

# TRANSPORTATION ADVISORY BOARD MINUTES

## DRAFT

HELD ON January 19, 2021

The Transportation Advisory Board of the City of Mesa met online via Zoom, on January 19, 2021 at 5:30 p.m.

<u>TAB Members Present</u>	<u>TAB Members Absent</u>	<u>Others Present</u>
Megan Neal (Chairperson)	Melissa Vandever	Ryan Hudson
David Winstanley* (Vice Chairperson)	Sam Gatton	Sabine Ellis
Christopher Scott		Stephan Bach
Vern Mathern		Stephanie Derivan
Dave Bergner		Erik Guderian
Ryan Wozniak		
Georgina Marin*		
Rodney Jarvis		
Michelle McCroskey		

\*Joined virtual meeting during the presentation of Item 3.

Chairperson Neal called the January 19, 2021 Transportation Advisory Board meeting to order at 5:36 pm.

### **Item 1. Approval of the minutes of the Transportation Advisory Board meeting held on November 17, 2020.**

It was moved by Board Member Jarvis, seconded by Board Member Mathern, that receipt of the above-listed minutes be approved.

Upon tabulation of votes, it showed:

**AYES** – Neal – Scott - Mathern – Bergner - Wozniak – Jarvis - McCroskey

**NAYS** – None

### **Item 2. Items from Citizens present.**

None

### **Item 3. Hear and discuss an update on the 2020 Mesa Moves Transportation Bond Program.**

Erik Guderian, Deputy Transportation Director, introduced himself and indicated that he would be giving a presentation on the 2020 Mesa Moves Transportation Bond Program.

Mr. Guderian explained that on November 3<sup>rd</sup>, 2020, Mesa voters authorized the City of Mesa to issue up to 100 million dollars of general obligation bonds to fund transportation projects. With the 100 million in bonds and 62 million in funding from Maricopa Association of Governments, there is a total of 162 million dollars available in total funds. He went on to explain how the City plans to use the money on three different items. The first is regional roadway improvements which are projects that include widening existing streets, improving the safety or capacity of an intersection, and/or completing new street segments that enhance connectivity and reduce congestion. He listed the ten identified regional roadway improvement projects and plans for each one.

- 1) Signal Butte Road, Williams Field to Germann: this section of Signal Butte does not currently exist and will be a new roadway that will connect into the SR24 that the Arizona Department of Transportation is currently constructing. Hopefully, this will be complete in the year 2022.
- 2) Broadway Road at Stapley Road: Add right turn lanes in all four directions, several utilities will be moved plus bike and pedestrian improvements will be done.
- 3) Stapley Road and University Drive: Add right turn lanes in all four directions.
- 4) Val Vista Drive, US60 to Pueblo: Widening and finishing off that section of Val Vista Drive. This includes improvements to help with safety at Southern and Val Vista which had the highest number of crashes in 2018.
- 5) Baseline Road and Sossaman Road: With growth, this intersection has seen more traffic trying to get to and from the US60. This project will add an additional southbound left turn lane and westbound right turn lane to help facilitate traffic getting to and from the freeway.
- 6) Elliot Road, between Sossaman Road and Ellsworth: Widen Elliot Road, this is an extension of the project that was completed last year on Elliot Road between Ellsworth Road and Signal Butte Road.
- 7) Sossaman Road, two lanes will be built between Warner and Ray going under State Route 202. This road does not exist today.
- 8) Ray Road at Ellsworth is currently offset by about 700 feet. This project will realign Ray Road at the intersection so traffic will not have to make multiple turns to stay on Ray Road.
- 9) Widen Ellsworth Road from Ray Road south to the city limits. A third lane will be added in each direction because Ellsworth Road has the highest vehicle volume in Mesa.
- 10) Williams Field Road will be built between State Route 24 and Ellsworth Road. It does not currently exist. This road will provide a connection into some new development at the airport. When the airport moves the terminal to the east side of their property, this will be a major access point to the airport.

Mr. Guderian said a typical Transportation project takes approximately 2-5 years to complete from project design through construction until the work is done. Complexity of the project, utility work and types of funding can cause the projects to take longer. The goal is to start all the designs for these projects by summer of 2022 and complete construction by 2025.

The second item in the Mesa Moves Program is the arterial road reconstruction projects. It is meant to rebuild and reconstruct old streets that have reached the end of their useful life. This would include upgrading sidewalks and street facilities to make them ADA (Americans with Disabilities Act) compliant. As part of this, the streets have been prioritized by pavement condition and coordinating with City of Mesa Utility Departments. If the Water Resources Department is already planning to replace lines in an area, we will coordinate our work around the same time to have the construction simultaneously.

The third item is Active Transportation Projects which are bike and pedestrian projects. From historical numbers, it takes approximately 1.5 to 2 million dollars to construct a mile of multiuse path along a canal or freeway. This includes the pavement, lighting, amenities, and the signalized crossings. The City has identified several projects, that if combined, would exceed the \$20 million that has been allocated to the Active Transportation projects. The plan is to get public input with a two to four question survey to help prioritize these projects. Then the results of the survey will be presented at the next Transportation Advisory Board meeting where the board will be asked for their input. Everything will then be presented to Mesa City Council for final approval. He presented a map that showed which areas had active projects and the proposed areas that would be presented to the public.

Board Member McCroskey asked about a blue line and a red one on the map along the 202 Freeway.

