

**Phoenix City Council  
Transportation, Infrastructure, and Planning Subcommittee  
Summary Minutes  
Wednesday, June 15, 2022**

City Council Chambers  
200 W. Jefferson St.  
Phoenix, Ariz.

Subcommittee Members Present  
Councilwoman Debra Stark, Chair  
Vice Mayor Laura Pastor  
Councilwoman Betty Guardado  
Councilwoman Ann O'Brien

Subcommittee Members Absent

**CALL TO ORDER**

Chairwoman Stark called the Transportation, Infrastructure, and Planning Subcommittee to order at 10:05 a.m. with Vice Mayor Pastor and Councilwomen Guardado and O'Brien present.

**CALL TO THE PUBLIC**

Karen Olson discussed her citizen petition from the May agenda and asked for clarity on the status of her petition.

Vice Mayor Pastor requested staff follow up with Ms. Olson regarding her questions.

Deputy City Manager Mario Paniagua stated staff will reach out to Ms. Olson to answer her questions.

**MINUTES OF MEETINGS**

**1. Minutes of the Transportation, Infrastructure, and Planning Subcommittee Meeting**

Vice Mayor Pastor made a motion to approve the minutes of the May 18, 2022 Transportation, Infrastructure, and Planning Subcommittee meeting. Councilwoman O'Brien seconded the motion which passed unanimously, 4-0.

**CONSENT ACTION (ITEMS 2-3)**

Items 2-3 were for consent action. No presentations were planned, but staff was available to answer questions.

**2. Idemia Identity & Security USA LLC Lease Agreement**

### **3. Amend City Code- Section 36-158. Schedule I, Local Speed Limits at multiple locations**

Vice Mayor Pastor made a motion to approve Consent Action Items 2-3. Councilwoman Guardado seconded the motion which passed unanimously, 4-0.

#### **INFORMATION ONLY (ITEMS 4-7)**

#### **4. Metro, Regional Public Transportation Authority and Maricopa Association of Governments Meetings**

Information only. No Councilmember requested additional information.

#### **5. Citizens Transportation Commission Meetings**

Information only. No Councilmember requested additional information.

#### **6. Freeway Program Update**

Information only. No Councilmember requested additional information.

#### **7. Update on Supply Shortages in the Colorado River**

Information only. No Councilmember requested additional information.

#### **INFORMATION AND DISCUSSION (ITEMS 8)**

#### **8. Vision Zero- Road Safety Action Plan Update**

Street Transportation Director Kini Knudson discussed the progress of the Road Safety Action Plan (RSAP) since Council took action to incorporate Vision Zero principles earlier this year. Mr. Knudson provided the subcommittee with an RSAP planning process timeline and noted the need for community engagement to help shape the final RSAP. In addition, Mr. Knudson went over traffic safety trends within the City and highlighted the rise in fatalities on our roadways. Mr. Knudson discussed the first phase of community engagement and provided the subcommittee with the results of the surveys.

Assistant Street Transportation Director Briiana Velez discussed how the Road Safety Action Plan (RSAP) will help reduce injuries and fatalities on Phoenix streets. Ms. Velez highlighted the five focus areas of the RSAP and a few objectives under each focus area. In addition, she discussed the second phase of community engagement which will start at the end of June and last through August.

Chairwoman Stark opened the floor to public comment.

James Farley asked if the task force will have citizens on it and how they will be selected. In addition, Mr. Farley discussed some of his concerns with the Road Safety Action Plan.

Mr. Knudson stated the Roadway Safety Action Plan is still in the draft phase and they are still looking at ways to improve. In addition, he noted the importance of collaboration between the City and the community when coming up with a comprehensive Road Safety Action Plan.

Ryan Boyd on behalf of the Urban Phoenix Project expressed his support for the Roadway Safety Action Plan. In addition, he discussed various items he'd like to see implemented in the Road Safety Action Plan.

Jeremy Thacker expressed his support for the Vision Zero Plan.

Councilwoman O'Brien asked for an explanation of leading pedestrian interval (LPI) and for data on where LPI is used in the City.

Mr. Knudson explained what leading pedestrian interval is and how it is used in the City. Additionally, he stated he'll have staff reach out and provide the LPI data.

