

TRANSPORTATION COMMITTEE MINUTES

September 1, 1998

The Transportation Committee of the City of Mesa met in the lower level meeting room of the Council Chambers, 57 East 1st Street, on September 1, 1998 at 4:05 p.m.

COMMITTEE PRESENT

Keno Hawker, Chairman
John Giles
Pat Pomeroy

COUNCIL PRESENT

Jim Davidson

STAFF PRESENT

C.K. Luster
Dan Cleavenger
Linda Crocker
Mike Hutchinson
Barbara Jones
Harry Kent
Ron Krosting
Patrick Murphy
Keith Nath
Ellen Pence
Bryan Raines
Tom Remes
Ursula Strephans
Jim Wright
Others

OTHERS PRESENT

Gary Finlinson
Others

1. Discuss and consider a color scheme for the walls along Gilbert Road from Southern Avenue to Main Street.

Committeemember Giles advised that he resides in the area of Gilbert Road and McKellips and said that he has received numerous comments from citizens regarding the proposed color of the walls along Gilbert Road from Southern Avenue to Main Street. Committeemember Giles stated the opinion that the issue should be further discussed and said that Mr. Gary Finlinson is present in the audience and would like to address the Committee relative to this agenda item.

Mr. Finlinson expressed the opinion that the two proposed colors for the wall, which are the exact same colors that were used on the walls for the McKellips Road widening project, are too vibrant and create a dominant theme. Mr. Finlinson spoke in support of painting the wall a single color, preferably a neutral beige or taupe, and presented the Committee with a petition containing approximately 150 signatures of residents who support the proposal.

Committeemember Pomeroy stated that he was dissatisfied with the choice of colors used on the wall along McKellips Road and recommended that the Committee consider utilizing only the lighter color paint that was used on the wall rather than painting the wall in dual tones. Committeemember Pomeroy expressed the opinion that this option may soften the appearance of the wall and satisfy the concerns of the citizens.

In response to a question from Chairman Hawker, Public Works Manager Harry Kent stressed the importance of avoiding delays and selecting the final colors as soon as possible. Mr. Kent stated the opinion that as the landscaping along the road matures, the colors of the paint will be less defined and will blend in with the surroundings.

It was moved by Committeemember Pomeroy to recommend to the Council that the walls along Gilbert Road be painted in only one shade, the lighter of the two colors that was painted on the walls along McKellips Road.

Mr. Finlinson commented that this option would not be acceptable to the citizens who have voiced concerns regarding the color of the wall.

Chairman Hawker stated that the motion dies for lack of a second.

It was moved by Committeemember Pomeroy, seconded by Committeemember Giles, to recommend to the Council that alternative colors be selected for the wall along Gilbert Road.

In response to a question from Chairman Hawker, Mr. Finlinson expressed his willingness to work with staff and select an appropriate color choice for the wall.

Committeemember Giles indicated that paint samples will be selected and forwarded to Mr. Finlinson for his review and input.

Committeemember Giles requested that this item be placed on the agenda of the next Council Policy Session.

Carried unanimously.

2. Hear and discuss an update on the City's transit program.

Assistant City Manager Mike Hutchinson addressed the Committee relative to this agenda item and stated that as a result of the passage of the sales tax ballot issue in the May 1998 General Election, several issues have arisen which require discussion and consideration.

Public Works Manager Harry Kent noted that one of the projects that was included in the sales tax issue is the construction and operation of a dedicated transit maintenance facility. Mr. Kent reported that two sites have been identified as possible locations for the maintenance facility but added that the owner of the properties is not willing, at this point, to negotiate with the City. Mr. Kent indicated that staff will continue to pursue this matter.

Transportation Director Ron Krosting briefly discussed the Pull Out program and stated that staff has identified potential locations for the bus pull outs. Mr. Krosting noted that a number of bus companies are opposed to bus pull outs because travel time is increased when the drivers of the vehicles have to wait for an opportunity to pull back out into traffic and stressed the importance of selecting appropriate locations for the bus pull outs.

In response to a question from Committeemember Giles, Mr. Krosting reported that a location for the Transit Center remains undetermined at this time. Mr. Krosting commented that the selected site must be highly visible and stressed the importance of a location that allows the Center to service a broad variety of markets.

Discussion ensued relative to the fact that a light-rail system remains under study and the possibility of incorporating new design standards to take into account future bus pull outs.

Chairman Hawker thanked staff for their presentation.

3. Hear a report and discuss the City's Speed Hump Program.

Transportation Director Ron Krosting and Assistant Traffic Engineer Dan Cleavenger addressed the Committee relative to this agenda item.

Mr. Cleavenger reported that the City's Speed Hump Program was adopted by the Council in December 1997 and stated that the purpose of the program is to utilize speed humps in an effort to control speeding on residential streets with demonstrated speeding problems.

Mr. Cleavenger informed the Committee that since the inception of the program, staff has received 178 requests for speed humps on 206 street segments, and added that approximately one-half of the requests have met the City's criteria for the placement of speed humps. Mr. Cleavenger noted that the program is extremely popular and said that staff recommends that the program remain in effect.

Discussion ensued among the members of the Committee relative to the fact that the program enhances safety and is an effective tool in preventing accidents in our neighborhoods.

Chairman Hawker stated that it is the consensus of the Committee that the Speed Hump Program remain in effect and commended staff on their efforts.

4. Adjournment.

It was moved by Committeemember Pomeroy, seconded by Committeemember Giles, that the Transportation Committee meeting adjourn at 5:45 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 of the City of Mesa, Arizona, held on the 1st day of September, 1998. I further certify that the meeting was duly called and held and that a quorum was present.

Dated this ____ day of _____ 1998

BARBARA JONES, CITY CLERK