

## Minutes Transportation Council Committee January 11, 2011

Minutes of the meeting of the Transportation Council Committee held on Tuesday, January 11, 2011, 4:00 p.m., in the 3<sup>rd</sup> Floor Conference Room, Tempe City Hall, 31 E. 5<sup>th</sup> Street, Tempe, Arizona.

### **Committee Members Present:**

Councilmember Shana Ellis, Chair

### **City Staff Present:**

Brigitta Kuiper, City Clerk

Amber Wakeman, Assistant to City Council

Shauna Warner, Neighborhood Program Director

Shelley Hearn, Community Relations Administrator

Nikki Ripley, Community/Media Relations Director

Andy Goh, Deputy Public Works Director - Engineering

Isaac Chavira, Transportation Maintenance Manager

Oddvar Tveit, Environmental Quality Specialist

Shelly Seyler, Traffic Engineer

Greg Jordan, Transit Manager

Nancy Ryan, Senior Planner

Robert Yabes, Principal Planner

Eric Iwersen, Senior Transportation Planner

### **Guests Present:**

David Strang, Tempe Transportation Commission (TTC)

Matt Tsark, Strand Associates, Inc.

Bryan Young, TTC

Nancy Hormann, Downtown Tempe Community Inc., (DTC)

Marc Soronson, HDR Engineering

Bryan Jungwirth, Valley Metro

Karyn Gitlis, Tempe resident

Mary Ann Miller, Tempe Chamber of Commerce

Ben Limmer, Metro Light Rail

**Councilmember Ellis called the meeting to order at 4:05 p.m.** She asked meeting attendees to introduce themselves.

### **Agenda Item 1 – Public Appearances**

Bryan Young stated that he is a member of the TTC and voted against the streetcar project. From a personal perspective, he is concerned with budget cuts to bus service; funding for a streetcar should come from a source other than funds that support bus services. Councilmember Ellis clarified that the budget cuts to bus services are unrelated to funding the streetcar project.

### **Agenda Item 2 – Review of Minutes**

The December 14, 2010 meeting minutes were accepted with corrections to attendees' names.

### **Agenda Item 3 – Work Plan Update – Goals and Objectives**

Councilmember Ellis noted that the Work Plan has been modified based on comments at the last Committee meeting and other minor wording changes. Amber Wakeman, Assistant to the City Council, stated that she and Councilmember Ellis met with the technical leads for the Committee and with Brenda Buren and Paul Bentley from the Police Department to develop goals and objectives for each of the Work Plan items, including responsible parties for each of the goals. Once completed, the updated Work Plan will be placed on a future Committee agenda for review and discussion.

Councilmember Ellis explained the tool/process that will be used for tracking work plan items and goals. The Work Plan is an 18-month plan; it will be presented to Council at the January 13, 2011 Issue Review Session for acceptance.

**Agenda Item 4 – Tempe Streetcar Project Update**

Eric Iwerson, Senior Transportation Planner, provided an update on the Tempe Streetcar project, as follows:

- January 19, 2011 – Staff and metro representatives will meet to discuss technical project details and develop project recommendations
- January 24, 2011 – first Tempe Streetcar Community Working Group (CWG) meeting will be held

Nancy Ryan, Senior Planner, provided information on the CWG, as follows:

- The individual selected for possible vice-chair of the CWG has declined; it was determined that a vice-chair position is not necessary at this time.
- CWG meetings are scheduled for the 4<sup>th</sup> Monday of each month through October 2011 at the Tempe Transportation Center from 5:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m. Meeting agendas will be e-mailed the Thursday prior to each meeting date; members will be asked to confirm their attendance so that staff can confirm a quorum of members will be present
- January 27, 2011 Formal Council Meeting – Staff will recommend the following CWG appointments: Margaret Hunnicut – Tempe Schools Credit Union, Chuck Newkirk – First Baptist Church of Tempe, and Dale Larson – Tempe St Luke's Hospital
- Councilmember Ellis requested that staff provide her with CWG quorum requirements
- January 27, 2011 Issue Review Session – Street car budget will be presented to the City Council; there has been a 15% operating budget reduction
- Revenue generating ideas for funding streetcar operations need to be kept separate from being used for other transit programs; a detailed financial plan will be developed

