



**APPROVED**

**SUMMARIZED MINUTES**

**CITY OF SCOTTSDALE  
TRANSPORTATION COMMISSION  
PATHS & TRAILS SUBCOMMITTEE  
REGULAR MEETING**

**ONE CIVIC CENTER  
AGAVE CONFERENCE ROOM  
7447 E INDIAN SCHOOL RD.  
SUITE 205  
SCOTTSDALE, AZ 85251**

**THURSDAY, August 7, 2025**

**CALL TO ORDER**

The meeting of the Paths & Trails Subcommittee was called to order at 5:19 p.m. A formal roll call confirmed the presence of subcommittee members as noted below.

**ROLL CALL**

**PRESENT:** Lee Kaufheil, Chair – Transportation Commission  
Robert Marmon, Vice-Chair – Transportation Commission  
Amy Arnold – Commissioner, Parks and Recreation Commission  
Sarah Hecht – Subcommittee Member  
Bradley Adame – Subcommittee Member

**STAFF:** Nathan Domme, Transportation Planning Manager  
Susan Conklu, Senior Transportation Planner  
Greg Davies, Senior Transportation Planner  
Satanay Hallac, Senior Transportation Planner

**PUBLIC COMMENT**

There were no members of the public who wished to speak during public comment, and there were no written comments.

## **1. APPROVAL OF MEETING MINUTES**

Commissioner Arnold noted changes on pages 1 and 2 of the June 5, 2025 minutes.

SUBCOMMITTEE MEMBER ADAME MOVED TO APPROVE JUNE 5, 2025, PATHS AND TRAILS SUBCOMMITTEE REGULAR MEETING MINUTES AS AMENDED. VICE CHAIR MARMON SECONDED THE MOTION, WHICH CARRIED FIVE (5) TO ZERO (0). CHAIR KAUFTHEIL, VICE CHAIR MARMON, COMMISSIONER ARNOLD, AND SUBCOMMITTEE MEMBERS ADAME AND HECHT VOTED IN THE AFFIRMATIVE. THERE WERE NO DISSENTING VOTES

## **2. 77<sup>th</sup> Street Emergency Access**

Satanay Hallac, Senior Transportation Planner, presented and discussed the 77<sup>th</sup> Street emergency access improvements. This project will service the Penjamo residential community that consists of 49 homes populated by Yaqui families. In 1970, this neighborhood was the first location in the City of Scottsdale to use Department of Housing and Urban Renewal Development (HUD) funds to construct low-cost homes for residents displaced from the flood-prone Indian Bend Wash. Currently, only one access point exists from Roosevelt Street, which sits at a low point, and that access is blocked when there is a flood.

The purpose of the project is to design and construct a multiuse path to provide residents with ingress and egress during flooding events. The proposed emergency access will be constructed from the North 77<sup>th</sup> Street and East McKinley Street intersection to the westerly terminus of E. Pierce Street, being east of and adjacent to McKellips Lake Park within the Indian Bend Wash.

Ms. Hallac reviewed the project goals, highlighting the incorporation of residents' input, compliance with HUD funding requirements, and a sustainable design. A public meeting was held on May 15, 2025, at the Vista del Camino Park and Community Center where 30 attendees provided a lot of positive feedback. Project considerations were reviewed, and coordination between the McKellips Lake Project and adjacent homeowners was noted.

A review of the 30 percent preliminary design indicated the project is in the process of obtaining the applicable permits, including the 408 permit from the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE). The floodplain is being monitored to determine new limits and ensure the project stays out of the floodway. Ms. Hallac continued with a review of the design concept that included bollards, signage, and landscaping.

A review of the timeline and schedule showed the original concept that began in April 2019 as the 77<sup>th</sup> Street realignment concept, all the way through the 77<sup>th</sup> Street scoping in January 2025. The kickoff meeting was held in quarter 1 of 2025 and is presently at a 30 percent conceptual design phase in quarter 3 of 2025.

Committee members were given an opportunity to comment and ask questions.

- In response to Subcommittee Member Adame's inquiry into the flood risk designation for the homes, Mr. Domme advised that the homes are outside the flood zone, and the problem remains that the access point, being in the flood zone, allows no emergency access during a flood. A brief discussion ensued related to flooding history.
- In response to Vice Chair Marmon's inquiry into how often the access point is impassable, Mr. Domme explained the roadway becomes impassable during moderate and major storm events and remains so for up to half a day.
- In response to Vice Chair Marmon's inquiries, Ms. Hallac noted they are still in negotiations to determine who will be responsible for moving the bollards. Mr. Domme stated the community wants a level of control, but protocols need to be in place as well. Ms. Hallac clarified the 408 permit provides legal authority for the City of Scottsdale to alter or use federally authorized civil work projects, such as the Indian Bend Wash that was built by the USACE. Mr. Domme noted there was a preliminary discussion regarding condemning a house near 78<sup>th</sup> Street. Ms. Hallac noted the McKellip Project is redesigning their pathway to meet Americans with Disability Act standards.
- Vice Chair Marmon recommended the engineer confirm that emergency vehicles can make the turn under the overhang and fit on the roadway, proposed installing a valve or alternative preventative measures to prevent water from backing up onto Pierce Street, stated it is a difficult but doable task to install a retaining wall next to a floodway, and advocated for assurance the engineer is confident they can do it.
- In response to Commissioner Arnold's question about why the City waited until now, Mr. Domme explained this longstanding problem came to their attention in 2018 or 2019, at which time they sought funding. Mr. Davies noted the alley was previously used as an exit to mitigate the problem, but it is no longer sufficient or conducive for emergency vehicle access.
- In response to Chair Kauftheil's inquiry, Ms. Conklu discussed the purpose of planting the Chinese Pistache rather than a native tree. Mr. Domme stated this location will be closed for nine months, and alternative routes will be provided.
- Commissioner Arnold noted the numbers on the Funding Sources spreadsheet do not total \$2.8 million. Ms. Conklu advised her they will check the numbers and get back to the Subcommittee.

