



## Approved Minutes

### City of Flagstaff **TRANSPORTATION COMMISSION**

**4:00 PM, Wednesday, April 1<sup>st</sup>, 2015**

City Council Chambers  
211 W. Aspen Avenue

---



In compliance with the Americans with Disabilities Act, if you need assistance to participate in this meeting, please contact Jeff Bauman at 928-213-2690 (or 774-5281 TDD). Notification at least 48 hours in advance will enable the City to make reasonable arrangements.

#### **CALL TO ORDER**

COMMISSION MEMBERS, voting:

Andrew Benally - Present  
Bob Kuhn, Flagstaff Unified School District - Present  
Erika Mazza, NAIPTA - Present  
Bob Mullen  
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.*

### **WELCOME NEW MEMBER – Erika Mazza**

### **ELECTION OF OFFICER – VICE CHAIR**

**Commissioner Robbins** nominated himself for Vice Chair, there were no other nominations. The Commission voted in favor to appoint **Commissioner Robbins** to the seat of Vice Chair.

### **APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

Regular Meeting of December 3, 2014

**Vice Chair Robbins** made a motion to approve the Minutes of December 03, 2014, motion seconded by **Commissioner Benally**, all in favor, motion carried.

Regular Meeting of February 4, 2015

**Vice Chair Robbins** made a motion to approve the Minutes of February 4, 2015, motion seconded by **Commissioner Kuhn**, all in favor, motion carried.

## **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 Leupp intersection and options for installing speed mitigation measures that would maintain existing speed characteristics.

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.

**Chair Parkes** opened this item to public input before the staff presentation. Several residents expressed their desire to keep all of the four way stops on Zuni.

**Alan** appreciates all the stop signs and stated that there is no longer a problem with cut through traffic.

**Joan** lives on Zuni and she is also in favor of keeping all four way stops. Joan told the Commission that she has reviewed the staff presentation for this evening and understands there will be further studies done, but unfortunately these studies will be conducted when the schools aren't in session. The studies should be completed when the schools are in session. Joan also added that because of short driveways the space between the four-way stops does give time for the residents to get out of their driveways. In last month's block-watch meeting the members were in agreement of keeping all of the four way stops.

**Frank** lives on Zuni and is happy with the four way stops because they are working. He feels he is being railroaded by the bus system (NAIPTA) because they want some of the stop signs removed to hasten their route times.

**Pat** lives on Walapai and believes the stop signs are slowing traffic down and being in agreement with Joan he would like to have studies done when the schools are in session.

**Susan** lives on Leupp and would really like to see the stop sign at Leupp and Zuni stay because of a sight distance concern. Where these two streets cross there is a curve and a large blue spruce tree that constricts the view making it hard to see down Zuni.

After several calls for public input no others approached the podium, **Chair Parkes** closed public participation and asked staff to begin their presentation.

**Jeff Bauman** the City of Flagstaff's Traffic Engineer gave the presentation that included history with an update on current studies.

1. Over view of the neighborhood, pointing out specific landmarks to establish the neighborhood's location.
2. Stop sign installation was completed in 2008 and their purpose was for traffic calming.
3. Review of the all way stops was requested in August of 2014.
4. Since the installation of the all way stops there has been a decrease in speed and volume of vehicles.

At this time staff recommends the removal of the stop sign at Leupp and Zuni with three options in lieu of the stop removal.

1. Signage and stripping
  - a. Additional or larger striped speed limits.
  - b. Raises some awareness but studies show minimum effectiveness.
2. Speed table
  - a. Can be designed to address any speed.
3. Radar speed limit signs
  - a. Most effective as entering into a neighborhood.
  - b. Several different models to display messages appropriate for the area.
  - c. Solar operated with battery backup.

### Commission Discussion

**Commissioner Benally** asked about the cost and maintenance on the radar speed limit signs. Jeff told him the initial cost is in the \$4,000 range and the maintenance would be minimal with the purchase of new batteries every couple years.

**Vice Chair Robbins** asked Jeff which he would prefer between the speed table and the radar speed limit signs. Jeff said that he preferred the radar speed limit signs over the speed tables.

He continued that with speed tables installation there would be extra work to address drainage and the snow plows do have a difficult time with them.

