



## Minutes City of Tempe Transportation Commission November 8, 2016

Minutes of the Tempe Transportation Commission held on Tuesday, November 8, 2016, 7:30 a.m., at the Tempe Transportation Center, Don Cassano Community Room, 200 E. Fifth Street, Tempe, Arizona.

**(MEMBERS) Present:**

Ryan Guzy	Lloyd Thomas
Don Cassano (Chair)	Susan Conklu
Philip Luna	Shereen Lerner
Brian Fellows	Bonnie Gerepka
Peter Schelstraete	Kevin Olson
Pam Goronkin	Cyndi Streid

**(MEMBERS) Absent:**

Charles Redman  
Jeremy Browning  
Charles Huellmantel

**City Staff Present:**

Shelly Seyler, Deputy Public Works Director	Joe Clements, Transportation Financial Analyst
Sue Taaffe, Public Works Supervisor	Laura Kajfez, Neighborhoods Services Specialist
Tony Belleau, Transportation Planner	Mike Nevarez, Transit Manager
Julian Dresang, City Traffic Engineer	Amanda Nelson, Public Information Officer
Chase Walman, Transportation Planner	Ken Jones, Deputy City Manager
Eric Iwersen, Principal Planner	

**Guests Present:**

Nicholas Smart, resident  
JC Porter, ASU  
Amy McNamer, resident

Commission Chair Don Cassano called the meeting to order at 7:35 a.m.

**Agenda Item 1 – Public Appearances**

None.

**Agenda Item 2 – Minutes**

Chair Cassano introduced the minutes of the October 11, 2016 meeting and asked for a motion. A motion was made to approve the minutes.

**Motion:** Commissioner Pam Goronkin  
**Second:** Commissioner Lloyd Thomas  
**Decision:** Approved

**Agenda Item 3 – Recognition of Outgoing Commissioners**

Don Cassano and Shelly Seyler thanked Pam Goronkin, Peter Schelstraete and Philip Luna for their years of service and contribution to the Transportation Commission.

**Agenda Item 4 – City Preliminary Long-Range Financial Forecast and Transit Fund Update**

Ken Jones presented the City Preliminary Long-Range Financial Forecast and Transit Fund Update. Ken stated that the Transit and Transportation funds are both stable and have a fund balance, and that the Transit Tax forecast includes operation of the Streetcar and Orbit Saturn. The Transit Tax generates about \$40 million annually and is expected to grow two to three percent a year. During the economic downturn, the state began sweeping Highway User Revenue Funds (HURF) to fund the Department of Public Safety Services. Ken also explained that the bond question on the ballot for streets would utilize secondary property tax.

The Commission asked the following questions, and staff responded as follows:

- Is the HURF fund distribution on the Council legislative agenda? Yes.
- What is the city's bond rating? Standards and Poor's has Tempe at an AAA rating and Moody's at an AA-.
- Does the Transit Fund also pay for capital projects and is it a certain percent? Ken said that the city uses cash for the capital projects and they vary year to year.
- Will HURF funds continue to be swept by the state and not given to the cities? Most likely.
- For the bond issue regarding streets, how is the money spent? It can be spent on personnel or projects.

**Agenda Item 5 – Streetcar**

Eric Iwersen provided an update on the status of the Tempe Streetcar Project including:

- Schematics of track configurations
- Stop amenities
- Public art
- Procurement timeline
- Next steps

The Commission asked the following questions, and staff responded as follows:

- Where is the wireless section? The procurement RFP for the manufacturer included options for wireless portions on Mill and Ash from Rio Salado to University. A team comprised of Tempe staff, Valley Metro staff, CTE (Center for Transportation and the Environment) is currently reviewing the proposals.
- How will additional routes work with the light rail expansions? It is likely that there will be many lines like in other cities with routes having numbers or letters.
- Where does the extra space come from for the stops? Typically intersections are wider and can accommodate the stations in the middle of the street.
- Don't you lose a lane on Apache? The vehicles will share the same lane as the streetcar and there will still be left turn pockets.
- How long are the turn pockets? They vary from between 100 to 200 feet.
- At the end of the line, how do the vehicles turn around? Similar to how the light rail operated, the operator will walk to the other end of the streetcar where there are controls for operations.
- Why isn't the extension south on Mill Avenue not shown on the regional map? It continues to be considered for a future extension and will likely be included in Prop 500.
- Will the streetcar be free or have free zones? That decision will be made in 2017.

- How did Tucson handle free zone areas? Staff was not sure, but they are conducting a peer analysis on these types of questions.
- Has a fare box on board the streetcar been considered? There has been that discussion; however, fare boxes on board would slow down the system.
- What is the cost to collect fares? Staff did not have an answer, but that is information that will be brought back to the Commission in the future along with fare rates.

One Commissioner stated that if the streetcar were to go to Mill and Southern that a park-and-ride would be needed. Another Commissioner stated that the alignment south to Mill and Southern would not qualify for federal funding with the current starter line.

A public meeting was held Oct. 26 and the City Council will be presented this information on Dec. 1. The system is anticipated to open in August/September 2020.

#### **Agenda Item 6 – Fifth Street Streetscape Project**

Eric Iwersen provided an overview and update of the Fifth Street Streetscape Project including:

- Project history
- Existing conditions – land use, tree canopy, bus stops, bike lanes, light fixtures and parking.
- Possible improvements – bike lanes, parklets, redesigned parking, mid-block crossing treatments and public art.
- Timeline and next steps

The Sustainability Commission is looking for four Transportation Commissioners to participate in a future meeting. Lloyd Thomas, Susan Conklu, Ryan Guzy and Don Cassano volunteered.

#### **Agenda Item 7 – Department & Regional Transportation Updates**

Staff updated the commission on the McClintock Drive Traffic Lane Configuration Project and the Council has instructed staff to explore alternatives for the corridor.

#### **Agenda Item 8- Future Agenda Items**

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

- 5<sup>th</sup> Street Streetscape Project (November)
- Streetcar (November)
- Transportation Commission Annual Report (November)
- Long-Range Forecast Presentation (November)
- Recognition of Outgoing Commission Members (November)
- Market Research Survey (January)
- Commission business (January)
- Bike Hero (January)
- Leading vs. Lagging Left Turn Signals (January)
- Streetcar (January)
- Long-Range Forecast Presentation (February)
- Rio Salado @ McClintock Drive MUP Underpass (February)
- FY 2017-18 Media Plan (February)
- ASU Bike Registry Outreach Efforts (February)
- Streetcar (March)
- North/South Railroad Spur MUP (May)

- Streetcar (May)
- Bicycle/Pedestrian Signal Activate Operations Update (TBD)

Commissioner requested that the following items be added to future agenda items:

- Speed Limits
- Public Process for Transportation Projects
- DTA Update

The December 2016 meeting has been cancelled. The next meeting is scheduled for January 10, 2017.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:46 a.m.

Prepared by: Sue Taaffe

Reviewed by: Shelly Seyler