



Minutes City of Tempe Transportation Commission August 9, 2016

Minutes of the Tempe Transportation Commission held on Tuesday, August 9, 2016, 7:30 a.m., at the Tempe Transportation Center, Don Cassano Community Room, 200 E. Fifth Street, Tempe, Arizona.

(MEMBERS) Present:

Ryan Guzy	Kevin Olson
Bonnie Gerepka	Cyndi Streid
Don Cassano (Chair)	Lloyd Thomas
Philip Luna	Susan Conklu
Jeremy Browning	Charles Huellmantel
Brian Fellows	Shereen Lerner
Peter Schelstraete	Charles Redman
Pam Goronkin	

(MEMBERS) Absent:

None

City Staff Present:

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

Guests Present:

Terri Cranmer, resident
JC Porter, ASU

Commission Chair Don Cassano called the meeting to order at 7:30 a.m.

Agenda Item 1 – Public Appearances

There were no public appearances.

Agenda Item 2 – Minutes

Chair Cassano introduced the minutes of the May 10, 2016 meeting and asked for a motion. A motion was made to approve the minutes.

Motion: Commissioner Peter Schelstraete

Second: Commissioner Cyndi Streid

Decision: Approved

Agenda Item 3 – Streetcar Update

Eric Iwersen updated the Commission on the Tempe Streetcar project including Small Starts Grant Agreement & correspondence with the Federal Transit Administration, preliminary engineering, vehicle procurement, upcoming procurement contracts, public art, public involvement and next steps. A public meeting will be held October 26 from 6 to 8 p.m. in the Don Cassano Community Room. Eric stated that a stakeholder group comprised of various City Board and Commission members, community members and neighborhood chairs will be established to guide the design of the public art.

The Commission discussed track configuration, station locations, wire vs. off-wire options, ability for vehicle temperatures to be adequate in the summer, size of the vehicles, funding status, fares, frequency, the status of future phases, and the consideration of design/build vs. Construction Manager at Risk (CMAR). Eric responded to each question with the responses below.

- The track configuration will consist of single track in the downtown loop and double track on the rest of the route.
- Station locations and other details will be discussed at the October Transportation Commission meeting and at the October 26 public meeting.
- The Request for Proposals includes options for both wire and off-wire.
- The vehicle technology will accommodate outside temperatures.
- The size of the vehicles will be between 65 and 82 feet.
- Funding sources include federal funds, an improvement district and Prop 400 funds.
- Fares will be determined in 2017.
- It's anticipated that vehicles will run about every 10 minutes.
- In June 2014, the City Council supported the larger Streetcar network vision (south Mill/Southern and East/West on Rio Salado Parkway).
- A Design/Build contract was considered, but staff wanted a contractor on board early in design and to maximize construction efficiencies

Agenda Item 4 – Bus Unification Update

Mike Nevarez provided an update on the status and continuation of transit service provided in Tempe by the Regional Public Transportation Authority (RPTA). Mike presented information on the benefits of unification and the performance metrics to date including financial performance. In May, the City Council directed staff to continue with unification, but for a shorter term. RPTA recently negotiated a three year contract extension with First Transit and cost adjustments include a continuity of service provision, increased staffing, training and supervision, performance auditing and revised liquidated damages clause.

The Commission asked about national benchmark standards and why FY 15 has a higher rate of complaints per 100,000 boardings. Mike explained that our performance benchmarks are more aggressive than other transit agencies, and that on time performance and operator attitude typically contribute to complaints.

Agenda Item 5 – Highline Canal Multi-use path

Robert Yabes explained that the Highline Canal Multi-use Path will extend from Baseline Road to Knox Road for approximately four miles. The project links directly to Phoenix, Guadalupe and Chandler and connects a diversity of neighborhoods to employment centers, parks, schools and commercial areas. The project will include lighting, landscaping, street crossings, drinking fountains, and other path amenities. Robert also presented to the Commission the design concept for each section of the project. A public meeting will be held Aug. 31 from 5:30 p.m.

to 7 p.m. at the Tempe Union High School District Office Board Room to gather feedback on the design concept. Online comment will be available from Aug. 31 to Sept. 14. The project was awarded a Maricopa Association of Governments pedestrian/bicycle design assistance funding grant in 2013 and \$3.3 million in two construction grants from federal Transportation Alternative Program

The Commission asked if there will be shade, will the path cross the freeway, are emergency phones and option, if the designs at the public meeting could have more details as to where the entry points along the path are located, and will bike lanes be added to AutoPlex Loop.

Robert responded to each question with the responses below.

- There will be shade trees as approved by Salt River Project.
- This phase of the project will not include freeway crossings, but a future project adjacent to Highline Canal may include freeway crossings.
- Emergency phones are not typically part of a project like this as the phones are usually located a quarter mile or more apart.
- The design concepts for the public meeting will show where the entry points along the path are located.
- Staff is considering adding bike lanes to AutoPlex Loop.

Agenda Item 6 – Department and Regional Transportation Updates

Eric Iwersen stated that the Country Club Way Bicycle/Pedestrian Project received the Maricopa Association of Governments Pedestrian Design Assistance Grant.

Mike Nevarez mentioned that ADA regional paratransit service now allows for users to seamlessly cross cities without making a transfer.

Agenda Item 7 – Future Agenda Items

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

- ASU/Downtown Tempe Traffic Study (September)
- Bike Bait and Bike Registration Programs (September)
- Western Canal Multi-use Path Extension (September)
- McClintock @ Rio Salado Underpass (September)
- Fifth Street Streetscape Project (September)
- McClintock Drive (October)
- Transportation Commission Annual Report (October)
- North/South Railroad Spur Multi-Use Path (November)
- Market Research Survey (November)
- Long-Range Forecast Presentation (November)
- Alameda Drive (November)
- Commission business (January)
- Bike Hero (January)
- Long-Range Forecast Presentation (February)
- FY 2017-18 Media Plan (February)
- Bicycle/Pedestrian Signal Activate Operations Update (TBD)

Sue Taaffe mentioned that the City Council requested that all Boards and Commissions provide an annual report. The Transportation Commission annual report will be on the September, October and November agendas.

The Commission requested a discussion about "Prop 500" regional efforts and an update on leading vs. lagging left turn signals.

The Commission's next meeting is scheduled for September 13, 2016.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:37 a.m.

Prepared by: Sue Taaffe

Reviewed by: Eric Iwersen and Shelly Seyler