



Minutes City of Tempe Transportation Commission October 14, 2014

Minutes of the Tempe Transportation Commission held on Tuesday, October 14, 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
Nikki Gusz
Charles Huellmantel

Philip Luna
Kevin Olson
German Piedrahita
Gary Roberts
Peter Schelstraete
Cyndi Streid

(MEMBERS) Absent:

Ben Goren
Sue Lofgren
Charles Redman

City Staff Present:

Shelly Seyler, Deputy Public Works Director
Eric Iwersen, Principal Planner
Kathy Wittenburg, Administrative Assistant
Joe Clements, Trans. Financial Analyst
Amanda Nelson, Public Information Officer
Mike Nevarez, Transit Manager
Julian Dresang, City Traffic Engineer

Sue Taaffe, Public Works Supervisor
Laura Kajfez, Neighborhood Services Specialist
Marge Zylla, Government Relations Officer
David Lucas, Civil Engineer
Christine Warren, Sr. Civil Engineer
Cathy Hollow, Sr. Civil Engineer

Guests Present:

Radu Nan – Kittelson and Associates
Daniel Filippino, Valley Metro
Harvey Estrada, Valley Metro
JC Porter, ASU

Commission Chair Goronkin called the meeting to order at 7:31 a.m.

Agenda Item 1 – Public Appearances

Radu Nan with Kittelson and Associates was introduced.

Agenda Item 2 – Minutes

Commission Chair Goronkin introduced the minutes of the September 9, 2014 meeting and asked for a motion. A motion was made to approve the minutes.

Motion: Commissioner Cassano

Second: Commissioner Roberts

Decision: Approved

Agenda Item 3 – Transit Signal Priority for Light Rail and Bus Transit

Christine Warren explained the system network operational goals and the Transit Signal Priority basis to improve service quality and reduce delay for better scheduling adherence. The two main types for providing traffic signal priority (predictive priority and preemption) were explained and described for light rail and bus transit, including the pros and cons of each type of control as well as the details of the existing light rail transit signal priority. The three strategies of predictive priority, which favor the movement of light rail vehicles along the corridor were discussed and included green extension, phase rotation and actuated transit phases. Preemption, although not used in Tempe for transit signal priority, is used for emergency vehicle preemption. Staff also explained why a light rail vehicle would need to stop with the existing predictive priority system. Daniel Filippino with Valley Metro was introduced and was available to answer questions from the light rail vehicle operations perspective.

Commission, staff and Daniel Filippino discussed transit signal priorities, travel time of bus/rail verses a car, coordination for continuity, and impact on ridership.

Agenda Item 4 – Summary of Uber and Lyft 2014 Legislation

Marge Zylla provided summary information regarding the state legislation concerning services provided by companies such as Uber and Lyft by referencing excerpts from HB 2273 (original bill proposed by supporters of Uber and Lyft) and HB 2262. The city has not taken a position on either bill. The points of the two proposals were presented along with some of the concerns expressed by both sides of the issue. It was explained the bills supported by Uber and Lyft would exclude their drivers from the statutory definition of taxi and livery vehicles and create different licensing requirements for their drivers. HB 2273 termed Uber and Lyft as companies like ride-share networks, which were problematic for vanpooling type groups, and in HB 2262 the term was changed to transportation networks and transportation network systems. The legislature passed HB 2262, but it was vetoed by the Governor due to liability concerns as it related to safety, insurance, and drug testing. The topic will likely be revisited by the state legislature during the 2015 session.

Commission members and staff discussed the stances of proponent and opponent groups, trends, statewide standards, and current differences between Uber and Lyft and taxis.

Agenda Item 5 – Highline Canal Multi-use Path Project

Eric Iwersen introduced Jim Coffman of Coffman Studios. Jim provided information on the project including next steps, and the path design concept for feedback and review. The presentation included several options for features such as common design elements/ bridges, incorporating existing elements, providing landscaping within and outside of SRP's rights-of-way, creating concrete seating as well as threshold structures while incorporating neighborhood city/town connections with a unique water feature. A public input process will be conducted with the area neighborhoods during the construction document development phase which will begin in early 2015. The fiscal impact was \$65,000 in federal funding for the concept design phase and \$3.3 million allocated in federal construction grants.

Agenda Item 6 – Upstream Dam Pedestrian Bridge Over Town Lake

Eric Iwersen provided the Commission with an overview of the concept, process and approximate costs related to the proposed Pedestrian and Bicycle Bridge at the Town Lake upstream dam location. The project is identified in the draft Transportation Master Plan as a 2040 bicycle and pedestrian improvement linking to the city's non-motorized networks. The proposed bridge links the south and north sides of the lake; provides a direct link to the Indian Bend Wash path which connects into Scottsdale; and would utilize the dam piers. Funding is estimated between \$4 million and \$5 million. The project is a candidate for federal grants and can possibly compete for funding with other City Capital Improvement Programs (CIP).

Commission members discussed the importance of the project and timeline, link to the widely used existing bridge, impact to the east part of the lake and other priorities. Staff discussed the upcoming CIP process and will provide the Commissioners a list of projects at the November 18th meeting to help members prioritize projects.

A motion was made to place the Upstream Pedestrian Bridge for priority funding.

Motion: Commissioner Huellmantel

Second: Commissioner Phil Luna

Decision: Motion did not pass with 7 members voting no and 5 voting yes

Agenda Item 7 – Bicycle/Pedestrian Underpass at Rio Salado Southbank and McClintock Drive

Eric Iwersen provided the Commission with an overview of the concept, process and approximate costs related to the proposed Pedestrian and Bicycle Underpass at the Rio Salado Southbank Path and McClintock Drive.

Commission members discussed importance/impact of the underpass, funding, and the connectivity/linkage to Tempe Marketplace, Mesa, the Cubs Stadium, and Indian Bend alignment through Scottsdale. The project is identified in the Transportation Master Plan as a 2020 improvement. Staff discussed the upcoming CIP process and will provide the Commissioners a list of projects at the November 18th meeting to help members prioritize projects.

A motion was made to recommend the underpass for priority funding.

Motion: Commissioner Cassano

Second: Commissioner Huellmantel

Decision: Motion passed 12 to 0

Agenda Item 8 – Department and Regional Transportation Updates

- Invitations were sent to Commissioners for the Mary O'Connor bus shelter dedication in the Council Chambers on November 8, 2014
- The November meeting date is set for November 18 due to the Veterans Day holiday and the location will be at Hatton Hall.

Agenda Item 9 – Future Agenda Items

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

- Streetcar (November)
- Transportation Master Plan (November)
- Bus Unification Update (November)
- City Preliminary Long-Range Financial Forecast and Transit Fund Update (November)
- Transportation CIP Requests/MAG Annual Grant Process Review (November)
- North South Railroad Spur Multi-use Path Update (December)
- TIM Market Research Results (December)
- 8th Street Streetscape Project (December)
- Proposed Short-Term Improvements for I-10/I-17 (December)
- Council Chair and Vice Chair Elections (January)
- Streetcar (January)
- BikeShare (January)
- Orbit Saturn (January)
- 2015/16 Media Buy (January)
- Bike Hero (February)
- City Budget Long-Range Forecast Update (Operating) & CIP follow-up (March)
- CIP Discussion (April)
- Orbit Saturn (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)
- Orbit Saturn & Larger Orbit buses (October)

The Commission's next meeting is scheduled for November 18, 2014.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:49 a.m.

Prepared by: Kathy Wittenburg/Yvette Mesquita

Reviewed by: Sue Taaffe