

MINUTES OF THE TRANSPORTATION COMMISSION MEETING
City of Chandler, Webex Meeting +1-415-655-0111 Access Code: 2595 701 1063

Wednesday, November 17, 2021 at 4:00 p.m.

Chairman Dan Henderson called the meeting to order at approximately 4:05 p.m.

1. CALL TO ORDER / ROLL CALL

The following members answered roll call:

Chairman Dan Henderson
Vice Chairman John Repar
Commissioner Dean Brennan
Commissioner Samuel Enoch
Commissioner Ron Hardin
Commissioner David Heineking
Commissioner Donald Smith

Staff and Guests in attendance:

Jason Crampton, Transportation Planning Supervisor
Nancy Jackson, Transportation Planning Coordinator
Sasha Pachito, Transportation Planning Coordinator
Ryan Peters, Strategic Initiatives Director
Alexis Apodaca, Government Relations Coordinator
John Knudson, Public Works & Utilities Director
Kevin Lair, Transportation Manager
Aaron Xavier, Planner III, Valley Metro
Kristi Shepard, Community Outreach Coordinator, Valley Metro

2. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

- a. Minutes of Wednesday, September 15, 2021

A motion was made by Commissioner Hardin, seconded by Commissioner Heineking to approve the minutes of September 15, 2021, as presented. The motion passed unanimously (7-0).

3. SCHEDULED/UNSCHEDULED PUBLIC APPEARANCES/CALL TO PUBLIC

None

4. ACTION AGENDA

a. Transportation Commission 2022 Meeting Schedule

COMMISSIONER BRENNAN inquired if the meeting time for certain meetings of the year could be changed to a later start time to allow more public participation.

Transportation Planning Supervisor JASON CRAMPTON stated that in years past, the commission meetings had later start times, however they did not get much public attendance. He added that the planned March 2022 Transportation Commission meeting would be held in conjunction with the Parks and Recreation Board to discuss items of interest for both groups. He stated that meeting would have a later start time accommodate both groups and members of the public.

CHAIRMAN HENDERSON noted the ability for members of the public to view meeting materials online as well as the ability to provide public comment.

A motion was made by Commissioner Brennan, seconded by Commissioner Smith to approve the 2022 Transportation Commission meeting schedule as presented. The motion passed unanimously (7-0).

5. DISCUSSION ITEMS

a. Price Road Flexible Transit Study:

Transportation Planning Supervisor JASON CRAMPTON introduced the item. He informed the Commission that the City of Chandler was awarded a \$2 million grant from A for Arizona, a non-profit organization. The grant money will be used to establish and operate the service.

AARON XAVIER, PLANNER III from VALLEY METRO provided the commission with an overview on the Price Road Flexible Transit Study. He reviewed the study area, parameters of the study, commuter and transit traffic flows, public input received, alternatives analysis, travel demand analysis and cost estimation.

MR. XAVIER noted how COVID-19 impacted transit travel. He explained that ridership levels for transit services would most likely not reach 2019 (pre-pandemic) levels for quite some time. He highlighted survey results, which included responses from 18 individuals. Of those 18 participants, 78% of the survey participants indicated that they would feel comfortable sharing a ride with one or two individuals in a 10-to-15 passenger vehicle.

MR. XAVIER further shared with the commission that the study looked into vehicle and design branding to meet demand needs in the area. He stated that the vehicle types

that would be available as part of the service would include two cutaway vans and a passenger van. He said that the vehicles would be wheelchair accessible and meet demands for school transportation. He also shared that the service would be available to users via phone, web browser, and through a mobile app. He stated that the users could use the app to book a ride, plan a trip through the transit network and make a payment for the ride service.

MR. XAVIER said that the recommendation was to provide full coverage of the service to the study zone, which would include both Chandler High and Hamilton High schools and five vehicles available during peak hours.

MR. XAVIER and MR. CRAMPTON recapped the Flexible Transit Study Coverage area and stated that the service area would have connections to bus routes and the Park-and-Ride.

In a response to a question from COMMISSIONER HARDIN, Mr. Xavier stated that the fare price had not been set. He anticipated the pricing structure to be flexible and be adjusted as needed.

