



**APPROVED AS AMENDED
SUMMARIZED MINUTES**

**CITY OF SCOTTSDALE
TRANSPORTATION COMMISSION
REGULAR MEETING**

Thursday, September 16, 2021

Meeting Held Electronically and Remotely

1. CALL TO ORDER

Chair Iacovo called the regular meeting of the Scottsdale Transportation Commission to order at 5:15 p.m. She noted that Commissioner Pochowski resigned from the Commission. She congratulated Commissioner Lall for his reappointment. Commissioner Wilcoxon will be in attendance at the October meeting.

2. ROLL CALL

PRESENT: Pamela Iacovo, Chair
Don Anderson, Vice Chair
Karen Kowal
B. Kent Lall
Mary Ann Miller
Andy Yates

STAFF: Mark Melnychenko, Transportation & Streets Director
Susan Conklu, Senior Transportation Planner
Dave Meinhart, Transportation Planning Manager

3. PUBLIC COMMENT

Written public comments were included in the packet materials and were submitted by: Kevin Olson, Lourdes Vera, Michael Lanin, Kenneth Steinke, Sharon Oberritter, Charles Pospisil, Michael Husar, Diana Krasnow, John Rodwick, Seth Rosenberg, Michael Weiner, Cathie Ernst, Laurens Kusters, Adrienne Knauer, Christine Lee Kinchen, D. Wine, Sara Muth, Linda Tucker, Lawrence Tucker, Susan Kauffman, Chuck Blackmon, Lori Lundberg, Kerry Olsson, Howard Myers, Jim Fiemann, Cynthia Westrom, Stephanie Brown, Dr. Alisa McMahon.

4. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

VICE CHAIR ANDERSON MOVED TO APPROVE THE SPECIAL MEETING MINUTES OF THE TRANSPORTATION COMMISSION ON AUGUST 4, 2021 AS PRESENTED. COMMISSIONER LALL SECONDED THE MOTION, WHICH CARRIED 6-0 WITH CHAIR IACOVO, VICE CHAIR ANDERSON, COMMISSIONERS KOWAL, LALL, MILLER AND YATES VOTING IN THE AFFIRMATIVE WITH NO DISSENTING VOTES.

A typographical error was identified.

VICE CHAIR ANDERSON MOVED TO APPROVE THE REGULAR MEETING MINUTES OF THE TRANSPORTATION COMMISSION ON AUGUST 19, 2021 AS AMENDED. COMMISSIONER LALL SECONDED THE MOTION, WHICH CARRIED 6-0 WITH CHAIR IACOVO, VICE CHAIR ANDERSON, COMMISSIONERS KOWAL, LALL, MILLER AND YATES VOTING IN THE AFFIRMATIVE WITH NO DISSENTING VOTES.

5. TRANSPORTATION ACTION PLAN

Dave Meinhart, Transportation Planning Manager, reviewed the online questionnaire process, which had a response period of August 25th through September 3rd and a total of 222 individual responses. Questions and response percentages were reviewed.

Chair asked if the results reflected which source of information was most effective in informing the public about their ability to comment on the TAP. Mr. Meinhart stated that to his knowledge, that level of information was not available. Responders were not asked from which media source they received the information, however, there were nearly 5,000 impressions on the Nextdoor app.

Chair inquired how the findings would be used. Mr. Meinhart stated that as these are all questions related to the direction of TAP, one goal was to receive confirmation that the trajectory is not outside of what the community feels is important. Secondly, it provides information as to areas where additional public outreach and education would be helpful.

Commissioner asked if the responses could be cross-referenced according to what area of the City the responder resides. Mr. Meinhart stated that the questionnaire asked for geographic locations for individuals, however, he would have to follow up regarding whether it is possible to cross-tabulate.

Commissioner inquired about the intent to use the same survey again in the future. Mr. Meinhart stated that they may use the tool, but not in conjunction with this plan development.

Chair noted that she was one of the questionnaire respondents and that she found it to be very well done.

Mr. Meinhart reviewed responses in terms of travel lane additions. Commissioner referenced Indian School Road and asked about the possibility of signal coordination to assist traffic flow, as opposed to adding lanes. Mr. Meinhart stated that Indian School is already very coordinated at this point. This can be affected as pedestrians press the crosswalk buttons.

