

#### **SUMMARIZED MINUTES**

## CITY OF SCOTTSDALE TRANSPORTATION COMMISSION REGULAR MEETING

THURSDAY, APRIL 17, 2014

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

## **CALL TO ORDER**

Chair Olmsted called the regular meeting of the Scottsdale Transportation Commission to order at 6:00 p.m.

#### 1. ROLL CALL

**PRESENT**: Gary Bretz, Commissioner

Barry Graham, Commissioner

Steven Olmsted, Chair

Robert Stickles, Commissioner

Paul Ward, Vice Chair

Matthew Wright, Commissioner

**ABSENT:** Paul Holley, Commissioner

**STAFF:** Rose Arballo, Transportation Commission Coordinator

Paul Basha, Transportation Director

Madeline Clemann, Transportation Planning and Transit Operations Manager

Ross Cromarty, Project Coordination Liaison-Advance Planning

Greg Davies, Senior Transportation Planner

Jim Ford, Deputy Chief/Fire Marshall

Phillip Kercher, Traffic Engineering and Operations Manager Taylor Reynolds, Associate Planner-Advance Planning

Wendy Springborn, Chair-General Plan Task Force

Adam Yaron, Planner-Advance Planning

## 2. INTRODUCTION OF NEW TRANSPORTATION COMMISSIONER BARRY GRAHAM

Commissioners and staff welcomed Transportation Commissioner Barry Graham. Commissioner Graham replaced Commissioner Gruver whose term ended April 5, 2014.

## 3. APPROVAL OF MEETING MINUTES

- Revised Regular meeting minutes of the Transportation Commission February 20, 2014
- Study Session and Regular meeting minutes of March 20, 2014

COMMISSIONER STICKLES MOVED TO APPROVE THE REGULAR MEETING MINUTES OF FEBRUARY 20, 2014 AND STUDY SESSION AND REGULAR MEETING MINUTES OF MARCH 20, 2014 AS PRESENTED. VICE CHAIR WARD SECONDED. THE MOTION CARRIED BY A UNANIMOUS VOTE OF SIX (6) TO ZERO (0).

## 4. PUBLIC COMMENT

There were no public comments.

# 5. <u>CATTLETRACK NEIGHBORHOOD TRAFFIC MANAGEMENT PROGRAM PROJECT</u>

Mr. Bartlett presented a request for exception to the Neighborhood Traffic Management Program (NTMP) qualification criteria for Cattletrack from Lincoln Drive to McDonald Drive. This half-mile street is a two-lane roadway posted at 25 m.p.h. and is signed "No Trucks" at the north and south entrances to the street.

A review of the NTMP qualification criteria and traffic data collected on this segment of Cattletrack showed that this street meets the speed and volume criteria for the program. With regards to residential frontage criteria, Mr. Bartlett reviewed the types of properties in the area and explained how the shared driveways and loop driveways in this area function. It was explained that the connections to Cattletrack Road from the residential driveways operate similar to side-street intersections as opposed to traditional driveways. Mr. Bartlett also mentioned that as part of the NTMP process, the Scottsdale Fire Department is contacted to provide input. The Fire Department has determined that Cattletrack Road is a primary and critical emergency access into this area. The area includes a number of large lot and structure buildings; many of which do not have internal automated sprinkler systems. As a result, the Fire Department is opposed to allowing traffic calming on Cattletrack Road.

Commissioner Graham exited the meeting at 6:22 p.m.

Chair Olmsted opened the floor for public comment.

**Jim Cockrum**, Scottsdale resident on Cattletrack Road, spoke in support to the request for exception to the NTMP qualification criteria for Cattletrack Road due to the speeding, safety, and noise issues from large trucks driving on this road.

**Bachir Abdouni**, Scottsdale resident on Cattletrack Road, expressed concern with speeding on Cattletrack Road.

**Maria Cockrum**, Scottsdale resident on Cattletrack Road, mentioned that this is a historic street and asked that City staff work on a solution to make this road a wonderful street and eliminate cut-thru traffic. She does not support the use of speed bumps. It is felt this device would be nosier.

**Susan Flint**, Scottsdale resident on Cattletrack Road, has observed an increase in traffic which includes large trucks and speed on this roadway. Drivers are using Cattletrack as a cut-thru. It is suggested that flashing speed signs that notify drivers they are exceeding the speed limit be installed to slow down drivers.

**Jane Ellis,** Scottsdale resident on Cattletrack, mentioned that this area was granted to be a historic neighborhood and was zoned not to have sidewalks. Ms. Ellis believes that some type of traffic calming, such as a chicane, should be considered on Cattletrack.

The following written comments were submitted:

**Linda Bernard**, Scottsdale resident on Cattletrack, suggested to "place the flashing speed limit electric sign that indicates the driver's current speed; this dissuades speeding."

