
Minutes City of Tempe Transportation Commission June 9, 2009

Minutes of the City of Tempe Transportation Commission held on Tuesday, June 9, 2009, 7:30 a.m., at the Transportation Center Don Cassano Community Room, Tempe, Arizona.

(MEMBERS) Present:

Don Cassano, Ben Goren, Jayson Matthews, Gary Roberts, Peter Schelstraete, Steven Saiz, Edward Smith, David Strang, Joan Westlake, Bryan Young

(MEMBERS) Absent:

Bill Haas, Marcellus Lisotta, Catherine Mayorga, Augustus Shaw IV, Marco Valenzuela,

City Staff Present:

Dawn Coomer, Carlos de Leon, Dana Janofsky Greg Jordan, Gregg Kent, Glenn Kephart, Jeff Kulaga, Charlie Meyer, Elizabeth Mieth, Amanda Nelson, RC Noderer, Shelly Seyler, Sue Taaffe,

Guests Present:

Ed Mitchell

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

Agenda Item 1 – Consideration of Meeting Minutes

Edward Smith made a motion to approve all minutes. Peter Schelstraete seconded the motion. The following minutes were approved:

- Transportation Commission Minutes – April 14, 2009

Agenda Item 2 – Public Appearances

There were no public appearances.

Agenda Item 3 – Reorganization Update

Carlos de Leon presented the following information:

- Traffic Engineering section would merge with the Engineering Division in Public Works.
- Marketing and Community Outreach section would merge with Community Relations.
- Project and Planning Delivery section along with the LRT would move to Community Development to create a growth planning group.
- Financial Specialist would merge with Financial Services.
- Transit Operations and Administration would merge with the LRT operations.
 - Approximately twenty-two full-time employees.

- Suggest the name Transit Division since the focus is primarily on service delivery.
- Organized around four areas.
 - Customer Service and Administration. That would include the Transit Store and administration that supports the entire division.
 - Security. A police sergeant is being funded from the police department who is heading up security team. There is security at the Tempe Transportation Center (TTC), East Valley Bus Operations and Maintenance Facility (EVBOM) and integration of security with the LRT. In the future hope to add security on the bus component.
 - Facilities. In the last two years Transit has added three major components in terms of facilities EVBOM, TTC and LRT. The LRT component is run by Metro Rail but the City of Tempe is responsible for the park and rides. In addition Transit manages the bike paths and over 800 bus stops.
 - Transit Management. Manages the contracted services.
 - Managing contract bus service with Veolia Transportation.
 - Maintains a fleet of 180 vehicles.
 - Ensuring that we are compliant with the Federal operating rules which include drug and alcohol as well as Buy America.
 - IGAs that are administered through Valley Metro which includes Metro Rail and Dial – a – Ride.

Commissioner Steven Saiz asked what are the supposed changes to the Dial – a – Ride. Carlos stated that there was a proposal to do a regionalization of Dial – a – Ride, which this would create a centralized call center and three sub-areas that would be contracted out. The project has been postponed due to lack of capital funds. In the meantime there have been minor policy changes underway; those would be the eligibility requirements and the fares.

Commissioner Don Cassano asked is there anything built into the system that will make sure that the Transit related funds through the Transit tax are kept for Transit projects. Jerry Hart stated that there is a procedure in place to ensure that the funds are being used for Transit related items.

Commissioner Edward Smith asked are they changes permanent and if the economy swings up will it change again. Carlos stated that the concept of this reorganization was to help with efficiencies with in the City and the overall budget. It is an attempt to reorganize around a five year period. The effective date for all the changes would be July 1, 2009.

Commissioner Don Cassano asked will the people currently in the TTC be moved out of this building. Carlos stated that the Traffic Engineering section with the merger of Engineering would move back to the Garden Level. Marketing and Community Outreach will stay in TTC with part of the Community Relations group called the Creative and Communications Team. Planning will move Community Development to the Orchid House pending the move of Code Enforcement. The Financial Analyst would move to Financial Services at the 525 building on the second floor.

Carlos stated that the TTC and as well as EVBOM are federally funded. With federally funded buildings there are some restrictions. The City still need to make a request for incidental use of the TTC since non-transportation offices wasn't originally in the intended use of the building. FTA would consider Community Relations moving into the TTC as incidental use. Transit will have to demonstrate to the FTA the incidental use does not impede the original intent of the funds and that Transit still maintains control of the facility for the second floor. The third floor and the first floor were always intended to be lease space.