**Agenda Item 5 – Reprioritization of Capital Improvement Program (CIP) for Transportation Fund**

Shelly Seyler, Traffic Engineer, provided information on the reprioritization of the CIP for the Transportation Fund, as outlined in the memorandum for this agenda item. \$2 million is available to address critical infrastructure needs; staff is recommending these CIP funds be used for three on-going transportation infrastructure programs. Presentation and discussion highlights included:

- 1) *Street segments in immediate need of repair or reconstruction - \$1.6 million*
    - Hardy Drive (Broadway Road to Southern Avenue) – reconstruct, \$697,000
    - McClintock Drive (Apache to University Drive) – overlay, \$274,000
    - University Drive intersection (Hardy and 52<sup>nd</sup> Street) – reconstruct, \$150,000
    - Residential ½ mile section – north of Baseline Road and east of Rural Road, \$287,944
    - Emergency repairs/project contingency, \$212,056
  - 2) *Street light pole structural replacement - \$300,000*
    - Future light poles will be installed using foundations; light poles installed in the ground are subject to rusting
  - 3) *Bridge maintenance - \$100,000*
    - Arizona Department of Transportation (ADOT) inspects Tempe's 32 bridges and prioritizes repairs based upon their findings. The City has received the associated report from ADOT.
- MMU replacement is a malfunction management unit for traffic signal controllers
  - CIP projects listed on Attachment B are projects with surplus funding that can be re-allocated to the three on-going transportation infrastructure programs as recommended by staff.
  - Staff was asked to schedule this agenda item for an upcoming Issue Review Session.

**Agenda Item 6 – Fiscal Year (FY) 2011-12 Transit Fund Financial Balancing Plan: Transit Service Changes**

Greg Jordan, Transit Manager, provided the committee with an overview of the Phase II transit service reductions as noted in the staff memorandum. Discussion included:

- 3-year phased approach to budget cuts
- Seek public feedback using surveys; identify public's transit priorities
- Transportation Commission subcommittee will analyze and evaluate public feedback
- Regional integration and functionality are important
- Goal is to save approximately \$4.7 million in transit service/program reductions, additional revenue, cost savings, personnel, and facilities for FY 2011-2012
- Transit performance statistics were reviewed; service reductions will be coordinated with surrounding municipalities
- \$4.1 million in transit budget reductions will require public hearings; \$.6 million in reductions will be completed as part of the City's budget balancing process
- Light rail cuts will be coordinated with Metro Light Rail and the cities of Phoenix, Mesa and Tempe; any service reductions will be known by the time the public hearings occur in February 2011.
- Posters will be placed in busses notifying the public of upcoming hearings/meetings and the online comment form
- Surveys will be distributed in high volume ridership locations
- Regional coordination of transit cuts affects the timing of when cuts are implemented – either July 2011 or January 2012. Staff was asked to provide detailed information in the written documentation on the two different dates and the reasons therefore
- Staff anticipates renegotiating the Veolia contract; Veolia representatives are informed of the structural debt issues and are participating in meetings
- Staff was asked to elaborate on what the Sunday reduction in service entails; this information should be included in the written documentation.
- The survey will include the cost savings for each of the line item reductions being considered

Bryan Young urged the Committee to study ways to save money, other than transit service cuts. Mr. Jordan stated that the public hearings will be held in February 2011. Councilmember Ellis requested that staff review the comments received from the public hearings conducted last year.

**Agenda Item 7 – Future agenda items**

- Streetcar project update
- Committee Work Plan
- Public transit survey results – March 2011

**Agenda Item 8 – Future meeting dates**

The next meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, February 8, 2011 at 4:00 p.m.

**Agenda Item 9 - Announcements**

None.

**The meeting adjourned at 4:50 p.m.**

Reviewed by: Amber Wakeman, Assistant to City Council

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Brigitta M. Kuiper, City Clerk