



Minutes
City of Tempe Transportation Commission
Multi-modal Planning & Project Review Committee
March 12, 2008

Minutes of the city of Tempe Transportation Commission Multi-modal, Planning & Project Review Committee held on Wednesday March 12, 2008 at 3:30 p.m. at the City of Tempe Transit Office, 20 E. 6th Street, Tempe, Arizona.

Members Present: Marcellus Lisotta, Bryan Young, Roy Hoyt, John Minett,

Members Absent: Joan Westlake, Corey Woods, Judi Nelson, Steve Bass, Lucy Logan, Chris Crosby, Catherine Mayorga

City Staff Present: Eric Iwersen, Tanya Chavez, Bonnie Richardson, Dawn M Coomer

Guests: Jenna Dezinski, ASU Student

Agenda Item 1 – Consideration of Minutes – January 9 and February 19, 2008

Minutes of January 9 were approved as presented. Minutes of February 19 were approved with the following changes: Bryan Young should be indicated as present and Elizabeth Drake was noted as being previously nominated for the Bike Achievement Award but that the nomination for 2008 would be Tempe Bicycle Action Group.

Agenda Item 2 – Public Appearances

Jenna Dezinski, ASU student, introduced herself and was present to participate in a public meeting for her class.

Agenda Item 3 – Bike Achievement Award & Bike Month

The committee discussed final recommendations for the Tempe Bicycle Achievement Award. Staff and committee recommend that Tempe Bicycle Action Group receive the award for 2008. It was discussed that Elizabeth Drake could be a nominee for award in the future. The reasons for TBAG to win the award are the following:

- TBAG is known by the City Council and supports the efforts of the Transportation Staff
- The group is providing a voice for the bicycling community
- The group has developed a website and monthly advocacy meetings
- The organization has obtained 501c non-profit status to further enhance their efforts
- TBAG is active in the Tempe community now and is working on many current issues and is based in Tempe

The award will likely be presented at the April 17 City Council meeting. Nominations for award recipients in 2009 will begin after the 2008 presentation. The Transportation Commission and the Multi-modal Planning and Project Review Committee will be responsible for the award program.

Tanya Chavez shared the 2008 Tempe Bike Month event details including: bike-a-palooza and bike to work day. She encouraged the committee to participate.

Agenda Item 4 – Rio Salado Downstream Dam Pedestrian/Bicycle Bridge

Eric Iwersen presented an update of the status of the project including new photo-simulations of the bridge concepts. The bridge will be located atop the downstream dam at approximately the Hardy Drive alignment. It will be non-motorized and link the north and south banks of the Town Lake. Construction is anticipated to begin in summer 2008 and continue for one year. The committee questioned the exact location of the bridge; from the engineering drawings it appears the bridge will be slightly east of the dam. The committee also raised a concern about maintaining public access to the bridge at all times and not having it closed for private events, like what happens at Tempe Beach Park.

Agenda Item 5 – Light Rail Update

Dawn M Coomer presented the committee with a memo and attachments related to ongoing efforts of the light rail project. She specifically presented information on the Tempe South Corridor Study and the Commuter Rail Strategic Plan. The South Corridor Study is in the Tier 1 Analysis phase which includes public meetings and staff/consultant analysis of possible corridors for future transit as well as possible future transit technologies. Possible corridors include Rural Road, McClintock Drive, the Tempe Branch rail line and Mill/Kyrene. Possible technologies include commuter rail, light rail, streetcars and bus rapid transit. It was noted that Rural Road would likely not make it past Tier 1 analysis and move forward for further study because of the significant obstacles presented by limited right-of-way, existing high traffic volumes, and the required grade separation of the Union Pacific Railroad south of Apache.

The committee reviewed the materials. They also inquired about the possibility of Scottsdale joining in the study and participating. Staff responded that Scottsdale is not yet ready but that they are taking preliminary steps to participate in regional high capacity transit by recently joining Metro, the area rail agency.

Regional Commuter Rail Strategic Plan efforts are also underway, staff reported. In January 2008 the Tempe City Council endorsed the concept of Tempe working with possible partners on commuter rail (Arizona Department of Transportation, Maricopa Association of Governments etc...), recognizing that a successful commuter rail system would extend beyond Tempe's borders. Tempe will continue to explore and study commuter rail with these partners and as part of the Tempe South Corridor Study.

Agenda Item 6 – Other Project Updates

none

Agenda Item 7 – Future Agenda Items

Roy Hoyt requested discussion of general loss of signage, striping and consistency of bicycle lanes around Tempe.

Agenda Item 8 – Adjournment

Meeting adjourned at 5 p.m.

Prepared by: Eric Iwersen

Reviewed by: Tanya Chavez, Bonnie Richardson, Dawn M Coomer