



DRAFT MINUTES

City of Flagstaff TRANSPORTATION COMMISSION

4:00 PM, Wednesday October 5th, 2016

City Council Chambers
211 W. Aspen Avenue

CALL TO ORDER

COMMISSION MEMBERS, voting:

Bob Kuhn, Flagstaff Unified School District - Present
Julie Leid - Present
Erika Mazza, NAIPTA - Present
Bob Mullen - Present
Kevin Parkes
Gary Robbins, Chair - Present
Derik Spice, Vice-Chair

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.

No public comment.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Regular Meeting of September 7th, 2016

Commissioner Mullen made a motion to approve the minutes for the September 7th meeting as submitted, Commissioner Kunh seconded the motion. All in favor motion carries, September 7th, 2016 minutes were approved.

II. OLD BUSINESS

A. City of Flagstaff – Isabel Street Diverter

Transportation Engineering Staff will present an overview of the Isabel Street diverter and the background of its installation, and current status of the citizen request to remove the diverter.

The requesting citizen has submitted an email outlining his concerns and requesting the removal of the barrier.

Staff has sent approximately 200 postcards to the adjacent land owners and residents in addition to normal posting procedures for this public meeting.

Staff Recommendation: Review and comment on the materials, presentation, and public participation. This is an action item, so a motion is anticipated to determine the status of the diverter.

Likely motions are: Diverter to remain as-is, Modify the Diverter, or Remove the Diverter

Stephanie Sarty from the transportation engineering program presented this item. Stephanie gave the Commission an update and the history of the Isabel Street Diverter. The request to remove the diverter was submitted by Abel Estrella because of the following reasons:

1. Limits access to his property from 2nd Ave
2. Drainage issues on his property during the monsoon season
3. The new barrier on Isabel and 6th Ave mitigates concerns regarding speeding traffic from Coconino High School

4. The barrier at 2nd Ave was going to be temporary until a barrier could be placed on 6th Ave
5. "A benefit to removing the barrier on 2nd and if Isabel is curbed and paved as a thru street, drainage would then properly continue along the western edge of the road (abutting McMillen Mesa) and would no longer drain onto my property."

Commission History on the diverter.

1. In the July 2006 meeting the Transportation Commission approved the neighborhood's request to install a partial traffic diverter at the intersection of Isabel St and 6th Ave; and, if this proves successful, to remove the existing barrier from Isabel St south of 2nd Ave."

Stephanie shared with the Commission the studies that have been done and the traffic data which did show the speeds have been reduced since the installation of the diverter at Izabel and 6th Ave. Staff did send out postcards to the adjacent land owners and residents regarding the diverter and to date they have received comments showing one landowner was in favor of removing the diverter on 2nd and Isabel and 10 land owners against the removal. Stephanie then requested that the Commission help with the decision to address the diverter which will include to remain as-is, Modify the Diverter, or Remove the Diverter.

Chair Robbins asked if any members of the public would like to approach the Commission regarding the diverter on 2nd Ave and Isabel.

1. Tim Griffin told the Commission his concerns (emergency vehicles, driving in the snow) and he is in favor of removing the diverter.
2. Roxanne Mcdade likes the diverter it gives a safe haven from quicker moving traffic for pedestrians. She hasn't experienced any problems with driving in the snow. She is against rhe removal of the diverter.
3. Joyce Montanye is in favor of the diverter staying as is because of safety issues.
4. Lisa Labell is in favor of the diverter staying because of safety issues. Better signage for better warning that Isabel is a dead end would be helpful.

Commission Discussion:

Chair Robbins ask Jeff Bauman the City's Transportation Engineer about the dead-end sign that is currently displayed and if he had any suggestions. Jeff replied that he will go and take a look at the location of the signage. The Chair also asked Jeff how to address Mr. Griffin's concern of driving in the snow and the steepness of the three streets which causes sliding of vehicles climbing the streets. Jeff replied that possibly letting Public Works know the conditions they could possibly determine these streets to a priority level for plowing and cinders.

