

TRANSPORTATION ADVISORY BOARD MEETING

APPROVED

HELD ON March 21, 2017

TAB Members Present

Troy Peterson, Chairperson
Kay Henry, Vice Chairperson
Dave Bergner
Michael Book
David Camp
Louis Stephen
Ron Wilson
Mike Schmidt
Vern Mathern
Ian Murray

TAB Members Absent

Jennifer Love

Others Present

Sabine Ellis
Al Zubi
Mark Venti
Erik Guderian
Lt. Gina Nesbit
Jodi Sorrell
Trevor Collon
Ryan Hudson
Renate Ehm

Chairperson Troy Peterson called the March 21, 2017 Transportation Advisory Board meeting to order at 5:26 p.m.

Item 1. Approval of the minutes of the Transportation Advisory Board meeting held on December 20, 2016

Board Member Vern Mathern motioned to approve the minutes as written. Board Member David Camp seconded and the motion passed unanimously.

Item 2. Items from citizens present

None.

Item 3. Hear a presentation and discuss an update to the Gilbert Road Light Rail Extension

Jodi Sorrell, Transit Services Director, introduced herself and Trevor Collon, Engineering Project Manager. Ms. Sorrell explained that this presentation is an update to the Gilbert Light Rail Extension, and gave an overview on the project team, tentative timelines, and future regional transit projects.

Mr. Collon discussed some of the changes that will take place with the construction of the Gilbert Light Rail Extension, including a park-and-ride/transit center, two (2) stations at Stapley Dr and Gilbert Rd, a roundabout at Horne, and modified travel lanes along Main St.

Chairperson Troy Peterson asked for some clarification on how the vehicle gates would operate at the Horne roundabout.

Mr. Collon explained that the stop bar and gates will function like railroad gates, and will be

equipped with flashing lights to re-establish yield conditions for drivers.

Vice Chairperson Kay Henry indicated her interest in the unique aspects of the Horne roundabout.

Board Member David Camp had questions regarding bike lanes, and bicyclist safety, in the roundabout.

Mr. Collon referred to Sabine Ellis, City Traffic Engineer, in regards to questions about bike lanes.

Ms. Ellis explained that bicyclists will have the option to travel through the roundabout on the roadway, or ride on the sidewalk via the provided ramps.

Mr. Collon continued the presentation, and gave an overview of the proposed Stapley Drive Station.

Board Member Vern Mathern wanted to know if public artwork was considered for the proposed stations.

Mr. Collon explained that there will be public art components at the stations, and along the alignment. They are working closely with the artists, and will provide a separate update on the art component in the future.

Board Member Louis Stephen asked if there are plans to put public restrooms along the alignment, citing complaints from business owners off Main St.

Ms. Sorrell explained that there are no plans to provide additional public restrooms along this alignment. She noted that Sycamore Station is the only station along the entire Light Rail alignment that has public restrooms, and, unfortunately, they are very difficult to maintain. At this point, the City of Mesa has no plans for additional public restrooms.

Board Member Louis Stephen indicated that he does not want the business owners along Main St to have to bear the burden of public access to restrooms.

Ms. Sorrell also shared that the City of Mesa does not provide public restrooms along bus lines.

Mr. Collon continued the presentation, and explained that Gilbert Rd will likely be the end of the line for the foreseeable future.

Chairperson Troy Peterson asked for clarification on what is meant by foreseeable future.

Ms. Sorrell explained that the Prop 400 funding will be ending in 2026; however, Valley Metro is currently conducting a feasibility study that looks at future transit projects and possible extensions.

Mr. Collon continued the presentation, and gave an overview on the proposed Gilbert Rd

park-and-ride.

Board Member David Camp asked about lighting at the park-and-ride.

Mr. Collon explained that the area will be fully-lit, and include cameras, and a Valley Metro security component that will monitor the area, as well as the entire alignment.

Mr. Collon continued the presentation, and went over the tentative timeline for utility relocation, road widening, track and station installation, testing, and operation. He also briefly explained what to expect with the construction going forward, outreach, and coordination efforts.

Ms. Sorrell mentioned the Valley Metro's business assistance program that it offers during light rail construction, and other outreach events.

Board Member Dave Bergner had questions about parking capacity at the park-and-rides, specifically when there are special events off the Light Rail alignment.