Chair noted that the Indian School Road is included as a corridor to add travel lanes, however it is also listed as a corridor to delete travel lanes. She asked how staff identifies the specific area of the roadway being addressed. Mr. Meinhart acknowledged that this is one of the challenges on this type of questionnaire. Some responses are more detailed than others and some are not as specific in terms of identifying locations. Staff uses its professional judgment to discern intent, however the number of conflicting responses is modest.

Chair suggested that signal timing and signal improvements could be included as a subcategory under the traffic congestion flow and safety question. Mr. Meinhart stated that they are different issues, to some degree. Many of the questions on signal timing were from drivers on side streets awaiting a signal change.

Mr. Meinhart reviewed responses on alternate forms of transportation. Chair noted that as of 256 total responses, approximately 170 are related to a vehicle of some type.

Mr. Meinhart reviewed responses to the question regarding to which areas of the City resources should be dedicated over the next five to ten years. Also addressed were general demographic questions, which were collected while providing anonymity of respondents. It is notable that greater outreach is needed for the younger population, as there were only two responses under the age of 25. There were also comments received specifically on the draft TAP, as opposed to the questionnaire. Multiple comments were received regarding 128th Street in the vicinity or the Jomax Road alignment where the corridor crosses the McDowell Sonoran boundary, with an interest in not connecting the roadway. There were other comments received regarding the following topics: Crosswalk design concerns; Chaparral Road widening; extending light rail; development density; not in favor of roundabouts; future widening of Rio Verde Drive should include a wildlife crossing near 124th Street.

Commissioner asked for an update on the 128th Street extension. Mr. Meinhart stated that they must complete the public outreach process before making any recommendations. This will be discussed when the plan comes before the Commission for recommendation to City Council. In response to a Commissioner question, Mr. Meinhart stated his belief that no comments were submitted in favor of the extension as part of this questionnaire. However, such comments of support were received in the past, particularly in times of fires.

Commissioner recalled discussing 128th Street some time ago, particularly in terms of right-of-way and inquired as to the status of a plan at this time. Mr. Meinhart reiterated that there will be a recommendation once the next steps in the public input process have been completed. Chair noted that the 128th Street topic was presented to the Commission in January of 2019. The Commission agreed with City staff that the City would retain right-of-way, that 128th Street would not go through the Preserve, but that there might be an emergency access road available pending the construction of 118th Street. The City Council ultimately decided that 128th Street would remain in the Transportation Master Plan. It is good news that this issue is now going through the public process and that the Commission will have another chance to discuss it and make a recommendation.

Chair inquired about plans to encourage more participation in the questionnaire process from younger residents. Mr. Meinhart stated that staff is currently discussing this issue, but does not yet have an official plan. Possibilities include outreach to high schools. Commissioner suggested a focus on the age group of 18 to 24. A possible resource is ASU's Student Chapter of the American Society of Civil Engineers. Mr. Meinhart clarified that there are no plans to reissue the questionnaire. The virtual open house is much more focused on providing information.

Mr. Meinhart discussed the draft TAP, including proposed changes. There is a plan to develop a glossary. Commissioner made corrections regarding Commission meeting times. There was agreement that two sections not be part of the TAP.

Mr. Meinhart asked for input on the Street Element section and the Transit Element. Commissioner noted that the TAP references the suspended downtown trolley, noting that it would be helpful to add verbiage to the effect that service is currently suspended due to COVID.

Commissioner addressed the bullet point, “Reinstate the third Downtown circulator,” noting that refers to the trolley, but that the reader may not know this references the trolley specifically. Transportation & Street Director Mark Melnychenko stated that there is the potential for rebranding the existing system. There is confusion regarding the trolley system, which consists of local routes. This can be confused with the Downtown circulator, which people think is the trolley. The document will be reviewed and changes made to reduce the confusion.

Mr. Meinhart invited feedback on the Bikeway Element. Chair commended staff on the comprehensiveness of this section.

