



MAYOR AND COUNCIL Study Session Minutes

Approved by Mayor and Council
on August 8, 2023.

Date of Meeting: November 14, 2022

Mayor Romero called the Study Session to order at 12:06 P.M. in the Mayor and Council Chambers, City Hall Tower, Tucson, Arizona.

OFFICIAL MEMBERS

PRESENT:

Mayor Regina Romero
Vice Mayor Lane Santa Cruz (Ward 1)
Council Member Paul Cunningham (Ward 2) (arrived at 12:19 p.m.)
Council Member Kevin Dahl (Ward 3)
Council Member Nikki Lee (Ward 4)
Council Member Richard G. Fimbres (Ward 5) (electronic attendance)
Council Member Steve Kozachik (Ward 6)

OFFICIAL MEMBERS

ABSENT/EXCUSED: None

STAFF:

Michael J. Ortega, City Manager
Michael Rankin, City Attorney
Suzanne Mesich, City Clerk

Mayor Romero announced that Council Member Fimbres would be participating electronically through Microsoft TEAMS.

1. **Executive Session – City of Tucson v. 4023 Investments Inc., et al., Pima County Superior Court Case No. C20205700 (City Wide) SS/NOV14-22-202**
3. **Executive Session – Consideration of Additional Colorado River System Conservation Efforts through 2025 (City Wide and Outside City) SS/NOV14-22-207**

(This item was taken out of order.)

It was moved by Council Member Fimbres, duly seconded, and carried by a voice vote of 6 to 0 (Council Member Cunningham absent/excused), to enter into Executive Session for Items 1 and 3 as noticed in the agenda.

RECESS: 12:07 p.m.

RECONVENE: 1:13 p.m.

MAYOR & COUNCIL: All present (except Vice Mayor Santa Cruz)

Executive Session was held from 12:07 p.m. to 1:01 p.m.

(Note: Council Member Cunningham arrived at 12:19 p.m.)

It was moved by Council Member Lee, duly seconded, and carried by a voice vote of 6 to 0 (Vice Mayor Santa Cruz absent/excused), to return to open session.

2. Mayor and Council Direction Regarding Executive Session – City of Tucson v. 4023 Investments Inc. et al., Pima County Superior Court Case No. C20205700 (City Wide) SS/NOV14-22-203

It was moved by Council Member Kozachik, duly seconded, and carried by a voice vote of 6 to 0 (Vice Mayor Santa Cruz absent/excused), to direct staff to proceed as discussed in executive session to include authorizing the resolution of the property acquisition case in connection with the RTA, Grant Road Project under the terms that were discussed in executive session.

3. Executive Session – Consideration of Additional Colorado River System Conservation Efforts through 2025 (City Wide and Outside City) SS/NOV14-22-207

(This item was taken out of order and considered after Item #1.)

4. Mayor and Council Direction Regarding Executive Session – Consideration of Additional Colorado River System Conservation Efforts through 2025 (City Wide and Outside City) SS/NOV14-22-208

(Note: Vice Mayor Santa Cruz returned at 1:14 p.m.)

Mr. Rankin requested a motion to move that the Mayor and Council authorize the City Manager and staff to submit a proposal to the Bureau of Reclamation for additional System Conservation by the City of Tucson in order to help address the Colorado River Shortage Issues. The authorization includes submitting a proposal on or about November 21, that is consistent with the terms discussed in Executive Session. City staff is directed to return to the Mayor and Council with the status of negotiations before any final agreement and obtain authorization for the Mayor and City Manager to execute any and all final system conservation agreements.

It was moved by Council Member Kozachik, duly seconded, and carried by a voice vote of 7 to 0, to proceed as requested by the City Attorney.

5. City Manager's Report and Update on COVID-19, Monkeypox Virus, Ongoing City and County Mitigation Measures; Funding and Appropriations; and Related Legal Matters (City Wide) SS/NOV14-22-204

Introductory comments were provided by Michael J. Ortega, City Manager. He reiterated that COVID-19 community levels remained low. Data for new cases acted as an early warning indicator of potential increases in health systems. In the event of a COVID-19 surge, the Pima County Health Department will further track percent positivity of reported COVID-19 cases in Pima County. He said everyone must remain vigilant, make sure if they are indoors or around a lot of people that masks are worn, and hands are being washed. He reminded everyone to take the same precautions learned on how to remain healthy, including vaccine boosters, which were now available for children ages five to eleven. He stated there were resources available for families and seniors to get booster shots and testing to remain healthy.

No formal action was taken.

6. Fiscal Year (FY) 2021/2022 Unaudited Year-End Results and FY 2022/2023 Projections and Employee Compensation (City Wide) SS/NOV14-22-211

Introductory comments were provided by Michael J. Ortega, City Manager. He said this was somewhat of an annual update on the unaudited financials during this time. He stated he felt it was a good time to have a conversation and review of the unaudited financials for the five-year projections included in the investment plan. He said there were a variety of things they were watched closely and thought it would be of value to walk the Mayor and Council through those items.

Anna Rosenberry, Assistant City Manager / Chief Financial Officer, said as they were wrapping up fiscal year FY21-22, the financial report was looking good. She said general fund revenues were strong and had exceeded the adopted budget by \$62 million which was a significant amount of money, particularly tax revenues which made up \$50 million of that \$62 million. She said on page two of the memo there were detailed items given to the Mayor and Council showing all the different areas of strong tax collections, primarily the sales tax, which saw collections of \$22 million over the initial budget projections as the transient occupancy tax came in at \$10 million over the adopted budget amounts. Both of those conditions, she said she could see it would be strong as the City recovered from the pandemic situation.

Ms. Rosenberry stated on the expenditure side, the good news continued. They spent less than the adopted budget amount. The expenditures came in \$7 million less than what was approved in that spending plan, the most significant single source was the Pima County Jail charges. They saw almost two and a half to a \$1 million than what was budgeted and only about half of what was projected.

Mr. Ortega quantified it was brought to his attention by Jan Leshner, County Administrator, that the jail census was coming back up and that meant that those costs

were probably going to go up as well, which conversations were ongoing. Therefore, he said he had some thoughts and ideas regarding the investment plan, which was to take the fund balance, coupled with the increases in the fund balance on an annual basis and develop a game plan for expanding on a variety of needs. He said he thought the process was very cautious during the budget to remind everyone that the city had more needs than the money in the bank. He said it was a matter of being very conscious and deliberate in the way they were spending those dollars. He said he wanted to make sure the Mayor and Council were comfortable in the adjustments given as part of all the expenses that had been projected and as part of the budget recommendations regarding compensation.

Mr. Ortega stated they had done an analysis on a variety of different fronts, addressing the technical areas which they were still struggling with and continued to be a challenge, but they were making some strides. He also said in the materials, there were three specific areas he wanted to outline for the Mayor and Council, one was regarding the Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) for the Tucson Firefighter Association (TFFA), which the cost was between \$2 to \$3 million for this year and the next year, and those dollars were added to the budget to address paramedic pay which was behind in the market and would bring them more commensurate. He alleged it did not address every single market issue on the fire service side, but there was some progress being made.

Mr. Ortega stated the second item was regarding police officer's pay. He said Phoenix had announced a large increase for their officers and other commissioned officers and the City's MOU with the labor union for the Tucson Police Officers Association (TPOA) outline the 90% of Phoenix's pay and to stay competitive that cost was in the vicinity of about \$30 million annually. He announced that he met with the Chief Kasmar to see how they could remain competitive in the region. He said his recommendation ultimately was to look at incrementally remaining competitive in the region.

Mr. Ortega said the other item on the table was that he was recommending a 2% adjustment which would cost about \$2 million this year and \$4 million for next year because this was for six months. With regards to the questions about the 3% and the red circled employees, he mentioned that he had spoken with the city attorney regarding the change in language and would come back to the Mayor and Council with a recommendation for changing the language. As it stood right now the current language did not allow the city to pay outside of the way that they had structured it in terms of base salary adjustments without going through some gyrations. He said they would come back with some recommendations in terms of how to address this issue so that there were no questions.

Mr. Ortega said the last thing was regarding equipment operators, they had been working very closely with them to develop a tier system whereby an individual could come into the city based on qualifications and receive promotions or additional dollars within the same classification and get paid more for the different types of equipment that they would learn to use and certified in.

