

TRANSPORTATION ADVISORY BOARD MINUTES

APPROVED

HELD ON September 17, 2019

The Transportation Advisory Board of the City of Mesa met in the Lower Council Chambers, 57 East 1st Street, on September 17, 2019 at 5:30 p.m.

<u>TAB Members Present</u>	<u>TAB Members Absent</u>	<u>Others Present</u>
David Camp (Chairperson)	Melissa Vandever	Sabine Ellis
Ian Murray (Vice Chairperson)		Stephanie Derivan
Sam Gatton		RJ Zeder
Vern Mathern		Bettina Nava
Megan Neal		Haylye Plaster
Chris Scott		Stephan Bach
Ryan Wozniak		
David Winstanley		
Dave Bergner		
Georgina Marin		

Chairperson David Camp called the September 17, 2019 Transportation Advisory Board meeting to order at 5:30pm.

Item 1. Approval of the minutes of the Transportation Advisory Board meeting held on May 21, 201.

It was moved by Board Member Mathern, seconded by Board Member Wozniak, that receipt of the above-listed minutes be approved.

Upon tabulation of votes, it showed:

AYES – Camp – Murray – Mathern – Scott – Wozniak – Winstanley – Bergner – Marin

NAYS – None

Item 2. Acknowledge new Board Members David Winstanley and Melissa Vandever.

Item 3. Items from citizens present.

None.

Item 4. Hear and discuss a presentation by OH Predictive Insights on the Mesa Moves Focus Group.

Bettina Nava, Partner from OH Predictive Insights, introduced herself and Haylye Plaster, Senior Project Manager, indicated that they would be sharing information about the Mesa Moves campaign and conducting a focus group with the Transportation Advisory Board.

Ms. Nava shared a brief overview about Mesa Moves and what the City of Mesa is trying to accomplish with the campaign, information about OH Predictive Insights and asked each Board Member to share a little about themselves.

Board Member Gatton and Board Member Neal joined the meeting at 5:34pm.

Ms. Nava asked the Board what an unresolved concern they have regarding Transportation's infrastructure grid.

Board Member Bergner indicated that Mesa has very good infrastructure, but possible deficiencies would be with ADA ramps.

Board Member Mathern agreed with Board Member Bergner's statements.

Chairperson Camp shared that he would like Mesa to continue to invest in roadway maintenance and bicyclist safety.

Vice Chairperson Murray noted difficulties with construction and development especially regarding lagging development surrounding vacant lots.

Board Member Wozniak noted the importance of street trees, transit stops, delineated and buffered bike lanes and street enhancements that keep up with the changing environment.

Board Member Neal noted the importance of public safety and connectivity between major areas, including colleges.

Board Member Winstanley noted challenges with the transitions between other municipalities and construction impacts.

Ms. Nava asked the Board what transportation initiatives are important to the part of the community they represent.

Board Member Wozniak noted the need to ensure transportation pairs well with land-use.

Board Member Scott noted congestion and roadway capacity in South East Mesa.

Chairperson Camp noted the importance to stay involved in future light rail developments.

Board Member Murray noted the importance of considering the future of ride sharing and its impacts.

Board Member Winstanley would like to see costs associated with expanding bike paths.

Ms. Nava shared that Mesa's transportation department is responsible for maintenance, which includes maintaining streets, graffiti removal, street sweeping, streetlights, signs and striping, landscape and storm drain maintenance. She asked if the Board had any concerns with how current maintenance tasks are handled.

Board Member Murray shared that Mesa does a good job maintaining its infrastructure.

Board Member Wozniak shared that he felt Mesa does a good job maintaining roadway infrastructure and would like to see more financial transparency on Transportation maintenance.

Board Member Winstanley wanted to make sure the City was not using outdated materials.

Ms. Nava asked the Board if Mesa should spend more money to maintain traffic signals and devices.

Board Member Bergner noted that Mesa's system operates very well.

Board Member Marin wanted to know how traffic signals are timed and shared specific concerns with the Rio Salado Parkway and Dobson Road intersection.

Ms. Nava asked if the Board felt traffic signal timing was important to the citizens of Mesa.

Board Member Wozniak noted that it depends on location and intended use.

Board Member Winstanley noted that timing is very important near Eastmark.

Board Member Gatton noted that signal timing is a worthy investment.

Vice Chairperson Murray suggested that pedestrian hybrid beacons should be red, yellow and green in lieu of flashing lights.

Chairperson Camp noted that Mesa's traffic signal system is very good compared to other cities and asked how many signals Mesa currently has.

Sabine Ellis, City Traffic Engineer, shared that Mesa currently has 477 traffic signals and all are connected to the Transportation Management Center.

Board Member Winstanley noted that he believes funding levels should, at a minimum, stay the same or be increased in the future.

Ms. Nava asked if the Board felt it was efficient to travel through Mesa.

Board Member Marin shared that travel is fairly efficient.

Board Member Winstanley noted that the transition between cities can be challenging.

Board Member Wozniak shared that this question should be weighted carefully when reviewing all the feedback collected.

Vice Chairperson Murray shared that traffic moves slowly on University Drive.

Ms. Nava asked if the Board would like to see Mesa invest more in sustainability practices within its current projects.

Board Member Bergner believes that the City should look at sustainability and consider dark sky initiatives.

Board Member Scott noted the importance of sustainability.

Board Member Mathern believes that sustainability should be considered for all projects.

