Approved by the Transportation Commission on June 16, 2011

SUMMARIZED MINUTES

CITY OF SCOTTSDALE
TRANSPORTATION COMMISSION
REGULAR MEETING

THURSDAY, MAY 19, 2011

KIVA – CITY HALL
3939 DRINKWATER BOULEVARD
SCOTTSDALE, AZ 85251

CALL TO ORDER

Chair Howard called the Regular Meeting of the Scottsdale Transportation Commission to order at 6:05 p.m.

ROLL CALL

PRESENT:
Josh Weiss, Chair
Carleton Cole, Commissioner
William Howard, Commissioner
Donald Maxwell, Commissioner
Paul Ward, Commissioner

ABSENT:
Terry Gruver, Vice Chair
Steven Olmsted, Commissioner

STAFF:
Dave Meinhart, Transportation Director
Rose Arballo, Transportation Commission Coordinator
Jennifer Bohac, Senior Traffic Engineer
Walt Brodzinski, Right-of-Way Supervisor
Madeline Clemann, Transit Supervisor
Annie DeChance, Public Information Coordinator
Teresa Huish, Principal Transportation
Phillip Kercher, Principal Traffic Engineer
Kathryn Kleinschmidt, Traffic Engineer

2. APPROVAL OF MEETING MINUTES

- Special Study Session of the Transportation Commission – May 5, 2011
- Special Regular Meeting of the Transportation Commission – May 5, 2011

COMMISSIONER MAXWELL MOVED TO APPROVE THE SPECIAL STUDY SESSION AND SPECIAL REGULAR MEETING MINUTES OF MAY 5, 2011. COMMISSIONER WARD SECONDED. THE MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY FIVE (5) TO ZERO (0).

3. PUBLIC COMMENT

No public comment was received.

4. TRUCK PROHIBITION ORDINANCE

Mr. Meinhart introduced Mr. Brodzinski to present additional ordinance options regarding truck access in Scottsdale. Mr. Meinhart explained that the Commission has previously discussed and made recommendations to the Truck Route Ordinance at their meeting on January 20th; however, as a result of additional public feedback, staff has identified another alternative approach to truck movement in the community that would not advertise corridors where trucks are permitted, but would focus on prohibiting trucks in areas where not appropriate.

Mr. Brodzinski reviewed background information on the current ordinance and reviewed a map of current truck routes in the City. He explained that the initially proposed draft ordinance revision of December 2010 identified roadways that would have been designated truck routes based on the following criteria included in the Transportation Master Plan (TMP):

- connection to a regional freeway
- reasonable alternative routes for truck traffic
- historical usage by truck traffic
- zoning/land uses along the route
- noise mitigation measures such as rubberized asphalt

Mr. Brodzinski further explained that the original draft proposed ordinance established routes based on roadway classification and listed roadway exceptions based on local needs.

Additional public feedback received resulted in staff creating an alternative ordinance update that establishes a procedure for placing signs that prohibit trucks on roadway segments that meet criteria to better serve the community and support the policy in the TMP. Mr. Brodzinski explained that the newly proposed ordinance revision:

- does not establish “Truck Routes”
- will be referred to as a “Truck Prohibition Ordinance”
- lists the following proposed criteria to prohibit trucks
    - land use along a specified roadway segment
    - connection to the freeway and/or adjacent communities
    - historical use
    - proximity to adjacent truck route

- commercial needs of a specified roadway segment
- traffic data
- supports the TMP

Mr. Brodzinski reiterated that the proposed Truck Prohibition Ordinance would not establish a truck route by name or map but would list criteria that would prohibit trucks, other than for local deliveries, on specific street segments.

Chair Weiss opened the floor for public comment:

Robert Cappel, representative of Winfield HOA, indicated that Winfield residents are concerned with the new proposed ordinance in that it does not make them aware of the proposed criteria used to classify a street as a truck route or not. The current ordinance makes residents aware of which streets are truck routes. Residents also feel there is a safety concern for traffic due to the jogs in the street. Winfield residents prefer to see streets identified as a truck route rather than having to wait until the City posts signs on the streets that prohibit trucks. Residents feel this draft ordinance is too vague and recommend that staff do more research to establish designations and criteria.

