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## **Minutes City of Tempe Transportation Commission December 16, 2008**

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**Minutes of the City of Tempe Transportation Commission held on Tuesday, December 16, 2008, 7:30 a.m., at the Transportation Center Don Cassano Community Room, Tempe, Arizona.**

**(MEMBERS) Present:**

Don Cassano, Jayson Matthews, Catherine Mayorga, Kevin Olson, Amanda Ormond, Steven Saiz, Peter Schelstraete, David Strang, Edward Smith, Joan Westlake, Bryan Young

**(MEMBERS) Absent:**

Bill Haas, Marcellus Lisotta, Judi Nelson, Marco Valenzuela

**City Staff Present:**

Darcie Bontems, Joe Clements, Dawn Coomer, Carlos de Leon, Jason Hartong, Dana Janofsky, Greg Jordan, Glenn Kephart, Jyme Sue McLaren, Amanda Nelson, RC Noderer, Bonnie Richardson, Shelly Seyler, Sue Taaffe, Robert Yabes, Shaun Yunt

**Guests Present:**

Wulf Grote, Metro, Jerri Hurst HDR/Metro, Marc Soronson HDR/Metro, Corey Woods (Councilmember)

Jayson Matthews called the meeting to order at 7:40 a.m.

**Agenda Item 1 – Consideration of Meeting Minutes**

Catherine Mayorga made a motion to approve all minutes. Kevin Olson seconded the motion. The following minutes were approved:

- Transportation Commission Minutes – November 18, 2008
- Public Involvement/Marketing Committee – December 1, 2008

**Agenda Item 2 – Public Appearances**

There were no public appearances.

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### **Agenda Item 3 – Tempe South Corridor Study Update**

Marc Soronson provided the following information:

- The Study is following a federally-prescribed alternatives analysis process to be eligible for federal funding.
- In Tier 1 analysis, the McClintock alignment was eliminated and the commuter rail was deferred pending the completion of statewide, as well as regional, studies by the Maricopa Association of Governments and the Arizona Department of Transportation.
- Five of the most feasible alternatives in four alignments were carried into Tier 2.
- Tier 2 provided information on capital and operating costs, ridership potential, destinations served, right of way and environmental impacts, traffic analysis and economic development potential.
- The five alternatives passed into Tier 2 include: Union Pacific Railroad/Tempe Industrial Lead-BRT, Mill Avenue/Kyrene Road – BRT, Mill Avenue – Modern Streetcar, Rural Road – LRT, Rural Road - BRT
- A comprehensive public involvement program has been an important element in the project with meetings being held at key project milestones.
- A recommendation for a locally preferred alternative is expected in Spring 2009.

Commissioner Bryan Young questioned whether these alternatives would be problematic at the underpass at Mill Avenue and Tempe St. Luke's and the overpass at Mill Avenue and the US 60. Marc Soronson noted that these alternatives would not pass over the US 60 and it is possible to use the existing underpass near Tempe St. Luke's.

### **Agenda Item 4 – Outgoing Commission Member Acknowledgement**

Jayson Matthews acknowledged exiting members.

- Jayson Matthews thanked exiting members Judi Nelson (absent), Kevin Olson and Amanda Ormond for their service to the commission.
- Framed artwork by local artist Casbeer was presented to each exiting commissioner.

### **Agenda Item 5 – Fare Policy Update**

Greg Jordan provided the following information:

- The Valley Metro Board of Directors approved a Valley Metro Staff recommendation to include additional fare policy scenarios during a January 2009 public involvement process.
- These scenarios include transit fare increases of up to \$1.00 to be implemented FY 2010 or phased over two years FY 2010-2011.
- The City of Phoenix is also recommending that the Valley Metro Board of Directors consider increasing the regional fare recovery target from 25 to 30 percent.
- Bus fares of \$2.00 to \$2.50 will be considered.
- The public process beginning in January 2009 will have its first meeting January 6, 2009
- City Staff is still working on questions raised at the October 2008 Commission Meeting.

Commissioner David Strang asked about senior rates. Greg Jordan stated that senior rates equate to the reduced fare.

Carlos de Leon noted that these scenarios were presented to the Council Transportation Committee and they have asked that we hold the costs steady for Tempe residents and come back to the Committee with a developed plan to do so.

Commissioner Amanda Ormond questioned where the funding will come from? Carlos stated funding will be analyzed as part of the study and should be similar to the youth transit pass showing a zero effect to the budget.

Jayson Matthews asked that the impact of the senior population will need to be reviewed.

#### **Agenda Item 6 – City Reorganization Concepts**

Carlos de Leon and Glenn Kephart provided the following information:

- The number of positions the City was asked to eliminate increased from 100 positions to 175 positions.
- Of the proposed Public Works reorganization concepts, seven involve changes to the Transportation Division and/or the Light Rail Transit Division.
- Concept 70 proposes Traffic Engineering and ITS/Signal Systems sections be assigned to Engineering Division.
- Concept 74 proposes LRT and Transportation planning staff be assigned to new Growth Planning team in the Community Development Department.
- Concept 76 & 78 proposes LRT Operations and Transportation Administrative and Transit Operation sections become the Transportation Division.
- Concept 77 & 81 proposes the Marketing and Community Outreach section be assigned to new unified City Marketing Team.
- Concept 79 proposes Transit Financial Analyst be assigned to Financial Services Department.

Amanda Ormond and Kevin Olson expressed concern over the idea of parceling out Transportation staff into different divisions because of the opportunity to defuse the focus on transportation and the commitment the citizens of Tempe have made to transportation.

Kevin was also concerned that the reorganization proposals may create professional silos allowing transportation to be less customer focused.

Amanda voiced apprehension over the idea of disbanding transportation staff because it could make it much more difficult for staff to have the kind of working relationships needed to effectively serve the citizens and the focus of transportation.

Don Cassano expressed concerns that funds may be masked as transit related while being used in other ways, and Steven Saiz asked if more time could be taken to make sure the right decision is made.

Glenn stated that regardless of how the City is reorganized staff commitment to the Commission will not change. Glenn noted that while the Commission expressed valid concerns it is not the City's intent to create silos or defuse the focus of transportation, but rather to create something new that will be good for the City in the long term. Glenn also stated that there is pressing a time constraint on the reorganization proposals.

Jayson Matthews made a recommendation to the Commission to act as active citizens on all fronts and to speak up if there are ideas or concerns.

**Agenda Item 7 – Capital Projects Update**

Robert Yabes provided the following information:

- Western Canal notice to proceed was issued on December 1, 2008.
- Opening for the Rio Salado South Bank Multi-use path will be January 17, 2009.

**Agenda Item 8 – Future Agenda Items**

- Election of Chair and Vice Chair

Jayson Matthews adjourned the meeting at 9:05 a.m.

The Commission's next regular meeting will be held Tuesday, January 13, 2009 at 7:30 a.m. in the Don Cassano Community Room, 200 E. Fifth Street, Tempe, Arizona.

Prepared by:  
Darcie Bontems

Reviewed by:

Carlos de Leon