

MINUTES

CITIZENS TRANSPORTATION OVERSIGHT COMMISSION

**5850 WEST GLENDALE AVENUE
GLENDALE, ARIZONA 85301
THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 1, 2012
7:00 PM**

The regular meeting of the Citizens Transportation Oversight Commission (CTOC) was called to order by the Chair. The following Commission members, staff representatives, and guests were present:

COMMISSION MEMBERS PRESENT: Vincent Abeyta, Chair
Brent Ackzen
Jack Bethel
Dorlisa Dvorak
John Ferguson
Theodora Hackenberg
Ricki Ray
Joyce Stribling
Gerald Woodman

COMMISSION MEMBERS ABSENT: Jackie Doerr (not excused)
William Sheldon, Vice Chair (excused)

OTHERS PRESENT: Cathy Colbath, Acting Executive Director
Terry Johnson, Deputy Transportation Director
Allan Grover, Transportation Planner
Purab Adabala, Senior Transportation Analyst
Matt Dudley, Transit Manager
Wulf Grote, Executive Director, METRO RAIL
Patrizia Gonella, Jacobs
Howard May, citizen

I. CALL TO ORDER

Chair Abeyta called the meeting to order at 7:00 PM

II. APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES

Chair Abeyta called for approval of the minutes.

ACTION BY CTOC: Approval of the minutes of the September 6 and October 4, 2012 meetings of the Citizens Transportation Oversight Commission. (Motion: Commissioner Ray, Second: Commissioner Hackenberg; passed unanimously)

III. CALL TO THE AUDIENCE

There were no comments from the floor.

IV. APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA

Chair Abeyta called for approval of the agenda.

ACTION BY CTOC: Approval of the November 1, 2012 Agenda of the Citizens Transportation Oversight Commission. (Motion: Commissioner Hackenberg; Second: Commissioner Stribling; passed unanimously)

V. PUBLIC INPUT – COMMISSIONERS AND STAFF

Commissioner Ackzen reported on the November meeting of the Citizens Bicycle Advisory Committee. City staff presented an overview of the budget as well as a report on activities related to designation of Glendale as a Bicycle Friendly City.

VI. MANAGER’S REPORT

There was no Manager’s Report.

VII. LIGHT RAIL TRANSIT IN GLENDALE

Terry Johnson, Deputy Transportation Director, provided a brief history of light rail transit (LRT) planning in Glendale, including Proposition 402 passed by Glendale voters in 2001 and Proposition 400 passed by regional voters in 2004. Dr. Johnson also reported on the recent workshop with City Council for review of the findings of an Alternatives Analysis Study of LRT for Glendale.

Wulf Grote, Executive Director of METRO RAIL, presented information on regional high capacity transit options and two proposed LRT corridors to serve Glendale that were evaluated in an Alternatives Analysis (AA). Mr. Grote provided recommendations from the study and described the next phase of analysis for potential corridors serving Glendale. A project schedule for construction of LRT for Glendale was presented, which included a new AA study area located between Northern Avenue and Camelback Road and between 19th Avenue and 99th Avenue.

Commissioner Hackenberg asked if the proposed LRT line to Paradise Valley was funded from a local sales tax or federal funds. Mr. Grote responded that this line was a regionally funded project that has been postponed for now.

Commissioner Hackenberg asked why the Glendale Avenue corridor became a higher priority for LRT. Mr. Grote stated that the major reason is that existing land uses and existing development provide more potential for LRT in the Glendale corridor, as well as the availability of near term potential funding.

Commissioner Hackenberg asked about the next step in the LRT evaluation process. Dr. Johnson replied that the AA will begin in January 2013.

Commissioner Bethel asked if business has improved along existing LRT lines. Mr. Grote responded that high capacity housing has occurred and Tempe students will be closer to LRT stations which will benefit new businesses.

Commissioner Ferguson asked about funding for the AA. Dr. Johnson stated that the AA will be completed with regional funds.

Commissioner Dvorak stated that the Thunderbird Road corridor in North Glendale has parking and traffic problems that could be reduced by LRT service.

VIII. NORTH GLENDALE PARK AND RIDE/TRANSIT CENTER

Matt Dudley, Transit Manager, introduced the topic of the North Glendale Park and Ride/Transit Center Study and reported on the initial public meeting for this project held on October 17 at Arrowhead Mall. Mr. Dudley stated that two other general public meetings will be held on this project.

Patrizia Gonella from Jacobs presented information on existing transit park and ride locations, study phases, project funding, location analysis criteria, transit service evaluation criteria, and potential facility sites. Ms. Gonella described the characteristics of a Park and Ride facility, a transit center, and a combination of these two facilities. Public input opportunities were identified and the next steps for the project were presented.

Commissioner Stribling asked about potential impacts on neighborhoods adjacent to proposed transit facilities. Mr. Dudley replied that this project will be a cooperative effort with involved neighborhoods as well as agreements with private sector businesses.

Commissioner Ackzen asked if there is information on transit ridership in other cities in the region with respect to different types of transit service. Dr. Johnson stated that a survey will be performed as part of this study.

Commissioner Bethel asked if money could be saved by utilizing existing parking lots for transit use. Ms. Gonella explained that major transit facilities need to have long term commitments and control over properties used for these facilities. Dr. Johnson added that bus usage and bus stops located at Arrowhead Mall and the Church of Joy do not cost the City anything, however, these are temporary solutions for transit facilities.

IX. FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS

The Commission suggested the following agenda item for a future meeting:

- Guided tour of light rail line as offered by Wulf Grote during this meeting.

X. NEXT MEETING DATE AND TIME

Meeting times are being targeted for 7:00 PM on the first Thursday of each month in Room B-3 in City Hall.

XI. ADJOURNMENT

Chair Abeyta adjourned the meeting at 8:36 PM

Vincent Abeyta, Chair