Mr. Ortega stated reviewed the spreadsheets for the five-year plan beginning on July 1st. He said the plan was a really a good thing because it gave them a snapshot, as there were a lot of unknowns, and the city had a very solid financial position by keeping a watch within the next few months on the economy and city revenues as they began to craft the budget for FY23/24. He said numbers might be tweaked when they came back to the Mayor and Council with those recommendations to have a balanced budget in FY23/24 and asked for direction regarding TPOA and TFFA.

Discussion ensued. Comments were made by Mayor Romero, Vice Mayor Santa Cruz, and Council Members Fimbres, Lee, Dahl and Kozachik regarding adjusted market rate for public safety and the rest of the workforce, recruitment, the on-going budget supplementals, five-year budget projections and employee compensation.

It was moved by Council Member Dahl, duly seconded and carried by a voice vote of 7 to 0, to direct staff to go with the City Manager's recommendation and prepare for continued conversations for the following year.

Mayor Romero stated she wanted to ensure that they move as quickly as they possibly can with the City Manager's recommendation, so it could take effect as quickly as possible, as quickly as the beginning of January, if not sooner. They also must make sure they're looking at finances, the economy, and then moving forward with whatever else was needed to move forward.

Mr. Ortega clarified that the motion would commit them to the \$5.2 million this year for police officer compensation which had been projected to include pension costs and overtime cost.

7. Mayor and Council Discussion and Direction Relating to "Tucson Resilient Together," the Climate Action and Adaptation Plan (City Wide) SS/NOV14-22-206

Introductory comments were made by Mayor Romero. She stated she had requested an update for her colleagues to add their voices to the discussion. She said she felt that this action plan, would give the City of Tucson the steps to move forward in applying/securing federal funds. She said the City of Tucson was taking incredible strides on climate action with their work on Electric Vehicles (EV) Readiness and EV Green Infrastructure Water Policy, and the one million trees initiative. She said she believed that Tucson was the action climate leader in Arizona and based on the work that had been done with Mayors across the country, she felt the City was positioned to be a leader across the country.

Information was provided by Tim Thomure, Assistant City Manager, who fielded and answered questions. He stated that the Tucson Resilient Together Climate Action Plan was under development but they were working diligently the past couple of months and since their last update, they were conducting Public Workshop #2 that was co-led by representatives from Community Partners and feedback was received by people that had been part of the planning process and members of groups who were disenfranchised or

underrepresented and amongst those groups were Paisanos Unidos, Arizona Youth Climate Coalition, Local First Arizona, Southside Worker Center, International Indian Treaty Council, San Xavier Co-op Farm, and National Association for the Advancement of Colored People (NAACP) Tucson Branch. He asked Kate Saunders, Living Streets Alliance, to go into more depth about of the nature of the conversation with the Community partners.

Kate Saunders, Living Streets Alliance, discussed community engagement and how it had been impacting the community, Living Streets Alliance's partnership with the City of Tucson, and a series of workshops in two phases and the goal was to bring Mayor and Council a plan for action and with prioritization and an understanding of the investments that would be required and their benefits for the cost benefit analysis of each action.

Mr. Thomure added was while this was in an engagement process, it had been founded on a basis of building trust. Many of these folks were underrepresented, not through no fault of their own, but often by past harms from the city or other governmental entities and this approach was very mindful of that history and building as Kate reminded them of these frequently at the speed of trust, such that it could be earnest and meaningful dialogue on these issues.

Mr. Thomure said they would have a revised draft of the narrative for public review soon. He said there were some folks who understood that the adoption of the Ordinance was scheduled for December 20th. He said those materials would be available to the public at least one week prior to the meeting, but it was staff's intent was to get something out outside of the agenda process, through the climate hub for people to see it and be able to engage with the material sooner. He said they were still reviewing the cost benefit analysis from the economic analysis that was done and mentioned that the goal was to bring to the Mayor and Council a plan that was a framework for action, prioritization and an understanding of the investments that would be required and the cost benefit analysis of each action.

Council Member Dahl stated that the current impacts of climate change were severe; as greenhouse gases continued to heat the earth's climate. He said the Climate Action Plan that was developed, with the community's input, giving Tucsonans credit, provided a framework for their response to the existential threat of climate change. He stated it was going to take determination and funding to reduce emissions which was contributing to the problem and at the same time they wanted to mitigate and adapt to what was happening in the community. He said they needed to make sure Tucson's vulnerable residents could survive both economically and literally, the dramatic heat and drought that climate change was bringing into the region and would continue to bring larger measures.

Vice Mayor Santa Cruz spoke about the City's parking policies, the number of parking spaces available both free and private, heat island effect, pollution, flooding and improving walkability, biking and affordability. She also spoke about refrigerants, greenhouse gases.

Council Member Kozachik asked about the community wide organics collection. He said the City was the primary hauler, and if they were doing organics curbside, they needed to also consider multi stream curbside, like paper, plastics, organics, aluminum. But who were these other haulers or what were these other haulers saying and what was the level of conversation that were having with the City.

Mr. Thomure stated the strategy itself could certainly evolve from where it stood today, ultimately to where it would come to the Mayor and Council for action, or adoption of a specific program. The organics hauling occurred in a number of ways and they had, under their zero-waste road map that was a concurrent study and becoming imminent with a more detailed look at options for whether it was a multi stream curbside collection or do they invest in a materials recovery facility that handled multiple inputs to it regardless of their source which was one element of that strategy. He said the other source was from organics, fat soils used from grease that could be sourced from restaurants or other actions that create organic materials, and other communities that were do it kind of on an end user bring it to the household head of this waste or other locations that could create different programs to divert that into energy and there was still a lot to be figured out comprehensively.

Council Member Fimbres asked about being carbon neutral by 2030 and was that a reachable goal. He also asked if families working multiple jobs to make ends meet and stay at home seniors making \$750 a month for this plan, was that equitable and fair.

Mr. Thomure stated there were two primary goals in the plan. One was the carbon neutrality by 2030 for city operations which was an achievable goal, and it would require an investment and action which was feasible for the goal of 2045. He said, as far as the plan being equitable and fair, that was a question that had few layers to it. He said the City already had some existing low-income assistance programs, especially in the water space, but also in the solid waste space and in other access to amenities or and to access to activities like Parks and Recreation transit, things of that nature. Part of the implementation of a climate action plan was to assure that additional assistance was provided through local funds or federal funding or programs. That was very much in alignment with the pursuit of federal funding in order to fund assistance programs or investment programs that the city would make, that equity centered focus and making sure that those were that have been historically disenfranchised were the ones that benefit most because they were the ones most at risk. So, the hope would be, or the intent would be that it was not necessarily coming out of the pocketbooks of those that were struggling with affordability, but they would be as a community by protecting, preserving, preventing them from harm by the way of investment in the climate action plan itself.

Discussion continued; no formal action was taken.

RECESS: 2:46 p.m.

RECONVENE: 3:07 p.m.

MAYOR & COUNCIL: All present

STAFF: All present

8. Mayor and Council Discussion and Direction Relating to Voter-Approved Infrastructure Investment Programs including Propositions 409, 101, 407, and 411 (City Wide) SS/NOV14-22-210

Introductory comments were provided by Michael J. Ortega, City Manager regarding appointing the 411 Oversight Commission as they were getting to a point where they wanted to start construction on projects in January and February.

Information and presentation were provided by Timothy Thomure, Assistant City Clerk, Sam Credio, Director of Transportation and Mobility, Lara Hamwey, Director of Parks, and Recreation, who fielded and answered questions.

Mr. Thomure stated the update provided was on propositions 409, 101, 407, and 411 and the story of Tucson's investments in infrastructure and the Mayor and Council's leadership on acknowledging the need for reinvestment on infrastructure and it was a story of the trust of citizens.

Sam Credio, Department of Transportation and Mobility Director, stated the goal was to include the preservation and improvement of local and arterial streets. He said the actual taxes collected were \$125 million. They were currently through about almost 500 lane miles to date, and they projected that the outcome would ultimately be 940 lane miles, as they saw on the slide on the before and after pictures, that were the most telling in neighborhoods and arterial streets, what they look like before Proposition 101 and then following the City's treatments.

Mr. Thomure stated he would give the update for Terry Gillelan regarding the Safer City Components. He said taxes collected under Prop 101 toward the Safer City Components was \$187 million which exceeded what was originally anticipated. He stated this included the purchasing of equipment, safety equipment, materials and rolling stock and investments in some of our fire, police, and public safety training and academy facilities. He said there was lot of the work under Safer City that had been completed, especially purchasing of police patrol vehicles, ballistic vests, fire apparatus, turn out gear and a number of other public safety need.

