



**Urban Transportation Commission
Meeting Minutes**

**Regular Meeting
10 June 2014**

The Urban Transportation Commission convened in a regular meeting on June 10, 2014 at 301 West 2nd Street, Room 1029, Austin, Texas

Vice-Chair Blocker called the Commission Meeting to order at 6:00 p.m.

Commission Members in Attendance:

Boone Blocker – Vice Chair
Jace Deloney
Richard MacKinnon
Stanton Truxillo
Mark Gilbert
Dustin Lanier

Commission Members Absent:

Meredith Highsmith – Chair

Staff in Attendance:

Gordon Derr Samantha Alexander Steve Grassfield
Eva Moore Joana Perez

1. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

The minutes from the 04/08/14 were approved on Commissioner Truxillo motion and Commissioner Blocker second with Commissioner Gilbert abstaining, the motion passed on a 5/0/1/1 vote with Commissioners Highsmith absent.

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

The minutes from the 05/13/14 were approved with corrections on item E to add that “we strongly encourage the inclusion of bus priority lanes in the corridors where they were left out” and on item C “the need to have an additional meeting for SXSW on July’s agenda,” on Commissioner Truxillo motion and Commissioner Blocker second, the motion passed on a 6/0/0/1 vote with Commissioners Highsmith absent.

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

2. CITIZENS COMMUNICATION: GENERAL

None

3. NEW BUSINES

A. Paid Parking in the Walsh Landing Area – Briefing and Possible Action

Mr. Steve Grassfield, Parking Enterprise Manager with the Austin Transportation Department provided an update on paid parking in the Walsh Landing Area. Paid Parking on-street parking would be from 8:00a.m. to Midnight, Monday thru Sunday with a 5 hour maximum and will begin June 23rd. The purpose of this effort is for better utilization of spaces, easier for customers and visitors to find parking, reduce the cruising (vehicles that are looking for parking), provide revenue to maintain the parking lots in the future, and to promote trailers to park at the surface lots rather than the street. Mr. Blake Tallett a member of the West Austin Neighborhood Group spoke in favor of the parking changes that will take effect and feels this is greatly needed. Commissioner Lanier and MacKinnon requested a friendly amendment to the recommendation that the 5 hours maximum be extended to the longest possible time.

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

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

B. F#9325-1401 Partial Vacation of the Alley between West 26th and West 27th Streets and between Whitis Avenue and University Avenue – Discussion and Possible Action

Mr. Eric Hammack, Property Agent Senior for The office of Real Estate, presented a request for a partial vacation of the alley between West 26th and West 27th Street and between Whitis Avenue and University Avenue (Adjacent to 209 West 27th Street). It has been through departmental and utility franchise stake holder review, has been recommended for approval with the one approval subject to relocation of AT&T facilities at developer expense if applicable. Commissioner Gilbert requested that in the future they are provided with a satellite image of the area.

On Commissioner Truxillo motion, Commissioner Lanier second with Commissioner MacKinnon abstaining and Commissioner Highsmith absent, the motion passed on a 5/0/1/1 vote.

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

C. City of Austin Electric Vehicle Program – Discussion and Possible Action

Mr. Karl Popham, Manager of the Electric Vehicles and Emerging Team with Austin Energy, presented an overview of the strategic vision, recognition and rewards, plug in vehicles on the road today, a cleaner cost effective choice, price stability vs. gasoline, electric fuel pumps, key programs, growth, adoption curves, federal grants, managed networks and the city resolution to work with citizen stakeholders and the Urban Transportation Commission to develop a recommendation for resolving the issue of non-electric vehicles parked at electric vehicle charging stations on public property. Mr. Don Vogler with EV Limo spoke in favor of the signage and suggested that the time limit on the charging stations should be 3 hours and there should be a meter maid.

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

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

4. OLD BUSINESS

A. Project Connect

Mr. Kyle Keahey, Urban Rail Project Lead with HNTB, provided a Project Connect update and over view of the central corridor study, the recommended locally preferred alternatives, and the recommendation going before Council on June 26, 2014. Mr. Dave Dobbs and Mr. Lyndon Henry spoke against the project connect plan. Mr. Dobbs feels that the project connect plan is over built, overpriced and not very cost effective. Mr. Henry feels there are three huge problems with Project Connect's proposal 1. It spends 1.4 billion dollars to put urban rail in the wrong place, 2. It will hinder and constrain future rail development and 3. A vote for this flawed plan is also a vote to permanentize lower capacity metro rapid bus services in our strongest densest travel corridor Guadalupe and Lamar. The UTC made two recommendations: recommends giving additional consideration to the BRT final alternative in consideration on whatever they are going to do; UTC recommends they dually consider the previous explored BRT option.

The Project Connect recommendation passed on Commissioner MacKinnon motion, Commissioner Truxillo second, Commissioners Gilbert and Deloney voting against and Commissioner Highsmith absent, the motion passed on a 4/2/0/1 vote.

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

The UTC amended recommendation passed on Commissioner Gilbert motion, Commissioner Deloney second with Commissioners MacKinnon and Truxillo voting against and Commissioner Highsmith absent, the motion passed on a 4/2/0/1 vote.

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

There was discussion to have a SXSU Update prior to going to Council.

5. STAFF AND COMMITTEE REPORTS

A. Approval of the UTC Bylaws after Audit and Finance Committee Review – Discussion and Possible Action

On Commissioner Blocker motion, Commissioner Truxillo second, Commissioner MacKinnon abstaining, and Commissioners Highsmith absent, the motion passed on a 5/0/1/1 vote.

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

- B. **CSAC** – There was discussion on capital projects, project connect, transition from bus service from Congress to Guadalupe/Lavaca, Metro Rapid Route 1 and service changes.
- C. **Downtown Commission** - There was discussion about the removal of this commission and replacing it with a 7 person committee of Zoning and Plating and Planning Commission Members.
- D. **CAMPO** – There was discussion to select a new executive director by the end of the month.
- E. **BAC/PAC** – For the BAC there was discussion of APD’s relationship with the BAC and a proposal for BAC to endorse the complete streets program, urban trails and bicycle master plans. There will be a vote at the next meeting.
For the PAC there was discussion of a passed resolution in support of a sub-division case for street connectivity and complete streets policy. PAC has also identified two sub-committees the land development code recommendations and safety and enforcement sub-committee.
- F. **TNC Committee** – Council passed a resolution to create a TNC Working Group with the first meeting on June 11th. The resolution states that within 90 days to have a status report and in 180 days to develop a frame work for a potential pilot for the TNC’s. There was no update for the TNC Committee until after they meet on June 17, 2014.
- G. **Taxi Cab Task Force** – There was discussion on the utilization of existing permit factor, several points of input from the franchise and drivers and more items will be discussed from the council resolution.

6. FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS

- Text Messaging Update
- IH 35 Pedestrian Crossing
- Project Connect Update
- 2040 Campo Status Update
- Distractive Driver Task Force
- SXSW Update

7. ADJOURNMENT

Vice-Chair Blocker adjourned the meeting at 9:05 p.m. without objection.

Approved Minutes


Urban Transportation Commission

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