



TRANSPORTATION COMMITTEE MINUTES

November 30, 2000

The Transportation Committee of the City of Mesa met in the lower level meeting room of the Council Chambers, 57 East 1st Street, on November 30, 2000 at 9:30 a.m.

COMMITTEE PRESENT

Jim Davidson, Chairman
Pat Pomeroy
Claudia Walters

COMMITTEE ABSENT

None

OTHERS PRESENT

Mike Hutchinson
Barbara Jones

COUNCIL PRESENT

Keno Hawker

Chairman Davidson welcomed everyone to the meeting and said that due to time constraints agenda item #1 will be continued to a future meeting.

1. Hear a presentation from ADOT regarding possible design configuration changes for Intersection of US 60 and 202.

(This agenda item was continued to a subsequent Transportation Committee meeting.)

Transportation Director Ron Krosting stated that although the Arizona Department of Transportation's (ADOT) presentation to the Committee will be heard at a later time, of importance to note is that ADOT and its consultants had conducted numerous neighborhood meetings and that a public meeting, to include a presentation by ADOT on this matter, is scheduled for December 14, 2000 at Stevenson School.

Chairman Davidson apologized to ADOT representatives for postponement of this agenda item.

2. Hear an update on planned improvements to various traffic interchanges along US 60 (Superstition Freeway).

Mr. Krosting addressed the Committee regarding this agenda item and referred to a report provided to the Committee (See Attachment) which provides a construction timetable for improvements to US 60 interchanges, as follows:

Country Club Drive Dr.	Under construction. Completion scheduled for June 2001.
Dobson Rd. and Alma School Rd.	Under design. Construction tentatively scheduled for April 2001-July 2003.
Mesa Dr.	Under design. Construction tentatively scheduled for July 2002 – May 2003
Stapley Dr.	Construction scheduled for FY 2005
Gilbert Rd.	Construction scheduled for FY 2005.
Val Vista Dr.	Construction scheduled for FY 2006.

Mr. Krosting noted that the primary improvements to the interchanges will include three through lanes and dual left turn lanes in each direction. Mr. Krosting expressed concern regarding the fact that the Stapley Drive, Gilbert Road and Val Vista Drive interchange improvements are not scheduled until 2005 and 2006, which is after the widening of US 60 is completed. Mr. Krosting discussed the possibility of the City advancing the funding for the interchange projects, at a cost of \$10 million for the three interchanges, with reimbursement from ADOT and Congestion Mitigation and Air Quality (CMAQ) funding when the funds become available. Mr. Krosting added that it was not staff's present recommendation to advance funding, but to continue working with ADOT and MAG to design the projects as quickly as possible.

In response to a question from Vice Mayor Davidson, Mr. Krosting explained that because ADOT does not have enough funds to complete the improvements without financial aid, City staff has submitted the projects to the Maricopa Association of Governments (MAG) for Federal funding with the intent of turning over the funds to ADOT. Mr. Krosting added that ADOT's budget for each interchange is in the range of \$1 million to \$1.5 million although the estimated total cost of each interchange is in the range of \$3 million to \$4.5 million.

In response to a question from Chairman Davidson, Mr. Krosting advised that although staff requested ADOT include a Lindsay Road interchange with the US 60 improvements, ADOT chose not to include the interchange.

City Manager Mike Hutchinson expressed concern regarding the scheduling of the Alma School Road interchange improvements so as not to interfere with the 2001 holiday shopping season at Fiesta Mall. Mr. Hutchinson added that staff is carefully working with ADOT to ensure that the improvements begin during the spring of 2001 and conclude prior to the shopping season.

Chairman Davidson expressed the opinion that construction of all of the interchange improvements will affect other shopping areas in Mesa, especially the shopping area at the Stapley Drive interchange.

Mr. Krosting concurred with Chairman Davidson regarding the impact to other shopping areas and noted that because the Fiesta Mall area typically experiences heavy traffic during the holiday season, the construction bid will provide for completion of the Alma School Road interchange prior to November 2001. Mr. Krosting advised that the Dobson Road interchange improvements will be bid together with the Alma School Road interchange so that in the event the Alma School Road interchange cannot be completed prior to the beginning of November, the contractor can shift to Dobson Road and complete that interchange, then complete the Alma School Road interchange after the holiday season is over.

