



DRAFT MINUTES

**City of Flagstaff
TRANSPORTATION COMMISSION
4:00 PM, Wednesday, February 4th, 2015
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>



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CALL TO ORDER

COMMISSION MEMBERS, voting:

Andrew Benally - Present
Bob Kuhn, Flagstaff Unified School District - Present
Vacant, NAIPTA – Erika Mazza Fill in Representative - Present
Bob Mullen - Absent
Kevin Parkes, Chair - Present
Gary Robbins - Present
Derik Spice - Absent

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.

There were no public comments.

REORDER AGENDA

There was no reorder needed.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Regular Meeting of December 3, 2014

Commission didn't receive the draft minutes of December 3, 2014.

II. OLD BUSINESS

A. **Bow & Arrow Neighborhood Traffic Calming**

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, reviewed crash reports and will present the general before and after conditions and observations from this data.

Staff will present options for modifying the existing traffic control at the Zuni Drive and Kofa intersection.

If existing traffic control is recommended to be changed, then staff is prepared to discuss the timing of that implementation (based on winter conditions) and the additional follow-up studies and Measures of Effectiveness that will 'judge' the success of this project.

Mailers announcing this meeting have been sent to the neighborhood.

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

Logan Couch presented this item to the Commission. Logan reminded the Commission of the meeting on December 3rd where staff was directed to supply additional information to the Commission regarding this agenda item. The two items requested was a map that actually identified the stop sign locations and a recommendation from staff of for removals of stop signs.

1. Logan directed the Commission to the overhead screens where a map was displayed of the Bow & Arrow neighborhood.
 - a. The map located the all way stops in the neighborhood and it also included the distance measurements between each all way stop. Also identified were the stop locations that NAIPTA and FUSD utilizes.
 - b. Logan also included for the Commission a study to demonstrate delay time using three different routes, two within in the neighborhood and one around the neighborhood.
 - i. Route one, Lake Mary to Zuni and concluding at Lone Tree
 - ii. Route two, Walipai to Zuni and concluding at Lone Tree
 - iii. Route three, Lake Mark to John Wesley Powell (JWP) to Lone Tree
 1. After measuring the times, the quickest route was route three, with a measured time of 3.9 minutes.
2. Staff recommended to the Commission a removal of the all way stop at Zuni and Kofa.
 - a. The intersection traffic control would change to a one way stop on Kofa Dr and uncontrolled on Zuni Dr.
 - b. After 30 days from removal of the all way stop the staff will conduct a traffic study to determine if the traffic volume or speeds have increased.
 - i. If traffic volume or speeds increase by 25% or more staff would then reinstate the previous or another traffic control device at the intersection.

Public Comment:

Mark lives on Zuni Dr.

He has always been supportive of all the stop signs, but does agree with staff if one was to be removed the one at Zuni & Kofa would be the best because of the shortness of distance between stop signs. Removing of this stop sign could also improve safety because the bus also stops at the intersection of Zuni & Kofa.

David lives on Walapai.

He doesn't understand why this item is coming up again, at the last Commission meeting it was decided not to remove any of the stop signs. He doesn't support the removal of any stop signs.

Frank lives on Zuni Dr.

He isn't supportive of the removal of any of the stop signs.

Jim, Operational Manager for NAIPTA

Would like to have some stop signs removed from the neighborhood but the proposed one at Zuni & Kofa is heavily used by the patrons.

Chris lives on Walapai Dr.

He is in favor of the existing stop signs. He believes if the buses used the intersections with the all way stops as their bus stops it would increase their time by eliminating the stops between stop signs.

Candace lives on Walapai Dr.

She's not in favor of the removal of any stop signs. This has made the neighborhood safe and that shouldn't be jeopardized due to the time schedule of the public bus route.

Commission Discussion:

Alternate Commissioner Erika Mazza asked staff to state the progress from the previous Commission meeting to help her better understand what was discussed at that time. Logan told the Commission that at the last meeting this item was tabled with the Commission asking for more detail. He also included that many of the stop signs within the Bow & Arrow neighborhood are unwarranted which could add safety concerns because drivers are noncompliant with unwarranted stops.

Commissioner Robbins said that it was his understanding that in 2008 when all these stops were installed it was to slow down the traffic and to encourage drivers to use the new JWP route which was developed for heavier traffic use. He also added, to encourage others to use JWP there was an over kill of stop signs in the Bow & Arrow neighborhood. At this time it's best to correct the over kill and have consistency with other neighborhoods. The removal of one all way stop is a good compromise but, maybe the all way stop at Leupp would be a better alternative then the one at Zuni & Kofa since the bus already stops at that intersection.

It was discussed between the Commissioners how the all way stop at Leupp is critical because it slows the traffic before entering into the neighborhood.

Commissioner Benally made a motion to keep all stop signs in their present location and make no changes. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Kuhn.

Discussion on Motion:

Commissioner Robbins asked to amend the motion by adding the removal of the stop sign at Leupp and to add signage to address the fact that the motorist is entering a neighborhood. Alternate Commissioner Mazza said she was in favor of the amendment.

