

# TRANSPORTATION ADVISORY BOARD MEETING

## DRAFT

HELD ON JUNE 18, 2013

### TAB Members Present

Ron Barnes, Chairman  
Dawn Fortuna, Vice Chairperson  
Bruce Hallsted  
Kay Henry  
Jim LeCheminant  
Mike Schmidt  
Ron Wilson

### TAB Members Absent

Troy Peterson (Excused)  
Ian Bennett (Excused)

### Others Present

Dan Cleavenger  
Randi Davis  
Renate Ehm  
Sabine Ellis  
Amanda McKeever  
Haley Mengel  
Kimberly Nelson  
Jodi Sorrell  
Mark Venti  
Jim Hash  
Al Zubi  
Sgt. David Meicke

Chairman Ron Barnes called the June 18, 2013 Transportation Advisory Board meeting to order at 5:31 p.m.

Item 1.        Approval of the minutes of the Transportation Advisory Board meeting held on April 16, 2013.

Board Member Kay Henry moved to approve the minutes as written. Board Member Mike Schmidt seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

Item 2.        Annual election of Chairperson and Vice Chairperson. Mesa City Code requires that the Transportation Advisory Board select their own Chairperson and Vice Chairperson from among their members to serve a one-year term. By-laws state that no board member shall serve more than two consecutive full terms as Chairperson or Vice Chairperson. Board members who have served two consecutive full terms as an officer may be reelected to that office after at least one intervening year on the Board during which he/she does not serve as that officer. Partial terms as an officer shall not be counted towards term limits. The term of Chairperson and Vice Chairperson will begin at the July 2013 Transportation Advisory Board meeting.

Chairperson Ron Barnes opened the floor for nominations.

Board Member Jim LeCheminant nominated Vice Chairperson Dawn Fortuna for Chairperson. Board Member Bruce Hallsted seconded the motion.

Board Member Kay Henry nominated Board Member Bruce Hallsted for Chairperson. Board Member Mike Schmidt seconded the motion.

Transportation Department Director Dan Cleavenger and Traffic Studies Supervisor Renate Ehm collected and counted the ballots and announced that Vice Chairperson Fortuna was elected to Chairperson with six votes received. Mr. Cleavenger announced that Board Member Hallsted received one vote.

Chairman Barnes opened the floor for Vice Chairperson Nominations.

Board Member Fortuna nominated Board Member Bruce Hallsted for Vice Chairperson. Board Member Henry seconded the motion.

Board Member Hallsted nominated Board Member Ian Bennett for Vice Chairperson. Board Member Ron Wilson seconded the motion.

Mr. Cleavenger and Ms. Ehm collected and counted the ballots and announced that Board Member Hallsted was elected to Vice Chairperson with six votes received. Mr. Cleavenger announced that Board Member Bennett received one vote.

Item 3.            Items from citizens present.

None.

Item 4.            Hear a presentation, discuss and take action on the staff recommendation to recommend City Council adoption of the Complete Streets Policy.

Senior Transportation Engineer Mark Venti introduced himself and Transportation Planner II James Hash and explained that they would be giving an update on the Complete Streets Policy development. Mr. Venti explained that the presentation was an opportunity for the Board to discuss the policy, ask questions to be answered by staff members, and ultimately move forward with approval to take the policy to council for adoption.

Mr. Venti went on to explain the Complete Streets Policy, describing to the Board that the policy will be a way for the City to declare to the region and Mesa communities that the City of Mesa adopts ideas and concepts that incorporate multi-user accommodations into street designs. Mr. Venti explained that these ideas and concepts would help staff and management develop street plans that create a cohesive environment for a multitude of street users to include bicyclists, pedestrians, transit, and individuals with disabilities. Mr. Venti shared with the board examples of streets before and after implementing a Complete Streets Policy.

Mr. Venti went on to describe the elements of the policy which include accessibility, integration, and implementation. Mr. Venti told the board that the policy is patterned after the Mesa Association of Governments (MAG) guide and provides an opportunity to take into consideration the unique needs of surrounding areas. Once the policy is implemented, performance standards will be put in place to track progress of the policy.