Committeemember Pomeroy expressed concern regarding the Stapley Drive interchange improvements not occurring until 2005 and commented on the rapid development of the Mesa Grande area.

In response to a question from Committeemember Pomeroy regarding the City advancing funds to improve the Stapley Drive interchange, Mr. Hutchinson advised that although staff would continue to work with ADOT and investigate other funding sources to advance the project, he had concerns regarding the advancement of funds for interchange improvements because of other street funding priorities. Mr. Hutchinson stated that the City is falling behind on street maintenance.

Chairman Davidson requested that staff present a future report to the Transportation Committee regarding the street maintenance program.

Chairman Davidson expressed appreciation to Mr. Krosting for his input.

3. Discuss and consider a proposal for the Transportation Committee to hold a public meeting regarding the 202 and Recker Road interchange.

Mr. Krosting addressed the Committee regarding this agenda item and advised that the purpose of the proposed public meeting is to inform the Committee of the concerns the residents have communicated to staff regarding the proposed Recker Road interchange to the 202 Freeway. Mr. Krosting added that although it is staff's opinion that the Recker Road interchange is an equitable solution to the anticipated overcrowding at the Higley Road and Power Road interchanges, the Red Mountain Ranch residents are primarily opposed to the Recker Road interchange. Mr. Krosting added that staff suggests that the public meeting take place in the Red Mountain area following the holiday season.

Mayor Hawker requested that the public meeting provide for input from residents in the Power Road and Higley Road corridors as well as the Red Mountain area.

Mr. Krosting said that staff would directly notify as many homeowners' associations as possible in addition to mailing flyers regarding the meeting.

Mayor Hawker also expressed concern regarding the manner in which the public comment portion of the meeting would be structured, particularly in view of the expected large turnout and suggested encouraging group spokespeople and limiting comments.

Discussion ensued regarding the public meeting format.

Committeemember Walters questioned the role of the Transportation Advisory Committee with respect to the public meeting.

Chairman Davidson expressed the opinion that the Transportation Committee should preside over the proposed public meeting.

Chairman Davidson voiced the opinion that opposition to the interchange will be difficult to overcome due to the fact that Red Mountain residents were previously mis-informed by ADOT that there would not be a Recker Road interchange.

Mr. Krosting noted that there was confusion with respect to ADOT's position regarding the interchange and that the Final Environmental Impact Statement (FEIS) provided for a traffic interchange at Recker Road when traffic conditions warranted.

It was moved by Committeemember Pomeroy, seconded by Committeemember Walters, to recommend to the Council that the Transportation Committee hold a public meeting regarding the 202 and Recker Road interchange.

Carried unanimously.

4. Discuss and consider installing supplemental "NOTICE" signs, yellow in color, on existing signs identifying the location of the Red Mountain Freeway between Recker Road and US 60, and the Santan Freeway between US 60 and Power Road at the arterial street crossings.

Committeemember Walters stated support for the proposed supplemental "NOTICE" signs.

It was moved by Committeemember Walters, seconded by Committeemember Pomeroy, to recommend to the Council that staff be instructed to install supplemental "NOTICE" signs, yellow in color, on existing signs identifying the location of the Red Mountain Freeway between Recker Road and US 60, and the Santan Freeway between US 60 and Power Road at the arterial street crossings.

Carried unanimously.

Chairman Davidson stated that in addition to providing the proposed signs, he supported adopting a campaign to rigorously inform the public and Realtors of the location of proposed freeways, including the placement of maps depicting the location of proposed freeways in the classified section of newspapers and also providing maps to Realtors.

5. Hear a report on the status of the Baseline Road Improvement Project.

(This agenda item was continued to a subsequent Transportation Committee Meeting.)

Chairman Davidson and Committeemember Walters apologized to everyone for the postponement of agenda items 1 and 5. Chairman Davidson added that the items are important and will be heard at a subsequent meeting.

6. Adjournment.

Without objection, the Transportation Committee adjourned at 10:18 a.m.

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 30th day of November 2000. I further certify that the meeting was duly called and held and that a quorum was present.

Dated this ____ day of _____ 2000

BARBARA JONES, CITY CLERK

Attachment
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