Councilwoman O'Brien asked for an explanation of the 85<sup>th</sup> percentile speed limit. In addition, Councilwoman O'Brien expressed her concerns about using the 85<sup>th</sup> percentile speed limit without proper enforcement. In addition, she asked Mr. Knudson to explain the yellow light phase adjustment and to provide clarity on which models would be used during the traffic studies.

Mr. Knudson explained the 85<sup>th</sup> percentile speed limit and how it is used to determine speed limits. Mr. Knudson stated a report analysis was conducted examining peer cities and their yellow light phases. In addition, he mentioned the University of Arizona will be partnering with the City to conduct a study of 12 intersections and their yellow light timing in comparison to the revised ITE guidelines. Mr. Knudson discussed the ITE guidelines and how in lieu of an 85<sup>th</sup> percentile speed study seven miles over the speed limit can be used to determine yellow light timing.

Councilwoman O'Brien asked how the 12 intersections will be chosen for the University of Arizona study.

Mr. Knudson stated the 12 intersections were selected based on crash and safety risk evaluation criteria provided by the Maricopa Association of Government (MAG) and red light running data.

Mr. Knudson explained ITE stands for Institute of Transportation Engineers and they set guidelines for best practices for agencies to follow.

Vice Mayor Pastor asked if we have Leading Pedestrian Interval (LPI) data, how is that data collected, and if it has changed driving behavior.

Mr. Knudson stated he'll check back with staff to determine what data is available on LPI intersections and will report back. In addition, Mr. Knudson mentioned they are

developing performance metrics for the Road Safety Action Plan and that the current pedestrian data is collected from various sources.

Vice Mayor Pastor asked for clarity on the LPI data and locations. In addition, she asked to meet with the Urban Phoenix Project to discuss the production of metrics and other topics discussed in their letters.

Mr. Knudson stated he does not have the LPI data available, but he will be working with staff to provide that information to the subcommittee. In addition, Mr. Knudson stated he and his staff meet monthly with the Urban Phoenix Project to discuss several issues.

### **DISCUSSION AND POSSIBLE ACTION (ITEM 9-12)**

#### **9. (CONTINUED FROM APRIL 20, 2022)- Consideration of Citizen Petition Related to the Process for Preparing Formal Council Meetings Agendas**

City Clerk Denise Archibald gave a staff presentation in response to a citizen petition submitted by Jeremy Thacker on Feb. 16, 2022. She discussed the process, according to Arizona Revised Statutes, Arizona's Open Meeting Law (OML), Phoenix City Charter, Phoenix City Code (PCC), and Administrative Regulations, in which Formal City Council agenda items get added and noted only the City Manager, Mayor, or at least three Councilmembers could have items placed on the agenda. In addition, Mrs. Archibald touched on the challenges with the proposed changes to the process and detailed several alternative ways in which a resident could present items to the Council for discussion. Mrs. Archibald recommended staff continue to use the current agenda process to be able to get things onto the agenda.

Jeremy Thacker stated his petition was meant for all meetings of public bodies and discussed how his request would be implemented in Council meetings. In addition, Mr. Thacker provided the Subcommittee with examples of where his petition could be utilized.

Chairwoman Stark responded to Mr. Thacker and informed him he could set up a meeting with her office to discuss issues. In addition, Chairwoman Stark stated the petition process is flawed and needs to be reevaluated. Chairwoman Stark mentioned she'd like to staff reach out within 72 hours of someone submitting a citizen petition.

Vice Mayor Pastor motioned to refer Item 9 to the City Council Formal meeting. Councilwoman Guardado seconded the motion and the motion failed 2-2.

Councilwoman Guardado asked Vice Mayor Pastor to explain her motion.

Vice Mayor Pastor explained her motion was to refer Item 9 to the formal meeting so the full Council could hear and discuss the item.

Councilwoman O'Brien stated she would like to see modifications to the process. In addition, she thanked staff for their presentation and noted the importance of reaching out to staff, and Council members to address concerns. Councilwoman O'Brien stated she would like to have further discussions with the Mayor and Council on how to make the process better.

Chairwoman Stark echoed the comments of Councilwoman O'Brien and stated the need to have policy discussions on the matter.

Councilwoman Guardado asked for clarification on the vote.

Chairwoman Stark stated the motion failed with a 2-2 vote.

