



Minutes City of Tempe Transportation Commission September 11, 2012

Minutes of the City of Tempe Transportation Commission held on Tuesday, September 11, 2012, 7:30 a.m., at the Don Cassano Community Room, 200 E 5TH St., Tempe, Arizona.

(MEMBERS) Present:

Ben Goren, Pam Goronkin, Charles Huellmantel, Marcellus Lisotta, Sue Lofgren, Phillip Luna, German Piedrahita, Gary Roberts, Steven Saiz, David Strang, Peter Schelstraete.

(MEMBERS) Absent:

Matthew Garcia, Susan Jones, Catherine Mayorga, Melody Moss.

City Staff Present:

Don Bessler, Joe Clements, Eric Iwersen, Dana Janofsky, Greg Jordan, Yvette Mesquita, Shelly Seyler, Sue Taaffe, Robert Yabes.

Guests Present:

Kristen Huang (ASU student)

Commission Chair Charles Huellmantel called the meeting to order at 7:30 a.m.

Agenda Item 1 – Public Appearances

None

Agenda Item 2 – Approval of Meeting Minutes

Commissioner Phillip Luna made a motion to approve

Commissioner Huellmantel called to approve the August 14, 2012 Commission Meeting Minutes. Commissioner Phillip Luna moved to approve. Commissioner Peter Schelstraete seconded the motion. All approved except Commissioners Ben Goren and Marcellus Lisotta who arrived after the motion. Commissioner German Piedrahita abstained.

Agenda Item 3 – Transportation Master Plan – Summary of Workshop

Greg Jordan stated that any comments or changes should be forwarded to him. An update will be provided in October.

Agenda Item 4 – University Drive Bicycle and Pedestrian Improvements

Eric Iwersen presented.

University Drive project limits are one mile from Ash Avenue to Priest Drive. The city of Tempe requested and was approved for CMAQ funds for the project. Objectives of the project include: Improving pedestrian and bicycle facilities and enhance the streetscape on University Drive, and re-characterizing the street as a stronger multi-modal, sustainable corridor with access for all types of users and is a compliment to the adjacent businesses and neighborhoods.

Project has been presented to NW Tempe neighborhoods including: Maple Ash, Mitchell Park (East and West), Riverside Sunset, Gilliland, HOA's and Downtown Tempe Homeowners Associations.

The project area has seen a pattern of increasing bike and pedestrian, a decade of declining vehicle volumes, and the zip code 85281 has had the highest transit boardings in the region. It links to the Tempe Streetcar Project, is a gateway to Tempe, Downtown and ASU, and has strong historic and redeveloping neighborhoods.

There will be a protected bike lane from Beck Ave to west of Hardy Dr which is the first of this kind in Tempe. No lanes of travel will be removed. The center lane will be converted to a median with left turn pockets. There will also be widening of the bicycle lane where they can and making the sidewalks ADA compliant.

There are signals at Beck, Hardy and Ash. We are looking to add one at Roosevelt and an unsignalized crossing west of Farmer Ave.

Water harvesting will be used to reduce operation and maintenance cost and capture rain. This design requires minimum water and uses a native plant palette. Iwersen also identified sites for public art opportunities such as gateway monuments.

In early fall 2012 the final design will be rolled out at public meetings. Construction would be summer of 2013.

Commissioner Luna asked about any feedback from the commercial properties on limited left turns. Eric stated that pushback is expected, but the city tried to identify every business that would be effected and create turns that would support business and growth. The city has also been working to make sure that the left turn lanes would have U-turn capabilities.

Commissioner Gary Roberts asked if there were any thoughts to move the pedestrian sidewalk back. Eric stated that there is limited city ROW.

Commissioner Steven Saiz asked about the light poles and street lighting. Eric explained that the current lighting will not be changed. There will not be additional lighting in the median and that the drawings will need to be updated.

Commissioner Huellmantel asked if shade trees were only being used from Hardy to Beck. Eric explained that there are right of way constraints so trees could on be used west of Hardy.

Commission Huellmantel also asked if it would be possible to develop a planting plan for the sides of the road, adjacent to businesses that could serve as a template for property owners that might want to participate, and to alert them of what would be required in the event of redevelopment or property upgrades. Staff agreed to pursue.

Don Bessler added that it would be nonsensical to not plan ahead for future landscaping so that if in a year or two from now if we do get a grant or funding we don't have to start cutting concrete. The expensive part of the trees is not the tree but the watering and irrigation. If you do concrete knockouts or conduit so that when you want to plant its easy because you have the infrastructure underneath so you aren't tearing stuff up.

Commissioner Roberts asked about enhancing the bus stop furniture and shading. Eric explained that they are looking at adding trees for shading but not looking at adding trash cans or seating.

Commissioner Schelstraete asked about the M shaped bike racks. Eric stated that he had seen them, but is unsure of what works better. The city has had good luck with the inverted U bike racks.

Commissioner Piedrahita asked if vehicles are required to yield to bicycles. Shelly Seyler replied that they are.

Commissioner Goren asked about speed limits on the street. Eric explained that there is not a goal of reducing the speed limit. Shelly Seyler explained that the speed limit for a street is based on a study to find the 85 percentile speed.

Agenda Item 5 – MAG Updates

There will be a list of all meeting with bullets on future agendas.

Eric stated currently we are in the federal grant phase for CMAQ project evaluations to take to council and can include street sweepers, ITS enhancements, construction of Rio Salado underpass, streetscape and bicycle enhancements. The designs takes place with local monies before the project is approved.

Commissioner Roberts asked about the CMAQ funding. Robert Yabes stated it is currently a 94.7% CMAQ to 5.3% local match and it is base capital funding.

Agenda Item 6 – General Plan Process

Eric Iwersen presented.

Council approved the Public Involvement General Plan. Council is accepting applications for a community working group. Applications are due by the second week in October.

Agenda Item 7 – Department Updates

Phoenix City Councilman Tom Simplot is having a night bicycling ride from Central Phoenix to Tempe at 6:30 p.m. Friday, Sept. 14. The event encourages safe bicycle rides as a positive way to travel between the two cities. RSVP to 602-262-7447 or council.district.4@phoenix.gov. City of Tempe Councilmembers Kolby Granville and Corey Woods will be attending.

Agenda Item 8 – Future Agenda Items

Hardy Update
ITS Tour

Commissioner Roberts asked about an RFP for Orbit vehicles by Valley Metro and if they have a fare box option. Greg stated the RFP does include the specification for power and space needs for fare boxes. He also added that the city already has fare boxes and would not need to purchase them.

Meeting adjourned at 8:28 am

The Commission's next meeting will be held Tuesday October 9, 2012 at 7:30 a.m. Don Cassano Room at the Tempe Transportation Center, 200 E Fifth St, Tempe, Arizona.