

REPORTER'S TRANSCRIPT OF PROCEEDINGS

TEMPE TRANSPORTATION COMMISSION

PUBLIC MEETING

Tempe, Arizona  
June 10, 2008  
7:30 a.m.

**REPORTED BY:**

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Certified Court Reporter  
Certificate No. 50463

**PREPARED FOR:**

CITY OF TEMPE  
TRANSPORTATION DIVISION



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## TEMPE TRANSPORTATION COMMISSION PUBLIC MEETING - 6-10-08

1           TEMPE TRANSPORTATION COMMISSION PUBLIC MEETING  
 2 was held on June 10, 2008, commencing at 7:30 a.m., at  
 3 Hatton Hall, 34 E. Seventh Street, Tempe, Arizona, before  
 4 BARBARA H. STOCKFORD, a Certified Reporter in the State of  
 5 Arizona.

COMMISSION MEMBERS PRESENT:

7 Mr. Jayson Matthews  
 8 Mr. Bill Haas  
 9 Ms. Catherine Mayorga  
 10 Ms. Judi Nelson  
 11 Mr. Kevin Olson  
 12 Mr. Steven Salz  
 13 Mr. Edward Smith  
 14 Mr. David Strang  
 15 Mr. Corey Woods  
 16 Mr. Bryan Young

CITY STAFF PRESENT:

Ms. Darcie Bontems  
 Mr. Joe Clements  
 Ms. Dawn Coomer  
 Mr. Carlos de Leon  
 Ms. Dana Janofsky  
 Mr. Greg Jordan  
 Mr. Gregg Kent  
 Mr. Glenn Kephart  
 Ms. Jyme Sue McLaren  
 Ms. Amanda Nelson  
 Ms. Bonnie Richardson  
 Ms. Shelly Seyler

COMMISSION MEMBERS ABSENT:

19 Mr. Don Cassano  
 20 Mr. Marcellus Lisotta  
 21 Ms. Amanda Ormond  
 22 Mr. Marco Valenzuela  
 23 Ms. Joan Westlake  
 24  
 25

## P R O C E E D I N G S

1  
2 MR. MATTHEWS: At this time, we are to the  
3 public hearing portion for these proposed bus service  
4 changes. Each citizen does have -- you have up to five  
5 minutes to talk about anything that's here. Again, as  
6 Greg has indicated, if you, you know -- please feel free  
7 to air any type of issues, concerns. If you like some  
8 of the stuff, we'd like to hear that stuff, too. If you  
9 don't have any comment for today, there's lots of  
10 opportunities to give those comments through the  
11 telephone number, through sending an e-mail or attending  
12 a future public meeting in the future.

13 So if there are any comments, state your name  
14 and then go from there.

15 MS. TUSSING: Darlene Tussing, and I'm  
16 interested in the Earth. I really like your changes. I  
17 think they're great. I was concerned you were going to  
18 cut out some things.

19 But my question is: Are you going to be  
20 bidirectional? You know how you have it now --

21 MR. JORDAN: Yes.

22 MS. TUSSING: So you'll have one left coming  
23 and one left going. Okay. I'm a happy camper.

24 MR. DELEON: We'll finish with that. Happy  
25 camper. That's it.

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1 MR. MATTHEWS: It looks like Mr. Rosen.

2 MR. ROSEN: It's my understanding then,  
3 because I haven't followed this as well as I should  
4 have -- I apologize. It's my responsibility. Your  
5 Honor, Mayor, and council, the red line in terms of  
6 coming out of Mesa and -- that section that goes from  
7 Evergreen to Tempe, this has already been eliminated?  
8 You've already decided you're going to eliminate it?

9 MR. JORDAN: The red line as it currently  
10 exists.

11 MR. ROSEN: I've been in the state of Arizona  
12 for 26 years. I've been in Tempe for 11. Being a  
13 security person who has to take a bus, I have to tell  
14 you something.

15 The 40 -- I don't know what -- I don't run  
16 the bus line. I don't run the city council. But I'm  
17 telling you, as a passenger, the 40 was a disaster. It  
18 never showed up. It never showed up on time. It didn't  
19 connect with things.

20 So I don't know what you're going to do  
21 differently, but I have tell you, for 11 years of  
22 dealing with this, that if you're putting the 40 back to  
23 deal -- to come through Mesa to deal with the rest of  
24 this, you're going back to a situation, hopefully -- I  
25 can't say things haven't changed, and I don't want to

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1 put a cloud, but you are going back to a situation that  
2 never worked for three years before. I don't know how  
3 you're going to do it now.