Jeff told the commission the recommendation from staff:

1. Remove the stop sign at Leupp.
2. Measure vehicle and speed volume after 30 days of removal of stop sign and return to do the study after school is in session.
3. If speed and vehicle volumes increase then return to the previous traffic calming or find another solution.

**Vice Chair Robbins** made a motion, to have the stop sign removed at Leupp and Zuni and upon the removal install the radar speed limit signs with flashing lights. Motion seconded by **Commissioner Mazza**.

#### **Discussion on Motion**

**Commissioner Kuhn** isn't in support of the motion on the table; he is concerned with the speed that may develop without stopping the traffic at a stop sign when entering the neighborhood.

**Commissioner Benally** said he thinks without the stop sign it will cause more speeding in the neighborhood. With a cost for the radar speed limit sign the results couldn't be worth the cost, the stop signs are working and are at a very minimal cost.

**Commissioner Mazza** is concerned that many residents have stated that many motorists don't stop at the stop signs, just slow and roll through. Maybe a device besides a stop sign would bring more awareness to motorists.

**Chair Parkes** said he was in agreement with Commissioner Mazza.

**Chair Parkes** asked **Vice Chair Robbins** to restate his motion.

**Vice Chair Robbins** made a motion, to have the stop sign removed at Leupp and Zuni and upon the removal install the radar speed limit signs with flashing lights at the same time of removal of the stop sign. If studies show the vehicle speeds have increased by 8% to then return to the original traffic calming of the stop sign. Motion seconded by **Commissioner Mazza**. Four in favor one opposed, motion passed.

**Chair Parkes** opened the item up for public input.

**Pat** suggested a speed table in an area that wouldn't have drainage issues. He added that he didn't see the reason to spend \$4,000 or more on an alternate traffic calming when the stop signs are doing their job.

**Alan** suggested that if the entire street of Zuni from Lone Tree was a posted speed limit of 25 that would help slow traffic before entering the neighborhood.

**Joan** said she would like to see citations issued for motorist that actually do run the stop signs because that hasn't been addressed in any of the discussions. She also added if the City is moving toward removing all the stop signs and replacing them with the radar speed limit signs there would be a minimum of three needed.

### **III. NEW BUSINESS**

#### **A. City of Flagstaff Capital Improvements –Program Updates**

The City's Capital Improvements Program will present the Capital Program's proposed budget for Fiscal Year 2016. Staff will also discuss the highlights of the upcoming season's construction program.

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

Bret Petersen the City's Capital Engineer updated the Commission on the Transportation Tax funded projects:

1. West / Arrowhead Improvement
  - a. Complete this summer with a roundabout at West and Arrowhead
2. Franklin Safety Improvements
  - a. Roundabout at Franklin & O'leary
3. 4th Street Safety Improvements
  - a. Convert temporary ped crossings to permanent
4. Soliere Avenue - Fanning Wash Crossing
  - a. Drainage under Soliere
5. Butler Avenue Adaptive Signal Control
  - a. A new system to connect signals between Huntington and Ponderosa that can be programmed from City Hall
6. Switzer/Turquoise Roundabout
  - a. Currently evaluating design
7. Reserve for Transportation Improvements
  - a. Ongoing reserved funding for unforeseen minor improvements
8. Brannen Homes Sidewalk
  - a. Sidewalk project and improvements of FUTS at Lone Tree
  - b. Roundabout in the neighborhood at Paseo del Rio & Brannen
9. Lockett Avenue
  - a. Transportation study
  - b. Drainage at Thomas & Lockett
  - c. Design in FY16
10. Beulah Blvd / University Drive
  - a. Study on three different alignments
11. Industrial Drive - Huntington to Purina
  - a. Curb, gutter and sidewalk on the south side of Industrial
12. Country Club / Oakmont
  - a. Signal or roundabout
13. Butler / 4th Intersection Reconstruction
  - a. To accommodate drainage intersection needs to be raised 4-6 feet
14. Fourth Street Bridge / I-40 Design
  - a. In discussions with ADOT for the design phase

Bret continued his presentation with the Road Repair and Street Safety Program that the citizens approved last November. This tax incentive is anticipated to bring in 100 million dollars of funding for the road repair and street safety program in the next 20 years. This program will touch every street in Flagstaff which may include a street reconstruction, overlay or chip seal. The program has started this month with the anticipation to spend 3.6 million by the end of June.

