



DRAFT MINUTES

City of Flagstaff TRANSPORTATION COMMISSION

4:00 PM, Wednesday January 3rd, 2018

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-**Present**
Bob Mullen
Vacant
Gary Robbins, Chair-**Arrived approximately at 4:20 PM**
Derik Spice, Vice-Chair-**Present**

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 comments

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Regular Meeting of October 4, 2017

Vice Chair Spice commented regarding item III Beaver Street Closure there were several times Beaver Street was referenced as Butler and he would like to have that corrected. Commissioner Leid made a motion to approve the October 4, 2017 minutes with corrections requested, Commissioner Mazza seconded the motion, all in favor, minutes approved.

II. OLD BUSINESS

A. NAIPTA 5 Year Transit Plan Update

NAIPTA has recently completed updating their 5 Year Plan and has received approval of these updates from the NAIPTA Board. NAIPTA staff will provide an overview presentation of the updated plan to the Commission.

Staff Recommendation: Informational Update – No Action Requested

Alicia Becker, Transportation Planner for NAIPTA presented this item. She gave a quick summary on the process and public outreach since the beginning of this effort which, began in January 2017. In December 2017 the NAIPTA Board accepted and approved the 5 Year Transit Plan. Her presentation included the new Frequency Map and the Permanent Transit Network. Vice Chair Spice asked about the availability of service to and from the airport. Alicia told him that because of the low density in that area the service isn't currently offered but it will be considered in the future as that area develops.

B. City of Flagstaff – Citizens Transportation Tax Commission Update

The City of Flagstaff City Council created a new Commission – the Citizens Transportation Tax Commission (CTTC). 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 Commission has 15 members, 14 at-large and 1 as an appointee from the Transportation Commission. The Commission started meeting in September 2017 and will continue 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 next scheduled meeting is January 22nd at 4:00 PM in the City Council Chambers.

Staff Recommendation: Informational Update – No Action Requested

Commissioner Leid gave an update on the progress being made by the CTTC. The last meeting consisted of education, background and reviewing the Regional Transportation Plan (RTP). ADOT and NAIPTA both presented to the CTTC how their projects are funded along with current projects and future projects. There was also a Steering Committee developed to help with the budget and priorities and how to best package these items for the voters. The priorities developed from the Steering Committee were, Congestions Relief, Arterial Density, Multi Modal Support, Economic Development and Safety. Commissioner Leid asked the Commission to consider these priorities and give her feedback that she can share with the CTTC. Commissioner Mazza did respond that she felt the Multi Modal Support language was weak and would like to see something more robust. After making note Commissioner Leid continued that the Steering Committee also developed a list of priority projects which included scenarios regarding partnering and if the tax would continue. Commissioner Leid said in the second part of the CTTC meeting they focused on the projects identified in the RTP that also included the partnering aspect. Commissioner Leid told the Commission that the last meeting help lay the ground work for prioritization of projects and the next meeting on January 22nd will focus on plans and policies. Commissioner Mazza thanked Commissioner Leid and Jeff Bauman for being involved in this CTTC, which involves a lot time and commitment. Commissioner Leid reminded the Commission to reach out to her if there are topics and other items that the Commission would like to be considered in the CTTC meetings.

C. Beaver Street Closure Update

The City of Flagstaff is currently reconstructing Beaver Street from Columbus to Birch. Due to the scope of the project, Beaver Street has been completely closed to traffic from Columbus to Cherry.

The City in coordination with the contractor has temporarily opened Beaver from Columbus to Cherry for the anticipated heavy winter traffic period starting on December 22nd and re-closing on February 19th.

Currently the project is expected to be completed and permanently opened to traffic in August 2018.

Staff Recommendation: Informational Update – No Action Requested

Jeff Bauman the City Transportation Engineer gave the Commission a quick up date on this project. Currently Beaver is open until February 19th, after that the entire street will be closed to finish the project. There hasn't been much of complaints from the neighborhood after half of Beaver was opened. The most recent complaint received was regarding vehicles running the stop sign at Leroux and Hunt.

