



## Minutes City of Tempe Transportation Commission August 12, 2014

Minutes of the Tempe Transportation Commission held on Tuesday, August 12, 2014, 7:30 a.m. at the Tempe Transportation Center, Don Cassano Community Room, 200 E 5<sup>th</sup> Street, Tempe, Arizona.

**(MEMBERS) Present:**

Don Cassano  
Ben Goren  
Charles Huellmantel  
German Piedrahita  
Gary Roberts

Nikki Gusz  
Sue Lofgren  
Kevin Olson  
Charles Redman  
Peter Schelstraete

**(MEMBERS) Absent:**

Jeremy Browning  
Aaron Golub  
Pam Goronkin (Chair)  
Philip Luna  
Cyndi Streid

**City Staff Present:**

Joe Clements, Trans Financial Analyst  
Julian Dresang, Traffic Engineer  
Eric Iwersen, Principal Planner  
Mike Nevarez, Transit Manager  
Kathy Wittenburg, Administrative Assistant  
Robert Yabes, Principal Planner

Maja Aurora, Arts Coordinator  
Sue Taaffe, Public Works Supervisor  
Laura Kajfez, Neighborhood Services Specialist  
Shauna Warner, Neighborhood Program Manager

**Guests Present:**

Matthew Taunton, HDR Inc.  
JC Porter, ASU  
Abhi Dayal, Valley Metro

Ben Spargo HDR Inc.  
Bonnie Grabowski  
Stanko Zovko, SWFHC

Commissioner Don Cassano called the meeting to order at 7:32 a.m.

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**Agenda Item 1 – Public Appearances**

None

**Agenda Item 2 – Minutes**

Commissioner Cassano introduced the minutes of the July 8, 2014 meeting and asked for a motion.

**Motion:** Commissioner Olson

**Second:** Commissioner Piedrahita

**Abstain:** Commissioner Gusz

**Decision:** Approved

**Agenda Item 3 – Transportation Master Plan**

Robert Yabes and Matthew Taunton gave a presentation on the Transportation Master Plan for short term (2020) and long term (2040) transportation vision. The plan highlighted roadway, streetscape, transit, bicycle/pedestrian, priority corridors, scheduling and public involvement.

Matthew reviewed the highlights for the 2020 and the 2040 plan included in the packet. Opportunities for improvement for roadways, transit, bicycle and pedestrian facilities were identified in the short term (2020) and long term (2040) vision. Matthew noted that the Transportation Master Plan proposal is scheduled to go before Council in November and details can be viewed at [www.tempe.gov/transportationplan](http://www.tempe.gov/transportationplan)

Matthew explained how future transportation needs are identified and prioritized through a set of performance measures and how various modes of transportation interact to provide the most efficient and cost effective service.

Commission members discussed how various modes of transit could function and interact with bordering cities, collecting feedback through public meetings, mailings and online surveys. The Commissioners discussed focusing on making wise investments in long term solutions like high capacity transit along the Rural Road corridor and bike path improvements along railroad right-of-way. The Commission members discussed the merits of implementing light rail traffic signal prioritization, reducing traffic lanes in underutilized corridors and neighborhood revitalization through bike lane improvements.

**Agenda Item 4 – Broadway Road Public Art**

Eric Iwersen and Maja Aurora presented an update on the public art concepts for the streetscape project, which will improve bicycle facilities, enhance the streetscape and calm traffic on Broadway Road between Mill Avenue and Rural Road. This art project is funded by the Tempe Municipal Arts Fund supported by the Tempe Municipal Arts Commission as well as supportive Transit Tax funds from the overall street project. The project budget is \$80,000, which includes artist fees, design, fabrication and installation. The public art elements, upon approval of their design, will be installed in conjunction with street construction process. The project is expected to be completed in 2016.

Maja explained the process of selecting artists Laurie Lundquist and Rebecca Ross, who have designed art elements for the proposed wall, which include Morse code messages paying homage to orange trees that historically grew along Broadway Road and in the neighborhood. In areas of the wall that are set back from Broadway Road, the artists propose to install a series of steel "tree profiles" and square "pixels" in various hues of green and orange.

Commission members discussed the merits and challenges of building a wall in this neighborhood. The Commission members supported enhancing the streetscape with public art and were supportive of the concepts and designs.

#### **Agenda Item 5 – Art Bike Racks**

Eric Iwersen and Maja Aurora presented an update on artist designed back racks in an effort to enhance bicycle parking, increase bike ridership in downtown and explore possible opportunities for funding.

Commission members discussed the merits and challenges of installing bike racks on public/private property. Staff recommended placing any new bike racks on public right-of-ways for convenient, consistent access for cyclists. The Commission supports the Art Bike Rack program and approves efforts to move forward.

**Motion:** Commissioner Huellmantel

**Second:** Commissioner Goren

**Decision:** Approved

#### **Agenda Item 6 – Department and Regional Transportation Updates**

Eric announced that the Alameda Drive project was submitted to MAG and will receive \$75,000 in funding and now a formal project and is scheduled to commence in January 2015.

#### **Agenda Item 7 – Future Agenda Items**

Eric Iwersen reviewed the current list of proposed agenda items and asked for Commission input.

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

- Passenger Rail (September)
- Proposed Short Term Improvements for I-10/I-17 (September)
- Discussion on Street Tree Trimming with SRP and APS (September)
- Briefing of the Character Area Plans- Kiwanis/The Lakes and Corona/South Tempe (September)
- Transportation Master Plan (October)
- Upstream Dam Pedestrian Bridge over Town Lake (October)
- Underpass @ Southbank Rio Salado Path & McClintock Drive (October)
- Bus Unification Update (November)
- TIM Market Research Results (November)
- 2015/16 Media Buy (December)
- Bike Hero (January)
- Bus Unification (May)
- Scottsdale/Rural Road BRT Link Service Study Update (TBD)
- Larger Orbit buses (TBD)
- Rail Signal Pre-emptive Prioritization

The Commission's next meeting is scheduled for September 9, 2014.

**The meeting was adjourned at 8:49 am**

Prepared by: Kathy Wittenburg

Reviewed by: Sue Taaffe