

## Tucson Mayor and Council Transit Task Force

### Minutes of August 20, 2008 Meeting

**Members Present** (Appointed by): Tim Sultan (Mayor), Peggy Hutchison (Ward 1), Anton Russell (Ward 2), Carolyn Campbell (Ward 3), Patrick Kass (Ward 4), Gene Caywood (Ward 5), Raquel Goodrich (Ward 6)

**Members Absent:** None

**Staff:** Andrew Singelakis, TDOT Deputy Director; George Caria, TDOT Transit Services Administrator; Roy Cuaron, TDOT Finance Administrator; David Cormier, COT Interim Finance Director; Katrina Heineking, Sun Tran General Manager

**Meeting Start:** 5:32 p.m.

#### AGENDA:

**1. Call to Order**

Andrew Singelakis opened the meeting by welcoming those in attendance and asking task force members and staff to introduce themselves.

**2. Call to the Audience**

None

**3. Organizational Information for Committee**

Andrew Singelakis briefly reviewed the organizational information contained in each member's binder. This material included

- contact information for Transit Task Force members as well as key TDOT staff
- the proposed meeting schedule and a summary of what would be covered at each meeting
- the charge of the Transit Task Force as stated in Resolution No. 21023, adopted by Mayor and Council on July 8, 2008. *"The Transit Task Force shall evaluate and monitor the City transit system's finances, expenditures, ridership data and assumptions and sources of funding. The Task Force shall file an initial report with the City Clerk no later than October 1, 2008, a final report no later than December 31, 2008, and such interim or other reports as the Transit Task Force itself or the Mayor and Council deems necessary at the time."*

Carolyn Campbell stated that it was her understanding that the mission of the Transit Task Force was different from what was stated in the Resolution and that the Task Force was to explore creative ways in which to have a better transit system. She asked that staff seek clarification on the specific charge of the Task Force. A. Singelakis responded that he would seek more clarification.

A. Singelakis pointed out that in order to meet the schedule established by Mayor and Council, meetings would need to be held on a weekly basis. He asked if Wednesdays at 5:30 would work for Task Force member. There were no objections and the next meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, August 27, 5:30 p.m., in the 2<sup>nd</sup> floor conference room of the Transit Services building, 149 N. Stone Avenue.

#### **4. Overview of Sun Tran, Van Tran, Transit Services**

George Caria, TDOT Transit Services Administrator, gave a powerpoint presentation that provided an overview of the history of transit services in Tucson and provided data regarding the current fleet, fare structure, ridership, and demographics of the Sun Tran and Van Tran systems. He also presented information on regional transit improvements funded by the Regional Transportation Authority.

Roy Cuaron, TDOT Finance Administrator, continued the presentation with a discussion on the Mass Transit Fund. The information he presented covered information on operating costs, revenues, and general fund subsidies between 2004 and 2008.

Following the presentation, Task Force members asked questions about or requested that additional information or further discussion be provided on the following items:

- General fund subsidies of other systems in the nation
- Analysis of what would happen with increased ridership
- Peer system incentives/disincentives to increase ridership
- In-depth information on RTA funding maintenance/operation costs
- Environmental impact of fewer cars vs. more buses
- Explore different fares for different times of the day
- Viability of ideas such as incorporating solar panels that serve as covered parking and provide lighting for park-and-ride lots
- TICET operation, background, funding
- Cost of increased security and other assets related to increased ridership
- Proportionate cost to the system for fuel and labor
- Compare cost of rate increase per passenger vs. the cost of owning/operating a car
- Percentage of overall operating costs for fuel when 2004 and 2008 are compared
- Employer subsidies
- Details of system's inventory
- Cost-benefit analysis of increased ridership
- Sun Tran's costs per mile
- Sun Tran's costs per passenger
- Other operational costs

A. Singelakis concluded the meeting by stating that a Task Force Chair and Vice-Chair would be selected at the next meeting. He also told Task Force members that they could email him additional agenda requests.

**Meeting Adjourn:** 6:50 p.m.