

TRANSPORTATION ADVISORY BOARD MEETING

APPROVED

HELD ON JUNE 17, 2014

TAB Members Present

Dawn Fortuna, Chairperson
Bruce Hallstead, Vice Chairperson
Kay Henry
Jennifer Love
Mike Schmidt
Ian Murray
Jim LeCheminant
Troy Peterson

TAB Members Absent

Ian Bennett
Ron Wilson

Others Present

Lenny Hulme
Alan Sanderson
Renate Ehm
Sabine Ellis
Mark Venti
Jim Hash
Ashley Barinka
Mike Sowers
Haley Estelle
Jane Morris

Chairperson Dawn Fortuna called the June 17, 2014 Transportation Advisory Board meeting to order at 5:35 pm.

Item 1. Approval of the minutes of the Transportation Advisory Board meeting held on May 20, 2014.

Board Member Kay Henry moved to approve the minutes as written. Board Member Mike Schmidt seconded and the motion passed unanimously.

Item 2. Annual election of Chairperson and Vice Chairperson. Mesa City Code requires that the Transportation Advisory Board select their own Chairperson and Vice Chairperson from among their members to serve a one-year term. By-laws state that no board member shall serve more than two consecutive full terms as Chairperson or Vice Chairperson. Board members who have served two consecutive full terms as an officer may be reelected to that office after at least one intervening year on the Board during which he/she does not serve as that officer. Partial terms as an officer shall not be counted towards term limits. The term of Chairperson and Vice Chairperson will begin at the July 2014 Transportation Advisory Board meeting.

Board Member Kay Henry nominated Chairperson Dawn Fortuna for Chairperson. Board Member Troy Peterson seconded and the motion passed unanimously.

Board Member Jim LeCheminant nominated Vice Chairperson Bruce Hallstead for Vice Chairperson. Chairperson Fortuna seconded and the motion passed unanimously.

Item 3. Items from citizens present.

None.

Item 4. Hear a presentation on the planned expansion of the Phoenix-Mesa Gateway Airport. (District 6)

Jane Morris, Executive Director of the Phoenix-Mesa Gateway Airport (Airport), introduced herself and explained that she would be presenting the Phoenix-Mesa Gateway Airport expansion plan. She gave a brief background on the Airport, describing the ways in which surrounding developments, like the Loop 202 and State Route 24, have positively impacted the Airport. Ms. Morris also explained the economic impact travelers from the Airport bring into the area. Ms. Morris went on to describe future development areas for the Airport: Areas A, B and C. She described Area A and Area B near Sossaman Rd south of the passenger terminal. Ms. Morris described what the area would look like once developed, encompassing 238 acres and 2.5 million square feet of industrial and air space. It is anticipated that there would be \$19 million spent on infrastructure and \$300 million in construction that would lead to the creation of 2500 jobs and an annual economic impact of \$93 million. Ms. Morris then began describing Area C, near the Loop 202 and State Route 24 encompassing 700 acres. Ms. Morris presented an illustration to the Board identifying terminal areas, commercial development areas that will include office, retail and hotels, and connections to local roadways. Ms. Morris explained that the airport would become accessible from both Ellsworth and Ray Roads. Currently there is an environmental assessment review being completed for Area C and the Airport is close to having a draft of the assessment submitted to the Federal Aviation Administration. Ms. Morris explained that the intent was to move forward with development over the next 10 years, anticipating completion in 2024.

Vice Chairperson Bruce Hallstead asked if there was an anticipated date when multiple airlines would operate out of Phoenix-Mesa Gateway. Ms. Morris explained the need for infrastructure to be built that will support future development thereby encouraging more airlines to operate out of the Airport. Route proposals and partnering with charter planes are some steps the Airport is taking to attract other airlines. The Airport continues to market itself by highlighting clean airspace, low-cost air travel, and the development-friendly board as a way to attract more airlines.

Item 5. Hear a presentation and discuss the Roadway Element of Part II of the Mesa Transportation Plan Update and the integration of the Mesa Transportation Plan Update (Part III – Circulation and Integration) with the General Plan Update, and the Transit Master Plan Update.

Mark Venti, Senior Transportation Engineer introduced himself and Jim Hash, Planner II. Mr. Venti explained that he and Mr. Hash would be presenting finalized draft versions of the Roadway Element of Part II and Part III – Circulation and Integration – of the Transportation Plan (Plan). In July, staff will present a full, final draft of the Plan to the Board. Staff intends to have the Plan ready for adoption by City Council in August.

Mr. Venti described that his presentation would highlight the future plan for the roadways in Mesa. Mr. Venti explained the concepts used in addressing future plans for the roadways: Ongoing Street Improvement, the MAG Travel Demand Model, Closing Gaps & Connectivity, and Neighborhood Access. Mr. Venti explained to the Board that this version of the Plan looks at roadways as a place for bicyclists and pedestrians as well as motorized vehicles and incorporates ideas from the General Plan and Transit Plan. Taking all concepts into account, staff has developed a basic list of feature improvements highlighting the heightened need for

complete streets that provide facilities for all users of the roadways. Staff has also developed a concept that identifies bicyclists and pedestrians as the priority users for some roadways. Mr. Venti went on to explain the intersection improvements and roadway improvements identified in Part II and how those improvements are based on providing access to special activity areas. The Median Island Map for future conditions and a Function Map are also included in Part II, as well as maps including light rail and canals being proposed for future bicycle and pedestrian facilities. Mr. Venti explained that Part II identifies how staff proposes roadways be used in the future.

