



Minutes City of Tempe Transportation Commission October 10, 2017

Minutes of the Tempe Transportation Commission held on Tuesday, October 10, 2017, 7:30 a.m. at the Tempe Transportation Center, Don Cassano Community Room, 200 E. Fifth Street, Tempe, Arizona.

(MEMBERS) Present:

Don Cassano (Chair)
Paul Hubbell
Jeremy Browning
Nigel A.L. Brooks
Cyndi Streid
Susan Conklu

Kevin Olson
Shereen Lerner
Bonnie Gerepka
Charles Redman
Ryan Guzy

(MEMBERS) Absent:

Shana Ellis
Charles Huellmantel
Lloyd Thomas (conference call line not engaged)
Brian Fellows

City Staff Present:

Eric Iwersen, Transit Manager
Amanda Nelson, Public Information Officer
Julian Dresang, Traffic Engineer

Laura Kajfez, Neighborhoods Services Specialist
Chase Walman, Transportation Planner
Elizabeth Higgins, Mayor/Council – Chief of Staff

Guests Present:

John Federico, resident
Amy McNamara, resident
Brent Cain, Arizona Department of Transportation

Commission Chair Cassano called the meeting to order at 7:39 a.m.

Agenda Item 1 – Public Appearances

Amy McNamara, who lives on University Drive, expressed her concerns about safety/speed of cars. People drive 60 mph sometimes to cut-thru to Mesa with wrecks and deaths likely. She requested outreach/communication be conducted about traffic speeds and preferred streets for travel. She mentioned specific businesses in the area with unique parking and access concerns like Tempe Feed and Tack and Harlows. She also expressed some concern about transit safety, including on the Orbit. She recalled an incident where she was accosted on the street, not at a bus stop, and was assisted by a Tempe bicycle patrol. She requested more drinking fountains related/connected to transit.

Agenda Item 2 – Minutes

Chair Cassano introduced the minutes of the September 12, 2017 meeting and asked for a motion. A motion was made to approve the minutes.

Motion: Commissioner Kevin Olson

Second: Commissioner Paul Hubbell

Decision: Approved

Agenda Item 3 – Autonomous Vehicles

Brent Cain with the Arizona Department of Transportation presented information about autonomous vehicles.

Topics of the presentation included:

- Background
- Crashes
- Benefits
- Technology
- Research and Development

The Commissioners asked the following questions.

- What should we be doing to encourage this technology in the city and what should we not be doing? Brent Cain responded that the city should keep doing what it's doing by maintaining good roads, signage and striping.
- Are there working groups with city Transportation staff? Brent said that yes, there is the AZTECH coalition.
- For those people who can't afford new cars/technology, how do you get technology to them? Brent said that autonomous vehicles are an opportunity for those who can't drive or are disabled.
- What is the cost of people using Uber/Lyft and their effects on traffic? Brent said that it's yet to be seen and that ADOT is looking at how to integrate technology into existing vehicles.

Agenda Item 4 – Commission Business

Elizabeth Higgins made a presentation about residency requirements for membership on the Commission. At the September 18 Work Study Session, the City Council gave direction for the Transportation Commission to review the residency requirements for membership on the Commission. The policy currently reads "The Transportation Commission is composed of fifteen (15) members, who must be Tempe residents and are appointed for a term of three years. The Commission usually meets on the second Tuesday of each month at 7:30 a.m., in the Don Cassano Community Room at the Tempe Transportation Center, 200 East Fifth Street, Tempe. (City Code, Chapter 2, Article V, Division 8)."

The Commissioners asked the following questions and made the following statements.

- We owe it to residents of this city (tax payers) to oversee the program.
- It may be a good idea to have some expertise from ASU, etc.
- Commission members make recommendations and residents can seek expertise through Commissioners.
- There is no reason to change the code.
- Having people who work in Tempe may be an option for membership.
- There are people committed to Tempe who don't live here.
- Can we specify having specific representation (e.g. one ASU rep)? Staff responded yes.
- If someone has a specific person in mind, then maybe specify one ASU position in the code.

A motion was made to draft language for approval to change the membership requirement to include up to two non-residents on the Commission which could include one ASU representative and one member who works in Tempe.

Motion: Commissioner Ryan Guzy
Second: Commissioner Kevin Olson
Decision: Approved

Agenda Item 5 – Fifth Street Streetscape Project Update

Eric Iwersen made a presentation about the Fifth Street Streetscape Project. Topics of the presentation included:

- Project History
- Public Input
- Design Goals
- Preliminary Design
- Project Testing
- Next Steps

The Commissioners asked the following questions and made the following statements.

- Is back in angled parking safer? Staff stated that back in angled parking is statistically safer.
- Is there any existing back-in angle parking? Staff responded that there is not in Tempe.
- Will there be more bike parking? Yes, there will be more parking.
- Where is the public restroom location? The public restroom will be located on west side of City Hall.
- Will there be permeable concrete, pavers? This is a possibility.
- Has DTA been involved in the process? Staff responded yes that DTA had been involved.

A motion was made to support the Fifth Street Streetscape design as presented.

Motion: Commissioner Kevin Olson
Second: Commissioner Susan Conklu
Decision: Approved

Agenda Item 6 – Tempe Streetcar

Eric Iwersen made a presentation about the Tempe Streetcar Project. Topics of the presentation included:

- Design Process
- Utility Relocation & constriction
- Business Assistance
- Next Steps

There were no questions or comments.

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:

- November 12
 - Plan for Expansion of Bicycle/Pedestrian Paths
 - Bike Share
 - Streetcar
 - Maintenance Procedures for Sidewalk Shade Trees near Overhead Power Lines

- Ordinance change Re: Commission
- December 12
- January 9
 - Commission Business
 - Speed Limits
 - North/South Railroad Spur MUP
 - Crash Data, Enforcement and Texting
 - Western Canal Expansion MUP Final Design
- February 13
 - FY 18/19 Paid Media Plan
 - Prop 500
 - Bike Hero Award
- March 13
 - Capital Improvement Project Update
 - Alameda Drive Streetscape
 - Upstream Dam Bridge
- April 10
- May 8
 - MAG Design Assistance Grants
- TBD: Bicycle/Pedestrian Signal Activate Operations Update

The next meeting is scheduled for November 14, 2017.

The meeting was adjourned at 9:10 a.m.

Prepared by: Kristen Rodgers

Reviewed by: Eric Iwersen