



Draft Minutes

City of Flagstaff

TRANSPORTATION COMMISSION

4:00 PM, Wednesday, October 1, 2014

City Council Chambers

211 W. Aspen Avenue

The following link will direct you to live streaming of this meeting.

<http://www.flagstaff.az.gov/index.aspx?NID=1461>

CALL TO ORDER

COMMISSION MEMBERS, voting:

Andrew Benally

Bob Kuhn, Flagstaff Unified School District - Present

Jeff Meilbeck, NAIPTA, Vice-Chair - Present

Bob Mullen - Present

Kevin Parkes, Chair - Present

Gary Robbins - Present

Derik Spice

COMMISSION MEMBERS, non-voting:

Lt. Frank Higgins, Flagstaff Police Department

Jeff Bauman, Traffic Engineer

CITY STAFF:

Rita Severson, Recording Secretary

I. PRELIMINARY GENERAL BUSINESS

PUBLIC COMMENT

At this time any member of the public may address the Commission on any subject within the Commission's jurisdiction that is not on this meeting's agenda. The Arizona Open Meeting Law prohibits the Commission from discussing or taking action on an item that is not listed on the prepared agenda. Commissioners may, however, respond to criticism made by those addressing the Commission, ask staff to review a matter, or ask that a matter be placed on a future agenda.

To address the Commission on an item that is on the agenda, please wait for the Chair to call for Public Comment at the time the item is heard.

REORDER AGENDA

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Regular Meeting of August 20, 2014

II. NEW BUSINESS

A. **City of Flagstaff Capital Improvements – Transportation Program Annual Report FY 14'**

The City's Capital Improvements Program will present the Capital Transportation Program's Annual Report for Fiscal Year 2014. Staff will also discuss the

process for developing the next Annual Report and a proposed schedule for Transportation Commission involvement in the Fiscal Year 2015 report.

Staff Recommendation: Action Item – Motion to accept the Annual Report and forward it to the City Council.

Capital Improvement's Engineer Mo El-Ali presented this item to the Commission:

- This report advises Council on the expenditures of the transportation tax, which is a 20 year tax. The Transportation Commission has been appointed to monitor the expenditures of the tax and make recommendation to Council.
- There are four elements of expenditures of the tax.
 1. Fourth Street Railroad Overpass, receives about 22% of the tax to continue debt pay off of this completed project.
 2. Transit Services Enhancement, receives about 42% of the tax
 3. Street Improvements
 4. Pedestrian, bicycle and school safety improvements.
- FY14 Street Improvements completed or initiated
 1. West & Arrowhead reconstruction
 2. Industrial Drive
 3. Beulah and University Improvements P3 Project
 4. Industrial Drive and Fanning Wash
 5. Butler Signal Program
- FY14 Pedestrian, bicycle and school safety improvements completed or initiated
 1. Milton and Sitgreaves ADA ramp
 2. FUTS
- The report also includes the FY15 CIP Program which is 57.9 Million
- Mo told the Commission that this item will be on the December agenda after the Commission has time to review and make comments. In the December meeting staff will be looking for a motion and recommendation to forward the CIP Annual Plan to Council.
 1. Mo also added that in the next year he would come back to the Commission on a more regular basis to update the Commission on the projects.

Reorder of Agenda

At this time the agenda was reordered to accommodate the presenter of item II. B.

Commissioner Kuhn made a motion to reorder the agenda to item IV. 3. Status of Transportation Engineering Program Projects, motion seconded by **Vice Chair Meilbeck**, all in favor, motion carried.

B. City of Flagstaff Road Repair and Street Safety Initiative – RRSSI – November Election Prop 406

The City Manager will do a presentation outlining the City's proposed Prop 406, Road Repair and Street Safety Initiative. The Commission reviewed and provided feedback in the early stages of this proposal earlier in CY 2014. Prop 406 ballot language has been finalized and Public Open Houses have been scheduled.

Staff Recommendation: Informational Item – review the staff presentation, ask questions and provide feedback.

Stephanie Smith the Executive Assistant with the City Manager's Office told the Commission that with their help and input the City Manager's Office was able to put this proposition on the ballot for the citizens of the City of Flagstaff to decide on. Prop 406 is requesting a 1/3 cent sales tax increase for 20 years, which will be dedicated to road repairs and continued maintenance including sidewalks, FUTS and other items adjacent to roads. This sales tax will also help rebuild some of the older water and sewer facilities. Additionally the City Manager's Office is doing whatever they can to educate the voters on this prop for better understanding about why we are in this situation and how some of the funding from the State has dwindled or

deceased. With no questions from the Commission Stephanie turned the conversation over to the County which, also has a proposition on the ballot.

Michael Townsend Deputy County Manager presented the ballot to the Commission.

- Prop 403
 1. 3/10 of a cent on sales tax for 20 years
 2. Can only be spent on road maintenance and construction
 3. Includes County Roads, Forest Service Roads and BIA Roads
 4. Implementation of the County Road CIP
 5. Could create 133 jobs per year
 6. Some projects would go out to bid creating work for private contractors
- Reason for 403
 1. Gas tax is still at the same as 2007
 2. 35% of County Roads are in severe or poor condition with the need of about 70 million to get them up to standard. Wait five more years the percentage would go to 48
 3. School busses travel many miles on the County Roads
 4. Economical impact would be on the increase allowing visitors to get around and enjoy Northern Arizona
- If the ballot doesn't pass the impacts would be:
 1. 40% reduction of current maintenance levels
 2. Snow plowing would be once during the daylight hours and none at night
 3. Safety
 4. Economical impact could be less revenues because of poor condition of roads making it hard for visitors and citizens to enjoy the area
- Summary:

Road maintenance is a core service of local government. Level of road service maintenance should be the decision of the voters.

