



Minutes City of Tempe Transportation Commission November 18, 2014

Minutes of the Tempe Transportation Commission held on Tuesday, November 18, 2014, 7:30 a.m. at Hatton Hall 34 E 7th Street, Tempe, Arizona.

(MEMBERS) Present:

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

Kevin Olson
German Piedrahita
Charles Redman
Peter Schelstraete
Cyndi Streid

(MEMBERS) Absent:

Sue Lofgren
Philip Luna
Gary Roberts

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
Sue Taaffe, Public Works Supervisor

Yvette Mesquita, Public Works Supervisor
Tammara Evans, Administrative Assistant
Robert Yabes, Principal Planner
Ken Jones, Deputy City Manager CFO
Amanda Nelson, Public Information Officer

Guests Present:

Robert Forrest, Valley Metro
Wulf Grote, Valley Metro
Terry Gruver, Valley Metro
Radu Nan, Kittelson and Associates
Matthew Taunton, HDR

Matthew Elliott, Parsons
Kristal Bittner, Parsons
Russell Moore, Parsons
Donna Lewandowski, ASU
JC Porter, ASU

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

Agenda Item 1 – Public Appearances

None

Agenda Item 2 – Minutes

Commission Chair Goronkin introduced the minutes of the October 14, 2014 meeting and asked for a motion. A motion was made to approve the minutes.

Motion: Commissioner Charles Huellmantel

Second: Commissioner Don Cassano

Decision: Approved

Agenda Item 3 – Streetcar

Eric Iwersen from Public Works and Wulf Grote with Valley Metro provided an update to the Streetcar project including vehicle types and propulsion technologies.

Discussion included the intent to submit a Small Starts Grant in September 2015; project definition for stop locations; vehicles and propulsion systems including on-board energy storage which may require longer vehicles and overhead contact systems; project funding; and public involvement. The proposed project definition and stop locations focused on community destinations, residential population and economic development potential. Key findings of the "State of the Industry" review of streetcar vehicles and propulsion systems showed no streetcar system in the United States currently operates off-wire technology though manufacturers claim off-wire is possible and indicate there is a move toward larger vehicle (Tempe's streetcar will operate as a single car unit). Off-wire cost is anticipated at 10-20% above a typical \$5 million dollar vehicle and will potentially have higher operating costs including necessary maintenance facility upgrades and battery replacement costs of \$500,000 per vehicle every 7 to 8 years. The pros and cons of the light rail vehicle options and combining streetcar with the LRT vehicle procurement were also reviewed. Presented were the funding estimates, gaps, and Tempe's annual operating funding commitment of \$3.1 to \$4.0 million. Valley Metro explained they are working with Tempe to identify funding opportunities as capital costs have increased due to project length and modified alignment. Public involvement meetings are scheduled for December 1, 2014 with the Commissioners and other stakeholders being presented with information as needed before January 2015.

Commission members and staff discussed the options, benefits to the City, stop locations, the environmental assessment, operating cost, funding sources, and differences between combined and shared stops.

Motion was made to support the Streetcar project.

Motion: Commissioner Charles Huellmantel

Second: Commissioners German Piedrahita and Kevin Olson

Decision: Approved

Agenda Item 4 – Transportation Master Plan

Robert Yabes from Public Works Introduced Matthew Taunton with HDR, Inc. the consultant team who provided an update and requested input on the final draft from the Commission members on the Transportation Master Plan.

Commission members were presented with the final Transportation Master Plan (TMP) that will also be presented to Council on December 4th. The background relating to the development of the plan; the project timelines; solicitation of feedback from Commission members and other organizations; and the overall public involvement processes were reviewed. Also provided was an overview of the TMP priorities for the three (3) modes (roadways, transit and bicycle/pedestrian); and the two transportation scenarios for the short-term (2020) and long-term (2040). Included

was a review of the maps for each of the modes and proposed improvements for roadway, transit, and bicycle/pedestrians including the Bicycle Boulevard network.