**Commissioner Mazza** told Bret that she was very happy with how City Staff has pulled this tax incentive together and the communication with NAIPTA has been outstanding.

Bret concluded his presentation by telling the Commission that he can be available anytime throughout the year to supply more updates or details on any Capital project.

## B. Kendrick Street Bicycle Boulevard

The City Engineering Section tries to support the NAU Civil Engineering program in different ways, one of them is to offer project ideas and act as project owners for Senior Capstone Projects. This year we are supporting a project that is studying the possibility of upgrading Kendrick Street near Flagstaff High School to a Bicycle Boulevard

The purpose of this project is to convert Kendrick Street into a bicycle boulevard, thus providing a bicycle friendly alternative to Humphreys Street. The extent of the work will be from US 180/North Fort Valley Road to Cherry Avenue along Kendrick Street. Bicycle boulevards improve bicycle safety and circulation by having or creating low traffic volumes, discouraging non-local motor vehicle traffic, and providing free-flow travel for bikes by giving preference to bicycles at intersections. Vehicles will still be allowed on Kendrick Street, but preference will be given to bicyclists. Current conditions make it technically possible for bicyclists to get from Northern Flagstaff to NAU, but it is not as safe, simple, or easy as what a bicycle boulevard could provide. This project also connects the foot and bike trails of northern Flagstaff to the campus of Northern Arizona University (NAU). The City of Flagstaff is constantly seeking ways to improve its bikeways systems and this project will provide a crucial connection to the system.

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

Northern Arizona Transportation Services, Stephen Hirte, Yousef Alkandari and P.J. McKelvey presented this project to the Commission. The presentation included description, background, data results, methods, alternatives and preferred alternative. During the design elements section of the presentation the team did ask the Commission for their ideas regarding the bulb out treatments particularly the use of vegetative planters, and if they would work for Flagstaff. **Chair Parkes** said his experience as a pedestrian these bulb outs work very well and make motorist aware that there is an intersection which would also mean a pedestrian crossing. **Commissioner Benally** asked the team how the school on Cherry would be affected with the removal of stop signs. Jeff Bauman the City's Traffic Engineer answered that at present time there are no stop signs in the school area, and the stop sign removal would be a community discussion.

On conclusion **Chair Parkes** suggested that the team should add a couple more elements to their presentation such as the present bicycle volumes and the anticipated volume after the bike boulevard is completed.

In general the Commission was in favor of the idea presented and the future benefits of a bicycle boulevard.

## 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

**B. Informational Items to/from Commissioners and Staff**

1. Commissioner discussion

**Chair Parkes** asked Jeff about the newly installed traffic signal at Beulah and McConnell. The signal now has a flashing yellow arrow for left hand turns instead of the green arrow or ball, he hasn't seen these before and wanted to know how exactly this system worked for the motorist. Jeff said these are now being installed across the nation, the yellow arrow indicates yield until clear to turn. Studies have shown that the yellow flashing arrow adds another aspect of safety to the left hand turn lane and it also adds the ability to phase it to a green arrow when traffic is banked up in the left hand turn lane. The City will be installing three more of these in the same corridor.

**Commissioner Mazza** told the group that NAIPTA will be entering into their public comment phase concerning system changes. She asked the Commission if they would like to be informed of the public input and proposed system changes with NAIPTA. **Chair Parkes** told her the Commission would like to be involved and informed in system changes with NAIPTA. This presentation is slated for the June 3<sup>rd</sup> meeting.

**C. Next Meeting**

1. **Regular Meeting: June 3<sup>rd</sup> , 2015**

Tentative Agenda Items:

1. Isabel Street Diverters

Jeff is uncertain if this will be on the agenda. Jeff was expecting a citizen to attend tonight's meeting and talk about this item during the public participation portion of the agenda.

2. Fourth Street Update

This item will update the Commission on the scheduling of the work proposed on Fourth St between Route 66 and 7<sup>th</sup> Avenue.

3. US Bike Routes

This item will discuss the proposed bike route through Flagstaff that will be part of the bike across America bike route.

**IV. ADJOURNMENT**

**Commissioner Mazza** made a motion to adjourn, seconded by **Commissioner Benally**, all in favor the meeting adjourned at 6:10 P.M.