



Approved

SUMMARIZED MINUTES

CITY OF SCOTTSDALE TRANSPORTATION COMMISSION PATHS & TRAILS SUBCOMMITTEE

TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 4, 2020

**One Civic Center - City Treasurer Conference Room
Scottsdale, AZ 85251**

CALL TO ORDER

The meeting of the Paths & Trails Subcommittee was called to order at 8:33 a.m. A formal roll call confirmed the presence of Subcommittee members as noted below.

1. ROLL CALL

PRESENT: Michael Kuzel, Chair, Commissioner – Transportation Commission
Kyle Davis, Subcommittee Member
Jason Watton, Commissioner – Parks and Recreation Commission
George Ertel, Commissioner – Transportation Commission
William Levie, Subcommittee Member

STAFF: Susan Conklu, Senior Transportation Planner
Sharon Cini, Diversity Manager
Frances Cookson, Office Coordinator
Greg Davies, Senior Transportation Planner

2. PUBLIC COMMENT

There were no public comments.

3. APPROVAL OF MEETING MINUTES

Commissioner Ertel called for modifications and approval of the minutes. Subcommittee Member Davis provided a grammatical correction.

COMMISSIONER WATTON MOVED TO APPROVE THE MINUTES OF THE DECEMBER 3, 2019 MEETING AS AMENDED. SUBCOMMITTEE MEMBER LEVIE SECONDED THE MOTION, WHICH CARRIED 3-0 WITH COMMISSIONER WATTON, SUBCOMMITTEE MEMBER LEVIE AND SUBCOMMITTEE MEMBER DAVIS VOTING IN THE AFFIRMATIVE WITH NO DISSENTING VOTES. CHAIR KUZEL HAD NOT YET ARRIVED. COMMISSIONER ERTEL ABSTAINED.

4. CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT PROJECT ACCOUNTS, PRESENTATION, DISCUSSION AND RECOMMENDATION.

Susan Conklu, Senior Transportation Planner, stated that the Department implements bike, pedestrian and equestrian projects outside the Preserve using the 2016 Transportation Master Plan. They can be stand-alone projects or constructed in conjunction with other projects. Funding occurs through bond funding, federal grants and the local 0.20 percent transportation sale tax. Projects that cost under \$250,000 may be funded by annual capital accounts for specific programs, such as sidewalk improvements, Bikeway Program, Trail Improvement Program, and ADA Transition Plan implementation. These are often referred to as Y accounts as the account numbers begin with "Y". The list of projects that utilize this funding are not typically submitted annually during the Capital Improvement Program (CIP) budget process. Instead, City Council approves the Y accounts as a block amount for each program.

The amounts City Council approved for the current Fiscal Year 2019/20 include:

- SF03 ADA Transition Plan Implementation: \$300,000
- YG20 Sidewalk Improvements: \$200,000
- YG28 Bikeways Program: \$400,000
- YG18 Trail Improvement Program: \$200,000

Several Y account projects are currently in design or construction (the active list), several being considered (candidates) and some are on hold. Some projects are designed in one year and constructed the following year.

Commissioner Ertel posed a scenario where a resident requests a project and it received a low prioritization. He asked whether the resident would be notified that the project will not likely happen this year, but maybe next year. Ms. Conklu stated that staff attempts to keep them updated.

Ms. Conklu provided updates on various projects. Chair Kuzel referred to the ramp improvements at Shea and 64th. On 64th south of Shea, there are bike lanes, however, north of Shea, there are none. He asked for clarification that the improvements are just intended for the crossing from the sidewalk. Ms. Conklu stated that the intent is to connect from the frontage road. Chair Kuzel commented that while it is listed as a bike project, it involves a sidewalk. Improving sidewalks should be considered a pedestrian project. Discussion ensued regarding the intent and scope of the project. Ms. Conklu stated that she would collect more information for a future update.

Ms. Conklu provided a brief overview of candidate projects. Subcommittee Member Levie asked for an explanation of the acronyms. Ms. Conklu stated that a HAWK is a pedestrian hybrid beacon.

