



**SUMMARIZED MINUTES**

**CITY OF SCOTTSDALE  
TRANSPORTATION COMMISSION  
REGULAR MEETING**

**THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 18, 2014**

**CITY OF SCOTTSDALE TRAFFIC MANAGEMENT CENTER  
9191 E. SAN SALVADOR, FIRST FLOOR  
SCOTTSDALE, ARIZONA 85258**

**CALL TO ORDER**

Chair Olmsted called the regular meeting of the Scottsdale Transportation Commission to order at 6:43 p.m. and thanked Mr. Steven Ramsey, Interim ITS Manager, for hosting this meeting at the Traffic Management Center.

**1. ROLL CALL**

**PRESENT:** Steven Olmsted, Chair  
Paul Holley, Vice Chair  
Gary Bretz, Commissioner  
Barry Graham, Commissioner  
Steven Rosenberg, Commissioner  
Robert Stickles, Commissioner  
Matthew Wright, Commissioner (telephonic)

**STAFF:** Rose Arballo, Transportation Commission Coordinator  
Paul Basha, Transportation Director  
Madeline Clemann, Transportation Planning and Transportation  
Operations Manager  
Susan Conklu, Senior Transportation Planner  
Greg Davies, Senior Transportation Planner  
Steven Ramsey, Interim ITS Manager

**GUEST:** Megan Brown

## 2. **APPROVAL OF MEETING MINUTES**

- Study Session of the Transportation Commission – August 21, 2014

Vice Chair Holley noted that the Commission's request to have PowerPoint presentations included in the meeting packets was made subject to availability. After discussion the consensus of the Commission was to not include the PowerPoint presentations in the advance meeting packets, but instead to provide greater detail on the items in brief.

**VICE CHAIR HOLLEY MOVED TO APPROVE MEETING MINUTES OF THE STUDY SESSION OF AUGUST 21, 2014 AS AMENDED. COMMISSIONER STICKLES SECONDED. THE MOTION CARRIED BY A VOTE OF SEVEN (7) TO ZERO (0).**

- Regular Meeting of the Transportation Commission – August 21, 2014

**VICE CHAIR HOLLEY MOVED TO APPROVE THE REGULAR MEETING MINUTES OF AUGUST 21, 2014 AS PRESENTED. COMMISSIONER STICKLES SECONDED. THE MOTION CARRIED BY A VOTE OF SEVEN (7) TO ZERO (0).**

## 3. **PUBLIC COMMENT**

There were no public comments.

## 4. **BICYCLE SIGNAL DETECTION**

Senior Transportation Planner Mr. Greg Davies presented an update on the bicycle signal detection program. Specialized technology detects bicycles and provides green light phasing for them. Technologies used for bicycle detection include manual push buttons and automated devices (e.g., inductive loops, video cameras, infrared, microwave, and magnetometers). He discussed the pros and cons of the various systems.

Proposed next steps are to conduct a pilot test of video detection technology at two intersections at an estimated cost of \$60,000. Phase 1 includes 15 intersections for a total estimated cost of \$345,000.

Highlights of the discussion following the presentation included:

- The pilot test locations are to be at Scottsdale Road at Oak Street, and Miller Road at McDowell Road. Staff plans to implement this as soon as possible during the current fiscal year.
- Mr. Ramsey explained that inductive loops detect magnetic mass, not weight.
- Push button signals have to be placed with care, particularly when there is a dedicated right-turn lane for cars.
- Funding for the pilot phase is in this year's budget.
- The cameras are resilient and have a life span of at least five to ten years.

- Cyclists want to be detected. Video technology has improved and camera prices are dropping. Video appears to be the best in terms of reliability and efficiency.
- Given the price differential between inductive loop and video technology, Mr. Davies agreed that they could potentially use both technologies for maximum coverage of the city's bike lanes.
- At intersections of major and minor roads, the focus will be on major roadway traffic. Two cameras would be placed at the majority of intersections to enable cyclists to cross the major road. Four would be placed at Miller and McDowell.
- The test phase will last approximately three months.
- Commissioners agreed that in a future presentation they would like a clearer understanding of how staff arrived at the technology selected.
- A Commissioner mentioned that public outreach to the cycling community will be important.
- A Commissioner commented it will be important to clarify to the public what the initial capital costs will be versus ongoing expenses.
- Staff cannot say at this point how many intersections with a bike lane should have cameras. The pilot phase is designed to get a sense of how well the cameras perform and will help staff decide which technology is appropriate for each location. Staff will report back to the Paths & Trails Subcommittee at a later date.
- A Commissioner questioned whether the need justified such a large expenditure.
- A Commissioner said they will look at the pilot project to see whether cameras should be installed at the other locations proposed for Phase 1. If this turns out to be of benefit it should be incorporated in the Transportation Master Plan.
- A Commissioner asked if there are any pitfalls involved with using a wide variety of different signal detection systems.

## 5. **BIKE SHARE**

Senior Transportation Planner Ms. Susan Conklu gave a presentation on Bike Share, explaining how this differs from bike rental services. Ms. Conklu also shared information from the bike share seminar she had attended in Chicago.

The Phoenix GRID bike share program is set to launch this Fall with 500 bikes. Tempe and Mesa will each have 250 bikes and plan to launch next spring. Staff is considering a pilot project and has identified some potential areas for stations.