III. NEW BUSINESS

A. ADOT US HWY 180 and Milton Road Corridor Master Plans - Update

The Arizona Department of Transportation has begun study on the Milton Road and US HWY 180 corridors. Both 'studies' are being termed 'Corridor Master Plans' (CMP) by ADOT when completed will identify a 20-year vision for the corridor. The following is a brief summary of each CMP:

Milton Road Corridor Master Plan

Study Overview:

Milton Rd (aka SR 89A) is the primary roadway corridor within the heart of the City of Flagstaff, yet experiences severe traffic congestion during peak-hour traffic during weekdays as well as gridlock (bumper-to-bumper) traffic during winter weekends due to nearby snow play destinations. The purpose of the Milton Rd Corridor Master Plan is to identify a 20-year vision for the corridor by obtaining public and stakeholder input on alternative improvement strategies.

Project Area:

The Milton Rd Corridor Master Plan starts at Forest Meadows St and continues on until Milton Rd turns into Route 66 (at Butler Ave), ending at Beaver St.

<http://www.azdot.gov/planning/transportation-studies/milton-road-corridor-master-plan/overview>

US 180 Corridor Master Plan

Study Overview:

US 180 (aka Humphreys St or Fort Valley Rd) is the primary roadway corridor to the Arizona Snowbowl and experiences gridlock (bumper-to-bumper) traffic during winter weekends due to nearby snow play destinations. The purpose of the US 180 Corridor Master Plan is to identify a 20-year vision for the corridor by obtaining public and stakeholder input on alternative improvement strategies.

Project Area:

The US 180 Corridor Master Plan starts at the Humphreys St and Route 66 interchange and continues on to the Crowley Pit turn-out (milepost 232.25).

<http://www.azdot.gov/planning/transportation-studies/us-180-corridor-master-plan/overview>

Staff Recommendation: Informational Update – No Action Requested

Jeff Bauman the City's Transportation Engineer presented this item, he said both Master Plans are in the startup phase and a limited amount of information is published at the links he provided on the agenda. Jeff did invite NAIPTA to share with the Commission a project that they are starting that will be in conjunction with the ADOT's US 180 Corridor Master Plan.

Katie Morley the Mobility Planner for NAIPTA came to the podium to share with the Commission how NAIPTA is involved in the corridor study alongside ADOT. The main objective for the NAIPTA study is to improve congestion and safety on the 180 Corridor. The NAIPTA project is being funded through a study from ADOT. NAIPTA has a stakeholders group which includes representatives from the City, County, Citizens, Forest Service and Snowbowl. This group will look at different data and scenarios including; volume counts, cell phone data, alternative routes, funding sources and entity to provide the funding and control management on the corridor. Kate told the Commission as progress is made she will update the Commission as needed.

B. Active Transportation Master Plan Update

The City of Flagstaff is working on an Active Transportation Master Plan to serve as a detailed guide to enhance walking, biking, and trails in Flagstaff.

Walking and biking are important to Flagstaff. An active transportation master plan will make specific recommendations for strategies, actions, projects, and programs to improve the pedestrian and bicycle environment and implement the goals and policies of the Flagstaff Regional Plan 2030 regarding walking, biking, and trails.

There are a number of benefits to having an active transportation master plan in place:

- Provides a detailed framework to make Flagstaff more walk and bike-friendly
- Positions the City to take advantage of grants, transportation tax dollars, and other sources of funding as opportunities become available
- Helps ensure that walking, biking, and trails are accommodated in new development and new capital projects

<http://www.flagstaff.az.gov/3181/Active-Transportation-Master-Plan>

Staff Recommendation: Discussion item – staff will present the Active Transportation Master Plan for discussion and comment

Martin Ince the Multi Modal Planner for the City and FMPO presented this information to the Commission. Martin told the Commission that he will share with them an update on the process and accomplishments that can be completed in the near future. This master plan will enable specific recommendations for projects and programs that tie into the regional plan. The master plan has identified seven goals and the steps to achieve the goals with detailed actions. Strategies were determined through a survey with rankings conducted with the community. Martin reviewed the handout given to the Commission regarding the rankings.

