



DRAFT MINUTES

City of Flagstaff TRANSPORTATION COMMISSION

4:00 PM, Wednesday October 4th, 2017

City Hall – 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:

Bob Kuhn, Flagstaff Unified School District - Present
Julie Leid - Present
Erika Mazza, NAIPTA – Substituting for Erika Mazza – Alicia Becker Present
Bob Mullen
Vacant
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 August 2, 2017

Commissioner Leid made a motion to approve the August 2, 2017 minutes as submitted, Commissioner Kuhn seconded the motion, all in favor, minutes approved.

II. OLD BUSINESS - NONE

III. NEW BUSINESS

A. Beaver Street Closure – North Leroux Street Turn Restrictions

The City of Flagstaff is currently reconstructing Beaver Street from Columbus to Birch. Due to the scope of the project, Beaver is currently completely closed to traffic from Columbus to Cherry. The City is coordinating with the contractor to have Beaver Street opened as a one-lane roadway during the anticipated heavy winter traffic periods. Currently the project is expected to be completed and re-opened to traffic in August 2018.

The City has received phone calls, email requests and observed several letters to the editor concerning North Leroux Street, both for leaving the street as-is and for removal of the westbound Columbus to southbound Leroux turn restriction.

Transportation Staff has placed fliers on the residences along North Leroux and worked with the City Public Information Officer to spread the word of this discussion.

Staff Recommendation: The commission should review the information provided in the staff presentation, listen to the public participation and make a recommendation to leave the turn restrictions as-is, remove the turn restrictions, or some variation of these alternatives.

Jeff Bauman the City's Transportation Engineer presented this item in a PowerPoint format which identified the area and history of the left turn restrictions from west bound Columbus onto Leroux.

1. Due to construction Beaver will be closed until August of 2018
 - a. Contractor is hoping to have a one lane opening on Beaver during the winter heavy traffic holidays.
2. Citizen complaints and suggestions received addressing the congestion on Leroux due to the closure of Butler.
3. Options for Leroux
 - a. Leave Left turn restriction as is
 - b. Remove the turn restriction
 - i. Temporary
 - ii. Permanent
 - c. Other variations of these alternatives
4. Speed & volumes collected on Leroux after the closure of Butler
 - a. Speed 85% staying at 25 – 28 MPG
 - b. Volumes, high

Public Comment:

Gordon Watkins has lived on Leroux for 14 years.

Mr. Watkins stated that currently there is twice as much traffic on the four blocks south of Columbus and additional parking from downtown. He is against changing anything from the current restrictions but does recommend lowering the speed limit to 15 MPH on Leroux. It is his understanding from the contractor that a portion of Beaver will be completed within the next month and requested that Beaver can be opened from Columbus to Elm. He suggested that the big picture be looked at and to consider the schedule which includes a closure of Dale before the end of the year.

Dr. Dan Katy has lived on Leroux for 27 years.

Dr. Katy was one of the original citizens to work with the Traffic Commission 20 years ago on the current left-hand turn restriction from Columbus onto Leroux and still prefers that restriction. He and asked the Commission to re-examine the possibility to completely close off Leroux from Columbus to Elm, which was the original request 20 years ago.

Tim McCullough, raised on Leroux

Mr. McCullough was also part of the group to initiate the restriction of left hand turns onto Leroux but he requested to have the restriction temporarily removed until after construction to help lighten the traffic on Humphreys and the alley ways.

Connie has lived on Leroux for 32 years.

Connie was also part of the group that work with the Commission to add the restriction of no left hand turns off Columbus onto Leroux. Connie would like to see the restriction stay but wanted the Commission to consider making San Francisco Street into a two-way starting at Switzer Canyon down to Cherry on a temporary basis until the construction is complete. The quality of life has been impacted on the Leroux neighborhood with the additional traffic.

Joan Martini has lived on Leroux 28 years.

Joan stated that there is always issues with noise, pollution and safety, but the safety issue has been extremely impacted on Leroux with the closure of Beaver. Joan agrees

with Connie regarding transforming San Francisco into a two-way street. Joan's other proposal would be to remove all the stop signs on Leroux and lower the speed limit to 15 MPH and have it enforced. Joan also stated whatever the solution maybe she strongly supports leaving the left-turn restriction onto Leroux from Columbus.

Mr. Dutton lived on Leroux from 1997-2011 and is looking to move back.

Mr. Dutton is in favor of leaving the restricted left-turn from Columbus onto Leroux. Also, he added that he owns a duplex on Leroux and inquired from his tenants if there has been any problems with increased traffic using the alley way. His tenants told him they have noticed some increase but it hasn't become a problem. Mr. Dutton closed by asking the Commission to investigate the proposal to incorporate San Francisco into a two-way road, and he also wanted the Commission to beware of who showed up to the meeting this evening which are the Leroux neighborhood and not the motorist using Leroux as a pass through.

Mark Frost a business owner on Beaver Street for 30 years.

