
Minutes City of Tempe Transportation Commission February 10, 2009

Minutes of the City of Tempe Transportation Commission held on Tuesday, February 10, 2009, 7:30 a.m., at the Transportation Center Don Cassano Community Room, Tempe, Arizona.

(MEMBERS) Present:

Ben Goren, Bill Haas, Marcellus Lisotta, Jayson Matthews, Catherine Mayorga, Steven Saiz, David Strang, Bryan Young

(MEMBERS) Absent:

Don Cassano, Gary Roberts, Peter Schelstraete, Augustus Shaw IV, Edward Smith, Marco Valenzuela, Joan Westlake

City Staff Present:

Trevor Cascio, Joe Clements, Dawn Coomer, Carlos de Leon, Dana Janofsky, Greg Jordan, Gregg Kent, Glenn Kephart, Elizabeth Mieth, Bonnie Richardson

Guests Present:

Katie Lockhart (ASU Student)

Jayson Matthews called the meeting to order at 7:35 a.m.

Agenda was not posted within 24 hour advance notice, cannot take any formal actions on the agenda items.

Agenda Item 1 – Consideration of Meeting Minutes

No changes to the following minutes, the minutes will be up for approval in next months meeting:

- Multi-Modal Planning and Project Review –December 10, 2008
- Transportation Commission Minutes– December 16, 2008

Commissioner Bill Haas requested that the spelling of his name be corrected on the 2009 Transportation Commission Committee Sign – up Sheet.

Agenda Item 2 – Public Appearances

There were no public appearances.

Agenda Item 3 – East Valley Dial-a-Ride and Fare Policy Update

Greg Jordan presented the following information:

- Fare Policy Scenarios
 - Multiple base fare options: Increase base fare by up to \$1.00 over two years
 - Express fare premium increased from \$0.50 to \$1.00
 - Reduced fare discounts remain at 50%
 - Passes priced at multiples of base fare:
 - 1 Day Pass at 3.0 x base fare
 - 3 and 7 day passes at 2.5 x base fare x number of days of validity
 - 31 Day Pass at 31-33 x base fare
 - Adopt recommended changes to ADA paratransit fares for Phoenix and East Valley Dial-a-Rides
 - Adopt the recommended changes to rural route fare

Commissioner Steven Saiz asked based on current trends is there any forecast in terms of how long it will take for us to get where the City of Phoenix in regards on what they are suggesting in a fare increase? Greg Jordan stated that the twenty-five cent increase would be more than sufficient to prevent any service reduction in Tempe. Steven asked if there were no fare increase how long would Tempe be good for or are we headed in that direction. Greg stated it would either be fiscal year 11 or 12 that would affect our service.

- Regional Revenue & Ridership Impacts
 - Present Fare Policy (FY 2010-2013):
 - Revenue - \$219 million
 - Ridership - 295 million
 - Estimated Four Year Impacts (2010-2013):
 - \$1.50 (Valley Metro TMC): + \$62m Revenue | - 24m Boardings
 - \$1.75 (City of Phoenix): + \$84m Revenue | - 33m Boardings

Commissioner Bill Haas asked what is the City of Phoenix's new target rate in terms of fare recovery. Greg Jordan stated at least thirty percent.

Commissioner Ben Goren asked when you're increasing fare and reducing service have you taken into consideration that fewer people will be taking the bus? Greg Jordan stated that we are doing our best to not reduce any service in Tempe. The fare needs to be increased to avoid any service reduction. Ben asked about the Federal stimulus package would we be eligible. Carlos de Leon stated that the federal stimulus funds are focused on capital projects; this doesn't directly help us on operating issues. Currently we have an older fleet the stimulus package can help in purchasing new buses which would be a capital purchase.

Commissioner Bill Haas asked under this fifty cent increase are they pushing for a single step not a two step. Greg Jordan stated they are pushing for a single step with the caveat that they will perform a midyear analysis and determine whether or not a second step is needed. Commissioner Bill Haas asked would they consider a twenty five cent first step. Greg Jordan stated that they might that process of discussion is currently going forward.

- Public Input
 - Least opposition to lowest PRESENTED increase of \$0.50 (75%)
 - Cost to use transit more important than availability (60%)
 - Raising cost will lower ridership (31%)
 - Economic downturn (25%)
 - Difficulty for transit dependent (24%)
 - Address fare collection problems (10%)

- Majority of transit users earn less than \$35,000 per year (75%) – 2007 Origin & Destination Survey

Commissioner Ben Goren asked why there is no discount for a three and seven day pass. Greg Jordan stated that to work with Valley Metro and the City of Phoenix to craft an alternative that is within this range of increase.

Commissioner Bill Haas asked that the stimulus package might cover some capital projects would the TVMs be included in that. Greg Jordan stated that Valley Metro indicated that there is a need for more TVMs and retail locations. That is a good suggestion to be brought up to the region.

