



**SUMMARIZED MINUTES**

**CITY OF SCOTTSDALE  
TRANSPORTATION COMMISSION  
REGULAR MEETING**

**Thursday, November 17, 2022  
Kiva-City Hall  
3939 N. Drinkwater Boulevard  
Scottsdale, Arizona 85251**

**CALL TO ORDER**

Chair Iacovo called the regular meeting of the Scottsdale Transportation Commission to order at 5:15 p.m.

**ROLL CALL**

**PRESENT:** Pamela Iacovo, Chair  
Emmie Cardella  
Karen Kowal  
B. Kent Lall  
Mary Ann Miller  
Kerry Wilcoxon

**ABSENT:** Don Anderson, Vice Chair

**STAFF:** Susan Conklu, Senior Transportation Planner  
Mark Melnychenko, Transportation & Streets Director  
Kyle Lofgren, Office Manager  
Dave Meinhart, Transportation Planning Manager  
Greg Davies, Senior Transportation Planner  
Nathan Domme, Senior Transportation Planner

**PUBLIC COMMENT**

Joanna Solowska expressed support for installation of the 68th Street pedestrian sidewalk, which will be particularly beneficial for sight-impaired pedestrians. Chair Iacovo noted that the Commission had received several written comments relating to the 68th Street sidewalk.

## **1. APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

Chair Iacovo called for changes to the minutes. One typographical correction was made.

COMMISSIONER WILCOXON MOVED TO APPROVE THE REGULAR MEETING MINUTES OF THE TRANSPORTATION COMMISSION ON OCTOBER 20, 2022 AS AMENDED. COMMISSIONER LALL SECONDED THE MOTION, WHICH CARRIED 5-0 WITH CHAIR IACOVO, COMMISSIONERS CARDELLA, KOWAL, LALL AND WILCOXON VOTING IN THE AFFIRMATIVE WITH NO DISSENTING VOTES. COMMISSIONER MILLER ABSTAINED.

## **2. APPOINTMENT OF CHAIR AND COMMISSIONER**

Chair Iacovo provided a brief background of the Paths and Trails Subcommittee. She recommended that Vice Chair Anderson and Commissioner Lall continue with their current roles in the Committee. Consistency is important between the Subcommittee and the Commission.

COMMISSIONER MILLER MOVED TO HAVE VICE CHAIR ANDERSON AND COMMISSIONER LALL REMAIN IN THEIR POSITIONS ON THE PATHS AND TRAILS SUBCOMMITTEE. COMMISSIONER KOWAL SECONDED THE MOTION, WHICH CARRIED 6-0 WITH CHAIR IACOVO, COMMISSIONERS CARDELLA, KOWAL, LALL, MILLER AND WILCOXON VOTING IN THE AFFIRMATIVE WITH NO DISSENTING VOTES.

## **3. INTRODUCTION OF NEW TRANSPORTATION COMMISSIONER**

Chair welcomed new Commissioner, Emmie Cardella. Commissioner Cardella provided a brief summary of her background, experience and interest in serving on the Commission.

## **4. THUNDERBIRD TRAIL**

Susan Conklu, Senior Transportation Planner, provided an overview of the Scottsdale Trails Master Plan. One of the key recommendations is to provide neighborhood and local trails and to provide access in and around neighborhood areas, including connections to primary and secondary trails. The 2022 Transportation Action Plan (TAP) includes 153 miles of existing trails and 140 miles of planned trails.

The Thunderbird Trail is included in the TAP and includes the following goals:

- Develop an effective and connected multi-modal transportation system with the integration of trails
- Provide improved trail connectivity within neighborhoods and access to schools and parks

Design began in fall, 2021 and includes the north side of Thunderbird from 76th Street to 83rd Street. It is within City right-of-way and connects to existing trails along Thunderbird, Northsight Park and Loop 101. The first phase was completed in March, 2022 between 76th Street to Hayden Road and includes a single pipe rail fence. An overview and photos of the trail attributes and construction was provided as well as details regarding surrounding uses. The second phase of construction will take place in winter of 2023. This phase goes from Hayden

Road to 83rd Street and includes concrete curb ramps at Hayden Road, 81st Street and 83rd Street. Second phase plan details were discussed. Included will be approximately 15 feet of right-of-way, 15 feet trail easement and a 4 to 6 foot trail. A review of the public notification process was provided. The item was approved by the Paths & Trails Subcommittee by a vote of 4 to 0 in October. Staff recommends moving forward with construction of the trail design presented by staff when the City's on-call contractor has availability.

