



Minutes City of Tempe Transportation Commission August 14, 2012

Minutes of the City of Tempe Transportation Commission held on Tuesday, August 14, 2012, 7:30 a.m., at the Don Cassano Community Room, 200 E 5TH St., Tempe, Arizona.

(MEMBERS) Present:

Ben Goren, Pam Goronkin, Charles Huellmantel, Sue Lofgren, Susan Jones, Phillip Luna, Catherine Mayorga, Melody Moss, Gary Roberts, Steven Saiz, David Strang, Peter Schelstraete.

(MEMBERS) Absent:

Marcellus Lisotta, German Piedrahita.

City Staff Present:

Tanya Chavez, Joe Clements, Eric Iwersen, Dana Janofsky, Yvette Mesquita, Nancy Ryan, Shelly Seyler, Sue Taaffe, Robert Yabes.

Guests Present:

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

Agenda Item 1 – Public Appearances

None

Agenda Item 2 – Approval of Meeting Minutes

Commissioner Stephen Saiz stated that he was pleased with the content and discussion at the Transportation Commission Workshop. He stated it was very good use of the Commission's time and staff did an excellent job to ensure it was beneficial to everyone.

Commissioner Phillip Luna requested amendment to Agenda Item 4 to reflect a unanimous approval.

Commissioner Peter Schelstraete requested an amendment to Agenda Item 4, paragraph 2 to state "... embarrassing that the Commission cannot recommend a change to the ordinance after we identified it as a problem over a year ago."

Commissioner Huellmantel called to approve the July 10, 2012 Commission Meeting Minutes with amendments. Peter moved to approve. Phillip seconded the motion. All approved except Commissioner Sue Lofgren who arrived after the motion.

Agenda Item 3 – Transportation Master Plan – Public Involvement Plan

Nancy Ryan presented.

Nancy presented the Public Involvement Program Description/Background, Public Involvement Objectives, Stakeholder Analysis, Involvement Techniques and Communication Approach, Project Timeline, Public Meeting Scheduling, Location, and Access, Responsible documentation, and Process Evaluation and Conclusion.

Nancy noted that the project timeline is balanced with the General Plan timeline.

Commissioner Pam Goronkin asked if there would be communication to the public other than the utility bill. Nancy replied that there are no specifics yet but they will be working with neighborhoods, using door hangers and postcards. Sue Taafe added that they will be sending out press releasing, using Facebook, online ads, and the Transportation listserv.

Agenda Item 4 – Best Practices in Bike Facility Design

Shelly Seyler and Eric Iwersen presented.

Shelly and Eric provided a PowerPoint presentation which included information on why it is important to invest in bike facilities and what we need to do in the future. The presentation included State-of-the-practice Solutions including information on Bike Lanes – Convectional, Buffered, Contra-Flow, and Left-Side; Cycle Tracks- One-way Protected, Raised, and Two-way; Intersection Treatments- Bike boxes, Intersection Crossing Markings, Two-Stage Turn Queue Boxes, Median Refuge Island, Through Bike Lanes, Combined Bike Lane/Turn Lane, and Cycle Track Intersection Approach; Signals – Bicycle Signal heads, Signal Direction and Actuation, Active Warning Beacon for Bike Route at Unsignalized Intersection, and Hybrid Signal for Bike Route Crossing of Major Streets; Bikeway Signing and Marking – Colored Bike Facilities, Shared Lane Markings (Sharrows), and Bike Route Way finding Signage and Marking Systems.

A video was shown: <http://www.bikesbelong.org/resources/video/the-boulder-bike-story/>

Commissioner Sue Lofgren asked what the advantages are of Contra-flow Bike Lanes. Shelly stated that the bikes are able to go against vehicle traffic allowing them to get directly to a destination. Commissioner Lofgren asked about the timing to cross for a bicycle signal versus a pedestrian signal. Shelly stated that signals are time for pedestrian crossing at three and a half to four feet per second and a bike crossing signal is typically timed for a shorter amount of time. Commissioner Lofgren also asked if you get more time to cross when you use the button. Shelly replied yes.

Commissioner Ben Goren asked if there is any reason to prefer a bike lane over a shared lane in the example from Portland, Oregon. Shelly stated that she can only guess that it could be due to the incline/elevation or because some people are more comfortable in the bike lane than with traffic and the responsibility moves to the driver if the lane is shared. Ben also stated that he does not prefer bike boxes because the lane disappears into traffic lanes like at Priest and University.

Commissioner Goronkin stated that the east side of Rural between Elliot and Warner would be a great place for a multi-use buffer.

Commissioner Huellmantel added that bike lane buffers could be implemented if a middle lane is no longer needed. Advantages of physical barriers protect the bicyclist and narrow the street which slows traffic down.

Commissioner Luna asked if horses are allowed on bike paths. Eric stated that this question has come up for pathways and horses can use them, but is unsure about roadways.

Commissioner Sue Jones asked about motorized bikes which are now popular in Europe. Shelly said that if they become an issue then it will be up for discussion and PD would be involved.

Agenda Item 5 – Deputy Director Report

Greg Jordan presented.

Greg presented the bus and rail ridership report which included fiscal year 2011 - 2012. Tempe has ridership has grown.

Commissioner Goren asked if this meant that we could expect to double ridership every 10 years. Greg stated that it is possible if the trend continues.

Commissioner Steven Saiz asked if there are mechanisms in place to measure decreases in traffic due to the LRT ridership. Shelly stated that it is hard to say. There is a significant decrease in traffic counts but there is nothing to connect the two numbers. Greg stated that over 15 years mode share has increased from 1% to 5 or 6% and the best measure would be to set a goal of 10%.

Commissioner Lofgren asked if Tempe has seen a population growth. Greg stated very small.

Commissioner Huellmantel asked if we count ASU students. Greg stated that he was unsure.

Agenda Item 6 – Future Agenda Items

MAG reports
Hardy Dr.

Meeting adjourned at 8:51 am

The Commission's next meeting will be held Tuesday September 11, 2012 at 7:30 a.m. Don Cassano Room at the Tempe Transportation Center, 200 E Fifth St, Tempe, Arizona.