

TRANSPORTATION COMMITTEE MINUTES

September 19, 1996

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 19, 1996 at 7:00 a.m.

COMMITTEE PRESENT

Pat Gilbert, Chairman
John Giles
Dennis Kavanaugh

COMMITTEE ABSENT

None

COUNCIL PRESENT

Mayor Wayne Brown
Jim Stapley

STAFF PRESENT

Linda Crocker
Mike Hutchinson
Harry Kent
Ron Krosting
Jeff Martin
Ellen Pence
Bryan Raines
Jim Wright
Others

OTHERS PRESENT

Robbie Sherwood
Others

1. Review and discuss present service:

- a. Bus system
- b. Dial-A-Ride
- c. Specialized Northeast Mesa/McDonnell Douglas Service
- d. Bus service to ASU East
- e. Proposed extension of bus service to Gilbert

Traffic and Streets Director Ron Krosting and Transit Coordinator Jim Wright addressed the Committee relative to the above listed agenda items.

Mr. Wright referred to maps displayed in the Council Chambers and provided the Committee with a brief update on the City's bus system. Mr. Wright reported that the City is currently responsible for the operation of seven local bus routes in Mesa and added that the Regional Public Transportation Authority (RPTA) is responsible for an additional four regional and two express routes which operate within the City. Mr. Wright noted that the routes are funded

by the RPTA, the Federal Transit Administration (FTA) passenger fares and contributions from the cities served.

Discussion ensued relative to the newly initiated Power Road (Route No. 184) bus service, the Mesa Express Power Road (Route No. 533) service which will begin on Monday, September 30, 1996, the disappointing results of the Arizona Department of Transportation (ADOT) Air Quality Grant Demonstration Program "Service Route," Dial-A-Ride service area expansions, the fact that staff is currently analyzing a request to provide regional service on Gilbert Road, and Arizona State University's (ASU's) shuttle program.

2. Review and discuss future service levels.

Mr. Wright discussed Council's direction to develop expanded service options and discussed Council's recommended service enhancements which includes implementing service on Power Road serving Sunland Village East and Fountain of the Sun, establishing a new express route on Power Road and the addition of a trip express route on McKellips Road.

Discussion ensued relative to continuing studies relative to improving service, determining future goals and generating additional revenue to meet the increasing service demands of the City.

Committeemembers Giles and Kavanaugh stressed the importance of improving service in East Mesa and stated strong support for developing and implementing an overall aggressive transit plan for the City.

3. Discuss fixed guideway study.

Mr. Wright informed the Committee that staff is currently involved in a cooperative effort with the Maricopa Association of Governments (MAG), and the cities Phoenix, Tempe, and Scottsdale on a four-part study comprised of a fixed-guideway system study, Central Phoenix to East Valley Major Investment Study (MIS), Downtown Tempe/Rio Salado MIS and the Scottsdale transit corridor feasibility study. Mr. Wright reported that the total budget for the project is \$825,000 and added that the City's portion is \$100,000, \$80,000 of which is FTA grant funded, and the remaining balance of \$20,000 represents the City's local contribution.

Discussion ensued relative to the importance of identifying transportation improvements to reduce existing and future traffic congestion and improve mobility options in the corridor linking Mesa with Tempe and Phoenix, components of the Major Investment Study, the fact that a report on the study will be submitted to the FTA in Washington, D.C. as a pro forma document for Federal transportation funding reauthorization and the fact that the major goal of the MIS is to identify and include in upcoming legislation the Central Phoenix to East Valley project.

Mr. Wright explained that Federal aid cannot be provided without the submission of the pro forma document.

4. Update on regional and local freeway construction issues.

Government Relations Coordinator Jeff Martin referred to maps displayed in the Council Chambers and presented the Committee with a brief update on regional and local freeway construction issues.

Discussion ensued relative to construction on the Red Mountain Freeway from Price Road to McKellips which should be completed in November 1997, full interchanges, future Red Mountain Freeway construction phases, Environmental Impact Studies (EIS), and Federal funding, additional funding sources, the effects of the EIS on Lehi residents, the Mesa Drive Interchange, and the importance of generating additional revenue to accelerate freeway construction.

Chairman Gilbert expressed appreciation to staff for their input relative to transportation issues.

5. Adjournment.

It was moved by Committeemember Giles, seconded by Committeemember Kavanaugh, that the Transportation Committee meeting adjourn at 8:01 a.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 19 day of September, 1996. I further certify that the meeting was duly called and held and that a quorum was present.

Dated this 1st day of October 1996

BARBARA JONES, CITY CLERK