

Stone Oak NRC Meeting
October 15, 2020

1. **TxDot Carlos Ayala** presented how things are going on 281 project. They are now on Segment 2 which will take 48 months to finish. It continues 281 project to Borgfield Road which is the county line.

They are basically finished with Segment 1 and are in the final phase. All should be finished by the summer of 2021. They still have to 1) finish the sound wall with rock-and-nail wall which is 15-20 ft high; 2) paint on all of the cement; 3) complete the T-ramp into VIA parking garage with tie into the HOV lane of 281; 4) apply compose, top soil, and grass in areas; 5) change the temporary signals to permanent ones.

They have built 15 bridges and 40 retaining walls, plus the ramp to VIA parking garage. With changes, the cost went from \$192 million or \$202 million.

Roads now open for two-way traffic across 281 are Redland Rd., Encino Rio, and Evans.

2. **SAPD SAFE Officer Gerald Rodriguez and John Helle**. The car clubs with their meets have calmed down, especially in the Vineyard area. Racing is now a misdemeanor and they are trying to get it changed to criminal activity for a higher penalty. They are also trying to clean up all the homeless camps and find them places to go that are safe.

People should go to Metro Health for suggestions on Halloween and other holidays. They suggested:

Stay home if you are sick.

Wear face masks in addition to your costume mask which is not adequate protection.

Limit size of your trick or treating group to those in your household.

Maintain six feet distance from others.

Bring hand sanitizer and use it frequently.

Avoid going inside homes.

Stick to kore-packaged treats and avoid shared foods.

Wash your hands with soap and water when you return home.

Residents should only hand out candy if they feel well. Do it away from your house like in the driveway or edge of yard.

3. **VIA - John Tiermann, Manager of Public Involvement**. Slogan is "Keep SA Moving." They want to 1) support the growth of our economy and population; 2) provide access to jobs; 3) address service inequity that could result from underfunding transit.

To Improve the Transit System VIA wants to: 1) expand the bus system; 2) create a more direct network for new and experienced riders; 3) implement more frequent service on busiest corridors; 4) add more evening, late-night and weekend service.

To Expand the Mobility Options VIA wants to: 1) improve coverage throughout the system; 2) enhance access for those with disabilities; 3) develop more partnerships for connection, shared and accessible services.

Focus on Capital and Technology includes: 1) develop capital projects to improve the customer experience; 2) improve convenience with technology, including phone apps and real-time info systems; 3) prepare for Advanced Rapid Transit; 4) attract federal investments.

VIA's plan for 2025-2030 (5-year plan): 1) **IMPROVE** the transit system; 2) **EXPAND** the mobility options; 3) **FOCUS** on capital and technology.

When the question was asked about connections to the airport, the answer was that it is not profitable right now for VIA.

Urged everyone to vote **YES** on the ballot proposition to increase their portion of transit tax from 1/8 to 3/8 of 1¢.

4. **Viki Melton - Chairperson - POA Info.** Talked again with VIA to coordinate about us helping improve a couple of bus stops. **Our next NRC meeting will be on Nov 11.** There is usually a Christmas party in December, but there will not be one this year so we may get together on Zoom. We usually have our annual meeting the end of January, but it may be delayed until March.

Connie DeMeo
Neighborhood Representative Committee