



DRAFT MINUTES

City of Flagstaff TRANSPORTATION COMMISSION 4:00 PM, Wednesday September 2nd , 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>

CALL TO ORDER

COMMISSION MEMBERS, voting:

Bob Kuhn, Flagstaff Unified School District- **Greg Weber substituted for Bob Kuhn**
Erika Mazza, NAIPTA - **Present**
Bob Mullen - **Present**
Kevin Parkes, Chair - **Present**
Gary Robbins, Vice-Chair
Derik Spice
Vacant

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.

Several residents from the North San Francisco neighborhood approached the Commission with concerns of the traffic going to and leaving the Elks Lodge.

Jody - Lives on Marion

- **Concerned with heavy traffic on N. San Francisco during events at the Elks Lodge.**
- **The neighborhood doesn't have sidewalks causing residence to walk in the streets.**

- She handed out to the Commission a process that the town of Pima uses to help guide neighborhoods to work toward a solution for traffic calming.

Jamie – Lives on N. San Francisco

- Told the Commission that the neighborhood has meet with the Elks Lodge about the heavy traffic during events.
- Has asked the police to monitor the traffic in the neighborhood.
- Jamie would really like to see some type of traffic calming for the neighborhood.

Arleen – Lives on Marion

- From Cedar to the Elks Lodge there is a straight shot which she feels encourages speeding of the traffic.
- Currently there is no stripping or lines on the street and many vehicles use the middle of the road.

Mike – Represents the Elks Lodge

- Has meet with the neighborhood and does feel that there is an issue with the traffic during the Elks Lodge events which does bring in a lot of traffic into the neighborhood.
- Unfortunately the Elks Lodge doesn't have any control over their guest coming and leaving the Elks Lodge.
- The Elks Lodge would welcome any ideas for traffic calming within the neighborhood.

Laura – Lives on N. San Francisco

- Filed a complaint about the speeding but the studies done shoed that the average speed on N. San Francisco was 28 mph, which didn't constitute any traffic calming needed on the street.
- Vehicles rarely stop at the stop sign at Silver Spruce.
- She has requested for the police to come and watch the traffic on several occasions but there hasn't been any police present.

Commission Discussion

Chair Parkes told the audience that several years back the Commission and City staff worked together to establish a process to help neighborhoods request traffic studies and calming and would like to follow that protocol. Jeff Bauman the City's Transportation Engineer added that this process can be found on the City's website and is called "The Residential Neighborhood Traffic Management Process" and after this process is implemented by the neighborhood then the Traffic Program will begin their studies.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Regular Meeting of July 13, 2015

Commissioner Mazza made a motion to approve the Minutes of July 13, 2015, motion seconded by **Commissioner Mullen**, all in favor, motion carried.

II. OLD BUSINESS

A. Specific Plan for La Plaza Vieja Neighborhood

Since July 2014, City staff and La Plaza Vieja Neighborhood Association (LPVNA) have been collaborating to update the La Plaza Vieja Neighborhood Specific Plan, originally drafted in 2012. This renewed effort included forming a new project team, regular meetings with the neighborhood association and public meetings to look at new information, issues, and potential directions for the plan. The team, which includes two members of LPVNA, has updated the Plan to align with the new Regional Plan, incorporate up-to-date public involvement, and better incorporate the partnership between the City and the neighborhood.

Before the Plan goes to public hearings for adoption in Fall 2015, staff is seeking input from City Commissions on the Plan's policies and implementation strategies. Recommendations gathered from City Commissions will be incorporated into the public hearing draft of the La Plaza Vieja Neighborhood Specific Plan.

The following is a link to the webpage for the Specific Plan:

<http://tiny.cc/laplazavieja/>

Staff Recommendation: Staff is requesting direction from the Transportation Commission on the Specific Plan's road, bicycle and pedestrian related direction, specifically the policies and implementation strategies for Goals 10 through 15 and the Concept Plan. Staff would like to hear from the Commission on the following items:

The Clay Avenue/McCracken Street Extension and alternative scenario,

Street cross-sections in Concept Plan,

Policy 13.1 and 13.2 as inputs to a future corridor plan

FUTS trail and on-street bicycle connections

Bicycle and pedestrian crossings of the rail road, Milton Road and Route 66

Traffic calming and streetscapes

Ultimately A **recommendation** from the Transportation Commission for Council to adopt the La Plaza Vieja Neighborhood Specific Plan, including any changes the Commission may endorse.