Mr. Venti explained to the board that the Complete Streets Policy will formalize a process and incorporate better and newer standards in street design. Mr. Venti described the benefits of using the Complete Streets Policy to support local economic development, enhance air quality and environment, encourage active and healthy lifestyles by providing more elements and

abilities for bicycle and pedestrian safety, supports efficiency, creates stronger public places and neighborhoods, and improves cost effectiveness. Mr. Venti explained that the Transportation General Plan emphasizes creating stronger places in neighborhoods and the Complete Streets Policy would be a crucial element in reaching that goal. Mr. Venti then turned the discussion over to Planner II James Hash.

Mr. Hash explained the role MAG plays in developing Complete Streets Policies. Mr. Hash informed the board that most cities and towns have representation on MAG boards and committees, including a Bicycle and Pedestrian Board. Mr. Hash told the board that he serves on the Bicycle and Pedestrian Board which addresses regional connectivity and helped to develop the MAG guide on Complete Streets Policies. Mr. Hash explained that a Complete Streets Policy allows cities and towns to become more competitive when trying to obtain federal funding.

Mr. Venti then explained to the board the way in which the City will go from policy to implementation. Mr. Venti told the board the Complete Streets Policy will be an integral element in the Transportation Plan Update and will be used as a foundation for a standalone plan. Mr. Venti went on to further explain that the policy will work towards “nuts and bolts” ideas to provide more guidance for the Complete Street Policy once the update to the Transportation plan is done.

Mr. Venti explained to the board that many Cities are moving toward comprehensive and holistic planning and designing for streets, affording the opportunity to identify what goes onto the street prior to development so developers can get a feel for how and what the street is supposed to be. Mr. Venti explained to the board that approach is currently difficult to execute with several different street development guides and explained that the Complete Streets Policy will help standardize the process. Mr. Venti told the board that once the policy is in place, an annual review will be performed to apply performance measurements that will help improve the policy as it is implemented.

Mr. Venti then concluded the presentation and solicited questions from the board.

Chairperson Barnes thanked Mr. Venti and Mr. Hash and commended their efforts and expressed his support of the Complete Streets Policy.

Board Member Dawn Fortuna asked Mr. Venti and Mr. Hash about the outlying areas in the City that have yet to be incorporated into the City’s transit system. Mr. Hash explained that the City would coordinate with Valley Metro to bring together the City’s Complete Streets Policy and Valley Metro’s regional transit plan.

Transportation Department Director Dan Cleavenger explained that changes would be made to existing routes and new routes would be incorporated and retrofitted at a later time.

Mr. Venti explained the current development design methods in place do not always consider what bus routes may be planned for future installment. Mr. Venti told the board that the Complete Streets Policy would help identify future needs and allow for a more comprehensive planning and designing tool.

Board Member Kay Henry asked if there is a timeline in place to help identify what items need to be started and when the Complete Streets Policy will be incorporated into the existing streets.

Mr. Venti explained that the Complete Streets Policy would need to be incorporated into the Transportation Plan to provide the opportunity to discuss and learn more about the policy which will encourage flexibility for implementation. Mr. Venti told the board that the timelines for other projects, such as the Complete Streets Policy and creation of a pedestrian plan, would be reviewed once the Transportation Plan update is completed.

Mr. Cleavenger explained to the board that many of the older streets in the City of Mesa would have to be retrofitted to accommodate the Complete Streets Policy. Mr. Cleavenger reassured the board that construction on new projects currently incorporates many different elements to include transit, bicycles, and pedestrians. Mr. Cleavenger reiterated to the board the opportunity to compete for federal funds that the Complete Streets Policy would present to the City of Mesa. Additionally, Mr. Cleavenger told the board that staff is working to incorporate all elements in all projects wherever possible.

Board Member Bruce Hallsted clarified with staff the purpose of the Complete Streets Policy as a guide or a policy. Mr. Hash explained that the purpose of the Complete Streets Policy was to express the City's commitment to implement street plans that take into consideration all different elements of transportation while acting as a guide for the region and could be considered a promissory note for federal dollars.