Mr. Thacker clarified his Item 9 petition was regarding citizen public comments and not citizen petitions.

Mrs. Archibald explained Mr. Thacker had two petitions and the Item 9 petition is related to putting items on the agenda related to public comments.

#### **10. (CONTINUED FROM APRIL 20, 2022)- Consideration of Citizen Petition Related to the Process for Handling Citizen Petitions**

Assistant City Attorney David Benton gave a staff presentation in response to a citizen petition submitted by Jeremy Thacker on Mar. 2, 2022. He discussed the citizen petition process and the factors that are considered when deciding if a petition is qualified. In addition, Mr. Benton outlined the Phoenix City Charter (PCC) section which discusses citizen petitions and why the Transportation, Infrastructure, and Planning Subcommittee are assigned citizen petitions.

Jeremy Thacker asked for clarification on the citizen petition process and provided his opinion on the citizen process and how it has changed in recent years.

Vice Mayor Pastor stated citizen petitions should be heard by the full Council.

Chairwoman Stark stated she would prefer to have policy discussions on the citizen petition process and following those discussions amend the language if need be.

Vice Mayor Pastor motioned to refer Item 10 to the City Council Formal meeting. Councilwoman Guardado seconded the motion and the motion failed 2-2.

Chairwoman Stark recommended she and the rest of the subcommittee ask Mayor Gallego to put citizen petitions on a future Policy meeting agenda for a broader discussion.

Councilwoman O'Brien echoed Chairwoman Stark's comments.

#### **11. Consideration of Citizen Petition Related to Two Special Public Engagements**

Chief Assistant Attorney Julie Kriegh gave a staff presentation in response to a citizen petition submitted by Benjamin Lewis on April. 22, 2022. Ms. Kriegh discussed legal concerns regarding the petition and potential conflicts with jury pools. In addition, Ms. Kriegh provided the subcommittee with several options on how to handle the citizen petition.

Vice Mayor Pastor motioned to accept the petition and direct staff to produce documents and hold public meetings. The motion was seconded by Councilwoman Guardado.

Councilwoman O'Brien asked for clarification on the citizen petition. In addition, Councilwoman O'Brien asked if providing this documentation would be in the best interest of the City and Police Officers.

Ms. Kriegh stated the citizen petition is requesting items regarding employees that have been charged with misconduct. Ms. Kriegh explained that some of the documents that are being requested may not be available depending on the status of the case.

Benjamin Lewis gave his opinion on the role of the Council and expressed his concerns about policing in the City.

Jeremy Thacker expressed his concern regarding the lack of clarity on the way citizen petitions are being handled.

Karen Olson expressed her opinion on policing.

Vice Mayor Pastor edited her motion to include referring the petition to the Formal Council meeting.

Councilwoman O'Brien asked for clarification on staff's recommendation option number one listed in the presentation.

Assistant City Attorney David Benton explained Vice Mayor Pastor's amended motion.

Deputy City Manager Mario Paniagua clarified the motion.

Vice Mayor Pastor asked if having public hearings would conflict with the investigation.

Ms. Kriegh stated as long as the meetings are not interfering with a protective order or a piece of litigation there would be no conflict.

Vice Mayor Pastor's motion to accept the petition, refer it to the full Council, direct staff to produce documents, and hold public meetings. Was seconded by Councilwoman Guardado and failed to pass 2-2.

## **12. Consideration of Citizen Petition Related to Production of Documents**

Communications Director Dan Wilson gave a staff presentation in response to a citizen petition submitted by Vanessa DiCarlo on April. 20, 2022. Mr. Wilson stated the Law Department determined the petition should be handled as a public records request. In addition, Mr. Wilson stated the request was entered into the system and once the records are available they will contact the requestor.

Karen Olson stated her support for the petition and asked for the records to be released. In addition, Ms. Olson discussed the need for accountability and transparency.

Jeremy Thacker expressed his support to move petitions to be heard by the full Council.

Vice Mayor Pastor motioned to refer this citizen petition to the Formal agenda. Councilwoman Guardado seconded the motion which failed 2-2.

**CALL TO THE PUBLIC**

None.

**FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS**

None.

**ADJOURNMENT**

Chairwoman Stark adjourned the meeting at 12:04 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Grant Harrison  
Management Intern