Mr. Thomure said it was important to note regarding the turn out gear for a moment, because in many cases, they were not always able to provide multiple sets of turn out gear or even up to date turn out gear, and that made a big difference for firefighters when they had the right equipment and could be safer going into their occupations. He commented that as they were able to hire additional firefighters and bring the numbers up that investment in turn out gear had been critical to that operation. In addition, there were ten fire stations remodeled and had commissioned fire station 8 which was just recently rebuilt, but still in the process of delivering the two new police station remodels. And two more projects had already completed that had significant upgrades to our Public Safety Training Academy (PSTA). He stated the PSTA served both our police and fire

functions, and it trained other jurisdictions, which was a wonderful facility but did need some tender loving care and Prop 101 delivered that.

Discussion ensued.

Lara Hamwey, Parks and Recreation Department Director, stated the goal was to address deferred maintenance and deliver new and updated amenities at parks and recreation facilities across the city so the bond allocation towards that was \$152 million and that deferred maintenance came in a lot of different ways, from resurfacing sport courts, decks of pools, shells of pools, etc. She said it was all about reinvesting back in amenities they currently had so they could extend their life cycle and delivering new and enhanced recreation opportunities that came through the splash pads and adding sports lighting, which would then increase the use of sports fields into the evening time. She said they had 13 projects currently in permitting and a lot of them were delivering new sports fields and new recreation amenities that did not currently exist. She said they could see what they were actually delivering at the moment and had completed 82 out of 295 projects that were listed as part of the Prop 407 Great Parks program.

Mr. Credio spoke about the Strong Connections piece stating that their goal was to build out the Bicycle Blvd master plan, a complete greenway, and sidewalks, add Street lighting, shared use paths to support a multimodal low stress transportation network. Their bond allocation was \$72.2 million, and their achievements include seven bicycle boulevards in construction, most of which were substantially complete and three pedestrian safety and walkability projects were currently in design.

Mr. Credio said that five more bicycle boulevards and design, as well as two green ways that were currently in design and some of these photos showed the great work that was being done with the Tucson delivers strong connections piece. And so now he had the honor to introduce the Proposition 411 Tucson delivers your street, your safety program this past in May 2022 with a margin of just over 73%. They were projecting to collect approximately \$740 million over the life of the 10-year program and our goals with this program was to improve every neighborhood street in Tucson, which was 80% of the funding and then with the remaining 20% improving safety elements within the city.

Mr. Thomure stated this commitment to every neighborhood street in Tucson was something this Mayor and Council felt strongly about, and they needed to make sure that they were reaching the full community and addressing their deferred maintenance across the full system, but the 20% for safety was clearly acknowledged and that our streets were not as safe as they need to be, and our ability to move people by bicycle, by on foot and by other modes was not it and it needed improvement and fundamentally investment in those elements as were in order to be the safe city that we would strive to be.

Mr. Thomure said Prop 411 did not end with the half cent sales tax over 10 years and those two programs. There were additional investments that the Mayor and Council committed the city to doing by using general fund balance through the investment plan. And so even though they had a spirited discussion earlier today about the investment plan

about our budget, these two annual investments over the next five years were not subject to being to being modified and those commitments that were made in the truth and taxation when they put the Prop 411 on the ballot. So, the city is fully committed to public safety improvements to the tune of \$18 million annually and this was one of the reasons why when the Prop 101 tax was before it was sunset and they had renewed it in the form of Prop 411 could go all in on roads and safety because they had this general fund allocation toward addressing additional public safety needs and the Fire Chief, Police Chief, and the Director of our Public Safety Communications departments were working collaboratively with the City Manager's Office to allocate funding on an annual basis and make sure they were delivering the highest priority items over the next five years.

Mr. Thomure said that Prop for 411 did a great job of addressing our neighborhood streets and through the RTA and eventually an RTA's next consideration. The major thoroughfares have had would have a funding source, but our collector streets, the Tucson boulevards did not have a dedicated funding source, thus Mayor and Council allocated \$4 million per year from the general fund and plus about \$11 million a year from the Highway User Revenue Fund for \$15 million annually towards the Collector Street program over the five years, this would not only keep our Collector Street Network from deteriorating, but it would be rebuilding and enhancing the Collector Street Network, as he could not say that in the five years all of that work would be done but it would be a funding source over a five year period to really significantly improve the Collector Street Program, while they were delivering on all promises.

Mr. Thomure said under Prop 407 the continued project delivery, engaging with the citizens and customers regarding the Reed Park Master Plan and with a number of things that were active in the community still needed to be determine when and where going to be ready to make that next bond issuance, which was some kind of magical chemistry between when were ready for the funding and when the markets ready for them to go to market and so they would be in continuous discussions with Mayor and Council about when do they make that call. He went on about Prop. 411 and the two related programs to collector streets and the public safety as a manager mentioned, it was important that they established at independent Oversight and Accountability Commission which would oversee the 80% component the existing Complete Streets Coordinating Council was already established and operating to keep an eye on the 20% but needed to get the 80% money moving after the first of the year to begin that project delivery.

Mr. Thomure said the other impacts in the community was the groundbreaking of Fire Station #9 in 2021 and the ribbon cutting, the improvements for the Udall Pickleball Courts and the Pools at Parks and Recreation benefiting the community in the City and were much of this occurred during the time of COVID when they were virtual, but were no longer virtual or at least hybrid, if not in person, and trying to get the people's attention to make sure they knew about these investments were coming and could weigh in accordingly.

Mr. Ortega stated as information was being presented it was important to think about Prop. 101 and the connection to Prop. 411 and how funds were allocated for five years. The conversations that need to happen was regarding the next steps after five years, not necessarily in a lot of detail, but certainly a conversation. He also reminded the Mayor and Council of the built-in budget that was recommended of \$22 million to be allocated to Prop. 407, and what he had instructed staff to do was utilize the bond proceeds first and use the general fund money second to make sure that they were complying with the requirements of the bond transactions now and ultimately he thought there was a conversation around that going forward because it was a 9-year program and they needed to place themselves in terms of the delivery of those programs.

Mayor Romero stated it was satisfying to be able to deliver not just to the residents and the workers of Tucson that serve our community to have a good healthy space and to be able to work and be safe themselves was a very, satisfying. And it was because of the voters of the City of Tucson choose to invest in themselves, as the Mayor and Council bring them ideas and the voters choose and it just gave her complete pleasure to be able to see the voter confidence being very evident in the story. She said going from 53.33 the latest initiative that the city passed by 73% of the vote, that voter confidence in the City of Tucson, the Mayor and Council and the confidence of all of us being able to deliver felt good and were in good place and she would like to continue delivering the projects as promised to the voters of Tucson.

Discussion ensued regarding when Prop. 101 switched to Prop 411, increases in supplies, labor, construction costs, funding of road projects for streets and public safety, Oversight Committees, etc.

No formal action was taken.

9. Skill Bridge Intern Program Update (City Wide) SS/NOV14-22-209

Introductory comments were provided by Michael J. Ortega, City Manager and Council Member Lee. She stated it had actually been a year since they had sat down and talked about Skill Bridge for the first time, and she wanted to bring the troops together and provide an update on where they were at and talk about where to go from here.

Information and presentation were provided by Elsa Quijada, Interim Human Resources Director, and Janet RicoUhrig, Human Resources Administrator, who fielded and answered questions.

Ms. Quijada thanked the Mayor and Council for the opportunity to bring them an update on the Skill Bridge Intern Programs that was designed to bring veterans into the City's organization. She said staff had been working really hard for the last couple of months to bring this program to fruition.

Ms. RicoUhrig said that in their efforts to build a sustainable, agile program in human resources they wanted to give them a review of the timeline in terms of the foundation

work in their efforts. They were concurrently working their efforts in recruitment and retention alongside with the direction of the Mayor and Council and not wait on the Department of Defense (DoD) authorization. She said they sought to be agile and make sure they were partnering with and utilizing our resources to get started and gain partnerships that would enable them to be successful.

Ms. RicoUhrig said they had an opportunity to see the timeline and wanted to provide some information both internally and externally. She commented that on their website they had an internal and external website and included a simplified application process for service members to request consideration for the Skill Bridge Program. She said they also constructed an internal page for people to provide information for if they knew military members and had an opportunity to reach to any of our team member. Some of the lessons that they had learned was to include the opportunity to be intentional and they had already had their intern in the public safety communications team and later moved over to the human resources recruitment and retention team to help build the foundation from the lens of a transitioning service members.