MR. CRAMPTON added that fees could be adjusted if demand was high and that fares could be integrated to the bus system, with a charge of \$2.00.

COMMISSIONER HARDIN asked if there was a cost offset. If bus routes were eliminated, were there would be money saved.

MR. XAVIER responded that the project costs did not include any offsets or elimination of any existing services.

COMMISSIONER BRENNAN inquired if the service could be expanded to other areas of Chandler if it were to be successful.

MR. CRAMPTON stated that the service could be expanded if successful. He further stated that staff could also look at bus services to see if there were any reduction in bus services that should be made. He noted the importance of balancing and preserving important and necessary bus routes in the city.

VICE CHAIRMAN REPAR expressed concerns over the high traffic flow numbers.

COMMISSIONER BRENNAN asked why there was a significant difference between inflow and outflow traffic. He questioned if the traffic flow numbers included traffic from the Loop 202.

MR. XAVIER explained that the inflow number referred to the number of commuters going into the area and the outflow was the number of commuters leaving the area each

day. He clarified that only traffic that got off of the Loop 202 and drove to the study area was included in the traffic flow numbers.

In response to a question from VICE CHAIRMAN REPAR, Mr. Xavier and Mr. Crampton clarified that the study took into account the feedback from the survey participants as well as other data, including the annual Trip Reduction Survey that is completed by organizations with 50 or more employees.

CHAIRMAN HENDERSON asked if service hours and days of operation could be expanded if the program were to be successful.

MR. CRAMPTON replied that staff would closely monitor the first 6-12 months of the service to determine if expansion would be necessary.

In response to a question from CHAIRMAN HENDERSON, Mr. Crampton explained that the demand for service would be the factor for the fare structure. He reiterated that the fare structure would be easy to change, and a fixed price would not be set in stone.

MR. XAVIER shared the possibility of having a tier fare structure in place where riders that take rides that expand or split off to different zones could be charged a little extra. He further noted that a fare structure similar to Valley Metro could be put in place. He stated that Valley Metro had fare capping, where a rider could be capped at just paying for two local rides per day. He stated that fare capping could be incorporated to incentivize transfers through the transit system.

CHAIRMAN HENDERSON asked if the vehicles that would be used as part of the program would accommodate riders that have bicycles.

MR. XAVIER responded that bike racks would be included on the vehicles to accommodate riders with bicycles.

COMMISSIONER HEINEKING stated the importance of marketing and advertising of the program. He asked if budget had been allocated for advertising.

MR. XAVIER responded that the public outreach and promotion would be done to promote the program. He stated that the budget line item for marketing was estimated to be \$10,000. He added that Valley Metro and the City of Chandler would also use their resources to market and promote it

COMMISSIONER HEINEKING expressed his belief that it should be easy for individuals to get on buses. He stated there should be an incentive and advantage available to users for using paratransit and bus services.

b. Shared Mobility Program Update:

Transportation Planning Coordinator SASHA PACHITO provided the Commission an update on the Shared Mobility Program. She shared that one mobility shared license had been issued so far to Bird. She stated their service was in the launching period and had begun in September 2021. She highlighted social media outreach efforts, including information provided by the city's Communications and Public Affairs Department, which provided safety tips and information.

Ms. Pachito shared with the Commission that no significant incidents or complaints had been received, however, she noted a complaint from the San Marcos Condos about scooters in the complex. She stated that the area was geofenced as a "no ride zone".

COMMISSIONER HEINEKING asked how many scooters were available in the area.

MS. PACHITO replied that typically, 60-70 scooters were available during the week and up to 100 scooters were available during the weekends, when the usage was higher.

6. OTHER ITEMS

- a. Transportation Project Status: Report included with meeting materials for review.
- b. Next Meeting Date: The next meeting date was announced for January 19, 2022.

7. ADJOURNMENT

With there being no further business before the commission, Chairman Henderson adjourned the meeting at approximately 5:10 p.m.

Chairman Dan Henderson
Transportation Commission

Nancy Jackson
Transportation Planning Coordinator