



Tucson Transit Advisory Committee
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Pursuant to A.R.S. § 38-431.02, notice is hereby given to the members of the Mayor and Council Tucson Transit Advisory Committee and to the general public that the Mayor and Council Tucson Transit Advisory Committee will hold the following meeting which will be open to the public on:

**MAYOR AND COUNCIL TUCSON TRANSIT ADVISORY COMMITTEE
MONDAY, DECEMBER 4, 2023 AT 3:00 P.M. MEETING**

MEETING MINUTES

1. Call to Order/Roll Call– 3:10 PM

Those present were:

Those absent were:

Members

- ✓ Riley Merline Ward 1 Chairman
- ✓ Lisa Shipek Ward 2
- ✓ Suzanne Schafer Ward 3
- ✓ Margot Garcia Ward 6
- ✓ Nicole Feldt City Manager
- ✓ Gene Caywood City Manager
- ✓ Mike Milczarek City Manager

Members

- ✗ Kevin Hampton Ward 4

Others

Allen Benz, Tucson Bus Riders Union, Public
Michael Barton, HDR, Public
James Castaneda, City of Tucson
Ian Sansom, City of Tucson
Rhett Crowninshield, City of Tucson
Monica Landgrave-Serrano, City of Tucson

- 2. No minutes to approve, transition from Tucson Task Force (TTF) to Tucson Transit Advisory Committee (TTAC).**
- 3. Call to the Audience (First)** Allen Benz mentioned the bus driver on Route 8 handled a complicated situation that required cleaning and disinfecting the bus with professionalism and care for everyone involved.
- 4. TTF Member Check-In with Appointees** None of the members had information to report.
- 5. Complete Streets Coordinating Council (CSCC) Update** Riley Merline mentioned the Bilby Road Project that one of two proposed options was selected by the CSCC and that the project is moving forward. The project website is the following:
<https://tucsondelivers.tucsonaz.gov/pages/bilby-road-complete-street>.

Riley also talked about the Safe Streets Mini Grant, which is now receiving applications from community groups. More information can be viewed on the following link:
<https://tucsondelivers.tucsonaz.gov/pages/safe-streets-mini-grant-program>.

6. **Plan Tucson Update** Suzanne Schafer shared the vision and challenges identified by the Transportation, Mobility, and Access Working Group:



VISIONS

ENHANCED PEDESTRIAN EXPERIENCE

Improve pedestrian infrastructure, including wider sidewalks and shade, to provide a safe and comfortable experience for all pedestrians.

COMPLETE STREETS FOR ALL AGES

Design streets that cater to all ages, from 8 to 80, by considering different modes of transportation and creating a safe environment for pedestrians, cyclists and drivers.

ACCESSIBLE AND CONNECTED MOBILITY

Create a well-connected transportation network that allows easy access for all residents without the need for a personal vehicle, emphasizing inclusivity and accessibility.

TRANSIT-ORIENTED DEVELOPMENT (TOD)

Encourage development around transit hubs to promote public transportation use and create walkable, mixed-use communities.

DIVERSE MOBILITY CHOICES

Offer a variety of transportation options beyond automobiles, such as biking, walking and public transit, to reduce reliance on single-occupancy vehicles.

AFFORDABLE AND FREE TRANSIT

Ensure low-cost or no-cost transit options to encourage public transit use and make transportation accessible to all socioeconomic groups.

PEDESTRIAN AND CYCLIST SAFETY

Prioritize pedestrian safety, especially at busy intersections, and create dedicated cycling lanes to improve safety for non-motorized road users.

ZERO TRAFFIC-RELATED FATALITIES

Strive for a transportation system with zero traffic-related fatalities, prioritizing safety for all road users.

SUSTAINABLE TRANSPORTATION

Work towards a significant reduction or elimination of carbon emissions from personal transportation, promoting sustainability and environmental consciousness.

ENHANCED GREEN INFRASTRUCTURE

Increase green spaces, especially in economically disadvantaged areas, to enhance the city's aesthetics, sustainability and overall quality of life.

CHALLENGES

CAR-CENTRIC CULTURE

Shifting away from a car-centric culture to promote alternative modes of transportation and reduce dependency on automobiles.

INADEQUATE FUNDING AND RESOURCES

Addressing the challenge of insufficient funding and resources to implement comprehensive transportation projects and improvements.

COMMUNITY OPPOSITION TO CHANGE

Overcoming resistance and opposition from the community, especially regarding changes in road infrastructure, parking and mobility options.

POLICY AND LEGISLATIVE HURDLES

Navigating legislative and policy challenges at the state and federal levels that limit transit and planning options.

BALANCING GROWTH WITH SUSTAINABILITY

Finding a balance between accommodating urban growth and sustainability goals, especially in terms of road widening and sprawl.

ENSURING EQUITY AND INCLUSION

Ensuring that transportation planning is inclusive and addresses the needs of marginalized and vulnerable communities, including accessibility and safety concerns.

LIMITED PUBLIC TRANSIT ACCESS

Addressing the limited availability and accessibility of public transit, especially during off-peak hours and in certain areas.

RESISTANCE TO ACTIVE TRANSPORTATION

Overcoming resistance and negative perceptions toward active transportation modes such as walking and cycling.

INFRASTRUCTURE AND DESIGN CHALLENGES

Addressing design and infrastructure challenges, such as retrofitting existing roads for multi-modal use and integrating green spaces into transportation planning.

TRAFFIC SAFETY AND ENFORCEMENT

Enhancing traffic safety, reducing red light running and improving enforcement to create safer streets for all road users.



7. Comprehensive Operational Analysis (COA) Update and TTAC Feedback

James Castaneda gave an update on the extended timeline with a final round of outreach in January 2024 in anticipation of a formal Study Session presentation to Mayor and Council in February 2024. He also explained that they heard concerns about some of the route changes so the team adjusted their recommendations based on the public's input. For example, routes 1, 3, and 5 will not be removed from the network.

8. Tucson Rapid Transit Update and TTAC Feedback

Ian Sansom shared information regarding the Tucson Rapid Transit Project, as well as the advantages and disadvantages of the alignment options, which are Stone Ave and Oracle Road. For more information, please visit the following link: <https://tucsonrapidtransit.com/>.

Gene Caywood proposed a motion to recommend Stone Avenue as the Locally Preferred Alternative for BRT. Mike Milczarek seconded the motion. Lisa Shipek, Suzanne Schafer, and Nicole Feldt were in favor of the motion and Margot Garcia and Riley Merline abstained from voting.

9. Meeting Format Discussion (Virtual vs In-Person)

Meetings will continue to be held in-person for the foreseeable future.

10. Vote for Vice-Chair

Mike Milczarek proposed a motion to nominate Suzanne Schafer as vice-chair. Riley Merline seconded the motion, and all were in favor.

11. Member Attendance Check (Clerk's Office)

This item was not discussed, it will be pushed back for a later meeting.

12. Call to the Audience (Second) As a member of the public, Allen Benz expressed his support for Stone Avenue as the Locally Preferred Alternative.

13. Possible Future Agenda Items

- Comprehensive Operational Analysis (COA) and TTAC Feedback
- Tucson Rapid Transit and TTAC Feedback

14. Future Meeting Dates

- The next meeting will take place on Monday, January 8th, 2024 because the first Monday of the month is a holiday.

15. Adjournment- 4:45 pm