

Attachment A

Phoenix City Council Transportation, Infrastructure, and Planning (TIP) Subcommittee Summary Minutes Wednesday, April 16, 2025

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

Subcommittee Members Present

Councilwoman Debra Stark (Chair)
Councilman Carlos Galindo-Elvira
Councilwoman Laura Pastor
Councilwoman Kesha Hodge Washington

Subcommittee Members Absent

CALL TO ORDER

Chairwoman Debra Stark called the Transportation, Infrastructure, and Planning Subcommittee to order at 10:11 a.m. with Councilman Carlos Galindo-Elvira, Councilwoman Hodge-Washington, and Councilwoman Laura Pastor present.

CALL TO THE PUBLIC

None.

MINUTES OF MEETINGS

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

Councilwoman Hodge Washington made a motion to approve the minutes of the February 19, 2025, Transportation, Infrastructure, and Planning meeting. Councilwoman Pastor seconded the motion which passed unanimously, 4-0.

CONSENT ACTION (ITEM 2-5)

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

2. Fiscal Year 2025-26 Assessment for Water Industry Research and Partnerships - Citywide

Consent only. No Councilmember requested additional information.

3. Fiscal Year 2025-26 Assessments for the Arizona Municipal Water

Users Association – Citywide

Consent only. No Councilmember requested additional information.

4. Historic Preservation Demonstration Project Grant - 412 West Roosevelt Street - District 7

Consent only. No Councilmember requested additional information.

5. July 2025 Proposed Bus Service Changes - Districts 3, 4, 6, 7, 8

Consent only.

Councilwoman Hodge Washington asked about Route 0A Bus Route and the proposed modifications of changing the route time from 15 minutes to 30 minutes.

Public Transit Director Jesus Sapien confirmed the route time change, and stated the Public Transit Department will be establishing a South-Central Light Rail station with a 12-minute frequency from Camelback to South Phoenix concurrently.

Councilwoman Hodge Washington discussed the public opposition to the Route 0A time change and asked Mr. Sapien to address community concerns.

Mr. Sapien acknowledged the public feedback, and stated many of the concerns would be addressed with the implementation of the South-Central Light Rail Station. He expressed the light rail service, across the system, is at a 15-minute frequency, but with the implementation of the South-Central station it will change to a 12-minute frequency. He stated there is an expectation bus riders will change to a light rail service with the new frequency.

Councilwoman Hodge Washington expressed her concern with reducing the frequency of an established route during the upcoming summer months. She inquired about how the City is helping bus riders transition to the new light rail station.

Mr. Sapien confirmed staff will be monitoring the ridership and passenger load, as well as the feedback from the community to see if the route needs to be modified in the future. He stated Public Transit staff recently conducted research to determine current ridership compared to ridership at a 30-minute frequency; and the research concluded the new frequency and opening of South Central will have the capacity to service the citizens in South Phoenix.

Deputy City Manager Mario Paniagua asked Mr. Sapien to discuss how the Public Transit Department is communicating this change to residents.

Mr. Sapien stated that the Department and Valley Metro had implemented multiple campaigns to raise awareness about route changes, including sending application notices, posting updates on the Valley Metro website, setting up A-frame signs, and deploying staff to bus and light rail stops.

Councilwoman Hodge Washington asked if the light rail stops and the bus stops are the same or in proximity of each other.

Mr. Sapien described the locations of the light rail stops in relation to the bus route. He stated all the bus stops have new shade structures.

Councilwoman Hodge Washington expressed her concern about the timing of the change happening during the summer and requested a phased approach to implementation or delaying the change until after the summer.

Councilwoman Pastor expressed her concern regarding the community opposition and stated her support for phasing in the change during the wintertime.

Mr. Paniagua stated the Department will not implement the change at this time and the Public Transit Department will look at a phasing-in schedule for the future.

Councilman Galindo-Elvira acknowledged the importance of phasing-in the project during a cooler time of year, so residents would not have to adjust to a new route during the hot summer months.

Councilwoman Hodge Washington thanked the Public Transit Department and encouraged the Department to focus on community buy-in.

Councilwoman Pastor asked the Public Transit Department to focus on a data-driven approach to addressing community concerns.

Mr. Paniagua and Mr. Sapien stated the Department will collect rider data prior to the launch of the light rail extension.

INFORMATION ONLY (ITEM 6)

6. Street Transportation Department Capital Improvement Program for Fiscal Years 2024-25 Through 2029-30 - Citywide

Information only. No Councilmember requested additional information.

INFORMATION AND DISCUSSION (ITEM 7)

7. Trails and Heat Safety Program - Districts 6 and 8

Parks and Recreation Director Cynthia Aguilar, Deputy Director Jarod Rogers, and Deputy Fire Chief Christopher Healey presented on this item.

Mr. Rogers discussed the Trails Heat Safety Program which restricts Hau 'pal Loop, Holbert Trail, and the Mormon Trail during heat advisory days between 8 a.m. and 5 p.m. He discussed the importance of prioritizing safety due to the high volume of hikers and the dangers of heat-related illnesses. He confirmed these three trails will still be open from 5 a.m. to 8 a.m. and from 5 p.m. to 11 p.m. Mr. Rogers emphasized all other

trails will be open to the public and these trails have been the focus due to the risk of hikers and first responders. He discussed the measures taken to communicate this change to the public.

Chief Healey discussed how the Technical Rescue Team conducts mountain rescues for hikers in need and highlighted the dangers such rescues posed to both the hikers and the firefighters responding.

