SUMMARIZED MINUTES

CITY OF SCOTTSDALE
TRANSPORTATION COMMISSION
REGULAR MEETING

THURSDAY, MAY 17, 2012

ONE CIVIC CENTER
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
Paul Holley, Commissioner
Steven Olmsted, Commissioner
Robert Stickles, Commissioner
Paul Ward, Commissioner

ABSENT:
Donald Maxwell, Commissioner

STAFF:
Dave Meinhart, Transportation Director
Rose Arballo, Transportation Commission Coordinator
Madeline Clemann, Transit Manager
Greg Davies, Senior Transportation Planner
Sarah Ferrara, Public Information Officer
Reed Kempton, Principal Transportation Planner
Kathy Kleinschmidt, Traffic Engineer

2. APPROVAL OF MEETING MINUTES

- Study Session of the Transportation Commission – April 19, 2012
- Regular Meeting of the Transportation Commission – April 19, 2012

COMMISSIONER WARD MOVED TO APPROVE THE STUDY SESSION AND REGULAR MEETING MINUTES OF APRIL 19, 2012 AS AMENDED DURING THE STUDY SESSION. COMMISSIONER STICKLES SECONDED THE MOTION, WHICH CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY SIX (6) TO ZERO (0).

3. PUBLIC COMMENT

No public comment was received.

4. NEIGHBORHOOD TRAFFIC MANAGEMENT PROGRAM

Mr. Meinhart announced that Ms. Kleinschmidt will be leaving the City to pursue another position in Texas. Many thanks and appreciation was expressed for Ms. Kleinschmidt's efforts at the City.

a. Neighborhood Traffic Management Program Update

Ms. Kleinschmidt reviewed the two-step process of the Neighborhood Traffic Management Program (NTMP); identified NTMP projects that are currently in the program as well as upcoming and recently constructed projects; and provided an overview of the program budget.

It was highlighted that the five NTMP projects ready for construction include:

- Granite Reef Road – Osborn to Thomas Roads
- 86th Street – Earll Drive to Thomas Road
- Pinnacle Vista Drive – 56th to 64th Streets
- 68th Street – Cholla Street to Cactus Road
- Larkspur Drive – 94th to 96th Streets

Ms. Kleinschmidt noted that the Granite Reef Road and 86th Street projects are designed together as one project. The estimated cost for the entire project is $560,000 in which half of the project cost ($280,000 – more than one year's future funding for the entire program) is for a roundabout at Earll Drive. It is suggested that perhaps further outreach is needed to try to come up with another option, since half of the construction cost is associated with the roundabout. In addition, two NTMP Interest Forms were received for Virginia Avenue – Granite Reef Road to 86th Street, and Sweetwater

Avenue – Hayden to Scottsdale Road. Staff will research these further to determine if some sort of traffic calming is warranted for Sweetwater Avenue.

With regards to program funding, $0.94M is available in FY12 funds and $0.25M is programmed for FY13. Funding does not include any possible new NTMP projects or projects not yet approved.

Chair Weiss opened the floor for comments.

No public comment was received.

With regards to the 86th Street project relative to the drainage and roundabout issues, the Commission expressed concern on the high cost of the proposed improvements. It was agreed that further evaluation of other device options that could be cost effective and operational be looked at.

b. NTMP Project Request for 68th Street from Shea Boulevard to Cholla

Ms. Kleinschmidt provided background information on the NTMP project on 68th Street from Shea to Cholla. It was mentioned that this request was previously presented to the Commission in November 2011 as an exception due to the significant speeds over 30 mph and lack of pedestrian amenities.

Ms. Kleinschmidt indicated that in going through the neighborhood support phase for this project, extensive outreach was conducted which included notification to residents informing them of issues and concerns, and review of the proposed traffic management plan. The project will include speed cushions similar to the ones installed on Roosevelt west of Miller Road, and curb extensions with pedestrian ramps to address speeding and pedestrian issues, and sight distance issues near the intersection at Mescal. The estimated cost for this project is $35,000.

Chair Weiss opened the floor for public comment—none was received.