Mr. Guderian explained that it is a two-phase project. The blue line represents phase one that was approved with a 2018 Park Bond and the red line represents phase two of the project.

Board Member McCroskey wanted to clarify what was said earlier. She understood that the Survey would be on the Mesa Moves Website and the board was also asked to share it with their neighborhoods.

Mr. Guderian explained that anyone the board encounters that has an interest in active transportation, he would like the board to direct them to the website to take the survey.

Board Member McCroskey asked about items being added to the list for consideration, in the other Bond project categories.

Mr. Guderian explained that all the road construction projects have been identified and the respective bond funds will be allocated as such. The only items the City is asking for feedback on is the bike and pedestrian projects that have been/will be identified.

Chairperson Neal asked if the City was going to partner with other organizations like the Chamber of Commerce to get the survey out to more people.

Mr. Guderian said yes. It has already been discussed with a couple.

Chairperson Neal said they have some large distribution lists that may be helpful.

Mr. Guderian said the City uses them and has a large list of their own.

Chairperson Neal asked to confirm that all the regional roadway improvements were already programed and vetted through the Maricopa County Association of Governments (MAG) meetings.

Mr. Guderian said yes, the majority of them are already in the Arterial Life Cycle Program. They need to be in there to receive reimbursement. There are a couple of the new roadways that the City is working with MAG to get them included.

Vice Chairperson Winstanley asked to clarify the amount of the projects were around \$160 million.

Mr. Guderian explained that right now the projects estimates are around \$156 million.

Vice Chairperson Winstanley said there appeared to be a completed project along the 202 from Baseline Road to Guadalupe Road, he was curious on what project that was.

Mr. Guderian explained that is the Mesa Gateway Shared Use Path along the SR202. The first segment along the east side of the freeway was completed between Baseline Road and Elliot Road. The second phase of that project between Elliot Road to Hawes Road will start by February.

Vice Chairperson Winstanley asked if the proposed path was from Hawes to Ray Road.

Mr. Guderian said it will go to Power Road and connects with the Town of Gilbert trail. He added that the ultimate goal is to have a loop around the city.

Vice Chairperson Winstanley questioned if the line between Guadalupe and Elliot is an extension of what Mr. Guderian was just explaining.

Mr. Guderian said that is along the existing power line. He said the City is trying to utilize property that is already being used for something, like power line corridors and canals.

Vice Chairperson Winstanley asked if the part being constructed is more along the canals from Stapley into Tempe with lights at major crossings.

Mr Guderian said yes. He showed the Consolidated Canal and what exist today then he pointed out what is proposed along the Eastern Canal.

Vice Chairperson Winstanley asked about the line along the freeway and if it is another shared use path.

Mr. Guderian said yes it would run along the US60 right of way and connect the two canals.

Vice Chairperson Winstanley asked for a link in the meeting minutes for the City of Mesa Bike Master Plan.

Mr. Guderian said yes, staff will identify the best way to communicate that with the board. Vice Chairperson Winstanley said he will get the word out to the public about the survey and coming to the next meeting.

Board Member Wozniak expressed that he would like to see bike and pedestrian safety integrated into the survey. He mentioned the previous Mesa Moves Bond surveys and that safety was assumed as a given item for support. Board Member Wozniak encouraged a continued emphasis put on safety and more communication directed towards the public that safety is a pre-conceived priority established by the city.

Mr. Guderian said the group would see what could be built into the survey.

Board Member Wozniak wanted everyone to keep in mind the older parts of the community with populations that are more dependent on bike and pedestrian paths to transit. He sees the issues of closing gaps with those dependent on active transportation and transit as a key area to focus on. He would also like to promote connections between communities and the downtown area because he believes it would go a long way to serve the overall community.

Board Member McCroskey mentioned that some of these proposed trails are going through areas that have a higher concentration of horse owners. She said if there is enough room, horses can use the non-paved areas. She asked what is being done for horse owners and if there was any kind of outreach to them because is it getting harder to safely ride horses with the growth in the valley.

Mr. Guderian explained that for the Lehi path and the South Canal between Brown and McKellips, there has been input from equestrian users to see what could fit into the projects. He said those in the bike and pedestrian program are not equestrian experts, but they are trying to get as much community outreach as possible.

Board Member McCroskey mentioned the Sun Circle Trail that is used for horses and could not tell if all the trails were represented on the map.

Mr. Guderian explained that his map represents the trails that the City of Mesa maintains.

Board Member Wozniak wanted to make sure the City was taking advantage of the reimbursable money for the design of projects and that proper correspondence was made with the respective MAG Committee. He highlighted that getting a jump on the design efforts and identifying potential design issues early can really help with getting projects through the pipeline with minimal delay. Using pre-design funds that may be available is something he urges staff to investigate and integrate into the project delivery.

Mr. Guderian thanked Board Member Wozniak for his comments and advised that the City has already taken advantage of those funds for some of these projects.

It was motioned by Board Member Jarvis, seconded by Board Member Winstanley, to adjourn the meeting.

**AYES – Neal – Winstanley - Scott - Mathern – Bergner - Wozniak – Marin - Jarvis - McCroskey**

**NAYS – None**

Meeting was adjourned at 6:17 pm.

**Informational Update on Recent Council Action:**

At its December 1, 2020 meeting, the City Council acknowledged the receipt of the minutes of the September 15, 2020 Transportation Advisory Board meeting.