Lynn Carlson, President of Westland Estates HOA, commented that residents of the Westland Estates community oppose truck traffic on Westland Road. The community is opposed to anything that could generate safety or noise concerns on Westland Road. Westland has heavy pedestrian and bike traffic at all times of the day and there are a few homes east of 84th Street, north of Westland that have building corners too close to the highway.

Kathe Barnes, Executive Director of Scottsdale Ranch HOA, represents approximately 4,000 homes in this community. Ms. Barnes indicated that Via Linda is not conducive to truck traffic and is disappointed with the process regarding truck routes. It is felt there are no guidelines in this proposed ordinance and that something more solid similar to the previous draft proposed ordinance is needed. Also, it is believed that Via Linda should not be a truck route due to the large number of residents, blind spots on Via Linda, and a school, park and senior center in the community. Via Linda is dangerous for kids going to school and does not have direct connectivity with the freeway. Drivers use Via Linda as a cut-thru to avoid Shea and the Loop 101 to head east. It is recommended that trucks be prohibited on 96th Street/Via Linda.

Chair Weiss read comments from the following non-speaker comment cards in opposition to Via Linda being a truck route:

Joseph A. Ettinger, Scottsdale resident.
Douglas Miller, Scottsdale resident.

Non-speaker comment cards from the following residents were submitted expressing opposition to Westland Road being a truck route:

Linda M. Cappel, Scottsdale resident
Alba McNiece, Winfield Estates resident
Bob McNiece, Winfield Estates resident
Bill Schuette, Winfield Estates resident
Judith Callahan, Winfield Estates resident
John Callahan, Winfield Estates resident
Richard Actke, Winfield Community HOA
Gayle Schuette, Winfield Estates resident

Mr. Meinhart added that residents of Gainey Ranch submitted extensive email feedback with regards to the designation of the Doubletree/Via de Ventura corridor.

After much discussion between staff and the Commissioners regarding Commissioners' concerns on signage prohibiting trucks on a roadway, Section 17-33 regarding designation of one-way streets, and argument as to whether these decisions would be traffic engineering based versus policy based, Mr. Brodzinski commented that Scottsdale is not a heavy truck traffic community and that trucks make up only about of 2%-3% of traffic volume on Scottsdale streets. Commissioner Ward also expressed concern with the language in Section 17-60 of the proposed draft Truck Prohibition Ordinance noting government vehicles as an exception on street segments identified for no trucks and need for clarification of the verbiage in item b, Section 17-60 regarding truck routes in the City that are those 4-lane and larger.

The consensus of the Commission was that there are no established criteria for either denying or not denying truck passage on particular streets and suggested maintaining the approved proposed draft ordinance as presented at their January 20th meeting. After receiving several public comments from residents on Westland, the Commission suggested adding Westland to the exceptions list of the proposed draft ordinance of December 16, 2010. Mr. Meinhart stated that staff will review the comments received, and present recommendations on any additions to the previously-approved exceptions list at the June meeting.

COMMISSIONER HOWARD MOVED TO NOT PURSUE THE TRUCK PROHIBITION ORDINANCE AS PRESENTED AND RECOMMENDS MAINTAINING THE APPROVED PROPOSED DRAFT ORDINANCE AS PRESENTED AT THE TRANSPORTATION COMMISSION MEETING ON JANAURY 20, 2011. COMMISSIONER COLE SECONDED. THE MOTION PASSED FIVE (5) TO ZERO (0).

5. NEIGHBORHOOD TRAFFIC MANAGEMENT PROJECTS

a) Pinnacle Vista from 56th Street to 64th Street

Ms. Kleinschmidt gave a presentation on the neighborhood traffic management project on Pinnacle Vista from 56th to 64th Streets between Dynamite and Jomax asking the Commission for construction funding of this project. Ms. Kleinschmidt also reviewed a map of the project location and provided background information along with a review of traffic data collected in 2007 and 2009 for this project. Traffic data collected met all program criteria which allowed the project to move forward in the traffic management process.

