



## Minutes City of Tempe Transportation Commission March 14, 2017

Minutes of the Tempe Transportation Commission held on Tuesday, March 14, 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	Kevin Olson
Charles Redman	Cyndi Streid (via phone)
Jeremy Browning	Shana Ellis
Nigel A.L. Brooks	Charles Huellmantel
Bonnie Gerepka	

**(MEMBERS) Absent:**

Shereen Lerner

**City Staff Present:**

Shelly Seyler, Deputy Public Works Director	Joe Clements, Transportation Financial Analyst
Sue Taaffe, Public Works Supervisor	Laura Kajfez, Neighborhoods Services Specialist
Eric Iwersen, Principal Planner	Mike Nevarez, Transit Manager
Amanda Nelson, Public Information Officer	Mackenzie Keller, Public Information Officer
Chase Walman, Transportation Planner	Tony Belleau, Transportation Planner
Robert Yabes, Principal Planner	

**Guests Present:**

John Federico, resident	Terry Gruver, Valley Metro
Nicolas Smart, resident	Jordan Brackett, Valley Metro

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

**Agenda Item 1 – Public Appearances**

None

**Agenda Item 2 – Minutes**

Chair Cassano introduced the minutes of the February 14, 2017 meeting and asked for a motion. A motion was made to approve the minutes.

**Motion:** Commissioner Nigel A.L. Brooks

**Second:** Commissioner Lloyd Thomas

**Decision:** Approved

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### **Agenda Item 3 – Streetcar**

Eric Iwersen provided an update on the status of the Tempe Streetcar Project and introduced upcoming efforts and critical decisions related to project development. Topics of the presentation included:

- Design & Construction Coordination
- Streetcar Vehicle Status & Process
- Vehicles & Propulsion
- Wireless Scenarios Being Reviewed
- Fare & System Branding
- Concepts for possible intersection re-alignment at 1<sup>st</sup> St / Ash Ave / Rio Salado
- Rio Salado Trackway
- FTA Activities & Approvals
- Upcoming Activities

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

- Will property near the Dorsey station need to be purchased or reconfigured? Staff responded no because property was purchased in that area as part of the light rail project.
- Is the Tempe Streetcar vehicle vendor the same as the Portland vendor? Staff stated no, but it is the same vendor that was used in Dallas.
- Does the driver need to put the pantograph up and down? Staff said that yes a switch may be used to raise and lower the pantograph; however, automation may be used and that technology is under review.
- How many systems use a pantograph that goes up and down? Staff said that not many do raise and lower the pantograph as frequent as Tempe might, but Dallas has been doing it for two years.
- Is there one pantograph per vehicle? Staff responded yes.
- What is the plan if the battery fails on Mill Avenue? Staff stated that an analysis is underway to determine the worst case scenario for heat and crash delays along the off wire corridor to prevent a battery failure.
- Does the “no build” option for re-alignment at 1<sup>st</sup> St / Ash Ave / Rio Salado mean that the intersection would remain as it is today? Staff said yes, but with the addition of Streetcar.
- What is the change for Rio Salado Parkway trackway compared to the previous alignment? Staff responded that the two traffic signals will still be added and the stations will be located on the side of the street instead of the middle, thereby avoiding many underground utilities.
- Are we getting any indication that the Trump administration may not fund this project? Staff said that they are optimistic that the project will be funded because it has been in previous budgets, passed environmental clearance and is close to shovel ready. Staff also said that they should know more by the end of April.
- What stops are projected to have the most ridership? Staff stated that Dorsey and Third/Mill are projected to have high ridership numbers.

### **Agenda Item 4 – Capital Improvements Program Update**

Shelly Seyler made a presentation about Capital Improvements Program projects related to transportation.

Topics of the presentation included:

- Budget Development Process
- Public Meeting Dates
- Projects submitted by Transportation
- Overview of the Transit Fund balance
- Overview of the Highway User Revenue Fund balance

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

- Since many of these projects have federal grant money associated with them, are we getting any indication that these will be funded? Staff said they really aren't sure, but hope to know more by the end of April.

### **Agenda Item 5 – Speed Limits**

Shelly Seyler provided an overview of the City's process for setting speed limits, outlined the proposed study selection criteria, and shared the resulting proposed study locations. Topics of the presentation included:

- Background
- Goals
- Study Factors
- Process
- Study Location Selection Criteria
- Proposed Study Locations

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

- Is the 35 mph zone only near public high schools? Staff responded that the 35 mph school zone also includes charter schools.
- Is staff looking to increase speed limits? Staff said that it is more likely that speed limits will be reduced to achieve consistency.
- What is the timeframe for conducting the study? Staff said that the data won't be collected over the summer so the study will likely be completed in late fall 2017.

### **Agenda Item 6 – Highline Canal Multi-use Path Project**

Robert Yabes provided an update on the project along with and final design concept for the Highline Canal Multi-use Path Project. Topics of the presentation included:

- Project Overview & Funding
- Design Concepts
- Plant Palette
- Artist Designed Shade Structures at Nodes
- Wayfinding Signs
- Grove Parkway Crossing
- Autoplex Loop Link
- Priest and Commerce Crossing
- Priest and Warner Crossing
- Tilted Kilt Connection
- Pit Park Connection
- Public Outreach

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

- How do we plan to have the path cross the I-10 in the north? Staff responded that there is a regional proposal by ADOT and MAG to have a bike/ped crossing in that area.

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

None

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

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

- April 11
  - Country Club Way Bike/Ped Project
  - ASU Bike Registry Outreach Efforts
  - Maintenance of MUPs

- McClintock @ Rio Salado MUP Underpass
  - First, Ash, Rio Salado Parkway Realignment Concepts
- May 9
  - Streetcar
  - DTA Update
  - Tempe Involving the Public Plan
  - MAG Design Grant Applications
- June 13
  - McClintock Drive
  - Road Construction Traffic Mitigation
  - Autonomous Vehicles
  - Western Canal Expansion MUP Final Design
- July 11
- August 8
  - Leading vs. Lagging Left Turn Signals
  - Bus Security Program
  - Plan for Expansion of Bicycle/Pedestrian Paths
  - Streetcar
- September 12
  - Fifth Street Project Update
  - Annual Report
  - North/South Railroad Spur MUP
- October 10
  - Annual Report
  - Alameda Drive
- November 12
  - Bike Share Update
  - Streetcar
- December 12
- TBD: Bicycle/Pedestrian Signal Activate Operations Update
- TBD: Small Area Transportation Study
- TBD: Prop 500

The next meeting is scheduled for April 11, 2017.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:17 a.m.

Prepared by: Sue Taaffe

Reviewed by: Shelly Seyler and Eric Iwersen