

ORANGE BELT TRAIL WORKSHOP MINUTES
SEPTEMBER 27th, 2023
6:30 P.M.

PRESENT:

Mayor: John Vogel II
Commissioners: Alison Cagle
Sarah Schrader

Absent: Kevin Damic

City Clerk: Marissa Morales
Assistant to City Clerk: Julia Fresne
Water Clerk: Will Plazewski

MINUTES PREPARED BY: Julia Fresne

1. Mayor Vogel read a letter of opposition for the B1 route proposed for the Orange Belt Trail from the city commission to the Pasco County Board of County Commissioners. A petition to accompany this letter would be available for residents to sign.
2. Mike Novak of Michigan Avenue stated that his home was too close to the road for a trail to come through without taking some of his property away.
3. Mary Jordan Anstead of Hartman Road thanked the commission for their position and expressed concern over the narrowness of her street leading the county to take part of her yard.
4. Wanda Allen of Joe Herrmann Drive was worried about having to back out of her driveway if there were a trail along her street.
5. Jonathan Fernans of Michigan Avenue questioned whether people want a trail altogether.
6. Don Kandalec of Dunne Road thanked the commission for their letter and stated that the new SR-52 already had a paved trail along it.
7. Paul Midili of Pasco Road expressed his concern with the issues arising from a trail being near his property and stated being against a trail altogether.
8. William Donahue of Corbin Ridge Street expressed his opposition to B1.
9. Mike White of Scharber Road believed that the proposed route along SR-52 would be the safest based on his experience as a first responder.
10. John Lloyd of Michigan Avenue expressed the safety concerns of a trail coming down Michigan Avenue for users and pointed out that utility poles and water lines would be an issue for building this route.
11. Brenda Lloyd of Michigan Avenue discussed her personal experience with the Pinellas trail which runs along a friend's house and expressed concern of crime coming to San Antonio.
12. Heidi Taylor of Blanton questioned why the commission letter did not oppose B3 as it would also go through residential areas. The commission explained this only concerned City of San Antonio residential streets.
13. Kayla Pettis of Oak Street opposed the trail and asked for Pasco County to consider widening the streets instead.
14. Josh Madden of Antonio Way expressed support for the trail and preferred the B2 proposed route.
15. Terry Schrader of Pasco Road thanked the commission for the letter and advised the public to send their feedback to Pasco County Commissioner Starkey as this was her project.
16. Kristen Mescall of Corbin Ridge Street thanked the commission for opposing B1.
17. Lynn Hayward of Jesse Jones Avenue expressed opposition to B1.

18. Commissioner Schrader thanked Commissioners Oakley and Weightman for coming to the workshop and asked that based on the public comments provided, that they rethink route B1. Commissioner Cagle agreed.
19. Pasco County Commissioner Oakley discussed the overall desire for connectivity across the county and providing safe options for pedestrians and bikers. Commissioner Oakley stated having no intent of taking anyone's land.
20. A person in attendance stated difficulties in navigating the links and maps on the OBT website.
21. A person in attendance asked why it was proposed at one point to go through the caboose. Erin Swanson, OBT Project Manager, stated that when the project began the old railway line was a proposed route.
22. Commissioner Schrader asked if the present county commissioners could share their view with their counterparts.
23. Lori Hillmann of Joe Herrmann Drive asked if further workshops would be held. Erin Swanson advised that there would be no more public workshops and the next phase is going to focus on looking at the alternative routes based on gathered public and stakeholder input as well as doing a Project Development and Environment study.
24. Adam Gaudens of Summerfield Way asked whether the county would consider expanding parking at the San Antonio Athletic Complex due to the influx of players on the Dixie Youth League. Commissioner Oakley stated the issue of not having enough room to do so due to the required stormwater management.
25. Commissioner Oakley assured that after hearing the concerns it is not likely for route B1 to occur. Erin Swanson explained that the routes would all still appear on the website for now to show data for least favorable routes.
26. Commissioner Oakley stated that Curley Road would be worked on until February of 2024 at the earliest due to the need to reengineer the road.
27. Mark Anderson of Oak Street asked for the county to consider the improvement of Pasco Road due to the impact that the rerouting has caused.
28. Pasco County Commissioner Weightman thanked the public for coming out and provided his business cards for those who would like to send him their input on the trail.
29. Comments via Zoom:
 - A. Olga Rodriguez from Michigan Avenue: I have been a resident of San Antonio, FL for 10 years and I am very proud of being a resident of the city. Thou our community is undergoing significant changes; I want to go on record that I do not support the trail. There are other options for the trail, one has been an outcome of the construction done on alternate Road 52.
 - B. Matthew and Kira Craft of 7th Avenue: We are vehemently opposed to the B1 route. We have a young toddler and there are other young children in our neighborhood. We are already worried enough about their safety when out to play. We are not comfortable with the B1 route and the proximity to our home that so many passersby would be in. We worry about an increase in issues like vandalism and theft, too. Not to mention increases in already congested local traffic and overcrowding at area recreation places.
30. **ADJOURNMENT:** Workshop adjourned 7:30 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Julia Fresne, Assistant to the City Clerk