
Minutes City of Tempe Transportation Commission September 8, 2009

Minutes of the City of Tempe Transportation Commission held on Tuesday, September 8, 2009, 7:30 a.m., at the Transportation Center Don Cassano Community Room, Tempe, Arizona.

(MEMBERS) Present:

Don Cassano, Ben Goren, Marcellus Lisotta, Jayson Matthews, Gary Roberts, Peter Schelstraete, Edward Smith

(MEMBERS) Absent:

Bill Haas, Catherine Mayorga, Steven Saiz, Augustus Shaw IV, David Strang, Marco Valenzuela, Joan Westlake, Bryan Young

City Staff Present:

Darcie Bontems, Joe Clements, Dawn Coomer, Carlos de Leon, Cathy Hollow, Eric Iwersen, Dana Janofsky, Greg Jordan, Gregg Kent, Jyme Sue McLaren, Amanda Nelson, Bonnie Richardson, Shelly Seyler, Sue Taaffe

Guests Present:

None

Jayson Matthews called the meeting to order at 7:43 a.m.

Agenda Item 1 – Consideration of Meeting Minutes

No action taken.

Agenda Item 2 – Public Appearances

There were no public appearances.

Agenda Item 3 – Speed Limits

Shelly Seyler presented – No action taken

- Transportation staff reviewed existing speed limits across the city in 2004 as requested by City Council.
- Two alternatives were formulated as a result of the 2004 speed limit review.
- Alternative one proposed changes to speed limits along specific corridors where inconsistencies existed as well as along corridors where existing speed limits were no longer appropriate due to changes in design.
- Alternative 1A was formulated after receiving input from the Police Department which resulted in only slight changes to the first proposed alternative.

- A third alternative was also proposed which reduced speed limits across the city by creating an internal core area where speed limits would be established at 35 mph with speed limits outside the core established at 40 mph.
- A recommendation to move forward with alternative 1A was made and followed up with two public hearings before the changes were formally adopted into code.
- Speed limits within the City of Tempe are currently established through engineering studies and adopted into City Code by Council action.
- Local residential streets which are set at 25 mph fall under State Statutes.
- Engineering studies review several factors including prevailing vehicle speeds, physical features of roadway, traffic control characteristics, crash experience, roadside development, pedestrian and bicycle activity, traffic calming features, and signal timing progression.

Agenda Item 4 – Committee Structure and Procedures:

Carlos de Leon and Marcellus Lisotta presented – No action taken

- The Multi-modal Planning and Project Review Committee recently reviewed the Committee procedures and is proposing changes to the procedures.
- There was discussion on who can vote at committee meetings.
- Some Commissioners suggested removing the following verbiage from standard practices.
 - However, Commissioners must represent the majority of committee members.
- Not all commissioners are in agreement with removing the noted verbiage so Jayson Matthews requested the Commission work to come to a consensus.

***Agenda Item 5 – Fall Public Involvement**

Sue Taaffe presented – No action taken

- Originally the fall public input process included discussions regarding changes to the Orbit system only.
- Given the Transit Fund's financial forecast and the need to reduce annual operating costs, staff felt that it would be most effective for residents to comment on all the proposed changes, including arterial fixed route.
- Methods used to communicate the public meetings and online comment form include press releases, web site, Tempe 11, Tempe Today Waterbill, posters on the buses, targeted door hangers, Friendship Village and Multi-gen Centers notification, school district notification, and email blast to all neighborhood Charis.

Agenda Item 6 – Ridership Update

Greg Jordan presented – No action taken

- Light Rail ridership accounts for 26 percent of the overall Tempe Transit Systems ridership.
- Tempe Transit System is approaching 12 million boarding per year.

Agenda Item 7 – Ad Hoc Transit Fund Update

Jayson Matthews and Carlos de Leon presented – No action taken

- The September 4, 2008 agenda was included in the September Transportation Commission packet in an effort to keep the Commission fully briefed on the Ad Hoc Committee's progress.

- The Ad Hoc Transit Fund Committee is currently in the process of reviewing potential budget shortfalls.
- An identification and evaluation process will take place for potential cost reduction as well as for potential revenue source measures.
- The Ad Hoc Committee is looking at the development of evaluation criteria for all transit services.

Agenda Item 8 – Future Agenda Items

- Committee Structure & Procedures
- Update on Fall Public Involvement & System Changes

The meeting adjourned at 8:50 a.m.

The Commission's next regular meeting will be held Tuesday, October 13, 2009 at 7:30 a.m. in the Don Cassano Community Room, 200 E. Fifth Street, Tempe, Arizona.

Prepared by:
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Reviewed by: