



# TRANSPORTATION COMMITTEE MINUTES

December 11, 2000

The Transportation Committee of the City of Mesa met in the lower level meeting room of the Council Chambers, 57 East 1st Street, on December 11, 2000 at 4:00 p.m.

## COMMITTEE PRESENT

Jim Davidson, Chairman  
Pat Pomeroy  
Claudia Walters

## COMMITTEE ABSENT

None

## OTHERS PRESENT

Mike Hutchinson

## COUNCIL PRESENT

Dennis Kavanaugh

1. Discuss and consider a recommendation for the landscaping/art work for the US 60 expansion.

Senior Civil Engineer Ron Taylor and Public Art Coordinator Kate O'Mara addressed the Committee relative to this agenda item and introduced Arizona Department of Transportation (ADOT) Project Manager Floyd Roehrich and Denver artist Carolyn Braaksma. Mr. Taylor stated that City staff has been working with ADOT and ADOT's landscape consultant over the past several months to develop alternatives to the aesthetic treatment of the wall and landscaping currently proposed by ADOT along the U.S. 60 Freeway. Mr. Taylor said that the City has retained the services of Denver artist Carolyn Braaksma to develop enhanced wall treatments and discussed Ms. Braaksma's talent and expertise in this area.

Mr. Taylor commented on the aggressive schedule that must be met in order to meet proposed deadlines for submitting enhanced aesthetic alternatives for implementation into the bidding phase of the freeway design/build process. Mr. Taylor also commented on the importance of integrating the landscaping into the overall aesthetic appearance of the freeway system.

Mr. Floyd Roehrich, Project Manager for ADOT, addressed the Committee and provided a brief overview of Alternatives A and B, which were displayed in the Council Chambers.

In response to questions from Committeemember Pomeroy, Mr. Roehrich clarified that ADOT will be responsible for planting and maintaining the landscaping. City Manager Mike Hutchinson noted that the City of Mesa will supply the necessary water to meet landscaping requirements at no charge.

Discussion ensued relative to costs involved in enhancing the proposed landscaping and wall treatments, the fact that ADOT funds standard landscaping/wall treatments and the City would be responsible for covering the cost of enhancements, and the fact that ADOT's goal is to keep the landscaping low water use and low maintenance.

(Chairman Davidson recognized the presence of Design Review Boardmember Ed Corral at the meeting and thanked him for his attendance.)

Additional discussion ensued relative to the fact that the approximate height of the proposed trees at maturity will be 15 to 25 feet with canopies of 20 feet in width, the fact that the landscaped strip will be narrowed considerably, accent vegetation, densities, irrigation costs, and proposed costs.

Chairman Davidson commented on the differences between Options A and B (see attached) and pointed out that a third option also exists which calls for the City to accept the landscaping/wall treatments that were originally proposed by ADOT without any enhancements. Chairman Davidson stated that in view of the significant costs associated with landscaping and design enhancements, it may be prudent to proceed with the original proposal and not expend added funds at this time.

Mr. Hutchinson informed the members of the Committee that staff recommends Alternative A, at a total cost of \$2.4 million, and said that the artist, Carolyn Braaksma, is present and willing to provide an overview of the proposed wall enhancements.

Ms. Braaksma stated that there are three specific items to be considered: 1) content of what you are looking at and what Mesa is all about; 2) massing (light and dark patterns); and 3) constructability. Ms. Braaksma provided a brief overview of the drawings of the proposed wall enhancements.

Chairman Davidson thanked Ms. Braaksma for her input.

Following additional discussion, it was moved by Committeemember Pomeroy, seconded by Committeemember Walters, to recommend to the Council that Alternative A (to limit increases in landscaping densities to traffic interchanges while maintaining the densities along the freeway main line segments and to concentrate the enhanced wall treatments along the main line segments between the traffic interchanges), at a total estimated cost to the City of \$2.4 million, be approved.

Chairman Davidson commented that he will not support the motion and stated the opinion that the originally proposed landscaping density level will be adequate based on the decreased size of the landscaped strip. Chairman Davidson added that he continues to be a strong supporter of the arts but questioned whether freeway wall treatments should be considered a priority at this time. Chairman Davidson expressed the opinion that the City must pursue other means of moving traffic besides vehicles. Chairman Davidson said that from a philosophical point of view, he cannot justify the expenditure of dollars for aesthetics at this time but stated the opinion that the majority of the Council will support staff's proposal.

Committeemember Walters spoke in support of Alternative A and noted that the enhancements will occur at the interchanges and not between while the artwork will be located between thereby avoiding blockage of the enhancements. Committeemember Walters also pointed out that public input and support was received regarding these issues and stated that she is constantly receiving negative feedback from citizens regarding the lack of aesthetic enhancements along Mesa's freeway corridors. Committeemember Walters added that effort is being expended to enhance the overall image of Mesa and said that although she respects Chairman Davidson's comments regarding current City finances, in her opinion Alternative A is appropriate and should be approved.

Upon tabulation of votes it showed:

AYES: Pomeroy-Walters  
NAYS: Davidson

Chairman Davidson declared the motion carried by majority vote.

Chairman Davidson thanked everyone for their input.

2. Adjournment.

Without objection, the Transportation Committee adjourned at 4:43 p.m.

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 11th day of December 2000. I further certify that the meeting was duly called and held and that a quorum was present.

Dated this \_\_\_\_ day of \_\_\_\_\_ 2000

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BARBARA JONES, CITY CLERK

Att.  
lgc