Martin continued by explaining that one of the steps in the plan was to review all ped bike infrastructures by creating an inventory to determine what is missing or needed and then prioritize the needs. The plan also inventories sidewalks, bike lanes, at grade crossings, grade sperate crossings, FUTS and Ped Bikeways. One of the main priorities of missing sidewalks was the areas that had schools located nearby. After the inventories were completed Martin explained that each category was then broken down into short, medium and long-term projects. Martin told the Commission that there have been several pubic outreaches on the plan that included surveys, community events and a walk bike FUTS summits that were conducted in November.

Comments from the Commission:

Commissioner Leid asked Martin, how was the ped and bike improvements funded in the past? Martin replied mostly through the 2000 Transportation Tax for the bike lanes which was significantly improved. On the FUTS side funding was through grants from State and Federal which have gone away and he's unaware when they will be offered again. Commissioner Leid then inquired of which percentage did the grants cover when the City was receiving them? Martin said the grants made up of about 50% of the funding. Commissioner Leid had one question on the survey, asking if the survey had any language in it to suggest a support of taxation for funding on the bike and ped improvements? Martin replied there was no direct question regarding support from the community to help with the funding.

Commissioner Mazza expressed an interest to see a model that would reflect the completion of all the ped and bike improvements and transit availability to see how that would affect the congestion and the need for road construction.

Vice Chair Spice inquired if there have been any fund-raising activities in the ped and bike community to help relieve some of the costs for improvements. Martin told him that the City hasn't gone that road and he hasn't heard of any other efforts for fund raising for these types of improvements. Commissioner Mazza wanted the Vice Chair to beware that within the High Occupancy Housing (HOH) developments there will be Transportation Demand Management (TDM) that will work with employers, bike shares and fund raising to help manage the transportation demands in a multi modal way for these communities.

C. Bicycle and Pedestrian Advisory Committees appointments

The Bicycle and Pedestrian Advisory Committees both have two vacancies and have received applications. Staff will present the list of applicants for consideration.

Staff Recommendation: Make appointment(s) to the Bicycle and Pedestrian Advisory Committees.

Martin Ince the City's Liaison for these Committees shared the information regarding the applicants for the PAC and BAC. Martin told the Commission that each of these candidates are qualified and very enthusiastic about being on the Committee they applied for. Commissioner Leid asked Martin if Ms. McMillian had expressed any interest in becoming a commissioner on the Transportation Commission, with her background she would be a good fit. She also reminded the Commission that currently there are two vacancies on the Transportation Commission, and before approving Ms. McMillian for the PAC appointment she would want to inquire of her interest to be part of the Transportation Commission.

Vice Chair Spice made a motion to conditionally approve the PAC appointment and approve the BAC candidates, Commissioner Leid seconded the motion, 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>

B. Informational Items to/from Commissioners and Staff

1. Commissioner Discussion

Commissioner Mazza asked when the Commission would see the next update on the Capital Improvements Program? Bret Petersen the Capital Improvement's Engineer approached the podium and told the Commission that at present the new fiscal year's budget process has just started. Bret said he would be able to supply the majority of the information in the April meeting which would be at the end of the budget process and would like to get the Commission involved before that date. Bret told the Commission he will share some information in the February meeting to get the conversation started earlier to ensure the Commission's comments.

2. Membership Vacancies

<http://www.flagstaff.az.gov/index.aspx?NID=1886>

C. Next Meeting

1. **Regular Meeting: February 7, 2018**

Tentative Agenda Items:

1. Citizens Transportation Tax Commission – update

IV. ADJOURNMENT

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