



**APPROVED**

**SUMMARIZED MINUTES**

**CITY OF SCOTTSDALE  
TRANSPORTATION COMMISSION  
REGULAR MEETING**

**Thursday, May 19, 2022  
Kiva-City Hall  
3939 N. Drinkwater Boulevard  
Scottsdale, Arizona 85251**

**CALL TO ORDER**

Vice Chair Anderson called the regular meeting of the Scottsdale Transportation Commission to order at 5:16 p.m.

**ROLL CALL**

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

**ABSENT:** Mary Ann Miller

**STAFF:** Mark Melnychenko, Transportation & Streets Director  
Cristina Lenko, Public Information Officer  
Ratna Korepella, Transit Manager  
Joshua Gutierrez, Senior Transit Planner  
Susan Conklu, Senior Transportation Planner  
Brandon Wagner, Transit Coordinator  
Daniel Alirr, Transportation Representative  
Joan Freeman, Senior Transportation Representative.  
Kyle Lofgren, Office Manager

**PUBLIC COMMENT**

There were no public comments.

## **1. APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

Grammatical corrections were made.

VICE CHAIR ANDERSON MOVED TO APPROVE THE REGULAR MEETING MINUTES OF THE TRANSPORTATION COMMISSION ON APRIL 21, 2022 AS AMENDED. COMMISSIONER WILCOXON SECONDED THE MOTION, WHICH CARRIED 4-0 WITH VICE CHAIR ANDERSON, COMMISSIONERS KOWAL, LALL AND WILCOXON VOTING IN THE AFFIRMATIVE WITH NO DISSENTING VOTES. CHAIR IACOVO ABSTAINED.

## **2. INFORMATION ON THE PUBLIC OUTREACH PROCESS**

Mark Melnychenko, Transportation & Streets Director, prefaced the presentation by discussing the City's current challenges and successes in filling vacant positions in the Department. He introduced Cristina Lenko, Public Information Officer, and provided a brief biography. Ms. Lenko gave an overview of her job position, duties and responsibilities. She discussed promotion and outreach regarding the Transportation Action Plan (TAP). Other outreach topics covered by her position include Traffic restrictions, pavement preservation, street maintenance, traffic engineering, Bike Month and bike events, Shared Path Guidelines, Trail Education and Maintenance and Scottsdale Trolley. Examples of projects and outreach methods were discussed.

Commissioner inquired as to outreach at neighborhood meetings or community fairs. Ms. Lenko confirmed that the Department attends a variety of events, such as Earth Day, Breakfast with the City Council, tree planting, Senior Expo and Benefits Fair.

Commissioner stated that in the past, the Commission has heard complaints from business owners regarding lack of customer access during construction projects and Commissioner inquired as to whether this is being specifically addressed. Ms. Lenko stated that the closest work she personally takes part in in this area involves traffic restrictions and major repaving projects. She reviews 15 to 20 traffic control plans on a daily basis. She looks at length of the project and project location relative to businesses and schools in order to conduct outreach. For major concerns, she consults traffic engineers for more information and possible mitigation methods. An important component is communication with such businesses in advance of project commencement. Commissioner clarified that this is more relevant for projects that take six months or longer and stressed the importance of sensitivity under those circumstances.

Commissioner inquired as to frequency of website updates. Currently, it is displaying the last daily traffic reports from 2018 as well as a 2007 downtown pedestrian motion study. Ms. Lenko acknowledged that the daily traffic reports are out of date. She also noticed that the TAP was not included. She will be working on updates and will follow up with the Commission in the next couple of weeks.

Commissioner asked whether staff receives metrics and counts of websites, webpages and video views. Ms. Lenko stated that this information is available through the IT Department and it would be helpful to incorporate this information into the regular scheduled maintenance of the transportation webpages.

Commissioner asked about the time frame for rebranding the trolley. Ms. Lenko stated that there is not a current time frame. At this time, the focus is on research and benchmarking with other municipalities who have rebranded their transit system in the past five years. She will keep the Commission updated as the project moves forward.

Chair commended the attractiveness of the Bike Monthly flyer. She referenced the Craftsman Court Alley Project and asked how much time ensues between notification and commencement of work for such a project. Ms. Lenko stated that larger projects have a longer lead time of three to four weeks.

Chair asked for more information on the artwork and artists for bike events. Ms. Lenko acknowledged that she does not have much information about this process. She did observe these activities during her time at the City of Tempe with the Light Rail transit project and original artwork for bike activities. She and Susan Conklu have met to discuss Bike Week and Cycle the Arts with considering for doing something similar in Scottsdale. This might include a formal call to artists. The plan is to meet with City of Tempe and Valley Metro on developing a plan.

Chair inquired as to where the videos will be shown. Ms. Lenko stated that they will be on the City website. Scottsdale Video Network also has a YouTube channel. She will look into including them in social media posts.

Mr. Melnychenko stated that staff linked the Cycle for the Arts event to the future Second Street project. This made information available for riders in the community along that route. Updates will be provided on public outreach efforts in coming meetings.

### **3. TRANSIT UPDATE**

Ratna Korepella, Transit Manager, announced that the transit team is complete. She introduced department staff and provided a brief bio for each, including Joshua Gutierrez, Senior Transit Planner and Brandon Wagner, Transit Coordinator, Daniel Alirr, Transportation Representative, Joan Freeman, Senior Transportation Representative.

