



## **Minutes City of Tempe Transportation Commission October 9, 2012**

**Minutes of the City of Tempe Transportation Commission held on Tuesday, October 9, 2012, 7:30 a.m., at the Don Cassano Community Room, 200 E 5<sup>TH</sup> St., Tempe, Arizona.**

**(MEMBERS) Present:**

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

**(MEMBERS) Absent:**

Marcellus Lisotta, Susan Jones, Catherine Mayorga,

**City Staff Present:**

Tanya Chavez, Joe Clements, Cathy Hollow, Eric Iwersen, Dana Janofsky, Greg Jordan, Yvette Mesquita, Shelly Seyler, Sue Taaffe, Robert Yabes.

**Guests Present:**

Hillary Foose (Valley Metro), Dick Yano (AMEC)

Commission Chair Charles Huellmantel called the meeting to order at 7:32 a.m.

**Agenda Item 1 – Public Appearances**

None

**Agenda Item 2 – Approval of Meeting Minutes**

Commissioner Pam Goronkin made a motion to table the Minutes until next meeting. Gary Roberts seconded the motion. All approved.

**Agenda Item 3 –Hardy Drive Update**

Presented by Robert Yabes, Hardy Drive Project Manager and Dick Yano, AMEC consultant.

Preliminary Design expected go to ADOT in November 2012; Final Design in January 2013; Environmental Clearance in May 2013; and Construction to begin Fall/Winter 2013.

The project is from University to Broadway about 1 mile. There is \$1.2 million in CMAQ funds with possibly additional close out funds. The project will be coordinating with the existing University project.

From Broadway to 13<sup>th</sup> St there is a larger Right of Way and from 13<sup>th</sup> to University there are more restrictions.

Summary of Comments from the May 23, 2012 Public Meeting included: Reduce traffic speeds along Hardy Drive; Improve school crossing at Hardy/16<sup>th</sup> Street; Add raised medians where possible for traffic

calming, landscaping and public art; Develop solution to deal with traffic/bicycle conflicts adjacent to Hardy/University and Hardy/Broadway intersections; Make sure that improvements do not impede emergency services vehicles; Consider on-street parking on Hardy Drive; Consider speed tables and not speed humps; Consider undergrounding the utilities; Incorporate landscaping, shade, and public art; Incorporate wider detached sidewalks; Improve bike lane visibility and separation from traffic.

Presented 3 options. Option 1: Neighborhood Connection; Option 2: Corridor Legibility; and Option 3: Pedestrian and Bike Pivot.

Summary of Comments for August 15, 2012 Public Meeting included: Prefer the bicycle lane separated from the traffic; Like speed tables to slow traffic; Like plenty of landscaping to beautify neighborhood; Public art at neighborhood gateways at Broadway and University; Do not like the idea of on-street parking; Provide visibility to bus stops for drivers to see riders; Make the road more pedestrian and biker friendly; Do not remove left turn center lane. Provide full access to homes; Do not reduce the number of bus stops; APS/SRP power lines need to be undergrounded; Most people prefer options #1 or # 3 with a majority liking #3.

Commissioner Ben Goren asked to better define "reduce traffic speeds". Shelly stated that changing the posted speed limits is not part of the construction. If the changes that are made impact the 85%, then a change will be looked at. Differentials in the posted speed versus actual speed causes safety issues.

Commissioner Charles Huellmantel asked if traffic volumes indicate the need for 3 lanes. Shelly responded that three lanes are in range with traffic volumes.

Commissioner Goren asked about how people get in and out of the cycle track. Dick explained that there will be transition points.

Commissioner Goren asked if option #3 is most expensive do we have the funds for it and if not do the trees get cut out. Robert Yabes explained that the construction will fit into the budget, but as is now it is a little over.

Commissioner Gary Roberts asked is APS or SRP will provide financial assistance to move utilities underground. Robert Yabes stated they do set some monies aside, but not enough. It is very hard to find funding for moving utilities underground.

Commissioner Huellmantel stated he likes the reduction of speed, the plan being pedestrian friendly, cycle track, and the trees. He does not like the on-street parking. He is excited to see how it turns out.

Commissioner Sue Lofgren asked if enhanced bus stops was incorporated. Dick explained smaller scale bus shelters are in the current estimate.

Commissioner Phillip Luna asked if the utilities were overhead in the right-of-way and if so then would there be a higher cost later and would the utility companies be concerned with the landscape and the overhead utilities. Dick stated they were and they would make sure that the right species went in. Commissioner Roberts added that the utility companies would trim any trees encroaching on the utilities.

Commissioner Goronkin added that she thought the cost of underground utilities were estimated at \$1 - \$1.5 million dollars a mile.

Commissioner Melody Moss asked if Tempe was prepared to maintain additional landscaping. Greg Jordan stated that estimates for O&M costs were being looked at to program into a long range plan. Shelly Seyler added that with each Capital Improvement Project a maintenance estimate needs to be submitted.