Much discussion ensued between Commissioners and staff regarding historical traffic data collected for the affected area. Traffic calming options, safety concern with pedestrians walking on the street due to no sidewalks, and historic quality of this neighborhood was also discussed. Staff emphasized that pedestrian facilities are handled outside of the NTMP Program and that traffic calming accomplishes lowering high end speeds.

COMMISSIONER BRETZ MOVED TO RECOMMEND THAT STAFF GRANT AN EXCEPTION OF THE NEIGHBORHOOD TRAFFIC MANAGEMENT PROGRAM QUALIFICATION CRITERIA TO RESIDENTS OF CATTLETRACK ROAD FROM LINCOLN DRIVE TO MCDONALD DRIVE WHICH WILL ALLOW THE ROADWAY TO BE CONSIDERED FOR TRAFFIC CALMING. COMMISSIONER WARD SECONDED. CHAIR OLMSTED AND COMMISSIONER WRIGHT DISSENTED. THE MOTION PASSED WITH A VOTE OF THREE (3) TO TWO (2).

#### 6. DRAFT GENERAL PLAN 2014

Focusing on the Circulation Element and Bicycling Element of the 2014 draft General Plan, Mr. Yaron presented an overview of Scottsdale's General Plan process and reported on activities that have been heard on the plan up to this point in time. It was highlighted that the Transportation chapters specific to the Circulation Element recognizes the role of the automobile, but expands the field of mobility to fully integrate other modes such as public transit, air travel, cycling and walking. The Bicycling Element goals and policies provide a guide for a safe, connected, and convenient on-street and off-street bicycle network and recognizes Scottsdale as a bicycle-friendly community.

As part of an extensive public outreach process, participation opportunities will be expanded not only to the community, but to the various Boards and Commissions and community organizations. Additionally, to view and offer comments electronically on all the General Plan's elements' goals and policies, go to the City's website at <a href="www.scottsdalegp.com">www.scottsdalegp.com</a>. All comments will be provided to the General Plan 2014 Task Force, Planning Commission, and City Council for discussion and possible inclusion in the final draft 2014 General Plan document.

Chair Olmsted opened the floor for public. No comment was received.

Staff addressed Chair Olmsted's questions to various policies in the Circulation Element. These include policies C1.9, C1.10, C3.7, C3.8, and Goal C5 which relate to wayfinding and the Scottsdale Airport. Commissioner Wright expressed great concern to ensure that the Scottsdale Airport is supported by the Circulation Element when designing and improving transportation corridors. Some specific concerns noted were relative to the need to improve partnership between departments, public transit to and from the Scottsdale Airport, east/west challenges, and wayfinding to and from the airport.

Chair Olmsted suggested that Commissioner Wright request an item to discuss his concerns at a future meeting.

## 7. PROPOSED TRANSIT SERVICE CHANGES

As background information Ms. Clemann reviewed Scottsdale service changes and ridership data for Scottsdale and Valley Metro from 2008 thru 2012. It was highlighted that due to reduced funding during the economic downturn, transit services were continuously reduced between Fiscal Years 2008 and 2012 resulting in a change in service and ridership. Interestingly, data collected shows that although ridership decreased 4% for Valley Metro, ridership increased 14% for Scottsdale. Ridership increase factors could be related to the fact that Scottsdale is a net importer of employees and fuel prices increased during that time period.

It was mentioned that as the economy continues to stabilize and revenues increase, communities throughout the Valley are evaluating transit services and making changes where financially prudent. In moving forward, improving Scottsdale's system requires provision of more frequent service and connections to light rail from fixed route and neighborhood services. Route improvements to Routes 17, 29, 41, 80, 56, and 50 are being recommended for implementation in October 2014.

The total annual cost estimate at this time for the route improvements is \$695,000. Of this, \$640,000 could be financed from Local Transit Assistance Funds (LTAF) and \$55,000 from Local Transportation Privilege Tax (LTPT) funds.

Chair Olmsted opened the floor for public comment. No comment was received.

Staff entertained questions and concerns from Commissioners regarding service on Route 80, marketing needs for Route 56, and extension of service for Route 17.

COMMISSIONER BRETZ MOVED TO RECOMMEND TO CITY COUNCIL APPROVAL OF THE PROPOSED TRANSIT SERVICE CHANGES AND INCLUSION IN THE FISCAL YEAR 2015 BUDGET. COMMISSIONER STICKLES SECONDED. THE MOTION CARRIED BY A UNANIMOUS VOTE OF FIVE (5) TO ZERO (0).

## 8. MCDOWELL ROAD CROSSSCUT BRIDGE

Mr. Davies presented information on the Crosscut Canal Bridge and Path project located in the vicinity of McDowell Road and the Crosscut Canal. It was noted that this project promotes Scottsdale's City Council goal that supports economic vitality on the McDowell corridor and provides local and regional connectivity. This project will provide connection and access to the existing Crosscut Canal path, Indian Bend Wash path system, SkySong Transit Center and light rail via Route 72, and to the overall bicycle system network.