COMMISSIONER STICKLES MOVED TO APPROVE FUNDING IN THE AMOUNT OF APPROXIMATELY $35,000 FOR CONSTRUCTION OF THIS PROJECT (68TH STREET FROM SHEA BOULEVARD TO CHOLLA). COMMISSIONER HOLLEY SECONDED THE MOTION, WHICH CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY SIX (6) TO ZERO (0).

5. REQUEST FOR MEDIAN BREAK ON 123RD STREET

The HOA representative from Montacino at McDowell Mountain was not present to discuss this item.

COMMISSIONER HOLLEY MOVED TO TABLE THIS ITEM UNTIL IT IS CONFIRMED IF THE HOMEOWNER'S ASSOCIATION WOULD LIKE TO PROCEED OR WITHDRAW FROM DISCUSSION. COMMISSIONER STICKLES SECONDED THE MOTION, WHICH CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY SIX (6) TO ZERO (0).

6. HOSPITALITY TROLLEY UPDATE

Ms. Clemann gave an overview on the results of the Hospitality Trolley for 2012, which were positive. She reviewed service goals and design that provided more frequent service and ridership, and mentioned that a fourth trolley was used to operate the WestWorld Loop. In 2012, service to specific venues and events was provided by use of the traditional trolley vehicles rather than a fully wrapped bus as was used the previous year.

Should service of the Hospitality Trolley be recommended to continue to the year 2013, some challenges identified by staff for the future include:

- Develop the next route design based on earlier sponsor intent rather than signed sponsor agreements
- Develop marketing tools (trolley wraps, brochures, website postings, etc.) a minimum of 60 days prior to start-up of service
- Broaden sponsorships to include more businesses and events that are receiving service benefits

Ms. Clemann reviewed detailed data comparisons of the Hospitality Trolley for the years 2011 and 2012 collected from Rider Surveys and staff. In summary, results showed that the service is a valuable tourism and economic tool.
Chair Weiss opened the floor for public comment—none was received.

Staff addressed the following concerns from the Commission:

- Regarding capacity on the trolleys should the number of boardings increase in the future, staff anticipates no significant issues in accommodating an increased number of riders if service continues in 2013.
- Relative to funding of the Hospitality Trolley service, Chair Weiss encouraged staff to look at various alternatives for funding; specifically, focusing on funding from sponsorships to avoid any possible need for the City to have to fund more than its share of 50% of bed tax for this service. He suggested that perhaps advertising could be open to other larger entities outside of Scottsdale, such as the Airlines, but at the same time avoid muddying the look of the trolley.
- Vice Chair Gruver understands the need to balance funding and aesthetics; however, is more sensitive to making sure service is maintained/improved.

VICE CHAIR GRUVER MOVED TO RECOMMEND CONTINUANCE OF THE HOSPITALITY ROUTE FOR 2013, AND ENCOURAGE EARLIER APPROVAL FROM CITY COUNCIL TO ALLOW ADDITIONAL TIME TO PLAN ACCORDINGLY. COMMISSIONER STICKLES SECONDED THE MOTION, WHICH CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY SIX (6) TO ZERO (0).

7. HIDDEN HILLS UPDATE

Ms. Conklu gave an update on the bicycle easement in Hidden Hills that was temporarily closed, and reviewed the City's options for building a connection in Fountain Hills.

Ms. Conklu explained that since the February Commission meeting, as directed by the Commission, staff has added a second sign below the existing regulatory sign located before the gates on 145th Way. This additional signage was included to clearly notify the public that the bicycle easement on 145th Way has been temporarily closed pending completion of a connection to Fountain Hills. The HOA has put up similar signage inside the gates on 145th Way. Additionally, the gates have been modified to prevent bikes from going thru.

City staff has been working with Fountain Hills and MCO Properties to discuss what would need to happen if Scottsdale would construct an expedited connection between 145th Way and Eagle Ridge Drive. Should construction for such interim connection be made, improvements would accommodate emergency access, as well as temporary public vehicular access. The estimated cost for this project is $120,000. When the property is developed in the future, the interim path connection would be replaced by planned streets, which were previously estimated at a cost of $250,000 for a 20-foot wide permanent connection.

Ms. Conklu pointed out that if there is desire for the City of Scottsdale to move forward with construction of a temporary connection, cooperative efforts between Scottsdale, Fountain Hills, and MCO will be conducted with the design review process to determine the future location of the alignment. Fountain Hills supports and has no issues with the City moving forward with construction of an interim path. MCO also supports the City moving forward with construction of this path; however, feels it is not obligated to pay or reimburse the City for part of the connection at the time of construction or in the future.