Commissioner Mullens asked Tim Griffin how would removal of the diverter at 2nd Ave address the steepness issue of the other three street accesses? Mr Griffin said that Isabel is less of a steep climb to his home and has a more gradual steepness than the other three streets.

Chair Robbins also asked how the other concerns from the request to remove the diverter could be addressed. Jeff said that the drainage problem is being addressed through the Stormwater program and can be corrected through grading. Regarding the access for the land owner could be addressed out of possibly modifying the diverter giving him access to his yard if the desire is to leave the diverter as is. **Commissioner Mullen** stated that he did go out to the area and talked to neighbors and some construction workers regarding the 2nd Ave diverter. He discovered that Mr. Estrella does have access to his yard and RV but there is a bad drainage problem there. Also

there is drainage problems at the diverter at 6th and Isabel too. And of course the high school students are still needing to turn around at the dead end, each year there is always a new set of students that aren't aware of the dead-end. Everyone that Commissioner Mullen spoke to in the neighborhood wanted the diverter to stay in place.

Commissioner Kuhn said he would really think by opening up Isabel at 2nd Ave would cause significant problems with speeding vehicles from the high school.

Commissioner Mazza asked for specifics regarding the difference between Isabel and West Street which also has speeding and the high school traffic. Jeff responded that is the perception on the type of streets they are, West Street is a major collector and Isabel is a local collector and the major collectors are built for high traffic volumes and speeds which, the neighborhood expects those types of behaviors on those streets.

Commissioner Mazza added that when using google maps on the phone app it shows that Isabel is a through street and maybe that is causing some of the additional turn around traffic there at the dead-end.

Commissioner Leid said that this area has several issues which can mostly be resolved. The diverters are not blocking Mr. Estrella from his property, the access maybe inconvenient but not cutting off his access. Commissioner Leid recommends to the Commission to keep the diverters at Isabel and 2nd Ave as is.

Commissioner Mazza said she is in support with her fellow Commissioners to keep the diverters up but in the future she would like to work on other options that include, child safety, emergency access and neighborhood connectivity.

Commissioner Leid made a motion to keep the barricade in place. Motion seconded by Commissioner Kuhn.

Discussion on the motion;

Commissioner Mazza would like to add to the motion to have further conversation regarding the long term impacts and long term longevity of street closer, with hopes that there are solutions that meet everything talked about this evening including consideration to emergency vehicles.

Commissioner Leid amended the motion to include that the Commission will address the connectivity of Isabel in a larger conversation as a through street. Commissioner Kuhn seconded the amended motion. All in favor motion passes.

B. City of Flagstaff – Road Repair and Street Safety Initiative – Beaver Street Project

Capital Improvements staff are beginning to design what is called Bundle #2 of the Road Repair and Street Safety Initiative. Beaver Street from Columbus Avenue to Cherry Avenue is one of the projects in Bundle #2.

Transportation Engineering staff have investigated the possibility of modifying the lane arrangement on Beaver Street to improve operations through the corridor.

Option A proposes to eliminate parking on the West side of Beaver Street in favor of a continuous Bike Lane. Option B proposes to eliminate the

Bike Lane in favor of continuous Parking on both sides of Beaver Street and the addition of Shared Lane - Bike markings.

Here's a link to some information on the Beaver Street project:

<http://www.flagstaff.az.gov/index.aspx?NID=3480>

Staff Recommendation: Review and comment on the materials, presentation, and public participation. This is an action item, so a motion is anticipated to determine the status of the striping on Beaver Street from Columbus Avenue to Cherry Avenue. Likely motions are: to accept Option A or Option B, or to accept a modified Option A or Option B.

Stephanie Sarty from the transportation engineering program presented this item. Stephanie presented a power point to the Commission which included project limits, current conditions of Beaver Street, considerations for improvements, traffic data, public notifications which included advisory boards and the project schedule.

