
Minutes City of Tempe Transportation Commission January 13, 2009

Minutes of the City of Tempe Transportation Commission held on Tuesday, January 13, 2009, 7:30 a.m., at the Transportation Center Don Cassano Community Room, Tempe, Arizona.

(MEMBERS) Present:

Don Cassano, Bill Haas, Marcellus Lisotta, Jayson Matthews, Catherine Mayorga, Steven Saiz, Peter Schelstraete, David Strang, Edward Smith, Bryan Young

(MEMBERS) Absent:

Marco Valenzuela, Joan Westlake

City Staff Present:

Darcie Bontems, Joe Clements, Dawn Coomer, Carlos de Leon, Dana Janofsky, Greg Jordan, Gregg Kent, Glenn Kephart, Amanda Nelson, Bonnie Richardson, Oddvar Tveit, Robert Yabes, Shaun Yunt

Guests Present:

Gary Bretz (RPTA), Judi Nelson (ASU)

Jayson Matthews called the meeting to order at 7:32 a.m.

Agenda Item 1 – Consideration of Meeting Minutes

David Strang made a motion to approve all minutes. Steven Saiz seconded the motion. The following minutes were approved:

- Multi-Modal Planning and Project Review –December 10, 2008
- Transportation Commission Minutes– December 16, 2008

Agenda Item 2 – Public Appearances

There were no public appearances.

Agenda Item 3 – Commission Business

Jayson Matthews opened the floor for Transportation Commission Chair and Vice Chair nominations, review of meeting dates and times, and for committee review.

- Don Cassano nominated Jayson Matthews for a second term as Transportation Commission Chair. Bill Hass seconded the motion and the motion passed.
- Don Cassano nominated Bryan Young for Vice Chair of the Transportation Commission. Bill Hass seconded the motion and the motion passed.
- The Commission agreed to continue with the current meeting schedule of 7:30 a.m. on the second Tuesday of each month.
- A sign up sheet was passed around so commissioners could sign up for any of the following committees: Accountability & Governance, Public Involvement & Marketing and Multi-modal Planning and Project Review.
- David Strang was voted to chair the Public Involvement & Marketing Committee. He accepted.

Agenda Item 4 – Apache Boulevard Parking

Robert Yabes presented the following information:

- Staff tested the preliminary design of reducing the number of lanes along Apache Boulevard by restriping the street and adding 108 parking spaces between Terrace Road and Forest Drive.
- Several complaints were received from businesses along Apache Boulevard due to the lack of parking turn-over.
- Staff proposes installing parking meters along Apache Boulevard consistent with the designated parking areas in an effort to encourage parking turn-over.
- Estimated proceeds from parking revenues could reach more than \$200,000 per year.
- The estimate first year operating cost is \$128,000.

The Commission expressed concern over the need for meters and asked if the same effect could be gained with signage and time limits. The commission was also concerned with the possibility of rail users and/or students spilling into the neighborhoods if parking is metered.

In response Robert stated the meters provide an excellent opportunity for city revenue and the city will work with the residents in the surrounding neighborhoods to encourage the use of residential permit parking to help prevent neighborhood spill over. He is also proposing a two month test period where signage and time limits will be utilized.

Agenda Item 5 – Sky Harbor Flight Update

Oddvar Tveit presented the following information:

- In 2008 there was a general decline in Air Traffic and Passenger Volumes due to unprecedented increases in fuel prices and a decline in demand for air travel.
- The City of Phoenix Aviation Department estimates that in 2009, total passenger activity will be down from the 2007 peak by 10-15 percent.
- A recovery in passenger activity is expected by mid 2010.
- Airline departure to the east of Tempe as well as the volume of incoming airline arrivals over Tempe varies in seasonal cycles.
- More arrival operations are directed east during the summer months compared to winter months.
- Airlines at Sky Harbor have reduced their traffic programs and fuel costs as well as reduced the use of less energy efficient aircraft.
- In 2008 the fixed noise monitors in Tempe registered fewer high single event noise energy levels.

Agenda Item 6 – East Valley Dial-a-Ride Information

Greg Jordan presented the following information:

- The region is proposing an ADA fare increase from \$2.00 to \$2.50 in FY 09/10, and an increase by \$.25 per year until two times the fixed route bus fare is achieved.
- Regional objectives include, increasing fare recovery, standardized ADA fares across the region, maximize fare allowed by ADA regulations.
- We are currently in step three of Valley Metro's process which is to present the information to the Transportation Commission & Council Committee for consideration and recommendations.
- The estimated revenue gain over a four year time span is \$83,790.
- Advantages to the fare increase include, raises in fare revenue, stabilize recovery, may encourage bus use, and consistency with peer cities.
- Disadvantages include raises in fares during an economic downturn may have negative impacts on residents.
- Greg will come back with a full presentation once the public input process is complete.

Agenda Item 7 – Results of November 2008 on Board Orbit Rider Survey

Amanda Nelson presented the following information:

- WestGroup Research was commissioned to conduct a survey of riders on the Orbit neighborhood circulator system.
- The survey was completed by 1,696 bus riders 16 years of age and older from all five Orbit routes in November 2008.
- Based on the report from WestGroup the following major conclusions were made about the Orbit system:
 - The Orbit system is being used extensively by ASU students and staff
 - Residents using the Orbit system have made it part of their travel habits in Tempe.
 - The Orbit system has attracted many new riders to using transit.
 - The Orbit system is removing vehicle trips from Tempe streets.
 - Satisfaction with the Orbit system is extremely high.

Agenda Item 8 – Metro and Transportation Center Grand Opening Recap

Amanda Nelson presented the following information:

- The Metro and Transportation Center Grand Opening was an overall success.
- There were more than 350,000 riders during the "free week," and over 90,000 riders on December 27.
- 400 people toured the Transportation Center.

Agenda Item 9 – City Reorganization Update

Carlos de Leon presented the following information:

- The City is currently in the evaluation process of the reorganization process.
- Reorganization recommendations will go to the Mayor and Council in February.

Catherine Mayorga asked if last month's analysis of the reorganization proposals has been completed and if staff had the opportunity to provide input. She also asked if there were any opinions on the proposals that stood out, and if Glenn strongly agreed or disagreed with any of the options being proposed. Catherine also asked what Glenn's thoughts are on staff's recommendations regarding the reorganization.

Glenn explained that the reorganization concepts are still on the table and are being worked out with no new definitive information to report. Glenn also noted that the City Manager will put together a report for the mayor and council which will be presented in early February.

Glenn explained that staff was given an opportunity to provide input. Carlos added that while staff was given the opportunity to provide input, due to the short two week time period not all staff were able to provide their input, however there are other avenues staff is able to pursue with their suggestions.

Glenn expressed the fact that there are mixed feelings on both ends and there are strong feelings from the transportation division in regards to the desire to stay together. He added that he does have opinions on the proposals and is working on recommendations to take to the city manager.

Agenda Item 10 – Capital Projects Update

Agenda Item 10 was tabled until the next regularly scheduled Commission Meeting.

Agenda Item 11 – Future Agenda Items

- Potential Rail Issues/Improvements
- Proposed Fair
- ADA Certification Program

Don Cassano made a motion to adjourn the meeting, Peter Schelstraete seconded the motion. Jayson Matthews adjourned the meeting at 9:05 a.m.

The Commission's next regular meeting will be held Tuesday, February 10, 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