



Minutes City of Tempe Transportation Commission January 10, 2017

Minutes of the Tempe Transportation Commission held on Tuesday, January 10, 2017, 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
Brian Fellows	Shereen Lerner
Charles Redman	Bonnie Gerepka
Jeremy Browning	Kevin Olson
Charles Huellmantel	Cyndi Streid
Nigel A.L. Brooks	Shana Ellis

(MEMBERS) Absent:

None

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	Mackenzie Keller, Public Information Officer
Chase Walman, Transportation Planner	Robert Yabes, Principal Planner
Eric Iwersen, Principal Planner	

Guests Present:

Kathy DeBoer, WestGroup Research	Bruce Hernandez, Behavior Research Center
JC Porter, Arizona State University	Eric Anderson, Maricopa Association of Governments

Commission Chair Cassano called the meeting to order at 7:33 a.m.

Agenda Item 1 – Public Appearances

None.

Agenda Item 2 – Minutes

Chair Cassano introduced the minutes of the November 8, 2016 meeting and asked for a motion. A motion was made to approve the minutes.

Motion: Commissioner Kevin Olson

Second: Commissioner Lloyd Thomas

Abstained: Charles Huellmantel

Decision: Approved

Agenda Item 3 – Commission Business

Chair Cassano introduced newly inducted Commissioners Shana Ellis and Nigel A.L. Brooks and provided an overview of the annual election of the Chair and Vice-Chair for the Commission for the upcoming year per the Tempe City Code. Chair Cassano asked for a motion for the Transportation Commission to select the position of Chair and Vice-Chair for 2017. A motion was made to select Don Cassano as Chair and Ryan Guzy as Vice-Chair.

Motion: Commissioner Kevin Olsen

Second: Commissioner Charles Huellmantel

Decision: Approved.

Chair Cassano also received consensus to keep the meeting on the second Tuesday of the month at 7:30 a.m.

Agenda Item 4 – Transportation Market Research Survey

Kathy DeBoer with WestGroup Research presented the key findings from the October 2016 Tempe Transit telephone survey. The most recent data collection was completed with 401 Tempe residents in September 2016. The survey results will be used to formulate the paid media campaign for fiscal year 2017-18 and to evaluate ways to improve transit and bicycle/pedestrian facilities. The margin of error for this sample size is approximately +4.9% at a 95% level of confidence. The overview included:

- Rider characteristics and opinions
- Overall satisfaction and improvements of Tempe's transit system
- Potential use of Tempe's transit system
- Awareness of Tempe in Motion
- Overall satisfaction and improvements Tempe bicycling and walking facilities
- Awareness of Tempe Youth Free Transit Pass program

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

- What is the plan to make the bus shelters more secure? Staff explained that there is a bus security program led by the Tempe Police Department that includes having officers ride the buses and patrol bus shelters.
- Why is it that the percentage of those who ride transit at least monthly is down significantly from 2014? Staff said that one reason may be the popularity of Uber and Lyft or the lower gas prices.

Agenda Item 5 – Interstate 10/Interstate 17 Corridor Master Plan

Eric Anderson provided an update on the Maricopa Association of Government's progress on the Interstate 10/Interstate 17 Corridor Master Plan. The overview included:

- Project history
- Project timeline
- Needs assessment report
- Issues/obstacles
- Potential options
- Recommendation
- Public meeting dates

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

- How will technology be incorporated into improvements including autonomous vehicles? Staff responded that emerging technologies will be evaluated.

Agenda Item 6 – Traffic Congestion Research Survey

Bruce Hernandez with Behavior Research Center provided an overview of the key findings from the October 2016 traffic congestion telephone survey including:

- Methodology
- Perception of traffic congestion in Tempe
- Congested times of day, day of week and intersections
- Affects that buses have on travel time
- Bus pullouts
- Night time construction
- Bike lanes

The Commission made the following statements and asked the following questions:

- The question about removing a lane of traffic to add bikes lanes did not include enough information or should have been asked differently.
- While there is a slight majority of residents who oppose removing a lane of traffic to add bikes lanes, there is a margin of error.
- There will be public meetings that cover this topic.
- Has staff compared the traffic data at the seven intersections identified in the survey highly congested? Staff said that no, but based on staff's professional experience these are the most congested intersections.
- The streets surrounding Arizona State University are very congested. Perhaps many people who responded to the survey were focused solely on McClintock Drive. The consultant added that the results are broken down by four quadrants within the city. Staff also stated that the biggest complaint along McClintock Drive is neighbors more difficulty getting out of the neighborhood.
- What type of construction was occurring when the survey was administered? Staff said that it was typical construction with no major daytime street restrictions.
- The responses to the bus pullout question were subjective and data should be used to formulate recommendations. It was also stated that this question could have been worded differently as it gives the impression that bus pullouts reduce congestion.
- When the 1996 transit tax was being drafted, the most popular improvement among residents was adding more bus pullouts.
- The survey should not be the only tool used for formulating recommendations. Data and other matrixes should be considered.
- Is there additional collision data? Staff responded no, but staff is evaluating 130 collector to arterial and arterial to arterial intersections as part of the bus pullout decision matrix project.

Agenda Item 7 – Bike Hero

The Commission discussed the 2017 Bike Hero Award nominations. Chair Cassano asked for a motion for the 2017 Bike Hero. A motion was made to nominate the Broadmor PTA Bike Cats.

Motion: Commissioner Kevin Olson

Second: Commissioner Brian Fellows

Abstained: Lloyd Thomas

Decision: Approved.

Agenda Item 8 – McClintock Drive Update

Shelly Seyler provided the Commission with the process for moving forward to explore and develop concepts to achieve the Council's goal of keeping the bike lanes, improving traffic flow and decreasing congestion on McClintock Drive. The presentation included:

- Data collection
- Timeline
- Deliverables
- Next Steps

The Commission made the following statements and asked the following questions:

- Will staff collect bike counts on other major arterials? Staff stated that the focus is on McClintock Drive and the method used to collect this data, which is to count bikes manually by staff watching video, is very time consuming.
- Collecting crash data on other major streets would be good to know. Staff responded crash data is received from the Arizona Department of Transportation and lags by about six months. In addition staff prefers to have three years of before and after crash data before making any assumptions about the lane configuration change.
- Is staff going to collect data for bicycles on the sidewalk, wrong way riding and at mid-block locations? Yes, staff did collect this data before the November presentation, but did not include it in the materials. Staff will explore collecting bike count data at midblock crossings.
- Are tubes going to be used to collect data? No because the tubes can't differentiate between cars that turn through the bike lane and bikes.
- Will the bike counts be for a 24 hour time period in an effort to show a more accurate number of users? Staff will do its best to collect as much data as possible.
- Will streets like Alameda Drive be included in the bike counts? Staff said that Alameda Drive is considered a collector street, but the cameras can pan to see other streets depending on the location. Staff will do its best to collect as much data as possible.

Agenda Item 9 – Department & Regional Transportation Updates

Staff informed the Commission that Mackenzie Keller has joined the Transportation Division as its Public Information Officer.

Agenda Item 8- Future Agenda Items

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

- Speed Limits (February)
- Bus Pullout Decision Matrix (February)
- Road Construction Traffic Mitigation (February)
- Streetcar (February)
- FY 2017-18 Media Plan (February)
- Rio Salado @ McClintock Drive MUP Underpass (March)
- Long-Range Forecast Presentation (March)
- 5th Street Streetscape Project (March)
- Country Club Way Bike/Ped Project (March)
- Leading vs. Lagging Left Turn Signals (March)
- ASU Bike Registry Outreach Efforts (April)
- McClintock Drive Update (April)

- Streetcar (April)
- Maintenance of MUPs (April)
- North/South Railroad Spur MUP (May)
- Tempe Involving the Public Plan (May)
- DTA Update (May)
- Streetcar (June)
- Annual Report (September)
- Annual Report (October)
- Alameda Streetscape Project (October)
- Bicycle/Pedestrian Signal Activate Operations Update (TBD)
- Small Area Transportation Study (TBD)
- Prop 500 (TBD)
- MAG Grant Applications (TBD)

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

- Autonomous Vehicles
- Plan for Expansion of Bicycle/Pedestrian Paths
- Bus Security Program

The next meeting is scheduled for February 14, 2017.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:49 a.m.

Prepared by: Sue Taaffe

Reviewed by: Shelly Seyler and Eric Iwersen