Chairperson Fortuna asked about reconciling issues relating to connectivity to activity centers in the transit areas identified in the Plan. Mr. Venti replied by explaining that the information in the Plan related to transit comes from the Transit Plan, and that the Transit Plan is not developed by the Transportation Department. More information about possible transit circulators that address connectivity to activity centers may be found in the Transit Plan.

Mr. Hash then presented Part III – Connectivity and Integration of the Plan. Mr. Hash explained that Part III provides an illustration of how the Transportation Plan works alongside the General Plan and Transit Plan to accomplish the vision set forth in the General Plan. Mr. Hash explained how the General Plan describes ways in which Mesa can become more recognizable as it matures by creating stronger senses of place for some areas in Mesa and creating places where people want to live and spend their time in Mesa. The Plan can help provide opportunities to reduce automobile travel and increase other modes of getting around the City, creating a more efficient, multi-modal transportation and transit system for people to use that will support the vision and concepts identified in the General Plan.

Board Member Jennifer Love asked staff to describe the way in which the Transportation Plan prioritizes improvements for near-term, mid-term and long-term to meet the 2040 horizon. Staff explained that this version of the Plan is to be looked at as more of a vision, or an overall picture, of where Mesa would like to end up in 2040, and that identification of specific projects are found in the sub-plans of the Plan. Alan Sanderson, Deputy Transportation Director and Traffic Engineer explained that development throughout the City is driven by different variable elements, such as funding and Council and City Management priorities. He explained that the Plan would act as a guiding document built on principles as opposed to projects.

Board Member Love asked if any safety elements were taken into consideration when developing the Transportation Plan. Mr. Hash explained that safety elements are addressed in the details of the sub-plans of the Plan and reiterated that the Plan is a visionary document. Mr. Sanderson added that safety is a key part of Transportation and it is woven into all operations of the Department, highlighting the fact that very few intersections remain within the City of Mesa that are in need of safety improvements.

Board Member Kay Henry asked for clarification on why the General Plan and Transportation Plan were not updated in 2012, which would have been ten years from when it was previously updated. Staff responded by explaining that the General Plan is updated according to State statute and the update due in 2012 was deferred due to economic conditions. Staff further explained that the Plan is not held to state statute, but is updated to coincide with the General Plan updates. Board Member Henry asked if the Plan would be reviewed annually to identify progress made over the previous year and progress to be made in the following year. Mr.

Sanderson explained the annual Capital Improvement Program review that takes place where City Council and the City Manager define what projects are priorities. Staff proposed providing the Board with an annual update of the projects related to the Plan.

Item 6. Hear a presentation on the Bicycle and Pedestrian Program accomplishments in 2013.

Jim Hash, Planner II introduced Ashley Barinka, Marketing and Communication Specialist. Mr. Hash and Ms. Barinka described for the Board how the Bicycle and Pedestrian Program is developed in an effort to propel the City of Mesa to become a League of American Bicyclist Platinum City by following the five E's established by the organization: Engineering, Education, Encouragement, Enforcement and Evaluation & Planning. Mr. Hash explained that the City of Mesa developed programs that would help the City move forward toward the Platinum status. Staff held multiple education events in 2013 in an effort to increase adult and child bicycle education. Adult education was an area identified for improvement, and the City of Mesa was able to partner with the Maricopa Association of Government (MAG) in a regional adult education program put together by the Arizona Coalition of Bicyclists. The City of Mesa held two adult bicycle education events in coordination with these groups. Additionally, several educational programs were held in 2013 covering topics such as car seat safety and teen driver awareness. Furthermore, the City held bicycle safety courses, offered helmet fittings, and held health and safety fairs focusing on bike, pedestrian and traffic safety. Mesa also helped support the Ride of Silence, which is an event honoring individuals that have been injured or killed while bicycling on public streets. Mr. Hash summarized other 2013 events developed to encourage people to walk or ride their bikes, including the Great Arizona Bike Festival (now known as CycloMesa), El Tour De Mesa, Bike2Work Day, and International Walk to School Day. Mr. Hash also highlighted the 2013 numbered bike routes, developed to help the "not-so-confident" bicycle rider identify streets that have low-traffic volumes to help riders connect to City of Mesa activity centers safely. Mr. Hash went on to summarize several studies being done throughout the City including the Mesa-Gateway Shared Use Path, the Porter Park Pathway, Dobson Road Complete Street Project, and a regional connection to the Town of Gilbert along a 17.5 mile pathway on the Consolidated Canal. Mr. Hash described the Eco-Counter tools that were also installed in 2013 and how they are being used as a tool for planners to look at trends and identify how facilities are being used. He went on to inform the Board that the Eco-Counter system includes mobile counters that can be used throughout the City. Mr. Hash wrapped up the presentation by identifying monies received through grants and bond elections totaling over \$8.6M in funding that helped support the Bicycle and Pedestrian Program.

Informational Update on Recent Council Action:

At its May 29, 2014 meeting, the City Council acknowledged the receipt of the minutes of the March 18, 2014 Transportation Advisory Board meeting.

Informational Update on Recent Parking Prohibitions:

None.

The meeting was adjourned at 7:07 p.m.