In response to a question from Chair Kuzel, Ms. Conklu said she does not recall there being any known safety issues associated with any of the projects. Subcommittee Member Levie recalled that at least one addressed installing a sidewalk so that children walking to school did not have to walk in the street. Ms. Conklu acknowledged that would be a safety issue, but it was not a location where an event had occurred involving safety. Chair commented that projects with a crash history or safety issues should be considered for reprioritization higher on the list. He cited the example of the pedestrian refuge at Pima Park as well as the HAWK on Scottsdale Road crossing at Palm Lane. Commissioner Ertel also noted that bus stops were discussed at a recent Transportation Commission meeting and particularly one location, where a person had been killed. Subcommittee Member Levie commented that priority should also be given to a sidewalk or other location which forces or causes people to move in an unsafe manner.

Discussion ensued regarding the fact that while this agenda item is not listed for action, Subcommittee members are welcome to submit comments and recommendations at this time, or may also submit comments via email. The Subcommittee's comments will be summarized and presented to the Transportation Commission at an upcoming meeting.

Chair Kuzel commented that when they went through this process at the Transportation Commission, they received a list of street projects that were up for review. It was a long, arduous process and most of the recommendations made were not utilized. He suggested that comments be provided to Ms. Conklu and then provided to the Transportation Commission to use in its processes. Ms. Conklu commented that the Transportation Department and CPM staff meet once a week to update the active list. She suggested the possibility of coming back to the Subcommittee with a refined list before they present to the Transportation Commission.

Chair Kuzel asked about the processes for determining whether a project gets on the list. Ms. Conklu stated that projects are included for a number of reasons, such as resident request, staff acknowledgement of gaps, neighbors having asked for a change, staff who commute or know the area well and are seeing the same issues. Projects may be specifically added if they cannot be added to other, larger project scopes.

Discussion continued regarding the list of candidate projects. Chair Kuzel stated that if the Subcommittee were to consider the items within the categories of safety, access and benefit, the WestWorld bike path is not a safety issue. Commissioner Watton commented that it addresses recreational access. Discussion ensued regarding prioritizing recreational access versus safety access. Subcommittee Member Levie made the point that eventually access to the greenbelt will become a transportation issue as opposed to a recreation issue. The greenbelt is becoming a highway for nonmotorized traffic, which provides access to many areas in Scottsdale and Tempe.

Subcommittee Member Davis commented that there are larger paths in the City that are striped and other areas that are unstriped. He stated his hope that when the Transportation Master Plan is updated, the determination on striping should be more defined. Stripes communicate to a user that the path is intended for shared use purposes. Subcommittee Member Levie suggested this as a maintenance item with a determination that a certain number of miles are striped each year.

Subcommittee Member Davis asked about the department responsible for the sweeping the paths. Ms. Conklu said the Streets Department handles path and street sweeping, street striping, downtown sidewalks and street maintenance. There is not currently a good program for fixing issues on trails. There was discussion regarding the \$21,000 per mile cost for striping.

Chair Kuzel stressed the importance of addressing safety-based projects being first, followed by projects addressing access and finally those projects intended for “first world” benefits. He left the meeting at 9:49 a.m.

In response to a request from Subcommittee Member Levie, Ms. Conklu identified the missing connection at the Cactus Wren location, noting that the project is based upon neighborhood input.

Ms. Conklu addressed the projects on hold, noting that portions of some projects may be completed within the scopes of other projects.

Commissioner Ertel asked why the two grant applications for CAP Canal were unsuccessful. Ms. Conklu stated that the projects scored okay, however member of the committee likely surmised that it was not needed in North Scottsdale, despite the density of the neighborhood. In addition, unless there has been a collision, when MAG scores bike pedestrian projects, they do not use safety criteria. Subcommittee Member Levie asked about the possibility of an improved gravel path and HAWK, rather a paved path and underpass. Ms. Conklu said they could look at this. Subcommittee Member Watton stated that a signalized pedestrian crossing would make more sense than an underpass.

