

**Phoenix City Council
Transportation, Infrastructure, and Planning (TIP) Subcommittee
Summary Minutes
Wednesday, Oct. 19, 2022**

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

Subcommittee Members Present

Councilwoman Debra Stark, Chair
Councilwoman Ann O'Brien
Councilwoman Laura Pastor
Councilwoman Betty Guardado

Subcommittee Members Absent

CALL TO ORDER

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

CALL TO THE PUBLIC

None.

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 June 15, 2022 Transportation, Infrastructure, and Planning Subcommittee meeting. Councilwoman O'Brien seconded the motion which passed unanimously, 4-0.

CONSENT ACTION (ITEMS 2-5)

Items 2-5 were for consent action. No presentations were planned, but City staff was available to answer questions.

2. Metro, Regional Public Transportation Authority and Maricopa Association of Governments Meetings

Information only. No Councilmember requested additional information.

3. Citizens Transportation Commission Meetings

Information only. No Councilmember requested additional information.

4. Freeway Program Update

Information only. No Councilmember requested additional information.

5. Bulk Trash Collection Delay Update

Vice Mayor Pastor requested an update on this item.

Chairwoman Stark invited Public Works Director Joe Giudice to give an update on the City's Bulk Trash Collection Delay.

Mr. Giudice introduced Deputy Public Works Director Lorizelda Stoeller and informed the subcommittee that bulk trash collection was three weeks behind schedule. He discussed adjustments that had been made to address the current delays, including updating the future collection schedule, working weekends, filling vacant positions, and securing a retention incentive for current Solid Waste Equipment Operators (SWEO).

Mr. Giudice highlighted hiring events held on a weekly basis to fill vacant SWEO positions and invited those with commercial driver's licenses to apply.

Chairwoman Stark suggested Street Transportation Director Kini Knudson and Mr. Giudice collaborate to address the trash collection delays.

Chairwoman Stark recommended Mr. Giudice and Mr. Knudson write an article for local newsletters explaining how the City is addressing the current staffing shortage.

Vice Mayor Pastor said she would also be happy to facilitate and get the article published in Council District 4 newsletters.

Vice Mayor Pastor discussed the City's staffing shortage, stressing the importance of communicating with residents, equity in trash collection, and having a strategic plan for hiring and retention.

Councilwoman Guardado stated the City appears to be shifting the blame for the trash collection delays onto workers. She urged the City to boost wages to attract and retain drivers.

Vice Mayor Pastor stated residents should not receive violation notices for trash items accumulating on their property because of pickup delays.

Councilwoman O'Brien asked Mr. Giudice about some of the strategies related to hiring and retention incentives the City is using.

Mr. Giudice replied with an overview of the City's approaches, including hiring and retention incentives and starting new operators with higher pay.

Chairwoman Stark thanked Mr. Giudice for his efforts to address the bulk trash collection delays. She reiterated her willingness to help him publish a written column explaining the current staffing shortage in local newspapers.

INFORMATION AND DISCUSSION (ITEMS 6-8)

6. Smart Traffic Signal Technology Update

Chairwoman Stark invited Street Transportation Director Kini Knudson to provide an update on item 6.

Mr. Knudson introduced Assistant Street Transportation Director Briiana Velez and gave a presentation on the City's smart signal pilot projects.

Mr. Knudson provided an overview of smart signal trends and the need to replace old traffic signal technology to keep up with the City's population growth and reduce delays and congestion. Ms. Velez discussed traffic signal system coordination and optimization.

Vice Mayor Pastor asked Ms. Velez the objective of the Bell Road Adaptive Signal Control Technology pilot program and why it did not work.

Ms. Velez explained the initial goal of the adaptive signal technology was to automatically detect traffic congestion and adjust traffic signal timing accordingly. She added the Bell Road Adaptive Signal pilot program did not achieve this objective to justify the cost of the technology.

Vice Mayor Pastor asked Ms. Velez if the City has found a technology that could achieve what the Bell Road Adaptive Signal pilot program could not.