Commissioner Chair Goronkin obtained consensus from the Commissioners to support the recommendations presented.

Agenda Item 5 – City Preliminary Long-Range Financial Forecast and Transit Fund Update

Ken Jones, Deputy City Manager-Chief of Finance Officer provided an update on the city's long-range financial forecast along with an update of the transit fund.

Some of the high points of the annual Long-range Financial Forecast presented to City Council in October were reviewed including the general economic conditions and projections; priorities; and need to provide City Council direction early allowing time to prioritize and implement significant budget changes. How the Commissioner members are involved in the process and the model used to help Council balance the budget was reviewed. Deviations from previous forecast were shared as were the items impacting the current forecast including the expiration of the temporary sales tax of about \$11.5 million; building permit revenue due to State Farm's advance payments; and increase revenue from sales tax audits.

Commission members and staff discussed the City's ability to balance the budget and maintain reserves; the expiring temporary sales tax; reduction of city staff over the past few years; Transit's budget including debt retirement and the Commission's ability to provide input and make recommendations on the Transit Funds spending; increase in operating budget; bond rating; past route changes; commitments for future projects including Orbit and bus for State Farm area; bike/pedestrian projects; and the operating impact.

Agenda Item 6 – Transportation CIP Requests/MAG Annual Grant Process Review

Shelly Seyler provided an update on the types of grants available for transportation-related projects along with a list of possible projects. Staff is seeking Commission direction on prioritizing projects to apply for grant funding.

Presented was a 5-year list of Capital Improvement Projects (CIPs) showing grand funding opportunities for the current year and the unfunded projects for FY 2015-16 staff plans to submit. The list presented primarily applies to Transit, but also included were the HURF projects for the Transportation and Rights-of-Way and Traffic Signal and Street Lighting Programs. Commissioners were asked to review the unfunded projects and to identify other projects to include for recommendation. It was noted that the available funding source will include the larger projects such as the Streetcar and the Orbit changes for South Tempe which will take a significant amount of the funding.

Commissioners discussed and recommended placing the Underpass at Southbank Rio Salado Path and McClintock Drive at a higher priority project and recommended adding two additional projects: the East Pedestrian Bridge and 5th Street Project. Staff shared the 5th Street and Mill and Overlay Project is in out years as a combined program and suggested placing after FY 2015-16.

Motion: Commissioner Huellmantel

Second: Commissioner Don Cassano

Decision: Approved as discussed

Agenda Item 7 – Department and Regional Transportation Updates

- Shelly Seyler thanked Sue Taaffe and all staff that worked with Architekton on the Mary O'Connor shelter event on 5th Street and shared the family sent a "thank you" card
- Eric Iwersen reminded Commissioners the Streetcar public meeting is on December 1st in the Don Cassano Room at 6 p.m.

Agenda Item 8 – Future Agenda Items

Commissioner Chair Goronkin presented new items to consider submitted by Commission members:

- Report on appropriate Tempe operations relating to Emergency Street closures/narrowing of streets
- Operating procedures for pedestrian crossing
- Street closures due to special events and how it works

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

- Bus Unification (December)
- Proposed Short Term Improvements for I-10/I-17 (December)
- TIM Market Research Results (December)
- 8th Street Streetscape Project (December)
- North South Railroad Spur Multi-use Path Update (December)
- Chair and Vice Chair Elections (January)
- Streetcar (January)
- Orbit Saturn (January)
- BikeShare (January)
- 2015/16 Media Buy (February)
- Bike Hero (February)
- City Budget Long-Range Forecast Update (Operating) & CIP follow-up (March)
- CIP Discussion (April)
- Orbit Saturn (April)
- 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 December 9, 2014.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:57 am

Prepared by: Yvette Mesquita

Reviewed by: Shelly Seyler, Eric Iwersen and Robert Yabes