

APPROVED AT THE 08-18-22 TRANSPORTATION COMMISSION MEETING



SUMMARIZED MINUTES

APPROVED AS AMENDED

**CITY OF SCOTTSDALE
TRANSPORTATION COMMISSION
REGULAR MEETING**

**Thursday, June 16, 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 5:15 p.m.

ROLL CALL

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

ABSENT: Pamela Iacovo, Chair

STAFF: Mark Melnychenko, Transportation & Streets Director
Nathan Domme, Senior Transportation Planner
Susan Conklu, Senior Transportation Planner
Kyle Lofgren, Office Manager
Dave Meinhart, Transportation Planning Manager

PUBLIC COMMENT

Kyle Lofgren, Office Manager, read a written comment from Laura Schwartz into the record regarding data on bike and pedestrian counts and usage, specifically suggesting counter placement in the upper Camelback Wash area.

1. **APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

One correction was made.

COMMISSIONER WILCOXON MOVED TO APPROVE THE REGULAR MEETING MINUTES OF THE TRANSPORTATION COMMISSION ON MAY 19, 2022 AS AMENDED. COMMISSIONER LALL SECONDED THE MOTION, WHICH CARRIED 4-0 WITH VICE CHAIR ANDERSON, COMMISSIONERS KOWAL, LALL AND WILCOXON VOTING IN THE AFFIRMATIVE WITH NO DISSENTING VOTES. COMMISSIONER MILLER ABSTAINED.

2. **PATHS AND TRAILS SUBCOMMITTEE UPDATE**

Vice Chair provided an overview of items discussed at the recent Paths & Trails Subcommittee meetings, including:

- Trail maintenance outreach
- Bike and pedestrian counts, first year summary of counters
- Approval of annual report
- 2020 Bicycle and Pedestrian Collision report
- 70th Street Neighborhood Bikeway Plan
- Old Town Bicycle Master Plan
- Transportation Action Plan (TAP), including public outreach and adoption by City Council
- Trail Maintenance Outreach Plan
- Path counters update
- Green bikeway markings
- Pedestrian crossing treatments
- Bicycle and Related Devices Ordinance
- Civic Center renovation
- Updated bike counts
- Other Transportation projects and programs
- Federal grant funding process
- CIP update
- Federal Highway Administration proven safety countermeasures
- Bicycle Education Program
- Bike Month update
- Trail maintenance plan
- Neighborhood Bikeways prioritization criteria

In response to a Commissioner question, Vice Chair stated that the Bicycle and Related Devices Ordinance applies not only to rental devices, but owned devices as well.

Commissioner suggested that complaints or concerns be added as a scoresheet element when determining prioritization of paths.

3. PATH COUNTERS: FIRST YEAR DATA REVIEW

Nathan Domme, Senior Transportation Planner, reviewed the locations of the nine counter locations. A total of 1.4 million people have been counted on the path systems, including bike and pedestrian, with the greenbelt sites ranking the highest volumes. An average activity month-by-month graph was reviewed. While volumes decrease during summer, there is still significant use of the trails during the hotter months. Volumes pick up in September, with a peak in March of approximately 6,000 uses per day. Weekly and hourly averages were provided, with approximately 3,500 users on paths each weekday and 4,800 on weekends.

Trends for pedestrian and bike activity were discussed for the greenbelt and non-greenbelt sites:

Greenbelt Sites:

- Vista del Camino Park
- Indian School Park
- Chaparral Park
- McCormick Parkway

Non-Greenbelt Sites:

- Crosscut Canal Bridge
- Arizona Canal/84th Street alignment
- Pima Path south of Indian Bend Road
- Upper Camelback Wash/Cholla Street
- Sweetwater Avenue east of Loop 101

Continuing and next steps were reviewed, including use in the 2023 Bike Friendly Community Application, prioritization of future path renovations and placement of additional counters.

Commissioner asked whether the automatic counts are consistent with the totals acquired via hand counting in the past. Mr. Domme commented that MAG's counts are significantly lower than the City's counts, which are much more reliable. Mr. Meinhart clarified that MAG's counts were not hand counts, but were completed using tubes and video.

