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**Minutes  
City Council's  
Central City Development Committee of the Whole  
July 20, 2006**

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**Minutes of the Tempe City Council's Central City Development Committee of the Whole held on Thursday, July 20, 2006, 3:00 p.m., at the City Council Chambers, 31 E. Fifth Street, Tempe, Arizona.**

**Committee Members Present:**

Mayor Hugh Hallman  
Vice Mayor Mark Mitchell  
Councilmember Ben Arredondo  
Councilmember Shana Ellis  
Councilmember Hut Hutson  
Councilmember Onnie Shekerjian

**Committee Members Absent:**

Councilmember Barb Carter

***Mayor Hallman called the meeting to order at 3:15 p.m.***

**Central City Transportation Solutions** 1101-01

Glenn Kephart summarized that there has been unprecedented growth in the area and Council has already put much in place to meet the future transit demands. At this time, however, staff is seeking direction for options to meet the future transportation needs of the Central City area. A committee of staff from Development Services, Community Development, and Public Works developed the following Mission Statement:

*"Recognizing that Tempe's Central City is experiencing unprecedented growth and development, it is our mission to find transportation solutions to meet the current and future travel needs of the public.*

- *Provide choices for modes of travel*
- *Protect character of existing neighborhoods*
- *Provide convenient access for visitors and customers*
- *Assure safety for traveling public and adjacent land users*
- *Assure plan is flexible and easily adaptable to changing conditions"*

Deputy Public Works Manager Carlos de Leon and LRT Project Manager Jyme Sue McLaren continued with a Powerpoint presentation on Central City transportation solutions.

- Central City – an area of intensified urban development, built-out street network, regional growth and significant transportation investments (map)
- Freeways – network completed and capacity improvements planned
- Bikes and Pedestrians – before 1996, from 1996 to 2006, and in next 5 years

- FLASH – existing and planned
- Bus Service – existing (12 routes, all major streets), planned (4 supergrid routes coordinated with LRT) and express bus service
- Policies – Transportation Overlay District, ASU and Youth Pass
- Light Rail – opening day park-and-ride locations
- What more can be done? Remote park-and-ride for specific light rail users, Rio Salado streetcar, Intelligent Transportation Systems (ITS)
- Staff recommendations:
  - Expand park-n-ride system
  - Explore Rio Salado Streetcar
  - Develop pedestrian links
  - Expand neighborhood circulators
  - Reduce neighborhood cut-through traffic and parking issues
  - Maximize parking efficiencies

Expand Park and Ride System:

There was general agreement to analyze this recommendation and proceed.

Councilmember Shekerjian added that this should not be strictly for light rail, but it should be built elsewhere as well.

Expand neighborhood circulators:

Mr. Kephart noted this is a high priority and staff is already working with neighborhoods for expansion.

Mr. De Leon noted that expansion was scaled back after the downturn in the economy, but it is now coming back. The major issue, however, is budget.

Councilmember Shekerjian stated that there is a sense of bitterness in some neighborhoods that light rail is getting more attention than circulators. She ranked circulators and reduction of cut-through traffic and parking as top priorities.

Councilmember Arredondo stated that so much has been spent on the Lake and light rail and now it's time to get back to the neighborhoods.

Reduce neighborhood cut-through traffic and parking issues:

Mayor Hallman stated that park-and-ride lots are important along the light rail route, but other locations around the city are also important.

Councilmember Ellis agreed this is a big priority. She hoped intelligent transportation would be incorporated into the park-and-ride lots so people won't end up parking in the neighborhoods or cutting through to get to the park-and-ride lots.

Councilmember Hutson felt that circulators are the first priority, as well as cut-through traffic, but these are all related and all important. We can't do one and wait to get it done before starting on the second. If we get behind, we'll never catch up.

Councilmember Arredondo stated that the bottom line is that we have to get back into the neighborhoods. Light rail south of Southern is never going to happen, so don't lose the money.

Mr. Kephart stated that staff will be working on all of these issues unless there are some that Council directs staff not to pursue. Staff understands that circulators and cut-through traffic/parking in neighborhoods are at the top.

Councilmember Shekerjian asked about plans for expanding the circulators. She would like to see what has been done so far and she would like to see a plan for these things before we see anything else. There needs to be systemic solutions, not just for one neighborhood.

There was brief discussion regarding past attempts at dealing with neighborhood traffic issues.

### **CONSENSUS**

**Council ranked Expanding Neighborhood Circulator, Reducing Cut-Through Traffic/Parking Issues, and "Working with ASU and city staff to develop park-and-ride options" as top among the identified priorities. Staff should return to Council this fall with proposed plans/recommendations.**

### **Public Appearances**

- **Sam Wheeler, ASU.** A task force for parking issues on the ASU campus is ongoing. He showed maps of parking and cars on campus daily. The task force would like to partner with Tempe and Phoenix to build parking structures along light rail. Parking prices are going up considerably and they would hope to encourage students to park further away.

Mayor Hallman asked that a formal presentation of this information be given at a future meeting.

***Meeting adjourned at 4:15 p.m.***



Kathy L. Matz  
City Clerk