- Tempe Fare Increase Offsets
 - For Tempe residents, continue to sell 31 day passes at current \$45.00 level – City absorbs up front difference
 - Post trip revenue allocation for Tempe boardings based on new fare structure
 - Estimated 40-50% cost recovery
 - Net cost up to \$40k annually

Commissioner David Strang asked that the Tempe fare increase offset is only for the monthly pass. Greg Jordan stated that this is the most frequently used pass.

Commissioner Bill Haas asked what precautions are being taken on prohibiting people from other cities from purchasing tickets in Tempe. Greg Jordan stated that this will be organized the same way that the Tempe Youth passes.

- Bus/LRT Fare Policy Options
 - Maintain existing fare policy.
 - Support a \$0.25 increase to the base fare with associated increases to other fare categories.
 - Support a \$0.50 increase to the base fare with associated increases to other fare categories.
 - Coordinate with Valley Metro and City of Phoenix on modifications to fare categories:
 - Mitigate negative impacts on public
 - Achieve operational objectives – encourage pass use
 - Strive to meet Phoenix revenue enhancement goals

Commissioner Ben Goren asked what about considering a payment plan for a monthly bus pass. Greg Jordan stated that has not yet been considered but a good idea to bring up at the next meeting.

Commissioner Marcellus Lisotta stated that the fifty cent increase in Phoenix will be applied to some categories and the twenty five cent increase on the other categories. Greg Jordan stated that that is essentially what Tempe wants to do.

Commissioner Catherine Mayorga asked has Phoenix not yet voted on this issue. Carlos de Leon stated that the council has not taken any formal action on adopting the fares but have adopted the budget that is based on the fifty cent fare increase.

Commissioner Steven Saiz asked when the commission will be asked to make a recommendation. Greg Jordan stated that on March 10 more information will be given.

- ADA Fare Policy Options
 - Maintain existing fare policy until impacts of free ADA bus passes is known.

- Reject increase the ADA fare from \$2.00 to \$2.50 in FY 2009/2010 and by \$0.25 each year until 2 times the fixed route bus fare is achieved – **set ADA dial-a-ride fares locally.**
- Support increase the ADA fare from \$2.00 to \$2.50 in FY 2009/2010 and by \$0.25 each year until 2 times the fixed route bus fare is achieved.

Agenda Item 4 – Commission Business

Jayson Matthews presented the following information:

- The following individuals were reappointed by Mayor and Council to continue serving on the Transportation commission:
 - Marco Valenzuela, First term (12/31/11)
 - Bryan Young, Last term (12/31/11)
- The following individuals have been appointed by Mayor and Council to serve on the Transportation Commission:
 - Ben Goren, First term (12/31/11)
 - Gary Roberts, First term (12/31/11)
 - Augustus H. Shaw IV, First term (12/31/11)
- The Commission has 15 of 15 member positions filled.
- The Commission at the January 13th meeting re-elected Jayson Matthews as Chair and Bryan Young as Vice-Chair for the upcoming year.
- The Commission regularly scheduled meetings are the 2nd Tuesday of each month at 7:30 a.m.
- Currently everyone is satisfied with current committee assignments.
 - Ben Goren has joined the Multi-Modal Planning and Project Review Committee
 - Catherine Mayorga has joined the Public Involvement/Marketing Committee

Agenda Item 5 – Proposed Bus Service Changers – July 2009

Greg Jordan presented the following information:

- Route 92 – 48th St/Guadalupe
 - Modify route to serve 52nd St and Rio Salado Pkwy
 - Remove duplicate routing on Broadway Rd. and Mill Ave.
 - Adds transit service to Tempe Center for the Arts, 52nd St business corridor and Tempe Beach Park
- Route 30 – University
 - Remove 52nd St. routing
 - 52nd St/Rio Salado Pkwy. Would be served by Route 92
 - Buses would run straight east and west on University Dr.
 - Travel time for through passengers will be reduced

Commissioner Bryan Young asked what is the frequency of Route 92 and 30. Greg Jordan stated that is it every half hour.

Commissioner Bill Haas asked if there were any service reductions proposed on Route 45 – Broadway, which runs in Phoenix, Tempe and Mesa due to cuts in neighboring cities. Greg Jordan stated there will likely be service changes in Tempe on this route.

- Route 44 – 44th St/Tatum
 - Eliminate University Dr/Downtown Tempe segment
 - Create new south terminus at 44th St/Washington Transit Center
- Route 40 – Apache/Main

- Delete Sky Harbor Airport service
- Delete service on University Dr. west of Mill Ave.
- Serve Tempe Transportation Center

Commissioner Ben Goren asked what would be the purpose on continuing the bus service along the light rail. Greg Jordan stated that the light rail stations are a half a mile apart and the bus stops are a quarter mile apart.

