

TRANSPORTATION ADVISORY BOARD MEETING

APPROVED

HELD ON July 19, 2016

TAB Members Present

Troy Peterson, Chairperson
Kay Henry, Vice Chairperson
Dave Bergner
Michael Book
Louis Stephen
Jennifer Love
Ron Wilson
Mike Schmidt
Vern Mathern

TAB Members Absent

Ian Murray
David Camp

Others Present

Sabine Ellis
Al Zubi
Ray Yparraguirre
Erik Guderian
Lt. Gina Nesbit

Chairperson Troy Peterson called the July 19, 2016 Transportation Advisory Board meeting to order at 5:30 pm.

Item 1. Approval of the minutes of the Transportation Advisory Board meeting held on June 21, 2016.

Board Member Vern Mathern motioned to approve the minutes as written. Vice Chairperson Kay Henry seconded and the motion passed unanimously.

Item 2. Acknowledge incoming Board Member David Bergner

Board Member David Bergner introduced himself and gave a brief background. The Board Members then went around the table and provided brief introductions.

Item 3. Items from citizens present

None.

Item 4. Hear a presentation and discuss the City of Mesa Transportation Department Americans with Disability Act (ADA) Prioritization Plan.

Al Zubi, Supervising Engineer, introduced Ray Yparraguirre from Kimley-Horn. Ray provided a brief background and statistics on the Americans with Disability Act (ADA). Mr. Yparraguirre reviewed accessible design principles highlighting the need for users to be able to travel transportation networks independently. Mr. Yparraguirre explained that the City has been very proactive in their efforts to comply with ADA. Mr. Yparraguirre gave a brief overview of ADA and explained the five titles contained within. He explained that Title II of the ADA covers the entire operation of public agencies. Mr. Yparraguirre reviewed the basic requirements for government entities with 50 or more employees and went on to discuss the

seven steps of compliance, paying special attention to step number five which requires the development of a self-evaluation and transition plan to include implementation components. Mr. Yparraguirre explained the nature of self-evaluations and explained the focus would be on programs, policies and practices, design standards and infrastructure.

Before continuing on, Mr. Yparraguirre solicited questions from the Board.

Board Member Vern Mathern asked for clarification on what the City of Mesa Transportation Department is transitioning from.

Mr. Zubi explained that the City has existing infrastructure that is not compliant with ADA. The transition plan will help the City get caught up with ADA compliance.

Board Member Mathern confirmed the intent of the transition plan is to move from limited ADA compliance to a more compliant program.

Mr. Yparraguirre explained that the next steps include looking at existing assets and prioritizing those that need to be brought into compliance. A program will be developed that identifies which programs are remedied first.

Board Member Louis Stephen inquired as to what infrastructure the Plan would incorporate.

Mr. Yparraguirre explained that all physical aspects of the network, including sidewalks, ramps, bus shelters and bus stops, had to be compliant and would be addressed in the Plan.

Board Member Stephen inquired as to whether or not the City of Mesa handles each aspect or if some fall under other entities, like Valley Metro.

Mr. Zubi explained that each department in the City of Mesa falls under an overarching plan, and each department has subject matter experts who will also work to ensure ADA compliance specific to their areas. Transportation is interested in the infrastructure elements they are responsible for and that the transition plan presented on this evening was specific to those elements.

Vice Chairperson Kay Henry inquired as to when ADA became a law.

ADA became law in 1990.

Erik Guderian, Deputy Transportation Director over Traffic Engineering, further explained the Plan presented this evening covers only Transportation related elements and does not address the entire City's state of ADA compliance. Mr. Guderian explained that Ruth Giese, Community Services Director, was responsible for the City's overall ADA compliance program.

Mr. Yparraguirre continued with his presentation and explained the Public Right of Way Accessibility Guidelines (PROWAG) acts as an ADA accessibility guideline which provides standards and specifications related to public rights of way. The City's most current standards are within ADA compliance. PROWAG is considered to be a best practice as the document has not yet been adopted into the ADA. Mr. Yparraguirre reviewed the elements of self-evaluation, the scope of work to include curb ramps, sidewalks, pedestrian signals and so on. He provided examples of inventory and data collection on sidewalk corridors and signalized intersections and went on to review prioritization methodology. Mr. Yparraguirre explained the necessity of having a systematic plan to implement changes and reviewing the issues from a global perspective.

Chairperson Troy Peterson asked what the funding sources are for the program.

Mr. Zubi explained that some improvements will be incorporated into CIP projects. Other priorities will be addressed and coordinated with the City Manager's office to identify funding for those elements not included in CIP projects.

Mr. Yparraguirre gave the Board an example of different prioritizations and how they would be employed with data inventory so the City is well equipped to prioritize projects. He went on to review signalized intersection prioritization methodology and scheduled actions required each year. He explained recurring programs and prioritization ranking.

