

# TRANSPORTATION ADVISORY BOARD MEETING

## DRAFT

HELD ON MAY 20, 2014

### TAB Members Present

Dawn Fortuna, Chairperson  
Ian Bennett  
Kay Henry  
Jennifer Love  
Troy Peterson  
Mike Schmidt  
Ron Wilson

### TAB Members Absent

Bruce Hallsted, Vice Chairperson (Excused)  
Jim LeCheminant (Excused)  
Ian Murray (Excused)

### Others Present

Joe Draper  
Renate Ehm  
Sabine Ellis  
James Hash  
Ed Jones  
Sgt. David Meicke  
Amanda McKeever  
Alan Sanderson  
Jodi Sorrell

Chairperson Dawn Fortuna called the May 20, 2014 Transportation Advisory Board meeting to order at 5:33 pm.

Item 1.            Approval of the minutes of the Transportation Advisory Board meeting held on March 18, 2014.

Board Member Ian Bennett moved to approve the minutes as written. Board Member Mike Schmidt seconded and the motion passed unanimously.

Item 2.            Acknowledge outgoing Board Member, Mr. Ron Barnes.

Chairperson Fortuna acknowledged Board Member Ron Barnes' resignation from the Board. She thanked him for his service and stated that he brought a good perspective to discussions.

Item 3.            Items from citizens present.

None.

Item 4.            Discuss and take action on staff recommendation to approve the installation of speed cushions on Virginia between Recker Road and Platina. (Council District 5).

Board Member Ian Bennett stated that he would recuse himself from this item.

Senior Transportation Engineer Sabine Ellis began by introducing herself and showing a map of the affected area. She explained that staff was proposing three sets of speed cushions, and then reviewed the requirements to warrant speed cushions. Ms. Ellis confirmed that this area meets each requirement.

Ms. Ellis then reviewed the survey responses and explained the approval ratings of affected properties. She then reviewed the survey responses from those outside of the affected area, as well as those who did not indicate the area in which they live. Ms. Ellis gave the overall results and explained that the fiscal impact would be approximately \$15,000 for the installation of three sets of cushions.

Ms. Ellis concluded by stating staff's recommendation for the installation of the cushions on this section of Virginia.

Board Member Kay Henry asked staff how long traffic volume is measured and Ms. Ellis responded that the traffic is measured over 48 hours from Tuesday to Thursday and the average of the two days comprises the volume.

Board Member Wilson noted that there is a downhill slope on this section of road and that the street becomes crowded on Sundays when the local church is let out.

Board Member Troy Peterson asked if the two existing speed humps on Virginia were installed prior to the implementation of the speed cushion program. Ms. Ellis confirmed this and explained that those humps would be replaced with cushions when the road receives a mill and overlay in the future. Board Member Peterson also asked about the impact the existing humps have had on speeding in the area. Sabine responded that the humps reduce speed where they are located but drivers speed up prior to and after the speed humps. In regards to Board Member Peterson's questions about the cushions' geometry having less impact on speed as compared to the speed humps, Ms. Ellis explained that the cushions have less impact on emergency vehicles not speed, and that speed cushions and speed humps have the same profiles.

Resident Anthony Nicotra then spoke in support of the speed cushions. He began by thanking the Board for allowing him the opportunity to speak. He explained that this issue would not be under consideration if he had not emailed Mayor Smith. Mr. Nicotra then spoke about the number of vehicles that travel this street segment and the speeds at which they travel. He explained that he felt there is a need for police presence. Mr. Nicotra stated that this is a big safety issue and that he does not want anyone to be hurt.

Resident Coral Hoffman also spoke in support of the cushions. She stated that she lives near where the cushions will be installed and that this is a quality of life issue. She explained that the park is heavily used and there is a great deal of traffic when church is in session.

Board Member Henry moved to approve staff's recommendation and Board Member Mike Schmidt seconded the motion. The motion passed with six members in support, and Board Member Bennett abstaining from the vote.

Item 5. Hear a presentation on the Southeast Valley Transit System Study.

Transit Director Jodi Sorrell began by introducing Marc Pearsall from Maricopa Association of Governments (MAG) and Sonya Pastor-La Sota from Valley Metro.

Ms. Sorrell then turned it over to Mr. Pearsall who gave a background on the Southeast Valley Transit System Study (Study) and previous studies that have been completed. He gave the Study's purpose and explained that a consultant is currently working on optimizing existing services.

Mr. Pearsall showed a map of the Study area and explained how city borders mean little to residents when it comes to commuting. He then reviewed the Study schedule and what tasks they are working on now.

