



Minutes
City of Tempe Transportation Commission
Multi-modal Planning & Project Review Committee
July 9, 2008

Minutes of the city of Tempe Transportation Commission Multi-modal, Planning & Project Review Committee held on Wednesday July 9, 2008 at 3:30 p.m. at the City of Tempe Transit Office, 20 E. 6th Street, Tempe, Arizona.

Members Present: Roy Hoyt, Judi Nelson, Joan Westlake

Members Absent: Steve Bass, Lucy Logan, Catherine Mayorga, Marcellus Lisotta, Bryan Young John Minett, Rebecca Clark, Niels Koepke

City Staff Present: Robert Yabes, Marc Pearsall, Dawn M. Coomer

Guests: Mike Branom, East Valley Tribune

Agenda Item 1 – Consideration of Minutes – June 11, 2008

Minutes of June 11, 2008 were approved.

Agenda Item 2 – Public Appearances

No public appearances.

Agenda Item 3 – Bikestation

Robert Yabes informed the Committee that the Bikestation contract is being reviewed by the City. He also said that staff also continues to pursue programs that could have shared presence in the facility. Mr. Yabes also told the Committee that the City and ASU are discussing potential financial partnerships and locating the ASU Bicycle Cooperative into the Bikestation. Judi Nelson requested staff to research the Smart Bike system and discussed the possibility of hosting Smart Bike at the Tempe Transportation Center. The Committee recommended that staff continue to investigate the potential partnership with Smart Bikes.

Agenda Item 4 – Signing & Striping Standards & Policies & Maintenance/Hazard Reporting

At the July meeting Roy Hoyt again presented concerns that standards for signing and striping of bicycle facilities are not consistent and in some cases, missing entirely. Specifically Mr. Hoyt requested staff to look at the following streets for bicycle lane symbols, striping etc.: Roosevelt (Broadway to Southern), Priest (Town of Guadalupe to Grove Parkway), and 1st Street (Hardy to Priest/Rio Salado Parkway). Roy Hoyt and the committee recommended that staff investigate and report findings regarding the identified streets at the next committee meeting.

Agenda Item 5 – Light Rail Update

Dawn M. Coomer presented the committee with a memo related to ongoing efforts of the light rail project. She also briefed the Committee on the Tempe South Corridor Study including: public meetings that were held on June 10 and 11 that presented the results of Tier 1 analysis and recommended alternatives for Tier 2 analysis. The following alternatives are being recommended for Tier 2 and are detailed in the staff memo: Commuter Rail and BRT along the UPRR; BRT and Modern Streetcar along the Mill/Kyrene Corridor, and LRT/Streetcar and BRT along the Rural Road corridor. She also discussed the on-going planning efforts being conducted at the light rail stations along Apache Boulevard. Joan Westlake expressed concern regarding the lack of outreach directed specifically to neighborhoods along Rural Road. Ms. Westlake informed the committee that there is concern in her neighborhood that Rural Road has already been selected as the preferred alignment. Ms. Westlake also raised neighborhood concerns regarding potential construction impacts like noise, dust and debris, further deterioration of some buildings along Rural Road. She also discussed the existing cut-through traffic problems and expressed concern that such will only increase with the construction of light rail along Rural Road. Ms. Coomer clarified that no specific alignment has been chosen at this time. The completed Tier 1 analysis only recommends alignments that

are considered for more detailed study for TIER 2. Ms. Coomer recommended that if there are more concerns about the study, that staff and the consultant team be invited to attend neighborhood meetings to explain the alternative selection process.

Agenda Item 6– Letter of Support for Tempe South Study

Robert Yabes referred the draft letter of support for the Tempe South Study authored by John Minnett to the committee. He informed the committee that recommended changes or comments can be e-mailed directly to Eric Iwersen. Juliet Nelson commented that the draft is not a letter but bullet points. Robert Yabes replied that staff will format the bullet points into a letter will be presented at the next committee meeting. He also said that staff is still soliciting comments regarding the content of the letter. Roy Hoyt raised concerns on the issue regarding street widening. He commented that widening is not the only issue. He said that the letter also should include recommendations for better and safer crossing treatments for both bike and pedestrians. This could include pedestrian refuges as well as wider sidewalks around the station areas. The Committee recommended that the letter to the Light Rail Project staff stating their support and concerns on the South Corridor Study will be brought back to the next committee meeting for approval.

Agenda Item 7 – Other Project Updates

Tempe Canal Path: project is anticipated to begin construction September 2008; City Council approved the contractor at their June 5, 2008 meeting.

Rio Salado Path: project is under construction and anticipated to be complete October 2008

Western Canal Path: project is anticipated to begin construction October 2008.

Permeable Surfaces: staff reported that the Crosscut Path Phase II will likely have a section of path to use as a demonstration area for permeable surfaces. City staff is reviewing available permeable surfaces to be tested with the Crosscut Canal Phase II project.

Colored Bike Lanes: the colored intersections at Ash/University and College/Apache are an improvement, but the color has diminished and should be bolder. Asphalt deterioration in the summer has deteriorate the color further. Staff continues to evaluate cost-effective pavement coloring alternatives.

Agenda Item 8 – Future Agenda Items

Bikestation/Smart Bike, Signage/Striping, Letter of Support for Tempe South Study

Agenda Item 9 – Adjournment

Meeting adjourned at 5 p.m.

Prepared by: Robert Yabes

Reviewed by: Dawn M. Coomer, Marc Pearsall