Mr. Rogers presented the Hiking Safety Campaign which aims to inform hikers about the risks of hiking in the heat and how to stay safe on the trails.

Ms. Aguilar explained the time change for the three trails discussed was approved by the Parks and Recreation Board at their March meeting.

Councilwoman Stark invited public comment on this item.

Tim Sierakowski expressed concern regarding time restrictions for the hiking trails.

Michael Duffy stated his support regarding the time restrictions and expressed his personal experience with the dangers of mountain rescues during the hot months as a current fire fighter.

Councilwoman Hodge Washington thanked the Parks & Recreation Department, the Fire Department, the Parks and Recreation Board, and the community members who collaborated on the trail time change. She expressed her concerns regarding the dangers of the heat and the importance of prioritizing the safety of hikers and fire fighters. Councilwoman Hodge Washington asked the Attorney to explain the Parks and Recreation Board authorities established in the City Charter.

Law Department liaison Deryck Lavelle stated the City Charter and Code authorizes the Parks and Recreation Board to make decisions regarding when parks open and close. He said the Charter can be changed by City of Phoenix voters.

Councilwoman Hodge Washington thanked staff for the changes, noting their role in improving safety for residents and firefighters.

Councilwoman Pastor thanked the citizens who brought the issue of heat safety on City hiking trails to the forefront. She expressed her dedication toward safety for residents and public safety officials. She asked the Parks & Recreation Department to explain why they are changing the trail times.

Ms. Aguilar stated the Parks and Recreation Board made the decision to change the times due to the Fire Department data showing mountain rescues still occurring during the 8 a.m. to 9 a.m. window.

Mr. Healy stated the additional hour window allowed hikers to have enough time to hike and get off the mountain before temperatures became too extreme.

Councilwoman Pastor asked if hikers will be fined if they are still on the mountain after 8 a.m.

Ms. Aguilar stated the hikers will not be fined but will be provided with education regarding heat safety.

Councilwoman Pastor requested more education regarding trail heat safety to go out to the public. She encouraged the Parks & Recreation Department to work with the Hotel Association and the Hospitality Association to share information regarding the changes and general education regarding the trails.

Councilman Galindo-Elvira expressed his support for the Parks and Recreation Board's decision to vote for the time change. He stated his dedication towards safety for citizens and fire fighters.

Councilwoman Hodge Washington asked how many miles of trails are at South Mountain.

Ms. Aguilar confirmed there are 128 miles of trails.

Councilwoman Hodge Washington asked if the proposed closures are 6.7 miles.

Ms. Aguilar confirmed.

Councilwoman Hodge Washington expressed less than five percent of the trails are closed during heat warning days.

Ms. Aguilar confirmed.

Councilwoman Hodge Washington asked for confirmation if residents can hike before or after the new time restriction.

Ms. Aguilar confirmed.

Councilwoman Hodge Washington asked if there has been a noticeable decrease in trail rescues following the previous time change for Camelback Mountain and Piestewa Peak.

Ms. Aguilar confirmed.

Councilwoman Hodge Washington asked about the public responses regarding the time changes.

Ms. Aguilar stated the Parks and Recreation Board held two Work Study sessions to inquire additional feedback before determining a closure time. She included there were around 32 speakers, and there were several letters of support.

Councilwoman Hodge Washington stated she believed this is evidence to indicate the Parks and Recreation Board and Department did take public feedback and acted appropriately.

Councilman Galindo-Elvira expressed how this action will help emergency services response times and resolidified his support of the Parks and Recreation Board decision.

DISCUSSION AND POSSIBLE ACTION (ITEM 8)

8. Modify the Junior Golf Card Program and Amend Ordinance S-35137 Approving Fee Model for City Golf Course Green Fees - Districts 3, 4, 5, 6, 8

Parks and Recreation Director Cynthia Aguilar introduced Assistant Director Brandie Barrett and Golf Director Greg Leicht to provide an update regarding golf fees and community programming.

Chairwoman Stark acknowledged the number of kids who spend time on the golf course and benefit from this program.

Councilwoman Pastor asked how much golf balls cost.

Mr. Leicht stated a small bucket of 35 balls is five dollars.

Councilwoman Pastor asked for clarification regarding how the golf fee ordinance amendment allows flexibility.

Mr. Leicht stated the amendment allows flexibility regarding the price to golf based on the season.

Councilwoman Pastor asked about the process of changing the fees.

Mr. Leicht confirmed this is decided by the staff and himself based on the market.

Councilwoman Pastor inquired about the Parks and Recreation Board involvement in determining the fees associated with the golf course.

Ms. Aguilar stated with this new fee module, the golf fee benchmark will go up by five percent each year or by the cost of living.

Councilman Galindo-Elvira expressed his support for the recommendations.

Councilman Galindo-Elvira made a motion to approve. Councilwoman Hodge Washington seconded the motion which passed unanimously, 4-0.

CALL TO THE PUBLIC

Tim Sierakowski asked the Council to go to Echo Canyon. He reflected on his experience of helping residents down Camelback Mountain and expressed his concern with Rangers not providing education to hikers.

Jerry Van Gasse discussed Proposition A from 2018. He asked for more public awareness regarding the utilization of Parks and Recreation funds.

FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS

None.

ADJOURNMENT

Chairwoman Stark adjourned the meeting at 11:26 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Destinee Sior
Management Fellow