
Minutes City of Tempe Transportation Commission March 10, 2009

Minutes of the City of Tempe Transportation Commission held on Tuesday, March 10, 2009, 7:30 a.m., at the Transportation Center Don Cassano Community Room, Tempe, Arizona.

(MEMBERS) Present:

Don Cassano, Ben Goren, Bill Haas, Marcellus Lisotta, Jayson Matthews, Gary Roberts, Peter Schelstraete, Edward Smith, David Strang, Joan Westlake, Bryan Young

(MEMBERS) Absent:

Catherine Mayorga, Steven Saiz, Augustus Shaw IV, Marco Valenzuela,

City Staff Present:

Joe Clements, Carlos de Leon, Dana Janofsky, Gregg Kent, Elizabeth Mieth, Bonnie Richardson, Mark Vinson, Robert Yabes

Guests Present:

Judi Nelson (ASU), David Lucier (Tempe Veteran's Foundation)

Jayson Matthews called the meeting to order at 7:35 a.m.

Agenda Item 1 – Consideration of Meeting Minutes

Edward Smith made a motion to approve all minutes. David Strang seconded the motion. The following minutes were approved with a change to the Transportation Commission Minutes on March 10, 2009:

- Transportation Commission Minutes – January 13, 2009
- Multi-Modal Planning and Project Review – January 14, 2009
- Public Involvement/Marketing Committee – January 26, 2009
- Transportation Commission Minutes – February 10, 2009
- Public Involvement/Marketing Committee – March 3, 2009

Commissioner Marcellus Lisotta stated that the Multi-Modal Planning and Project Review Committee has nominated Sue Facett Tempe Bike Hero Award.

Agenda Item 2 – Public Appearances

There were no public appearances.

Agenda Item 3 – Regional Transit & ADA Fare Policy

Carlos de Leon presented the following information:

- *Bus & LRT Fares* – Transportation staff is seeking the Transportation Commission's direction on Valley Metro's option 1A for fixed route bus/LRT fare policy. The Commission's direction will be communicated to Tempe's council member representative to Valley Metro's Board of Directors.
- *Dial-a-Ride ADA Fares*: Transportation staff is seeking the Transportation Commission's direction on Valley Metro's recommended fare for ADA Dial-a-Ride. The Commission's direction will be communicated to Tempe's council member representative to Valley Metro's Board of Directors.
- Encourage people to buy fare off the buses to improve on time performance.

Commissioner Marcellus Lisotta what does the multiples column represent. Carlos de Leon stated that it is the relationship between the base fare and the other transit fare. For example buying an on board day pass is three times that of the base fare.

Commissioner David Strang inquired that the month pass for Tempe residents will stay the same price. Carlos de Leon stated that the passes will be sold at their current rate at the Transit Store and the Library and people must prove they are a Tempe resident. Tempe will subsidize the \$10. Right now it is in the concept phase and yet to implemented. Commissioner David Strang inquired would this be a City Council decision. Carlos de Leon stated that is it.

Commissioner Ben Goren inquired where could you purchase the off board local day pass. Carlos de Leon stated that Valley Metro is working to increase the outlets e.g. Fry's and Circle K. You can purchase it through the mail and in the future make online purchases.

Commissioner Peter Schelstraete inquired could you print day passes like you print boarding passes. Carlos de Leon stated that would not be possible due to the magnetic nature of the cards.

Commissioner Byran Young stated he encourages the Marketing group to make sure that the Tempe citizens are aware of the fare increase.

Commissioner Ben Goren inquired what is the reasoning behind purchasing a three or seven day pass. Carlos de Leon stated that the three day pass is geared toward visitors in conferences. The seven day pass is for people that might not be able to afford month passes.

Commissioner Edward Smith stated he is not for the fare increase due to the economic situation.

Commissioner Joan Westlake stated that with the increased fare and reductions of service will result in the loss of ridership.

Commissioner David Strang stated he would like to suggest they go on record to the City Council endorsing the idea of keeping the monthly pass its current rate for Tempe residents.

Commissioner Edward Smith inquired has the budget for Valley Metro been approved. Carlos de Leon stated that it has not been approved it is currently in the process.

Commissioner Jayson Matthews stated that the suggestion of the commission was to vote no for the fare increase but at the same time not to stop any progress.

Agenda Item 4 – Veterans Memorial

David Lucier presented the following information:

- Completion date for the Veterans Memorial is on Veterans Day on November 11, 2011.
- On Memorial Day May 25, 2009 at 4:30pm there will be an opening ceremony.

- The walk along Veterans Parade which will be lined with 80 steel plated panels with veterans through the ages will end at an Overlook.
- The Overlook is the remaining abutment of the historic Tempe (Ash Avenue Bridge).
- A stairwell from the Overlook will bring visitors to the Visitor's Plaza which would be for information and used for park functions.
- From the Overlook visitors would have a grand view of Court of Service. It is still in the design process.

Commissioner Bryan Young inquired what is the preliminary budget for this project. David Lucier stated that the project would be in the three million dollar range.

