



Minutes
City of Tempe Transportation Commission
Accountability and Governance Committee
February 22, 2011

Minutes of the city of Tempe Transportation Commission Accountability and Governance Committee held on Tuesday, February 22, 2011 at 7:30am at the City of Tempe Transportation Center Bus Conference Room, 200 E. 5th Street, Tempe, Arizona.

- Members Present:** Gary Roberts, Charles Huellmantel
- Members Absent:** Augustus Shaw
- Guests:** None
- City Staff Present:** Greg Jordan, Joe Clements, Jennifer Svetichan

Agenda Item 1 – Public Appearances

No public appearances.

Agenda Item 2 – Transit System Overview

Greg Jordan presented the following:

A high level overview of the transit system was presented. Service FY 08-09 were highlighted as the high level point in service and ridership and was used as a comparison to FY 09-10 to show a reduction in service and boardings. This was also during the inception of the Light Rail and that is assumed to have aided in the cause of the variations. However, productivity did increase. It was also included that although we subsidize service in the town of Guadalupe, we are reimbursed for services in Scottsdale, Chandler, Phoenix that also include facility costs for the East Valley Bus Operations and Maintenance Facility.

Some key points highlighted and discussed included:

- There has little negative feedback from cutting service time in the morning and late night.
- Flash ridership down due to rail and parking fees going up at ASU. Students are not parking in lot 59 as much which is the bulk of that Flash ridership. However, ASU now pays for operating expenses of the Flash. Also, because parking prices are up that in turn drives up ridership
- In regards to the Light Rail, our local transit tax pays for light rail operations, Metro agency overhead and security.
- Moving to a conditional eligibility program for ADA certification based on their proficiency of using fixed route systems to decrease abuse of the Dial-A-Ride program. Other considerations are free fixed route bus passes for ADA certified.
- Made an agreement with Partner Cities in the East Valley and Valley Metro to change how we allocate costs to the Dial-A-Ride program to reduce costs in the Transit tax portion and the non Transit tax portion. Now we will only pay for our residents and revenue miles based on where the resident goes. That will reduce our costs overall.

Agenda Item 3 – Transit Program Financial Update

Greg Jordan presented the following:

We completed phase one reductions this year and building budgets for FY12 to continue to generate cost savings with service reductions and personnel adjustments. Three to four positions were lost with prior cost savings methods and

most were vacancies already. Phase two reductions will be attained by again various internal budgets and some additional personnel adjustments. Phase three will include a debt restructuring plan to pay down the Light Rail bonds that will most likely start in FY12. Our current deficit is down to \$11-12million from \$18-19million because of cost savings implementations and increased sales tax forecasts. Projections have us coming into a surplus position beginning in FY14 and FY15 that goes to fund future improvements such as the Streetcar. No Tempe fund balances are currently affected by the state.

Agenda Item 4 – Potential Service Changes (FY 2010-12)

Greg Jordan presented the following:

A presentation was given to the public through various medias that summarizes the service cuts in areas with the least ridership and maintain a sustainable system with little public impact.

Some key points highlighted and discussed included:

- The general consensus from the public meetings has been one of understanding.
- The comment period of the surveys is still ongoing and we plan for data review at next Committee meeting.
- The ridership on the Light Rail after 2am is less than 1% of the overall ridership but it provides an important service for late night riders.
- The Transit system currently operates on a peak system for particular routes with the higher frequency at 6am-8am in the morning and 2pm-6pm in the afternoon/early evening to accommodate higher demand.
- Tempe is generally higher in frequency compared to partner cities in the East Valley.
- Working with all partner cities to coordinate reductions and streamline services. Specifically Route 108, if Chandler cuts the route, we would consider allocating costs and miles to something different in south Tempe that is more appropriate.
- We are considering trimming back Route 108 at Elliot Road to raise the productivity of Route 56 that along Priest Dr between Elliot Rd and Arizona Mills mall. Right now they are parallel in that area and that is driving down productivity on both routes. Exploring option to have Route 108 extend down to IKEA area.
- All of the statistics on the performance sheet are based on boardings in Tempe.
- In response to Scottsdale's cut of Route 66, Tempe put in process an interim solution that was not productive at all. Route 66 now terminates in downtown Tempe, so moving forward productivity should increase.
- Proposed to trim back Express Routes 532 and 540 due to low ridership.
- There is also a proposal to trim back Express Route 511, however, Scottsdale has offered to subsidize that proposed cut back to maintain the justification of their AURA funded Park-and-Ride in north Scottsdale.
- Proposed to cut back Orbit service on Saturdays and reduce our frequency to 20 minutes on the weekdays, but adjusting it to a higher frequency during peak times.
- We are continuing to evaluate the proposed plan to start charging a fare for the Orbit through the survey.
- Route 40 is another route that will be in consideration for service cuts due to low performance.

Future Agenda Items

- Elect a Committee Chair
- Revised Forecast that includes cost savings methods in FY12 and FY13 including the debt restructuring
- Results of Public Involvement Process with analysis and route recommendations

Meeting adjourned at 8:55am

Next Accountability and Governance meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, March 9, 2011 at 7:30am in the Don Cassano Community Room, 200 E 5th Street, Tempe, AZ.

Prepared by:
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Reviewed by:
Greg Jordan