Mr. Frost would like the Commission to consider removing the left-hand turn restriction on Columbus to Leroux to help relieve pressure on Humphries St, and to open Beaver St ASAP when completed down to Elm. Mr. Frost also had questions regarding the timing and phasing of the construction on Beaver.

Bret Petersen the City's Capital Engineer approached the Commission to help answer some of Mr. Frost's questions. Bret told the Commission that it is anticipated Beaver will be paved from Columbus to Elm prior to Thanksgiving with intentions to open Beaver from Columbus to Elm as a one lane road through the heavy winter months. He also wanted everyone to keep in mind that the weather is hard to determine this time of year and could impact the progress but there are no intentions to have a winter shut down on this project.

Tim Hanson has a business on Humphries.

Mr. Hanson is in favor of allowing the left-hand restriction removed on a temporary basis, this would add better access to businesses and relieve pressure on Columbus.

Tom Burkhardt has lived on Leroux since 1952

Mr. Burkhardt is supportive of removing the left-hand turn restriction from Columbus onto Leroux on a temporary basis. He also supports the idea of converting San Francisco into a two-way road.

Travis works downtown.

Travis supports removing the left-hand turn restriction from Columbus onto Leroux on a temporary basis and opposes reducing the speed limit on Leroux.

Shirley Wiley – Leave restrictions as is.

Candace – Doesn't live in the neighborhood but travels the area.

Candace supports removing the left-hand turn restriction from Columbus onto Leroux even if it's only at certain times of the day.

Commission Discussion

Commissioner Leid asked Jeff Bauman if he has received any complaints from other streets west of Humphries? Jeff responded the only complaints he has received was from the Leroux area. Commissioner Leid said she didn't think there would be a significant impact or benefit to the neighborhood by making any changes now. Commissioner Leid added that she isn't supportive of removing the restriction, turning San Francisco into a

two-way street or adding stop signs to Leroux. Commissioner Leid indicated that she would like to revisit this item after Beaver Street is opened from Columbus to Elm. Chair Robbins asked Jeff about the possibilities of transforming San Francisco Street to a two-way street. Jeff replied that it wouldn't be timely and it would be costly. The Commission came to a consensus to wait on this item until Beaver is open from Columbus to Elm and after receiving an update from the Capital Engineer Bret Petersen at the next meeting.

B. City of Flagstaff – Citizens Transportation Tax Commission Update

The City of Flagstaff City Council recently created a new Commission – the Citizens Transportation Tax Commission. The purpose of this Commission is to create the project list and ballot language for the proposed renewal of the City's Transportation Tax in November 2018. The current Transportation Tax (Transportation Tax 2000) sunsets on June 30, 2020. The new Commission will have 15 members, 14 at-large and 1 as an appointee from the Transportation Commission. The Commission is expected to meet starting in September 2017 and continuing through March 2018.

At the August Transportation Commission meeting, voting members of the commission chose Julie Leid as their representative to the newly formed Citizens Transportation Tax Commission, and Gary Robbins as alternate representative. The first meeting of the CTAC will be held on Monday October 2nd.

Staff Recommendation: Discussion item – recap the October 2nd meeting and review the future meeting schedule and agendas.

Jeff Bauman shared with the Commission the schedule for the Transportation Tax Commission and asked Commissioner Leid to update the Commission about the first meeting. Commissioner Leid is the representative for the Transportation Commission on the Transportation Tax Commission.

Commissioner Leid told the Commission that the first meeting was mostly introductions but it also outlined direction from the City Council whom appointed the Transportation Tax Commission. These directions included:

1. Deliverables
 - a. Recommending projects
 - b. Identifying needs that haven't already been identified
 - c. Prioritizing the projects
2. Recommending what the ballot question should look like

Chair Robbins suggested that within the list of projects try to identify some items on the north side, such as the Switzer extension that would connect to Butler Avenue.

C. City of Flagstaff - Truck Prohibition Designation Process

Staff created a draft policy for prohibiting heavy-vehicles (trucks) on certain roadways, a document that defines the City's process for establishing Truck Prohibition Routes.

The proposed policy will typically be citizen requested, and has typically occurred where Citizens have concerns of high truck volumes and speeds. Once a concern is received, City Staff will determine the roadway classification and obtain volume, speed, and vehicle classification data. A heavy-vehicle (truck) percentage will be determined and compared to

Staff Recommendation: Staff presented this policy in August and would like to provide this opportunity for any additional feedback prior to finalizing this process.

Jeff told the Commission that he brought this item back to them for one more opportunity for comments. This item was discussed in the August meeting with very few comments. If the Commission has no further discussion on the policy it will be considered complete and used when there is a complaint. The Commission had no comments.

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>
3. Linda Vista Counts

C. Next Meeting

1. **Regular Meeting: December 6, 2017**
Tentative Agenda Items:
 1. Citizens Transportation Tax Commission – update
 2. Chair and Vice-Chair rotations

IV. ADJOURNMENT

Commissioner Kuhn made a motion to adjourn, Commissioner Leid seconded the motion, all in favor, meeting adjourned.