Sara Dechter the City's Comprehensive Planning Manager presented this item to the Commission by bringing them up to date on the process.

1. In February the Commission was presented with a early concept plan for the La Plaza Vieja (LPV) specific plan.
2. Today there is a final draft of the LPV specific plan.
 - a. The final draft has been reviewed in several work sessions and public hearings.
 - b. The Planning & Zoning (P&Z) Commission was particularly interested in the McCracken extension which, they have asked for the input of the Transportation Commission on.
 - i. There will be two more meetings with the P&Z Commission before they will make any recommendations to Council.
3. The final draft Concept Plan for the LPV has also been presented to the Parks & Recreation Commission and will go in front of the Bicycle and Pedestrian Advisory Committees.
 - a. **Commissioner Maza** told Sara she was concerned of the timing since the meetings with the subcommittees are happening after this meeting. How would that work so the Transportation Commission could hear the feedback from their subcommittees before making a recommendation to P&Z?
 - i. Sara told the Commission that the main goal would be that each Commission and all the Subcommittee would have a recommendation to Council and there will be sometime between the last P&Z meeting and the Council meeting to do that.
 - ii. Jeff Bauman added that the next scheduled Transportation Commission meeting will be on October 7th which would give the Commission time to review the input from the Bicycle and Pedestrian Advisory Committees before making a recommendation to Council.

Sara told the Commission the objectives for today's meeting would be to attain the following from the Commission;

1. Feedback on the final draft.
2. Specifically address the trade offs and concerns about the McCracken Extension.

3. Recommendation to Council pending further review by Bicycle & Pedestrian Advisory Committees.

Sara then presented a powerpoint that outlined the transportation elements of the final draft plan.

1. The Clay Avenue Extension changed with an option to realign it further south to have less interaction with single family and historic homes within the neighborhood.
2. Future of the Flagstaff Urban Trail System (FUTS)
3. Sara also shared with the Commission the goals that were established for the transportation elements within the LPV specific plan. Sara reviewed each goal giving more detail.
4. Sara explained some of the changes in the concept plan.
5. Sara spent some time on the opportunities and challenges within the neighborhood's transportation elements.
6. Traffic models show currently there are about 400 cut through trips during peak hours through the neighborhood and in the future that could increase to 10,000 cut through trips during peak hours. In the concept a new minor collector at McCracken is shown to limit the trips on Clay which is in a heavy residential area. As the corridor gets busier and backed up motorists search out cut through roads, the corridor includes intersections of Butler and Milton and Milton and Route 66.
 - a. McCracken would discourage traffic on Malapais and keep the traffic south of the residential area.
 - b. Sara shared a proposed McCracken extension cross section drawing, which is in compliance with the City's Engineering Standards.
7. In summary the LPV specific plan addresses the content of the regional plan's transportation chapter.

Public Comment

Jesse Dominquez – Lives on Tombstone

- Jesse is representing the neighborhood as the president of the LPV Neighborhood Association. Jesse thanked the Commission and City Staff for their involvement to completing the LPV Specific Plan. He reviewed for the Commission all the transportation improvements that have been made within the neighborhood and shared the residences views and opinions of the specific plan.
 1. The McCracken extension is preferred over the Clay extension; Clay Ave does have a school and playground on it. Most of all the residence would like the state to address the traffic on Milton Rd and Route 66 to avoid having the City to accommodate cut through traffic through the LPV neighborhood.
 2. Local streets are preferred over minor collectors.
 3. The neighborhood favors policy 13.1 and 13.2, the neighborhood wants to encourage bicyclist through the neighborhood.
 4. They welcome the railroad under pass; this will encourage closer ties between the neighborhoods separated by the railroad.
 5. Safe crossings on both Milton and Route 66 are needed.
 6. The neighborhood is looking forward to additional traffic calming and street scaping.
 7. The residents do prefer that the bus route proposed for the new Standard or student housing to be re-routed to the outside parameters than through the neighborhood.
 - The bottom line of what LPV wants is a responsible transportation planning and development that continues to promote safe and healthy neighborhood.
- There were no other public comments.