Ms. Velez replied she was not familiar with other technologies to recommend, but staff would continue studying new technologies.

Mr. Knudson added staff was also exploring bicycle and pedestrian detection technology.

Councilwoman Guardado asked whether the adaptive signal control and pedestrian detection technology discussed would affect the length of time a traffic light stays yellow before turning red.

Mr. Knudson replied that yellow light timing tends to differ at different intersections based on the speed limit, and light signals are adjusted accordingly. He added the City was examining revised yellow light timing guidelines and planned to bring the results to the subcommittee in December.

Vice Mayor Pastor remarked that yellow light timing should be consistent throughout the City's roadways according to traffic signal standards and regulations.

7. Federal Bipartisan Infrastructure Law - Grant Funding Update

Deputy City Manager Mario Paniagua gave an overview of the Federal Bipartisan Infrastructure Law and various grant funding opportunities the City had received or was pursuing.

Vice Mayor Pastor asked Mr. Paniagua to clarify the community projects that could be included in the City's Bipartisan Infrastructure Law/Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act (BIL/IJJA) grant opportunities.

Mr. Paniagua explained the City was pursuing the grant opportunity because it contained community-enhancing and improvement provisions.

Vice Mayor Pastor requested additional information on the City's BIL/IJJA community-specific grant opportunities.

Councilwoman Guardado asked Mr. Paniagua if the City was applying for flood mitigation assistance grants.

Mr. Paniagua replied the City planned to apply for this grant to help address stormwater and other flood mitigation-related needs.

Councilwoman Guardado requested the prioritization of 55th Avenue from Osborn Road to Camelback Road for stormwater and flood mitigation efforts because of the danger flooding posed to students in the area.

Chairwoman Stark asked Mr. Paniagua if the City was evaluating federal grant funding that could complement the current General Obligation (GO) Bond program.

Mr. Paniagua explained that there is overlap and the City was using much of the GO Bond resources for programs that may not easily be funded through federal grants. However, programs such as Vision Zero Road Safety are applied to both the GO Bond program and federal grant funding.

Councilwoman Guardado asked Mr. Paniagua if there are categories of federal grant funding that could be used to address the expansion of tree planting, flood control, and bicycle infrastructure.

Mr. Paniagua confirmed there was funding available for those needs.

Councilwoman Guardado asked if the Building Resilient Infrastructure and Communities (BRIC) grant included funding for more trees in the City.

Mr. Paniagua confirmed that projects including those enhancements are potentially eligible under that grant.

Councilwoman Guardado stressed the importance of leveraging all available federal resources to help prevent floods, plant more trees, and create equitable bicycle infrastructure.

Vice Mayor Pastor asked if BIL/IIJA were the same grant opportunity.

Deputy City Manager Paniagua confirmed that was correct.

Vice Mayor Pastor asked Mr. Paniagua to go over how the City applies for flood mitigation assistance grants.

Deputy City Manager Paniagua explained that the BRIC and Flood Mitigation Assistance grants must first be vetted by the state's Department of Emergency Management. So staff first identifies specific flood mitigation projects in an area for funding and then provides information to the state about why that mitigation is needed. If selected by the state to move forward, those projects are included in an application to the federal government to contend for grant awards.

Vice Mayor Pastor asked if the Pedestrian Bridge being built over the Rio Salado has protection for bikers and pedestrians.

Deputy City Manager Paniagua explained that the bridge will only be accessible to bikes and pedestrians which will eliminate conflicts with vehicles.

Councilwoman O'Brien asked if staff was looking into broadband and cybersecurity-related infrastructure grant opportunities.

Deputy City Manager Paniagua confirmed staff was looking into those types of grants.

8. Update on Lead and Copper Rule Revision Update

Water Services Director Troy Hayes introduced Assistant Water Services Director Brandy Kelso, Deputy Water Services Director Darlene Helm, and Deputy Water Services Director Jennifer Calles to present on the Lead and Copper Rule Revision Update, which would require galvanized service lines to be changed to prevent lead from entering drinking water at a cost of \$40 million.

