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## **Minutes City of Tempe Transportation Commission April 14, 2009**

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**Minutes of the City of Tempe Transportation Commission held on Tuesday, April 14, 2009, 7:30 a.m., at the Transportation Center Don Cassano Community Room, Tempe, Arizona.**

**(MEMBERS) Present:**

Don Cassano, Ben Goren, Marcellus Lisotta, Jayson Matthews, Peter Schelstraete, Steven Saiz, Augustus Shaw IV, Edward Smith, David Strang, Joan Westlake

**(MEMBERS) Absent:**

Bill Haas, Catherine Mayorga, Marco Valenzuela, Bryan Young

**City Staff Present:**

Darcie Bontems, Dawn Coomer, Carlos de Leon, Greg Jordan, Gregg Kent, Glenn Kephart, Sue Taaffe, Oddvar Tveit, Robert Yabes

**Guests Present:**

Judi Nelson (ASU), Gary Roberts (Valley Metro, also representing the Transportation Commission), Carol Ketcherside (Valley Metro)

Jayson Matthews called the meeting to order at 7:34 a.m.

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

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

- Transportation Commission Minutes – March 10, 2009
- Multi-Modal Planning and Project Review – March 11, 2009

**Agenda Item 2 – Public Appearances**

There were no public appearances.

**Agenda Item 3 – ADA Eligibility and Fares Update**

Greg Jordan and Carol Ketcherside (Valley Metro) presented the following information:

- Valley Metro is considering an in-person ADA paratransit eligibility program
- Customers eligible for the ADA program are persons who are unable to use local bus or METRO light rail services for some or all trips because of a disability.
- ADA eligibility determination is an assessment of ability to use the transit system
- Current eligibility processes rely on mail-in applications whereas in-person interviews and functional assessments are being proposed.

- The proposed program would also enable lifetime eligibility for some, standard certification increase from 3 to 5 years, ADA bus and rail passes for some, referral system to taxi subsidy and referral to travel training programs
- ADA bus and rail passes will be a photo id
- Benefits of the program include expedited determinations, a case manager for each customer, increased length of certification, lifetime certification for some, information and referrals to more transportation options
- The next step will include a public comment period extended through April 17, 2009, Valley Metro cities and agencies processes, and final recommendations to go through Valley Metro approval process
- Valley Metro estimates that adopting the ADA eligibility program and introducing free ADA bus/rail passes for certain passengers could save the City of Tempe in excess of \$90,000 per year
- Adoption of a Tempe program to offset the increase in ADA Dial-a-Ride fares will cost the city approximately \$21,000 per year.

Commissioner David Strang asked about criteria used to determine lifetime certification?

Carol noted that is case by case.

Commissioner Joan Westlake pointed out that some residents are having problems with being dropped off at the Tempe Scottsdale boarder when trying to get from Tempe to an appointment in Scottsdale, and wondered if this program would help eliminate the problem?

Carol answered that the ultimate goal is to solve this problem valley wide, but this particular proposal will not help with that problem.

Commissioner Jayson Matthews asked if the stakeholders group provided feedback to help create the proposal?

Carol answered that feedback was received from the stakeholders before going to the board.

Commissioner Gary Roberts asked why certification renewal is required yearly if ADA certification is good for 1-3 years?

Carol replied that the primary purpose of a yearly renewal is to keep track of the city each person is residing in and to minimize fraudulent card use.

Commissioner Marcellus Lisotta asked for an approximate percentage of applicants that are denied because they do not fit the criteria?

Carol answered that it would be five percent or less.

Ben Goren made a motion for approval. Joan Westlake seconded the motion. Motion passed.

