



## Minutes City of Tempe Transportation Commission January 12, 2016

Minutes of the Tempe Transportation Commission held on Tuesday, Jan. 12, 2016, 7:30 a.m., at the Tempe Transportation Center, Don Cassano Community Room, 200 E. Fifth Street, Tempe, Arizona.

**(MEMBERS) Present:**

Pam Goronkin (Chair)  
Ryan Guzy  
Bonnie Gerepka  
Don Cassano  
Philip Luna  
Jeremy Browning  
Brian Fellows

Kevin Olson  
Cyndi Streid  
Lloyd Thomas  
Susan Conklu – via phone  
Charles Huellmantel  
Shereen Lerner – via phone

**(MEMBERS) Absent:**

Charles Redman

Peter Schelstraete

**City Staff Present:**

Shelly Seyler, Deputy Public Works Director  
Eric Iwersen, Principal Planner  
Sue Taaffe, Public Works Supervisor  
Laura Kajfez, Neighborhoods Services Specialist  
Bonnie Richardson, Principal Planner

Mike Nevarez, Transit Manager  
Julian Dresang, City Traffic Engineer  
Joe Clements, Transportation Financial Analyst  
Amanda Nelson, Public Information Officer

**Guests Present:**

Ron Brooks, Valley Metro  
Carol Ketcherside, Valley Metro  
JC Porter, Arizona State University

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

**Agenda Item 1 – Public Appearances**

None

**Agenda Item 2 – Minutes**

Chair Goronkin introduced the minutes of the Nov. 12, 2015 meeting and asked for a motion. A motion was made to approve the minutes.

**Motion:** Commissioner Charles Huellmantel  
**Second:** Commissioner Lloyd Thomas  
**Decision:** Approved

**Agenda Item 3 – Commission Business**

Chair Goronkin introduced newly inducted Commissioner Brian Fellows 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 Goronkin asked for a motion for the Transportation Commission to select the position of Chair for 2016. A motion was made to select Don Cassano as Chair.

**Motion:** Commissioner Lloyd Thomas  
**Second:** Commissioner Charles Huellmantel  
**Decision:** Approved.

Chair Goronkin asked for a motion for the Transportation Commission to select the position of Vice-Chair for 2016. A motion was made to select Ryan Guzy as Vice-Chair.

**Motion:** Commissioner Cyndi Streid  
**Second:** Commissioner Lloyd Thomas  
**Decision:** Approved.

**Agenda Item 4 – Dial-a-Ride Update**

Carol Ketcherside and Ron Brooks with Valley Metro presented information about the Regional ADA Paratransit and Dial-a-Ride (DAR) Study conducted by Valley Metro. Valley Metro is preparing a Regional Paratransit Plan that will assess recommendations from the 2008 Regional Paratransit Study and consider opportunities for greater consistency of service policies. As part of this effort, Valley Metro is reviewing current Dial-a-Ride services in the East Valley, Northwest Valley, Phoenix, Glendale, Southwest Valley, Paradise Valley and Peoria. Valley Metro will also look at procedures for providing transfers between DAR regions. A public meeting will be held on Jan. 27 and an online comment form is also available on the Valley Metro web site.

The Commission discussed future savings and funding allocations. Carol Ketcherside explained that most cities pay for their own portion of DAR and will continue to do so through Prop 400 funding or local money. Valley Metro anticipates a rise in demand for DAR with more service, and thereby utilizing the current budgeted amount. She also stated that both of these issues will be revisited in two to three years to ensure equity.

**Agenda Item 5 – Bike Hero**

Sue Taaffe presented the 15 bike hero nominations to the Commission. The Commission discussed all of the nominations and decided to have both an individual and organization recognized as bike heroes. Chair Cassano asked for a motion for an individual to be named the 2016 Tempe Bike Hero. A motion was made to nominate Catherine Brubaker.

**Motion:** Commissioner Lloyd Thomas  
**Second:** Commissioner Bonnie Gerepka  
**Decision:** Approved.

A motion was also made to nominate David Waechter

**Motion:** Commissioner Cyndi Streid

**Second:** Commissioner Brian Fellows

**Decision:** Not approved.

Chair Cassano asked for a motion for an organization to be named the 2016 Tempe Bike Hero. A motion was made to nominate Bike Saviours.

