



**SUMMARIZED MINUTES
CITY OF SCOTTSDALE TRANSPORTATION COMMISSION
STUDY SESSION
THURSDAY, JANUARY 15, 2009
KIVA CONFERENCE ROOM – CITY HALL
3939 N. DRINKWATER BOULEVARD
SCOTTSDALE, ARIZONA 85251**

CALL TO ORDER

Chair Howard called the study session of the Scottsdale Transportation Commission to order at 5:21 p.m.

ROLL CALL

PRESENT: William Howard, Chair
Josh Weiss, Vice Chair
Terry Gruver, Commissioner
Kelly McCall, Commissioner
Donald Maxwell, Commissioner
Howard Sukenic, Commissioner
Paul Ward, Commissioner

STAFF: Mary O'Connor, Transportation General Manager
Dave Meinhart, Transportation Planning and Transit Director
Annie DeChance, Public Participation & Outreach Manager
Paul Porell, Traffic Engineering Director
Reed Kempton, Principal Transportation Planner
Jennifer Bohac, Senior Traffic Engineer
Teresa Huish, Principal Transportation Planner
Madeline Clemann, Transit and Parking Manager
Rose Arballo, Commission Coordinator

1. **Review of Regular Meeting Agenda**

Chair Howard noted that during his inaugural address Mayor Lane emphasized the importance of developing the Council's working relationship with Scottsdale's boards and commissions. He was specific in saying that he wanted to ask the Transportation Commission and Transportation Department to look into the City's rules for left and right turns, bus pullouts at intersections, noise abatement, and Intelligent Transportation Systems (ITS).

Chair Howard said that because of the developing situation with the City's current budget, the Commission would not be looking at the Capital Improvement Program budget until next

month. Mr. Meinhart said staff intends to present a draft of the FY2010 through FY2014 plan in February, with a Commission recommendation expected by March.

Vice Chair Weiss recused himself from discussing the issue of texting while driving. Chair Howard reported that the Council considered a City ordinance, but decided that they would rather go with a statewide approach rather than a municipal one. If a statewide measure fails to develop, Scottsdale could readdress the issue.

Chair Howard noted that staff plans to add an agenda item to discuss plug in hybrids, as requested by resident Dave McDonald. Representatives from Salt River Project (SRP) and Arizona Public Service (APS) would be invited to talk about their plans.

Chair Howard reported on his presentation to Council of the implementation element of the Transportation Master Plan (TMP). They voted six to one to accept the concept of the plan. The dissenting vote came from a new Council Member who was unclear whether she would be granting a blanket approval of the projects.

- Review and Approval of Minutes

No changes were requested.

- Neighborhood Traffic Management Exception Requests

Ms. O'Connor said Ms. Bohac would be presenting two requests for exceptions to the Neighborhood Traffic Management policy. Staff is prepared to provide recommendations and suggest alternatives.

- Pending/Proposed Transit Service Modifications

Ms. O'Connor noted that Ms. Clemann would present information on proposed transit service modifications. Staff has received many emails in the past week on the proposed changes, particularly on the northern loop of Route 76. In light of these comments, staff recommends implementing everything that had been previously proposed, except the change to that portion of Route 76. The service modifications are based on efficiency and effectiveness, but they are also meant to get the Department's budget in line with current sales tax collections. The City has doubled its transit investment over the last five years, and the proposed cuts are less than \$1 million. The northern part of Loop 76 costs approximately \$230,000 annually. The City could afford to retain that service while working with riders to figure out how to best address that particular need.

- Scottsdale Road Streetscape and Design Guidelines Project

Ms. O'Connor said Ms. Huish would present an updated overview of the streetscape project. The Design Review Board has approved the streetscape design guidelines, and Federal and local funding is in place to implement Segment 1 (Roosevelt to Earl).

- Other Transportation Projects

Chair Howard reminded the Commission that it has been tasked to do a review of noise abatement procedures related to roadways. In order for the Commission to act intelligently on

this issue, a better feel is needed for what others have done in the past. He suggested a voluntary education session on both noise abatement and ITS to get up to speed on the issues. Commissioner Gruver noted that ADOT has an educational video on noise measurements, and how sound is deflected. Commissioner Maxwell said most of the objections to the Loop 101 were due to the perception of noise, rather than the absolute noise level. The City's education effort made a difference.

Commissioner McCall referred to the recent controversy over noise levels near Indian School Road. She suggested an outside source be retained to verify what the actual road noise is or would be. Chair Howard said the project should be finished with rubberized asphalt before definitive readings could be measured. Commissioner Ward said that while the Commission's task is to consider the big picture, the Indian School Road case could be used to test the outcome. Ms. O'Connor reported that the President of the HOA in the adjacent neighborhood disagreed with the conclusions drawn by HDR, the consulting firm that was hired to do the noise analysis. Staff has prepared a summary of HDR's response.

Commissioner McCall noted that no outside source has been retained to analyze the data. Ms. O'Connor said the City does not do its own noise analysis work, and has always hired an outside consultant. The consultants may be working for the City, but they are required to provide a product that meets all professional standards. If Council was unsatisfied with their work, they could have asked for the results to be peer reviewed. She said the Commission could decide to include, in a noise abatement policy, an option for an independent peer review. Mr. Meinhart said the controversy raises the question of how to report noise measurements. Usually, they are based on the current standard, which is average daily volume, not on any one particular point in time. Chair Howard said the Commission should be able to understand what the standard is, and how it applies to Scottsdale's situation.

Ms. O'Connor announced that the City Manager recently awarded the staff who worked on the Transportation Master Plan staff an Award of Excellence. She noted that Councilman McCullagh extended his compliments to the Transportation Commission for their hard work on the Plan.

In response to an inquiry from Commissioner McCall, Chair Howard said Council accepted all 25 items on the consent agenda without discussion, including the barricade management ordinance.

ADJOURNMENT

With no further business to discuss, Chair Howard adjourned the meeting at 5:52 p.m.

SUBMITTED BY:

A/V Tronics, Inc.