



Minutes City Council's Transportation Committee June 23, 2009

Minutes of the meeting of the City Council's Transportation Committee held on Tuesday, June 23, 2009, 3:00 p.m., in the 3rd Floor Conference Room, Tempe City Hall, 31 E. 5th Street, Tempe, Arizona.

Committee Members Present:

Vice Mayor Shana Ellis, Chair
Councilmember Ben Arredondo

City Staff Present:

Greg Kent, LRT
Sue Taaffe, Community Outreach/Mktg Coord
Shelly Seyler, Comm Relations
Oddvar Tveit, Environmental Qual Spec
Karl Stephens, ADA Compliance Spec
Jerry Hart, Financial Services Mgr
Shauna Warner, Neighborhood Services Mgr
Jyme Sue McLaren, Dep Pub Wrks Mgr
Carlos de Leon, Dep Public Wrks Mgr
Chris Salomone, Comm Dev Mgr

Guests Present:

Barbara J Shelton, Commission on Disability Concerns
Jose L De la Torre, Commission on Disability Concerns
Jackie Olsen, Commission on Disability Concerns
Ed Mitchell, Citizen
Don Cassano, Transportation Commission

Vice Mayor Shana Ellis called the meeting to order at 3:00 p.m. and everyone introduced themselves.

Agenda Item 1 – Public Appearances

None.

Agenda Item 2 – Accessibility Code Changes

Shelly Seyler summarized proposed changes to the City Accessibility Code (Chapter 19). Citizen Ed Mitchell approached the City of Tempe with changes which were discussed with the City Attorney's Office, Diversity Department, and Community Relations Departments and the response was strong.

- Draft - Page 2, Section 19-93:
 - Replace section 19-93 in its entirety
 - Addresses blocking of accessible spaces.
 - Adherence to the use of international logo (wheelchair).
 - Forged, altered, and counterfeited (unauthorized use) place cards are addressed.

- Definitions of access aisle, placard, and restricted parking area.
- Section 19-931
 - Wheelchair curb access ramps.
- Section 19-94
 - Parking in alleys.
- Section 19-122
 - Curb loading zone: increase to 15 min from 5 min.
- Page 5
 - Fines – redirect a surcharge to disability services for support (making director position full time).
 - In the previous 12 months, 454 citations were issued under 28-884 (\$149) or 19-93 (\$136); propose that the surcharges be increased to \$250. That would equate to \$112,500 in fees, of which only 50-60% are collected, providing a realistic \$61,875.00 (est.)

Staff was directed to present the accessibility code changes to City Council at the July 2nd Issue Review Session. If forwarded to the Formal Council, this could go into effect by October. However, the issue directing monies obtained from collecting fines from citations issued to violators to the Tempe City Disability Department should not be included in the code revisions to be submitted to Council. Councilmember Ben Arredondo added that he and Vice Mayor Shana Ellis are sensitive to the issue, and feel that the creation of a full time position is necessary. This particular position was scheduled for elimination. It is the Council's decision to determine how any revenue funds are used. Councilmember Arredondo suggested that Mr. Mitchell address the City Manager, City Council and Mayor regarding a full time ADA position separately. This can be done through a letter.

Mr. Stephens added that he has met with Chief Tom Ryff & Charles Cobb regarding organizing a citizen patrol to help with enforcement.

The state is in support of this, and it would become A.R.S. 20-84.

Councilmember Ben Arredondo, Mr. de Leon, and Vice Mayor Shana Ellis will work on something for Channel 11; October is Disability Month.

Signage would not need to be redone. The Tempe statute will uphold the restricted parking areas. The A.R.S. statutes currently displayed are irrelevant if the international sign is used.

Agenda Item 3 – Transportation Services Assistance Grant

Carlos de Leon summarized as follows:

- Recommendations:
 - Move forward with a grant of \$50,000.00 to The Centers for Habilitation

Staff was directed to add the resolution to the council agenda meeting in August.