III. OLD BUSINESS

A. **Bow & Arrow Neighborhood Update**

At the request of the Commission, Staff has reviewed the previous data and analysis performed in the Bow & Arrow Neighborhood prior to 2009 when 7 intersections were converted to ALL WAY STOP control. Staff has also conducted new studies and reviewed crash reports and will present the general before and after conditions and observations from this data.

Staff will also present generally some options for modifying the existing traffic control and recommend a full public discussion at the December Transportation Commission meeting.

Staff Recommendation: Informational Item – review the staff presentation, formulate a path forward.

Logan Couch the Transportation Intern presented this update to the Commission.

After direction from the Commission in their August meeting the Traffic Engineering program began to try different types of traffic calming in the Bow & Arrow community, steps taken were;

1. Ensured and cleared all objects in the site triangle for motorists.
2. New stop bars were painted to add to the obvious fact that there is a stop sign.
3. Compared previous collected (2008) & new traffic data (2009-2013)
 - a. Neighborhood Study Summary
 1. Overall traffic volume on Zuni Dr., Walapai Dr. & Mohawk Dr. decreased
 2. Traffic speeds in some areas reduced, in other areas remained the same
 3. Intersection crash rate throughout the neighborhood decreased
 - With the exceptions of Zuni Dr./Walapai Dr. and Zuni Dr./Pima Dr.
 4. Stop Sign compliance is 20% lower

5. Transportation Program is considering the removal of one All Way Stop traffic control device in the Bow & Arrow Neighborhood

All Way Stop Removal Consideration as a trail.

1. Zuni Dr. & Leupp Dr.
2. Zuni Dr. & Pima Dr.
3. Walapai Dr. & S. Yaqui St.
 - The Commission decided that the removal of two stop signs would be the best first step, and choosing option one and three would be the best ones to start with.

Vice Chair Meilbeck made a motion present to the neighborhood a proposal to remove stop signs at Zuni Dr & Leupp and Walapai Dr. & S Yaqui with the understand that if the traffic volumes increase 25% or more then there will be a reconsideration of the the removals, motion seconded by **Commissioner Kuhn**, four in favor, one opposed, motion carried.

IV. CONCLUDING GENERAL BUSINESS

A. Reports

1. Report from the Bicycle Advisory Committee:
<http://www.flagstaff.az.gov/index.aspx?nid=1822>
2. Report from the Pedestrian Advisory Committee:
<http://www.flagstaff.az.gov/index.aspx?nid=1824>
3. Status of Transportation Engineering Program Projects
 - [General update presentation on several projects and work orders performed by Transportation Engineering Staff](#)

Fourth Street Update:

Pedestrian Crossing Analysis Process

Current Analysis:

- Review pedestrian crossing & vehicle volumes
- Calculate pedestrian crossing delay (NCHRP report 562)
- Review pedestrian crash data
- Consider future bus stop locations and future land use changes
- Determine pedestrian crossing improvement (if any) based on current and future conditions
- Determine location of improvement

Future Analysis:

- Review pedestrian crossing volumes
- Review crash history
- Review Public Input
- Determine Final Improvement location(s) and device(s)

Jeff also shared with the Commission that the numbers of pedestrian crossings on Fourth Street was counted several different times within a single day. These times also included high traffic volume times. There wasn't a strong pattern on where the pedestrian consistently cross. There have been two temporary pedestrian crossings installed on Fourth Street. In the spring there will be more studies done, including the determination that the two temporary crossings are being utilized.

Franklin Ave Update:

Mini RoundABOUTs

Concept drawings have been completed.

Drawings will be reviewed by a roundabout expert.

Jeff shared the concept drawings with the Commission.

- Design considerations and items still being worked on:
 1. Location of pedestrian crosswalks

2. Bicycle traffic accommodation
3. Large vehicle traffic
4. Meeting with Plateau Engineering for further design comments

Student Crossing on Cedar

This item has come to light because of the phone calls the City is receiving from motorists stating that the students haven't been pushing the buttons to start the lights flashing. Jeff told the Commission he was looking for ideas on educating the students on properly operating the crossing. Commissioner Kuhn stated that currently there is also a crossing guard at this crossing which Commissioner Mullen suggested that maybe the crossing guard could also help instruct the students. Jeff said he has been working with the County's safe to school advisor and she has suggested some educational training for the students:

1. Create a fun video for the students on how to work the crossing lights.
 - a. The school does have a program that could help with the video.
2. Have students help with solving the problem.
3. Slap bracelets as encouragement for using the crossing properly.

Jeff also added that the current operations of the light are not as pedestrian friendly as they could be. To help with that Jeff has asked that the buttons to be upgraded to beep when pressed and to add some LED's to the side of the lights so the pedestrians could actually see the lights become lit.

B. Informational Items to/from Commissioners and Staff

1. Commissioner discussion

Chair Parkes ask Jeff about the project on Beulah and what actually was being done there. Jeff told the Commission that this project is to install bike lanes from Woodlands to McConnell.

C. Next Meeting

1. **Regular Meeting: December 3, 2014**

Tentative Agenda Items:

1. Bow & Arrow Neighborhood Discussion

IV. ADJOURNMENT

Commissioner Kuhn made a motion to adjourn, motion seconded by **Vice Chair Meilbeck**, all in favor, motion carried. Meeting adjourned at 5:55 P.M.