Comments are highlighted below:

- A Commissioner commented that cities that have already implemented bike share programs have existing mature public transit systems. He asked how bike share would affect Scottsdale's transit services. Ms. Conklu said it is intended to complement transit system use.
- A Commissioner commented that assured availability is important if people are paying an annual membership fee. Ms. Conklu commented that the GRID program allows a member to put a hold on a bike 15 minutes before they need it. Another Commissioner remarked that a mobile app can be implemented to show availability.

- A Commissioner suggested that the Scottsdale Airport would be a great location for a station, as visiting flight crews would be able to explore Scottsdale.
- A Commissioner suggested providing some tricycles for people who have physical and balance challenges. Ms. Conklu acknowledged that as of yet there has not been a solution to this question. She undertook to conduct further research, noting that people over 65 are the fastest growing group of bicycle riders.
- The Phoenix launch was delayed from April because the GPS technology was becoming outdated. Furthermore, a launch at the beginning of the summer was not optimal.
- Phoenix, Mesa and Tempe have coordinated closely on bike share.
- A Commissioner commented that information to the public on how to access the program is important. Engaging visitors will be key.
- A Commissioner inquired about liability. Ms. Conklu said the contract indemnifies the City from any liability. Cost incentives help to ensure that the bikes are maintained.
- A Commissioner inquired about helmets and whether disposable helmets could be developed since the cleanliness of bicycles is important to users. Ms. Conklu said collapsible helmets have been developed but are not yet available in the United States. In Australia where helmets are mandatory, bike share programs have had very low ridership. She agreed that helmets need to be made available close to the stations.
- Ms. Conklu said a pilot program might be conducted at resorts close to downtown and/or SkySong; however, such a pilot program would need to have several stations.
- Commissioners agreed that the cost to the City is a key consideration.
- A Commissioner suggested that stations be located at park-and-rides.
- A Commissioner pointed out that the system would need vans to move bikes around for inventory balancing, and opined that the capital expenditure for such a program would be quite high.
- Chair Olmsted thanked Ms. Conklu for having attended the seminar in Chicago. He encouraged staff to attend such events as appropriate.
- Ms. Conklu mentioned that staff had met with the Hyatt Resort some years ago to explore bike share, but the timing was not right. The tourism consultant working with Economic Vitality and the Tourism Advisory Task Force has had much discussion about bike share.
- Commissioners agreed that there now seems to be interest and momentum in bike share.

## 6. **TRANSPORTATION PROJECTS/PROGRAM UPDATES**

Mr. Basha Basha provided the following updates:

- The Arizona Canal multi-use project is continuing through the design process.
- Ongoing discussions on the Shea Boulevard multi-use path are being held between the Town of Fountain Hills and Maricopa Association of Governments (MAG). This is a complicated project, particularly with regard to the funding. Mr. Basha thanked Ms. Conklu for her proactive efforts.

- McDowell Road is one of City Council's highest strategic priorities for the coming year. When Ms. Conklu noticed inconsistent bike lanes along McDowell Road, she created a project to construct bicycle lanes for the full length of the Scottsdale portion of McDowell Road from 64th Street to Pima Road. She developed a grant application and presented the project to MAG, but they did not select it. Senior Transportation Planner Evelyn Ng has since created an application to another funding source for this project.
- Staff is beginning the Capital Improvement Program planning and will present possible projects to the Commission in due course.
- Ms. Monica Staats is serving the department as a Budget Analyst, as well as working for Public Works.
- Right-of-Way Supervisor Mr. Brodzinski reported that construction has started on the freeway and cautioned that this project will take two and a half years to complete. Mr. Basha thanked Mr. Ramsey and Mr. Brodzinski for their efforts on minimizing disruption to traffic
- Enhanced bus service is scheduled to start on October 27. Five east-west routes will have increased frequency. A new route will connect SkySong at 74th Street to the Desert Botanical Gardens, the Phoenix Zoo, and the Priest/Washington light rail station.
- City Council will consider the Day Tripper proposal on October 7. Transportation staff recommends service for two weeks to accommodate Super Bowl events. Chair Olmsted expressed appreciation for Mr. Basha's work on this difficult topic.
- Design work has begun on the Raintree extension. The plan is to start construction at the west end and work eastwards.

## **7. PUBLIC COMMENT**

Ms. Megan Brown asked whether the bike detection cameras record an individual's cycling. Mr. Basha said the cameras do not record.

Ms. Brown asked what had initiated the need for a bike detection system. The issue is excessive delay for cyclists at intersections, which has been an ongoing issue. Ms. Conklu noted that the Transportation Master Plan includes a bicycle element. Many bike friendly communities do have detection systems for convenience.

## **8. COMMISSION IDENTIFICATION OF FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS**

- A Commissioner suggested having an update on any construction projects that are planned during Super Bowl season. Mr. Basha noted that ADOT is stopping freeway construction projects from mid-week before the Pro Bowl to mid-week following the Super Bowl. No detours will be in place.
- Super Bowl will be a standing agenda item through February 2015.
- An update on the proposed schedule of redevelopment of the General Plan was requested.

9. **ADJOURNMENT**

With no further business to conduct, Chair Olmsted adjourned the regular meeting at 8:36 p.m.

SUBMITTED BY:

A/V Tronics, Inc. DBA AVTranz.

**\*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>**