Mr. Pearsall showed the Board the existing transit services and gave a brief history of the funding sources for the different cities. He then described the different characteristics of transit services and reviewed the opportunities, key issues and concerns in the southeast valley. He continued by explaining that the optimization that is being done now will hopefully help address the identified key issues.

Mr. Pearsall explained that one key element is to make sure that existing transit services are tied into future planned services. Mr. Pearsall noted that many communities are currently doing transit and transportation plans and that those plans will be imbedded into this Study.

Ms. Pastor-La Sota then spoke about community outreach and described the website which provides project update and encourages the public to complete a project survey. Ms. Pastor-La Sota explained that most public outreach has been done through the media thus far, and that they have been working with chambers and public cities and towns. Ms. Pastor-La Sota explained that they have been presenting to various Councils and groups and have offered to speak to additional groups.

Ms. Pastor-La Sota explained that they are hoping to send survey results in June and hand the Study over to the technical subject matter experts who will then do the technical study. The short, mid and long term goals will then be determined.

Mr. Pearsall then spoke about the next steps and explained the coordination done with the Project Advisory Committee (PAC). Mr. Pearsall then offered to answer any questions the Board may have.

Chairperson Fortuna asked about the project survey questions and Ms. Pastor-La Sota gave some example questions. Ms. Pastor-La Sota's examples included demographic questions, questions about transit usage, which specific transit lines the respondent uses, and what would encourage the respondent to use transit.

Board Member Jennifer Love asked if the public outreach has been at any public events such as Second Fridays and Motorcycles on Main. Ms. Sorrell responded that they had attended the most recent Celebrate Mesa event and there was an entire transit element there.

Board Member Love suggested doing transit on-board surveys, and then asked how the disabled community is being addressed and if there has been outreach to paratransit users. Mr. Pearsall explained that Ron Brooks with Valley Metro's mobility center has been parlaying the information to those communities. Ms. Pastor-La Sota added that PAC members are

representatives from their towns and each member has been sharing Study information with their communities.

In response to Board Member Wilson's question about the project survey's acceptable level of response, Ms. Pastor-La Sota explained that there is not a perfect answer on what is considered a minimum level of response. She said that they are pleased with the 650 responses so far, but that there cannot be too many. Ms. Pastor-La Sota said that they are continuing to send information via the media and with the partner cities and towns.

Board Member Love asked about the responses thus far and Ms. Pastor-La Sota said that there has been a variety of responses. Ms. Pastor-La Sota said that 14% of respondents are from Mesa and that a large portion of respondents are from Queen Creek and the City of Maricopa. Ms. Pastor-La Sota noted that there has been a lower response from the smaller communities. Ms. Pastor-La Sota explained that when they come back with the final report, a breakdown of the respondents will be included.

Board Member Love asked about balancing the coverage area versus productivity. Mr. Pearsall explained that the consultant had previously provided information on a trend that broke down the urban core with suburban and rural areas. Mr. Pearsall noted the lessons learned with the previous studies and that the consultant is breaking down regional areas where services will reflect what the population is requesting. Mr. Pearsall then briefly discussed the methods for providing the transit services, and concluded by explaining the Board will review the draft final report which will include this information.

Item 6. Verbal update on the schedule of the Mesa Transportation Plan Update. (Citywide).

Deputy Transportation Director Alan Sanderson began by explaining that staff had hoped to have the final portion of the draft Mesa Transportation Plan (Plan) to the Board for review by this point but that it is taking longer than hoped. Mr. Sanderson explained that the Plan is being done completely in house by two staff members and it is a big undertaking. Mr. Sanderson explained that staff is wrapping up the final changes and that at the end of the month a presentation will be made at a City Council study session on the General Plan. Mr. Sanderson explained that Transportation staff will be dovetailing the Transportation Plan with the General Plan to follow the previously-established, critical timeframe.

Mr. Sanderson said that at the May 29 Study Session there will be an update on the Transportation and Transit Plans. Mr. Sanderson said that the Plan will be back before the Board in June, and that the Board should have the final draft to review prior to then.

Mr. Sanderson explained that the target for the General Plan update to be adopted by the City Council is the first week of July. He explained that the Transportation Plan will probably go before Council in August. Mr. Sanderson concluded that staff will ask the Council to adopt the Complete Streets Policy at the same time.

Board Member Fortuna thanked Mr. Sanderson for the update.

The meeting was adjourned at 6:21 p.m.