



Minutes City of Tempe Transportation Commission September 9, 2014

Minutes of the Tempe Transportation Commission held on Tuesday, September 9, 2014, 7:30 a.m. at the Tempe Transportation Center, Don Cassano Community Room, 200 E 5th Street, Tempe, Arizona.

(MEMBERS) Present:

Pam Goronkin (Chair)
Jeremy Browning
Don Cassano
Aaron Golub
Ben Goren
Nikki Gusz
Charles Huellmantel

Sue Lofgren
Phillip Luna
Kevin Olson
German Piedrahita
Charles Redman
Gary Roberts
Peter Schelstraete

(MEMBERS) Absent:

Cyndi Streid

City Staff Present:

Shelly Seyler, Deputy Public Works Director
Joe Clements, Transit Financial Analyst
Julian Dresang, Traffic Engineer
Eric Iwersen, Principal Planner
Kathy Wittenburg, Administrative Assistant

Sue Taaffe, Public Works Supervisor
Laura Kajfez, Neighborhood Services Specialist
Shauna Warner, Neighborhood Program Manager
Marge Zylla, Government Relations Officer
Bill Amato, Police Legal Advisor

Guests Present:

Andrew Reble, APS
JC Porter, ASU
Randy Clawson, APS
Colleen Spakowski, SRP
Patricia Di Ross, SRP

Paul Hubbell, BCNA
Mary Obrien, ASU
Damon Gross, APS
Carlos Lopez, ADOT

Commission Chair Goronkin called the meeting to order at 7:33 a.m.

Agenda Item 1 – Public Appearances

Paul Hubble of the Brentwood Cavalier Neighborhood Association expressed interest in the SRP streetscape maintenance program and submitted a handout for distribution to the Commission.

Agenda Item 2 – Minutes

Commission Chair Goronkin introduced the minutes of the August 12, 2014 meeting and asked for a motion. Commissioner Luna stated that he was listed as present at the meeting but was absent. A motion was made to approve the minutes as amended.

Motion: Commissioner Huellmantel

Second: Commissioner Lofgren

Abstain: Commissioner Luna

Decision: Approved as amended

Agenda Item 3 – Discussion on Street Tree Trimming with SRP and APS

Shelly Seyler introduced Patricia DiRoss of SRP; and Andrew Rable, Randy Clawson and Damon Gross, of APS who briefed the Commission on policies and practices for landscape management of trees and vegetation to ensure safe distribution line clearance and transmission of electric services.

The representatives explained that both agencies employ the ANSI A300 Pruning Standards and International Society of Arboriculture's best management practice when trimming trees to maintain ten feet and two years of tree growth clearance from power lines. Communities are encouraged to submit landscaping plans to promote developing aesthetic yet safe streetscapes. Both utilities employ a preventive maintenance program which assess neighborhoods approximately every two years, and trim landscape as warranted to promote healthy trees and redirect growth away from utility lines.

Commission members and staff discussed alternative methods of managing existing landscape, the financial burden of performing preventative maintenance more often to minimize the need for aggressive trimming and working with the utilities to coordinate projects and submit landscaping plans for new growth in the future.

Agenda Item 4 – Passenger Rail Study (Tucson to Phoenix)

Carlos Lopez with the Arizona Department of Transportation (ADOT) presented an overview of the Passenger Rail Study to determine transit options for commuters between Tucson and Phoenix.

Carlos explained that ADOT's Passenger Rail Corridor Study process has worked with the Federal Railroad Administration, the Federal Transit Administration, Maricopa, Pima and Pinal counties, cities and other planning organizations to determine transit options, and has designated three final route alternatives currently referred to as the Yellow, Green and Orange routes. The next steps are to complete the Alternatives Analysis, draft Tier 1 Environmental Impact Study and host public hearings in Pinal, Pima and Maricopa counties in 2015, and implement a Service Development Plan for spring 2015. There is no funding in place for this project. A submittal of the project with a "record of decision" to the federal government is the formal next step to make the project eligible for future federal funding.

Commission members acknowledged the importance of having a connection to downtown Tempe included in this plan, and discussed how short-term transportation needs can be managed through temporary bus routes until a permanent rail alternative route is built.

A motion to move the Passenger Rail Study forward with two caveats was made:

- a designated connection to downtown Tempe, and
- a request for ADOT to look at a temporary bus route between Tempe and Tucson to test and build popularity of the route.

Motion: Commissioner Huellmantel

Second: Commissioner Olson

Decision: Approved

Agenda Item 5 – Briefing of the Character Area Plans – Kiwanis/the Lakes and Corona/South Tempe

Nancy Ryan gave an overview of the ongoing Character Area planning for the Kiwanis/The Lakes and the Corona/South Tempe Character Areas. Nancy gave a brief summary of the workshop findings and community input, which identified assets and challenges, amenities and gaps to strategize and prioritize the vision which will be introduced to the community in late October.

Agenda Item 6 – Pedi cab Ordinance

Bill Amato, Police Legal Advisor with the City Attorney's Office, gave a brief summary of Pedi cab activity and the proposed Ordinance to regulate the industry in Tempe. Bill explained that the influx in unorganized Pedi cab operations has increased risks for riders and pedestrians. The ordinance will mandate that Pedi cab operators comply with general guidelines, licensing and insurance requirements.

Commission members discussed the advantages and challenges of Pedi cab operations and recognized the need for regulating the industry to support safety and order for residents and guests and limit liability. A motion to support the ordinance was made.

Motion: Commissioner Huellmantel

Second: Commissioner Goren

Decision: Approved

Opposed: Commissioner Schelstraete

Agenda Item 7 – Department and Regional Transportation Updates

The November meeting date is set for November 18, 2014, due to the Veteran's Day holiday.

Agenda Item 8 – Future Agenda Items

Eric Iwersen reviewed the current list of proposed agenda items and asked for Commission input.

The following future agenda items have been previously identified by the Commission or staff:

- Proposed Short Term Improvements for I-10/I-17 (October)
- Transportation Master Plan (October)
- Upstream Dam Pedestrian Bridge over Town Lake (October)
- Underpass @ Southbank Rio Salado Path & McClintock Drive (October)
- Signal preemption vs. prioritization for bus and light rail (October)
- Bus Unification Update (November)
- TIM Market Research Results (November)
- City Budget Long-Range Forecast Presentation (November)
- MAG Annual Grant Process Review (November)
 - FTA Section 5310 - Grant for transportation for elderly and persons with disabilities.
 - Transportation Investment Generating Economic Recovery
 - Congestion Mitigation and Air Quality Program Projects
 - Urbanized Area Formula Program (5307)
 - Job Access Reverse Commute
 - Transportation Alternatives Program
- Transportation CIP Requests (December)
- 2015/16 Media Buy (December)
- Bike Hero (January)
- Orbit Saturn (March)
- City Budget Long-Range Forecast Update (Operating) & CIP follow-up (March)
- CIP Discussion (April)
- Bus Unification (May)
- MAG Pedestrian Design Assistance Grants (May)
- City Tentative Fiscal Year 2015-16 Operating Budget (June)
- MAG Congestion Mitigation and Air Quality Program (CMAQ ITS) (June)
- Scottsdale/Rural Road BRT Link Service Study Update (TBD)
- Larger Orbit buses (TBD)
- Continue to see pedestrian improvement projects
- Rideshare Feedback

The Commission's next meeting is scheduled for October 14, 2014.

The meeting was adjourned at 9:01 am

Prepared by: Kathy Wittenburg

Reviewed by: Sue Taaffe, Eric Iwersen