Measures taken by the City to address resident concerns were also reviewed. Due to the concerns expressed by residents on the intersection at 56th Street and Pinnacle Vista being converted from a two-way to four-way stop, Ms. Kleinschmidt indicated that a multi-way stop traffic engineering study at this location was completed in March 2011. Findings from this study led staff to recommend a roundabout in this area. Ms. Kleinschmidt indicated that although this roundabout is included in this traffic management plan, it is for information purposes only to try to get public feedback and to inform the public that their concerns are being addressed for this intersection. To help residents further understand, this roundabout is what staff is recommending as the appropriate traffic control device for this area, though it is not a part of the neighborhood traffic management improvements being considered tonight. With the City of Phoenix bordering the west side of the intersection, Scottsdale's portion would be funded thru the intersection mobility enhancement fund; not the traffic management fund. Currently, there is no design for the roundabout as it will need to be coordinated with the City of Phoenix and Cave Creek Unified School District. It is also important to note that this roundabout would be designed to improve overall operation of the intersection and accommodate all vehicles including school buses, fire trucks, horse trailers, and semi-trailers.

Ms. Kleinschmidt reviewed and explained that the neighborhood traffic management plan will include two median islands, four speed cushions, and a pedestrian area from 62nd to 56th Streets if the planned trail is not built with the project. Currently, there is an existing trail from 64th to 62nd Streets. The estimated cost for this project is $50,400.

Chair Weiss opened the floor for public comment:

Lisa Harris, Scottsdale resident, expressed opposition to the roundabout due to high costs, therefore, supports speed humps. She indicated there is no traffic in the area when school is not in session; however, suggests that a crossing guard at the school when it is in session would help kids to safely cross the street. Also believes that police enforcement is needed in this area.

Jody Scott McGhee, Scottsdale resident and Co-Director of a horse program at the elementary school close to the proposed roundabout indicated that a roundabout will pose a safety issue. It will also be a challenge for school buses and drivers pulling horse trailers. It is recommended that a four-way stop be considered.

Liz Covert, Scottsdale resident, believes that a four-way stop and police enforcement is needed in this area. A roundabout is not a solution and recommends that staff work with the City of Phoenix and Cave Creek Unified School District to work out a solution.

Mitchell Culp, resident on Pinnacle Vista, supports having traffic calming devices to slow down traffic in the area.

Cruz Elena Pina, Scottsdale resident, expressed concern with drivers speeding causing a safety risk to children walking to school.

The following non-speaker comment cards were submitted:

Janet Rossi, Scottsdale resident, supports this project.

Ronald Rama, resident on Pinnacle Vista, noted comments that road maintenance on Pinnacle Vista between 64th and 69th Streets is costly. This section of roadway is a dirt road and maintenance crews work hard to maintain it, but cannot keep up.

Staff addressed Commissioner Howard's concerns regarding the possible shifting of a power pole on the northeast corner of Pinnacle Vista/56th Street and explained that moving one power pole would be extremely expensive.

With regards to Commissioner Cole's and Commissioner Ward's concerns regarding other necessary improvements, staff explained they are attempting to address residents' primary concerns with vehicle speeds with the installation of traffic calming devices. Secondly, any roadway improvements including curb, gutter, and sidewalks would be a CIP improvement project which would be funded through different limited funding sources and possibly shared by the City of Phoenix as some improvements would benefit both cities.

b) 68th Street from Cholla to Cactus

Ms. Bohac gave a presentation on the neighborhood traffic management project on 68th Street from Cholla Street to Cactus Road, and asked the Commission for approval of construction funding for this project.

Ms. Bohac briefly reviewed the process for the Neighborhood Traffic Management Program and reviewed the project location along with project background relative to speed awareness and traffic data collection. She also reviewed the neighborhood support phase and petition and notification areas showing over 76% of residents being in support of this project. The project includes four speed cushions between Cholla and Cactus to balance drainage and emergency access needs with resident quality of life concerns. This project will also include a few additional road improvements to address resident concerns regarding lack of place for pedestrians to walk and bike. The total estimated cost of this project is $17,500.

Chair Weiss opened the floor for public comment.