Alternate Commissioner Mazza motioned to leave the existing all way stops where they presently are and to have staff come back with a recommendation regarding the removal of the stop sign at Leupp and the use of alternative signage to inform motorists of the traffic change heading into the Bow & Arrow neighborhood. Motion was seconded by Commissioner Robbins. Four votes in favor of the motion with Commissioner Benally opposed.

III. NEW BUSINESS

A. La Plaza Vieja Neighborhood Plan

La Plaza Vieja Neighborhood is developing a Neighborhood Plan per the New Regional Plan. The neighborhood has had their first open house meetings and staff would like to update the Commission on progress to date and the next steps.

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

Sara Dechter, Manager for the City of Flagstaff's Comprehensive Planning Program presented this item and update to the Commission. In 2011 there was a draft neighborhood plan which has remained draft because of the lack of staff resources. Because the La Plaza Vieja neighborhood is surrounded by Route 66, Milton & Butler Ave it becomes a major key area for transportation changes within Flagstaff. There is strong support for pedestrian, bicycle and transit improvements, better access into and out of the neighborhood. There is high concern about cut-through traffic in the neighborhood, especially with the speed of vehicles. Sara has been meeting with the La Plaza Vieja neighborhood to help guide them with their plan and the use of the Regional Plan. In their neighborhood meetings they identified the transportation items that would help with traffic calming and accessibility to the neighborhood. Sara told the Commission the priorities for the neighborhood from 1 to 10.

1. Blackbird Roost-66 signalized intersection and crosswalks
2. Florence-Walnut Pedestrian Connection
3. Clay Avenue Improvements w/out Extension
4. Phoenix Pedestrian Overpass
5. Major improvements to Milton-Butler intersection
6. Milton bus-bike-turn lanes
7. Humphreys/66 intersection improvements
8. Missing sidewalks
9. Protected left turn from NB Milton to WB Clay
10. Wider sidewalks on Milton & W. Route 66

Commission Discussion:

Chair Parkes indicated that the Commission would like to review the neighborhood plan before submitting to the Council for adoption.

Commissioner Kuhn said he would like to see in the plan the needs and desires on the Transportation side of the plan with an agreement from the City's Engineering section stating that the changes could work.

B. Regional Plan Transportation Map Updates

The recently adopted Regional Plan was developed with new transportation maps that are of a more general nature, ie. less details. The City Engineering

Standards are developed in a way that they frequently reference the more detailed Transportation Maps of the old Regional Plan, which do not officially exist anymore. The short term solution is to introduce new detailed Transportation Maps into the Engineering Standards, the longer term solution is to update the Regional Plan, however this would require a “Major Plan Amendment”, which has some timing constraints that make this a longer term solution. The Maps presented have been updated to match the new regional plan maps street by street, changes from the old plan will be highlighted in the presentation. The next step for this map is to request the City Council modify the Engineering Standards to include this map. Again the longer term solution will include several combined updates to the Regional Plan all considered by Council as on Major Plan Amendment.

Staff Recommendation: Action Item – review the staff presentation and provide feedback, if appropriate at this time forward a recommendation of approval of this map in to the Engineering Standards, to the City Council.

Stephanie Sarty, one of the project managers for the City’s Transportation program presented this item to the Commission. Stephanie explained to the Commission why the update of the map was needed.

1. The Regional Plan and Engineering Standards don’t include a map detailing the functional class of roadways.
2. A more detailed map is used by developers and contractors.
3. The long goal range after an update in the Regional Plan and Engineering Standards of this map would be to create a streets master plan.
4. Stephanie gave an overview of the changes between the two maps.

After review and discussion by the Commission they concluded the item with a couple of additions. They directed staff to add the Lone Tree diamond interchange and the diamond interchange at Wood Mountain.

Commissioner Robbins made a motion to accept the map with the addition of the Lone Tree diamond interchange and the diamond interchange at Wood Mountain. The motion was seconded by Alternate Commissioner Mazza, all were in favor, motion carries.

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

Two updates were given to the Commission:

Franklin Ave Roundabouts

The design work for the Franklin & Verde roundabout has stopped, and the funding was transferred to the design of the roundabout at Franklin & O’Leary. There will be one well functioning roundabout at Franklin & O’Leary.

Fourth Street Pedestrian Study

The Commission was supplied with a packet that included the last pedestrian counts on Fourth St and a 10% design of how a crossing would appear.

B. Informational Items to/from Commissioners and Staff

1. Commissioner discussion

C. Next Meeting

1. **Regular Meeting: April 1st, 2015**

Tentative Agenda Items:

1. Transportation Tax and Capital Program
2. Road Repair and Street Safety Initiative Update
3. Fourth Street Update

V. ADJOURNMENT

Commissioner Robbins made a motion to adjourn, seconded by Commissioner Kuhn, all in favor the meeting adjourned at 5:50 P.M.