Commissioner Steven Saiz asked if the implemented changes of the reorganization achieve the desired outcome or is there still work ahead. Charlie Meyer stated that have we come up with the perfect formula? No. Have we come up with a formula that fits the criteria that we have looked for? I think we

have. Is it permanent? The only we know in life is that nothing is permanent. It is not intended to be a transitional structure. Will it restructure over time? Absolutely. How? We do not know.

Commissioner David Strang stated that will the reorganization have any impact on what this Commission does and it's committees. Carlos stated that I do not expect that would be happening at all. The Commission was charged officially back in 1996 when the sales tax was approved that the Transit funds were properly implemented. He views that to be the same today as it was back in 1996. Charlie Meyer stated the Commission's role will be unchanged but the staff you will be seeing in some cases will be the same faces will be working for a slightly different entity. They will still be able to provide the same support. If there is, as a result of this restructuring any kind of loss that occurs to the Commission in terms of your ability to get information to make your decisions he would like to get your feedback.

Commissioner Gary Roberts asked in the reorganization you will have to get clearance for incidental use of the building. Those are federal funds from the FTA who is the recipient of those funds and how do you anticipate that is going to take. Carlos stated that the City of Tempe will receive those funds and once it is submitted it would be approximately six months.

Commissioner Jayson Matthews stated he would like to thank the Commission for their interest and diligence in asking these tough questions about these changes. He would also like to thank Charlie Meyer and city staff joining the Commission today and being here to answer some of these questions. The Commission was charged to be stewards of these funds and will continue to do so. The Commission will be watchful eyes on these funds. They look forward to the continuing dialog and education as things form in the coming year.

Agenda Item 4 – Long Range Transit Fund Update

Carlos de Leon presented the following information:

- The downturn in sales tax revenue is negatively affecting the fund. If no action is taken, costs are projected to exceed revenue and deplete the fund balance over the next seven years.
- The Transit Fund does include a recovery of the revenue forecast in the next few years.
- The cost forecast had been updated with the three major components. Veolia contract rebidding and have a 5% reduction rate, currently rebidding fuel costs and fare revenue.
- Staff is requesting the Commission's direction for involving the Commission in the discussion and development of the plan. The Commission could take one or more approaches:
 - Establish an ad-hoc committee to meet as needed and report back to the full Commission with information and recommendations.
 - Assign this task or tasks to the standing Committees to meet and report back to the full Commission.
 - Set special meetings of the full Commission to focus on this issue.

Commissioner Jayson Matthews recommended a hybrid of these particular options. Jason is proposing to this Commission to establish an ad-hoc group that can start meeting immediately. If the ad-hoc committee can meet in the next two weeks then they can start assigning some to the task to the different sub-committees.

Commissioner David Strang stated that the ad-hoc committee should have a representative from each sub-committee.

Commissioner Jayson Matthews stated that he would like Commissioner Don Cassano to co-chair the ad-hoc committee. Commissioner Ben Goren, David Strang and Steven Saiz would like to be apart of the ad-hoc committee.

Commissioner Gary Roberts asked what kinds of things would the ad-hoc committee look at. There's not enough money you're going to run out of money by 2016/2017 you are left with two choices either cut

service or raise the fares. Carlos de Leon stated hoped that the ad-hoc committee would give guidance on the priorities.

Agenda Item 5 – Accessibility Code Changes

Shelly Seyler and Ed Mitchell presented the following information:

- Proposed Changes to Tempe City Code 19-93.
 - No person shall stop, stand, or park a vehicle, or direct a vehicle to be parked, in a restricted parking area unless the vehicle has displayed thereon the international symbol of access special plates that are currently registered to the vehicle or a valid placard issued pursuant to state law.
 - No person shall stop, stand, or park a vehicle in such a manner as to block or deny access to an unoccupied restricted parking area, except that this provision shall not prohibit the driver of a vehicle from temporarily stopping in accordance with other parking regulations for the purpose of and while actually engaged in loading or unloading physically disabled passengers.
 - No person shall stop, stand, or park a vehicle, including a vehicle displaying international symbol of access special plates or a placard, in the access aisle of a restricted parking area.
 - It is unlawful for a person to stop, stand or park in a restricted parking area any vehicle that displays a placard that is altered, forged or counterfeited.
 - This section shall apply to those restricted parking areas that are clearly identified with the internationally accepted symbol of access, either by a clearly visible permanent sign that is mounted on a stationary post or object, or clearly painted within the boundaries of a parking space, or both.
 - In this Section: "Access aisle" means a designated area within a restricted parking area that is marked by either spaced, crosshatched or diagonal stripes or a distinctive change in color or material, and that leads to an accessible route of travel. "Placard" means a permanently disabled removable windshield placard or a temporarily disabled removable windshield placard as defined in Section 28-2409, Arizona Revised Statutes. "Restricted parking area" means a parking space and, if available, an access aisle set aside and identified for use only by persons with physical disabilities.
 - A violation of subsection A, B, or C of this section shall constitute a civil traffic violation and the violator shall be subject to a civil sanction of not less than four hundred-fifty dollars. A violation of Subsection D of this Section shall constitute a civil traffic violation and the violator shall be subject to a civil sanction of not less than five hundred dollars.
- Proposed Creation of Sec. 19-93.1 Wheelchair curb access ramps.
 - It is unlawful to stop, stand, or park a vehicle in such a manner as to block or deny access to a designated wheelchair curb access ramp, except that this provision shall not prohibit the driver of a vehicle from temporarily stopping in accordance with other parking regulations for the purpose of and while actually engaged in loading or unloading physically disabled passengers.
 - A violation of this section shall constitute a civil traffic violation and the violator shall be subject to a civil sanction of not less than four hundred-fifty dollars.
- Proposed Amendments to Sec. 19-94 and Sec. 19-122.
 - Sec. 19-94 Parking in alleys. No person shall stand or park a vehicle in an alley at any time except for the loading of materials, and not then unless such loading or unloading can be accomplished without blocking the alley to the free movement of traffic or interfering with or obstructing the operation of a fire escape, and not take over twenty (20) minutes total time. Vehicles displaying ~~state "Disabled Parking" identifying insignia~~ the international symbol of access special plates that are currently registered to the vehicle or a valid placard issued pursuant to state law may stand or park in any alley while loading or unloading persons for a period not to exceed ~~five (5) fifteen (15) minutes~~.

- Sec. 19-122. Standing in curb loading zone. No person shall stop, stand or park a vehicle for any purpose or length of time other than for the expeditious unloading and delivery or pickup and loading of materials or passengers in any place marked as a curb loading zone during hours when the provisions applicable to such zones are in effect. In no case shall the stop for loading and unloading of materials exceed thirty (30) minutes. Vehicles displaying state "Disabled Parking" identifying insignia the international symbol of access special plates that are currently registered to the vehicle or a valid placard issued pursuant to state law may stand or park in a curb loading zone while loading and unloading persons for a period not to exceed ~~five (5)~~ fifteen (15) minutes.
- Direct monies collected from fines to the Tempe City Disability Department which would support directing the increased dollars to the Disability Department of the City in order to increase staffing hours, resources and services that can be offered to the disabled community.

Commissioner Don Cassano asked what would the Disability Department use the money for. Ed Mitchell stated that he would like a full-time position to follow up on issues. Commissioner Don Cassano asked will there be police enforcement. Ed stated that in working with the police department there will be volunteers that can issue citations only on disability issues.

Commissioner Bryan Young asked doing the math with the fees it will be a little over \$90,000 a year is that the proposed budget for the full-time staff. Ed stated that the collection rate for the courts is approximately 50-60% and \$61,000 will be enough to fund the position.

Commissioner Don Cassano asked would bicycles be subject to this as well. Ed stated they would be issued a warning and the owner of the facility will be talked to as well.

Commissioner David Strang asked would the volunteer's enforcement group be coordinated through the disability office or through the police department. Ed stated that police department would manage the group.

Commissioner Jayson Matthews stated that the volunteer core and the ADA specialist going full-time should do a big marketing and education campaign. Especially to let businesses know that is now being enforced. Ed stated that right now they are working on videos to explain laws, placards uses, etc.

Commissioner Gary Roberts stated that for delivery services a simple communication to the corporate offices should alleviate delivery trucks blocking handicapped spaces. Ed stated that is what they hope and plan. However company wide when they have been contacted it's in their manual not to do that and the drivers are told.

Commissioner Gary Roberts made a motion to adopt the changes in the Accessibility Code. Commissioner David Strang seconded the motion.