Ms. Sorrell explained that there should be enough capacity between all three park-and-rides, given the likely re-distribution of vehicles from Sycamore Station and Mesa Drive to the Gilbert Rd park-and-ride, once the extension opens.

Board Member Dave Bergner asked if the City of Mesa has seen any increases in Light Rail ridership.

Ms. Sorrell explained that there has been a slight increase in Light Rail ridership year-over-year, which has helped to balance-out the overall downward trend of public transit ridership. This fiscal year, Mesa is on track to have over two million riders on its Light Rail alignment.

Board Member Louis Stephen asked if other public transportation options would decrease with the introduction of the Gilbert Light Rail extension.

Ms. Sorrell explained that there will always be an underlying bus system; however, certain routes could be on longer intervals. Bus systems help to maintain Light Rail ridership, so, the City of Mesa has no plans to eliminate routes at this time.

Board Member Vern Mathern asked if there were any plans to extend the Light Rail further east, past Gilbert Rd.

Ms. Sorrell explained that there have been no formal discussions, and future extensions would be dependent on future Prop funding.

Chairperson Troy Peterson thanked staff for the presentation.

Item 4. Hear a presentation and discuss an update to State Route 24

Al Zubi, Supervising Engineer, and Erik Guderian, Deputy Transportation Director,

introduced themselves and indicated they would be giving an update on State Route 24 (SR24).

Mr. Zubi explained that Parsons Transportation Group, on behalf of the Arizona Department of Transportation, completed a Design Concept Report (DCR) regarding SR24. He also explained that the proposed alignment would follow the same theme as the previous alignment, and would have an interim condition, which would feature at-grade intersections.

Chairperson Troy Peterson asked if the intersections, specifically the Ellsworth Rd intersection, would be at-grade. He also wanted to know what the overall timeline was for the interim condition.

Mr. Zubi explained that the intersections would be at-grade.

Mr. Guderian added that the interim condition would be able to handle traffic conditions until 2035, with a final condition dependent on future funding.

Board Member Ron Wilson had questions regarding the \$81 million for design and construction, and \$36 million in right-of-way.

Mr. Zubi clarified that those numbers were for the section that was built between the freeway and Ellsworth Rd, and indicated that the interim condition project costs are mentioned further on in the presentation.

Board Member David Camp indicated heavy northbound traffic turning left from Ellsworth Rd onto SR 24. He wanted to know if there were plans to mitigate those types of issues on Ellsworth Rd.

Mr. Guderian explained that Transportation Staff is aware of the usage, and indicated that the proposed project should help to alleviate some of those types of issues.

Board Member Michael Book asked if there were any efforts for advanced purchases of right-of-way.

Mr. Zubi explained that advanced right-of-way purchases are an important component to the project, and one of staff's goals for the project.

Chairperson Troy Peterson had questions about regional funding and its effects on this project.

Mr. Guderian explained that funding decisions are happening as we speak, and that the City of Mesa's goal is to utilize regional funding over City of Mesa funding.

Board Member Dave Bergner had a question regarding future traffic volumes in the area.

Mr. Guderian indicated that traffic counts were part of the study but could not recall specific data.

Board Member David Camp asked about the possibility of the project being built over Ellsworth Rd.

Mr. Guderian explained that staff looked at that option, but, unfortunately, due to funding constraints, that was likely not an option. However, staff does understand the traffic concerns in the area.

Chairperson Troy Peterson asked if the City of Mesa is planning to complete Signal Butte Rd from Williams Field Rd up to Pecos Rd.

Mr. Guderian confirmed that when the interim condition goes in, the City will build the section of Signal Butte Rd from Williams Field Rd to Pecos Rd in order to provide this north-south connection to SR 24.

Board Member David Camp noted that this is a regional issue.

Mr. Guderian agreed that this is a regional issue.

Chairperson Troy Peterson thanked staff for the presentation.

Item 5. Hear a presentation and discuss an update to the City of Mesa Transportation Department Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) Prioritization Plan

Mark Venti, Senior Transportation Engineer, introduced himself and indicated that he would be giving an update on the development of an Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) Prioritization Plan for the Transportation Department's policies and infrastructure.

Mr. Venti provided a brief background on the ADA Prioritization Plan, and mentioned that this is only the first step in the long, and complex process. He explained that staff worked with Kimley-Horn to develop a Prioritization Plan, and provided a basic summary of their plan and the next steps.

Board Member Louis Stephen had a question regarding Table 2 on the proposed scorecard, specifically asking for more clarification on the section referencing sidewalks.

