



APPROVED

SUMMARIZED MINUTES

**CITY OF SCOTTSDALE
TRANSPORTATION COMMISSION
REGULAR MEETING MINUTES**

Thursday, January 20, 2022

Meeting Held Electronically and Remotely

CALL TO ORDER

Chair Iacovo called the regular meeting of the Scottsdale Transportation Commission to order at 5:15 p.m. She thanked staff and attendees for their diligence in continuing to attend the remote meetings since the onset of the pandemic. Kyle Lofgren, Staff Coordinator, announced that Commissioner Yates submitted his resignation effective today.

ROLL CALL

PRESENT: Pamela Iacovo, Chair
Don Anderson, Vice Chair
Karen Kowal
B. Kent Lall
Mary Ann Miller
Kerry Wilcoxon

STAFF: Susan Conklu, Senior Transportation Planner
Ratna Korepella, Transit Manager
Dave Meinhart, Transportation Planning Manager
Mark Melnychenko, Transportation & Streets Director
Kyle Lofgren, Staff Coordinator

PUBLIC COMMENT

Two written comments from the same individual were included in the agenda packet and posted online.

1. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

There were no modifications.

VICE CHAIR ANDERSON MOVED TO APPROVE THE REGULAR MEETING MINUTES OF THE TRANSPORTATION COMMISSION ON DECEMBER 16, 2021 AS PRESENTED. COMMISSIONER MILLER SECONDED THE MOTION, WHICH CARRIED 6-0 WITH CHAIR IACOVO, VICE CHAIR ANDERSON, COMMISSIONERS KOWAL, LALL, MILLER AND WILCOXON VOTING IN THE AFFIRMATIVE WITH NO DISSENTING VOTES.

2. APPROVAL OF THE TRANSPORTATION COMMISSION ANNUAL REPORT

Chair Iacovo stated that the report serves as a synopsis and summary of the Commission's actions and accomplishments over the past year. She noted that Vice Chair Anderson and Commissioner Lall have been reappointed to the Paths and Trails Subcommittee. All Commissioners completed the online ethics training. Selection of officers took place, with Chair Iacovo retaining the Chair position and Commissioner Anderson retaining the Vice Chair position. The bylaws were reviewed and no significant issues were identified. Significant future work products recommended for approval to City Council include the Transportation Action Plan (TAP).

COMMISSIONER MILLER MOVED TO APPROVE THE TRANSPORTATION ANNUAL REPORT. COMMISSIONER KOWAL SECONDED THE MOTION, WHICH CARRIED 6-0 WITH CHAIR IACOVO, VICE CHAIR ANDERSON, COMMISSIONERS KOWAL, LALL, MILLER AND WILCOXON VOTING IN THE AFFIRMATIVE WITH NO DISSENTING VOTES.

3. PROJECT DEVELOPMENT AND TRANSPORTATION

Phil Kercher, Traffic Engineer & Ops Manager, gave a review of the development process, including case types: General Plan; rezoning use permit, Development Review Board and abandonments.

Each case follows a six-step process:

1. Preapplication meeting
2. Case submittal
3. Case review
4. Public hearing
5. Construction documents/plan submittal
6. Construction

The site plan review process determines factors regarding: Major streets; minor streets; intersection and driveway locations; internal driveway layouts; parking; traffic impacts and street lighting. For each project, the following steps and/or areas of focus may be required: transit; bicycle/pedestrian/trails; traffic impact study; traffic impact mitigation; case stipulations, and public hearings. A review of the caseload statistics was provided.

Most undeveloped property is located in the northern portion of the City as Arizona State Land Trust property with existing zoning designations. State land is typically auctioned when there is interest and competition in development. Most require some level of master planning.

Commissioner referred to signal timing and use of dual left-turn lanes and asked whether the City conducts evaluations on moving counts when reviewing an application. Mr. Kercher affirmed that a thorough review of traffic impact studies occurs as part of the development process.