Board Member Michael Book asked if there are federal requirements identifying timeframes in which the network has to comply.

Mr. Yparraguirre explained that there is no timeframe mandated by federal requirements. The transition plan with a schedule and monitoring is sufficient to meet federal mandates of ADA.

Board Member Louis Stephen asked if inspectors from the City go out to projects under construction to ensure ADA compliance.

Mr. Zubi explained that all current design standards meet ADA requirements and that dedicated staff inspect design and construction elements of on-going projects to ensure compliance.

Board Member David Bergner inquired as to whether or not pavement within the crosswalks are taken into consideration as part of ADA compliance evaluation.

Mr. Yparraguirre explained that pavement as part of the pathway for pedestrians are reviewed as part of the program.

Mr. Yparraguirre continued his presentation and reviewed the role of responsible officials for ensuring accountability across the City, a role which, as previously discussed, is filled by Ruth Giese, Community Services Director. Mr. Yparraguirre concluded by reviewing the scope of work for developing the transition plan and opened the floor to questions.

Board Member Vern Mathern inquired as to what step in the process the Department is currently on and when Kimley-Horn's contractual work began on this project and how long the involvement from the firm would last.

Mr. Yparraguirre explained that design standards have been reviewed and prioritization processes for sidewalks, ramps, corridors and push buttons have been submitted. Kimley-Horn's contract with the Department began in June and is slated to last approximately 90 days.

Board Member Jennifer Love inquired as to whether or not staff would return to the Board with final recommendations for the Transition Plan.

Mr. Guderian explained the current scope of work for Kimley-Horn is to establish prioritization methodology. The Department will still have to find funding and take measurements. Kimley-Horn will return with Staff to address the Board and provide more information on how prioritization will work when deficiencies are identified.

Board Member Michael Book inquired as to how often ADA requirements change.

Mr. Yparraguirre explained that PROWAG is the most recent ADA update which covers the pedestrian environment.

Board Member Louis Stephen asked what the next steps will be after the plan goes to Council.

Mr. Zubi explained that the Department will work with Council and City Management to identify funding once a plan and schedule has been put in place.

Board Member Ron Wilson asked about connectivity between transportation related elements and the rest of the City.

Mr. Zubi explained that coordination of efforts City-wide is coordinated through Ms. Giese and her staff. He explained that each department has their own focus, but all coordinate with one another.

Chairperson Peterson asked what other elements are needed for the Plan.

Mr. Zubi explained that once the prioritization list is completed, staff will review which deficiencies have been or will be addressed through the CIP program and other projects. He explained that all new construction is compliant. Advisement will be sought so the Department can develop total and partial costs to help make recommendations, which will eventually be presented to City Council and City Management.

Chairperson Peterson asked when the inventory plan and prioritization will be completed and when to expect funding.

Mr. Guderian explained that the goal is to finish the prioritization plan by September or October of 2016. Cost estimations will be provided by Kimley-Horn. Data collection will be a major undertaking, evaluation will have to be done to identify staffing and resources needs to address data collection. The goal is to put the plan into the FY17/18 budget and then go out and collect the data. Data collection would be completed by the end of FY17/18 and future programs would be developed at that point.

Board Member Stephen asked if bicycle paths would be included in implementation.

Mr. Guderian explained that bicycle paths fall outside of ADA.

Board Member Wilson asked how priorities are defined.

Mr. Yparraguirre reviewed the example from the presentation that covered what prioritization would look like for the Plan.

Board Member Stephen asked if federal funding would be sought.

Mr. Zubi explained that all funding sources would be evaluated once prioritization is complete. This could include funding from federal sources as well as other sources.

Chairperson Peterson asked what is required for finalization of the plan and whether or not there is federal overview of the transition plan.

Mr. Yparraguirre explained that federal approval is required for the City's overall transition plan, and reiterated that the plan being presented this evening covered only a portion of the City's overall plan. He went on to review the steps to compliance as presented in the presentation.

Mr. Zubi explained that the outline for what is needed to be done emulates what has been completed elsewhere and considered compliant. The goal is to be a few steps ahead as

opposed to a few steps behind in creating a compliant network.

Board Member Stephen asked if the City was not in compliance currently.

Sabine Ellis, City Traffic Engineer, explained that new construction and existing design standards are in compliance with ADA. The goal of this Plan is to look at infrastructure that has been installed throughout the network, identifying deficiencies and putting a plan in place to bring those deficiencies into compliance.

Board Member Stephen inquired as to why internal City staff was not developing the plan and why Kimley-Horn was brought in.

Mr. Guderian explained Kimley-Horn's expertise in the area of ADA compliance and development of transition plans.

The meeting adjourned at 6:35 p.m.