



Minutes City Council's Transportation, Housing and Environment Committee May 27, 2008

Minutes of the meeting of the City Council's Transportation, Housing and Environment Committee held on Tuesday, May 27, 2008, 3:00 p.m., in the 3rd Floor Conference Room, Tempe City Hall, 31 E. 5th Street, Tempe, Arizona.

Committee Members Present:

Councilmember Shana Ellis, Chair
Vice Mayor Hut Hutson

City Staff Present:

Angel Carbajal, Asst Police Chief
Dawn Coomer, Sr. LRT Planner
Carlos de Leon, Dep Public Wrks Mgr
Kathy Gasperich, Council Aide
Craig Hittie, Affordable Hsg Coord
Gregg Kent, Light Rail Engineer
Glenn Kephart, Pub Wrks Mgr
Jaclyn Levin, City Clerk's Office
Jyme Sue McLaren, Dep Public Wrks Mgr
John Osgood, Dep Public Works Mgr
Marc Pearsall, Transit
Bonnie Richardson, Principal Planner
Robert Yabes, Principal Planner

Guests Present:

Mike Branson, EV Tribune
Don Cassano, Transportation Commission
Emily Ryan, AZ Multi-housing Assoc
Chris Samila, Green Summit

Councilmember Shana Ellis called the meeting to order at 3:07 p.m.

Agenda Item 1 – Public Appearances

None.

Agenda Item 2 – Affordable Housing Forum

Craig Hittie summarized that the third in the series of Affordable Housing Forums was held on May 14th. It was well-attended, and it focused on a dialogue with the faith-based community partners. Neil Calfee presented information on the current and future City affordable housing

projects. Many questions were asked and there was discussion about different models for creating additional affordable housing units, and the fact that most of those models are based on the assumption of a goal of home ownership. Other than the Section 8 program, there is very little available for rentals. Non-federal funding potential and the proposed housing trust fund were also discussed. The faith-based community works with affordable housing in an emergency crisis mode and they would like to get more involved in transitional and permanent housing.

Agenda Item 3 – LRT Update

Jyme Sue McLaren provided an LRT update:

- The LRT project is on schedule for the December 28th opening.
- Last week, the Valley Metro Rail Board adopted the FY 2008-09 operating budget which includes six months of revenue service. They also approved a modification to the operating frequencies, designating 10 minute headways for the majority of the day, with a more limited level of frequency during the slower part of the day. This will help student ridership.
- The line section contractor will finish their contract within the next two weeks.
- Within the last 30 days, a determination on the safety and security contract was made and the City will jointly procure a security contract with the City of Mesa.
- The grand opening event planning team has met and is beginning to outline all events for the grand opening weekend, which will include a Friday night VIP reception, a ribbon-cutting ceremony on Saturday at 5th and College, free service on Saturday and Sunday for the public. Parties are being planned for Saturday.

Dawn Coomer summarized that public meetings will be held on June 10th and 11th to present the results of the Tier 1 analysis of the Tempe South Corridor. This is the qualitative analysis for the study. Staff plans to come back to the committee in June to outline the results of those public meetings, as well as provide an update on the Tier 2 process. The station area planning effort is being concluded. This effort looked at detailed station area plans for the four light rail stations on Apache Boulevard. The consultant completed the final report which was presented to the public at a meeting last week. As a next step, Community Development and Development Services will be working on revisions to the TOD Ordinance to implement some of the findings of the report.

Agenda Item 4 – Railroad Quiet Zone Update

Marc Pearsall summarized as follows:

- The application with the Union Pacific Railroad and the Federal Railroad Administration has been prepared.
- In 2005 and 2006, a regional application and notice of intent were submitted in accordance with the criteria for implementation of a quiet zone.
- The federal rules for a quiet zone have changed over the years because of public input, and it is now easier for a community to have a quiet zone.
- The Union Pacific Railroad sent a list of capital improvements the City had to identify, such as signage improvements, concrete, and asphalt, and the City has to apply those points and send them back in a certified letter. That letter is being drafted and will be sent in late May or early June.

- Staff is also discussing further coordination for improvement of the 5th Street and College railroad crossing. The improvements would install smooth concrete panels in order to smooth the grade crossing.
- The Corporation Commission requires the railroad to implement these changes but the timeframe depends on the status of their budget. Staff is working to coordinate doing everything at once.
- By August, the City should hear back from the railroad, and a quiet zone should be in operation by December.
- City Council had allocated \$460K, but it may require some additional funds from the private sector, with the goal to stay under \$500K.
- In a quiet zone, the engineer may still use the horn if necessary, and as a safety measure, in most quiet zones, a bell located under the cab will be used.

Agenda Item 5 – Future Meeting Schedule

There was discussion concerning the June meeting date. Councilmember Ellis noted that she will be out of town for the June meeting. Ms. McLaren added that staff would like to make an LRT update to the Committee in June. It was determined to reschedule the meeting from June 24th to June 17th at 3:00. The meeting schedule after June will be left open until the Mayor determines the committee assignments and topics.

Agenda Item 6 – Future Agenda Items

- Lagging and leading left turn operations
- Discussion on housing trust fund

The next meeting will be on June 17, 2008.

Meeting adjourned at 3:31 p.m.

Prepared by: Connie Krosschell
Reviewed by: Carlos de Leon

Jan Hort
City Clerk