Minutes
City of Tempe Transportation Commission
March 20, 2012

Minutes of the City of Tempe Transportation Commission held on Tuesday, March 20, 2012, 7:30 a.m., at the Transportation Center Don Cassano Community Room, Tempe, Arizona.

(MEMBERS) Present:
Ben Goren, Pam Goronkin, Charles Huellmantel, Susan Jones, Marcellus Lisotta, , Catherine Mayorga, Melody Moss, German Piedrahita, Gary Roberts, Steven Saiz, Peter Schelstraete, David Strang.

(MEMBERS) Absent:
Matthew Garcia, Sue Lofgren, Phillip Luna.

City Staff Present:
Joe Clements, Eric Iwersen Dana Janofsky, Greg Jordan, Bonnie Richardson, Nancy Ryan, Shelly Seyler, Robert Yabes.

Guests Present:
Terry Gruver (INFRACONSULT);

Charles Huellmantel called the meeting to order at 7:30 a.m.

Agenda Item 1 – Public Appearances
None

Agenda Item 2 – Approval of Minutes
Commissioner Huellmantel called to approve. Pam Goronkin made a motion to approve the Transportation Commission Minutes from February 14, 2012; Commissioner David Strang seconded the motion. All approved except Commissioner Peter Schelstraete and Commissioner Gary Roberts who arrived later. The following minutes were approved:

- Transportation Commission Meeting Minutes – February 14, 2012

Agenda Item 3 – Commission Business
Introduced by Commissioner Huellmantel.

Commissioner Schelstraete noted that the Aviation Commission meets in the evening and they do not have a quorum issue. Commissioner Huellmantel suggested leaving the meeting date and time the same since we now have all Commission spots filled and revisiting the item if having a quorum becomes an issue. Commissioner Ben Goren moved to keep the date and time; Commissioner Pam Goronkin seconded the motion.

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Agenda Item 4 – Bicycle Ordinance
Presented by Eric Iwersen

Eric stated that Commissioner Schelstraete and Commissioner Goren requested that pages 4-8 of the Bicycle Ordinance be reviewed. This section is the registration of bicycles. Eric explained that this was old practice but is no longer done. He requested input from the Commission to move forward with an updated draft by the City Attorney's Office and PD. The ordinance was enacted 20-30 years ago and functioned for about 15 years. There are national registries that PD can access. As currently written, citizens cannot abide by the Tempe ordinance.

Commissioner Schelstraete asked what happened to old records. Eric said they were purged. Commissioner Goronkin asked if bike dealers help register new bikes. Eric said that some do and refer them to national registries but not all.

Commission Huellmantel said that the present options would be to either ask the City Attorney's office for a revision of the ordinance or to ask PD for enforcement. Since PD does not have the resources then we would have to go with the option to revise the ordinance. Any changes from the City Attorney's office would come back to the Commission before it would go to Council.

Commissioner Goren asked Commissioner Schelstraete what he would like to keep in the ordinance. Commissioner Schelstraete stated he would like to retain that the serial number stays on the bike and the penalties for bike theft. Since theft is a regional problem that maybe a MAG approach should be used. Commissioner Roberts suggested striking section 7-11 through 7-31 to get rid of just the registration portion.

Eric suggested taking the ordinance first to the City Attorney's office for recommendation, then to PD, and then back to the Commission.

Commissioner Goren made a motion to make the ordinance more compliant for citizens. Commissioner Lisotta seconded. All approved except Commissioner Saiz who left early.

Agenda Item 5 – Transportation Planning Overview
Nancy Ryan presented the following:

The General Plan is updated every 10 years. The last one was approved by Council in 2003 and ratified by voters in 2004.

The General Plan elements include Land Use, Design & Development, Transportation, Economics and Growth, Open Space, Recreation & Cultural, Public Services & Facilities, and Conservation. It will use new consensus statistics and continued use of goals for the final product including the use of new technology and public involvement.

