



**SUMMARIZED MINUTES**

**APPROVED**

**CITY OF SCOTTSDALE  
TRANSPORTATION COMMISSION  
PATHS & TRAILS SUBCOMMITTEE  
REGULAR MEETING**

**ONE CIVIC CENTER  
7447 E. INDIAN SCHOOL ROAD, SUITE 205  
SCOTTSDALE, AZ 85251**

**Tuesday, February 7, 2023**

**CALL TO ORDER**

The meeting of the Paths & Trails Subcommittee was called to order at 8:30 a.m. A formal roll call confirmed the presence of Subcommittee members as noted below.

**ROLL CALL**

**PRESENT:** Donald Anderson, Chair – Transportation Commission  
Kyle Davis, Subcommittee Member  
Maryann McAllen, Commissioner – Parks and Recreation Commission  
William Levie, Subcommittee Member  
B. Kent Lall, Commissioner – Transportation Commission

**STAFF:** Susan Conklu, Senior Transportation Planner  
Greg Davies, Senior Transportation Planner  
Nathan Domme, Senior Transportation Planner  
Cristina Lenko, Public Information Officer  
Kyle Lofgren, Staff Coordinator

**PUBLIC COMMENT**

There were no written or spoken public comments.

## **1. APPROVAL OF MEETING MINUTES**

Subcommittee Member Davis noted two corrections, the first is on page 3, paragraph 5, second sentence should read: Chair Anderson ... "putting a street crossing near the bridge over the canal in this location," in place of "putting a bridge over the canal." The second change is on page 4, section 4, paragraph 4 to add a period after Salt River Project.

COMMISSIONER MCALLEN MOVED TO APPROVE THE MINUTES OF THE DECEMBER 6, 2022, MEETING AS AMENDED. SUBCOMMITTEE MEMBER LEVIE SECONDED THE MOTION, WHICH CARRIED 5-0 WITH CHAIR ANDERSON, COMMISSIONERS LALL AND MCALLEN, AND SUBCOMMITTEE MEMBERS DAVIS AND LEVIE VOTING IN THE AFFIRMATIVE WITH NO DISSENTING VOTES.

## **2. APPROVAL OF 2022 ANNUAL REPORT**

SUBCOMMITTEE MEMBER DAVIS MOVED TO APPROVE THE 2022 ANNUAL REPORT. COMMISSIONER LALL SECONDED THE MOTION, WHICH CARRIED 5-0 WITH CHAIR ANDERSON, COMMISSIONERS LALL AND MCALLEN, AND SUBCOMMITTEE MEMBERS DAVIS AND LEVIE VOTING IN THE AFFIRMATIVE WITH NO DISSENTING VOTES.

## **3. TRAIL MAINTENANCE PUBLIC OUTREACH PROGRAM**

Susan Conklu, Senior Transportation Planner, provided an update on trail maintenance and an overview of the public outreach program being developed. There are 153 miles of unpaved trails within the City right-of-way or on public easements through private property. A trail maintenance communication plan has been in the works for some time using observations and public feedback.

Trail maintenance is governed by Scottsdale Revised Code, Chapter 47, Section 47-47, which requires that the owner of property adjacent to the right-of-way shall conduct routine property maintenance to keep that property and the adjacent right-of-way in an orderly and safe condition. The owner of property adjacent to the right-of-way shall maintain the property so that it does not interfere with public uses of the right-of-way. Citizens and staff may report any issues, such as obstructions and excessive vegetation through ScottsdaleEZ, which is a great mechanism to track and evaluate trail maintenance. Information related to trail maintenance can be found within the Scottsdale Design Standards and Policies Manual. There is a minimum 10-foot overhead clearance, although 12 feet is desired, and three feet on either side of the trail should have nothing taller than three feet.

The Transportation Action Plan (TAP) was adopted by City Council on April 26, 2022, and contains goals, policies, and performance measures relating to trail maintenance.

- ▶ Goal: to educate the public about the easements and maintenance responsibility associated with the trail network.
- ▶ Policy: coordinate with landowners regarding trail obstructions, removal of obstructions, and/or realignment of the trail if necessary.
- ▶ Performance: to measure and track the miles of trails that have been rehabilitated each year, which allows progress to be tracked.

Trail Maintenance Outreach Plan includes:

- ▶ Staff refining the components and schedule for the outreach program.
- ▶ This is the first development of an outreach plan, and it is a learning process.

- ▶ Staff met with Code Enforcement; Citizen Services, which manages ScottsdaleEZ, Communications and Scottsdale Video Network staff.

The last trail inventory was completed in 2012 and a current inventory of trails and trail maintenance conditions occurred between January and July 2022. With the use of current technology, staff were able to document real-time specific data. Common observations included vegetation overgrown, trail hard to see, trail sign faded, and man-made obstructions. The number and mileage of parcels adjacent to trails is also documented. 63 percent of these trails are in HOAs and commercial properties. City-owned or public agency properties account for 16 percent of the miles. Individual property owner parcels account for 21 percent of the miles, and is the group the City seeks to educate. A trail maintenance web page has been developed to explain the responsibilities of adjacent homeowners and provides a link to the interactive map showing trails, paths, bike lanes, and parks.

Presentations and updates provided to commissions include:

- ▶ June 7, 2022, Paths and Trails Subcommittee
- ▶ June 16, 2022, Transportation Commission
- ▶ June 2022, created a request form in ScottsdaleEZ that encompasses multiple things including the trail maintenance link
- ▶ October 26, 2022, Neighborhood Advisory Commission that includes many HOA representatives
- ▶ November 16, 2022, Parks and Recreation Commission

Feedback from the presentations included suggestions on how to get the word out, such as using different groups and realtors to provide an understanding of homeowner responsibilities.

Next Steps:

- ▶ Publicize: using Web article, social media, utility insert, Scottsdale Update Spring 2023
- ▶ Targeted Outreach from Transportation: Conduct a pilot outreach area through a neighbourhood trail maintenance meeting in March. A pilot project will be conducted with HOAs, commercial, and individual property owners in April or May.
- ▶ Continue sending issues to Code Enforcement as needed because Transportation would receive any complaints first.
- ▶ Work with the on-call contractor to assist with trail maintenance and determine resources and money used to complete tasks. This will aid in annual planning and prioritizing City trail maintenance.
- ▶ Create a video in April 2023, that contains this information to be publicized on the web page, Scottsdale Video Network, and YouTube channel.
- ▶ Continue to evaluate the programs success and impacts on the trail network.

Over the next several years there will be a major visible change to the appearance of trails and helping people know where to go to use them. The best way to maintain any trail is by using it.

Greg Davies, Senior Transportation Planner, stated an adopt-a-trail campaign has been discussed, but they are trying to determine if their time is better spent getting information out and communicating with property owners.

In response to Commissioner and Subcommittee Member questions, Ms. Conklu stated they do not have an automated system at this time, but can look into and communicate appropriately with property owners adjacent to the trail system. The adopt-a-trail conversation predated most of this work, and further discussions were incorporated into the communication plan development.

Mr. Davies stated the trail network in Scottsdale is a huge asset; maintaining it has been a major challenge. Staff is still considering how best to notify property owners of their responsibilities. The adopt-a-trail program is something that needs to be further investigated and hopefully implemented as a way to engage the community in trail maintenance. As part of a pilot project City staff cleaned up the Hayden and Cactus trails to show what the trail should look like based on code ordinances. Generally a few complaints, mostly related to sidewalks, are filed through ScottsdaleEZ. He undertook to provide updated statistics at the next meeting. The water bill is a great way to communicate because the message will be short and sweet.

Commissioner McAllen made several suggestions for marketing the trail maintenance, such as emailing the link through neighborhood services, post it next to parks with trail maps, the Lifestyles Magazine, and open houses for new developments.

Commissioner Lall suggested working with the Rotary Interact Club and other organizations to get assistance with the proposed adopt-a-trail program.

#### **4. ELECTRIC BICYCLES, SCOOTERS, AND SIMILAR DEVICES**

Susan Conklu, Senior Transportation Planner, provided some background on when the electric bicycles and scooters first started appearing in Scottsdale. A working group headed by the City Manager's Office developed regulations in 2018 based on complaints and observations only, as they had no best practices in place from other cities. City Council adopted an ordinance in November 2018 for bicycles and related devices, including electric bicycles and scooters, but asked staff to prepare a data report once regulations were in place.

ScottsdaleEZ was developed in March 2019 as the mechanism for filing complaints and issuing tickets. The five companies in Scottsdale have been very receptive to the use of ScottsdaleEZ and keep City staff informed of personnel changes.

Regulations limit how many devices can be parked in one location, which eliminates grouping issues, the length of time they can be there, it requires at least 200 feet spacing of other devices, and restricted areas for staging, parking, and riding. In January 2021, the Transportation Commission took over managing the regulations to keep them consistent with other transportation-related rules, and proposed to prohibit riding electric bicycles, scooters, or regular bicycles on the sidewalks in safety zones. Additional regulations implemented included limited hours of usage, mandatory parking in bike racks or designated zones, and working on parental permission for underage users. Concerns have been raised regarding the regulations and felt it was regulating people's lives too much. City Council directed staff to revise the regulations and report back.

Discussions continue regarding application fees and licensing requirements. Through the fees and licensing costs staff is hopeful it will limit the number of devices a company puts out. The only citations being issued currently are for parking violations enforced by the police department.

Regular meetings between the Transportation Commission and the companies have been occurring as well as consistent email communications. The operations and ScottsdaleEZ requests are continuing to be evaluated and staff listens to public feedback. Monthly meetings with peer cities were initiated by Phoenix and ASU to share regulations and how issues are being handled.

In response to a question from Commissioner Lall, Ms. Conklu stated she works with JC Porter at ASU who handles any issues related to bike and scooter parking on campus, as they do not allow motorized devices past the campus boundary.

Short-term solutions include:

- ▶ Update and streamline the website to educate the public on the regulations
- ▶ Continue monthly meetings and regular email communication with the companies
- ▶ Revised the restricted areas map by expanding some areas and adding slow zones; continue working with companies to make the map compatible with their geofencing program.
- ▶ Temporary restrictions were provided last week for “Super Season”
- ▶ Continue working with the Police Department and the companies

Mid-term solutions include:

- ▶ IT developed a new dashboard for City staff that is planned to be up and running within a couple of weeks.
  - This program will assist staff by showing the type of device, what company, and potentially see the devices in motion. There is a way to connect the program with the devices to let them know when they are out of compliance and will send automatic ScottsdaleEZ notifications.
- ▶ Continue working on public outreach strategies to communicate and remind people of the regulations, including the privately owned devices

Long-term solutions include:

- ▶ Update codes based on feedback from City Council
  - Minor language updates to match the state definition
  - Investigate sidewalk riding restrictions in Old Town to determine what would work best
  - Investigate parking in bike racks and/or designated areas
  - Investigate creating a license requirement to be managed through ordinances
  - Continue monitoring, evaluating, and updating everyone and bring any proposed action with regulations or other recommendations before the Paths and Trails Subcommittee, Transportation Commission, and City Council if needed. Updates to the restricted areas do not need to go before City Council, as they already allow for that.

In response to questions from the Subcommittee Members, Ms. Conklu stated companies would be required to set all devices to only go to a maximum speed within the slow zones. Although there will not be 100% compliance, they want companies to be proactive to minimize issues and to address any issues quickly. Upon witnessing an electric bicycle at the Civic Center, she immediately emailed her contact with the rental company to notify them of the issue in addition to making a report on ScottsdaleEZ. Even though it is a free market, companies are advised their performance is being evaluated and they could be cited. The City does not want to be in the business of managing these devices. Rarely have any impounds occurred, but if they did it would be done by Code Enforcement or the Police Department following the abandoned property codes. Speeding tickets or citations for operating under the influence citations could be issued by the Police Department who can be reasonable and flexible, but speeding tickets or citations for operating under the influence can be issued and operators can be fined.

Ms. Conklu continued responding to Subcommittee member questions, stating they want to continue welcoming bike riders and be a bicycle-friendly community and would not implement the bike rack parking requirement for these devices without further evaluating it and obtaining feedback from cyclists. Proposed restrictions and hours of operation are not currently enforced as they are not required. Staff have not looked at lessening or eliminating any restrictions and would have to see what other cities have done.

## **5. OTHER TRANSPORTATION PROJECTS AND PROGRAMS STATUS**

Nathan Domme, Senior Transportation Planner, provided a brief update on projects that have been completed.

Recent additions for trail improvement and mid-block crossings:

- ▶ Ashler Hills trail: At the request of residents a guardrail was installed to help navigate the slope. The trail is wide enough for two horses to ride side-by-side, even with the guardrail.
  - Mr. Davies stated the Pinnacle Peak Ranch neighborhood reached out to the City and requested the guardrail for when their horses get spooked. The guardrail is 80 feet long and the trail is 8 feet wide.
- ▶ Mountain View Trail: Vista Mountain High School students assisted in patching up the trail. This was a great way to get all community members engaged in maintaining the trails.
- ▶ Mountain View Road, Mid-Block Crossing: A pedestrian refuge was added to provide more safety to pedestrians and bicyclist as they cross paths.

In response to Subcommittee member questions, Mr. Domme stated he is not opposed to striping, but the City traffic engineers would have to get involved. Ms. Conklu stated striping is not recommended with the installation of traffic control devices. A discussion ensued regarding the pedestrian refuge and safe crossing. Mr. Domme stated that approximately 100 bicycles and/or pedestrians cross that location on weekdays and significantly more on the weekend.

Long-term improvements that have been on the list and were completed before the Super Bowl, to put Scottsdale in a good light.

- ▶ Civic Center has reopened, and it feels more spacious and enticing.
- ▶ New crosswalks and ADA ramps were installed on Brown Avenue, 1st Avenue, and Main Street, which connects to the Civic Center.
- ▶ Brown Ave between Indian School Road and 2nd Street was repaved, including the alleys.
- ▶ Bollards were installed to limit and/or stop vehicular traffic during events in Old Town
- ▶ Lighting has been enhanced as a security measure in Old Town
- ▶ New welcome signs and improved street and parking signage were installed.
- ▶ Camelback Road sidewalks have been revamped to 8 feet. This project required relocating water meters, fire hydrants, variable speed limit and speed feedback signs, and undergrounding power lines.
- ▶ Osborn Road is nearing completion with 75% of the roundabout being operational and the south side still under construction. Completion is anticipated for this spring.

In response to Subcommittee member questions, Mr. Davies stated no complaints have been received from traffic rerouting during the Osborn Road project from the west side; however, Peaceful Valley did make some adjustments to the barricades. Mr. Domme stated he would report back on when the Osborn Road project began.

Upcoming road closures during February events include:

- ▶ Parada Del Sol Route was closed on February 4, 2023 from 8am - noon for the Parada Del Sol Trail's End Festival and parade. The City participated in the parade and advertised the free trolley service.
- ▶ Main Street to Brown Avenue will be closed from February 4 - 10, 2023 for ESPN's tailgate festivities.
- ▶ The Entertainment District will be closed from February 6 - 12, 2023 for Super Bowl and the Waste Management Open.

The first bike to school day commenced at the Boys and Girls Club at the Eldorado Community Center to Yavapai Elementary School. This event was well attended and provided an opportunity to speak with the school regarding other things they could do, such as bike skill classes and bike riding safety. April will be bike month, where residents will be encouraged to bike to their destinations, specifically on April 27th between 6:30 - 9:00 a.m. as there will be free stuff provided to encourage people to ride their bikes. More information is available on the website. April 16, 2023, will be the annual Cycle the Arts, that 13 mile ride will begin at the Center for the Arts and pre-registration is encouraged. Generally, 60 to 85 cyclists participate, and this year a family-friendly short loop will be available.

## **6. SUBCOMMITTEE IDENTIFICATION OF FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS**

Mr. Lofgren stated the Sensagrate presentation will be moved to a later agenda and the electric bicycle, scooters, and similar device presentation will be made to the Transportation Commission later this month.

Subcommittee Member Levie suggested inviting neighboring cities to speak on projects that might benefit Scottsdale and keep the Subcommittee abreast of other interesting projects they are working on.

## **7. ADJOURNMENT**

With no further business to discuss, being duly moved by Commissioner McAllen and seconded by Subcommittee Member Levie, the meeting adjourned at 10:23 a.m.

AYES: Chair Anderson, Commissioner McAllen and Lall, Subcommittee Member Davis and Levie  
NAYS: None

SUBMITTED BY:  
eScribers, LLC

**\*NOTE: These are summary action meeting minutes only. A complete copy of the audio/video recording is available at <http://www.scottsdaleaz.gov/boards/Transp.asp>**