

# TRANSPORTATION COMMITTEE MINUTES

January 11, 1999

The Transportation Committee of the City of Mesa met in the lower level meeting room of the Council Chambers, 57 East 1st Street, on January 11, 1999 at 4:00 p.m.

**COMMITTEE PRESENT**

Keno Hawker, Chairman  
John Giles  
Pat Pomeroy

**COMMITTEE ABSENT**

None

**STAFF PRESENT**

C.K. Luster  
Linda Crocker  
Cynthia Diaz  
Kelly Jensen  
Harry Kent  
Peter Knudson  
Jeff Martin  
Keith Nath  
Ross Renner  
Others

**OTHERS PRESENT**

Dale Douglas  
Leslie Horton  
Roy Horton  
Eric Kessler  
Jerry Shockey  
Others

1. Consider a request for the formation of a Special Improvement District for Ann Lynn Estates located at Val Vista and McLellan.

Public Works Manager Harry Kent provided the Committee with background information relative to the proposed Special Improvement District. Mr. Kent explained that the current residents of Ann Lynn Estates were in agreement relative to the closure of the Val Vista entrance to the community, Indigo Circle, and construction of a new entrance road from McLellan through a vacant lot that has been jointly purchased by the residents. Mr. Kent reported that the City had made an offer to split the costs of constructing the new road with the community's residents. Mr. Kent further stated that one landowner in the subdivision who had not yet begun home construction, was opposed to the formation of the Special Improvement District due to the fact that his property would be surrounded by Val Vista, McLellan, and Indigo Circle if that street is not abandoned and removed.

In response to a question from Chairman Hawker relative to the legalities involved in creating a Special Improvement District, Mr. Kent explained that this process may be accomplished by a majority vote of the homeowners.

Discussion ensued relative to current traffic patterns on Val Vista and future projections and the fact that a traffic signal will be necessary at the intersection of Val Vista and McLellan in approximately five years. In

response to a question from Committeemember Giles, Mr. Kent stated that the Council must authorize the City to proceed with the formation of the Special Improvement District. Committeemember Pomeroy expressed concern regarding the location of a future exit off of the Red Mountain Freeway.

Eric Kessler, an attorney representing Mr. and Mrs. Roy Horton, the landowners in opposition to the Special Improvement District, stated the opinion that Mr. and Mrs. Horton's lot would be adversely affected by the proposed changes and questioned the timeliness of this proposal. Mr. Kessler questioned the appropriateness of asking residents to pay for the project. Mr. Kessler expressed the opinion that the proposed reduction in noise outlined by staff would be minimal and added that Mr. and Mrs. Horton would be forced to incur additional costs to have their existing building plans redrawn to accommodate the new street configuration.

Jerry Shockey, a resident of Ann Lynn Estates, presented the Committee with background information on the development. Mr. Shockey stated that traffic on Val Vista has continued to increase over the past several years, resulting in both noise and safety concerns for residents. Mr. Shockey also expressed concern over the safety of an existing school bus stop and said this project would present an opportunity for relocation.

In response to a question from Committeemember Pomeroy regarding the logistics of the City's solid waste pickup, Mr. Kent said Mr. and Mrs. Horton could either place their trash container on the new street or on an adjacent street which contained a turnaround area, without losing any of the property's right of way. Committeemember Pomeroy stated that he had visited the area in question and indicated that in his opinion the recommended changes would not create a problem for Mr. and Mrs. Horton's current home construction plans.

It was moved by Committeemember Pomeroy, seconded by Committeemember Giles, to recommend to the Council that staff's recommendation that the formation of a Special Improvement District for Ann Lynn Estates, located at Val Vista and McLellan, including Option No. 2 for the treatment of Indigo Circle, be approved.

Upon tabulation of votes, it showed:

AYES - Giles-Pomeroy

NAYS - Hawker

Chairman Hawker declared the motion carried by majority vote. Chairman Hawker stated the opinion that it is inappropriate for the City to initiate changes to the neighborhood streets after Mr. and Mrs. Horton had purchased the property. Chairman Hawker encouraged staff and the applicant to pursue reaching a compromise in this matter.

Committeemember Giles recommended that since Mr. and Mrs. Horton have spent approximately \$4,000 in permit fees, that the Committee recommended to Council that any additional fees for revising the home construction plans be waived. Mr. Kent stated that staff would pursue the issue of fee waivers.

2. Discuss and consider a proposal for the City to maintain landscaping installed by ADOT along the Price Freeway frontage road from Baseline to Guadalupe.

City Engineer Keith Nath presented the Committee with an overview of ADOT's proposal to install landscaping along the Price Freeway frontage road from Baseline to Guadalupe and the Department's request that the City maintain the proposed landscaping. Mr. Nath stated staff's position that the City not be required to maintain the landscaping and requested input from the Committee. In response to a question from the Committee, Mr. Kent recommended that the City offer to maintain the intersection rather than the entire frontage road.

Assistant to the City Manager Jeff Martin proposed that the City meet with ADOT in an effort to achieve an amicable resolution.

City Manager Charles Luster stated the opinion that a resolution of the Council outlining the City's opposition to the proposal and outlining justification for ADOT's assumption of the costs of maintenance would be beneficial in reaching an acceptable agreement.

Dobson Ranch Association Executive Director Dale Douglas commented that the project is small in scope, and added that the inclusion of the sidewalk should not increase the City's liability. Mr. Douglas urged the Committee to approve the proposal.

In response to a question from Committeemember Giles, Mr. Kent stated that a \$40,000 estimate for annual maintenance costs was provided by the City's Transportation Department.

Committeemember Pomeroy indicated his intention to view the area in question.

It was moved by Committeemember Giles, seconded by Committeemember Pomeroy, to recommend to the Council that staff's recommendation that a resolution be adopted requiring ADOT to install and maintain landscaping along the Price Freeway frontage road from Baseline to Guadalupe, be approved.

Carried unanimously.

3. Review and consider the recommended alignment for Baseline Road from Horne to the Consolidated Canal.

City Engineer Keith Nath presented the Committee with an overview of the proposed alignment for Baseline Road from Horne to the Consolidated Canal. Mr. Nath reported that few comments were received from a public meeting held on September 24, 1998, and that citizen concerns involved possible increased traffic through residential areas, difficult entrance/egress from a private school in Gilbert, access to businesses on the northeast corner of the intersection, and uncertainties over the future traffic interchange at Lindsay and the Superstition Freeway.

Supervising Engineer Ross Renner stated that SRP electric and irrigation would require modification and added that an additional right-of-way acquisition would be necessary. Mr. Renner said that the project would entail the installation of returns and curbs, but reported that while the permanent raised median could not be installed at this time due to the alignment of southbound lanes, the project may be constructed at a later date.

In response to a question from Chairman Hawker, Mr. Nath verified that the project will cost approximately \$9.1 million.

It was moved by Committeemember Pomeroy, seconded by Committeemember Giles, to recommend to the Council that staff's recommended alignment for Baseline Road from Horne to the Consolidated Canal, be approved.

Carried unanimously.

4. Adjournment.

It was moved by Committeemember Pomeroy, seconded by Committeemember Giles, that the meeting be adjourned at 5:05 p.m.

Carried unanimously.

I hereby certify that the foregoing minutes are a true and correct copy of the minutes of the Transportation Committee Meeting held on the 11th day of January 1999. I further certify that the meeting was duly called and held and that a quorum was present.

Dated this \_\_\_\_\_ day of \_\_\_\_\_, 1999

\_\_\_\_\_  
BARBARA JONES, CITY CLERK