Commissioner Marcellus Lisotta inquired will the Visitor's Plaza be staffed and will it be staffed with veterans. David Lucier stated that the Visitor's Plaza will be self supporting with a sales kiosk and visitor's center. The staffing will be mixed volunteers and paid.

Commissioner Jayson Matthews stated that there is nothing he doesn't like about the project except the price tag. It is a stunning and very appropriate tribute to America's veterans. Also commend the Tempe Veteran's Foundation for creating the memorial.

Commissioner Edward Smith inquired that will the Tempe museum staff be involved. David Lucier stated that the museum is involved.

Commissioner Bill Haas was concerned that there are large events being held in Tempe Town Lake that the Court of Service would be overrun and undergo a premature amount of wear and tear. David Lucier stated that they are working on a balance that the Court of Service doesn't become overrun but people still have access to view it. Commissioner Bill Haas inquired is this the final design. David Lucier stated that there were 80 designs.

Commissioner Edward Smith was concerned that cost is an issue. Is this project shovel ready? David Lucier stated that the project could quickly become shovel ready.

Commissioner Gary Roberts inquired is there a website for the memorial. David Lucier stated the site is www.tempevetansfoundation.org.

Agenda Item 5 – Light Rail Ridership Report

Ken Olmstead presented the following information:

- In February the average weekday ridership achieved 30,617 boardings per day. Outperforming 26,000 boardings per day in the first full month of service.
- Saturdays service for the month of January carried an average of 31,000 boardings a day, and Sunday ridership exceeding 24,000 boarding a day.
- Tempe has three park-and-ride lots located within the city with a capacity of approximately 1,100 vehicles.
- An additional 100 vehicles may be parked on an overflow lot located on the southwest corner of Dorsey St. and Lemon St.
- On January 6, 2009 a total of 197 users were parked at the three major park-and-rides. As of February 26, 2009 the park-and-ride usage rose to 466 with an additional 58 vehicles parked at the overflow lot located at Dorsey St. and Lemon St.

Commissioner Byran Young inquired when will the February numbers for LRT ridership come in. Carlos de Leon stated that the preliminary weekday boarding is 35,000 per day.

Commissioner Bryan Young inquired has there been any problems with people tapping their cards on the kiosks. Ken Olmstead stated that all the cards are now working and inspectors have handheld scanners to check cards.

Commissioner Peter Schelstraete inquired have people who bring bikes on the light rail been accounted for. Ken Olmstead stated that no the doors only count body movement.

Commissioner Bill Haas inquired has there been an increase in revenue since the light rail started. Carlos de Leon stated that no there has not been enough time to get that data.

Commissioner Edward Smith inquired what would be the time frame needed to know if there has been a revenue increase from the light rail. Carlos de Leon stated that at least 6 months would be needed.

Commissioner Edward Smith inquired what is the percentage drop during the summer. Carlos de Leon stated there is approximately a 25% - 30% drop in bus ridership. This should be similar to light rail ridership as well. Commissioner Edward Smith inquired is there anyway to offset the decrease in ridership for example events. Ken Olmstead stated that there have been meetings with P.F. Changs and Tempe Music Festival.

Agenda Item 6 – College Avenue Update

Bonnie Richardson presented the following information:

- Initial design had a number of traffic circles in it. The new design has them taken out since the circles caused conflicts with driver and cyclists.
- Some individuals raised concerns about spending money while the City was talking about potential position reductions.
- Last week council approved the contract so HDR can move forward with construction.
- Some of the asphalt is being removed to collect storm water and plant trees to shade cyclists and pedestrians on the sidewalk.

Commissioner Ben Goren expressed concern that the narrowing of the street will get cars closer than three feet from cyclists. Carlos de Leon stated that the bike lane is the same width throughout.

Commissioner Joan Westlake stated that there is a neighborhood association just south of Alameda is working on a grant to help with the vegetation on College Avenue. Bonnie Richardson stated that there will be a representative at the neighborhood association meeting.

Commissioner David Strang inquired what is the construction time line of this project. Bonnie Richardson stated that the project should be completed by the end of summer. A more detailed schedule will be provided closer to the start of construction.

Commissioner Gary Roberts inquired why there is a proposal for a streetscape for the dead-end of Southern and US60. Bonnie Richardson stated that whenever there a street that wide there is an increase in speeding and cut through.

Commissioner Marcellus Lisotta inquired is the public involvement process complete. Bonnie Richardson stated that the last meeting was last week but comments are still being taken.

Agenda Item 7 – Capital Projects Update

Robert Yabes presented the following information:

- Broadway Road Walk on Saturday, March 14, 2009 from 9 am to 12 pm.

- Another meeting is scheduled on Wednesday, March 18, 2009 to discuss what is to be done on Broadway Rd.
- The Tempe Transportation Center has been awarded the RED award for sustainability.
- There was one few response to the bike station RFP.

Agenda Item 8 – Future Agenda Items

- Orbit service to TCA.

Jayson Matthews adjourned the meeting at 9:10 a.m.

The Commission's next regular meeting will be held Tuesday, April 14, 2009 at 7:30 a.m. in the Don Cassano Community Room, 200 E. Fifth Street, Tempe, Arizona.

Prepared by:
Elizabeth Mieth

Reviewed by:

Carlos de Leon