Mr. Venti explained that the scorecard on the presentation is only a suggested scorecard for prioritization purposes; and part of the next step for the City of Mesa will be to choose a consultant to conduct scoring and a self-evaluation. In regards to sidewalks, the highest priority would be sidewalks under 30" wide.

Board Member Ian Murray noted that the City of Mesa is approaching this Prioritization Plan in a fiscally responsible manner.

Mr. Venti agreed with Board Member Ian Murray's comments, and mentioned that this will be a long-term process.

Mr. Venti continued the presentation, and discussed the next steps in the process including

the self-evaluation, cost estimates, and the implementation plan, which will list out the timeline and schedule.

Board Member David Camp mentioned that there are several areas within the City of Mesa that do not have sidewalks. He asked if the City of Mesa would be penalized, or required to pay a fine, if they did not provide sidewalks in those areas.

Mr. Venti explained that the ADA does not technically require sidewalks, but does require an accessible path between two points; however, the City of Mesa's standard process is to provide sidewalks when possible. Mr. Venti explained that the City of Mesa could get into trouble if they were not actually making a genuine effort; however, was unsure of any specific penalties.

Board Member Ian Murray noted that ADA compliance rules change all the time, and that the City of Mesa is putting forth their best effort to prioritize issues with their finite budget.

Board Member David Camp had a question about a new development built near Ridgecrest and McDowell Rd that does not currently have sidewalks.

Ms. Ellis explained that the street Board Member David Camp was referring to is a private street and is not under City of Mesa purview. The City of Mesa can suggest and encourage the addition of sidewalks but the builder does not have to add them.

Mr. Venti explained that an individual could submit an ADA complaint about this area but that would be against the builder, not the City of Mesa.

Vice Chairperson Kay Henry asked for clarification on what defines a private street, and also asked if private streets were only located within gated communities.

Ms. Ellis explained that all gated communities do have private streets.

Board Member Ian Murray explained that if you drive over a sidewalk to get to a street, the driver is likely on a private street.

Mr. Venti added that the City of Mesa typically demarcates a private street with a driveway access.

Vice Chairperson Kay Henry wanted to know if the Transportation Advisory Board reviews speed humps for private streets.

Ms. Ellis explained that the Transportation Advisory Board only reviews streets in the public right-of-way, which does not include private streets.

Vice Chairperson Kay Henry asked if the City of Mesa has started this study yet.

Mr. Venti explained that this is the start of the study, and that the next steps would be to get the consultant on board and start data collection.

Board Member Louis Stephen wanted to know if the study was going to be citywide.

Mr. Venti explained that data collection, scoring, and prioritization will be citywide.

Board Member Louis Stephen asked about the length of the entire process, and its funding source.

Mr. Venti reiterated that this will be a long-term project, as well as a learning process. In regards to funding, it is likely that this will be an annual Capital Improvement Program (CIP) budget item.

Board Member Ron Wilson wanted to know when the project would have dates and timelines attached to action items.

Mr. Venti explained that once the consultant is hired, staff and the Transportation Advisory Board would ideally work together and discuss timelines.

Board Member Ian Murray wanted to point out that the City of Mesa fixes issues they come across on a regular basis, when budget allows, and is not waiting around for the study to be completed to address issues.

Mr. Guderian clarified that staff anticipates that the self-evaluation, which includes the data report, recommended improvements, cost estimates, and prioritization, would be completed sometime during the 2017/2018 Fiscal Year.

Mr. Venti added that it is possible that a future development could be constructed that would check-off several items on the City of Mesa's checklist. That would allow money to be allocated to other high-priority items.

Chairperson Troy Peterson thanked staff for the presentation.

Item 6. Verbal discussion of the update to the City of Mesa's Traffic Barricade Manual

Sabine Ellis, City Traffic Engineer, explained that staff has been diligently working on updating the current barricade manual. The City of Mesa plans on changing the name to the Temporary Traffic Control Manual, which will help to distinguish it from the City of Phoenix's Traffic Barricade Manual, and more accurately reflect the document, as it considers more than traffic barricades. The Temporary Traffic Control Manual will also include the City of Mesa's new fee schedule. Staff hopes to provide the Transportation Advisory Board with a draft copy for review within the coming months.

Chairperson Troy Peterson thanked Ms. Ellis for the presentation.

The meeting was adjourned at 6:49 p.m.