



Minutes City of Tempe Transportation Commission January 11, 2011

Minutes of the City of Tempe Transportation Commission held on Tuesday, January 11, 2011, 7:30 a.m., at the Transportation Center Don Cassano Community Room, Tempe, Arizona.

(MEMBERS) Present:

Ben Goren, Charles Huellmantel, Marcellus Lisotta, Catherine Mayorga, Gary Roberts, Peter Schelstraete, Augustus H. Shaw IV, David Strang, Bryan Young

(MEMBERS) Absent:

Steven Saiz

City Staff Present:

Don Bessler, Joe Clements, Tonya Chavez, Eric Iwersen, Ken Jones, Greg Jordan, Yvette Mesquita, Shelly Seyler, Jennifer Svetichan, Sue Taaffe, Robert Yabes

Guests Present:

Judi Nelson (ASU Transportation)

David Strang called the meeting to order at 7:36 a.m.

Agenda Item 1 – Consideration of Meeting Minutes

Commissioner Charles Huellmantel asks to amend October 12, 2010 Transportation Commission minutes by changing word amend to “correct” in regards to his comments. Commissioner Charles Huellmantel made a motion to approve all minutes and Transportation Commission minutes with amendments. Commissioner Marcellus Lisotta seconded the motion. Commissioner Catherine Mayorga abstained. The following minutes were approved:

- Transportation Commission Meeting Minutes – October 12, 2010
- Multi-modal Planning and Project Review Meeting Minutes – November 17, 2010
- Multi-modal Planning and Project Review Meeting Minutes – December 8, 2010

Agenda Item 2 – Public Appearances

There were no public appearances

Agenda Item 3 – Overtaking Bicycles

Commissioner Young asked if there was a statistic on how many \$500 tickets were issued in a given year or if it was ever truly enforced. Eric Iwersen mentioned that the statistic could be obtained through PD if requested. He has never heard of a citation in Tempe and thought they were rare Valley wide. Shelly Seyler included that there has been citations in regards to crashes with bicycles but thought what Eric was referring to was citations related to directly to citation 28-735.

Commissioner Goren added that there is no enforcement of that particular code or he had never heard of anyone being pulled over for passing a bicyclist closer than three feet.

Commissioner Huellmantel added that it is probably used by officers for other purposes. Even if they don't issue for that specific citation, they can use it as reason for suspicion to make stops for DUIs. He would still not want to get rid of it.

Commissioner Goren agreed and was not suggesting they get rid of it, but said it is as if it doesn't exist at all. He questioned how many officers are even aware that there is a three feet passing law.

Commissioner Strang included that they will try to get some answers before the next meeting.

Agenda Item 4 – Bike Hero Nominations

Sue Taaffe presented the following information:

Staff received seven nominations for the bike hero award. Once a recipient is selected, she will work to get it on the City Council calendar, present the winner with artwork and include it with the press release for Bike to Work Day in April.

Commissioner Lisotta asks about the change with going directly to the Commission with the nominations instead of the committees first.

Sue Taaffe explained that she brought the nominations directly to the full Commission because with the new quorum rules and the timing of Bike to Work Day that she thought it was more appropriate to present it to the Commission since all three committees are represented.

Commissioners discussed the merits of the individuals and organizations nominated. Commissioner Lisotta recommended that an individual receive the award this year as a business received the award last year. Commissioner Roberts asked that other than prestige, is there anything else that comes with this award. Sue Taaffe explained they will try to get something in the Arizona Republic, use social media, have the award presented at a City Council meeting and recognize it as much as possible during Bike to Work Day efforts.

Commissioner Goren made a motion to nominate Eric Iwersen for Bike Hero Award. Commissioner Catherine Mayorga seconded.

Eric asked if it was appropriate for staff to receive the award. Commissioner Strang explained that it is appropriate as it's based on his work in the community.

Motion passed 9-0

Agenda Item 5 – Commission Business

Commissioner Strang called any nominations for Chair of the Commission

Commissioner Goren made a motion to nominate David Strang as Commission Chair. Commissioner Shaw seconded. Motion passed 9-0. Commissioner Roberts made a motion to nominate Steven Saiz as Commissioner Vice Chair. Commissioner Goren seconded. Motion passed 9-0

Commissioner Strang addresses the schedule of 7:30 a.m. on 2nd Tuesday of the month.

Commissioner Schelstraete expressed his concern about people not attending the commission

Commissioner Strang explained the quorum rules of eight members must attend to meet and the need for more commission members.

Commissioner Huellmantel agreed with Commissioner Schelstraete with regards to attendance and recommended a meeting scheduler for calendar that will alert Commissioners if a meeting is cancelled.

Commissioner Strang expressed the helpfulness of an email to confirm attendance and make attendees accountable. A cancellation notification will be sent if a meeting is cancelled due to lack of Commissioner attendance. Also, attendance records are being monitored more closely and enforce if someone misses three meetings without excuse, he or she can be replaced.

Commissioner Schelstraete included that prior to being terminated from the Commission that person should then be put on notice.

