

**Phoenix City Council
Transportation, Infrastructure, and Planning Subcommittee
Summary Minutes
Wednesday, Sept. 20, 2023**

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

Subcommittee Members Present
Councilwoman Debra Stark, Chair
Councilwoman Ann O'Brien
Councilwoman Laura Pastor

Subcommittee Members Absent
Councilwoman Kesha Hodge Washington

CALL TO ORDER

Chairwoman Debra Stark called the Transportation, Infrastructure, and Planning Subcommittee to order at 10:04 a.m. with Councilwoman Ann O'Brien and Councilwoman Laura Pastor present.

CALL TO THE PUBLIC

None.

MINUTES OF MEETINGS

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

Councilwoman O'Brien made a motion to approve the minutes of the Sept. 20, 2023, Transportation, Infrastructure, and Planning meeting. Councilwoman Pastor seconded the motion which passed unanimously, 3-0.

CONSENT ACTION (ITEMS 2-5)

2. Airport Consulting Services- Recommendation for Award

3. Approval to award Terminal 41 S Phase II Food and Beverage Contract

4. Approval to award Terminal 4 S1 Phase II Food and Beverage Contract

Items 2-4 were for consent action. Councilwoman O'Brien made a motion to approve. Councilwoman Pastor seconded the motion which passed unanimously, 3-0.

5. Approval of Demonstration Project Grant

Item 5 was for consent action.

Councilwoman Pastor expressed excitement about the Hotel San Carlos grant and the chance to vote to preserve its historical significance.

Chairwoman Stark opened the floor to public comment.

Brent Kleinman spoke in support of the item.

Councilwoman O'Brien motioned. Councilwoman Pastor seconded the motion which passed unanimously, 3-0.

INFORMATION ONLY (ITEMS 6-9)

6. Metro, Regional Public Transportation Authority and Maricopa Association of Governments Meeting

Information only. No councilmember requested additional information.

5. Approval of Demonstration Project Grant

Information only. No councilmember requested additional information.

6. Metro, Regional Public Transportation Authority and Maricopa Association of Governments Meeting

Information only. No councilmember requested additional information.

7. Citizens Transportation Commission Meetings

Information only. No councilmember requested additional information.

8. Freeway Program Update

Information only. No councilmember requested additional information.

9. Phoenix Convention Center Lighting Replacement Project

Information only. No councilmember requested additional information.

INFORMATION AND DISCUSSION (ITEMS 10-12)

10. Storm Drain and Wash Maintenance Update

Chairwoman Stark introduced Street Transportation Director Kini Knudson and Deputy Street Transportation Director Jesse Duarte to present on the item.

Mr. Knudson provided background information on Street Transportation-maintained washes, easements, and storm drainage facilities.

Mr. Duarte provided an update on the pilot program and wash maintenance procedures.

Councilwoman O'Brien requested confirmation on 109 tons of debris cleared this fiscal year, and 50 current city staff vacancies.

Mr. Duarte mentioned a drop from 50 vacancies to under 30 street maintenance worker positions in last couple of years.

Mr. Knudson highlighted a successful apprenticeship program and compensation study in the past 18 months, which improved staffing, though training takes time.

Councilwoman O'Brien asked about the number of positions.

Mr. Knudson reported slightly over 200 vacancies, with the highest number in Street Maintenance.

Councilwoman O'Brien inquired about the percentage breakdown.

Mr. Knudson responded there are 200 vacancies out of 760 positions, equating to a 25 to 30 percent vacancy rate.

Councilwoman O'Brien inquired about barn door style gates, specifically whether it needs to be opened due to water flow, given its slatted appearance.

Mr. Duarte responded barn door style gates must be open, as leaving them closed would trap anything that flows through.

Councilwoman O'Brien inquired about the installation date of these gates.

Mr. Duarte responded gates have been installed for approximately 4 to 6 months and are functioning well.

Councilwoman O'Brien inquired about other potential locations for installing the gates.

Mr. Duarte mentioned staff have identified approximately 100 potential locations in the Cave Creek Area.

