



Urban Transportation Commission Meeting Minutes

**Regular Meeting
08 March 2011**

The Urban Transportation Commission convened in a regular meeting on 8, March, 2011 at the Boards and Commissions Room located at 303 West 2nd Street, Room 1101, Austin, Texas.

Commission Members in Attendance:

Dustin Lanier –Chair
Boone Blocker
Allen Demling
Dana Lockler
Richard MacKinnon

Commission Members Absent:

Sheila Holbrook-White – Vice Chair
Eileen Schaubert

Staff in Attendance:

Gordon Derr	Karla Villalon	Scott Gross
Gilda Powers	Steve Grassfield	Joe Tower
Sid Cardona		

Chair Lanier called the Commission meeting to order at 6:10 p.m.

1. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

The minutes from the 02/08/2011 meeting were approved on Commissioner Demling motion, Commissioner MacKinnon second, on a 4/0/1/2 vote, with Commissioner Lockler abstaining, and Commissioners Holbrook-White and Schaubert absent.

Ayes: Lanier, Blocker, Demling, MacKinnon
Nays: None
Abstain: Lockler
Absent: Holbrook-White, Schaubert

2. CITIZENS COMMUNICATION: GENERAL

Citizen Hannah Riddexing spoke about the need for more hybrid taxicabs in Austin.

3. NEW BUSINESS

A. Downtown Austin Plan – Briefing and Possible Action

Mr. Jim Robertson, Manager with Urban Design Division of the Planning and Development Review Department gave a detailed presentation and a general overview of the Downtown Austin Plan, explained some of the recommendations, and provided a brief summary of the major transportation elements of the Plan. Citizen Tom Wald spoke on behalf of the League of Bicycle Voters and read a recommendation prepared by the League that contained some suggestions and requests for changes to the Plan. **No Action Taken.**

B. Amendment to requirements for Pedicabs and Electric Low Speed Vehicle Services and equipment – Discussion and Possible Action

Mr. Steve Grassfield, Parking Enterprise Manager and Gordon Derr, Assistant Director with the Austin Transportation Department gave a brief presentation about the amendments to requirements for Pedicabs and Electric Low Speed Vehicles Services and equipment staff will be presenting to Council. The Commissioners discussed the two issues at length and heard comments from several citizens, some against and some in favor of the new requirements. Commissioner MacKinnon made a motion to support staff recommendation for both ordinances. Chair Lanier seconded the motion. After discussion and the addition of four friendly amendments to the original motion that included allowing pedicabs to park on non street parking spaces; improve braking test for safety and to avoid jack knifing of the pedicabs; amend the City Code Section 13-2-277 (A) to read “A pedicab driver shall comply with the traffic laws and regulations that apply to motor vehicles *and bicycles*.” and, revise the map area to establish boundaries of operation independently for Pedicabs and Electric Low Speed Vehicles (LSV), with LSV’s limited to operation in the entertainment district of downtown as a pilot, the motion was approved on a 5/0/2 vote with Commissioners Holbrook-White and Schaubert absent.

Ayes: Lanier, Blocker, Demling, Lockler, MacKinnon

Nays: None

Abstain: None

Absent: Holbrook-White, Schaubert

C. Urban Rail Scoping - Briefing

Mr. Scott Gross, Engineer with the Strategic Mobility Plan and Urban Rail Program of the Austin Transportation Department, gave a detailed presentation that included the process, scope of work, and next steps of the Urban Rail program. Austin Transportation Department staff will continue to brief the UTC at future meetings with the progress of this important project. **No Action Taken.**

- On Commissioner MacKinnon motion, Commissioner Demling second, on a 5/0/2 vote, with Commissioners Holbrook-White and Schaubert absent, the motion to continue the meeting past 10:00 p.m. was approved.

4. OLD BUSINESS

None

5. STAFF AND COMMITTEE REPORTS

- a) Staff Briefings – None
- b) Bicycle and Pedestrian Committee - None
- c) Downtown Commission – None
- d) CAMPO – None
- e) SCIP / East Riverside Corridor – Commissioner Lockler said there was a meeting on February 26th to discuss the components of the East Riverside Corridor Plan. Additionally, he informed of some improvements at the intersection of East Live Oak and South Congress as part of the South Congress Improvements Project.
- f) CSAC – None

- g) Joint Subcommittee of the UTC and DC – Commissioner MacKinnon reported the Subcommittee held a total of seven meetings about Extended Hours Recommendation. There were twelve changes suggested. A more detailed briefing will be provided at a future meeting.

6. FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS

- Urban Rail Update –
 - o National Environmental impact of Rail - Scoping
 - o Alternatives for Urban Rail
- South Congress Improvements Updated
- Extended Hours / Valet / Commercial Zones, - Report
- Economic impact due to street closures in downtown
- Residential Parking Program – Final Recommendation
 - o RPP mixed with meters
- Neighborhood Traffic Calming Program (LATM) - May
- Implementation of Projects
- Special Events revision/changes to the Ordinance and Rules
 - o Conflict between City Departments that sponsor events
- Car2go update – Zip Cars vs. Car2go
- Extended Parking Hours Report from Subcommittee
- Downtown Austin Plan – Update
- Casa de Luz Parking
- Extra Permits for Pedicabs

7. ADJOURNMENT

Chair Lanier adjourned the meeting at 10:08 p.m. without objection

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