SUMMARIZED MINUTES

CITY OF SCOTTSDALE
TRANSPORTATION COMMISSION
REGULAR MEETING

THURSDAY, JUNE 16, 2011

KIVA – CITY HALL
3939 N. DRINKWATER BOULEVARD
SCOTTSDALE, AZ 85251

CALL TO ORDER

Chair Weiss called the Regular Meeting of the Scottsdale Transportation Commission to order at 6:04 p.m.

ROLL CALL

PRESENT: Josh Weiss, Chair
Terry Gruver, Vice Chair
William Howard, Commissioner
Donald Maxwell, Commissioner
Steven Olmsted, Commissioner
Paul Ward, Commissioner

ABSENT: Carleton Cole, Commissioner

STAFF: Dave Meinhart, Transportation Director
Rose Arballo, Transportation Commission Coordinator
Annie DeChance, Public Information Coordinator
Paul Porell, Traffic Engineering and Operations Manager
George Williams, Senior Traffic Engineer

Chair Weiss acknowledged Commissioner Howard would be attending his last meeting tonight after serving on the Transportation Commission for six years; two and a half years of which he served as Chair. Commissioner Howard thanked the Commissioners and staff for the opportunity to work with them and commented he is pleased with how transportation issues are handled and for encouraging public involvement.

2. APPROVAL OF MEETING MINUTES

- Study Session of the Transportation Commission – June 16, 2011
- Regular Meeting of the Transportation Commission – June 16, 2011

COMMISSIONER MAXWELL MOVED TO APPROVE THE STUDY SESSION AND REGULAR MEETING MINUTES OF JUNE 16, 2011. COMMISSIONER WARD SECONDED. THE MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY SIX (6) TO ZERO (0).

3. PUBLIC COMMENT

No public comment was received.

4. TRUCK ROUTE ORDINANCE REVISIONS

Mr. Meinhart commented that the Commission acted on this item in January and staff re-confirmed their support at the last meeting in May. Also, after receiving several comments from residents regarding additional roadway exceptions, the Commission asked staff to review all public comment and present recommendations on any additions to the previously approved exceptions list. Mr. Porell followed with an update of the proposed implementation of the truck route policy established in the adopted TMP (Transportation Master Plan).

Mr. Porell explained that additional public input received after the draft truck route ordinance was approved by the Commission in January led staff to believe there was an alternative to address the issue in a different format. This was to designate those streets where trucks should be prohibited; however, based on Commission input at their May meeting, the Commission recommended to maintain the approved proposed draft ordinance as presented in January. The Commission also directed staff to provide an updated exceptions list of streets that would be appropriate for being excluded from being a truck route.

As a result of additional public comment received, staff added Westland Drive between Scottsdale Road and Pima to the exceptions list. Staff does not recommend that Doubletree Ranch Road be added to the list as it is felt it meets many of the criteria listed in the TMP. Specifically, it is a minor arterial roadway that consists of four travel lanes, commercial development exists in the area, and it provides direct connections to the regional freeway system and surrounding cities.

Chair Weiss added that the Commission has reviewed this item over the past few months and wanted to have an opportunity to see if there were any additional recommendations for street exemptions that could be considered before adoption of the proposed revised truck route ordinance by the City Council.

Chair Weiss opened the floor for public comment:

James Funk, Executive Director of Gainey Ranch, continues to be concerned that Doubletree Ranch Road has not become part of the exemption list. Although Doubletree does not meet the criteria, he asks that this road be reconsidered due to Rotary Park and the Hyatt Regency being located in the area. Also, community residents feel that although there are no bike lanes on this road, it is a heavily biked roadway. Gainey Ranch has invested spending $140,000 per year for maintenance of landscape and that semis and other truck traffic will increase noise and cost of landscaping maintenance along that roadway.

Lynn Garison, President of Westland Estates HOA, submitted written comments and wrote she is "in favor of and support exempting Westland Drive from the truck route ordinance."

Staff addressed questions from the Commission with regards to Doubletree and the process for future truck route designations. Vice Chair Gruver commented that as the ordinance moves forward, exceptions should be based on actual issues or problems before a long list of exceptions is created.

COMMISSIONER WARD MOVED TO ACCEPT THE PROPOSED TRUCK ROUTE ORDINANCE AS PRESENTED BY STAFF. COMMISSIONER MAXWELL SECONDED. THE MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY SIX (6) TO ZERO (0).

5. ROUNDABOUT UPDATE

Mr. Williams gave an update on recently completed and upcoming roundabout projects. He reviewed appropriate roundabout locations that are being considered throughout the City that are in the concept, planning, or design stages. As part of the Airpark improvements being considered, he also reviewed the four roundabouts being recommended at Hayden/Northsight; Raintree/Redfield at 76th Place, Raintree/Hayden, and Raintree/Northsight.

