



## Minutes City of Tempe Transportation Commission February 8, 2011

**Minutes of the City of Tempe Transportation Commission held on Tuesday, February 8, 2011, 7:30 a.m., at the Transportation Center Don Cassano Community Room, Tempe, Arizona.**

**(MEMBERS) Present:**

Ben Goren, Pam Goronkin, Charles Huellmantel, Marcellus Lisotta, Phillip Luna, Catherine Mayorga, Gary Roberts, Peter Schelstraete, David Strang, Bryan Young

**(MEMBERS) Absent:**

Steven Saiz, Augustus H. Shaw IV

**City Staff Present:**

Kent Clayton, Shelley Hearn, Eric Iwersen, Greg Jordan, Yvette Mesquita, Bonnie Richardson, Shelly Seyler, Jennifer Svetichan, Robert Yabes

**Guests Present:**

Stuart Boggs (Valley Metro/RPTA), Kammy Horne (URS), Allan Mehlberg (AT Union 1433), Van Oenelas (ASU), Jack Pisano (Veolia), Cornel Popesue (SWAT), Janet Strauss (Valley Metro/RPTA), Matt Tsark (Strand Association)

David Strang called the meeting to order at 7:35 a.m.

**Agenda Item 1 – Consideration of Meeting Minutes**

Commissioner Peter Schelstraete asked to amend the January 11, 2011 Transportation Commission minutes by including “prior to termination” in regards to his comments on agenda item 5. Commissioner Charles Huellmantel made a motion to approve Transportation Commission minutes with amendments. Commissioner Gary Roberts seconded the motion. The following minutes were approved:

- Transportation Commission Meeting Minutes – January 11, 2011

**Agenda Item 2 – Public Appearances**

There were no public appearances

**Agenda Item 3 – Commission Business**

Commissioner Strang welcomed returning Commissioner Peter Schelstraete and new Commissioners Pam Goronkin and Phillip Luna.

**Agenda Item 4 – Citations Issued for ARS § 28-735 Overtaking Bicycles**

Commissioner Young asked whether staff is able to get prior data to May 4, 2009 in order to determine if there was ever a citation since there were no filings listed on the supporting documentation. Shelly Seyler

confirmed that it is possible and she will ask, but warned of the difficulty of the request due to lack of available staff.

The Commission discussed ways to remedy the issues raised in regards to ARS 28 735 which requires a three foot safe passing distance for all bike lanes. The issues focused on were the general lack of enforcement of the law, lack of public knowledge about the law, identifying and addressing certain circumstances with regards to speed, location and distance, and the ability to ensure the overall safety of drivers, bikers and pedestrians for travel around Tempe.

Commissioner Young proposed to educate the public of the three foot passing distance through our marketing initiatives. Commissioner Strang agreed with taking it to the Marketing Committee for discussion.

Commissioner Huellmantel recommended having law enforcement present for this discussion to clarify any outstanding questions and issues before the Commission makes any decisions based on issued or lack of issued citations.

Commissioner Lisotta identified three options based on the discussions: removing the bike lanes altogether, acquiring additional right-of-way to build wider bike lanes, and eliminating a lane of traffic.

Commissioner Strang concluded the discussion with intentions of referring the issues to the Marketing Committee for discussion, requesting a law enforcement officer to attend the next meeting, bring statistical information related to the number of accidents involving automobiles and bicycles and information on ARS § 28-735 citations.

#### **Agenda Item 5 – Capital Project updates**

Eric Iwersen presented updated capital project information.

Eric addressed the design concept for an underpass or bridge for the Rio Salado Multi-use Path Phoenix-Tempe project, but concluded that due to lack of funding, it will not be incorporated in this project at this time.

Commissioner Strang asked for the timeline on the Broadway Road Streetscape Project.

Robert Yabes stated that staff is currently performing assessments of the costs for acquiring a right-of-way. Eric added that the design is posted online for any of the Commissioners to view.

Commissioner Goronkin asked when the project will be underway and where the funds for construction were coming from. Robert stated that the funding is \$2.5 million from a CMAQ grant and he is hopeful to get the acquisition of the right-of-way before Summer 2011.

Commissioner Roberts asked about the square footage to be taken from each property. Robert answered that it varies from property to property.

Commissioner Young asked about an update the Tempe Railroad quiet zone. Robert addressed this by saying the application was sent to Arizona Corporation Commission in December 2010 to get a clock stop warning time signal device installed at 13<sup>th</sup> Street prior to moving forward with this project

Commissioner Young asked about the construction timeline of the Western Canal at Baseline and Kyrene. It was confirmed that the construction has been completed.

**Agenda Item 6 – Overview Tempe Review of Scottsdale/Rural AA Study**

Greg Jordan introduced the study to the Commission. He explained that in 2009, Tempe deferred the project past 2026 to preserve existing services at that time because of the deficit in the Prop 400 funded regional transportation program. However, Tempe is committed to advancing the project once funding is available. He also added that this was just an informational presentation and they were not asking for the acceptance of the study, just input.

Stuart Boggs, Manager of Transit Planning of Valley Metro RPTA, explained that the purpose of the study is to provide a higher level of service within Scottsdale/Rural corridor.

Kammy Horne with URS presented the Scottsdale/Rural AA study to the Commission. At the conclusion of the study, it was determined that Alternative Two would be recommended.

Mr. Boggs included that the recommended system would be modeled on the Links service with features such as high platforms for near level boarding, signage with real time arrival information and a web utility that will allow tracking of bus arrival time.

Commissioner Young asked if there were any projections in regards to timing to go up to Frank Lloyd Wright Blvd instead of stopping at Thunderbird Road. Ethan Rauch with AECOM explained they did not extend the study more north due to budget constraints and a new park-and-ride located at Thunderbird Road and Scottsdale Road made it the ideal stopping place.

Commissioner Roberts asked if changing Route 72 to Scottsdale Rd and having a BRT line in the downtown area as well would create more congestion on the road. Ms. Horne addressed that by saying they have already recognized that issue and will continue to analyze the situation to identify an appropriate solution.

Commissioner Lisotta questioned the cost estimates in regards to right-of-way acquisitions, lane widening or utility relocations or any other construction projects. Ms. Horne informed the Commission that for the recommended option those issues are not part of the plan therefore they would not be addressed in the cost estimates. The cost estimates in the presentation were for bus platforms only. Mr. Boggs also highlighted their ability to mitigate construction impacts through manufacturing stations offsite and then installing them at a later time thereby minimizing impacts on communities.

**Agenda Item 7 – Future Agenda Items**

- Law enforcement report on ARS § 28-735 Overtaking Bicycles
- Current ridership statistics for Light Rail

Meeting adjourned at 8:59am

The Commission's next regular meeting will be held Tuesday, March 8, 2011 at 7:30 a.m. in the Don Cassano Community Room, 200 E. Fifth Street, Tempe, Arizona.

Prepared by:  
Jennifer Svetichan

Reviewed by:  
Greg Jordan  
Shelly Seyler