



Urban Transportation Commission Meeting Minutes

**Regular Meeting
9 February 2010**

The Urban Transportation Commission convened in a regular meeting on 9 February 2010 at the Boards and Commissions Room located at 303 West 2nd Street, Room 1101, Austin, Texas.

Chair MacKinnon called the Commission meeting to order at 6:15 p.m.

Commission Members in Attendance:

Richard MacKinnon – Chair
Dustin Lanier – Vice Chair
Boone Blocker
Allen Demling
Sheila Holbrook-White
Dana Lockler
Eileen Schaubert

Commission Members Absent:

None

Staff in Attendance:

Howard Lazarus
Steve Grassfield
Scott Gross
Annick Beaudet
Betty Torres
Gilda Powers

1. CITIZENS COMMUNICATION: GENERAL

None

2. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

The minutes from the meeting of 01/12/2010 were approved on Commissioner Demling motion, Commissioner Schaubert second on a 6/1 vote, with Commissioners Holbrook-White abstaining.

3. NEW BUSINESS

A. Special Events

a. Mighty Texas Dog Walk – Appeal and Possible Action of the Special Event Ordinance, Chapter 14-8, Section 3

The Commissioners heard from City staff, promoters and the general public and after discussion and consideration on a motion by Commissioner Locker, Commissioner Blocker second, the item was tabled for a future meeting if case a compromise is not

met by all parties involved. The Commissioners asked everyone to work together to try and find a solution, but if need be, a special session will be called.

b. Statesman Capital 10,000 Race – Waiver of the Special Events Rules and Possible Action

A briefing was made by staff and the event promoter. The promoter asked for waivers of the Special Events Rules Section 2.01, closing of 5th and 6th Streets, and Section 2.03, preventing reasonable access as a result of a moving event. The Austin Transportation Department staff recommended approval of both rules with the proviso that promoter must ensure that enough advance warning is provided and a timeline is submitted to all parties involved in order to be consider for waivers on future dates. On Commissioner Lanier motion, Commissioner Holbrook-White second, with a 7/0 vote, the Urban Transportation Commission supports staff recommendation to waive the Special Events Rules for the Statesman Capital 10,000 Race.

4. OLD BUSINESS

A. Taxicab Rate Change – Update and Possible Action

Steve Grassfield, Acting Parking Enterprise Manager with the Austin Transportation Department gave an update. The Commissioners heard from taxicab franchises owners, taxicab drivers and staff and after discussion on Commissioner Lanier motion, Commissioner MacKinnon second, on a 7/0 vote the UTC recommended to the City Council to approve staff's recommendation for a taxicab fare increase and to direct staff to explore the concept of flat rates and the maximum / minimum fare to the two zones, CBD and UT, by engaging stakeholders in the decision process.

B. Nueces Bicycle Boulevard – Update and Possible Action

Mr. Howard Lazarus, Director, and Ms. Annick Beaudet, Project Manager with the Public Works Department made a presentation and gave an update on the proposed Nueces Bicycle Boulevard. Several citizens addressed the UTC and after discussion and several questions by Commissioners, a decision was made for staff to continue exploring solutions and to return in the near future with a proposal.

C. Strategic Mobility Program and Urban Rail - Update

A briefing was given by Mr. Scott Gross, Engineering with the Austin Transportation Department who provided a timeline for the Strategic Mobility Plan and the Urban Rail. These updates will be given monthly as the Austin Transportation Department continues to move forward towards including a possible bond package during the November 2010 elections.

The meeting extended past 10:00 p.m. on Commissioner Lanier motion, Commissioner Locker second, on a 7/0 vote.

STAFF AND COMMITTEE REPORTS

- Staff Briefings - None
- Downtown Commission – Commissioner Lanier said he would like to hear a presentation about the valet operations and also about the availability of public parking in the downtown area.

- Bicycle and Pedestrian Subcommittee – Commissioner Schaubert said the subcommittee met on January 25th and were briefed on some infrastructure projects and how bicycle projects are funded. At the March meeting they will be hearing about the Sidewalk Master Plan.
- CAMPO – Staff will gather more information on the recently adopted scenario of the CAMPO 2035 Plan.
- SCIP – Commissioner Lockler said that a rain guard will be installed on South Congress to collect some of the storm water. He also said that a survey will be sent to the South Congress area merchants and residents to find out if a Residential Parking Permit (RPP) is feasible.
- CSAC – Chair MacKinnon reported that the new Capital Metro fares went into effect in January and that Metro Rail will be in service sometime in March. Additionally he said the Federal government provided additional money to help with the funding of a Metro Rapid System that is now up to 80% funded.

6. FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS

- Special Events Appeals
- Pedicabs permits
- New Pay Stations update and comparison of revenue between both systems
- Update on Valet Parking Operation
- Parking Operation – Garages in Downtown
- Vehicles for Hire – Spaces available in the City
- Nueces Bicycle Boulevard Update
- Taxicab stands in the Entertainment District of downtown
- Update on CAMPO's 2035 Plan

7. ADJOURNMENT

Chair MacKinnon adjourned the meeting at 11:05 p.m. without objection.

Rich MacKinnon, Chair
Urban Transportation Commission

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