Board Member Ron Wilson asked for staff to provide an example of a performance measure. Mr. Venti used an example of a developer coming to staff with an idea for a specific ramp that is not constructible; in that scenario, Mr. Venti explained that staff would create a performance measure to determine if elements of street design are buildable or attainable and then use that performance measure when evaluating other street projects.

Board Member Wilson asked Mr. Hash and Mr. Venti if the Complete Streets Policy included a timeline to assist with moving forward with new developments. Mr. Hash explained that an inventory of City streets would help determine a timeline and address new developments as well as existing infrastructure.

Council Member Dawn Fortuna motioned to forward the plan to City Council. Board Member Kay Henry seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

Item 5. Hear a staff report, discuss and take action on the staff recommendation to rename Hibbert to Martin Luther King, Jr. Lane from University Drive to 5th Place.

Transportation Department Director Dan Cleavenger began the discussion by outlining the new policy in place for street name changes within the City of Mesa adopted in August of 2012. Mr. Cleavenger explained that Transportation staff would be bringing forward a request from residents to change Hibbert to Martin Luther King Jr. Lane from University to 5<sup>th</sup> Place. Mr. Cleavenger explained that the floor would be open to public comment at the end of staff's presentation and recommendation.

Senior Transportation Engineer Al Zubi introduced himself and began presenting the proposal for the street name change. Mr. Zubi explained to the board that the segment identified for the street name change is 2/10ths of a mile long and does not affect resident addresses, although it does impact an area under development. Mr. Zubi explained staff evaluation of the street name change was based on the policy adopted in August of 2012 and advised that the Department recommends approval based on that policy.

Chairperson Barnes solicited questions from the Board.

Board Member Ron Wilson asked Mr. Zubi when in 2012 the request for this change came to staff for evaluation. Mr. Zubi said that this particular request came in around the November/December timeframe. Board Member Wilson then asked how long it would take to process a request such as this one. Mr. Zubi answered by explaining to the board that this is the first request staff has received since implementing the policy and more time and requests would be needed in order to adequately evaluate the how long these requests would take in the future.

Board Member Bruce Hallsted asked who initiated the request for the street name change. Mr. Zubi explained that the request was initiated by the Dr. Martin Luther King Celebration Committee comprised of City of Mesa residents. Mr. Zubi further explained that the Committee's request came to the City at the time the developer began to build in the area affected by the street name change. Mr. Zubi told the board that the committee had several meetings to discuss the street name change. Board Member Hallsted asked if any of the members of the committee live in the neighborhood where the street name change would take effect. Mr. Zubi explained that the policy does not require the proposal to come from the residents in the affected area.

Board Member Dawn Fortuna clarified with Mr. Zubi that there are currently no residents living on the street at this time and that there are no mailing addresses as the area is currently under development. Mr. Zubi confirmed that the developer of the area was notified of the street name change, which will affect the address of the development. Mr. Cleavenger told the board that this particular request is an unusual one in that there are no residents on the affected street and explained that notices were sent out to the neighborhood and surrounding areas soliciting comments to express support or no-support.

Chairperson Barnes opened the floor to public comment.

Chairperson Barnes requested Al Zubi read a letter that was received by the board from a concerned community member regarding the street name change. The letter was from a resident in the affected neighborhood and expressed concern about the ability for the neighborhood to achieve historical designation should the street name change be approved. In the letter, the resident requested the board not propose the street name change to City Council until the impact on the attainment of historical designation of the neighborhood is further explored by staff.

Board Member Dawn Fortuna asked for more information on the status of the historical designation of the neighborhood. Mr. Cleavenger told the board that he had a discussion with

the City of Mesa Historic Preservation officer who explained to Mr. Cleavenger that the street name change would not have an impact on the historical designation of the neighborhood.

Chairperson Barnes called community member Bruce Nelson to address the board.

Mr. Nelson explained to the board that he had grown up in the affected neighborhood and supports the street name change. Mr. Nelson told the board he feels that the street name change would commemorate the community in a positive way.

