



Minutes
Development Review Commission
STUDY SESSION
January 11, 2022

**Minutes of the study session of the Development Review Commission, of the City of Tempe, was held in Council Chambers
31 East Fifth Street, Tempe, Arizona**

Present:

Chair Michael DiDomenico
Vice Chair Steven Bauer
Commissioner Scott Summers
Commissioner Don Cassano
Commissioner Philip Amorosi
Commissioner Barbara Lloyd
Commissioner Michelle Schwartz
Alt Commissioner Charles Redman (in audience)

City Staff Present:

Ryan Levesque, Deputy Director, Community Development
Suparna Dasgupta, Principal Planner
Steve Abrahamson, Principal Planner
Bonnie Richardson, Principal Planner
Lee Jimenez, Senior Planner
Karen Stovall, Senior Planner
Joanna Barry, Administrative Assistant II

Absent:

Alt Commissioner Linda Spears
Alt Commissioner Rhiannon Corbett

Chair DiDomenico began the Study Session at 5:30 p.m.

Review of November 10, 2021 Minutes

- Item #1 - Study Session Minutes
- Item #2 - Regular Meeting Minutes

Review of January 11, 2022 Regular Meeting Agenda

- Item #3 – PRICE AND BASELINE ROADS (PL200239) – on consent
- Item #4 – MILLER RESIDENCE (PL210348) – to be heard
- Item #5 – FIJI HOUSE (PL210363) – pulled from agenda

PRESENTATION:

Tempe Adaptive Streets Implementation – Presented By: Bonnie Richardson, Principal Planner, Engineering & Transportation

Ms. Bonnie Richardson gave an overview of the Tempe Adaptive Streets Implementation. In 2020 there was a lot of interest in the City of Tempe, as well as other cities across the nation, for doing “open streets” during the Covid 19 initial pandemic to make it safer for people to get out and walk or bike while also social distancing. This would also assist businesses to create more patio space for customers to social distance and safer pickup/delivery of food. At that time, they went to the Transportation Commission to work on an open street agenda. Since then, they have been asked to modify this to be something more long term in the sense that it might apply in circumstances where we do not have a pandemic. The community asked for more room to bike and walk, safer streets, more room to dine and gather, and placemaking. The low-cost strategy was to create a guidebook on how to change the use/allocation of the public right of way to accommodate new/different demands. They will be creating a design guide as well as internal (City) and external (public) processes.

An adaptive street application is a change to the public right-of-way that is implemented temporarily, includes a new feature in the right-of-way that changes how some/all of the ROW is used, and is implemented in a specific location in response to a community need. Ms. Richardson proceeded to give examples of these potential changes and how/when they could occur. She then went over the project process that started in the Fall of 2021 and is set to be completed by the Summer of 2022. To obtain public engagement in the process, there will be an online meeting on January 19th, an in-person public open house on January 29th, and an online digital engagement activity from January 19th to February 13th. Ms. Richardson then went over the timeline for the next steps in this process.

Commissioner Cassano noted that by this plan it looks like the City can put in temporary features that are engaging to the public instead of simply using barricades and asked if that was part of the toolbox. Ms. Richardson stated it was and that they were trying to use more multi-functional items instead of simply putting in water barriers.

Commissioner Amorosi asked if the public has to initiate these changes, and if so and it is temporary, will there be an avenue where if it works out it could become permanent or if that is a whole different funding mechanism or process. Ms. Richardson advised that in the guide they will preset the process of how someone in the community, or a business interest, could come to the City and point out a need for it and then work with staff.

Commissioner Summers noted he just received a postcard about a road closure near him that will last for two months that he previously was not aware of. He likes the approach of asking, testing, and seeing how it works.

Announcements: NONE

The Study Session adjourned at 6:02 p.m.

Prepared by: Joanna Barry, Administrative Assistant II
Reviewed by: Suparna Dasgupta, Principal Planner