**Motion:** Commissioner Lloyd Thomas

**Second:** Commissioner Susan Conklu

**Decision:** Approved.

A motion was also made to nominate Tempe Leadership Class XXX

**Motion:** Commissioner Bonnie Gerepka

**Second:** Commissioner Philip Luna

**Decision:** Not approved.

Commissioners Guzy, Lerner abstained from the organization nominations.

#### **Agenda Item 6 – Urban Forest**

Bonnie Richardson provided background information and current status of the City's Urban Forest Masterplan.

Topics of the presentation:

- Phase 2A efforts included:
  - a staff kickoff meeting to understand the existing roles and responsibilities in the multiple departments that are involved with urban forestry
  - meetings with staff subcommittees to understand the nuances and complexities of integrating a cohesive urban forestry program across all city divisions and departments
- Phase 2B efforts include:
  - completion of tree inventory data will provide a more accurate measure of the costs and benefits of the urban forest, including the cost of planting and maintenance and current condition of our city properties.
  - working draft will reflect the principles of a sustainable Tempe urban forestry program, with strategies identifying challenges, opportunities and potential solutions to accomplish the identified goals and measures of the plan.
  - ongoing reviews with staff committees, stakeholders and the general public will inform and refine goals and interim steps to increasing the urban forest asset value.
  - developing the Urban Forestry Action Plan directives will ensure sustainable asset management in support of the City's General Plan 2040 and the 20-minute walkable city.
- Communication tools. A workshop will be held Feb. 27 at the Tempe History Museum. An online survey will be posted on the website ([tempe.gov/urbanforest](http://tempe.gov/urbanforest)), as well as announcements for tree events. Information will be available to assist residents and businesses in selecting appropriate tree species, proper pruning, minimizing water use and planting to take advantage of storm water and non-potable water. Other events scheduled include educational seminars, workshops, tree giveaways, stewardship opportunities, 'Tempe Tree Talks,' and conversations with service groups and volunteers in the city.

The City received a grant from the American Forests for approximately \$100,000. Receiving a grant from American Forests is an opportunity to gain additional expertise in looking at the challenges specific to maintaining trees and shade in the urban desert. American Forests is dedicated to the assessment, restoration and monitoring of urban forests. Their process evaluates loss of trees due to storms, flash floods, etc., provides funding for

replanting trees, and addresses proper irrigation and storm water management. American Forests also assists with community tree events and works with local partners and the city to address long-term management of the urban forest. The grant provides Tempe with a local partner, Bank of America, and assists in helping us strategize funding for long term tree care. The focus of the ReLeaf grant and replanting is in the Rio Salado Park area, specifically starting with the many trees lost at the TCA.

The Commission discussed adding trees along Orbit routes and at bus stops, the advantages of shade vs. the increase in allergies and humidity that come with adding trees, the cost of planting and maintaining trees, requirements for private development to plant trees including the need to provide planting standards, the idea of having the City help with irrigation and electricity costs associated with trees and a preference to discontinue to the use of the Heritage Oak in Tempe.

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

Shelly Seyler updated the Commission on the bus strike that has been in effect since Jan. 8 in Phoenix. Staff is updating the City Council and residents daily.

### **Agenda Item 8 – Future Agenda Items**

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

- Streetcar (February)
- Bike Share (February)
- McClintock @ Rio Salado MUP underpass (February)
- FY 2016/17 Media Plan (February)
- Fifth Street Streetscape Project (March)
- Seat Bikelt Route (March)
- Highline Canal Multi-use Path (March)
- Long-Range Forecast Update (Operating) & CIP follow-up (March)
- Urban Forest (April)
- CIP Discussion (April)
- Bus Unification Update (May)
- North/South Railroad Spur Multi-Use Path (May)
- Bicycle/Pedestrian Signal Activate Operations Update (June)
- MAG Congestion and Mitigation and Air Quality Program (CMAQ, ITS) and Pedestrian Design Assistance Grants (June)
- Western Canal Multi-use Path Extension (August)

The Commission requested that an update about the McClintock Drive bike lanes be added to the agenda.

The Commission's next meeting is scheduled for February 9, 2016.

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

Prepared by: Sue Taaffe

Reviewed by: Eric Iwersen