Typo was noted in the back-up information; it should read FY 08/09

Agenda Item 4 – Orbit System

Carlos de Leon summarized that a series of public meetings regarding the Mars route were held. Mars is the lowest performing Orbit route. There is an opportunity to reduce services (due to low ridership) through frequency, from 15 minutes to 20 minutes on the weekdays, and on the weekends a reduction in hours of operation. Mars runs in the area of Southern Ave. near the library to the Mesa border. The route was extended to the light rail station at Apache

Blvd. in December to encourage ridership but, a substantial increase in ridership was not seen. The Mars route is targeted for frequency reduction by July 22nd.

A door hangar and flyers have been created; information will also be included in local neighborhood newsletters and posted in various areas.

Councilmember Ben Arredondo voiced concern over the Sat./Sun. hours of operation. Similar hours were initially proposed, but due to differences on Sat./Sun. (i.e., religious services and activities on Saturday). He also expressed the need to have larger lettering on the hangars and a note highlighted: "not doing away with the route".

Routes are extended to coincide with special events that take place downtown.

Vice Mayor Shana Ellis asked if the Orbit hours would remain the same even with light rail extended hours of operation on Friday and Saturday nights. Carlos confirmed that the Orbit hours would continue to operate until 10 p.m.

Mr. de Leon commented that the Mars route restructuring would be part of a larger effort in the fall. People did come forward with ideas to make the Mars route more effective; one key item is serving Tempe Marketplace. Proposed route changes will attempt to optimize ridership while keeping costs neutral.

Jupiter serves the same area around the library over to McClintock.

- Improve access to the neighborhood (Southern to the US60, Rural to McClintock)

Earth route in the Sunset/Cavalier Neighborhood

- Discussion regarding misbehavior of the riders utilizing the route.

Outreach will start in September; changes will be implemented in November.

- Will be attempting to make changes to coincide with new Bus Book.
- Article in the August issue of Tempe Today.
- Door hangars will be dispersed.
- Posting at the multi-gen centers.
- Web, Twitter, and informing school districts.
- When complete, will continue with the normal commission and committee process.

Councilmember Ben Arredondo & Vice Mayor Shana Ellis stated that when appropriate, let neighborhood meetings know that Councilmember Arredondo and Vice-Mayor Ellis are aware of the situation, are informed and discuss the issues at meetings.

Agenda Item 5 – Long Range Transit Fund Update

Carlos de Leon stated that the graph in the memo is updated from the prior IRS and includes additional capital grants, which pushes out the negative fund balance timeline from a 3 year horizon to a 7 year horizon. Expenditures are exceeding revenue. We would need to reduce \$8.7M in annual recurring cost over the next seven years to rebalance the fund. The Transportation Commission has formed an ad hoc Transit Financial committee. Recommendations from the ad hoc committee will be forwarded to this committee. The goal is to have a general plan (and framework) in place by September. The plan will be very general and will require additional detail analysis in each of the other areas. A fund balance policy would be developed.

Councilmember Ben Arredondo commented that he would like to see us tap into as much stimulus money as possible.

Agenda Item 6 – Metro Board Action Updates

Glenn Kephart attended the May Metro Board meeting.

- Approval of the extended service hours for rail Friday and Saturday night to 2 a.m.
- Metro Rail is recruiting for a new CEO through a consulting firm.
 - RFP for the consulting firm selection is due next week.
 - CEO candidate should be in place by October/November.

Vice Mayor Shana Ellis requested that staff inquire as to whether a weighted vote could be called for and do the evaluation team seats mean that they have track in their respective city, or does it include those that purchased seats.

Councilmember Arredondo requested that staff contact Catherine Mayorga from the Tempe Chamber of Commerce regarding the youth transit pass. The school districts are reporting that it is difficult to find parking in order to get youth transit passes. He further requested that staff look into as to whether it would be easier to relocate youth pass distribution, possibly at the Library or the Hardy Police Substation.

Vice Mayor Ellis clarified that it is a priority to get other cities onboard to provide free passes to youth. Education may need to be emphasized on how to properly use the passes for billing and tracking.

Agenda Item 7 – Summer Meeting Schedule

July meeting cancelled.

August meeting tentatively cancelled

Agenda Item 8 – Future Agenda Items

September;

- Long Range Transit Fund Update.
- Orbit System Update.

Meeting adjourned at 4:15 p.m.

Prepared by: Mike Anaya

Reviewed by: Carlos de Leon

Jan Hort
City Clerk