notes that if they would like the City to look at putting in a trails system, that could be something that takes some time.

Balli notes that there could be opportunities outside the City that would allow funding to come from other sources but would still be beneficial for the community. Eldredge says that makes sense because the City will most likely vet their decisions for the projects on the suggestion list anyway. More conversation ensues, and Manning discusses cost estimates, funding, and the prioritization of projects.

Sharma discusses some other criteria and factors that can be included in the Synchro modeling.

Carroll says the City is looking at wrapping up the flood planning. The City is looking to incorporate that information on the Regional Master Plan. He says that AAMPO has plans for up to 20 years with projects on them. Some are funded, some are not funded, but the hope is to get a list of projects to be put on their list to receive funding.

Manning suggests that the Committee needs a better handle on the long-term projects for recommendation. He says he wants to have a better handle on large project considerations by March.

Eldredge moves on to the Policy Recommendations section, saying that Tim Bannwolf had asked him to draft a statement about preserving the Hill Country character. Pratt offers to help with that.

Manning discusses the list of pros and cons of taking over Main Street. He wants everyone to have a good understanding of what that would mean for the community.

Balli suggests a policy recommendation about access management, and some conversation ensues regarding what a drafted statement would entail between him, Pratt, and Manning. Balli explains that this policy would include regulations about center turn lanes, medians, driveway access, etc. Some conversation then ensues regarding multi-modal transportation and how to address those issues within the recommendations as well. Balli also says that access management could fall under the umbrella of preserving the Hill Country character. Eldredge says that it's all context sensitive—sometimes they will need to prioritize preserving ecologically sensitive areas within their area.

Item 6: PUBLIC COMMENT

Manning opens the floor once more for the second opportunity for public comment.

Tom Adlestein approaches the lectern and discusses topic of modeling traffic and his concerns about schools and their traffic. He wonders if they can throw in some of the school times and traffic issues in their modeling that they plan to do. Helping with school traffic would help with a lot of the inside traffic issues in Boerne.

Eldredge responds and says there is interest in getting kids off the buses, getting them to use bikes and to walk to get some traffic off the roads. Some conversation ensues once more about interconnectivity between neighborhoods.

Chris Taylor approaches the lectern next. He explains that he has had experience working as a consultant with committees in narrowing down data and information. He offers up his services to the Committee if they would like help in narrowing down the projects and data they have gathered for free.

Alex Rudd approaches the lectern again saying that she noted an item on the agenda that mentions residential density with target completion in April. She wonders what this item pertains to. She thinks if the density isn't controlled, the area will always have traffic problems.

Pratt responds and says that the County has limited ability to constrain density. She mentions the City's efforts with the new UDC and how that has been put in place to help give relief for this kind of issue. The Committee's stance on the matter is to support the need for density restrictions, but there is not much they could do to facilitate that except to officially write their support for it. Eldredge also discusses the County's strategic plan and the components of that that can help with some of those efforts.

Lance Kyle is up next. He says that a lot of people like to throw the County under the bus and their limitations, but to him it seems like most of the high-density neighborhoods are within the City limits. He thinks the UDC and other efforts that the City is making against the density issues need to be addressed again. He also asks if the keeper of the Committee's draft report could send a copy to Hendricks to post on the website.

Manning responds to Lance's first set of comments saying that the issue of where to build housing is an eternal debate. He empathizes with Kyle and his complaint about housing density in the City limits.

Wanda McCarthy approaches the lectern again. She adds that the recommendation she made for the raised roadbed is the only one that has limited access. There is no additional development that would take place that was not already on the docket to happen.

Sena just adds that he is thankful for the timeline that has been put out for getting these projects out there for recommendation.

Item 7: ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourns at 3:19 p.m.