Ms. RicoUhrig said they had partnered with two Skill bridge interns and with the International City Managers Association (ICMA) allowing to host the skill bridge intern while they were waiting for Gilbride Department of Defense authorization. In addition, they were guided with their resources to provide that baseline to their own internship program. They had partnered with hiring there Heroes both as a sourcing opportunity for interns outside of our area who were interested in Tucson and partnering with their Employee Support Guard Reserve (ESGR) continuing partnerships and with our local organizations on they had an opportunity to partner with the Arizona collision for military families to provide the opportunities and resources that the City did not have, and they were in sourcing and onboarding skill bridge interns with them. They also partner with the Pima Community College veterans and that partnership was really blossoming, providing a workforce development skills and citywide resources to the Community College partnership, and they had partnered with Upward Bound program where they provide professional development opportunities and resources for veterans and their families through their human resources team.

Ms. RicoUhrig stated that their current efforts involved recruiting events at Davis Monthan Air Force Base (DMAFB), Fort Huachuca Army Base (FHAB), Luke Air Force Base (LAFB) and in addition to utilizing some partner platforms, including the DoD job opportunity sites. They had established a LinkedIn partnership and an internship program with Public Safety Communications department (PSCD) as the first host site currently recruiting for Public Safety, Communications (PSC), Human Resources (HR), and they were working with Tucson Police Department (TPD) to formulate a process that could lead to interns enter the Academy upon their military retirement.

Council Member Lee said she wanted to take a moment to talk about how she saw the as the next iteration of this work and there was two big pieces that she had hoped they could in this conversation focus on, one was the veterans they currently had in the organization. She said that she and her team had worked the past two years building their first

Employee Resource group, which they would bring to the Mayor and Council in January to talk more about the process and learning even more about the unique needs of the city's veteran population. There were a lot of opportunities that existed for them as well as the veterans having them in the City's organization and unique challenges that veterans faced due to their life experiences.

Council Member Lee said in thinking about how they could use and build off of the foundation, as they laid with this program to look at current veterans and their needs throughout their employment journey with the City of Tucson, the ones that were already here around retention and then the second piece was continuing to build off of that recruitment. She met with the Office of Equity and learned that there was a goal to do a lot of data collection and understood about our employees and saw a lot of opportunity to work with the Office of Equity to kind of pulse the organization and find out where our veterans were because when they had launched the Employee Resource Group, they could not go to access a distribution list, saying here were all of your veterans, and so they had to formulate that list internally and saw an opportunity there to work with that office in terms of next steps and continue to think about the journey for the transitioning military member of the veteran who were already here and who was coming in as well as spouses and family members.

Council Member Lee said last year they brought forth a motion that was voted on unanimously about funding through a person to, and as the Mayor said, they had a plan, that was great, but they needed somebody to get it across the finish line, and she was curious about that position and about the continued funding to build off of that. So, she asked if staff could talk a little bit about the funding for that and how he saw that.

Mr. Ortega explained that funds were available through American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) but had not identified an ongoing funding source. He said that was being looked at to identify what could be absorbed by using the existing Full-Time Equivalent (FTE) count, however the expectation was for the program to continue.

Council Member Lee motioned that in 2021, they utilized ARPA dollars to fund a position to support Skill bridge and got the Skill bridge Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) approved by the U.S. Department of Defense (DOD) and began efforts to be a more military veteran-friendly employer and now they needed to focus on bringing together all the other components that were outlined and insert a position of a military program manager, somebody who was going to champion all of these components above and beyond skill bridge. She said this person had the skill set, experience and knowledge to understand the veterans, unique backgrounds and support the veterans during their employment journey with the city and utilize the veteran Employee Resource Group to understand and shape recruitment and retention, efforts to collaborate with the Office of Equity and capturing data related to veterans that could inform decisions on the programs and to provide support for our veteran employees and military spouses who were currently employed by the city to build a supportive culture and increase retention, and to grow the Skill bridge program and create an integrated additional programming so the city could be the employer of choice for military veterans and their spouses.

It was moved by Councilwoman Lee, duly seconded, to direct the City Manager to work with the team to onboard a Military Veteran Program Manager (or similar title) with the skillset, experience, and knowledge to understand veterans' unique backgrounds, and support veterans during their employment journey with the City of Tucson, utilize the Veteran's Employee Resource Group to understand and shape recruitment and retention efforts, collaborate with the Office of Equity in capturing data related to veterans that can inform decisions on programs, provide support for Veteran employees and military spouses who are currently employed by the City of Tucson, to build a supportive culture and increase retention and grow the Skillbridge program and create/integrate additional programming so they can be an employer of choice for military veterans and their spouses.

Discussion ensued on the overview and timeline of the program, the foundation, building partnerships, and current efforts to actively recruit interns.

Councilwoman Fimbres asked if they were working with Southern organizations in the City of Tucson. They needed to first have a figure a leader with to prior service with the experience of being in the military himself/herself to make this program work.

Mayor Romero thought those were really good suggestions to make sure they were working with Pima County One stop to have some connectivity there and have them be informed about our program. She stated that she had an incredible visit with Colonel Scott from Davis Monthan (DM) who was very enthusiastic about being a good partner with the City of Tucson as she was also very enthusiastic about being a good partner with DM.

Mayor Romero asked Mr. Scott what his concerns were for active military and their families. She stated that he said his concern was affordability and housing, having access to affordable housing as active military and being able to have opportunities for military spouses, as their military personnel was a two-year assignment, their spouses would bring certain certifications from other States that were not accepted here Arizona, but the good thing was that Governor Ducey made a universal acceptance of these certificates and preparation giving the opportunity to spouses a job knowing that it might be a two-year commitment or maybe sometimes less. She asked if they could institute that into the motion, as she knew that the intent was there from her and be very clearly to institute that spouse friendly environment that the City of Tucson wanted to be for active military spouses.

Councilwoman Lee stated accepted the institution of the motion, to institute that spouse friendly environment that the City of Tucson wanted to be for active military spouses.

Vice Mayor Santa Cruz stated she was not sure if they were already operational, and if they knew how many service members had been able to obtain through the program, and if any of them could plan on continuing employment with the city, and also if they were also collecting data, even if anecdotal, how was that transitioning for them.

Ms. RicoUhrig stated that they had one skill bridge participant who was not able to join them today to talk about her experience with Mayor and Council. She had finished her six months with of the program but had decided to look for employment elsewhere, she was still looking at the city employment, but she was granted her disability. So, they were still continuing to recruit.

Elsa Quijada wanted to address the in the request with data as they did have a new ERP whom they had been working with. She knew in the event that Councilwoman Lee had for our veterans, they did provide instruction as to how they could identify themselves in the system for veterans that could recognize them and work with them to make connections for their spouses and others to be able to bring them on board, especially because they do have a lot of recruiting challenges and so that was a pipeline for them.

Ms. RicoUhrig stated that she would share that with their staff to send out to, so that they were able to disclose as well.

Vice Mayor Santa Cruz she thanked Council Member Lee for bringing this to the table to the forefront and said this was why it was always important folks who have the lived experience and know the challenges could lead on these issues.

Mayor Romero also thanked Council Member Lee for carrying about this program and bringing it to their attention and following up with it, and it was such an important recognition for our veterans to be able to know and understand that the City of Tucson was with Councilwoman Lee and those that of our Council that were veterans, know that the City cares and wanted them to be happy and wanted to make space for them and their spouses, and that they were going to do everything they possibly could to make it as easy as possible for them to apply and work for the City of Tucson and were going to recognize their service to the country.

Mayor Romero stated that the DoD worked very slowly and asked if they had received the contract from them and if this was a paid internship.

Ms. RicoUhrig stated that the contract and was received, authorized, and approved on August 10, 2022, and they were paid through the military.

Council Member Kozachik asked there was a lot of outreaches made and a lot of contact with lots of different agencies and schools. He asked if that was the intent that they had hoped to be at this point. He said because if they had only actually connected with one potential applicant, he would have expected a boatload more, so, was this where they expected to be or was, he not understanding the program.

Council Member Lee stated this was really foundation building and would say in the very beginning, the idea really was in talking to the different departments and learning about the needs that they had in every department. There were so many military folks who were capable of coming into all these positions. She thought that for the City's next step was

really to grow and look at all of the places where they had a hard to filling positions and had military people leaving and start to expand because they really piloted it with public safety communication to kind of get our toe in the water and figure this stuff out and expand so that was the theme for 2023.