Mr. Gutierrez provided an overview of the City's transit services, including Scottsdale Trolley, fixed route services, ADA paratransit (Dial-a-Ride), Scottsdale Cab Connection and Valley Metro RideChoice. The Department collects transit data via a number of methods, including Service analysis, bus stops, fleet, transit technology and public feedback. Average boarding rates and details were reviewed for all programs, with volumes generally showing recovery from the lows seen during the pandemic. Fleet and bus stop maintenance programs were reviewed. The Department is currently undertaking a bus stop inventory project, which will collect information on amenities, shelters and location details. The data will be used to develop ways to improve the bus stops to better align with City goals.

Internal and external collaborate efforts were discussed:

#### Internal

- Community Relations Department
- Construction and Project Management
- Facilities
- Fleet

- Neighborhood/Community Centers
- Right-of-Way
- Senior Centers
- City of Scottsdale Emergency Services
- Streets and Signs Traffic Management Center

#### External

- City of Phoenix: Transit and IT
- Dunn Transportation
- Contracted Repair Vendors
- Scottsdale Unified School District
- Service Link
- Valley Metro
- Customer Assistance System
- Special Event Support

Mr. Gutierrez reviewed transit technology methods, including Computer-Aided Dispatch/Automatic Vehicle Locator (CAD/AVL) and automatic passenger counting (APC). The tools are used to determine frequency of service and rerouting plans. Bus Rapid Transit service is the most transit service with the highest ridership. Staff is working to develop efficient and essential connections to resources such as regional light rail, Tempe Streetcar and other connections. Future transportation enhancements include transit signal priority, which provides additional time for buses to travel through an intersection by keeping the green light on longer. It improves on-time performance for riders.

Next steps for the Department include:

- Bus stop improvement program (data driven)
- Modernize Cab Connection Program
- Micro transit
- Trolley marketing
- Rider input

Vice Chair asked how often bus stops are cleaned not as a response to a customer complaint. Mr. Gutierrez stated that there is a regular cleaning schedule. The Department is working to identify hot spots of high activity, where garbage collects on a daily basis. Mr. Wagner added that staff is working to complete the inventory, which includes a log of complaints and locations.

In response to a question from Vice Chair, Ms. Korapella stated that the City may have 12 vehicles on the road at any given time. Five vehicles are spares and five in contingency.

Commissioner inquired as to the factors preventing a full rebound of ridership. Mr. Gutierrez surmised that the pandemic resulted in a shift toward virtual working, which is a major contributor to the trend. Other shifts relate to health-related concerns and pandemic exposure. The City has taken steps to communicate availability of a reliable service as well as practices to keep customers safe. Ridership has slowly come back since the pandemic.

Vice Chair asked whether riders are able to track trolley locations in real time. Mr. Gutierrez confirmed that buses are available for tracking via the Valley Metro website as well as the transit

app. In response to a Commissioner request for clarification, Mr. Gutierrez stated that tracking is available on all the City's transit services.

Commissioner inquired as to the progress for replacement of trolleys. Ms. Korapella stated that three were replaced in in January of 2021. The original plan was to retire more busses, however, with the pandemic downturn, the buses did not reach their mileage limits for replacement.

Chair asked how an individual would know how to use Cab Connection, RideShare or Dial-A-Ride. Mr. Gutierrez stated that they could access the information either through the City's website or Valley Metro's website.

Chair asked for staff's thoughts on the current 20 minute frequency for the trolleys. Mr. Gutierrez stated that in looking at the data, the current interval has been effective.

Chair inquired as to whether there are any TSP locations in the City. Mr. Gutierrez stated that to his knowledge, there are no such locations, however this is being reviewed currently.

#### **4. OTHER TRANSPORTATION PROJECTS AND PROGRAM STATUS**

Mr. Melnychenko provided an overview of projects and programs:

- Maintenance
  - Roads/shoulders
  - Alley maintenance
  - Street sweeping
  - Concrete
  - National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES)
- Arizona Canal maintenance: Hayden Road to Pima Road
- Pavement management update
- 87th Terrace lighting
- Update on recent items brought to the Commission
  - Improved crossing to Canal Path
  - Construction Mitigation Plan

Commissioner asked for clarification on the comment that the canal path by Jackrabbit is unsafe. Mr. Melnychenko stated that community comments reflect that the bridge connection to the canal exists on the curve of the road. This creates a lack of visibility and speeding issues. Mitigation options are being reviewed.

Commissioner referred to the ADA ramps in the pavement management program and inquired whether they are new or being brought to current standards. Mr. Melnychenko said it is a mix of both new ramps and upgrades to others.

Commissioner asked whether goals to crack seal, microseal and overlay are being affected by the price increases for materials. Mr. Melnychenko confirmed that there have been considerable price increases on materials across the board.

**5. COMMISSION IDENTIFICATION OF FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS**

The following agenda item was identified:

- Follow ups as noted during this meeting
- Super Bowl update

**6. ADJOURNMENT**

With no further business to discuss, being duly moved by Vice Chair Anderson and seconded by Commissioner Wilcoxon, the meeting adjourned at 7:09 p.m.

AYES: Chair Iacovo, Vice Chair Anderson, Commissioners Kowal, Lall 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>**