The Transportation Master Plan will be streamlined to be more user-friendly, it will contain program and project lists, it will be easier to understand, and will look at the next 20 -25 years. The Master Plans updates will include an executive summary, pedestrian network, bikeways and Multi-use paths, transit, street and travel ways, and implementation projects and programs.

The Master Plan process and timeline includes: Inventory (present – June 2012); Analysis and review (April –June 2012), Project Priorities and Funding Sources (June – August 2012); Plan preparation

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(March –Sept 2012); Public Review (Mar 2012; Aug 2012; Oct 2012 – Jan 2013) and Commission Review (August 2012); Adoption (Spring 2013).

Greg Jordan stated that this was timely since we are emerging from a financial crisis and need to decide where we go next. Our strategy session in the summer will help determine our next steps.

Commissioner Goren stated that we need to remember that growth is not sustainable. We will have 2x as many people in 25 years which means, 2x gas and 2x the garbage. We need to look at how we can make our lives nicer. Commissioner Huellmantel stated that we will grow and we need to be thoughtful of our footprint in Tempe. Commissioner German Piedrahita stated that we should look at all modes of transportation including bike lanes and turn lanes and how our infrastructure and goals change. Commissioner Goren commented that we do not have room for 2x more cars. Commissioner Schelstraete stated with growth we need to look at how we can be more efficient.

Commissioner Lisotta asked about the City of Scottsdale's issue with their General Plan approval and if there were specific elements that caused the voters not to ratify. Commission Huellmantel and Nancy Ryan explained that a Councilmember was opposed to a section on downtown growth and championed for its defeat within the community.

Nancy Ryan asked if staff had any recommendations. Commissioner Goren wants to make sure that with an expectation of double growth that the roads and transportation such as bicycles, light rail, and buses are looked at closely. Commissioner Huellmantel stated that there are two areas of Tempe – Downtown (urban) and South Tempe (suburban). We need to make sure the one area can get to the other. There should be more discussion on bike lanes like College Avenue and infrastructure. Commissioner Goren stated that you should be able to get from City Hall to the Library on a bicycle without difficulties. If you can drive it you should be able to bike it. Bicyclists should not be second class. Commissioner Huellmantel stated that he did not agree with Commissioner Goren that all should be equal but stated that it should be accessible. He suggested adding this as a future agenda item

Commissioner Goronkin stated that there should be quality multi-modal options. We should look into the future and redesign arterials more safely to travel. She agrees with Commissioner Huellmantel on adding this as a future agenda item.

Commissioner Goren stated that making roads more bicycle friendly makes them less of a drive-thru community.

Commissioner Huellmantel stated that roads like 5th street with turning lanes with nowhere to turn should be more multimodal. He added that everyone should attend Bike to Work Day.

Agenda Item 6 – Transit Fund/ Transit Service Update

The Transit Fund deficit has been reduced to 2.9 million with 44% in cutbacks. There has been an increase in ridership showing that the cuts have been responsible.

Bus Service Changes will reviewed by looking at efficiency improvements, system restructuring, general reductions, strategic expansion, and orbit fare program.

Efficiency improvements – reduce less productive route segments like Orbit Earth on Miller.

System Restructuring – Tempe is working with RPTA and partner cities to change the valley-wide express bus system. 5 express routes that serve Tempe – 521,520,511,532 and 540. Today's model is arterial-

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residential based and we are now looking to moving toward a Park-n-ride model. This would add park-n-rides at the Library, Kiwanis, and Tempe Sports Complex.

Commissioner Roberts asked if the 521 and 520 originate in Tempe and how they are funded. Greg replied that they do and that they are part Phoenix and part Tempe funds. Commissioner Roberts asked if these funds could go elsewhere. Greg explained that the goal is to improve performance and might not change cost.