Chairwoman Stark asked if the \$40 million was part of the recent rate increase approved by the City Council.

Mr. Hayes explained the \$40 million was separate from the cost estimated at the time of the rate increase but some funding was set aside in the GO Bond program and grant funding was expected from the state.

Vice Mayor Pastor asked Mr. Hayes to explain how replacing the City's underground service line pipes would prevent lead from entering residents' water systems.

Mr. Hayes said there were no known lead service lines in the water system, and the City aimed to replace galvanized service pipes.

Vice Mayor Pastor asked how schools would determine if their fixtures needed to be evaluated for lead.

Mr. Hayes replied that all schools in the Phoenix area were recently tested for lead services lines.

Ms. Calles added there is a legal requirement for elementary and nursery schools to be tested for lead service lines every five years, and high schools could request such tests at no cost. She confirmed the City accommodates such requests.

Vice Mayor Pastor asked about outreach and engagement with schools regarding lead service line testing.

Mr. Hayes confirmed outreach was being done with schools.

Councilwoman O'Brien asked if the test results could change, given all schools were recently tested for lead services lines.

Mr. Hayes replied that results would not change unless schools changed their fixtures.

Councilwoman O'Brien asked how the City would cover the \$40 million cost to change the galvanized service lines.

Mr. Hayes explained there was \$20 million in the GO Bond program earmarked for the galvanized service line and additional funding would come from the state through federal grants.

Councilwoman O'Brien asked how residents would be informed if galvanized service lines needed to be replaced.

Mr. Hayes replied that the City would do condition assessments to identify service line types and make replacement arrangements.

9. Request to Issue Air Cargo Development Revenue Contract Solicitation at Phoenix Sky Harbor International Airport

Aviation Director Chad Makovsky introduced Assistant Aviation Director Roxann Favors and Aviation Superintendent Richard Graham and presented on the Air Cargo Development Revenue Contract Solicitation at Phoenix Sky Harbor International Airport.

Vice Mayor Pastor recommended a lease end date for current tenants of the air cargo area proposed for development be included in the solicitation.

Mr. Makovsky explained that impacted tenants would have plenty of notice to relocate to another location and committed to incorporating the Vice Mayor's recommendation of a lease end date into the proposed strategy.

Councilwoman O'Brien asked for clarification on the notice provided to tenants.

Mr. Makovsky discussed the phases of the proposed air development solicitation, which could take years to complete before impacting tenants.

Mr. Graham added that the timeline had been shared with tenants, including when they would be expected to vacate for development.

Councilwoman O'Brien asked if the City offered to help tenants relocate.

Mr. Graham replied that the tenants had not asked for relocation assistance, but the City had offered to relocate them to Phoenix Deer Valley Airport or Phoenix Goodyear Airport.

Councilwoman O'Brien asked when the City last estimated rent appraisals for the air cargo section of the airport.

Mr. Graham responded rent appraisals were completed two years ago.

Councilwoman O'Brien asked whether any significant change in rent was expected, given the ups and downs of the economy.

Mr. Graham said the City had done similar appraisals which indicated rents would be higher based on the current market value.

Vice Mayor Pastor commented on current lease terms for air cargo area tenants, noting a 30-year lease agreement with the City and an additional 10-year extension option. She asked what would happen after the 40-year lease agreement ended.

Mr. Graham replied that the property would return to the Aviation Department at the end of the lease agreement and the City could lease it out to other tenants or use it for other purposes.

Vice Mayor Pastor made a motion to approve item 9. Councilwoman O'Brien seconded the motion which passed unanimously, 4-0.

CALL TO THE PUBLIC

None.

FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS

- Planning and Development Processes
- New Development Drought Policy
- Public Transportation Agency Safety Plan
- Drought Management Plan

ADJOURNMENT

Chairwoman Stark adjourned the meeting at 11:52 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Yusuf Dirow
Management Fellow