

MINUTES

CITIZENS TRANSPORTATION OVERSIGHT COMMISSION

**5850 WEST GLENDALE AVENUE
GLENDALE, ARIZONA 85301
THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 3, 2011
7:00 PM**

The regular meeting of the Citizens Transportation Oversight Commission (CTOC) was called to order by the Chair. The following Commission members, staff representatives, and guests were present:

COMMISSION MEMBERS PRESENT: Allan DeFranco, Chair
Vincent Abeyta
Brent Ackzen
James Baribault
Jackie Doerr
Barbara Garland
Theodora Hackenberg
Joyce Stribling

COMMISSION MEMBERS ABSENT: William Sheldon, Vice Chair (Excused)
Manuel Padia (Resigned)
Ricki Ray (Excused)

OTHERS PRESENT: Terry Johnson, Deputy Transportation Director
Allan Grover, Transportation Planner
Purab Adabala, Senior Transportation Analyst
Dick Janke, Deputy Transportation Director
Debbie Albert, Principal Traffic Engineer

I. CALL TO ORDER

Chair DeFranco called the meeting to order at 7:00 PM.

II. APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES

Chair DeFranco called for approval of the minutes.

ACTION BY CTOC: Approval of the minutes of the October 6, 2011 meeting of the Citizens Transportation Oversight Commission with the correction that Commissioner Stribling was excused from attending this meeting.

(Motion: Commissioner Hackenberg, Second: Commissioner Ackzen; passed unanimously)

III. CALL TO THE AUDIENCE

There were no comments from the floor.

IV. APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA

Chair DeFranco called for approval of the agenda.

ACTION BY CTOC: Approval of the November 3, 2011 Agenda of the Citizens Transportation Oversight Commission.

(Motion: Commissioner Doerr; Second: Commissioner Baribault; passed unanimously)

V. PUBLIC INPUT – COMMISSIONERS AND STAFF

Commissioner Ackzen reported that the Bicycle Advisory Committee meeting is not scheduled until next Monday, so there is nothing to report at this time.

Chair DeFranco thanked the City Transportation staff for providing flashing speed limit signs on Deer Valley Road between 59th and 67th Avenues because they have helped to slow down traffic at this location.

Chair DeFranco announced that Commissioner Ray has been appointed by Dave Boggs to a one year appointment on the Valley Metro ADA Certification Appeals Panel as recommended by Carol Ketcherside because of her work in Neuro-rehabilitation and understanding of brain and spinal cord injuries. The 3-person panel will undergo training on Tuesday morning, November 1st for an in depth understanding of ADA regulations relative to public transportation and the new certification process.

VI. MANAGER’S REPORT

Terry Johnson, Deputy Transportation Director, announced that there will be a West Valley Forum sponsored by the Arizona Republic next spring. Input on principal transportation issues from West Valley cities has been requested for this forum. Dr. Johnson provided an overview of the following ten principal transportation issues:

- Road Safety
- Mobility/Congestion (Capacity)
- Too Much Traffic
- Lack of Modal Choices
- Land Use/Transportation Integration
- Development Activity
- Quality of Life
- Traffic Operations and Maintenance
- Funding
- Government Relations

Following the overview, the Commissioners were asked to provide comments on how these issues affect Glendale and the West Valley. Comments by CTOC members included the following issues:

- Need to maintain existing transportation facilities is a major priority

- Safety is a critical issues in several areas:
 - o Children safety when arriving or exiting schools (parents dropping off students interferes with traffic and puts children at risk)
 - o Location and design of new schools should include the safety of student access (especially pedestrian access)
 - o Driver education and more enforcement of laws
 - o More bus pull outs at busy intersections to reduce back ups and unsafe turns
 - o Design of roadways can make for safer travel for vehicles, bicycles, and pedestrians
- Traffic congestion needs to be addressed:
 - o Demand management (work at home)
 - o Alternate modes of transportation (bicycling facilities)
 - o Major roadway investment (expressways, Grand, Northern Parkway) to meet increased demand
 - o Carpooling (although unpopular)
 - o Major employers have employees work closer to home
 - o More frequent bus service
 - o LRT in Glendale
 - o Adjust traffic signals to keep traffic moving
- Funding/Investment for Transportation:
 - o Funding to maintain existing transportation system
 - o Funding to complete major projects
 - o Additional sources of revenue needed
 - o Transportation investments need to be integrated with land use decisions
- West Valley issues:
 - o Glendale has a lot of pass through traffic from other West Valley communities
 - o Transit connections are needed to other West Valley communities
 - o Coordinate transit services and traffic signals with adjacent cities
 - o Major new transportation investments in Glendale (LRT, Grand, Parkway) are only viable if integrated with investments in adjacent communities.

Dr. Johnson thanked the Commission for their comments on transportation issues.

VII. LEFT TURN SIGNALS AND U-TURNS

Debbie Albert, Principal Traffic Engineer, presented a slide show on the purpose and types of left turns at intersections which included signal timing basics, left turn signal operation, and left turn signal phasing. Ms. Albert explained that there is a balance between the needs of through traffic and turning movements that needs to be addressed appropriately at each intersection. The amount of traffic passing through an intersection, the complexity of intersection movements, and the safety of motorists making left hand turns must all be evaluated.

Commissioners asked why some intersections have a protected left turn signal when the traffic volumes are not significant. Ms. Albert responded that each intersection is studied

by staff and traffic signal needs are subject to a variety of considerations including planned land uses and future highway improvements.

Commissioner Baribault questioned the safety of allowing U-turns at busy intersections. He has seen many examples of unsafe U-turns and conflicts with drivers turning right from cross streets, as well as U-turns onto sidewalks. Ms. Albert stated that U-turns are allowed by State law and they are intended to function as reasonable vehicle movements if done properly. Dick Janke, Deputy Transportation Director, responded that there have been some intersections identified by citizens as too dangerous for U-turns and the City has posted signs prohibiting U-turns. Mr. Janke asked Commissioners to suggest to him any intersections where no U-turn signs should be considered for safety reasons.

VIII. FUTURE TOURS

Allan Grover, Transportation Planner, reviewed previous tours taken in 2011 and provided a list of five proposed new tours in years 2012 and 2013. Due to a limited number of potential tours, the current format of alternating meetings with tours was recommended to be replaced by scheduling three tours per year beginning in 2012. There were no new tours suggested by the Commissioners at this time, but new tours can be presented to staff during Commission meetings in the future.

IX. FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS

Commissioners recommended the following new agenda items for 2012:

- Grand Avenue Improvements
- Loop 101/63rd Avenue Bike/Pedestrian Bridge status report (lighting, usage, maintenance)
- 75th Ave/Union Hills Traffic Light Study and proposed traffic studies.

X. NEXT MEETING DATE AND TIME

Meeting times are being targeted for 7:00 PM on the first Thursday of each month. The next meeting will be held on December 1, 2011 in Room B-3 in City Hall.

XI. ADJOURNMENT

Chair DeFranco adjourned the meeting at 8:35 PM

Allan DeFranco, Chair