Ms. Conklu discussed that the wayfinding signage project, which includes fabric and installation from Indian Bend to McKellips was on the CIP request, however, she is not certain whether it was removed. This may be one example where it is possible to complete the project in piecemeal fashion. Next steps in the process include continuation of rankings. Staff would be happy to come back and discuss any revisions prior to presentation to the Transportation Commission.

Subcommittee Member Watton referenced the 124th Street sidewalk, noting there is a small sidewalk and gravel trail on both sides of the road. Pedestrians spill out onto the street, as the church uses overflow parking at the high school.

Subcommittee Member Levie asked about the pedestrian refuge at Pima Park. Ms. Conklu acknowledged that this needs to be revisited. The proposal does not include a HAWK and it would not be safe for pedestrians to use the refuge without accompanying lighting. Subcommittee Member Watton commented that better control is needed in the whole area.

5. 68TH STREET AND THOMAS ROAD PROJECTS

Ms. Conklu stated that the update addresses projects from 68th Street Complete Street from Indian School Road to Thomas Road and Thomas Road Complete Street from 56th Street to 73rd Street. There was a call for projects in August of 2017 at MAG for federal funding, to include Air Quality Improvement Program (CMAQ) and Transportation Alternatives Program (TAP). Total funding available for this announcement was approximately \$42.8 million. The federal grants contribute 94.3 percent of the construction costs and require a minimum 5.7 percent local match for construction.

In 2017, Transportation staff submitted several projects for the call for projects for Fiscal Year 2021 and 2022. These two applications were successful through MAG's scoring and approval process and have been adopted into the MAG Transportation Improvement Program (TIP). Scottsdale's 0.2 percent Transportation Sales Tax is the funding source for the local match for construction as well as the full cost of design. The project is already included in the CIP. The scope descriptions were reviewed. Both projects are in design for the current year with construction fund through MAG coming in two different years. 68th Street will be constructed in 2021 and Thomas Road in 2022.

The 68th Street Indian School Road to Thomas Road Complete Street project will add bicycle and pedestrian improvements on 68th Street from Indian School Road to Thomas Road. The project will provide bicycle lane improvements, median modifications, restriping on 68th Street, and bicycle/pedestrian intersection improvements throughout the corridor. Design will occur in FY 2019/20 and construction is anticipated to begin in FY 2020/21.

In response to a question from Subcommittee Member Davis, Ms. Conklu stated that the sidewalks are not being widened, but curb ramps are being added where they do not meet the current design standard.

Subcommittee Member Davis asked about a timeline for the City to begin to use green marking on bike lanes. Ms. Conklu said there have been ongoing discussions. She likes the approach in Tempe and Phoenix, where they use the paint at each location of a bike lane marking.

The Thomas Road 56th Street to 73rd Street Complete Street project will add bicycle and pedestrian improvements on Thomas Road from 56th Street to 73rd Street. The project will provide bicycle lane improvements, median modifications, drainage improvements and bicycle/pedestrian intersection improvements throughout the corridor. Design will occur in FY 2019/20 and construction is anticipated to begin in FY 2021/22. In terms of the 64th Street intersection, it would be helpful to have better markings, so that people using the path understand that it continues and requires two-stage crossing.

Subcommittee Member Levie suggested having a second button for the scramble light. Ms. Conklu said she would have to look into this.

Subcommittee Member Levie asked if a tunnel is possible. Ms. Conklu stated that she does not believe it is a viable possibility at the location.

Commissioner Watton left the meeting at 10:27 a.m.

Both projects will be designed in the current fiscal year. Kimley Horn was recently selected as the design consultant after a request for qualifications. Contract negotiations are in process. Next steps include City Council approval of the contract. This will be followed by commencement of the design and public outreach to neighbors and businesses. Transportation staff met with residents from the Southwest Village Neighborhood Association at their annual meeting in October 2019 to discuss the 68th Street project and gather feedback. Residents requested an enhanced crossing at 68th Street and 2nd Street, which will be included in the project.