#### **Agenda Item 4 – Fixed Route and Orbit Bus Service Changes**

Greg Jordan presented the following information:

- Over the past two months Transportation staff led a public improvement process for residents to comment on the proposed bus route changes as well as on the operating and route performance of the Orbit system
- Based on public comment, consultation with key stakeholders and performance analysis staff made the following recommendations for July 2009 implementation:
  - Make recommended changes to Route 62
  - Eliminate Route 44 within the City of Tempe
  - Maintain route 40 and extend it to Washington and 44<sup>th</sup> St. LRT station
- Approved changes for July 2010 implementation
  - Route 92
  - Route 30

- Orbit Earth and Mars
- The recommended bus services changes for July 2009 will reduce operating expenses; however, information from partner agencies is needed to finalize the amounts, and is not yet available.

Jayson Matthews suggested that the Commission adopt this proposal as a short term solution, but begin a process for different alternatives.

Ed Smith made a motion of approval.

Steven Saiz seconded the motion and the motion was approved.

#### **Agenda Item 5 – Aircraft Noise Study**

Oddvar Tveit presented the following information:

- The City Council awarded a contract to QED in August of 2008 and tasked QED with evaluating and correlating aircraft noise monitoring data and make recommendations to improve the system of fixed noise monitoring sites in Tempe
- QED presented their findings and recommendations to TVACO at their March 19<sup>th</sup> 2009 meeting
- TVACO accepted the recommendations and established a working group which met on March 13<sup>th</sup> to discuss QED's suggested changes to the account of Tempe's history with the airport on noise and noise abatement
- The final report was presented to staff by QED on March 23, 2009
- It was found that some of the fixed noise monitoring sites were no longer optimally located and should be relocated closer to Laird and Scales Elementary Schools.

#### **Agenda Item 6 – Valley Metro Long Range Financial (TLCP) Update**

Carlos de Leon presented the following information:

- For the 2009 TLCP update it is projected that revenues, based on ½ of 1 percent county wide sales tax, will be \$1 billion less for transit through the 2026 fiscal year than previously forecasted
- Of this \$1 billion shortfall, the bus program has declined by \$568.4 million while the rail program has declined by \$433.6 million
- The plan by law must be balanced and as a result transit projects which are part of the Regional Transportation Plan will need to be delayed, modified or deleted in order to balance the TLCP
- Valley Metro and METRO are also evaluating options for balancing the TLCP and a decision on how to balance the TLCP will be made within the next two months
- As new information becomes available staff will update the Commission

#### **Agenda Item 7 – American Recovery and Reinvestment Act**

Carlos de Leon presented the following information:

- President Obama signed the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (ARRA) of 2009 in February which provides many different sources of funding for transportation
- The primary source of transportation funds are formula funds allocated to the region via Maricopa Association of Governments for highway and street projects and Valley Metro for transit projects
- MAG is expected to receive \$104.6 million and Valley Metro, \$66.4 million
- It was determined that MAG ARRA funds will be sub-allocated to each member agency based on population with a minimum allocation of \$500 thousand
- The City of Tempe is expected to receive \$4.36 million
- The City is anticipating using the funds for replacement of the Baseline Road Bridge over the Western Canal based on the criteria for ARRA funds
- For Valley Metro ARRA funds, 15 regional transit projects were selected for funding. Tempe is expected to receive \$6.5 million for expansion and upgrades at the East Valley Bus Operations

- and Maintenance Facility
- Improvements to the East Valley Bus Operations and Maintenance Facility include the expansion of bus parking area, additional bus canopies and upgrading of the fueling capacities for CNG and biodiesel
- There are also a variety of competitive grant funds expected to become available, and the City will be applying for additional grant funds as they become available.

**Agenda Item 8 – Marketing TV Spot**

Sue Taaffe presented the following information:

- Off Madison Avenue came up with six or seven TV ad options and the Marketing Committee selected one to air on Cox Cable east valley stations
- The target audience was men and women ages 18-29

**Agenda Item 9 – Capital Projects Update**

Robert Yabes presented the following information:

- There will be a general Broadway Road meeting on April 18
- The Broadway Road action team meeting will be held on April 28

**Agenda Item 10 – Future Agenda Items**

No future agenda items added.

Jayson Matthews adjourned the meeting at 9:00 a.m.

The Commission's next regular meeting will be held Tuesday, May 12, 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