Commission Discussion

Commissioner Mazza wanted the Commission and public to know that the NAIPTA bus route through LPV was planned before the student housing project so the intensions weren't to supply transit to the student housing. She explained that after the transfer station moved to Phoenix Ave from Malapais it created a lack of pedestrian connectivity to the transit system for the residence in LPV which was determined through public outreach during the creation of the Transit Five Year Plan. **Commissioner Mazza** assured the LPV neighborhood that he has heard their request and will make sure there will be public meetings within the neighborhood before initiating a route.

The Commission asked for a more detailed explanation of an enhanced bike lane. Sara told them that basically the lane and sidewalk are wider.

Chair Parkes asked to hear from the Commission with their concerns, recommendation or postpone the recommendation to the October meeting.

Commissioner Mullen indicated that he felt a recommendation is premature and would like to get more information on the options and alternatives.

Commissioner Mazza added that the recommendation needs to incorporate the Bicycle and Pedestrian Committee's' comments, **Chair Parkes** agreed.

Sara asked the Commission if they could share their views or feedback on the McCracken extension so she could take the information back to the next P&Z Commission meeting.

Commissioner Mazza said she had some consideration to share:

1. The Clay extension has been in the works with studies associated with them and these studies should be also considered in the decision making.
2. By using the McCracken extension it would definitely draw the traffic out of the core of the neighborhood but this shouldn't be a solution for the traffic problems on Route 66 & Milton Road.
3. It's very important that the Commission hears from their sub-committees on the plan.

Chair Parkes said he would really like to make sure the crossings on Clay for the school and play ground is addressed if the Clay Extension option is chosen. Sara told the Chair because of the school and play ground is why the neighborhood prefers the McCracken Extension. **Chair Parkes** asked if the McCracken Extension is chosen will there be the possibility of any single family dwellings on the south side of McCracken. Sara told the Chair that the zoning in that area is multifamily and could have apartments built in the area but it's mostly commercial. The Chair would also like to have bus stops on East Route 66 and North Milton addressed for safety of boarding and deboarding.

Commissioner Mullen said there are two points he has taken out of this discussion which are concerns for the neighborhood and would like to have them forwarded to Council in their consideration.

1. The congestion from Route 66 & Milton shouldn't be solved by improving a street within the neighborhood.
2. The proposed bus stops should stay on the outside parameters than through the neighborhood.

Chair Parkes and Commissioner Mazza complimented the plan on the bicycle and pedestrian components and how they link to the North of the tracks and east of Milton.

The Commission wanted to continue this discussion at their next meeting after receiving the input from the Bicycle and Pedestrian Committees meet before making a recommendation to the P&Z Commission.

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>

Martin Ince approached the Commission and gave a brief update on the two Committees;

1. Both Committees are working on master plans.
2. The FUTS signage project has been completed.
3. Thursday Sept 3rd is the next Bicycle meeting and the next Pedestrian meeting will be Sept 10th.
3. Status of Transportation Engineering Program Projects
 - General update presentation on several projects and work orders performed by Transportation Engineering Staff

Jeff Bauman gave the Commission an update of projects.

1. Changes to Map 25 is on schedule and will go to Council next month.
2. Fourth Street, continuing work on plans for this summer and the larger plan to include next summer.
3. Bow & Arrow traffic calming:
 - a. Radar speed sign up at Zuni.
 - b. Stop signs on Zuni have been removed.
 - c. Had one resident call and complained that the new traffic calming isn't working and the Transportation Program will do studies.

B. Informational Items to/from Commissioners and Staff

C. Next Meeting

1. **Regular Meeting: October 7th, 2015**
Tentative Agenda Items:
 1. Isabel Street Diverters
 2. Capital Improvements – Transportation Program project evaluation

V. ADJOURNMENT

Commissioner Robbins made a motion to adjourn, motion seconded by **Commissioner Mazza**, all in favor, motion carried.