

TRANSPORTATION ADVISORY BOARD MEETING

APPROVED

HELD ON JANUARY 21, 2014

TAB Members Present

Dawn Fortuna, Chairperson
Bruce Hallsted, Vice Chairperson
Kay Henry
Jim LeCheminant
Jennifer Love
Ian Murray
Ron Wilson

TAB Members Absent

Ron Barnes (Excused)
Ian Bennett (Excused)
Troy Peterson (Excused)
Mike Schmidt (Excused)

Others Present

Renate Ehm
Sabine Ellis
James Hash
Sgt. David Meicke
Amanda McKeever
Alan Sanderson
Mark Venti

Chairperson Dawn Fortuna called the January 21, 2014 Transportation Advisory Board meeting to order at 5:30 pm.

Item 1. Approval of the minutes of the Transportation Advisory Board meeting held on December 17, 2013.

Board Member Kay Henry moved to approve the minutes as written. Board Member Jim LeCheminant seconded and the motion passed unanimously.

Item 2. Items from citizens present.

None.

Item 3. Hear a presentation and discuss Part II of the City of Mesa Transportation Plan update, which includes the transportation elements. (Citywide).

Senior Transportation Engineer Mark Venti introduced himself and Planner II Jim Hash to the Board. Mr. Venti thanked the Board for their continued work to complete the Transportation Plan (Plan). He also apologized to the Board for providing such a large amount of information to review in such a short period.

Mr. Venti then began to describe Part II of the Plan. He explained that Part II compiles all of the components of the plan with the exception of the roadway section and the Transit section. He explained that Transit Services is completing their own Transit Plan and that it should be before the Board in the near future. Mr. Venti explained that the roadway portion of the Plan is still being completed. He said that it has been drafted and provided to the Planning Department for 60 day public review. Mr. Venti explained that the document provided to the Board was for readability and that Transportation will work with Transit Services and the Planning Department to produce the document into a standardized final format.

Mr. Venti described the first element: Complete Streets. He explained that it is the cornerstone of all the other Plan elements and that it is the direction staff would like to take in philosophy in designing and carrying out street plans. He provided the definition of complete streets and then discussed the benefits of this element. He explained that staff also provided in the Plan their thoughts on how to move forward with providing complete streets. He explained that staff will be working on adopting a complete street design policy in the near future and that it will be used and applied on design principles as street designs are developed and redeveloped.

Mr. Hash then described the Pedestrian Element of the Plan. He explained that staff looked at how people moved within the City on foot and movement patterns. Mr. Hash explained that existing conditions were reviewed as were options and gaps within each Council District and how those gaps can be addressed moving forward.

From there, Mr. Hash explained that the Bicycle Element was the next element included in the Plan. Mr. Venti then described the Aviation Element. He explained that a big portion of the Aviation Element describes the northeast Mesa area development Plan, as well as the Phoenix-Mesa Gateway Airport, and the plan to move the terminal to the east and provide development around the terminal and roadway access.

Mr. Hash then described the Travel Demand Management Element and programs within the private and public sectors as well as travel reduction programs.

Mr. Venti then described the Intelligent Transportation System (ITS) element of the Plan. He explained that it is a discussion of the current system and discussion of real time adaptive system and current and future needs of the Intelligent Transportation System.

Mr. Venti then outlined the plans for bringing the remainder of the Transportation Plan to the Board and which elements the Board can expect to see in the near future. He then offered to answer questions from the Board.

Chairperson Fortuna asked if the aviation portion was new to the Plan and Mr. Venti replied that it is, and that an aviation plan had not been included in the previous plan. Chairperson Fortuna noted that including the aviation element was forward thinking and asked if it will link multiple modes of transportation to the airport or if it would only address freeways and roadways. Mr. Venti responded that the Aviation Element is a big part of northeast Mesa development area and both transit hubs and paths are planned for the northeast study area. He explained it would include multimodal connectivity. Mr. Hash added that staff had worked with planners at Phoenix-Mesa Gateway Airport and Falcon Field and a synopsis of the plans is already in place as well as how development will coincide with each airport.

Board Member Ron Wilson asked how light rail connectivity fits in with the Plan and how it applies to streets and roads. Mr. Venti responded that it will be included in the Transit Plan and that Transit Services staff will present their Plan to the Board at a future meeting.

Board Member Bruce Hallsted asked if commuter rail service was included in either Plan's elements. Mr. Hash responded that it is still at regional and state level planning and the alignment has not yet been selected and is not included in the Transportation Plan.

Board Member Hallsted noted that the Plan states that there are some projects related to Phase I of the east terminal at the Phoenix Mesa Gateway Airport and asked if that was actively moving forward. Traffic Engineer Alan Sanderson explained that design of roadways is included, but not design of the terminal. He explained that the vision now is that the main roadways into the airport would be City of Mesa roadways and design elements for those roadways were included in the most recent Bond. In regards to design of the actual terminal, Mr. Sanderson explained that City funds cannot be used for a non-City asset, and that the new terminal would be a Phoenix-Mesa Gateway Airport asset.

Mr. Sanderson then provided additional information on funding sources provided by various authorities and jurisdictions based on Board Member Hallsted's follow up questions.

Based on the Board's interest, Mr. Venti suggested that the Phoenix-Mesa Gateway Airport present before the Board at a future date.

Board Member Henry commented that the Plan needs to clarify that the Maricopa County Trip Reduction Program impacts all employers that have over 100 employees.

The meeting was adjourned at 6:01 p.m.