Mayor Romero asked if this was veterans and active military and their spouses.

Council Member Lee stated that with Skill Bridge it was an active service member who was in the process of transitioning into civilian life, and they could work with the city for up to six months while they were on active duty, the last six months or less of their time of their commitment.

Mayor Romero recommended an amendment to the motion to very clearly institute the spouse friendly environment that the City of Tucson wanted for active military spouses.

Amendment was made, accepted by the motion maker and seconder.

The motion was carried by a voice vote of 7 to 0.

10. Discussion and Direction on RTA Next Plan Development (City Wide) SS/NOV14-22-205

Introductory comments were provided by Michael J. Ortega, City Manager, who fielded and answered questions. He stated this was a continuation of the last Regional Transportation Authority (RTA) discussion he brought both of these items to Mayor and Council because of the time they had decided to bring this one back for your review. So, what was before Mayor and Council were the list of projects that were reviewed and submitted by the City of Tucson for review by the Tucson Medical Center (TMC) an ongoing workshop, as they came back with some recommendations, and he wanted Mayor and Council to be aware of and kept in the loop.

Mr. Ortega said to keep in mind that at the last (RTA) board meeting that he and Mayor Romero were a part of, there was some allocation of not only the roadway or the name projects, but also the categorical components as well. So, the budget would be somewhere in the \$1.1 billion range to 1.3 billion based on the recommendations of the RTA staff, the number of almost becomes irrelevant in the initial stages, just because were trying to get down over \$4 billion in needs. So, the effort was how do they go about that? And that was done internally through the complete street's effort and what during our move Tucson efforts that. Prioritize the projects those were put in the list and now what was before Mayor and Council was just the recommendation the TMC wanted to get your thoughts, your feedback. This would be in his opinion to some extent an iterative process. It was not all inclusive, and keep in mind this did not include the categorical pieces that were still allowed their transit and safety and some of the other things that they know were going to be coming. So, without going to turn over to Sam to make a representation.

Information and presentation were provided by Sam Credio, Director of Transportation and Mobility, who fielded and answered questions. e stated on Thursday, September 22nd, the Tucson Medical Center (TMC) convened an all-day workshop in which TMC membership as well as their technical and Regional Transportation Authority (RTA) staff participated to look at the project list that included 108 projects and over \$4.5 billion they were up into subgroup areas by geographical location. They all participated in the various subgroup areas to identify projects that either were a priority for the TMC or potentially not a priority for the TMC but remained in consideration or potentially removed from consideration. The City of Tucson included 28 projects in that list and of those 28 projects, 22 continued forward as a priority of the TMC. Five of them were submitted as not a priority of the TMC, but remained again included for consideration, and then one was removed from consideration and so included in your material was a list of those projects.

Mr. Ortega said that Vice Mayor Santa Cruz had mentioned the frontage road conversation that would continue to be a discussion point for them with Arizona Department of Transportation (ADOT) to make sure that they understood the need and the safety components as well as crossing the freeway as well. He said those were two things that the Vice Mayor Santacruz mentioned in the last meeting, and they would continue to stay on that.

Mayor Romero stated she wanted to make sure that they were not asking them to approve anything today because of the flexible continuing conversation and make sure that they had their input and feedback, so she would be able to next RTA board meeting with clear direction in terms of their interests what they needed as her interests were to by committed to continue advocating for the City of Tucson in both asking the RTA board and her colleagues on the on the board and the Executive Director to identify the funding to pay for the remaining projects as the motion that had been approved at the Council was approved at the RTA board but that allowed them to get on the same page in terms of delaying some of the City of Tucson projects to make sure that were making space to complete the projects, not forgetting to find a way how to pay them with any funding sources that PAG RTA have available to them and maintaining the flexibility and categorical pieces of the RTA Next.

Mayor Romero stated she that she was not at the last RTA meeting for the vote, but they talked about the categorical pieces, but she believed that the City of Tucson, through Move Tucson, approved categorical elements into our Move Tucson Plan was very thoughtful and they were created by the residents of the City of Tucson. So, she was going to continue advocating in terms of the categorical pieces for the RTA Next that they had include and the categories that related to Electric Vehicle (EV) readiness, Emerging Technology Enhancements, Pavement Maintenance, Bridge repair and replacement, Transit and Climate Mitigation Elements that were not as clear and the previous RTA categorically. They needed to make space for including projects that they did not see on this list, as she stated that the City of Tucson had great needs she wanted to sure that this list was not the final list as they might need to add more questions from

some her colleagues on the Council. Also, they had been talking in terms of vision for the City of Tucson.

Mayor Romero stated that she had been talking about a potential extension of the streetcar into the airport with the possibility of having a bus rapid transit from downtown into the Tahono Tadaí Transit Center (TTTC) as those pieces were not here, and that was why she thought that expanding on the categorical discussion was going to be super important for them at this table, because she would bring forward this conversation in study session in December for consideration of an extension of a of a streetcar into the airport and bring RTA, TTTC and RTA Next.

Council Member Cunningham expressed concern that there were no Ward 2 projects on the list presented. He said that he cannot in good conscience support it. He said he could list some projects that were needed for Ward 2 and if they were to talk to neighbors about delaying these projects, their neighbors were not going to vote for this. He said they run the risk losing all of RTA Next. He stated they should be talking about system liability and crosstown freeways, but have them coming from the east side to downtown, that was one of those things that people had always been talked about and was that could be done, because the base was gone do a new gate on Valencia, and had been working with the DoD on that, and that would give them an opportunity to do flyovers on golf links, Craycroft and Swan, therefore this meant that if you live in Ward 4 and Ward 2, you could get downtown without hitting a stop light and that was something that they had always wanted to feed into downtown and make downtown special and wanted to make it something that did not take an hour to get to.

Council Member Cunningham expressed that they could come in with 22 projects and zero (0) for Ward 2. He said as they were talking about the mobility piece, going out to the Airport, to the Casino, to South Tucson, they needed to also talk about areas of Commerce Areas, commerce centers as they were called, which he called them high density areas, but as he called them of action.

Council Member Cunningham said Pima County was going to build a big Sports Complex, where they could be able to get downtown really easily back and forth and talked to the Utilities Accommodation Policies (UAP) right away working with UAP to have some type of offshoot so they could go to go see a soccer game or baseball game and then go back downtown and they were going to do it on a tram that takes 15 seconds because it was only like 3 miles, or if they were at the bridges, downtown, or to the stadium they could do that and had a freeway to do so but they did not have transit to do that. So, he wanted to think about that systemic piece for transit systemic piece and give an opportunity to be Bus Rapid Transit (BRT) down Broadway to think about how it would free up the traffic on Broadway, and still have people to be able to get downtown. They wanted systemic mobility, and this did not enhance the systemic mobility for people from the Eastside and it furthers sequesters as they had done in Midtown and downtown but needed to have that connectivity between the Eastside and the Westside and have a united Tucson. He stated they had to ask themselves every single time if they want to enhance Reid Park.

Council Member Cunningham said usually they would \$17 million but only had 22% of the stuff and this was those times where that was not the case at all. They had \$610 million on here, he asked where it was, \$6.1 it was not covering Ward 2 and that was about 1%, and they had to do better than that, so, he asked for them to start working together and figure out what our priorities were systemically. He said maybe there would not be a project in Ward 2, but at least it would benefit those folks in Ward 2. He said it would help traffic at Campbell and Speedway if they redid that intersection, it would help traffic across town, and it was all connected, and believe it all, but tell that to his constituents, tell that to the voters who were supposed to pass our key in the RTA and Ward 2, and you were not going to get that response.

Mayor Romero stated that it was not good and that was exactly what they needed to hear, to be able to take a comprehensive list with them to a possibility of our RTA Next.

Council Member Dahl said he was really pleased to see that on the list a lot of the descriptions said modernize rather than expand things like that and thought that was a positive thing, and kind of on a separate matter, a follow up from the last time, as he said that the 1st Ave Project ready to go, but heard from the RTA director that the board had to decide, and asked if that was on the agenda for the next meeting.

Mayor Romero stated they had talked about it at the RTA board, and the City of Tucson had submitted the list of projects that they wanted to accomplish now for the first time, she said she had seen the RTA staff right in that it was an adjusted for Lynn Roadway. She said that her and the City Manager were going to have to approach the RTA to get the board approval so that they could start moving on that project immediately. But it was a unanimous vote in terms of our list where were getting to that, but it was the first time that she saw in writing a four lane versus A6 lane road in their presentation.