### **3. Thompson Peak Parkway Bridge Project**

Satanay Hallac, Senior Transportation Planner, presented and discussed the Thompson Peak Parkway Bridge over Reata Wash project. Thompson Peak Parkway is a minor arterial road with a rural environmentally sensitive lands character designation. In 2000, DC Ranch built the eastbound bridge as a half street improvement for their development. The original design included construction of a westbound bridge by the City of Scottsdale that did not come to fruition. As part of the 2019 bonds, the City established the Westbound Bridge project. This project is presently at 30 percent design and will be funded from the 2026/27 budget.

The project goal is to construct a westbound Thompson Peak Parkway over the Reata Wash between E. Desert Camp Drive and E. Windgate Pass Drive. The configuration and aesthetics will match the existing eastbound bridge with two 12-foot travel lanes, a five-foot bike lane, and a five-foot sidewalk. A separation barrier will be installed between the sidewalk and main traffic. A noise study will be completed to determine if a noise wall or other noise mitigation is necessary. The project goals are to complete the corridor configuration, remove land reduction, increase pedestrian and cyclist safety, and provide multiuse and trail network connectivity. Upon completion of construction, the existing eastbound bridge will convert to strictly eastbound traffic, and the westbound traffic will be on the Thompson Peak Parkway Bridge.

A review of the schedule highlighted that the noise study, public meeting, and reaching 60 percent design will be completed in September 2025. 100 percent design will be met in May 2026, with construction starting in the summer or fall of 2026. The design will coordinate with DC Ranch and manage pedestrian and vehicle interaction, as well as path and trail connections.

Committee members were given an opportunity to comment and ask questions.

- Vice Chair Marmon questioned whether the bridge design or the roadway are to match. Mr. Domme advised the structures will be different with similar aesthetic features.
- In response to Vice Chair Marmon's inquiry, Mr. Domme described the City's procedure for conducting a required noise study when there is an adjustment or new construction of a roadway. The noise can be mitigated by a noise wall or landscaping depending on the decibel reading. A brief discussion ensued.
- In response to Commissioner Arnold's query as to why it took so long to work on this project, Mr. Domme discussed various factors, including other infrastructure taking precedence and funding. Ms. Conklu added that 2019 was the first time since 2000 that the bonds went to the voters.
- In response to Chair Kauftheil's inquiry regarding the barrier placement, Mr. Domme clarified the design matches standards used on the Hayden Miller Bridge, and the barrier was added for pedestrian safety. Discussion ensued regarding the bike lane width and barrier placement. As they are only at the 30 percent design phase, Mr. Domme noted, there is opportunity for change.

#### **4. Transportation Planning Studies**

Nathan Domme, Senior Transportation Planner, presented and discussed the process for feasibility studies prior to concepts becoming projects. The process starts by securing funding for the study and conducting a public meeting to obtain an understanding of the project and what the community wants. The Maricopa Association of Governments' Design Assistance Program offers a competitive application process for funding public outreach, feasibility studies for eligible projects, and consultant services.

The City of Scottsdale has six previous successful studies and currently has three studies funded through the Design Assistance Program. A detailed overview of the following concept design and public outreach was provided:

- 64<sup>th</sup> Street Crossing at Thomas and Indian School roads
- Central Arizona Project Canal / 100<sup>th</sup> Street Path
- 2<sup>nd</sup> Street Neighborhood Bikeway Study

Committee members discussed the 64<sup>th</sup> Street Crossing and accessing the multiuse path, while putting forward suggestions.

Ms. Conklu clarified how the public is made aware of open house meetings; for instance, neighborhood meetings typically only have post cards sent to the neighbors or those within the affected areas. Going forward the Subcommittee will be advised of future open house meetings, and they will notify staff if they wish to attend.

Mr. Domme reviewed the benefits of feasibility studies, including identifying challenges and fatal flaws before adoption in the Capital Improvement Plan and answering recurring questions. The conceptual design provides an estimated cost and allows the City Council a second approval of the project cost. A detailed overview of the four current studies and 12 Arterial Life Cycle Program projects under Prop 400 were provided and discussed.

In response to Vice-Chair Marmon's query regarding the 15 percent scope of work, Mr. Domme stated they determine cost, right-of-way needs, utility conflicts, and preliminary design. This was modeled from the HUD design assistance program. In response to Chair Kauftheil's question, Ms. Conklu noted the average consulting cost is \$75,000.

## **5. Subcommittee Identification of Future Agenda Items**

Susan Conklu, Senior Transportation Planner, noted the next two meeting dates are October 2, 2025, and December 4, 2025, and she reviewed the current agenda topics.

Future topics recommended by Subcommittee members:

- Preserve Trails
- Bike Lane Gaps / Obstructions
- eBike Regulations

## **6. Adjournment**

With no further business to discuss, being duly moved by Commissioner Arnold and seconded by Subcommittee Member Hecht, the meeting adjourned at 7:13 p.m.

AYES: Chair Kauftheil, Vice-Chair Marmon, Commissioner Arnold, and Subcommittee Members Adame and Hecht.

NAYS: None

SUBMITTED BY:  
eScribers, LLC

**\*NOTE: These are summary action meeting minutes only. A complete copy of the audio/video recording is available at <http://www.scottsdaleaz.gov/boards/Transp.asp>**