4 I have to take one minute. I would like to  
5 take one minute on the 81. I understand for the drivers  
6 it's a difficult situation just like the 72. But when  
7 Tempe Marketplace first opened up, it was supposed to be  
8 available to everybody, not just people with cars,  
9 people who took buses. And they -- the city council or  
10 transportation, whoever it was, did a marvelous thing.  
11 They had the 81, which goes up that way anyways, go into  
12 there, and the bus drivers complained or whatever the  
13 situation was. Again, I'm not sure. I know what I  
14 heard, but I don't like to go on rumors. But they  
15 stopped it.

16 If you're going to have the 81 only go north  
17 and south, then the public -- that portion of the public  
18 who takes buses because of the difficulty with age, with  
19 infirmities, whatever, needs something besides the  
20 47-minute or 50-minute trip on the Earth to get there.  
21 They need that 81. I don't know where you can make  
22 space or how you can arrange it, but the 81 needs to go  
23 into Tempe Marketplace.

24 MR. JORDAN: Can I interject? It's going to  
25 be going back.

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1 MR. ROSEN: You never mentioned that. I'm  
2 sorry.

3 MR. JORDAN: It was going in there back in --  
4 last summer, but we had to take it out because there  
5 were safety concerns within the parking lot. We've  
6 addressed those with the Marketplace management, and 81  
7 will be going back into the Marketplace area in the next  
8 couple weeks.

9 MR. ROSEN: That's fine. It was never  
10 mentioned. That's why I didn't know. Thank you.

11 Back to the red line. I have lived in  
12 Chicago. I've lived in New York. I've lived in LA.  
13 I've lived in every major city where there was a train,  
14 elevator, whatever you want to call it. Okay. And yes,  
15 those are much more populated areas, but they also have  
16 been there a very long time. And I have to express to  
17 Your Honor, Mayor, Council and --

18 MR. MATTHEWS: We're not the mayor. Thank  
19 you for promoting us.

20 MR. ROSEN: I was brought up to respect  
21 position whether I agree with that person or not.

22 MR. MATTHEWS: Thank you. We don't know  
23 anyone who would want that job.

24 MR. ROSEN: Anyways, the point is this.  
25 Having lifted -- having seen how they put this light

1 rail together, having seen the atrocities that they've  
2 committed in neighborhoods putting this light rail in --  
3 right now I live at Terrace and Lemon. That one point  
4 and one-tenth mile distance between Terrace and Apache  
5 to Terrace and University, it's still not finished.  
6 It's taken them over two and a half years.

7           The other thing is there are no gates. I  
8 know you people -- as I'm sure you people know this --  
9 and I know the traffic, okay. I know the traffic in  
10 that area with college students and other people who  
11 drive through there. And I don't know what's going to  
12 happen once the light rail comes in, but I have a pretty  
13 good educated guess, and I'm going to tell you  
14 something. To count on the light rail, besides the  
15 numerous number of stops, the problems specifically  
16 inherent with going through neighborhoods like Terrace  
17 where I live, trying to cross Rural -- I'm sure you  
18 people know what it's like when school is in, trying to  
19 get across Terrace. When there was a real street there,  
20 when Terrace actually went through -- you're going to  
21 have -- I'm sorry, I don't want to be Cassandra, but  
22 you're going to have a situation where there's either  
23 going to be near accidents or there are going to be  
24 serious accidents. And to take a bus away that follows  
25 the roads, that follows the street lights -- not that

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1 the red line is perfect, but I am telling you something,  
2 you are doing a huge disservice to people who do take  
3 the red line to take it out simply because of the light  
4 rail.

5 MR. MATTHEWS: I am afraid your time is up,  
6 Mr. Rosen. Thank you.

7 MR. ROSEN: Okay.

8 MR. MATTHEWS: Okay.

9 MS. JUSTUS: I am Darlene Justus, President  
10 of the North Tempe Neighborhood Association.

11 And again, I just would really like for you  
12 to look at that route at the Marketplace to have the  
13 buses just do a little swing through there, because I  
14 think you would be doing a great service to the elderly  
15 and to the businesses and to the taxes and city, too, by  
16 doing that.

17 I apologize; I was a little late. On Route  
18 66, are you affecting Route 66 from downtown north  
19 through Scottsdale?

20 MR. JORDAN: The -- in this proposal, the  
21 Route 65 would take over the Scottsdale portion of 66.

22 MS. JUSTUS: That's Scottsdale Road or down  
23 College?

24 MR. JORDAN: College Avenue to 68th Street.

25 MS. JUSTUS: So the 65 will stay on College?

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1 MR. JORDAN: Yes.

2 MS. JUSTUS: Okay.

3 MR. JORDAN: All the way to Fashion Square.

4 MR. MATTHEWS: Any other comments?

5 I'm sorry.

6 MS. JUSTUS: I do want to say a lot of people  
7 ride the Earth, and we used it to go down to downtown  
8 Tempe when we had the Oktoberfest, and we used it an  
9 awful lot. And we thank the city very much for working  
10 on the neighborhood circulators. They're great. I hope  
11 you see about extending the time especially at the  
12 Marketplace so people will actually ride it and know  
13 they can get home afterwards.

