

LB
10/30/03
Item #23

AN ORDINANCE **98386**

AUTHORIZING PAYMENT OF THE CITY OF SAN ANTONIO'S ANNUAL MEMBERSHIP DUES TO THE AUSTIN-SAN ANTONIO INTERMUNICIPAL COMMUTER RAIL DISTRICT IN THE AMOUNT OF \$49,500 FOR THE PERIOD OCTOBER 1, 2003 THROUGH SEPTEMBER 30, 2004.

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WHEREAS, in 1997, the Texas Legislature authorized the formation of an Intermunicipal Commuter Rail District for the Austin-San Antonio Corridor (the "District") through the enactment of Senate Bill 657 in order to facilitate the creation of a regional passenger rail system that would help reduce congestion, lower traffic fatalities, improve mobility, promote economic development and accelerate commerce along the corridor; and

WHEREAS, in 2002 the cities of Austin and San Antonio and the counties of Travis and Bexar voted to create the District, as required by the Legislature; and

WHEREAS, the Austin-San Antonio Corridor Council reports that NAFTA-related commercial truck traffic continues to grow at a rapid pace and the latest statistics indicate that 80 percent of Mexico's trade with the U.S. and Canada passes through Texas, 74 percent of it by truck on Interstate 35; and

WHEREAS, truck traffic in the Austin San Antonio corridor is increasing at a rate of six percent per year and this increase, combined with a rise in population growth, will create an anticipated demand of up to 18 lanes of north/south interstate capacity by 2025 leading the Federal Highway Administration to recommend that 50 percent of truck freight traffic moving between Laredo and Dallas be shifted to rail during that same time period to relieve congestion; and

WHEREAS, according to the 1999 *Austin-San Antonio Commuter Rail Feasibility Study* (the "Study"), the estimated cost to build a commuter rail system between both cities is \$475 million and the creation of the District was intended to task one entity with the responsibility of making progress toward the goals outlined in the Study, including studying potential funding sources, evaluating alternative transit options, consolidating planning for a freight rail element to be added to the State Highway 130 corridor, and helping to coordinate passenger and freight service in the area; and

WHEREAS, the cities of San Antonio and Austin, the counties of Bexar and Travis, and VIA and Capital Metro, will each contribute \$49,500 to fund staff operations and hire specialized assistance related to legal, accounting, technical and legislative issues; **NOW THEREFORE:**

BE IT ORDAINED BY THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF SAN ANTONIO:

SECTION 1. Payment to the Austin-San Antonio Intermunicipal Commuter Rail District for membership dues in the amount of \$49,500 for the period beginning October 1, 2003 through September 30, 2004 is hereby authorized and approved.

SECTION 2. Funds in the amount of \$49,500.00 are encumbered in Fund 11-000 (General Fund) in Index Code 428664, entitled "Intermunicipal Commuter Rail", and are authorized payable to the Austin-San Antonio Intermunicipal Commuter Rail District for membership dues for the period of October 1, 2003 through September 30, 2004.

SECTION 3. The financial allocations in this Ordinance are subject to approval by the Director of Finance of the City of San Antonio. The Director of Finance may, subject to concurrence by the City Manager or the City Manager's designee, correct allocations to specific index codes and fund numbers as necessary to carry out the purposes of this Ordinance.

SECTION 4. This Ordinance shall be effective on and after the tenth day after passage hereof.

PASSED AND APPROVED this 30th day of October, 2003.



M A Y O R
EDWARD D. GARZA

ATTEST: Jolanda L. Lebecore
City Clerk

APPROVED AS TO FORM: Jim Zentuche
for City Attorney