Katherine Visser, Scottsdale resident, expressed thanks to City staff and the Transportation Commission for their work and for considering resident concerns. She has witnessed drivers, school buses, and large trucks speeding through the neighborhood. For some unknown reason drivers seem to speed up at night.

Christo Visser, resident of Scottsdale for three years, expressed that this is an emotional issue and is tired of drivers speeding and disrespect to the neighborhood. He feels there is a dire need to address the issue of speeding vehicles and asks for consideration of approval for speed cushions.

Stephen Kunkle, resides south of Cholla, not only asks that this project north of Cholla be approved, but also asks that the Commission consider approving traffic calming south of Cholla.

The following non-speaker comment cards in support of this project were submitted:

Roberta Alvord, Scottsdale resident
Warren Alvord, Scottsdale resident
Jerry Olszewski, Scottsdale resident
Linda Weuyersten, Scottsdale resident

Kelly Ingram, resident on 68th Street, is in favor of this project, but suggests that the speed bump be located either north or south of her driveway, instead of in front of her driveway.

No comments from the Commission were received.

COMMISSIONER HOWARD MOVED TO APPROVE CONSTRUCTION FUNDING FOR THE TRAFFIC MANAGEMENT PROJECT ON PINNACLE VISTA FROM 56TH STREET TO 64TH STREET. COMMISSIONER WARD SECONDED. THE MOTION CARRIED FIVE (5) TO ZERO (0).

COMMISSIONER COLE MOVED TO APPROVE CONSTRUCTION FUNDING FOR THE TRAFFIC MANAGEMENT PROJECT ON 68TH STREET FROM CACTUS ROAD TO CHOLLA STREET. COMMISSIONER COLE SECONDED. THE MOTION CARRIED FIVE (5) TO ZERO (0).

6. HOSPITALITY TROLLEY ROUTE UPDATE

Ms. Clemann presented a detailed update on the Hospitality Trolley Program and reviewed ridership information gathered from passenger surveys and feedback from sponsors for this route. She also reviewed background information on this program that was in effect from January thru March of this year. A summary of performance information with regards to goals set, boardings per hour, sponsor satisfaction, survey results, boardings by event stop, and ridership characteristics relative to game day

influence was also provided. Overall, research proved that 99% of the riders had a positive experience. Sponsor feedback was positive indicating that they request to be involved in any future endeavors with this program and/or route.

Ms. Clemann reviewed future considerations should this program be continued in the future. She indicated that the next steps taken would be to present results to the Tourism Development Commission and City Council for discussion and direction regarding continuing service for the next season. Funding sources would also need to be discussed.

Ms. Clemann stated that the total estimated cost for this program was $180,000 for 90 days in which approximately 50% was funded thru private sponsorships and 50% from the City's bed tax. Mr. Meinhart added that it is staff's intent to present this item to City Council before September, if possible, to allow staff more time to better develop this program.

Chair Weiss suggested including the Transportation Commission as things move forward with this program. He also suggested that staff look at the possibility of using all trolley routes for advertising.

7. OTHER TRANSPORTATION PROJECTS

Mr. Meinhart reported the following:

- The Pima Road widening construction project south of Pinnacle Peak is still on schedule to be complete in July. Road restrictions are still in place and access to businesses remains open.
- Construction of the Pima Freeway sound wall project is scheduled to begin in June.
- The Transportation Fund Budget for FY 12 was favorably accepted by the City Council. The only adjustment recommended on Route 72 was a change to frequency of weekend service to 60 minutes.

8. PUBLIC COMMENT

No public comment was received.

9. IDENTIFICATION OF FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS

The following items were suggested by Commissioner Ward:

- Pima Road Construction Project Update
- Roundabout Update
- Airpark Circulation Status Update
- Pima Road Sound Wall Project
- Update on potential ADOT improvements to the Loop 101 corridor
- TMP Update/CIP Program

- Flyover of Princess Road TI
- Scottsdale/Shea Update

10. ADJOURNMENT

With no further business to discuss, Chair Weiss adjourned the Regular meeting at 8:54 p.m.

SUBMITTED BY:

Rose Arballo
Transportation Coordinator

***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**