14 Thank you.

15 MR. MATTHEWS: Thank you.

16 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: Were you going to  
17 mention the stops in the Marketplace?

18 MS. JUSTUS: I did earlier.

19 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: I didn't hear you.

20 MR. MATTHEWS: Next comment?

21 MR. HOYT: Roy Hoyt.

22 I want to speak to the red line number 40,  
23 especially the segment to the west that's being talked  
24 about abandonment.

25 I live right off University and Hardy. To

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1 answer one of the questions that was asked earlier by a  
2 commissioner, I can get on the current red line at  
3 University and Hardy via Terminal 4 in 12 minutes. With  
4 the new configuration, it takes ten minutes on the 62 to  
5 get to the transportation center. It will be another  
6 seven or eight to ten minutes to get to 44th Street,  
7 another transfer to the Sky Harbor shuttle. We're  
8 talking a 15-minute trip being possibly tripled  
9 depending on connections.

10           If the person is traveling, there's luggage  
11 to transfer two times, and from University and Hardy to  
12 the airport is a single fare for somebody who is  
13 traveling. Somebody who is taking transfers will have  
14 to take an all-day fare that doubles the fare structure  
15 as well as tripling the time.

16           So -- and then -- but the reduction of the 30  
17 to -- 30-minute service instead of the half hour -- it  
18 limits the accessibility to the west with the current  
19 multiple lines as well as those people who live west of  
20 Mill Avenue who go to the airport for employment  
21 purposes or just west of the airport, or in the future  
22 configuration with the 40 transfer to the 19. So there  
23 is a service element and a time and fare cost to the  
24 elimination of the red line segment from Mill Avenue to  
25 the airport.

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1 MR. MATTHEWS: Any other comments? Yes, sir.

2 MR. PERRON: My name is Ken Perron and I'm a  
3 resident of Tempe. I live close to this gentleman here  
4 at Hardy and University.

5 A couple things: First of all, I do want to  
6 say that I like the Orbit change, Earth, and making it  
7 complete the circle, and I encourage that. That's  
8 great. That sounds like that's going to happen.

9 Comment about the Orbit and I guess other  
10 buses going down McAllister. Mr. Haas, you had  
11 mentioned about the stop situation. I have been on  
12 the -- I believe it is the Mercury or whatever -- and it  
13 is a long way -- with student traffic and everything,  
14 crossing the road, it's just -- it takes a long time.  
15 And I really would encourage that you look at the  
16 traffic patterns. And it's going to slow down a lot of  
17 the bus service at the current way it's set.

18 My number one reason for coming has to do  
19 with the service to the airport. I work for a major  
20 airline that goes -- that I -- I work out of the  
21 airport. There's a lot of airport workers that travel  
22 on the red line. Years ago, we did have -- I believe it  
23 was the 40 or something and it alternated with the red  
24 line. It terminated at the airport.

25 One of the strong reasons that it didn't work

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1 was because there was the red line that was siphoning  
2 off of the service. Therefore, if you look back on the  
3 history, I do encourage that you look at it based off of  
4 the fact there was a red line already there. I think  
5 the 40 would be a strong service if the red line is  
6 going away, and I really encourage that bus route to  
7 happen.

8 As the gentleman was mentioning here, it's a  
9 lot of -- there will a lot of effort, and I encourage  
10 light rail use. I would like to be able to use it, but  
11 for that short -- for short distances through the heart  
12 of Tempe getting to the airport, the 40 really will be a  
13 benefit.

14 Thank you.

15 MR. MATTHEWS: Any other comments?

16 Well, again, I want to thank everyone for  
17 taking the time to be here for those comments. Again,  
18 this isn't over. There is plenty of opportunities -- if  
19 you walk out the door, and you think, "I wanted to say  
20 that one thing," there are opportunities, as Greg has  
21 presented in front of you, and I encourage that.

22 I want to open it up to comments from the  
23 commissioners.

24 (Public comments concluded.)

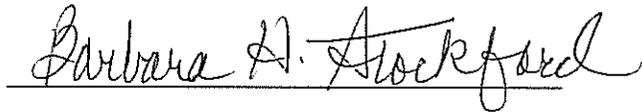
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C E R T I F I C A T E

I, BARBARA H. STOCKFORD, Certified Court Reporter in the State of Arizona, do hereby certify that the foregoing pages constitute a full, true, and accurate transcript of the proceedings had in the foregoing matter, all done to the best of my skill and ability.

WITNESS my hand this 23rd day of June 2008.



BARBARA H. STOCKFORD, RMR/CRR  
CCR NO. 50463