



## Minutes City of Tempe Transportation Commission October 13, 2015

Minutes of the Tempe Transportation Commission held on Tuesday, Oct. 13, 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  
Philip Luna  
Jeremy Browning  
Charles Huellmantel

Kevin Olson  
Peter Schelstraete  
Cyndi Streid  
Lloyd Thomas  
Charles Redman  
Shereen Lerner

**(MEMBERS) Absent:**

Susan Conklu

**City Staff Present:**

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

Mike Nevarez, Transit Manager  
Julian Dresang, City Traffic Engineer

**Guests Present:**

Radu Nan, Kittelson and Associates  
JC Porter, Arizona State University  
Eric Gudino, Arizona Department of Transportation  
Steve Hogan, Parsons Brinkerhoff/Arizona Department of Transportation

Eric Anderson, Maricopa Association of Governments  
Patricia Cooley, resident

Commissioner Pam Goronkin called the meeting to order at 7:32 a.m.

**Agenda Item 1 – Public Appearances**

None

**Agenda Item 2 – Minutes**

Chair Goronkin introduced the minutes of the Sept. 8, 2015 meeting and asked for a motion. A motion was made to approve the minutes.

**Motion:** Commissioner Philip Luna

**Second:** Commissioner Don Cassano

**Decision:** Approved

**Agenda Item 3 – Passenger Rail Study (Tucson to Phoenix)**

Steve Hogan, representing the Arizona Department of Transportation (ADOT), presented information regarding the ADOT Passenger Rail Study. ADOT studied the feasibility of a passenger rail line between Phoenix and Tucson and narrowed the list of alternatives to two. Both alternatives would link Phoenix to Tucson with multiple options for stops at other cities along the route. The two alternatives are:

- Yellow Alternative, which would utilize Interstate 10 north from Tucson, then Highway 287 connecting to the Southeast Valley cities of Queen Creek, Gilbert, and Chandler before linking to Tempe. This alignment would use both ADOT road systems and the Union Pacific Railroad.
- Orange Alternative, which would also utilize Interstate 10 north from Tucson, then Highway 87 connecting to Mesa Gateway Airport and ultimately to the ADOT system along US60 and the State Routes 101 and 202.

ADOT is working with the Federal Railroad Administration (FRA) and other federal agencies, as well as local governments and planning organizations in Maricopa, Pinal and Pima. A draft Tier 1 Environmental Impact Statement has been prepared and is now available for public review. The document is available for comment through Oct. 30. Public hearings were held in September.

The Commission discussed the speed of passenger rail, community connections, cost estimates, ridership modeling, contingency funds and route alternatives within Tempe.

**Agenda Item 4 – I-10/I-17 Spine Project**

Eric Anderson, Maricopa Association of Governments (MAG), presented information regarding the MAG I-10/I-17 Spine Study. MAG, in partnership with the Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) and ADOT launched this study to develop a Corridor Master Plan for the Interstate 10 and Interstate 17 corridor. This corridor is referred to as the “Spine,” because it serves as the backbone for transportation in the metropolitan Phoenix area.

The purpose of the Spine Study effort is to analyze various long-term strategies to improve mobility in the corridor. The study is evaluating the full range of transportation modes and concepts to identify the best multimodal solutions. The guiding principles for the study include expanding alternative modes of transportation, optimizing technology, meeting performance demands and implementation. To date, there are 341 alternatives to consider; and MAG is in the process of analyzing the feasibility of those alternatives. Study recommendations will be programmed in the MAG Regional Transportation Plan and Transportation Improvement Program.

The current MAG Regional Transportation Plan allocates \$1.47 billion for the Spine Corridor. This amount includes funding for any identified near-term improvements, in addition to longer range improvements. The Spine Study will identify how to best use these funds to achieve the greatest benefit to the region. It will also define funding shortfalls of the preferred corridor improvement approach so that additional funding allocations can be identified. It was noted by Mr. Anderson that the bicycle pedestrian bridge at Alameda Drive and the I-10 is advancing and funded as part of the near term improvements.

The Commission discussed the South Mountain Bypass Project and the efficiency of “stack loops” in the freeway system.

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### **Agenda Item 5 – Department and Regional Transportation Updates**

Eric Iwersen mentioned that at the Oct. 1 City Council Work Study Session, the City Council instructed staff to conduct a third public meeting for the Seat Bike Boulevard Route before taking action. A third public meeting will be held Nov. 5.

Mike Nevarez informed the Commission of the potential bus strike in the city of Phoenix. The union and contractor are still in negotiations. Staff will include the Commission via email on information as it becomes available.

Eric Iwersen mentioned that the second public meeting for Alameda Drive Bicycle/Pedestrian Design Concepts Project was held in September, and the majority of residents support the design concept, which includes no median islands on Alameda Drive between Mill Avenue and Rural Road.

### **Agenda Item 6 – Future Agenda Items**

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

- Bike Share (November)
- Fifth Street Streetscape (November)
- Streetcar (November)
- Orbit Saturn (November)
- Alameda Drive Streetscape (November)
- Long-Range Forecast Presentation (December)
- McClintock @ Rio Salado MUP underpass (December)
- North/South Railroad Spur Multi-Use Path (December)
- Introduction of CIP Requests (December)
- Highline Canal Multi-use Path (January)
- 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)
- 8<sup>th</sup> Street Streetscape (March)
- CIP Discussion (April)
- Bus Unification Update (May)
- Bicycle/Pedestrian Signal Activate Operations Update (June)
- MAG Congestion and Mitigation and Air Quality Program (CMAQ, ITS) and Pedestrian Design Assistance Grants (June)

Shelly Seyler stated that some agenda items have shifted and for November, the following agenda items tentatively include:

- Bike Share
- Streetcar
- Orbit Saturn
- Bike Boulevards

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

The meeting was adjourned at 8:28 a.m.

Prepared by: Sue Taaffe

Reviewed by: Eric Iwersen