



**SUMMARIZED MINUTES
CITY OF SCOTTSDALE TRANSPORTATION COMMISSION
STUDY SESSION
THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 17, 2009
KIVA CONFERENCE ROOM - CITY HALL
3939 DRINKWATER BOULEVARD
SCOTTSDALE, ARIZONA 85351**

CALL TO ORDER

Chair Howard called the study session of the Scottsdale Transportation Commission to order at 5:23 p.m.

ROLL CALL

PRESENT: William Howard, Chair
Terry Gruver, Commissioner
Donald Maxwell, Commissioner
Howard Sukenic, Commissioner (arrived at 5:25 p.m.)
Paul Ward, Commissioner

ABSENT: Josh Weiss, Vice Chair
Carleton Cole, Commissioner

STAFF: Dave Meinhart, Transportation Director
Teresa Huish, Principal Transportation Planner
Rose Arballo, Transportation Commission Coordinator
Paul Porell, Traffic Engineering and Operations Director
Phil Kercher, Principal Traffic Engineer
George Williams, Senior Traffic Engineer
Joanne Munar, City Auditor's Office

1. **Review of Regular Meeting Agenda**

- Scottsdale Healthcare Transportation Management Plan

Mr. Kercher will provide an update on the transportation plan for the Scottsdale Healthcare Shea campus. Commissioner Gruver clarified that her main concern is not about dual-lane roundabout. She simply wants an assurance that the City has a plan to educate the public about their proper use. Mr. Kercher responded that the City provides information on its website about maneuvering in a single-lane roundabout. If more dual-lane roundabouts were built, the education outreach for that type would increase as well. Mr. Meinhart added that

that plan illustrates the number of roundabouts that could potentially be built, not necessarily will be built. A roundabout might be built as part of the transit center improvement, and that would allow planners to see how well they function in that area before more are built.

The Commission discussed the efficiency of roundabouts once they reach capacity. Mr. Williams said national experts have no concerns that they would block up. Mr. Porell added that roundabouts have a greater capacity than signalized intersections. Signals in close proximity to each other would be less efficient. Mr. Kercher said his presentation would explain the reasoning behind the decision to locate a signal between two roundabouts.

- Pima Road Project

The Commission will receive an update on the Pima Road project. Council approved working with the Salt River Pima Maricopa Indian Community (SRPMIC) in a stimulus fund grant request for the Pima Road corridor. The focus now turns to the un-funded portion of the improvements for roadway widening, intersection improvements, and flood control drainage components. Mr. Porell added that the project is approaching the conclusion of the design concept work. The final round of public information meetings will begin in October and environmental work should conclude in October or November.

In response to an inquiry from Commissioner Ward, Mr. Porell explained that the Federal Highway Administration would be the lead agency in the preparation of environmental documents, along with the Bureau of Indian Affairs. The City anticipated having to do an environmental assessment, but the Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) decided to downgrade the environmental document to a categorical exclusion, since there was no environmental controversy over the project. The environmental work will be the same; it would just follow a different process for final approval and does not require a public hearing.

- Congestion Management Report

The Commission will be presented with a draft of the Congestion Management Report that includes discussion of key policies in the Transportation Master Plan (TMP) that relate to congestion. Staff's objective is to get Commission feedback regarding the areas and corridors that have been identified as priorities. The next step would be to take each of those areas and describe the issues and what the City plans to do about them. Mr. Meinhart noted that Council would likely be presented with the final report after the holidays, just as discussion begins on the five-year capital plan.

- Airpark Area Transportation Projects

Mr. Williams will present additional information on the Airpark Area concept design report and discuss alternatives for some of the key corridors. Mr. Meinhart will make a presentation on City options for using a project exchange with Maricopa Association of Governments (MAG) to fund key parts of the program earlier than originally programmed. Financial Services could have a finance approach that would allow the City to get ahead of a potential bond issue in 2010. The goal is to start on these projects sooner, and take advantage of lower financing costs.

- Other Transportation Projects

The Commission discussed the minutes from last meeting. Commissioner Ward requested changing the word "urged" to "suggested that," in the last paragraph of agenda item 6.

Chair Howard discussed his presentation at a Council work-study session regarding traffic calming. He suggested the Commission consider traffic calming projects in groups, rather than individually, to better compare relative need. The Commission should also take another look at the Neighborhood Traffic Management Program (NTMP) process in one year, to determine whether any changes should be made. Council felt that it should contain an ironclad set of criteria with no exceptions, but he felt that no set of criteria could satisfy every situation, and the plan has to be flexible enough to adapt.

ADJOURNMENT

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

SUBMITTED BY:

A/V Tronics, Inc. DBA AVTranz.

NOTE: VIDEO AND/OR AUDIO RECORDINGS OF SCOTTSDALE TRANSPORTATION COMMISSION MEETINGS ARE AVAILABLE FROM THE SCOTTSDALE TRANSPORTATION DEPARTMENT FOR UP TO SIX MONTHS FOLLOWING THE MEETING DATE.