AGENDA ITEM 3

DATE 12-11-08

Tempe

Minutes
City of Tempe Transportation Commission
October 14, 2008

Minutes of the City of Tempe Transportation Commission held on Tuesday, October 14, 2008, 7:30 a.m., at the Public Works Conference Room, 31 E. Fifth Street, Tempe, Arizona.

(MEMBERS) Present:
Don Cassano, Bill Haas, Marcellus Lisotta, Jayson Matthews, Judi Nelson, Kevin Olson, Amanda Ormond, Edward Smith

(MEMBERS) Absent:
Catherine Mayorga, Steven Saiz, David Strang, Marco Valenzuela, Joan Westlake, Bryan Young

City Staff Present:
Darcie Bontems, Trevor Cascio, Joe Clements, Dawn Coomer, Carlos de Leon, Jason Hartong, Dana Janofsky, Ken Olmstend, Jyme Sue McLaren, Amanda Nelson, Bonnie Richardson, Shelly Seyler, Elizabeth Thomas, Robert Yabes

Guests Present:
None to report

Jayson Matthews called the meeting to order at 7:34 a.m.

Agenda Item 1 – Consideration of Meeting Minutes
Kevin Olson made a motion to approve all minutes. Don Cassano seconded the motion. The following minutes were approved:

- Transportation Commission Minutes – September 9, 2008
- Public Involvement/Marketing Committee – September 22, 2008

Agenda Item 2 – Public Appearances
There were no public appearances.

Agenda Item 3 – Residential Permit Parking Policies
Shelly Seyler provided the following information:

- Since the last commission meeting Traffic Engineering has examined the current Residential Permit Parking Program (RPP).
- Traffic Engineering looked at the number of permits issued per residence and the number of households with four or more permits issued under one address.
- It was determined that the current program is working properly and they do not feel the program is being abused by residents or students.
- Only slight changes were made to the program which include a form for residents will now sign as an understanding of the RPP guidelines.
- Traffic Engineering will also work more closely with code enforcement when three or more permits are issued to one residence.

Jayson Matthews opened the floor for questions or concerns from the commissioners. There were none.

Agenda Item 4 – Light Rail Service Hours
Jyme Sue McLaren provided the following information:

- The first full route trains heading east or west bound will depart at 4:40 a.m.
- The last full route trains heading east or west bound will depart at 12:00 a.m.
- These hours are an attempt to marry the bus and light rail schedules making each service more user friendly.
- The minimum window necessary for rail maintenance each night is four hours.
- There may be future opportunities to extend rail hours given a stronger economy.
- Rail hours will be extended for special events and the funding for such extensions will come from the event budget.

Commissioners expressed concern with the Friday and Saturday night schedule and inquired about the possibility of having the light rail run until 1:00 a.m.

Agenda Item 5 – Bus Service Changes
Carlos de Leon provided the following information:

- At the September 18, 2008 City Council Issue Review Session, staff presented the Transportation Commission's recommended bus service changes for December 2008
- Council approved all recommendations with a request to staff to evaluate the performance of route 40 during the six-month period following the opening of light rail.
- Staff will specifically analyze the weather there is cost-effective usage along the University Drive to Sky Harbor Airport segment, tracking ridership and will report back to the Transportation Committee in six months.

Agenda Item 6 – Regional Fare Policy – Fare Increase
Carlos de Leon provided the following information:

- The Valley Metro/RPTA Regional Fare Policy Committee will examine potential modifications to the region's fare policy in an effort to increase fare revenue in order to offset rising costs and declining sales tax revenue.
- The first meeting of the Regional Fare Policy Committee is scheduled for October 14, 2008.
- Staff will provide an updated to the Transportation Commission on this issue at the November 2008 meeting.
- Any fare policy change must be approved by the Valley metro Board of Directors and the Phoenix City Council by local ordinance.
- Staff will seek input and recommendations of the Transportation Commission, City Council, and the Transportation Committee.
- July 2009 is the target date for implementation of approved fare policy modifications.

The commission requested that staff be mindful of the low income, and disabled population when considering increases.

Agenda Item 7 – Phoenix Bus Service Reduction
Jason Hartong provided the following information:

- The following bus service changes are being proposed for December 2008
    - All weekday trips that begin in the City of Phoenix before 5:00 a.m. or after 10:00 p.m. will have the Phoenix portion of the trip eliminated.
    - Saturday service frequency will be reduced to Sunday service levels and trips beginning in the City of Phoenix before 5:00 a.m. or after 10:00 p.m. will have the Phoenix portion of the trip eliminated.
    - All trips that begin in the City of Phoenix before 5:00 a.m. or after 10:00 p.m. will have the Phoenix portion of the trip eliminated.
- The City of Phoenix will address this issue again in July 2009 with more public involvement.

Agenda Item 8 – Valley Metro's System Identity
Amanda Nelson provided the following information:

- Valley Metro has been working with its member cities over the past 20 months to develop a new identity/logo for the Valley Metro system.
- Market research was conducted testing four different logos with transit users, a variety of staff from member cities and other stakeholders.
- Market research results were presented to the Valley Metro Board of Directors September 18, 2008 where the board approved a new logo for its new transit system identity.
- The new logo will be implemented upon the purchase of new vehicles, vehicles needing half life repainting, and vehicles needing paint repair.

Agenda Item 9 – New Transportation Commissioner and New Council Committees
Jayson Matthews and Carlos de Leon provided the following information:

- Peter Schelstraete will replace Corey Woods on the Transportation Commission and will join the Commission at the November 2008 meeting.
- The new Transportation Committee will conduct its first meeting October 28, 2008.
  Chair: Shana Ellis
  Member: Ben Arredondo

Agenda Item 10 – Capital Projects Update: Transportation Center Bike Facility and Lease Space

Bonnie Richardson and Carlos de Leon provided the following information:

- Bus shelters are now going up at the Transportation Center; however, bus service through the facility is yet to be determined.
- There are two possible tenants ready to sign a lease for retail space on the first floor.
- First floor lease space was originally planned to be leased as is; however, the City is now looking into covering the costs of installing the air system as an incentive to lease the space.
- Third floor lease space is currently in a holding pattern while a study is being conducted to determine how the space should be used.
- It is expected that the ground floor of the Transportation Center will be up and running by December 27, 2008.
- The opening of the bike facility has been delayed until December 2008 at the earliest due to a request from the City Attorney's office for an RFP.
- The College Avenue Traffic study is under way and will go on for the next two months.
- Three temporary traffic circles and various medians have been placed along College Avenue and have been greeted with some negative response.
- Most negative responses are coming from members of the public who did not participate in any of the public outreach prior to the test phase of the study.
- Transportation is educating the public on how to use the traffic circles which seems to be helping with the negative response.

The Commission made a recommendation to staff to meet with the Mayor and City Council on traffic calming tools so that they are better able to assist with citizen concerns.

Agenda Item 11 – November Commission Meeting

It was decided that the November Commission meeting will be held Tuesday November 18th, 2008.

Agenda Item 12 – Future Agenda Items

- Light Rail/Transportation Center Grand Opening
- Tempe South Alternative Analysis

Bill Hass moved to adjourn the meeting, Don Cassano seconded the motion. Jayson Matthews declared the meeting adjourned at 8:45 a.m.

The Commission's next regular meeting will be held Tuesday, November 18, 2008 at 7:30 a.m. in the Don Cassano Community Room, 200 E. Fifth Street, Tempe, Arizona.

Prepared by:
Darcie Bontems

Reviewed by:

Carlos de Leon
Deputy Public Works Manager