



Minutes City of Tempe Transportation Commission January 06, 2015

Minutes of the Tempe Transportation Commission held on Tuesday, January 6, 2015 at 7:30 a.m., at Hatton Hall, 34 E. 7th St., Tempe, AZ 85281.

(MEMBERS) Present:

Pam Goronkin (Chair)
Don Cassano
Jeremy Browning
Aaron Golub
Bonnie Gerepka
Nikki Gusz
Ryan Guzy

Charles Huellmantel
Phillip Luna
Kevin Olson
Charles Redman
Peter Schelstraete
Cyndi Streid

(MEMBERS) Absent:

German Piedrahita

City Staff Present:

Shelly Seyler, Deputy Public Works Director
Julian Dresang, Traffic Engineer
Mike Nevarez, Transit Manager
Eric Iwersen, Principal Planner
Joe Clements, Transit Financial Analyst
Lisa Hernandez, Administrative Assistant

Sue Taaffe, Public Works Supervisor
Yvette Mesquita, Public Works Supervisor
Tammara Evans, Administrative Assistant
Jason Hartong, Senior Planner
Ken Jones, Chief Financial Officer
Robert Yabes, Principal Planner
Shauna Warner, Neighbor Program Mgr

Guests Present:

Marc Soronson, HDR
Alec Moore, HDR
Jessica Koon, HDR
Terry Gruver, HDR

Wulf Grofe, Valley Metro
Christopher Borris, First Transit
Scott Wisner, Valley Metro
Sam Stevenson, Valley Metro

Commissioner Pam Goronkin called the meeting to order at 7:30 a.m.

Agenda Item 1 – Public Appearances

None

Agenda Item 2 – Minutes

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

Motion: Commissioner Don Cassano

Second: Commissioner Peter Schelstraete

Decision: Approved as amended

Agenda Item 3 – Commission Business

Commission Chair Goronkin gave a brief overview of the Commission business.

Discussion included introductions of the newly inducted commissioners Bonnie Gerepka and Ryan Guzy and the Annual Election of the Chair and Vice-Chair for the commission for the upcoming year per the Tempe City Code, Sec. 2-249. Motion was made to allow Pam Goronkin and Don Cassano to continue for a second term as Chair and Vice Chair.

Motion: Charles Huellmantel

Second: Kevin Olson

Decision: Approved

Agenda Item 4 – Streetcar

Eric Iwersen introduced Alec Moore, Valley Metro Project Manager, who presented information regarding the Tempe streetcar project.

Discussion included stop locations; propulsion systems including on-board energy storage which may require longer vehicles and overhead contact systems; vehicle size; project cost update; recommendations and next steps. The proposed project definition and stop locations focused on community destinations, residential population and economic development potential. The pros and cons of the light rail vehicle options and combining streetcar with the LRT vehicle procurement were also reviewed. On-wire propulsion system along the entire streetcar alignment was discussed and recommended due to proven technology and cost savings. Vehicle size will be selected later in 2015. Valley Metro is waiting for a preliminary justification rating on the project from FTA this month. Street configuration discussions will be occurring in the spring, environmental assessment is ongoing and will conclude in August and project financing is ongoing.

Motion was carried out for the Commission to support staffs recommendation to Council for the purposed stop locations and the use of the on-wire propulsion system.

Commissioner Huellmantel expressed views regarding a stop location nearer to Tempe St. Lukes Hospital and configuring the 13th & Mill intersection to a more traditional grid system layout. He also expressed support for a smaller vehicle size, and having a more aggressive schedule.

Motion: Commissioner Kevin Olsen
Second: Commissioner Don Cassano
Decision: Approved

Agenda Item 5 – Bus Unification Update

Mike Nevarez, Public Works, presented information on the bus unification “scout program” with RPTA.

Discussion included the results of the first year of transit service provided by the Regional Public Transportation Authority (RPTA) through a transit service contract with First Transit Inc. From a regional and Tempe perspective, the unification of Tempe and RPTA transit operations yields financial and operational benefits to all affected jurisdictions. Transit service contract costs have been reduced, which effectively helps control the growth of service costs, improving the effectiveness and efficiency of operating transit service in the East Valley. In April 2015, staff will present an update to City Council with additional transit service performance data and a comprehensive financial report that clearly describes the financial outcome of the scout program along with a recommendation on the future of the unification project. The Council will be asked in May 2015 to provide direction regarding the future of unification.

Agenda Item 6 – Orbit Saturn

Jason Hartong, Public Works, provided information regarding the January public input process for Orbit Saturn.

Discussion included providing the Commission with an update on expanding Orbit service into South Tempe. Based on the financial forecast, and if approved by the City Council, Orbit operations in south Tempe would be planned to commence in April or October 2017. Three phases were introduced and each phase will incorporate public perspective. Phase one includes route parameters, phase two will include route proposal(s) and phase three will involve a final route proposal. Next steps include: community and Transportation Commission meetings for each phase of the process from January 2015 to October 2015 with a presentation to the City Council in Nov/Dec. 2015.

Agenda Item 7- Department and Regional Transportation Updates

None

Agenda Item 7 – Future Agenda Items

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

- 2015/16 Media Buy (February)
- Bike Hero (February)
- Tempe Bike Parking Corral (February)
- Street closure procedures, notification and outreach update (February)
- Streetcar (February)
- Bicycle/pedestrian signal activation operations (March)
- City Budget Long-Range Forecast Update (Operating) & CIP follow-up (March)

- North/South Railroad Spur Multi-Use Path (March)
- CIP Discussion (April)
- Orbit Saturn (April)
- Streetcar (April)
- Bus Unification (April)
- Highline Canal Multi-use Path Project (April)
- Alameda Streetscape Project (May)
- 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)
- Highline Canal Multi-use Path Project (September)
- Orbit Saturn & Larger Orbit buses (November)
- Alameda Streetscape Project (November)

The Commission's next meeting is scheduled for February 10, 2015.

The meeting was adjourned at 9:01 a.m.

Prepared by: Tammara Evans

Reviewed by: Sue Taaffe, Eric Iwersen