Vice Chair asked whether the City supplies the developer with traffic statistics to assist in the traffic impact study process. Mr. Kercher said this varies depending on the level of study required. For standard studies, the developer will collect data themselves. The City may assist with providing data for smaller studies as a cost mitigator in some cases. The City does provide signal timing and collision data. If there are existing recent studies available for a specific area, the City will provide that information, if relevant. These may include traffic volumes.

Chair asked how existing traffic levels in the transportation network affect requirements of the site acceptance plan. Mr. Kercher said level of traffic is the main consideration; that is how much traffic is being generated and what mitigation will be required. This mostly impacts intersections in terms of signal requirement, restriction or turn lanes.

Chair asked how familiar developers are with the requirements for stipulations. Mr. Kercher said this varies depending on the magnitude of the application. Many developers and zoning attorneys who do significant business in Scottsdale are well-acquainted with the requirements. Typically smaller one-time projects require more direction in terms of requirements. In response to a question from Chair, Mr. Kercher stated that very few site plans are approved upon first submittal. Typically, projects go through three review cycles prior to the public hearing phase.

4. PUBLIC TRANSIT UPDATE

Ratna Korepella, Transit Manager, provided a brief overview of the existing transit system, including regional fixed routes; express routes; Scottsdale Trolleys and paratransit. Dunn Transportation has been chosen as the new contractor to operate the City's Trolley service. Service Link has been chosen as the new bus stop maintenance contractor. The City's Bus Stop Improvement program continues to update, refurbish and install amenities at the City's bus stop locations. She reviewed bus cleaning protocols. A timeline of ridership levels, rider demographics and purpose of usage were discussed with a particular focus on the effects of the pandemic.

The following adjustments to the system are being made, based upon resident input and/or staff identification of needs:

- Adding service on Camelback Road to address the gap between 68th Street and Miller Road
- Continuing to leverage the full functionality of Clever Devices
- Filling staffing needs
- Building a strong foundation in maintaining and operating the existing system

Commissioner asked whether there has been consideration to offer the community the opportunity to sponsor a bus stop via advertising to fund upkeep and maintenance. Ms. Korepella stated that historically, the City Council has not supported these types of advertisements.

Commissioner inquired as to impacts to the budget from the significant decrease in ridership levels. Ms. Korepella stated that CARES funding provided approximately \$2.2 million in funding, which has been applied towards any losses. Lottery funding has also contributed. \$3.4 million in

additional funding has been received from ARPA for trolley services, which will be used to fund the service over the next one to two years. Mark Melnychenko, Transportation & Streets Director, added that with the federal funding, the City was able to move existing City funds to accommodate needs in the department.

Commissioner cited the significant decrease in ridership and asked what methods people had turned to meet their transportation needs. Ms. Korepella said she did not have access to data regarding the transportation choices being made by individuals in the face of the pandemic. Mr. Melnychenko noted that similar reductions are seen in cities throughout the Valley, including a 40 percent reduction in rail ridership and 50 to 50 per cent reduction in bus ridership. The City is doing what it can to encourage confidence by ensure that cleaning protocols are at optimum levels and the existing system is being maintained.

In response to a question from Chair, Ms. Korepella stated that Scottsdale City buses are maintained by the Scottsdale Fleet Department.

5. OTHER TRANSPORTATION PROJECTS AND PROGRAM STATUS

Mr. Melnychenko provided a brief overview of projects and programs:

- Maintenance update
- Emergency response
- Pavement management
- Ongoing coordination items
- Paving management

Commissioner asked if there have been challenges in filling open positions. Mr. Melnychenko acknowledged challenges in some instances, as there have been fewer applicants than in previous years.

6. COMMISSION IDENTIFICATION OF FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS

Mr. Melnychenko stated that over the coming months, there will be overview presentations regarding various divisions of the Department, such as ITS and Planning.

7. ADJOURNMENT

With no further business to discuss, being duly moved by Vice Chair Anderson and seconded by Commissioner Wilcoxon, the meeting adjourned at 6:58 p.m.

AYES: Chair Iacovo, Vice Chair Anderson, Commissioners Kowal, Lall, Miller, and Wilcoxon
NAYS: None

SUBMITTED BY:

eScribers, LLC

***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>**