



**SUMMARIZED MINUTES  
CITY OF SCOTTSDALE TRANSPORTATION COMMISSION  
STUDY SESSION  
MONDAY, MARCH 23, 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 5:25 p.m.

**ROLL CALL**

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

**ABSENT:** Donald Maxwell, Commissioner

**STAFF:** Mary O'Connor, Transportation General Manager  
Dave Meinhart, Transportation Planning and Transit Director  
Rose Arballo, Transportation Commission Coordinator  
Annie DeChance, Public Participation & Outreach Manager  
Paul Porell, Traffic Engineering and Operations Director  
Teresa Huish, Principal Transportation Planner  
Bruce Dressel, ITS Manager  
Kit Weiss, Community & Neighborhood Services Director  
Jennifer Bohac, Senior Traffic Engineer  
Reed Kempton, Principal Transportation Planner

**GUESTS:** Soyoung (Sue) Ahn, ASU Assistant Professor

1. **Review of Regular Meeting Agenda**

- Review and Approval of Minutes

Commissioner McCall inquired whether the Commission would support Dave MacDonald's request to send a letter to the Governor regarding photo radar on the freeways. Ms. O'Connor explained that since Council has provided no direction to the Intergovernmental Relations staff to become involved in issues associated with the freeway photo enforcement program, it would be difficult for staff to send such a letter. Commissioner McCall noted that Mr. MacDonald was pointing out that Scottsdale conducted its study after the photo system had been in place for one year, and he was arguing that it should be

allowed to operate on the other freeways for that long before any decisions are made. Mr. Porell noted that Simon Washington is currently conducting a study for the Maricopa Association of Governments.

Vice Chair Weiss requested it be noted that he had recused himself from the discussion on photo radar.

- Scottsdale and National ITS Programs

Chair Howard said Professor Ahn will provide information on current developments in the field of ITS from an academic perspective.

- Trails Task Force Recommendations and Mescal Park Overview

In response to a comment from Commissioner Ward, Chair Howard agreed that all discussion on the Task Force recommendations should be concluded before the Commission begins discussing the Mescal Park issue. Ms. O'Connor said representatives from the Task Force would be available to make comments and answer questions.

- Neighborhood Traffic Management Program (NTMP) Project Requests

Ms. O'Connor noted that citizens might be in attendance to comment on this item.

- Noise Abatement Policy

Chair Howard noted that he recently met with the Mayor to discuss several transportation issues, including the City's barricade ordinance and progress on intersection improvements. He said the Mayor also noted that the City has received many complaints recently about ambient noise problems beyond just traffic noise. Chair Howard indicated that some Council members have expressed interest in moving ahead with a noise ordinance.

Kit Weiss from Citizen and Neighborhood Resources reported on noise quality of life issues not related to roadway noise. These issues are not new, but have recently taken on more importance to the community. Enforcement has been stepped up to ensure that people are complying with the codes already in place. Citizens who fail to comply with their conditional use permits are warned and cited. If a business has a conditional use permit for live entertainment, they cannot have any exterior doors open. They also cannot have speakers on patios without special permission. Staff is looking at what peer communities are doing regarding live entertainment venues near residential neighborhoods. In addition to a bar summit, there will be a gathering of downtown area residents to acquire community input.

Ms. Weiss said her department would work closely with the Transportation Department to create best practices information for the Council. She offered to update the Commission as the study progresses. Chair Howard agreed that a relatively consistent approach to noise in the City would be a good idea.

Vice Chair Weiss inquired about coordination between the two departments. Ms. Weiss responded that some areas are bound to overlap, and both sides plan to communicate throughout the process. Stipulations such as tying compliance to business permits have proven to be more successful models than noise ordinances in some communities. Ms. O'Connor said Scottsdale had an ordinance in the 1970s that was repealed because it was difficult to enforce. Staff has been looking at some of the alternatives to an ordinance. Chair Howard said a noise policy might work if it was tied to permits, but doubted that it would affect movable sources of noise, especially from outside Scottsdale.

Vice Chair Weiss requested that the Commission be kept informed of any transportation-related issues that arise at the community meetings.

- Transportation Capital Improvement Program (CIP) and Operating Budget

Ms. O'Connor said there would be a presentation on the CIP during the regular meeting. The budget shortfalls appear to be addressed for the current year. For the operating budget, staff is proposing several potential reductions for the next fiscal year. From a transit service perspective, staff is proposing the elimination of Routes 84 and 114. Route 84 is the Granite Reef route and is heavily duplicated by the trolley route. This elimination would result in a savings of about \$243,000. Route 114 is on Via Linda, and is one of the City's worst performing routes. Mr. Meinhart added that these two routes in particular have remained relatively flat, whereas ridership has increased on the system overall.

Ms. O'Connor said staff also proposes to eliminate the loop from the transit center to Scottsdale Fashion Square on Route 66. People would be able to transfer to the trolley or to Route 72 at the Loloma transit center. Downtown trolley frequency could be reduced to 20 minutes from the current 10, and hours of operation could end at 6 p.m., except on Art Walk nights. The north/south morning and evening service hours could be reduced to be consistent with what was done with east/west routes, starting no earlier than 5 a.m. and ending no later than 10 p.m. The Department is looking into the revenue effects of the regional fare increase of 50 cents per trip, which would generate an estimated \$252,000 in Scottsdale. Advertising on transit shelters is being considered. The current shelter design does not work well for advertising, so this would only apply to new shelters.

Ms. O'Connor noted that she is one of two Transportation staff members who have been approved to take the City's early retirement incentive. The Department is proposing new operational procedures including additional cross-training to have more people trained on ITS activities. Traffic engineering staff would be increasingly involved in small project design, reducing the need for outside consultants. Some street light program duties would be shared with Municipal Services. Printing and advertising would be cut completely, and public outreach and marketing efforts would rely more on the internet. Commissioner Gruver inquired about public meeting notices. Ms. O'Connor responded that notifications would rely on less expensive options such as postcards and on-street signage, and that those costs would be charged to capital projects.

Ms. O'Connor said the outside contract for bus stop maintenance would be also converted to a City employee.

- Other Transportation Projects

## **ADJOURNMENT**

With no further business to discuss, Chair Howard adjourned the meeting at 6:05 p.m.

SUBMITTED BY:

A/V Tronics, Inc. DBA AVTranz.

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