



Minutes City of Tempe Transportation Commission September 20, 2011

Minutes of the City of Tempe Transportation Commission held on Tuesday, September 20, 2011, 7:30 a.m., at the Transportation Center Don Cassano Community Room, Tempe, Arizona.

(MEMBERS) Present:

Matthew Garcia, Marcellus Lisotta, Catherine Mayorga, Gary Roberts, Steven Saiz, Peter Schelstraete, David Strang, Bryan Young

(MEMBERS) Absent:

Alana Chavez-Langdon, Ben Goren, Pam Goronkin, Charles Huellmantel, Phillip Luna, Augustus H. Shaw IV

City Staff Present:

Joe Clements, Lisa Collins, Eric Iwersen, Dana Janofsky, Greg Jordan, Yvette Mesquita, Bonnie Richardson, Shelly Seyler, Sue Taaffe, Robert Yabes,

Guests Present:

Shana Ellis (Councilmember), Allan Mehlberg (ATUNION 1433), Judi Nelson (ASU)

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

Agenda Item 1 – Consideration of Meeting Minutes

Commissioner Strang called to approve. Commissioner Roberts made a motion to approve, Commissioner Mayorga seconded the motion. All approved except Commissioner Schelstraete who abstained. The following minutes were approved:

- Transportation Commission Meeting Minutes – August 9, 2011

Agenda Item 2 – Public Appearances

None

Agenda Item 3 – Boards and Commission: Powers and Duties

Shelly Seyler presented.

The Ordinance 2008.01 eliminated the need for sub-committees meetings and all information would go straight to the full Commission for discussion. In the past, the sub-committees were valuable due to the amount of projects taking place and they took the burden off of the Commission, but with current budget changes and reductions in projects this is no longer needed. Commissioner Schelstraete asked if Council could create Committees under the Transportation Commission. Shelly Seyler stated that this would be counter to the ordinance 2008.01. Commissioner Schelstraete could not locate the ordinance and stated

that there were valuable members from the community on the committees and asked how they would be notified. Shelly stated that the staff person for the committees would send out notification to the group members and advise them of the Commission's regularly scheduled meeting time and location.

Agenda Item 4 – Youth Transit Pass Program Update

Sue Taaffe presented.

Net cost for the program is \$116,000. Advertising is being done through the high schools as well as on Facebook, azcentral.com and azfamily.com to parents. The pass has a value of \$305. The program includes youth that are homeschooled, attend private schools or small schools, and ASU students who are not yet 19. The city also works closely with homeless youth.

Commissioner Schelstraete asked why the program was not done onsite at the schools. Sue explained that Tempe High is the only one that has decided to have the program onsite. There is an IGA with the Tempe Union High School District to be able to have the program at additional schools, but that the schools do not have the interest to do so. The schools must have staff available and they are also required to be audited to ensure that the program is being implemented correctly. Commissioner Schelstraete asked why we did not charge for the program. Sue explained that the free program was set up by Council. The idea is to have kids become advocates for transit and continue using transit after they no longer qualify for the program. Currently the average pass is 20 boardings per month. Commissioner Garcia commented that the program promotes a culture for public transit and asked about the application process. Sue explained that the youth and parents have to be present. They must also have the youth's birth certificate, parent ID, and proof of residency from a recent utility bill. Commissioner Schelstraete asked if any other cities had this program and any as progressive as Tempe. Sue said no. Commissioner Young stated that the program is fantastic and that it is money well spent and the city should be applauded. We should continue to support the program.

Agenda Item 5 – Transportation Commission Strategy Development

Shelly Seyler presented.

Commissioner Roberts likes the idea as presented. Shelly Seyler stated that there are a lot of supporting documents that the Commissioners will get in advance to review. Commissioner Lisotta wanted to confirm that there would be no change to the Commission Meetings and that the information would just be added to the current meetings. Shelly responded that the Commission would most likely go the entire 7:30 to 9 am time with the goal to have the second session at the end of January but it could move to February. Commissioner Lisotta added that participation would be greater with this approach. Commissioner Strang stated that staff has put a lot of effort into this and agrees with the second strategy session.

Agenda Item 6 – Consolidation of Transit Functions

Greg Jordan presented.

Greg stated he will be coming back to the Commission next month with more details. The plan will be going to Council on October 20th. Final direction will take place in January. Consolidation would take place in 2013. The scout program is a vehicle to improve service not just save money. The city would not be giving up local control just operations would change. The cost savings would be about \$500,000 – 750,000 by consolidating service contract and operations. In 2014 there would be an assessment of the scout program.

Commissioner Roberts asked about how the Transit tax is affected. Greg explained that the Transit tax still comes directly to Tempe. Commissioner Roberts asked how long to realize the estimated savings.

Greg explained that it is made up of two parts the contract consolidation and the facility management. Commissioner Roberts asked who our community partners are considered to be. Greg explained they are Valley Metro, Chandler, Scottsdale, Mesa, and Phoenix. Commissioner Saiz asked where the savings would come from and where do the savings go. Greg stated the savings comes from the efficiencies from consolidating staff and utilizing the more centrally located Tempe bus facility which reduces dead head time and services and any savings goes back to the Transit Fund. Commissioner Roberts asked about the management consolidation. Greg explained that there would still be two Boards for a long time, but that the consolidation would be one CEO. Commissioner Strang asked about the current Veolia contracts. Greg stated that Tempe's contract with Veolia ends June 2013. Valley Metro's contract with Veolia ends June 2013. Phoenix has its own Veolia contract. A new RFP would take effect in July 2013. Commissioner Young asked if there are alternative vendors. Greg stated there are several. ASU's FLASH service will not be affected.

Agenda Item 7 – Future Agenda Items

- Procedures for conflicts of interest
- Commissioners attending regional meetings (i.e. MAG)
- Capital Projects Update
- Calendar of Events on agendas

Meeting adjourned at 8:34am

The Commission's next regular meeting will be held Tuesday, October 12, 2011 at 7:30 a.m. in the Don Cassano Community Room, 200 E. Fifth Street, Tempe, Arizona.

Prepared by:
Dana Janofsky

Reviewed by:
Greg Jordan

Shelly Seyler