Subcommittee Member Davis referenced Thomas and the removal of the lane and asked whether the remaining lanes will also be reduced. Ms. Conklu said they would likely be reduced to 11 to

12 feet to allow more space to the bike lanes. Subcommittee Member Davis stated that he would be disappointed if they were not able to add the buffer lane.

6. OTHER TRANSPORTATION PROJECTS AND PROGRAM STATUS

Ms. Conklu reported that last week, the Audit Committee moved to recommend to City Council that the Paths & Trails Subcommittee be continued. This will go to the full City Council on March 3rd for approval.

In January, the Transportation Commission received an update on the Bicycle and Related Devices Ordinance updates. It is tentatively scheduled to go to the Parks & Recreation followed by City Council on March 17. Notable changes include how the scooters can be ridden, minimum age requirements, prohibiting riding on sidewalks within the Transportation Safety Zone, limiting parking to bike racks only, or in designated parking areas as well as requiring special license with applicable licensing fees, relocating/impounding fees. In response to a question from Subcommittee Member Levie, Ms. Conklu confirmed that this covers bicycles and e-Bikes.

Every two years, traffic engineering conducts roadway safety assessments, specifically looking at areas with high collision rates. They make recommendations to improve safety and operations. Ms. Conklu identified the recent assessment locations.

In terms of the update for 124th Street and Shea Underpass, project bids for rebuilding the gabion wall were open in December and a contractor was selected. This is expected to go to City Council sometime this month for approval, with construction in the spring.

Public meetings were held in October and December on the Pinnacle Peak Ranchos Trails Project. The neighbors who participated expressed excitement for the project. Down the street, the Black Cross Trails is at 60 percent completion.

The McDowell Road Bike lanes are going to construction in the summer.

Staff applied for four projects via federal grant applications in September, 2019: Shea Boulevard, Indian Bend Wash Bridge over Osborn, Goldwater Bike and Pedestrian Underpass, and Scottsdale Road south of Chaparral. The final project was the only one scoring above the line. This will be included in funding for 2023 and 2024. MAG decides the year of funding.

Ms. Conklu had the opportunity to interact with the Sixth Grade Electrobotz Lego Robotics Team. This year's theme was City Shaper. The team made first place at the qualifying meet and went to the state competition. The idea was to apply glow in the dark paint to trails which had no other form of lighting.

Subcommittee Member Levie referenced the southern canal pass sections, where the City has done a nice job with light. He asked about the possibility of having short lamppost lighting along the northern end of the greenbelt, to provide 24-hour access. Ms. Conklu said that they have discussed bollard lighting, but they have not found any to provide adequate lighting. She has not yet seen solar pedestrian scale light that works well.

Ms. Conklu stated that this is her first year helping with Future Cities. Sixth, Seventh and Eighth graders are challenged in teams with making the future world a better place. This year, the theme

was Clean Water, Tap into Tomorrow. Challenges included a 1,500 word essay, models and finally a presentation at a high school in Queen Creek. She provided photos of the finalists.

Ms. Conklu and other staff recently attended the ADA Coordinator Conference in Phoenix, which provided clarification on a number of relevant issues.

The All Things Senior Expo takes place on February 5th, where senior citizens can learn about different services.

The Scottsdale Unified School District has a transition fair for special needs students and families on February 19th.

Bike Month is in April, with Friday, April 3rd being the State Bike Summit in Mesa.

Saturday, April 4th is Cycle the Arts and Wednesday the 5th is Bike to Work Day.

7. SUBCOMMITTEE IDENTIFICATION OF FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS

There were no items discussed.

8. PUBLIC COMMENT

There were no comments.

9. ADJOURNMENT

With no further business to discuss, being duly moved by Subcommittee Member Levie and seconded by Subcommittee Member Davis, the meeting adjourned at 11:00 a.m.

AYES: Commissioner Ertel, Subcommittee Members Davis and Levie.

NAYS: None

SUBMITTED BY:
Frances Cookson

Staff Representative

***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>**