Commissioner Bryan Young expressed concern of the deletion of service to Sky Harbor Airport.

Glenn Kephart asked where are the majority of riders coming from. It is regionally inequitable for us to fund a route that if a large number of riders from Mesa are going to a Phoenix airport.

- Orbit Earth
 - Realign Sunset Dr/Cavalier Dr segment to serve College Ave.
 - Realign Weber Dr/Tempe Dr segment to serve Miller Rd.

Commissioner Jayson Matthews asked what are the issues with the Orbit? Greg Jordan stated that the issues are the noise of the vehicle, intrusion of the neighborhoods, etc.

- Route 62 – Hardy
 - Remove downtown loop routing on southbound trips
 - Streamline route using 5th St in both directions between Farmer/Ash and Tempe Transportation Center

Commissioner Jayson Matthews's overall comment on the bus route recommendations is that he approves them with the exception of Route 40.

Agenda Item 6 – Bus Stop Improvements Updates

Carlos de Leon presented the following information:

- There are 895 bus stops in the City.
- Bus Pull Outs
 - City has added twelve pull-outs, and the private sector added an additional three, bringing the total to 102
 - There are eight additional pull-outs currently under design which will be programmed for construction for fall 2009 and spring 2010 this will increase citywide bus pullouts to 110.
- Mini Shelters
 - Smaller shelters were installed in locations where the right-of-way was limited.
 - An additional 10 are programmed for installation starting this February, which will bring the total number of mini shelters to 83 citywide.
- Standard Shelters
 - There are 194 standard shelters and 21 artist designed shelters in the City.
 - Five standard shelters were added in the fall of 2008 and spring of 2009, which brings the total to 230 shelters.
- ASU Shelters
 - ASU and Tempe are partnering to install 25 ASU designed shelters on the ASU Tempe Campus.
 - Fifteen shelters have already been installed on ASU property and 10 shelters will be installed within the City's right-of-way by April 2009.
- New Glass Roofed Tempe Shelters
 - A total of 26 shelters were installed at the Tempe Transportation Center and 12 at the University/Rural Transit Station

- Upon completion of the above projects, a total of 376 bus shelters will be in service throughout the City, with over 42% of all City bus stops having shelter/shade.

Commissioner Jayson Matthews stated that at high traffic bus stops media/pass kiosks should be installed.

Carlos de Leon stated that studies were done to prioritize where bus pull outs are placed. Commissioner Bill Haas asked how many high conflict intersections have been resolved. Carlos stated that he doesn't have the numbers but staff will get back to him.

Agenda Item 7 – Bicycle Facilities Update

Carlos de Leon presented the following information:

- As of January 2009, the City of Tempe has 165 miles of bikeway, including 12 miles of multi-use paths, 70 miles of bike lanes and 82 miles of bicycle routes.
- Regional Bicycle Facility
 - The facility, located at the Tempe Transportation Center, adds cycling to the bus and rail modes located at the facility.
 - The Regional Bike Facility is the first in the state of Arizona, and will provide long term bicycle parking, shower and lockers, bike repair service, and retail store for bicycles.
- Multi-use Path Projects
 - The last multi-use path project completed was Rio Salado South Bank between Hardy and Priest drives.
 - Currently, there are four multi-use path projects under design or construction – Crosscut Canal II, Tempe Canal, Western Canal, and Rio Salado Downstream Dam.
- Streetscape
 - Two streetscape projects are currently under design, College Avenue and Broadway Road.
 - Two other projects, Curry Road and University Drive, are scheduled for construction this summer. Based on the construction schedule, all the projects will be completed in 2010.
- Other Federally Funded Projects
 - In addition to the projects listed above, four projects are slated for design starting between 2010 and 2013 – Rio Salado South Bank (McClintock to Mesa, and Priest to SR 143); University Drive, Hardy Drive and Alameda & I-10 Bike/Ped Bridge, all of which are funded with federal grants.

Agenda Item 8 – Capital Projects Update

Commissioner Marcellus Lisotta asked the status on the Western Canal. The Western Canal has started construction. Started at one end by AZ Mills Mall and moving toward eastern end.

Commissioner Steven Saiz in regards to economic stimulus package is there any projects that are shovel ready to take advantage of this package? Yes, there are projects that can receive additional funds.

Commissioner David Strang asked is there any long range discussion of and Orbit connecting to the Tempe Center of the Arts? Venus is the closest Orbit to the Tempe Center of the Arts. That can be brought up for consideration at the next commission meeting.

Agenda Item 9 – Future Agenda Items

Orbit service to TCA.

Jayson Matthews adjourned the meeting at 9:00 a.m.

The Commission's next regular meeting will be held Tuesday, March 10, 2009 at 7:30 a.m. in the Don Cassano Community Room, 200 E. Fifth Street, Tempe, Arizona.

Prepared by:
Elizabeth Mieth

Reviewed by:

Carlos de Leon