Mr. Williams addressed some public concerns that were expressed at the last meeting with regards to local and national safety related to roundabouts; explained the differences/similarities of roundabouts, traffic circles, and rotaries; and reviewed collision/traffic volume information before and after a device was installed. He also reviewed data collected from a driver opinion survey, explained that roundabouts can accommodate large vehicles; and pointed out that roundabouts are appropriate near schools, hospitals, freeways, and signalized intersections.

Mr. Williams noted that staff is working on updating the City's website to include more detailed information on roundabouts. Currently, tonight's Powerpoint is available on the Transportation page of the City's website. More educational information on roundabouts can be found on the following websites:

www.iihs.org
www.safety.fhwa.dot.gov

http://www.azdot.gov/ccpartnerships/Roundabouts/index.asp
http://www.trb.org/Main/Blurbs/1528299.aspx
http://onlinepubs.trb.org/onlinepubs/nchrp/nchrp_rpt_672.pdf
http://www.ite.org/councils/Safety/roundabout.asp

No public comment was received.

Mr. Porell acknowledged Mr. Williams' expertise and interest in roundabouts that is recognized not only regionally, but nationally. Mr. Williams has also participated in organizations including ITE (Institute of Traffic Engineers), and is recognized as a leader in the development of roundabouts.

6. PIMA ROAD CONSTRUCTION PROJECT UPDATE

Mr. Porell, gave an update on the status of two major construction projects along Pima Road. The first project is the segment between Via de Ventura to Indian Bend Road, which is still on schedule for completion in July. The objectives of this project includes the full length of Pima Road to improve traffic flow, improve access to the Salt River fields, multi-modal access with sidewalks, bus pullouts, bike lanes, and maintain the multiuse path on the west side of the roadway. Also, this project improved the overall look of the roadway and will safeguard the neighborhood and accommodate existing and future commercial development.

The overall value of this project is $7.2 million. City staff is working on an intergovernmental agreement with the Salt River Pima Maricopa Indian Community for long term maintenance of the roadway, which should cover approximately 70% of the costs.

The second project is the segment between the Deer Valley Road alignment to the Pinnacle Peak Road intersection. The objective for this project was to widen the roadway to six lanes to improve flow of traffic, provide multi-modal access, and improve the roadway look of the corridor by adding landscaping and sound walls to provide access to future development. Mr. Porell reviewed photos of the major stormwater channel that was constructed along the east side of the roadway and one of the artist elements, which has been applied to the major drainage structure east of Pima on Pinnacle Peak Road.

The total value of this project is $24 million. Approximately $16.8 million will be funded thru the regional transportation funds, $4.8 million from Bond 2000, and $1.2 million from the City's 2/10 transportation sales tax.

No public comment was received.

Commissioner Howard expressed he is pleased with the improvements done between 90th Street south to Indian Bend Road. That section of roadway looks nice and bottlenecks have been eliminated.

7. OTHER TRANSPORTATION PROJECTS

a) Mr. Meinhart gave a brief update on the two noise wall segments on the west side along the Loop 101 and reviewed photos of the current project improvements and art design of the sound walls. These wall improvements are both funded by MAG (Maricopa Association of Governments) and are being constructed by ADOT (Arizona Department of Transportation).

   Construction to replace an existing private property wall in the first segment located north of Cactus to Sweetwater is scheduled to begin in the Fall 2011.

   Construction for the second segment located south of Via Linda to the Camelback Walk greenbelt is underway with completion scheduled by the end of the year. Design issues were reviewed with the Transportation Commission in June 2010 and discussed with the City Council in September 2010.

   Mr. Meinhart stated that the Transportation Department website has been updated to ensure the public understands what parts of the art wall will be affected, and reiterated that less than 5% of the art walls will be impacted. Up-to-date information on the Loop 101 noise wall project may be found on the City's website at www.scottsdaleaz.gov/traffic/L101.

b) Mr. Meinhart acknowledged a group of Transportation staff who were awarded with the MAG Ambassador Program Regional Excellence Award for their efforts on shifting the operation of the Route 76 transit line from the RPTA (Regional Public Transit Association) Fixed Route Program to the City's trolley contract. Staffs' efforts resulted in greatly increased ridership, an annual savings of approximately $300,000, and brought back service south of McDowell Road.

8. PUBLIC COMMENT

No public comment was received.

9. IDENTIFICATION OF FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS

Chair Weiss commented that Hidden Hills relative to the bicycle easement is tentatively agendized for early Fall.

10. ADJOURNMENT

With no further business to discuss, Chair Weiss adjourned the Regular Meeting at 7:10 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**