Commissioner asked whether a dirt trail is considered accessible. Ms. Conklu said that if an unpaved trail is the only pedestrian access route in an area, it must comply with the ADA, including having a firm, stable surface. In this case, stabilizer is used to keep the surface intact.

Commissioner referenced the house located on 83rd Street and Thunderbird and inquired about the history that allowed them to have two driveways onto Thunderbird. Dave Meinhart, Transportation Planning Manager, stated that the previous home on the property was torn down and replaced 10 to 12 years ago. In reviewing the aerial photography, there was a dirt driveway at the time. Single family homes often do not go through the Transportation Department for review. In response to a question from a Commissioner regarding the current owner's position on the project, Ms. Conklu stated that the current homeowner submitted a letter stated that they do not want the section of trail to be located north of the curb line. Commissioner inquired as to the feasibility of the homeowner's references to possible legal action. Mark Melnychenko, Transportation & Streets Director, stated that the areas identified for improvements are all on City right-of-way. The City's proposal will result in very minimal disturbance to the homeowner's property.

In response to a Commissioner request for clarification, Ms. Conklu confirmed that the construction would not impact the internal curbing and existing grass. Commissioner asked about the blue line and the need for a 15-foot easement. Ms. Conklu clarified that the blue line represents the 15-foot right-of-way. From the blue line to the pink line marks the 15-foot trail easement. The reason for the configuration is to match what is located to the east with the existing subdivision. Commissioner commented that the blue line lines up with the fence located to the west. Ms. Conklu concurred that it seems consistent with that configuration. Commissioner said she had concerns about the 15-foot easement to the pink line, especially given that the trail will only be four to six feet into the space. It may be that the owner's reservations about the proposed construction are because the charts indicate a much deeper construction into the property. Mr. Melnychenko stated that based on conversations with the homeowner, he is fully aware of the four to six-foot figure.

Commissioner asked whether the cement inset to drive into the circular area will remain and whether the homeowner will still have access to the circular drive. Ms. Conklu confirmed that the driveway will remain as it is and the concrete will not be impacted by the trail construction.

Commissioner Miller summarized that the plan is to take out a strip of rock and put in dirt. She asked whether a new curb would be installed and how the rocks would be prevented from going into the new trail. Ms. Conklu said she would have to look at the plans and report back. However, the City has trails across other yards that do not have grass or other landscaping. The plan will likely include an edge with a well-defined trail. As long as the trail is constructed and compacted well, the edge will stay defined.

Chair inquired as to the expected volume of regional trail users. Ms. Conklu stated she did not have access to specific volumes, however, trails are well-used within neighborhoods in general.

In addition, future trail improvements are coming to 76th Street with an upcoming redevelopment project. Mr. Meinhart added that this is a designated neighborhood trail. A priority in the TAP is to complete connectivity on neighborhood trails.

COMMISSIONER WILCOXON MOVED TO RECOMMEND THAT THE PROJECT MOVE FORWARD. COMMISSIONER CARDELLA SECONDED THE MOTION, WHICH CARRIED 6-0 WITH CHAIR IACOVO, COMMISSIONERS CARDELLA, KOWAL, LALL, MILLER AND WILCOXON VOTING IN THE AFFIRMATIVE WITH NO DISSENTING VOTES.