Council Member Dahl said the quicker they could get on to that one, the better and creating a safety for the people who drive that road.

Vice Mayor Santa Cruz asked how were the RTA Board, the Citizen Advisory Committee? How was their feedback being implemented. Were the categories for funding being updated and had been requested. And the Technical Management Committee and the Citizen Advisory Committee, be able to actually have a chance to give input based on guiding principles. How were they continuing to have the conversation about climate change prevention being integrated. How were they considering inflation, a pandemic as they were putting their budgets together as they could not assume with a recession, that things would stay as they were in this moment for the next 20 years?

Mr. Ortega said they did receive a letter on November 9th from the Executive director, addressed to the RTA board regarding the numbers that were included and apparently voted on by the board. Those number were \$1.5 billion for roadway named projects, which included \$150 million for the carryover project and so it was the \$1.3 billion for was the budget for the new projects, \$170 million for safety element, \$110 million for

environmental and economic vitality element, \$510 million for the transit element and \$100 million for debt service or RTA admin cost, that total budget was estimated at \$2.34 billion.

Mayor Romero stated that they did also talk about the possibility of recession, the so we went with the worst-case scenario but not the optimistic they had gone with the pessimistic scenario, instead of the optimistic, for her she said it was going to be about the flexibility that they need to add, move and adjust for climate change provisions for, for transit for all of all of the other categories that were important, not just for Mayor and Council, but also for the community so she thought that was something that were going to need to negotiate at the table as well.

Vice Mayor Santa Cruz said like the assurances were underfunded that they were not going to take away the bike and pedestrian safety elements to.

Council Member Lee said for clarification on Harrison Road, just to avoid any bridge drama in the future \$22 million sounded like a deal, so was that included or were they forgetting about the bridge situation there.

Mr. Credio asked if she was talking about the four Lane cross section on Harrison Road from Golf Links to Irvington. If so, he said that did not include the two-lane bridge that would be built as part of the current RTA plans but would include a second two lane bridge across the Pantano to accommodate to four lanes all the way to Irvington.

Council Member Lee said it was funny how their perspective changed when they think about how much \$22 million was, but she knew how expensive bridges were, and wanted to confirm that scope, because she knew they were doing the two lane and how they were going to expand that bridge to four. She asked that it sounded like there was still some conversations about the categorical piece of it, but she was wondering, the part for Irvington from Kolb to Houghton, as she heard all the time because there was so much traffic and it was an old two-lane road, what did that asterisk mean, Like, how should they interpret that.

Mr. Credio said during the TMC workshop there was a lot of discussion about the Irvington road project, and it was actually one of our few widening projects submitted as part of the RTA Next plan, there was a conversation at the workshop about potentially including that in the categorical as a taking a look at the scope, a possible scope reduction from the four lanes and then including it as a categorical. He had actually presented to the CAC and provided our feedback that was one of the few that she had submitted as the widening project and to include full modernization from that stretch from a cold to Houghton along Irvington.

Council Member Lee said which did not necessarily know what that meant, but she knew they were getting some charging stations on their and thanks to Tucson Electric Power (TEP) she would keep an eye on how that shakes out because that was definitely important to the folks at Ward 4.

Council Member Kozachik asked the City Manager to clarify what was written down while he was reading these were \$170 million for safety, \$110 for environment and economic development, \$510 for transit, and \$100 million for debt service.

Mr. Ortega stated that was correct and on the \$1.45 was for roadway elements, which includes .15 for current projects to be carried.

Council Member Kozachik said that he was just focused on the categorical pieces, and he re-aerated what the City Manager has said to clarify, as he said was about \$900 million for categorical, which brought the total to be \$2.3 billion, and the current one was about \$2.1 billion. He asked what the priorities of the Technical Management Committee's (TMC) was and what was the voice of the City of Tucson in expressing our priorities for our jurisdiction.

Mr. Ortega stated that the conversation was about the regional significance, and the conversation was not just a function of what was their priority as an entity and their priority A and B what did it look like on a regional basis, as he gave any an example of how there was a roadway project that was included in the counties list of priorities for a segment of road, as he did not remember exactly how long it was, but he knew it was a pretty good-sized road and at the meeting they said they could take it off their priority list because the city annexed it, but he said that it did not change the need for that road improvement, it should not be jurisdictional or responsibility of the jurisdiction, as this was a regional conversation, and so they went through their list and they took the priority or the prioritization away from the Move Tucson effort it was a city effort and it was an infinite number of dollars and a matter of how do they keep whittling down based on the regional significance.

Council Member Kozachik stated that was a good, but the position he took was that there was very little that was happening in Sahuarita, the regional significance to people out on Houghton Rd, for instance, as it was an exception to him, the eight other jurisdictions plus ADOT were telling the city what the regional significance was for our constituents was as Council Member Cunningham stated a correct and necessary description of what was happening out in Ward's 2 and 4 area. He also said it did not matter what was going in Marana, it basically was that these were our constituents and our projects. What was the total value of City of Tucson Roadway projects that were going to be included in an RTA Next has that been determined as they gave them \$600 million worth of projects, what was it going to be not counting the \$150.

Mr. Ortega stated if they added it to the list, it would be about \$522 that was recommended thus far, so the \$610 was the total, but if you took take out the last five projects, you would end up with about \$522. So, if right now today that was to go to the voter, it would be \$522 million.

Council Member Kozachik stated just for the City of Tucson.

Mr. Ortega stated just for the City of Tucson \$150, plus the \$150 and whatever categorical pieces were yet to be done.

Council Member Kozachik stated again, going back to the last meeting the City of Tucson was going to get \$700 million of the \$1.5 regionally in today's dollars, for the RTA Next.

Mr. Ortega stated if decision was made today and this list held, that would be your numbers were correct.

Council Member Kozachik stated with respect to the categorical, he asked where they going to assigned projects for each jurisdiction within each categorical or just give this lump \$170 and \$150, would then the RTA figure it out later on as to how those dollars were divvied up.

Mr. Ortega stated he did not think that a process had been established for that yet in terms of the specificity, there was two pieces of that. One was there needs to be flexibility built in, but then beyond that they were also the needs to be specificity so that the voter who knows what those funds were and how those funds would be used.

Mr. Credio stated the way it was currently handled was on the transit elements. There were specific projects in which the RTA provided funding for transit service. In fact, this was on the consent agenda for the other categorical. So, what they had actually seen was a notice of funding opportunities sent out to the region in which the regional partners could submit projects to be considered for those categorical and so that was how it was being currently done to the manager's point, it had not been specified on how our RTA Next would handle the categorical.

Council Member Kozachik stated just for the record, he would say that the assignment of some of those notice of funding availability was sent out, and as he and others had expressed concern about how those dollars were getting allocated out and made public, how was it being awarded. He wanted to correct the record from the last meeting where he continued the Director Farhad was here, he said that when he asked him about inflation adjustments, he said, that they would cover it and they had always covered it, which to him that was not true. This was the from the fiscal year 22 RTA performance audit, which he signed, and it said "the remaining RTA projects were facing increased construction costs due to recent spikes in construction materials. These added costs were the legal liability of the lead agency." He said they had not always covered inflation, and they had not always used that as their policy recommendation as he stood there and said it was true and that's what their policy has been as that document was signed. So, they need clarification in writing of what was going to get covered.

Council Member Kozachik stated recently by Mr. Benavides their attorney had a memo to Rex Scott about open meeting law and it completely misstates what open meeting laws was to be administered, he said one of the most critical laws must be followed as the public visuals duties that meeting, in this memo it was not consistent with open meeting

law for a member of the RTA board to deliberate and decide on RTA business at a meeting other than a public RTA board meeting. If that were true, then the Mayor could not participate in these conversations and make conclusions with us, nor could any individual of the RTA where there was the CAC or any other Member, have a conversation offline with another member, even if they did not violate a quorum and so he was not only giving incorrect information to the board and to the Citizens Advisory Committee with respect to their ability to communicate back and forth with one another and this was misleading. They were dealing with citizens who want to go and have coffee and talk about the projects and not violating forums and truncating their ability to have conversations among themselves was really a problem for him and the Mayor should not have to recuse herself from these conversations and votes to have this conversation with us.