Mr. Knudson also mentioned that they have identified locations, and the next step is securing funding for implementation.

Councilwoman O'Brien expressed interest in learning about the proposed gate sites and understanding cost savings in manpower for cleaning up such areas.

Chairwoman Stark reported six months of success at the shared border of Councilman Jim Waring's and her district, receiving compliments and highlighting the gates' ease of repair. She asked about their effectiveness in preventing trash buildup.

Mr. Knudson concurred, adding that aside from impeding flow, encampment activities also contribute to stormwater quality issues.

Chairwoman Stark appreciated the trial, offered support, and expressed a desire to see more of this happening throughout the city, including presenting to neighborhood block watches.

Councilwoman O'Brien noted Cactus Park also has washes and suggested possibilities for presentations there.

11. Shared Micromobility Program Six-Month Update

Chairwoman Stark introduced Street Transportation Director Kini Knudson to present.

Mr. Knudson introduced Assistant Street Transportation Director Briiana Velez as a co-presenter.

Mr. Knudson provided a six-month update on the micromobility program.

Councilwoman O'Brien inquired about the operating boundaries.

Mr. Knudson explained the operating boundaries include 23rd Avenue on the west, Dobbins Road on the south, 20th Street on the east, extending to 46th Street, and the northern boundaries vary from Roosevelt Street to Thomas Road on the west side as one moves towards the eastern part of the boundary.

Ms. Velez presented on the micromobility program performance, revenue, and potential updates, covering two vendors, Lime and Spin.

Councilwoman O'Brien inquired about the basis for the 20 percent requirement for e-bikes.

Ms. Velez stated they observed a 20 percent e-bike requirement in other nationwide programs and the requirement correlates with Phoenix residents' e-bike usage.

Councilwoman O'Brien asked if staff considered the overall biking percentage in Phoenix when looking at other cities nationwide, mentioning that Phoenix has a biking rate of 0.5 percent for adults. She asked if they compared this with the 20 percent requirement in other cities.

Ms. Velez explained when staff compared Phoenix to other markets, those markets had a higher overall rate of bike utilization and staff set the 20 percent requirement. She added a dynamic approach is more suitable for the current market.

Councilwoman O'Brien expressed her concern about the dynamic approach. She asked if they had received feedback from Lime and the other contractor regarding this approach.

Ms. Velez explained staff have been collaborating closely with the vendors. She noted vendors requested a minimum set in their letter and recognized e-bikes are not used as often as scooters, and this approach is better than setting a low minimum requirement.

Councilwoman O'Brien asked if the vendors had objections to the dynamic approach.

Ms. Velez replied there were no objections to the dynamic approach.

Chairwoman Stark opened the floor to public comment.

Patrick McDaniel expressed opposition to the proposed library checkout system for bikes, described as an artificial barrier designed to be cumbersome and lower access to bikes.

Charlie Mastalone, Lime's Senior Manager of Government Relations for the Southwest, expressed support and discussed a delivery model to ensure people would not lose service due to theft and vandalism.

Councilwoman O'Brien inquired about the specifics of a dynamic plan based on bike usage.

Mr. Mastalone explained the dynamic approach which involves a daily utilization rate, and the approach reflects the market demand for these vehicles and prevents underutilization.

Councilwoman O'Brien inquired if the plan presented by Lime is like what they have offered and if Lime agrees with it.

Mr. Mastalone said yes.

Councilwoman O'Brien asked Councilwoman Pastor for her thoughts on the timing of recommendations, mainly waiting until January despite the prime outdoor season beginning in December.

Councilwoman Pastor suggested reevaluating micromobility for a citywide expansion involving community leaders and neighborhoods by December. She also mentioned potential vendor additions, including pedal bikes and e-bikes.

Chairwoman Stark clarified if they would consider gathering data until the end of December.

Mr. Knudson agreed to adjust the schedule to gather data until December.

Councilwoman Pastor suggested accelerating the schedule to present in December.

Derek Sterling from Spin supported programmatic changes to enhance financial sustainability and address expansion concerns.