In response to a Commissioner question, Mr. Domme confirmed that the counters are able to capture data on direction of travel, however it cannot be assumed whether travelers are using the paths to get to work.

Commissioner inquired as to whether the data has been compared based on City area. Mr. Domme stated that such comparison has not been performed. The focus has been on the individual counter, with data collection on a site-by-site monthly basis.

In response to a Commissioner question, Mr. Domme stated that additional counters will be requested based on evaluation of sites and the potential benefits to collecting counts. At this time, approximately four additional counters are anticipated.

Commissioner inquired as to the possibility of temporary counters at the site referenced in the written public comment submitted and read into the record. Mr. Domme affirmed that a temporary counter can be deployed at the site.

In response to a question from the Vice Chair, Mr. Domme stated that staff will be performing an analysis of the data to determine traffic traveling to Tempe versus coming to Scottsdale.

Dave Meinhart, Transportation Planning Manager, commented that the data can be used in the grant request process. It also serves as background and verification for future CIP projects.

4. TRAIL MAINTENANCE PUBLIC OUTREACH PROGRAM

Susan Conklu, Senior Transportation Planner, stated that Scottsdale currently has 160 miles of existing non-Preserve trails on City right-of-way or within public easements dedicated to the City in private property. The trail maintenance communication plan has been in development for approximately a year and a half. There have been two inventories of the existing network, one in 2012 and one begun in January, 2022. A review of maintenance responsibilities pursuant to Scottsdale Revised Code was provided. The trail element of the Transportation Action Plan (TAP) contains goals, policies and performance measures. An overview of trail maintenance inventory was provided. The City website will include responsibilities for maintenance by adjacent properties and an interactive map. A new link for information and trail reporting issues will be created in ScottsdaleEZ. Next steps include targeted outreach in coordination with Citizen Services programs and events.

Commissioner inquired about historical data by month or year on the number of complaints received in regards to trails. Ms. Conklu stated that complaints through ScottsdaleEZ do provide historical data, however this system has only been in place for a couple of years. Mr. Meinhart added that collection of historical data will be helpful in determining how successful the improved outreach has been. Anecdotally, the number of complaints thus far has been low.

Commissioner asked about the timeline for addressing complaints. Ms. Conklu stated that if complaints are sent through Code Enforcement, there is typically a 30-day turnaround for the property owner to address issues.

In response to a question from the Vice Chair, Ms. Conklu estimated that the Preserve has approximately 275 miles of trails and these are maintained through a separate group. Preserve staff have their own on-call contractors and volunteers.

5. PROJECTS AND PROGRAM STATUS

Mr. Melnychenko provided an overview of street operations and roadway maintenance. The Department organizational chart was reviewed. Guidelines include the General Plan, Strategic Plan and Transportation Action Plan (TAP). TAP goals and values were addressed. An overview of maintenance facts and details was provided. Emergency responses are deployed for snow, monsoons, paint spills and accidents. Sidewalk concrete repairs are also reoccurring. The National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) involves inspection and maintenance of all drainage assets in the City. Photographs of bridge and guardrail improvements and repairs were reviewed.

Maintenance cycles and processes were addressed:

- Maintenance grading on unpaved roads
- Dust palliative cycle
- Shoulder maintenance
- Alley maintenance
- Alley weed control
- Wash maintenance

Ongoing coordination items include:

- Working to fill open staff positions in each section
- Address increased costs for materials and services
- Maximizing resources by working with other sections, departments and regional partners to meet existing needs

Commissioner inquired as to the frequency of street sweeping. Mr. Melnychenko said he was not certain of the frequency, however, seven sweepers are continually in operation. Staff targets residential streets on a monthly basis and major streets on a weekly basis. This relates directly to air quality requirements.

6. COMMISSION IDENTIFICATION OF FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS

The following agenda items were identified:

- Education of drivers on signage

Mr. Melnychenko stated that the City website provides information on how to navigate HAWKS and similar items. He will look into updating as necessary.

6. ADJOURNMENT

With no further business to discuss, being duly moved by Vice Chair Anderson and seconded by Commissioner Wilcoxon, the meeting adjourned at 6:48 p.m.

AYES: 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>**