



Minutes City of Tempe Transportation Commission September 8, 2015

Minutes of the Tempe Transportation Commission held on Tuesday, Sept. 8, 2015, 7:30 a.m., at the Tempe Transportation Center, Don Cassano Community Room, 200 E. Fifth Street, Tempe, Arizona.

(MEMBERS) Present:

Pam Goronkin (Chair)
Ryan Guzy
Bonnie Gerepka
Don Cassano
Susan Conklu
Philip Luna

Kevin Olson
Peter Schelstraete
Cyndi Streid
Lloyd Thomas (via phone)
Charles Redman
Shereen Lerner

(MEMBERS) Absent:

Charles Huellmantel
Jeremy Browning

City Staff Present:

Shelly Seyler, Deputy Public Works Director
Eric Iwersen, Principal Planner
Sue Taaffe, Public Works Supervisor

Amanda Nelson, Public Information Officer
Laura Kajfez, Neighborhood Services Specialist
Julian Dresang, City Traffic Engineer

Guests Present:

Radu Nan, Kittelson and Associates
JC Porter, ASU
Olivia Turner-Tolley, resident

Commissioner Pam Goronkin called the meeting to order at 7:35 a.m.

Agenda Item 1 – Public Appearances

None

Agenda Item 2 – Minutes

Chair Goronkin introduced the minutes of the August 11, 2015 meeting and asked for a motion. A motion was made to approve the minutes.

Motion: Commissioner Don Cassano

Second: Commissioner Peter Schelstraete

Decision: Approved

Agenda Item 3 – Alameda Drive Bicycle/Pedestrian Design Concepts Project

Eric Iwersen, Public Works, and Radu Nan, Kittelson and Associates, presented the design concept for Alameda Drive from Rural Road to 48th Street. The refined design concept is intended to re-characterize three miles of a very wide collector street with no current bike or pedestrian amenities other than signage and basic sidewalk into an enhanced pedestrian area and bicycle boulevard, while retaining vehicular access. A design concept is the first phase in project development and is used to seek federal grants for construction. The project links directly to the location of a bike/ped bridge over the I-10 at Alameda Drive and connecting to Tempe Diablo Stadium that is now funded as part of ADOT's near term improvements to the interstate.

Commission discussion included the lack of a bicycle/pedestrian bridge at Arizona Mills Mall, over the I-10 and the Western Canal Multi-use Path, the bike parking configuration near Tempe Diablo Stadium, the feedback received from the industrial park regarding truck parking, repaving of Alameda Drive as part of this project, sharrows, the configuration of the roadway just east of College and the redesign of the bollards at the Union Pacific Railroad crossing.

The first public meeting was held May 6 and a second public meeting will be held Sept. 16 at 6 p.m. at Broadmor Elementary School.

A motion was made to approve the proposed Alameda Drive Bicycle/Pedestrian Design concepts and to defer to the neighborhoods between Rural and the railroad as to whether or not they would like a landscape median

Motion: Commissioner Kevin Olson

Second: Commissioner Don Cassano

Decision: Approved.

Agenda Item 4 – Bike Boulevards

Eric Iwersen and Julian Dresang, Public Works, presented information regarding the bike boulevard system. In March 2015, a corridor analysis was conducted on the Seat route (Knox Road) to identify improvements based on projected costs. The low-cost improvements listed below would be implemented during FY 15/16, while the high- and medium-cost improvements will likely require infrastructure improvements (e.g., traffic signals, traffic calming, new path, grade separated railroad crossings, etc.) that exceed the \$100,000 earmarked for FY 15/16. As such, these improvements will be submitted in the CIP budget for FY 16/17 or may be part of the FY 16/17 bike boulevard implementation.

Public meetings for residents along the Seat Route occurred May 13 and August 12. During the first round of public comment, 35 people submitted online surveys. Of those commenting, 13 were generally favorable to some type of bicycle amenities, five were opposed to any improvements, and five made comments that were neutral in nature. Those in support of the concept cited the need for wayfinding signage, and a desire for higher level improvements such as additional signals or crossings to enhance connectivity. Those opposed identified Knox/LaVieve as a bike boulevard raised concerns with increased bike traffic, safety, and the expending of city funds on the project.

During the second round of public comment, 39 people responded to the survey online. Of those who commented, 14 were in favor of the signalized crossing at McClintock and LaVieve while 22 were not, 14 were in favor of the signalized crossing at Kyrene and Knox while 15 were not; and 14 were in favor of the signalized crossing at Priest and Knox while five were not. It should be noted that the majority of those residents commenting about these signals live east of McClintock Drive.

Commission discussion included signal timing adjustments, and the potential for the Seat route to impact future routes if the entire Seat route is not implemented

Staff presented three options for consideration:

1. Implement Seat route in entirety including six signs in Circle G, seven signs in Alta Mira, a ramp modification at the pedestrian connection between the two neighborhoods, and advance the traffic signal proposal at McClintock and LaVieve.
2. Implement Seat route from McClintock to Highline Canal, omitting Circle G and Alta Mira neighborhoods and the McClintock and LaVieve traffic signal.
3. Postpone any implementation of Seat route and advance staff time and funding to other bike boulevard routes (Pedal - College Avenue would be next).

A motion was made to approve implementing the Seat route in its entirety including six signs in Circle G, seven signs in Alta Mira, the ramp modification, and advance the traffic signal proposal at McClintock and LaVieve.

Motion: Commissioner Susan Conklu

Second: Commissioner Cyndi Streid

Decision: Approved with Commissioner Olson voting no.

Agenda Item 5 – Department and Regional Transportation Updates

Eric Iwersen mentioned that the second public meeting for Alameda Drive Bicycle/Pedestrian Design Concepts Project will be held Sept. 16 at 6 p.m. at Broadmor Elementary School. Shelly Seyler mentioned that there are Orbit Saturn public meetings on Sept. 9 and 12. Shelly Seyler also mentioned that ADOT is holding a series of public meetings this month regarding the Passenger Rail Tier 1 EIS. Staff will email the Commission with meeting times and locations.

Agenda Item 6 – Future Agenda Items

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

- Bike Share (October)
- Streetcar (October)
- 5th Street Streetscape Project (October)
- Highline Canal Multi-use Path (November)
- Orbit Saturn (November)
- Alameda Streetscape Project (November)
- Long-Range Forecast Presentation (November)
- McClintock @ Rio Salado MUP underpass (December)
- North/South Railroad Spur Multi-Use Path (December)
- Introduction of CIP Requests (December)
- Bike Hero (January)
- FY 2016/17 Media Plan (February)

- Western Canal Multi-use Path Extension (February)
- Long-Range Forecast Update (Operating) & CIP follow-up (March)
- 8th Street Streetscape (March)
- Bus Unification Update (May)
- Bicycle/Pedestrian Signal Activate Operations Update (June)

The Commission's next meeting is scheduled for October 13, 2015.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:59 a.m.

Prepared by: Sue Taaffe

Reviewed by: Eric Iwersen