Council Member Kozachik stated as of right now, the feeling was that their budget projections were following this straight-line projection from 20 years ago and there was no consideration of a downturn as they have had this conversation before. He said \$2.4 billion on a straight-line basis was demonstrated a realistic budget projection and had already seen that there were 2.1 was not realistic because they were facing a funding shortfall and could run out of money, and as Council Member Cunningham was clear in his concerns about RTA Next, he said for him to support it, he would like to see them come up with a more realistic budget projection as \$2.4 billion which seemed very aggressive to him based on their history.

Council Member Kozachik stated that the City of Tucson project stated this, but evidently, they had agreed to this again for unloaded and not count against our next allocation, and the reason he asked about what our RTA Next Project list amounts to be our list should at least reflect our financial contribution to the region. He wanted to see a written and explicit commitment to fund projects at the big cost at the time they were done with inflation covered and that obviously that did not exist right now, with Prop 411 they left a half a cent in on it and the city could had gone to the voters for a full penny. And right now, they were having a conversation about them splitting that half cent with the rest of the region or saying no and do this alone and do their own half cent. They would do the whole complete streets thing and focus on the City of Tucson and if they did fix those projects or these deal points that everyone was listed, he did not see point or not doing that and just doing our own half cent.

Mayor Romero stated she had seen the projections for the optimistic versus pessimistic. They did go with the pessimistic view into the future of what the RTA Next could possibly bring, but she thought there was still more conversation to be had in terms of the categorical in terms of how they see and analyze what could possibly come in. She said Council Member Kozachik was correct and she thought they had a conversation at this table that was very deliberate about giving it a chance and leave the half cent and see if they could go at it together.

Mayor Romero thought it was always a good idea to be a unified region. Especially when they were trying to compete for federal funds and to be honest, to be a forward-thinking

city, they really need to participate in a transit or transportation authority, as other cities our sized do and every person at this table that were advocating and making sure that the residents of the City of Tucson get their fair share and she absolutely agreed with Council Member Cunningham as they needed to make sure that they were seeing a fair investment throughout the City of Tucson.

Mayor Romero said with keeping in mind that there was some areas in the city that have been disenfranchised and disinvested in for decades and they needed to be able to find that balance and in the categorical, which was for her very important that they include fair funds for transit projects because of the climate issues that they cared about because of the connectivity and mobility issues that they want to see into the future as they saw that the streetcar brought in \$4 billion worth of public and private investment. She wanted to see that continued public private investment in other areas of our city that need those additional funds.

Mayor Romero asked for clarification about the Open meeting law interpretation by Mr. Benavides at the RTA and its committees.

Mike Rankin, City Attorney. stated the opinion of legal counsel for the RTA was referenced in advance of the last meeting, he did not have a chance to provide a written response but was able to get information to the Mayor and Council about his reaction to what was read at the meeting. He explained that if that was in fact how the open meeting law applied to members of a public body, that the members of the public body could not responsibly carry out their function, at least as written, it read as if a member of a public body, which would be the Mayor and Council, and any board or committee as were the, Citizens Advisory Committee (CAC) and the other public bodies present that were subject to the open meeting law, they essentially could not talk to anybody outside of a publicly noticed meeting or share information with one another or even get information from staff. The information was then shared among the committee members so that they could research and do their due diligence on the issues that they were then going to discuss at a public meeting that was noticed appropriately. He had no disagreement with the characterization of the legal opinion that was described at the table during the meeting.

Council Member Kozachik stated that in fact the CAC through staff asked for information and they were told they could give it to them, it must be given to the whole CAC with everybody present and that was just like us sending a note to all of you and you saying that we could not give it to you until they get to this meeting which was foolishness in his opinion.

Mayor Romero stated that was very intrusive to the work that the CAC must do, and it was concerning and that was something that they would have to continue working on.

Council Member Kozachik stated they listed off several categories several kind of broad categories that he guessed some of which could fit in the environmental and even and economic obviously some in the transit, but those dollar remotes were going to have to be

flexible in those dollar amounts because they when they start talking about individual projects such as an extension of the streetcar or the EV readiness, that kind of thing, if they did not talk about EV readiness and they capped \$110 million over for 20 years, he said that was not going to get done. So, he guessed that his summarizing would be either splitting our half cent with the rest of the region and having this conversation or taking that half cent and saying that the city would do our complete streets with our half cent benefiting our region and our community. He said that was really the nature of where they were or where he was and if he had to vote today to support RTA Next, he would not be doing it.

Mayor Romero said that she understood and the categorical was for example, 510 years for transit element over 20 years, she said they would not be able to do high-capacity transit or the BRT streetcar. So, it was a conversation that they really must make sure that they continue pushing on and at the same time, being the pessimistic scenario in mind in terms of how much funds would be captured for these projects as she was concerned about the issues regarding the CAC being able to do their work and then being able to add additional projects to the conversation as they take it back to the RTA board.

Mr. Ortega stated he thought it was important that they at least talk through if there were projects that were not listed on the list that Mayor and Council let him know. Because what they did was basically took the Move Tucson List and used that as a priority and brought that forth to Mayor and Council. So, if they missed any projects or had concerns, they could meet with him offline as he would need to know right away. He said as Council Member outlined as the numbers where finite there was something else that was going to be taken away and that was something that he needed to understand and know so that they could start that iterative process to make sure that they end up where Mayor and Council were comfortable with.

Mayor Romero recommended to the City Manager to have another RTA item at the next meeting to continue flushing out through the needs that have concerns and to bring new projects. She would like to include a streetcar extension bus rapid transit project for the City of Tucson. So, she would be able to have that conversation with her colleagues on the Council to see if they want to move in that direction as a city and encourage Councilmember Cunningham or anyone on the table to have that conversation beforehand with the City Manager and then bring the item to the December meeting.

Mr. Ortega clarified they would ready and confirmed the item would be scheduled for the December 6th Mayor and Council meeting.

Council Member Kozachik asked if they understood that they were committed to a four-lane reduction and not pushing it to RTA or was this a conversation to be had.

Mr. Ortega said that the RTA board had not acted on it specifically, but to the Mayor's point she has seen it in writing from the RTA staff that they have agreed with the four-lane section and at some point they would be taking it to the RTA board for further direction and what they would was put them on notice that they were ready to go and that

the needed this on the agenda for December 8th to get clarity so that they could start the process now fully funded at \$113 million as he recall was the budget

Council Member Kozachik said that was interesting because that escalated significantly over whatever scaled back number were, and he wished they were meeting before their next meeting because he would be interested to hear the nature of the conversation about categorical elements at the board.

Mayor Romero asked the Mr. Ortega if he could prepare the road for the City of Tucson to take First Ave project and before the RTA board. And asked Mr. Rankin for his interpretation of open meeting law and how it was used and written so that they could present it to the RTA board as well as the TMC and CAC. She said she knew that Mr. Rinaldi Benavidez was the attorney for PAG and the RTA, but she thought the interpretation was causing many problems and did not want these committees to break open meeting law, but they also did not want to stymie and stifle them from any potential work that must be done to be inclusive of the community.

Council Member Kozachik stated that they were threatening to discipline them over that memo as they were volunteer residents.

Mayor Romero stated that was especially if it was not breaking the open meeting law, it was just having a conversation with one other committee members. She said that would be beneficial so that they could also send that to the RTA board members and as well as Mr. Benavides and the Executive Director.

No formal action was taken.

**11. Updates on State and National Legislation and Regional Committees (City Wide)
SS/NOV14-22-198**

Information was provided by Andrew Greenhill, Intergovernmental Relations Manager, who fielded and answered questions on an update on general election results and projections on both federal and state elections, definitions of propositions and leadership collections.

Mr. Greenhill stated that there were some general results or at least projections to this point in time on both federal and state elections. He would start first with federal, he said it was projected that Senator Mark Kelly would be reelected and that would bring the United States Senate to 50 Democrats, 49 Republicans with the runoff election in Georgia, and as far as the Vice President breaks ties, that meant that the Democrats would maintain control of the United States for the next two years. He said as far as the House races go right now, there were five Democrats and four Republicans in of the nine U.S. House members here in Arizona right now, it was projected that there were four Republicans leading their races and three Democrats leading theirs with two races still very close, so it could be a 5 to 4 again or it could go the other way and there would be 6 Republicans, 3 Democrats in the Arizona delegation and that remained to be seen and the

Arizona District 1 and District 6 were the two races that were still pretty neck and neck, and the results did seem to come in overtime and were they dribbling through the day.

