



Minutes
City of Tempe Transportation Commission
Accountability and Governance Committee
August 9, 2011

Minutes of the city of Tempe Transportation Commission Accountability and Governance Committee held on Tuesday, August 9, 2011 at 9:00am at the City of Tempe Transportation Bus Conference Room, 200 E. 5th Street, Tempe, Arizona.

Members Present: Charles Huellmantel, Phillip Luna, Gary Roberts

Members Absent: Augustus Shaw

Guests: Bryan Young

City Staff Present: Joe Clements, Greg Jordan, Jennifer Svetichan, Robert Yabes

Commissioner Roberts called the meeting to order at 9:04am

Agenda Item 1 – Public Appearances

No public appearances.

Agenda Item 2 – Consideration of Meeting Minutes

Commissioner Luna made a motion to approve minutes. Commissioner Huellmantel seconded. Motion passed 3-0. The following minutes were approved:

- Accountability and Governance Committee Meeting Minutes – April 4, 2011

Agenda Item 3 – Regional Express Bus Service

Greg Jordan presented the following information:

The City of Phoenix continues to experience deficits in its transit program and is targeting the Express Transit System for significant reductions. Historically Phoenix was the main employment destination so the express system to downtown Phoenix was heavily weighted, but that is no longer the case, so changes must be made. It presents an opportunity for Tempe, and ultimately valley wide, to revamp how express service is offered to coincide with present conditions. Possibilities might include a park and ride system. City staff will research for express needs within Tempe to increase ridership which will in turn increase performance. It is important to work with Phoenix and other cities valley wide since this is a regional operation. There is no approach on the table as of yet but staff plan to come back next meeting with possible scenarios for discussion and recommendation.

Commissioner Roberts asked about park and ride infrastructure and Greg responded that there are no new capital projects but there is the possibility of working with community shopping centers to allocate their parking lots as park and ride options.

Commissioner Roberts asked how staff will go about gathering information to formulate proposals for changes to the express routes. Greg said they have the ridership information and will include it along with MAG origin and destination statistics.

Agenda Item 4 – Consolidation of Transit Functions

Greg Jordan presented the following information:

Tempe has begun exploring the option of unifying the bus operations component of its transit program with Valley Metro. Tempe's goals in this consideration include reducing costs, improving service but retaining control over local routes to maintain Tempe's high standards of its program.

Commissioner Roberts asked about management of the operations and maintenance facilities in Tempe and Mesa and how that would be affected with these changes. Greg responded that there may be an option of consolidating the operations to the Tempe location and have Mesa as a satellite facility for bus routes and Para-Transit services that conduct operations in the far east and southeast valley.

This is a multi-year process to determine if this unification attains the goals mentioned above. Council input will be requested in the fall.

Commissioner Roberts asked about the management performance measures with regards to facility management. Greg responded that if they moved in this direction Valley Metro would be managing bus operations. Tempe would be working with them through an IGA that govern the terms of providing service and may allow for Valley Metro to lease Tempe's operations facility. Tempe would still retain control of its resources and how money is invested as well as planning functions for routes. Valley Metro would execute based on Tempe's expectations. Tempe has occupied a leadership position on transit issues for the last 15 years and has an opportunity to continue its leadership role by spearheading a major step toward creating regional transit system.

Commissioner Roberts asked about the estimated savings of \$800,000 - \$1 million and whether that would help with the \$1.5 million needed to balance the transit budget that will need to be resolved within the next year. Greg said that the estimated savings would not be realized in time for the deadline of next year so would not be allocated for the transit deficit unless City Council approved extending that deadline. Greg included that the total estimated savings from the memo includes portions that Tempe is not recommending go forward in FY12-13 so the total would not be realized all at once.

Greg asked for the Committee's thoughts on overall approach. Commissioner Huellmantel expressed need to maintain control over funds. Commissioner Roberts commented on the need to for Valley Metro to be held accountable for a high level of performance with regards to facility management. Greg agreed and added that the size, sophistication, and sustainable features of the East Valley Bus Operations and Maintenance Facility require diligent management by professional staff. The Committee was in agreement that the overall approach is positive.

Agenda Item 5 – Transit Performance Report

Greg Jordan presented the following information:

Initial framework of what the city staff plan to accomplish in regards to a Transit Performance Report. This report will allow staff, elected officials and public to know how Tempe's transit system operates and how well it's returning value to the community. This information also needs to be actionable, meaning confident decisions can be made based on the information.

Commissioner Roberts asked if Tempe is required to complete the annual transit performance report for the Federal Transit Administration. Greg responded yes.

Commissioner Roberts asked about the timeline of this report. Greg said this will be an annual report and will have it prepared for FY11.

Commissioner Roberts asked about the methodology on how to compile the information. Greg said that most of the information has been gathered, but quality assurance surveys are still pending.

Commission Roberts asked if there is any benefit to having ride-share data. Greg said that portion is very valuable to this report and will include it along with Para-Transit information.

Future Agenda Items

- Regional Express Bus Service
- Consolidation of Transit Functions
- Transit Performance Report
- Para-Transit Service Change Discussion

Commissioner Roberts adjourned the meeting at 9:40am

The next Accountability and Governance Committee meeting is currently not scheduled.

Prepared by:
Jennifer Svetichan

Reviewed by:
Greg Jordan