Chairperson Barnes called community member Patricia Willis to address the board.

Ms. Willis is a resident in the neighborhood and explained to the board that she is in support of the street name change provided it does not impact the historical designation being sought by the community.

Chairperson Barnes called community member Andrea Fray to address the board.

Ms. Fray is a resident in the neighborhood. Ms. Fray explained that she feels that the street name Hibbert helps to define and preserve the neighborhood. Ms. Fray is against the proposed street name change.

Chairperson Barnes called community member Cozetta Blake to address the board.

Ms. Blake is a property owner near the affected neighborhood. Ms. Blake explained to the board that she feels the street name should not be changed as it represents the history of the neighborhood. Ms. Blake is against the proposed street name change.

Chairperson Barnes called community member Cliff Moon to address the board.

Mr. Moon is not a resident of the affected neighborhood. Mr. Moon introduced himself as a member of the Dr. Martin Luther King Celebration Committee and explained that he was part of the group who put forth the proposal to change the street name change. Mr. Moon explained to the board that the committee has been working on the proposal for approximately one year. During that time, Mr. Moon explained that the committee was in contact with City staff and performed community outreach. Mr. Moon told the board the committee is aware of the controversy; however, the committee and other members of the neighborhood feel it would be an honor to change the street name to commemorate Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.

Chairperson Barnes called community member Maria Mancinas to address the board.

Ms. Mancinas grew up in the affected neighborhood and was a longtime resident; however, she no longer resides there. Ms. Mancinas expressed to the board that she felt the outreach in the neighborhood regarding the street name change was lacking. Ms. Mancinas requested the committee proposing the street name change reach out to the community before the Board moves the proposal to City Council.

Chairperson Barnes called community member Isela Leavitt to address the board.

Ms. Leavitt grew up in the affected neighborhood and was a longtime resident; however, she no longer resides there. Ms. Leavitt expressed strong opposition to the street name change, stating she felt it would take away from the history of the neighborhood. Ms. Leavitt is against the proposed street name change.

Chairperson Barnes called community member Tamkia Fray to address the board.

Ms. Tamika Fray is a resident of the affected neighborhood. Ms. Fray expressed concern that the portion of road being proposed for the street name change is insignificant and suggests the committee look at a larger section of road that would not compromise the historic value of the community. Ms. Fray is against the proposed street name change.

Chairperson Barnes opened the floor to any questions or comments the board may have.

Board Member Kay Henry proposed to the board that the board further review the proposal and take into consideration other streets that could be renamed in honor of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Board Member Henry expressed concern about changing the street name Hibbert as there is history in that name as it relates to the community.

Mr. Cleavenger explained to the board that the Hibbert family was among the founding families in Mesa. Mr. Cleavenger further explained the alignment of Hibbert through the City.

Board Member Fortuna asked if there were any neighborhood or property-owner meetings held regarding the proposed street name change. Mr. Zubi explained to the board that there had been neighborhood discussion; however, the City was not involved in that communication. Mr. Cleavenger offered to assist the Dr. Martin Luther King Celebration committee in finding a location and administering more community meetings to gather feedback to determine if the affected community is the right community for the proposed street name change.

Chairperson Barnes agreed with staff's recommendation to go back and take additional steps to ensure community support, answer questions and facilitate more community outreach.

Board Member Bruce Hallsted expressed concern that the request came from community members who do not reside in the affected area. Board member Hallsted suggested the board revisit the policy to look at including some requirement of residency in the area proposed for street name changes. Board Member Hallsted suggested tabling the item and affording the neighborhood more opportunity to review the proposed street name change.

Chairperson Barnes directed City staff to go back and engage the community and proposing committee in communications regarding the street name change. Chairperson Barnes thanked the community members who attended the meeting and addressed the board.

Board Member Hallsted motioned to table the item pending further review and involvement from the neighborhood. Board Member Ron Wilson seconded the motion. The item was tabled with unanimous support.

The meeting was adjourned at 6:51 p.m.