## **5. REVIEW OF FISCAL YEAR 2024-2028 CIP PROJECTS**

Mr. Meinhart provided a review of CIP background, including budget key dates and timelines. Basic steps include:

1. Re-budget ongoing projects with no significant cost or timing changes (not ranked)
2. Update database and prioritize projects requiring changes and projects not funded in the current fiscal year
3. Develop project scopes/cost estimates for unbudgeted projects and prioritize

Within Step 1, there are 16 non-Arterial Life Cycle Program (ALCP) projects, seven of which include federal grants; and 17 ALCP projects which must also be programmed annually by the Maricopa Association of Governments (MAG).

Step 2 includes budget adjustments for 3 ALCP projects this fiscal year: Scottsdale Road: Jomax Road to Dixileta Drive; Hayden Road/Miller Road: Pinnacle Pead Road to Happy Valley Road; and Miller Road: Princess Drive to Legacy Boulevard.

Step 3 includes a list of prioritized project recommendations, for which Mr. Meinhart gave an overview, including project description, ranking and cost.

Input from the Transportation Commission will be provided to the City Manager's Executive Team. Final recommendations for the Fiscal Year 24-28 CIP will be reviewed with the Transportation Commission in approximately March of 2023.

Chair invited public comments.

Laura Schwartz discussed the unsafe conditions which prevent walking and biking on 68th Street, including the lack of sidewalks. Residents presented a petition to build a sidewalk along 68th Street to City Council last March. Subsequently, this was included in the TAP and the CIP priority list. She thanked the Transportation Commission and staff for their diligence and responsiveness in moving the project forward.

Harold Back described his difficult experiences as a sight-impaired individual trying to travel the 68th Street area with no sidewalk. He stressed the need to prioritize the project to whatever extent possible.

Commissioner referenced the purchase of new trolley vehicle via grant funding and asked whether this is for replacement of existing vehicles. Mr. Meinhart confirmed that this item is part of scheduled vehicle replacement.

In response to a Commissioner question, the goal is to phase in flashing yellow arrows where it is deemed effective. The feature has already been installed in quite a few locations.

Commissioner asked for clarification on the construction timeline Item 9, the 68th Street project. Mr. Meinhart stated that the timeline is subject to funding availability. With funding the intent is to begin design in 2023/24 and construction in 24/25. Staff can communicate to the Executive Committee that the Transportation Commission prefers to have this project programmed to move forward as quickly as possible.

## **6. PROJECTS AND PROGRAMS UPDATE**

Mark Melnychenko, Transportation & Streets Director provided an update on the following:

- Assets maintained throughout the City
- Data-driven decisions
- Rio Verde Road emergency paving project on Dynamite Road between 128th Street and 143rd Street
- Street operations
- Storm damage
- Ashler Hills Trail railing
- Raintree Drive Corridor
- Camelback Road Sidewalk update
- Osborn Road Complete Street
- Old Town ADA ramps and crosswalks improvements
- Priority Area 1
- Brown Avenue and 1st Avenue
- Old Town area repaving
- Transit stop improvements
- RAISE Grant update

In response to a Commissioner question, Mr. Melnychenko stated that there is a building moratorium in portions of the City during busy seasons.

Commissioner asked for clarification on the timeline for completion of the Raintree project. Mr. Melnychenko stated that the first section is nearing completion. He can provide a more specific timeline after the meeting.

## **7. RECOGNITION OF DAVE MEINHART**

Commissioners recognized and thanked Dave Meinhart for his years of service to the City. Mr. Melnychenko gave a timeline of Mr. Meinhart's career with the City.

## **8. COMMISSION IDENTIFICATION OF FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS**

The following agenda items were identified:

- Tour of Transportation Management office
- Jackrabbit Road crossing improvements
- Trolley ridership and schedule and Downtown Trolley
- Pedestrian crossing markings - visibility

## 7. ADJOURNMENT

With no further business to discuss, being duly moved by Commissioner Kowal and seconded by Commissioner Wilcoxon, the meeting adjourned at 7:17 p.m.

AYES: Chair Iacovo, Commissioners Kowal, Lall, Cardella, Miller and Wilcoxon

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>**