



**Urban Transportation Commission
Meeting Minutes**

**Regular Meeting
12 August 2014**

The Urban Transportation Commission convened in a regular meeting on August 12, 2014 at 301 West 2nd Street, Room 1029, Austin, Texas

Chair Highsmith called the Commission Meeting to order at 6:01 p.m.

Commission Members in Attendance:

Meredith Highsmith – Chair
Boone Blocker – Vice Chair
Jace Deloney
Richard MacKinnon
Stanton Truxillo
Dustin Lanier

Commission Members Absent:

Mark Gilbert

Staff in Attendance:

Gordon Derr
Joana Perez
Samantha Alexander
Jason Redfern

1. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

The minutes from the 07/08/14 were approved on Commissioner Truxillo motion and Commissioner Deloney second with Commissioner Blocker abstaining, the motion passed on a 5/0/1/1 vote with Commissioner Gilbert absent.

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

2. CITIZENS COMMUNICATION: GENERAL

Mr. Alex Crosby with DD Buddy Mobile App discussed a new mobile application that will change the way Austinites get home after they have been drinking. The mobile application offers rewards to people for getting their friends home safely.

Mr. David Whitte, a member of the DAP of Texas and a member of the Taxi Cab Task Force, voiced his concerns about ways to improve taxi cab accessibility for individuals in wheel chairs.

3. NEW BUSINES

A. F# 9268-1310 Vacation of an unconstructed Alley between East 3rd and East 4th Streets – Discussion and Possible Action

Mr. Eric Hammack, Property Agent Senior with the Office of Real Estate Services, presented a request for a vacation of an unconstructed alley between East 3rd and East 4th Streets. City Council passed a resolution instructing the City Manager to consider the relevant Imagine Austin Comprehensive Plan Priority Programs and Policy Directives for Right of Way Vacations and Right of Way Encroachments.

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

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

B. Special Events Ordinance Update – Discussion and Possible Action

Mr. Bill Manno, Corporate Special Events Program Manager with the Austin Center for Events Liaison, provided an update on Resolution No. 20140417-054, Activate Urban Streetscape which allows business flexibility, product marketing and beautify shopping area, to protect public safety and preserve historic character. There were a few corrections to the resolution made by the Commissioners that were dually noted. Ms. Gail Romney with Ballet Austin and Mr. David King would like to see more examples of where current special events are bucketed in this new proposed tier system, the notification process is more clearly outlined in this ordinance and allow more time for citizens to voice their input. A Special Events item will be posted on September’s agenda to allow for public comment.
No Action Taken.

C. Sidewalk Signs and Displays – Discussion and Possible Action

Mr. Jason Redfern, Right of Way Division Manager with the Austin Transportation Department, and Mr. Viktor Auzenne Planner 1 with the Planning and Development Review Department, discussed the purpose for sidewalk signs and displays; the amendment to the City Ordinance as suggested by City Council; the current display criteria and the proposed code revisions. Ms. Molly Alexander with the Downtown Austin Alliance is in support of the changes being made to the code.

On Commissioner Truxillo motion, Commissioner Deloney second with Commissioner Gilbert absent, the motion passed with corrections to part 2B (2A) to show that the sign must not narrow the sidewalk to less than 6 feet in width, on a 6/0/0/1 vote.

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

D. Text Messaging and Distracted Driver Update – Discussion and Possible Action

Ms. Samantha Alexander, Public Information and Marketing Manager with the Austin Transportation Department, provided an update on the distracted driver study group which

included a memo to the Mayor and Council Members which stated that the new ordinance should make it illegal to use a portable electronic device by hand while operating a motor vehicle or bicycle on a publicly traveled road or in a parking lot, along with other recommendations. Commissioner Lanier suggested the definitions on portable electronic device, use and hands free be more clearly defined.

No Action Taken.

2. OLD BUSINESS

A. TNC Working Group Update – Discussion and Possible Action

Mr. Gordon Derr, Assistant Director with the Austin Transportation Department, provided an update on the TNC Working Group that was set up per City Council direction. The overview covered the background, meeting dates, the UTC Sub-Committee recommendations, driver and passenger safety, data and insurance requirements, and future topics. Mr. Eric Goff is in favor of the TNC and encourages the UTC to sponsor a resolution to speed along the process and create a framework in order for the TNC's to legally operate.

No Action Taken.

3. STAFF AND COMMITTEE REPORTS

A. CSAC – No Update

B. Downtown Commission – No update

C. CAMPO – No Update

D. BAC/PAC –BAC-There was discussion on the Distracted Study Group and its proposed ordinance should not apply to bicycles, bicycle projects, Bergstrom update, Pleasant Valley and Longhorn Bridge bike lane, proposal to remove the bike lanes from Nueces since there is a new facility on Guadalupe and Lavaca, and the Bicycle Master Plan goes to Council in the next month or so. PAC-No Update.

E. TNC Committee – Commissioner Highsmith is Chair of the TNC Committee and Commissioners MacKinnon and Truxillo were selected to attend the meetings.

F. Taxi Cab Task Force – Most of the issues from Council were discussed, and September 8th will be the next meeting.

G. Staff Update- Staff reminded the Commissioners of the next meeting date since it is not the normal date that was approved by the Audit and Finance Commission.

4. FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS

- a. IH 35 Pedestrian Crossing
- b. 2040 Campo Status Update
- c. Distractive Driver Task Force
- d. SXSW Update
- e. Special Event Update
- f. Text Messaging Future Update

5. ADJOURNMENT

Chair Highsmith adjourned the meeting at 8:16 p.m. without objection.

Approved Minutes 
Urban Transportation Commission

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