Considerations for Improving Beaver:

Option A (visual on next slide)

Columbus to Fine: remove parking on west & keep the bicycle lane

Fine to Cherry: remove parking on west & add a bicycle lane

1. Option A is preferred by the biking community.
2. Parking studies show that during one day of parking if east side parking is eliminated the west side parking would be able to accommodate that additional parking throughout the day. The side street parking wasn't 100% full anytime throughout the day.

Option B (visual on next slide)

Columbus to Fine: remove bicycle lane & keep parking on both sides with a shared lane with vehicles and bikes.

Fine to Cherry: no changes

Columbus to Cherry: add shared lane markings

1. Would be most likely preferred by the business community.

Chair Robbins opened the discussion to public input, there were no public input.

Commission Discussion:

Chair Robbins said he preferred option A and removing parking on the west side of Beaver would make a much safer bike lane.

Commissioner Leid asked if two lanes on Beaver was warranted. Jeff responded that with the volume of parking it is, if an area is taken down to one lane that would add problems up the street at Columbus and Beaver.

Commissioner Mullen asked if there are any data available regarding safety between a shared lane (sharrow) and a designated bike lane. Stephanie told the Commission that she hasn't actually researched to find that type of data. **Commissioner Mullen** told staff he has heard from bicyclists that the shared lane is safer. Jeff told the Commission that the shared lane is a new concept in bicyclists safety but with the designation of the shared lane then motorist can't squeeze by and the symbol on the

street does show the bicyclists were to be in the lane, which also protects against the door swing of parked vehicles.

Chair Robbins asked if the City had a recommendation between the two options. Jeff told the Commission that the City prefers option A which is supported by the Flagstaff Bike Organization (FBO) and Option A was preferred by the Bicycle Advisory Committee (BAC).

Commissioner Kuhn made a motion to accept the City's recommendation of option A. Commissioner Mullen seconded the motion.

Discussion on the motion:

Commissioner Leid feels that making the decision tonight maybe premature before the other public meetings with Pedestrian Advisory Committee and the neighborhood outreach. Jeff said there will be more discussion on this item but if Option A is selected tonight then that would give the Capital Improvement's program direction to begin the design. The 60% plan will be the plan displayed at the December public meeting with more discussion.

Commissioner Mazza asked if this item could be tabled or delayed until there are responses from the PAC. Commissioner Mazza would also like to take this discussion back to NAIPTA because of the frequency of the bus routes down Beaver.

Commissioner Kuhn withdrew his motion to accept the City's recommendation.

Commissioner Mazza made a motion to table the item to the November 2nd, 2016 meeting to leave time for the PAC and NAIPTA to review. Motion seconded by Commissioner Mullen, all in favor motion carries.

III. NEW BUSINESS

A. City of Flagstaff – Engineering Standards Updates - Transportation Impact Analysis

Transportation Engineering Staff will present an overview of the Transportation Impact Analysis (TIA) process, highlighting some of the proposed updates from the previous version.

Staff Recommendation: Review and comment on the materials and presentation.

Jeff Bauman gave a presentation regarding the TIA process which was requested by the Commission in their last meeting. The presentation included categories, key elements, data collection, trip generation, capacity analysis, level of service and mitigation of impacts.

The Commission requested that in a future meeting to revisit this item and discuss in more detailed format.

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>

B. Informational Items to/from Commissioners and Staff

1. Commissioner Discussion
2. Membership Vacancies
<http://www.flagstaff.az.gov/index.aspx?NID=1886>

C. Next Meeting

1. **Regular Meeting: December 5th, 2016**
Tentative Agenda Items:
 1. None

V. ADJOURNMENT

Commissioner Mullen made a motion to adjourn, seconded by Commissioner Mazza, all in favor, motion carries, meeting adjourned.