Agenda Item 6 – Commuter Rail Update

Dawn Coomer presented the following information:

- Since Fall 2008, staff from the City of Tempe, the City of Maricopa and the Gila River Indian Community have been discussing the potential for commuter rail along the Tempe Industrial Lead and Highway 347. At the April 28, 2009 Council Transportation Committee meeting, staff was directed to partner with the City of Maricopa to assemble a Gila River Indian Community grant application for State Shared Revenues. At the May 14, 2009 Issue Review Session, Mayor and Council approve a resolution to forward applications to the Gila River Indian Community for consideration.
- At the May 28 Issue Review Session, the Mayor and Council provided staff with direction to pursue federal funding for commuter rail by submitting a grant for discretionary funding available

through the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009 (ARRA). Grant applications must be submitted by September 15, 2009.

- Tempe staff also continues to work with the Arizona Department of Transportation (ADOT) and the Maricopa Association of Governments (MAG) on statewide and regional commuter rail studies.

Commissioner Jayson Matthews stated that the motion is moving forward.

Commissioner David Strang asked when the earliest we'll see the commuter rail. Dawn Coomer stated that it will be quite some time.

Commissioner Bryan Young asked there has been some federal funds going into inter city high speed rail in California and the east coast have you looked into any of that money coming here. Dawn stated that there is some money in the economic stimulus for existing high rail corridors. The problem in Arizona is that we don't really have an adopted high speed rail corridor.

Agenda Item 7 – Boards & Commissions Orientation Class

Carlos de Leon presented the following information:

- A New Boards & Commissions Orientation class has been scheduled for Tuesday, June 30th from 6:00 - 9:30 p.m. at the TLC Classroom located in the lower level of the Tempe Public Library (3500 South Rural Road).
- The purpose of the class is to provide participants with an interactive learning experience and practical information that can be immediately applied while serving as City of Tempe Board & Commission Members.
- The learning objectives would be:
 - Identify the purpose and specific responsibilities of Board and Commission members at the City of Tempe.
 - Describe the rules for accepting gifts.
 - Recognize what constitutes a Conflict of Interest and where to turn to for advice if questions regarding conflicts occur.
 - Explain why the Open Meeting Law is important and how it affects your role as a Board and Commission member.

Carlos de Leon stated that if you would like to attend as class contact Dana Janofsky.

Agenda Item 8 – Orbit System

Greg Jordan presented the following information:

- Staff recommends a temporary mitigation strategy to more appropriately match Mars service supply to actual demand.
- Temporary Mars service reductions are recommended for implementation on July 27, 2009.
 - Weekdays – Reduce frequency from every 15 minutes to every 20 minutes. With the exception of public school release periods.
 - Saturdays – Reduce operating house to 8 a.m. to 10 p.m. and frequency every 30 minutes.
 - Sundays – Reduce operating house to 8 a.m. to 10 p.m. and frequency every 30 minutes.
- The temporary reductions will be in effect through January 2010 at which point the fall 2009 Orbit system improvement process will have provided appropriate long-term recommendations for the Mars service

Commissioner Ben Goren asked are there any plans to publish schedules for the Orbits that reflect this new schedule. Greg Jordan stated that the schedules are published in brochures and the info posts with all the major time points.

- Fall 2009 Orbit System Improvement Process
 - Establish Orbit service priorities and potential future improvements.
 - Future of the Orbit Mars service areas.
 - Possible modification of the Orbit Jupiter (or introduce an alternate route) within the neighborhood bordered by Southern, Rural, McClintock, and US 60.
 - Continue public process started in spring 2009 to resolve Orbit Earth routing in the Sunset-Cavalier neighborhood of north Tempe west of Scottsdale Rd. In the meantime, staff are working to mitigate any negative impacts that residents feel are present including concerns about homelessness, criminal activity, and litter. A June 10 meeting is scheduled with the neighborhood and will include representatives from the Police Department, Homeless Coordination, Neighborhood Services, and Transit.

Commissioner Don Cassano made a motion to approve the temporary service reduction of the Orbit Mars. Commissioner Steven Saiz seconded the motion.

Agenda Item 9 – Future Agenda Items

- Update on all Committees

Jayson Matthews adjourned the meeting at 8:50 a.m.

The Commission's next regular meeting will be held Tuesday, July 14, 2009 at 7:30 a.m. in the Don Cassano Community Room, 200 E. Fifth Street, Tempe, Arizona.

Prepared by:
Elizabeth Mieth

Reviewed by:

Carlos de Leon