Vice Chairperson Murray believes sustainability should be weighed against costs.

Board Member Winstanley noted the importance of everyone understanding the definition of sustainability.

Board Member Neal noted the importance of communication with the public for projects.

Ms. Nava asked if the Board would support sustainability even if it increased costs.

Board Member Neal noted that Mesa should reach out to other Cities and see what they are doing.

Board Member Wozniak noted that Mesa should investigate City of Tempe's 20-Minute Initiative and how California measures their traffic studies.

Chairperson Camp shared that Mesa should look at how the City of Portland uses underground parking with high-density developments above.

Ms. Nava asked if the Board thought there was a need to create more bike paths/lanes.

Board Member Wozniak believes that there should be more bike lanes with physical separation, like delineators.

Chairperson Camp shared that Mesa should look at other cities around the world, like New Zealand, that have protected bike lanes.

Board Member Marin shared concerns about safety when cycling and believes that protected bike lanes are necessary.

Board Member Winstanley believes that the City does not utilize the non-street pathways as well as they could and noted St. George, Utah as a good example.

Ms. Nava asked what the Board thought about protected bike lanes.

Board Member Wozniak noted the importance of a connected bike network.

Ms. Nava asked the Board what type of things frustrate citizens about the current pedestrian crossings.

Board Member Wozniak shared that there should be more frequent pedestrian crossings.

Chairperson Camp shared the desire for elevated paths.

Vice Chairperson Murray shared a desire to have underpass paths.

Board Member Marin shared that Scottsdale has several underpasses.

Board Member Winstanley shared that electric scooters can be dangerous for pedestrians.

Board Member Neal noted the need for shade.

Ms. Nava asked the Board if utilizing energy-efficient technology for making transportation more sustainable is important.

Vice Chairperson Murray shared that it would be, if it was cost effective.

Ms. Nava asked if the Board what type of impact self-driving vehicles would have in Mesa.

Board Member Wozniak shared that the City should investigate non-efficient self-driving cars.

Vice Chairperson Murray noted that we need to be ready because these types of cars are coming.

Board Member Bergner indicated that autonomous vehicles will place a greater need on the City's maintenance operations and should be considered.

Vice Chairperson Murray believes that ride sharing will start replacing bus routes.

Chairperson Camp believes Mesa is going to transition from mobile home parks to other types of developments and would like to make sure the City is considering those future transportation needs.

Board Member Wozniak believes that housing and transportation costs should be considered, and the City should look at how it can assist with ADOT's future budget shortfall.

Chairperson Camp noted the importance of knowing the true environmental cost of using electric cars and batteries.

Board Member Winstanley shared that the City should consider how the infrastructure for charging is going to be laid out, like gas stations.

Ms. Nava asked the Board if they would support initiatives to improve the emergency response systems in Mesa.

Vice Chairperson Murray believes that response times should be considered.

Board Member Wozniak shared that better engineering would help in preventing emergencies.

Board Member Marin asked if public safety vehicles can change the traffic signal to green.

Ms. Ellis described the emergency vehicle preemption system the City uses at major intersections.

Ms. Nava asked the Board if they would support a funding bond that would address and fix some of the transportation concerns in Mesa.

Vice Chairperson Murray indicated his answer would be no, since Mesa already has so much debt.

Chairperson Camp said it would depend on the cost of the bonds and projects.

Board Member Wozniak shared that it depends on the return on investment.

Board Member Neal said Mesa should look at alternative funding sources, similar to Tempe and Phoenix.

Chairperson Camp asked if the Board could get a summary of the responses after all the feedback was collected.

Ms. Nava indicated that would likely be a possibility.

Chairperson Camp thanked Ms. Nava for the presentation.

Item 5. Discuss and take action on the staff recommendation to establish a speed limit of 35 mph on Channing from Baseline Road to a point 350 feet north of Baseline Road (Council District 6).

Sabine Ellis, City Traffic Engineer, introduced herself and Stephan Bach, Sr. Transportation Engineer, and indicated that they would be giving a presentation on staff's recommendation to establish a speed limit of 35 mph on Channing from Baseline Road to a point 350 feet north of Baseline Road.

Ms. Ellis shared information about the area, roadway condition and noted that the road is classified as a Collector street.

Chairperson Camp asked if there are plans to construct a median at this location in the future.

Ms. Ellis indicated that there will be a median in the future and the intersection is signalized.

Ms. Ellis continued the presentation and shared photographs of the roadway.

Board Member Winstanley asked how drivers will know the speed limit.

Ms. Ellis shared that speed limit signs will be located along the roadway.

Chairperson Camp asked if there were any schools close by.

Ms. Ellis indicated that there were no close schools.

Board Member Winstanley asked if it is common to make this type of speed transition.

Ms. Ellis indicated it is common for a continuation of an arterial street to have a posted speed limit of 35 mph.

It was moved by Board Member Ian Murray, seconded by Board Member Winstanley, to establish a speed limit of 35 mph on Channing from Baseline Road to a point 350 feet north of Baseline Road.

Upon tabulation of votes, it showed:

AYES – Camp – Murray – Gatton – Mathern – Neal – Scott – Wozniak – Winstanley – Bergner – Marin

NAYS – None

Chairperson David Camp thanked Ms. Ellis for the presentation.

Chairperson David Camp thanked everyone for their attendance.

Meeting was adjourned at 7:01 pm.