Chair Weiss opened the floor for public comment—none was received.

After a lengthy discussion between staff and the Commission, the Commission supports further pursuing construction of an interim connection and encouraged staff to be creative in not only looking for ways to fund the project, but also to identify other

benefits such as emergency service access. It was suggested that outreach be made to the cyclist community to allow opportunity for them to also provide ideas on funding.

A future update on this item will be scheduled for later in the year.

8. TRANSPORTATION MASTER PLAN UPDATE

In moving forward into the next phase of updating the Transportation Master Plan, focus will be made on reviewing draft copies of the various elements of the existing plan to provide the Commission an opportunity to discuss and offer comments or suggestions of possible edits for inclusion.

Mr. Kempton presented a proposed schedule for review and discussion of the various elements over the next several months. He explained that drafts of each element will be provided to other City staff outside of Transportation for their review and comments at the same time it is released to the Commission. The Commission will be presented with more than one draft of the various elements of the plan to provide an opportunity to further discuss concerns before finalizing each section. Public Open Houses are anticipated to be held starting in January 2013.

Mr. Kempton referred to the Vision, Values, and Goals section of the plan that was provided to the Commission in their packets. He indicated that no major or significant revisions were made to the existing document other than some grammatical or punctuation changes. Mr. Kempton asked the Commission if they would like to review the Vision, Values, and Goals in detail or proceed with review of the Policy Element. Consensus of the Commission was to move forward with discussion of the Policy Element.

Mr. Kempton reviewed in detail the proposed major or significant revisions made to the Policy Element with regards to rights-of-way management, neighborhood traffic management, freight mobility/truck routes, roadway noise mitigation, local area infrastructure plans (LAIPs), and maintenance and life cycle planning. Essentially, each of these areas has had some type of council action or major revision done by this Commission since 2008, when the Transportation Master Plan was adopted.

The following comments were provided by the Commission:

- Vice Chair Gruver suggested that language be reduced in the sections regarding Safe Routes, Public Education and Awareness Program, and Congestion and Congestion Management.

- With regards to the vision, values, and goals for each specific element being referenced in two different sections within the Transportation Master Plan, it was suggested that it remain as is. It is felt that this will make it convenient for persons reviewing the plan to locate the vision, values, and goals for each element rather than having to flip thru numerous pages in the plan. In addition, to avoid some redundancy it was suggested that perhaps the goals could be referenced more holistically or in broader categories within the Vision, Values, and Goals section so that the purpose of each particular goal is clearly noted within each specific element.

Staff encouraged the Commission to provide written comments at any time during the plan update process. Staff's goal is to have a final draft plan by June 2013.

9. OTHER TRANSPORTATION PROJECTS

Mr. Meinhart briefly updated the Commission on the following:

- Since the Commission's recommendation to move forward with the acquisition of buses for the City's trolley system, challenges have been faced with some of the older buses on Route 76. As a result, it is possible that 40-foot buses will be utilized on this circulator route in the interim. More detailed information will be provided at a future date.
- The Operating Budget has been adopted by City Council.
- The State of Arizona has rescinded the portion of last year's gas tax sweep related to the Motor Vehicles Division.
- The City will not have to tap into the Transportation Fund unreserved fund balance, as had been discussed at the April Transportation Commission meeting.
- Additional expenses of approximately $300,000 for roadway landscape maintenance associated with the Scottsdale Road and Thomas Road streetscape improvements was put into the Transportation Operating Fund.
- Regional Public Transit Association (RPTA) approved the City's Express Route changes, combining Express Routes 510 and 512 into Route 514 that will utilize the Loop 101 Freeway between Shea and McDowell.

The Commission expressed concern on the colors of the Loop 101 sound wall in which the color schematics delivered by ADOT does not match what was discussed and expected by the Commission. Transportation staff is working with the City's Public Art staff and will report back to the Commission.

10. PUBLIC COMMENT

No public comment was received.

11. IDENTIFICATION OF FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS

None.

12. ADJOURNMENT

With no further business to discuss, Chair Weiss adjourned the Regular meeting at 7:51 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**