The estimated total project cost is \$697,000. Of this, \$445,000 is Federal Highway Administration funds; \$180,000 is Federal Transit Administration funds; and \$72,000 is from Scottsdale Transportation Sales Tax.

Since this project is 90% federally funded, the project will move forward with design in Spring/Summer 2014 and construction in Spring/Summer 2015.

Staff addressed questions from Commissioners with regards to funding of this project. The Commission encouraged access to the Desert Botanical Gardens, Phoenix Zoo, and other places of interest.

No public comment was received.

#### 9. TRAILS SUBCOMMITTEE REPORT

Commissioner Stickles, also Chair of the Trails Subcommittee gave a brief report on discussions held at the Trails Subcommittee meeting of March 20, 2014.

Relative to the Wayfinding Program, feedback from the Transportation Commission and Trails Subcommittee was reviewed regarding the network and mile marker signs, and Path Rules signs.

As part of the City's efforts to explore alternatives in providing connectivity between Scottsdale and other communities, City of Phoenix Bicycle Coordinator Joseph Perez presented information on non-motorized transportation programs in Phoenix. Mr. Perez's presentation included an overview of Phoenix's plan and project approach for bike, trail and pedestrian projects. It was learned from Phoenix that an investment of bicycle and pedestrian facilities are good for business, projects are low cost, and coordination with other departments such as Economic Development and City Council is recommended.

#### 10. TRANSPORTATION PROJECTS/PROGRAMS UPDATE

Ms. Clemann reported the following:

- A public meeting was held at One Civic Center by Valley Metro regarding the transit service changes. City staff attended. One student from Scottsdale Community College who rides Route 50 was pleased with the changes. The second attendee designs rail systems and disagreed with some of America's rail system designs.
- An open house regarding the Mustang Transit Center was held at the Mustang Library on April 10. A presentation followed by answer-to-audience questions focused on three roundabout topics instead of transit; (1) coordination with hospital emergency access and businesses during construction and street closures was discussed; (2) questions relative to the Hayden/Northsight roundabout were addressed; and discussion on the need of roundabouts and whether or not the public would accept other roundabouts was held.
- A public meeting was held on May 6 at Anasazi Elementary School to review improvements on 124<sup>th</sup> Street, and the 128<sup>th</sup> Street and Cactus Road area. Staff has been discussing improvements with Preservation staff and school representatives in response to observe circulation issues and requests from area residents. The potential improvements discussed at the meeting consisted of complete street improvements including sidewalk on the west side of 128<sup>th</sup> north of Cactus; additional improved parking area on the west side of 128<sup>th</sup> Street at ringtail Trailhead; construction of an improved path along the Cactus Road alignment to connect to 124<sup>th</sup> to 128<sup>th</sup> Streets to provide pedestrian access from neighborhoods to Anasazi; construction of 124<sup>th</sup> Street and Cactus intersection modifications for school access to improve traffic conditions around Anasizi; construction of 128<sup>th</sup> Street and Via Linda intersection modifications to improve traffic conditions around Mountainside Middle School
- The 9<sup>th</sup> Annual Cycle the Arts event was held on April 6<sup>th</sup>. Sixty (60) participants rode along the Arizona Crosscut Canal and Indian Bend Wash.
- Valley Metro Transit hosted a Trip Reduction Program workshop on April 10<sup>th</sup> for Transportation Coordinators on how to use Valley Metro tools and resources.
- There is a group in the Valley and nationwide who is reaching out to people to help solve age related issues, such as transportation. A group in Scottsdale expressed an interest in transportation. City staff will listen to their concerns and try to help solve any issues.
- The sculpture and landscape at the Hayden/Northsight roundabout has been installed.

## 11. PUBLIC COMMENT

No public comment was received.

## 12. COMMISSION IDENTIFICATION OF FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS

- Update on the Arizona Canal Multiuse Path between Chaparral and Indian Bend Wash
- Ride Share as an alternative to using taxi cabs; is this a cheaper alternative to Cab Connection

- Overview on the concept of Village to Village which is a component of transportation for seniors with disabilities. Amy St. Peter of MAG could be a potential speaker on this topic.
- Invite staff from the Scottsdale Airport to present on collaboration opportunities as it
  might pertain to the General Plan and items discussed tonight (item 1.9 of the
  Circulation Element). Also include discussion on transportation issues that are
  important to the airport.
- Super Bowl 2015 public transit options or planning that might be available for this
  event.
- Hidden Hills versus Shea Boulevard Update

#### 13. ADJOURNMENT

With no further business to conduct, Chair Olmsted adjourned the regular meeting at 8:07 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