Commissioner Strang addressed the committee structure and clarification of which Commissioners are on which of the three standing committees and any change preferences.

Commissioner Huellmantel asked for an explanation of the three committees. Commissioner Strang enlightened him on the Public Involvement and Marketing Committee. He also included that the committee's decisions are then brought before the Commission and that the quorum rules also apply in the committees. There are no rules on how many Commission members are on the committees, but the non commission members don't get to vote. They are just there to advise. Greg Jordan explained the Accountability and Governance Committee. Commissioner Goren explained the Multi-modal Planning and Project Committee.

Accountability and Governance Committee.

Commissioner Roberts elected to remain on the committee. Commissioner Huellmantel and Commissioner Shaw agree to sit in on the next meeting.

Public Involvement and Marketing Committee.

Commissioners Strang and Mayorga elected to remain on the committee.

Multi-modal Planning and Project Committee.

Commissioners Goren, Young, Schelstraete, and Lisotta elected to remain on the committee

Commissioner Huellmantel agreed to attend the Accountability and Governance Committee and requested the agendas for all three committee meetings.

Commissioner Strang requested a printout of each committee and their assigned commissioners.

Agenda Item 6 – New Deputy Director of Transportation timeline

Don Bessler addressed the Commission explaining that he has asked Shelly Seyler and Greg Jordan to co-manage the vacancy of Deputy Public Works Manager with Greg overseeing the transit and administration areas and Shelly overseeing traffic operations and engineering areas. There are nine to eleven qualified applicants for the position but no solid dates for a replacement. He is very eager to get someone in the position permanently and get settled. He included that the issue of the structural deficit and the joining of Metro and Valley Metro and Tempe's possible participation in that process could delay the appointment.

Agenda Item 7 – Transit Service Changes

Greg Jordan presented the following information:

Staff are embarking on 2nd phase of the Transit Fund balancing plan that calls for three years of phased budget reductions of \$4.5 to \$4.9 million. FY11 service changes were successful in achieving the target budget savings goal of \$4.5 million. Now staff are in the process of planning FY12 service adjustments and identifying cost savings/additional revenue. Those explorations will include presenting information to the public to learn how potential service changes will impact utilization and mobility. That information will be included with a performance analysis and investigations into service equity and assets along with other money saving cuts to allow the Accountability and Governance Committee to make recommendations in order to achieve budget savings of \$4.1million (of a total \$4.7 million target). Attachment A is a performance analysis.

Commissioner Young asked staff to explain note two of Attachment A, the subsidiary per boarding. Greg explained that it is the amount of money that Tempe is investing in a particular route. The lower the number, the better. Commissioner Goren clarified that every time someone steps on a bus it costs the city \$1.64.

Greg also pointed out the low performance of Route 108 in the Town of Guadalupe. It is necessary to pass through Guadalupe to efficiently serve Tempe. The city of Tempe has in the past donated the service so staff will be mindful of how to work with the town and its residents on whether this route segment is needed.

Commission Strang stated that one of the reasons for phasing the changes each fiscal year was so that revenues and expenses could be monitored and adjusted each year. He asked what the status of revenue for the Transit Fund is going forward.

Ken Jones stated that the projections that the city had taken into account included the \$4.7 to \$4.9 million cuts that were projected for the next two years. The fund would become stable at that point. The projection is that sales tax throughout the city is going to pick up between now and 2020. It is an average of 3.9% per year. If that is true the Transit Fund would become stable and start projecting a slight surplus around 2016 or 2017. In general terms, the city has gone beyond flattening out and is beginning to forecast an uptick in sales tax revenue.

Commissioner Goren asked if it was enough to start investing back into the system instead of cutting. Ken addressed this by mentioning the investment into the Modern Streetcar. Staff are looking at the status of the fund related to when the Streetcar would be introduced in 2016-17 to see if there is surplus revenue to operate at that point or whether we will need to generate the entire amount. Staff plan to refinance the debt in the Transit Fund to help cut costs and save money.

Greg then added that in reaching their goal this year, the city only reduced the service by \$1.5 million, but staff were able to still meet the goal by looking into other areas for cuts. The city will approach the same way moving forward to minimize service cuts. Also, included there will be a one round process this year to coincide with City Council meeting dates for the approval of the reductions. The commission meetings along with the two public meetings in February will be advertised.

Ken included that the Streetcar is anticipated to help generate revenue in the city by creating economic investment.

Agenda Item 8 – Budget Process Update

No Discussion

Agenda Item 9 – Council Committees

Commissioner Schelstraete asked if these committees are open for anyone to attend. Commissioner Strang answered by saying any one can go to any meeting.

Agenda Item 10 – Future Agenda Items

- Future Agenda Items
- Capital Project updates
- List of committees and members
- Statistics for ARS 28-735 citations

Meeting adjourned at 8:24am

The Commission's next regular meeting will be held Tuesday, February 8, 2010 at 7:30 a.m. in the Don Cassano Community Room, 200 E. Fifth Street, Tempe, Arizona.

Prepared by:
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Reviewed by:
Greg Jordan