Councilwoman O'Brien expressed interest in discussing recommended changes, including corralling, and extending operating hours until 2:30 a.m. or 3:00 a.m. to gather more data by December.

Chairwoman Stark asked Councilwoman Pastor if she was okay with the proposed changes.

Councilwoman Pastor expressed her desire to expand the program citywide in December, beyond just the light rail, with a plan for citywide implementation.

Councilwoman O'Brien inquired about potential changes to the bike fleet.

Mr. Knudson summarized the potential changes, including equity fleet distribution, bike fleet distribution, and parking corrals.

Councilwoman Pastor agreed with the plan but emphasized the importance of engaging the community before implementing it.

Chairwoman Stark outlined the plan to revisit the micromobility program in December, discussing citywide expansion, bike percentage changes, and community engagement before implementation.

Mr. Knudson agreed with the plan.

Chairwoman Stark sought confirmation from the Subcommittee if they agreed with informing the community about the citywide expansion plan.

Deputy City Manager Alan Stephenson stated staff would return in December with a plan for citywide expansion, clarifying that it is not an immediate implementation plan.

Councilwoman Pastor disagreed and emphasized the plan should be implemented immediately between now and December.

Mr. Stephenson expressed while staff can explore the possibility, he is unsure if staff can swiftly expand from the current scope to something significantly larger, considering the complexities involved.

Councilwoman Pastor pushed for an expedited timeline.

Mr. Stephenson confirmed the commitment to return with an aggressive plan for citywide implementation by December.

DISCUSSION AND POSSIBLE ACTION (ITEM 12)

12. Transit Oriented Development Capitol/I-10 West Light Rail Corridor Recommendation for Award

Deputy City Manager Mario Paniagua introduced Sarah Brown from the Light Rail Administration team and Joel Carrasco from the Planning and Development Department. He mentioned Light Rail Administrator Markus Coleman would not be present for this item as he was representing the City in Washington D.C.

Ms. Brown discussed the purpose and Transit Orientated Development (TOD) study area.

Councilwoman Pastor requested Ms. Brown to reiterate her Federal Transit Administration (FTA) statement.

Ms. Brown stated Phoenix had discussed alignment changes due to Senate Bill 1102 with the FTA and staff explored alternative areas and ensured that any new route aligns with the study area guidelines from the application.

Mr. Carrasco discussed the scope and budget, and the community engagement component.

Ms. Brown discussed the process, evaluation, recommended consultant, schedule, and recommendation to seek Subcommittee approval for a contract with Ardurra Group, Inc. to provide consulting services for TOD for Capitol Extension and I-10 West Light Rail.

Councilwoman O'Brien made a motion to approve the item. Councilwoman Pastor seconded the motion which passed unanimously, 3-0.

CALL TO THE PUBLIC

Jerry Van Gasse voiced concerns about the year-long absence of electricity at the New Georgia trailhead, funded by voter initiative funds. He criticized the lack of public meetings involving the hiking community and expressed urgency in resolving the issue as visitors return.

Chairwoman Stark acknowledged Mr. Van Gasse's concerns and suggested staff connect with him.

Jes Dobbs expressed concerns about the year-long lack of electricity at the New Georgia trailhead.

Tim Sierakowski expressed concerns about the building permit for Cholla Trail and questioned why the city gave away a trail to a private company.

Ceranda Trawick, raised concerns about unsanitary conditions in their workplace, including cockroaches and rats and requested a city investigation and resolution to the problem.

Winona Rue expressed concerns about live rats in her workplace at Dunkin Donuts in Terminal Four and requested a city investigation and cleanliness assurance for SSP workers.

Vanessa Tamburrelli reported ongoing issues with cockroaches and rats in their workplace and called for a city investigation into the conditions at SSP-operated restaurants.

Vanessa Ortega reported witnessing rats in her workplace and called for a city investigation.

FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS

None.

ADJOURNMENT

Chairwoman Stark adjourned the meeting at 11:22 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Kat Consador
Management Fellow

DRAFT