

Minutes
City of Tempe Transportation Commission
Accountability and Governance Committee
August 18, 2009

Minutes of the city of Tempe Transportation Commission Accountability and Governance Committee held on Tuesday August 18, 2009 at 4:00 p.m. at the City of Tempe Transportation Center Office, Bus Conference Room, 200 E. 5th Street, Tempe, Arizona.

Members Present: Don Cassano, William Haas, Jayson Matthews

Members Absent: Edward Smith, Joan Westlake

Guests: none

City Staff Present: Joe Clements, Dawn M. Coomer, Carlos de Leon, Jason Hartong, Elizabeth Mieth, RC Noderer

Agenda Item 1 – Public Appearances

No public appearances.

Agenda Item 2 – Transit Services Budget Reduction Options for Fiscal Year 2009-13

Staff developed and initial set of objectives in order to guide the budget balancing effort. Phase one starting in January 2010 is to reduce current year operating costs by a minimum \$1.05 million.

- Option 1: Baseline Model Update – Transit fund model update with incremental adjustments to assumptions including revenue miles, non-revenue miles, fuel efficiency ratios, fare revenue.
- Option 2: Route 40/Route 13 Combination – Combination of route 40 and 13 creates regional route serving Phoenix, Tempe and Mesa while reducing Tempe’s operating costs associated with service to Sky Harbor Airport.
- Option 3: Orbit Weekend Frequency & Hours Reduction – Reduce Orbit frequency on weekends from every 15 minutes to every 20 minutes. Reduce weekend operating hours from 6 am – 10 pm to 8 am – 10 pm.
- Option 4: Target trip reductions on local bus service.
Remove the following underperforming local bus trips:
 - Early Morning Trip Elimination – Trips eliminated on all local routes that start before 4:30 am (except route 72)
 - Late Night Trip Elimination – Trips eliminated that begin after 12:30 am.
 - Eliminate Early Morning Mall Diversions – Remove trips that enter the Mall properties before business and employment hours.
 - Route 77 – Remove 12 EB & 13 WB peak period weekday (reduces service on Baseline from 15 minutes to 30 minutes during peak periods.)
- Option 5: Eliminate route 76/Realign route 81 to serve Miller in Tempe – Route 76 carries the fewest passengers per unite of service within the city of Tempe. Removal of this route would be in conjunction with a small realignment of route 81 (McClintock/Hayden) to serve the Miller Rd. residential area.
- Option 6: Elimination of 5310 Grant Assistance Program – The Transit program has made \$50,000 in grant available to eligible non-profit organizations that provide transportation to disabled Tempe residents. Funding for the program is provided by the transit tax but became available as a result of the introduction of Proposition 400 dollars to fund to ADA dial-a-ride services in Tempe.

- Option 7: Veolia Transportation Contract Performance Incentives – Eliminate financial performance incentives beginning in FY 2010-11.
- Option 8: Extension of Liquid Natural Gas (LNG) tax credit – Present LNG tax credit that expires on December 31, 2009. The credit provides a revenue offset (\$.50/gallon) to the cost of using LNG. Congress is considering an extension of the credit in HR 1835 (*New Alternative Transportation to Give Americans Solutions Act of 2009*), but the likelihood of this provision being approved remains unclear at the present time.

Committee liked options 1 through 6 with less emphasis on option 6. Would like to put option 6 on the bottom of the list and have an alternative if not approved. Option 7 will be looked out during phase two. Committee likes option 8 if the credit is extended.

Agenda Item 3 – Next Steps

- Orbit analysis weekday peak period every 15 minutes and off peak every 30 minutes.
- Information on Tempe Center for Habilitation.
- List of businesses in Tempe that issue platinum passes to employees.
- System level analysis on Orbit routes.

Meeting adjourned at 5:10 p.m.

Prepared by:
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Reviewed by:

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