



**Urban Transportation Commission  
Meeting Minutes**

**Regular Meeting  
12 November 2013**

The Urban Transportation Commission convened in a regular meeting on November 12, 2013 at the Boards and Commissions Room located at 303 West 2<sup>nd</sup> Street, Room 1101, Austin, Texas

Chair Highsmith called the Commission Meeting to order at 6:03 p.m.

**Commission Members in Attendance:**

Meredith Highsmith - Chair  
Boone Blocker – Vice Chair  
Jace Deloney  
Richard MacKinnon  
Mark Gilbert  
Dustin Lanier

**Commission Members Absent:**

Stanton Truxillo

**Staff in Attendance:**

Gordon Derr                      Carlton Thomas                      Steve Grassfield  
Joana Perez

**1. APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

The minutes from the 09/10/13 were approved on Commissioner Deloney motion and Commissioner Blocker second, on a 5/0/1/1 vote, with Commissioner Truxillo absent and Commissioner Highsmith abstaining.

**Ayes:**                      Blocker, Gilbert, Lanier, MacKinnon, Deloney  
**Nays:**                      None  
**Abstain:**                      Highsmith  
**Absent:**                      Truxillo

The minutes from the 10/08/13 were approved on Commissioner Blocker motion and Commissioner Gilbert second, with corrections on page 3, Item 7, indicating the meeting was adjourned by Vice-Chair Blocker and not Commissioner MacKinnon, on a 4/0/2/1 vote, with Commissioner Truxillo absent and Commissioner Deloney and MacKinnon abstaining.

**Ayes:**                      Blocker, Gilbert, Lanier, Highsmith  
**Nays:**                      None  
**Abstain:**                      Deloney and MacKinnon  
**Absent:**                      Truxillo

There were three citizens' that voiced their concerns about the taxi cab franchises not communicating to their drivers, the system that powers the meters is always failing especially during special events, and the need for taxi cab drivers to become employees rather than contractors.

### 3. NEW BUSINES

#### A. Austin's Text Messaging Law

Ms. Bianca Bentzin, Division Chief with the Law Department of the City of Austin provided an overview of the current text messaging laws and the need to expand the ordinance to address electronic devices as opposed to limiting to wireless communication devices, have more detailed definitions regarding the unsafe and illegal conduct, and consider passing a "hands free" law. Mr. Scott Johnson strongly supports the expansion of the current text messaging law.

#### B. Paid On-Street Parking at Toomey Road and Lee Barton Road

Mr. Steve Grassfield, Parking Enterprise Manager with the Austin Transportation Department presented an overview of the current findings from the survey of on street parking occupancy, community outreach process from stakeholders meetings, proposed staff recommendation and memo to Council on staff recommendation with a timeline to finish the project. City Staff will install paid-on street parking in the Toomey Road area and on Lee Barton Road with three hour maximum time limit and with the same paid on street parking hours as downtown with 30% of revenue set aside to complete the sidewalk system in both areas.

On Commissioner Gilbert motion, Commissioner Deloney second with Commissioner MacKinnon abstained and Commissioner Truxillo absent the motion passed on a 5/0/1/1 vote.

**Ayes:** Blocker, Gilbert, Lanier, Highsmith, Deloney  
**Nays:** None  
**Abstain:** MacKinnon  
**Absent:** Truxillo

#### C. Hotel Courtesy/Hotel Shuttle Vehicles

Mr. Carlton Thomas presented a background overview of the current requirements of courtesy vehicles. After meeting with stakeholders consensus was achieved and two new ground transportation categories are being recommended: Hotel Courtesy Vehicles and Hotel Shuttles. Staff will present recommendations to the Austin City Council for approval on the November 21<sup>st</sup> council agenda.

On Commissioner Blocker motion, Commissioner Gilbert second with Commissioner Truxillo absent the motion passed on a 6/0/0/1 vote.

**Ayes:** Blocker, Gilbert, Lanier, Highsmith, MacKinnon, Deloney  
**Nays:** None  
**Abstain:** None  
**Absent:** Truxillo

**D. 2014 Meeting Schedule**

On Commissioner Lanier motion, Commissioner Deloney second with Commissioner Truxillo absent the motion passed on a 6/0/0/1 vote.

**Ayes:** Blocker, Gilbert, Lanier, Highsmith, Deloney, MacKinnon  
**Nays:** None  
**Abstain:** None  
**Absent:** Truxillo

**4. OLD BUSINESS**

**A. Project Connect**

Mr. Kyle Keahey provided an overview of the projected work plans, public involvement, and sub-corridor evaluation. Currently Project Connect is in the evaluation process. Mr. Steven Knapp addressed his support in the process but feels the process has been very rapid and the neighborhood associations want to be heard.

**5. STAFF AND COMMITTEE REPORTS**

**A. Bike/Ped Committee** – Commissioners designated volunteers to attend the BAC and PAC meetings and report back to the Commission. Commissioner Truxillo will attend the BAC and Commissioner Deloney will attend the PAC with Commissioner Gilbert as an alternant.

**B. CSAC** – No update

**A. Downtown Commission** – No update

**B. CAMPO** – Meeting will be next week.

**C. Project Connect** – Monthly updates

**D. Transportation Network Companies (TNC)**

**6. FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS**

- Bike Master Plan Update
- Day Lease Taxi Issue Permits
- Transportation Criteria Manual Update
- Text Messaging Update
- IH 35 Pedestrian Crossing
- Project Connect Update
- 2040 Campo Status Update

**7. ADJOURNMENT**

Chair Highsmith adjourned the meeting at 8:32 p.m. without objection.

Approved Minutes



---

Urban Transportation Commission

The City of Austin is committed to compliance with the American with Disabilities Act. Reasonable modifications and equal access to communications will be provided upon request. Meeting locations are planned with wheelchair access. If requiring Sign Language Interpreters or alternative formats, please give notice at least 4 days before the meeting date. Please call Joana Perez at the Austin Transportation Department, at 974-5677, for additional information; TTY users route through Relay Texas at 711.