Commissioner Sue Lofgren asked if the choker lanes are continuous. Dick stated they were not and had openings for driveways and the choker lanes were similar to the bike lanes on 5<sup>th</sup> St. Ben asked if the buffer would be a two foot sidewalk and Dick replied no that they don't want people to walk on it, but it would be a tangible buffer.

Commissioner Luna asked about the walls in Option 1, if they were new or existing. Dick explained they were existing.

Commissioner German Piedrahita asked about the demand for parking. Dick explained that it was primarily single family homes in that area.

Commissioner Lofgren asked if there were pullouts. Dick stated no. Commissioner Goren stated that if there were not pullouts what about the pedestrians. Dick stated that it was not in the details yet and it needs to be looked at.

Commissioner Lofgren asked how many people attended the meetings. Robert Yabes stated that about 65 people attended the first meeting and about 35 attended the second.

#### **Agenda Item 4 – Regional Fare Policy**

Presented by Hillary Foose, Valley Metro.

The proposed fare changes affect: Local Bus/LINK/Light rail service; Express/RAPID bus service; Rural Route 685 bus service; and ADA paratransit in the City of Phoenix, East Valley, and Southwest Valley.

Passengers pay about 25% of the cost to ride and local and state tax revenues fund about 75% of transit costs.

A fare increase is needed because local, state, and federal funding have experienced shortfalls in recent years, operating costs continue to rise, and the fare increase will help preserve service and keep up the pace with the cost of operations.

In fall of 2011 it was proposed that a \$.25 increase for all transit services, but a Title 6 analysis concluded that it created a disproportionate impact to low-income, minority riders and cause local riders to pay a higher rate than Express/RAPID riders.

The current fare change proposal: a \$.25 increase on local bus/LINK/lightrail; \$.50 increase on Express/RAPID bus; ADA Dial-a-Ride: \$4.00 for one ride; Rural Route: \$4.00 flat fare for one ride.

The current fare change proposal spreads cost of providing service more equitably among all transit riders.

Public Input Process: surveys are available at meetings and [www.valleymetro.org](http://www.valleymetro.org) or send an email to [fare@valleymetro.org](mailto:fare@valleymetro.org)

November 3, 2012 the public comment period ends

December 2012 – Consideration and possible adoption of new fare by Valley Metro Board and Phoenix City Council.

March 1, 2013 – If approved, new fare would take effect.

Commissioner Steven Saiz asked if the primary reason for the changes is the rise in operating costs. Hillary said yes.

Greg stated he will bring this item back in December to update.

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**Agenda Item 5 – MAG Updates**

Greg Jordan presented.

Greg asked the Commission who information and in what manner would be beneficial to the group. He referred to the handout as to all of the MAG Committee Meetings.

Commissioner Peter Schelstraete stated he would prefer a verbal discussion not an update every month. He is most interested in the Bicycle and Pedestrian Committee Meeting.

Commissioner Goren stated he would like to hear a general overview of items that staff thinks are relevant and trusts staff to relay what is important.

Commissioner Huellmantel stated updates on those that impact Tempe, region, pedestrian or Bicycle related. No multi-page summaries by staff would be needed.

**Agenda Item 6 – Department Updates**

Greg Jordan stated that he took a MAG sponsored trip to Salt Lake City. There were city staff and elected officials who went. Commissioner Huellmantel was also on the trip. Greg stated that they had a well planned, well integrated system. They have a linear geography which helps but also very strong regional funding and partnerships. They have a unified vision for the region which has helped their system grow over the past 10 years. Also their transit agency is referred to as technicians.

Commissioner Huellmantel commented that the system was very carefully designed.

Commissioner Goren asked how we can get the funding like Salt Lake City. Greg replied that if there was consistency throughout the region it would be easier to secure federal funds and also pursue partnerships. Commissioner Huellmantel added that a more regionalized vision would be important. Commissioner Steven Saiz asked how we can reach out to the private sector. Greg stated that the private sector acts as a spokesman for transit to the state legislature. Commissioner Roberts stated that Valley Metro has a ride share department that requires employers with over 50 employees must have an alternative modes ....Greg stated that AZTA has a state wide funding initiative and they will be back to present at a future date. Commissioner Saiz asked for a future agenda item of funding strategies and brainstorming.

Greg stated that the bus operations procurement phase was ongoing and expecting a resolution and recommendation to come forth in November.

Sue Taaffe stated there is a Fare Policy Public Meeting at the TTC on October 22, 2012.

Eric Iwersen stated a University Drive Streetscape Project meeting would be taking place at the Multi-Generational Center on October 3, 2012. Also check out [tempe.comdevupdate.com](http://tempe.comdevupdate.com) for Community Development Updates.

**Agenda Item 7 – Future Agenda Items**

None.

Meeting adjourned at 8:48 am

The Commission's next meeting will be held Tuesday November 13, 2012 at 7:30 a.m. Don Cassano Room at the Tempe Transportation Center, 200 E Fifth St, Tempe, Arizona.