The Trail Element was addressed. Chair asked for confirmation that this section received comments and suggestions from the Paths and Trails Subcommittee. Mr. Meinhart confirmed this understanding. Both the Bike and Trail Elements were reviewed with the Subcommittee at its August meeting.

Mr. Meinhart discussed the Pedestrian Element. There being no questions, the Implementation Program was addressed. One public comment suggested wording of a future wildlife underpass on Rio Verde Drive. Commissioner made a clarification on the land size. The graphic indicates it totals 206.7 miles, however it should read 206.7 million square feet. Mr. Meinhart concurred that Commissioner was correct. Commissioner suggested utilizing the term lane miles for ease of understanding. Mr. Meinhart stated that staff would look into this possibility.

In response to a Commissioner question, Mr. Meinhart confirmed that the inclusion of a program in TAP is not a guarantee that all will be implemented immediately or without further modification. Commissioner suggested inclusion of this clarifying language in the document. He reviewed the next steps in the process.

Commissioner suggested that marketing materials be placed in roundabout locations in order to highlight the benefits of this traffic management tool, including saving lives. Mr. Meinhart stated that staff can discuss this possibility. Hurdles include the sign ordinance. There is the potential to place information at the library.

6. UPDATE ON THE BICYCLE AND RELATED DEVICES ORDINANCE

Susan Conklu, Senior Transportation Manager, provided a brief background of the devices, regulations and data report. City Council has provided input and direction on revisions to the regulations and staff are in this process. The current ordinance allows staff to make changes to the restricted areas and parking requirements.

Chair commended Ms. Conklu in terms of an excellent job in presenting the updates. She asked how the regulations are being enforced.

City staff continues to meet and coordinate with device companies. Ms. Conklu stated that the majority of violations that occur with companies are related to parking. Scottsdale EZ is the avenue for a member of the public, business owner or City staff to generate a ticket, describing the issue or complaint. Scottsdale Police Department receives a copy of each ticket and follow up as needed, up to and including citations.

Chair inquired as to the average number of tickets per month. Ms. Conklu stated that she did not have that figure readily available, however, there has been a significant decrease over the past year with fewer devices in use. Chair suggested a future agenda item to look at the pattern of usage of the scooters and volume of tickets.

In response to a Commissioner question, Ms. Conklu stated that there is currently one operator in the City at this time.

7. OTHER TRANSPORTATION PROJECTS AND PROGRAM STATUS

Mr. Melnychenko gave a brief review of the following projects:

- City Council unanimous approval of Old Town Bicycle Master Plan
- Five key routes integrated into the Neighborhood Bikeways portion of the Transportation Action Plan
- Dunn Transportation selected as trolley service contractor with operations beginning August 13, 2021
- New bus stop maintenance contractor, Service Link, started July 2021
- Bus shelter upgrades
- Mountain View Road improvements
- Thomas Road/82nd Street sidewalks
- Concrete repairs
- Pavement treatment

Commissioner recommended looking into the design of expansion joints for the sidewalk upheaval issues.

Chair asked what is involved with a bus stop maintenance program. Mr. Melnychenko stated the two main activities are power washing and trash collection. There is also coordination with adjacent property owners and City departments in terms of graffiti and homelessness issues.

Chair inquired about the lighting for the new bus stop structures. Mr. Melnychenko stated that certain locations are lit, and others are not. Specific identification of these locations can be placed as a future agenda item.

8. COMMISSION IDENTIFICATION OF FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS

Chair summarized the list, including Ms. Conklu's data report on scooter usage and violation totals and identification of lit and unlit bus stops.

Commissioner referred to a project by USA's Transportation Research Department regarding connected vehicle technology on the 101 through Scottsdale and stated that it would be

interesting to receive an update in the future. Commissioner commended staff for their work on the TAP.

9. ADJOURNMENT

With no further business to discuss, being duly moved by Vice Chair Anderson and seconded by Commissioner Kowal, the meeting adjourned at 7:30 p.m.

AYES: Chair Iacovo, Vice Chair Anderson, Commissioners Lall and Miller

NAYS: None

SUBMITTED BY:

eScribers, LLC

***Note: These are summary action meeting minutes only. A complete copy of the audio/video recording is available at <http://www.scottsdaleaz.gov/boards/transp.asp>**