Mr. Greenhill stated that he was told that Maricopa County would have a large batch of new counted ballots tonight, and so they may get some more clarity as to how these elections turn out, perhaps as soon as tonight, with the federal issues first. Once the elections were through, or even now before they were completed, and work was getting done back at the United States Capitol, there were still the budget issues that needed to be resolved, which included some of those members directed spending items that were in bills in front of the Congress that they hoped to get through in the lame duck session that was going on now. And also, noted that there was some news today that the same sex marriage bill was going to go to the floor of the Senate and their immediate reports that suggests that there was a bipartisan agreement on enacting that Marriage equality into law.

Mr. Greenhill said there were a number of other items going on at the Capitol, once the elections were resolved, they would be leadership races within each caucus, committee chairs, membership on committees, and they would be tracking that very closely. Again, they worked with people on committees, both sides of the aisle on Tucson's priority projects and programs.

Mr. Greenhill said the state election results also continue to dribble in. There were some new results this afternoon from Pinal County. They really did not change the gap too much, at least in the four big statewide races. So currently Secretary of State Hobbs led Kari Lake by about 24,000 in votes. There were still about 170,000 votes statewide to be counted and there was still a way to go, and it had been projected that Adrian Fontes had been successful over Mark Finchem for Secretary of State. Kris Mays was leading Abraham Hamadeh the Attorney General race. So though that gap was still very close. And even closer Tom Horn leading Kathy Hoffman in the Superintendent of public instruction race, and it was only by a few hundred votes that lead had gone back and forth over the last few days. As far as the state legislature was concerned, some of the races were still very tight, but now, there were 16 Republicans leading their races, 14 Democrats, so that was how it was right now.

Mr. Greenhill said he said last thing he would mention was there were several propositions on the ballot and most of them were passing 129, 313, 132, 209, 211 and 308 were passing and in fact 308 would give all Arizona high school students, regardless of status, the ability to qualify for in state tuition at our state universities as it was consistent with Mayor and Council positions on that issue. He detailed the propositions that failed which were Prop 128, 309 and 310, they would have wait to see how those turn out too. He mentioned 128 was the first one that was on ballot, and it had to do with whether additives could be put on the ballot that he believed that was that the single subject one that he needed check. He said prop 309 was referred by the legislature that would require additional identification, even as part of mail in ballots, it mirrored a bill that was not successful at the legislature that would add utility bill copy as part of your ballot sending it so that was failing now.

Mr. Greenhill said prop 310 was the half cent sales tax proposal referred by the legislature to Arizona voters, if passed it would create a new half-cent sales tax statewide for the purpose of supporting rural fire districts, but at the moment it was failing. He said Prop 128 had to do with the legislative changes to ballot initiatives, he mentioned there was an initiative that was approved by the voters, but a piece of it was declared unconstitutional and the legislator, and if it passed the legislature would be able to make changes in it right now because there were limitations to the voter protection that would limit the ability of the legislature to act in those situations, but that again, that initiative was failing.

Mayor Romero said 128 was failing and 129 was passing and it limited the citizen LED ballot measures to one subject 132.

Mr. Greenhill stated 130, 131, 132, 209 and 308 were the ones that were passing now.

Mr. Greenhill stated 132 was passing but required supermajority to pass any ballot measures, so if they would need 60% plus to be able to pass for example as what was passed in 2020 regarding funding for public education. And then 309 was failing and that made voter ID laws more restrictive.

Mr. Greenhill stated yes.

Vice Mayor Santa Cruz asked which proposition was the previous one that she had mentioned.

Mayor Romero stated 132 referred to state initiatives.

Vice Mayor Santa Cruz asked if it would that have any impact on cities and towns as far as increasing sales tax on propositions as well or was it just state.

Mr. Greenhill stated he believed it only referred to state initiatives, but it referred to tax initiatives and it would require a 60% in favor of vote if there were an initiative that called for an increase in taxes.

Mayor Romero said so it would save our schools or not had passed.

Mr. Greenhill stated that Vice Mayor Santa Cruz made a good point about it and that it would require a 60% threshold for the voters to pass something they wanted, but those rules were not in play at the legislature itself. He said there was about 170,000 ballots still statewide, the majority of which were in Maricopa and Pima counties that still need to be counted. Then there were provisional ballots. There may be some curing of ballots where someone may have made a mistake and they have an opportunity to fix their ballot. So, it could be counted so. But the hope was that the majority of ballots that were still outstanding and be counted and put towards the total count.

Mr. Greenhill said there have been in the state legislature. There have been some caucus meetings where Republicans and Democrats have gotten together in both the House and the Senate. And in some cases, they have had leadership collections. So, the Democratic caucus in the Senate, he would say whether it was a majority yet, but Rosanna Gabaldon, state senator from new legislative District 21, but a long time representative and senator from our area, who they worked with many times over the years she was voted by her colleagues as the whip of the Democratic caucus in the Senate. And then in the House of Democrats have gotten together and elected Representative Andres Cano from Tucson, as the leader of the Democrats who had been in the legislature for a number of terms he understood a lot about our issues, and Senator Gobble both of them had an extensive knowledge of water issues and both had served on the relevant water committees in both the House and the Senate.

Mr. Greenhill stated that Representative Cano was the ranking member of the Natural Resources, Environment and Water Committee in this last legislative session, so both of them had been longtime advocates for Tucson and would both be in positions of leadership. The Senate Republicans got together last week and elected Warren Peterson as Senate President or at least the leader of their caucus and had started to make some committee assignments as well. The House Republicans have not met yet, they had said at least there been announcements that they may meet tomorrow, Wednesday for their elections for leadership.

Council Member Kozachik asked if he knew the gap between Kristan Engle and once Juan Ciscomani.

Mr. Greenhill stated it was about 1700 or so before he had come up, and he had not seen any changes, but there were some new results that came out of Pinal County earlier and he knew a little bit of that district was Pinal but was not sure if the numbers moved around but they were very close.

Mayor Romero stated that she appreciated the information of her and her colleagues, she said they were all and their staffs was invited to putting together a legislative priority for the City of Tucson with our delegates to the Arizona House and Senate and that would be coming up soon, she did not exact date, but they would make sure that their offices were invited to participate with our House and Senate delegates into the state.

No formal action was taken.

12. Mayor and Council Discussion of Regular Agenda (City Wide) SS/NOV14-22-199

Council Member Fimbres requested Consent Agenda Item 7o be considered separately:

Item #7o - Tucson Code: Amending (Chapter 22) to Establish the Juneteenth Holiday (City Wide) NOV14-22-319

Mayor Romero requested Consent Agenda Item 7b be considered separately:

Item #7b - Mayor and Council: Establishing the Mayor and Council 2023 Meeting Schedule (City Wide) NOV14-22-315

Mr. Rankin requested Consent Agenda item 7g be considered separately due to Vice Mayor Santa Cruz recusing herself from this item to avoid the perception of conflict of interest, although there were no legal conflicts.

Final Plat: (S21-023) Melwood and Franklin, Lots 1 through 5 (Ward 1) NOV14-22-308

Council Member Kozachik requested Consent Agenda item 7j be considered separately.


Intergovernmental Agreement: with the Regional Transportation Authority Funds from Two Completed Transit Facility Projects to Two New Biking and Walking Improvement Projects (City Wide) NOV14-22-310

13. Mayor and Council Discussion of Future Agendas (City Wide) SS/NOV14-22-200

No items were identified for future agendas.

ADJOURNMENT: 5:09 p.m.

AUDIO RECORDING AVAILABLE UPON REQUEST FROM THE CITY CLERK'S OFFICE FOR TEN YEARS FROM THE DATE OF THIS MEETING AND IS AVAILABLE AT <https://www.tucsonaz.gov/gov/meeting-schedules-and-agendas>



MAYOR

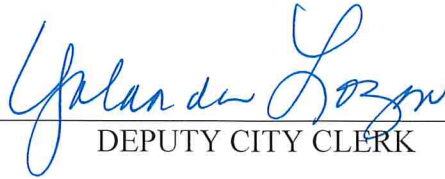
ATTEST:



CITY CLERK

CERTIFICATE OF AUTHENTICITY

I, the undersigned, have read the foregoing transcript of the study session meeting of the Mayor and Council of the City of Tucson, Arizona, held on the 14th day of November 2022, and do hereby certify that it is an accurate transcription.


DEPUTY CITY CLERK

SM: aj:yl