Commissioner Goren asked if the Kiwanis service would go directly into Phoenix, how many stops, and on what schedule. Greg stated one stop and then it would travel to Phoenix and then the Capital via the 60. Reduced stops decreased travel time. It would also be a normal peak service operation. Commissioner Goren asked how many buses feed to the Kiwanis location. Greg that there is flanking service about ¼ of a mile for each location. Commissioner Lisotta asked if there were infrastructure and improvements needed at the locations. Greg stated there wasn't. He said if successful it would be added to the Master Plan so that grant opportunities would be sought for adding such things as amenities and shading. There is already adequate lighting and some already have security present. Commissioner Goren stated that he would like to see the Bike Cellar franchise at the park-n-ride facilities. Commissioner Huellmantel added that some people might not want to take their bike with them and have a safe place to leave it.

Commissioner Lisotta asked to consider access to the 101 on the east side of the city to Scottsdale.

Orbit Fare Policy
3 OPTIONS identified.

Option1: Achieve 20-25% fare recovery with Orbit trip fare equal to local bus and light rail fare. $1.75 ($.085 reduced fare) and all passes would be accepted

Option2: Achieve 10-15% fare recovery with an Orbit fare at $.50 (reduced fare at $.25) per trip for all riders including pass holders.

Option 3: Orbit fare at $.50 (reduced at $.25) and all passes accepted.

The criteria for the Orbit Fare Policy includes people's travel budget, running time, security, revenue generation , and role in transit system. There is public involvement through intercept surveys at major transit centers, online survey, and 3 Tempe Public meetings. The public comment period ends March 30th. There will be a quadrant bus preference and public impact analysis for system performance and analysis of public input, a Title IV analysis, Transportation Commission presentation on May 8, Tempe City Council presentation on May 31st (tentative) and implementation (service changes 7/23/2012 and Orbit Fare Program – no earlier than January 2013)

Agenda Item 7 – Capital projects Update
Eric Iwersen presented.

Rio Salado Multi-use Path Phoenix –Tempe – connecting the Rio Salado Tempe and Phoenix from Priest to Hohokam Freeway (143) originated 10 years ago is now moving forward. Commissioner Goren asked if this will be going under Priest. Eric said no, but maybe in the future. There are options for signal treatment such as signal crossing or HAWK.

EVBOM Improvements – expansion of fuel facilities, parking, service bays, parking canopies, and solar panels.

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Hardy Drive Bicycle Pedestrian Improvement (Broadway to University) – Design is starting and environmental in April 2012.

Commissioner Goren stated that Hardy is in need of repair. Shelly Seyler stated that pedestrian ramps and reconstruction are taking place now at Broadway and Southern. City aims at paving quality of 75 and that section was rated 40.

Commissioner Huellmantel asked about the Commission being presented at the design phase since there is no longer a sub-Committee. Eric replied that they would be presenting to the Commission the next project which is University Drive and Rio Salado Mesa Path.

Agenda Item 8 –Deputy Director's Report
Presented by Greg Jordan and Shelly Seyler.

Greg asked the Commission if they had any questions about the strike. Commissioner Huellmantel stated that he appreciated the e-mails and they were helpful. Greg stated that as of Friday service levels were at 51% and that Marketing and Security helped things move smoothly. Commissioner Goren asked if Veolia was a good match for our community. Greg stated that it is appropriate to bring the new RFP to the Commission. Commissioner Roberts stated that what the city expects should be clearly stated in the RFP. Commissioner Huellmantel agreed. Commissioner Goren added that it should also include goals of the community. Commissioner Huellmantel will discuss with the Attorney's Office what discussions and input can be stated regarding the contract and RFP and then place on the agenda for a future meeting.

Shelly Seyler stated that the city is undertaking a signal optimization project on Rural Rd between Curry and Baseline. It will include updated timing and at some intersections, phasing will change from leading left to lagging left. The goal of the change is to provide better progression of traffic along the corridor. Funding for the project was received as part of grant which included and is based on recommendations identified as part of the grant project. Commissioner Goren stated that he preferred an approach that would minimize red light stopping. It is less frustrating and uses less fuel use.

Agenda Item 9 – Future Agenda Items

Meeting adjourned at 8:57am

The Commission's next regular meeting will be held Tuesday, April 10, 2012 at 7:30 a.m. in the Don Cassano Community Room, 200 E. Fifth Street, Tempe, Arizona.

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