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The following are summary minutes for the meeting of the **City of Las Cruces – Transportation Policy Review Committee** on January 16, 2019. The meeting was held at the City of Las Cruces, City Hall, Neinburg Room (Conference Room 2007A – 2<sup>nd</sup> floor, north wing), 700 North Main Street, Las Cruces, New Mexico.

**Members Present:**

- Committee Vice-Chairman: Gill Sorg, City Councilor, Mayor Pro-tem, District 5
- George Pearson, Safe Routes to School
- Soo Gyu Lee, Interim Street and Traffic Operations Administrator
- Rebecca Slaughter, Interim Quality of Life Director
- Charles Clements, Transit Advisory Board
- David Armijo, SCRTDA
- Michael Bartholomew, Transit Administrator
- Joe Dearing, Airport Advisory Board Chairman
- Andy Hume, Airport Administrator
- David Maestas, Public Works Director
- Michael McAdams, MPO Planner

**Others Present:**

- Hector Terrazas, Interim Traffic Operations Engineer
- Elizabeth Teeters, Policy Analyst
- Jennifer Kleitz, East Mesa Enterprises
- Lisa LaRocque, Sustainability Officer
- Katherine Harrison-Rogers, Senior Planner
- Sharon Thomas, SCRTD
- Lori Romero, Airport Admin. Asst. - Recording Secretary

**Members Absent:**

- Committee Chairman: Greg Smith, Councilor, District 2
- David Dollahon, Assistant City Manager-Operations
- Ernest Harp, Shuttle Services
- Luis Vela, Fleet Administrator
- Ashleigh Curry, Safe Routes to School

1. **Call to Order:** Vice-Chairman Sorg called the meeting to order at approximately 8:30 a.m. Introductions were made.
2. **Approval of Meeting Minutes – December 12, 2018:** Vice-Chairman Sorg asked for a motion to approve the minutes. Mr. Armijo motioned to approve the minutes, as presented. Seconded by Mr. Dearing. Mr. Pearson had a comment that there was an omission he believed – the discussion about transit fares included the discussion about bringing folding bicycles on, but it did not include the part Mr.

1 Pearson had asked that whatever the rules are for bicycles on bike racks was also  
2 included in the tariffs. Mr. Pearson stated he thought Mr. Bartholomew agreed to  
3 that, and that was part of what was approved as amended. Motion passed,  
4 minutes accepted. All members present were in favor and no one opposed.  
5

6 **3. Action Item(s) – None**  
7

8 **4. Discussion Items:** Vice-Chairman Sorg introduced the first discussion topic.

9 **a. Hospital Zones.** Hector Terrazas, Interim Traffic Operations Engineer  
10 gave a presentation on hospital zones, i.e. speed zones in front of Memorial  
11 Medical Center (MMC) and Mountain View (MV) hospital. These zones  
12 reduce the speed limit right in front of the hospital. A consultant was hired  
13 to study these hospital zones.

- 14 - MMC speed was installed before 1984 and the zone goes  
15 from Terrace Street to University. There were no speed or  
16 traffic studies conducted that justified the placement of the  
17 hospital zone. The consultant study revealed that without the  
18 speed zone, the average speed is close to the posted speed  
19 limit of 35 mph. With the zone enforced, the average speed  
20 was 31 mph.
- 21 - MV speed zone was installed in early 2000. This zone was  
22 installed because MMC had a hospital zone. There were no  
23 speed or traffic studies conducted that justified the placement  
24 of the hospital zone. Studies conducted on this zone, did NOT  
25 turn off the beacons. The consultant agreed that the  
26 effect/results would be similar to the MMC zone. Conclusion  
27 that drivers are not obeying the 25-mph speed zone.

28 Stakeholder input (LCPD, LCFD, AMR) do not feel any need for the zones.  
29 The hospital would like the zones to remain in place.  
30

31 The consultant recommendations were:

- 32 - Removal of all signage and beacons for both sites;
- 33 - Leave the beacons in place and replace them with advisory  
34 speed signs.
- 35 - City of Las Cruces City Council pass a new ordinance to state  
36 that Las Cruces has hospital speed zones.  
37

38 Vice-Chairman Sorg asked for clarification that there was currently no  
39 ordinance supporting the hospital zones. Mr. Terrazas replied, there is no  
40 ordinance dedicated for hospital speed zones. They do have indemnity by  
41 traffic laws on the books, the Traffic Engineer does have the authority to  
42 issue a speed zone, if there are traffic studies conducted. Mr. Lee stated  
43 that all speed limit signs are supposed to be supported by statute. Also, in  
44 the whole nation, only a few cities have hospital zones. The Committee  
45 continued to discuss. Mr. Lee also stated that the requirements needed for  
46 the crosswalk located at MMC are not being met. There was more  
47 pedestrian traffic in the 80's and 90's between MMC and doctor offices,  
48 pharmacies, etc., across Telshor. Mr. Maestas requested that Hospital

1 Zones be an action item to get a Committee recommendation, at the  
2 February meeting.  
3

4 **b. Transit Service – SCRTD subsidy.** Vice-Chairman Sorg introduced Mr.  
5 David Armijo. Mr. Armijo handed out route maps. Mr. Armijo gave an  
6 overview of the orange route, which runs primarily in Dona Ana County, and  
7 half to 2/3rds of those are in the city limits. Mr. Armijo reviewed the services  
8 provided and the funding in the past. SCRTD is asking for City of Las  
9 Cruces funding in the next fiscal year to keep the orange line in service. Mr.  
10 Armijo answered questions. Mr. Hume asked Mr. Armijo to bring this  
11 Committee three options of what the cost of the subsidy would be, then the  
12 Committee can take action and make a recommendation to Council.  
13

14 **c. Scooter Rental as part of bicycle-sharing program.** Vice-Chairman Sorg  
15 introduced Sustainability Officer for City of Las Cruces, Lisa LaRocque. Ms.  
16 LaRocque gave a quick time line of how the bikeshare and scooter market  
17 has changed. Bike shares used to require payment per bike, and a  
18 company would put in a docking and pay station. The new model has  
19 dockless bikes and charges the rider, not the City. In May of 2018, the City  
20 wrote a bikeshare ordinance that dealt with the rights-of way and other  
21 regulations. Bikeshare is now passé, now it is scooter time. The scooter  
22 companies started reaching out directly to customers (i.e. college students).  
23 NMSU students told ASNMSU they wanted scooters, and they are doing a  
24 trial for scooters right now. NMSU facilities is looking at dividing sidewalks  
25 for walkers and rollers. At this time, NMSU students cannot leave the  
26 scooters on City property, and expect the company to retrieve it. Ms.  
27 LaRocque is tasked with amending the bike share ordinance to have a  
28 scooter share clause. The Committee discussed. Scooters will primarily  
29 use the bike lanes, because the motors are under 100cc. Mr. Hume asked  
30 Ms. LaRocque when she was intending to bring this revised ordinance to  
31 Council. Ms. LaRocque stated that the NMSU pilot program ends in March.  
32 The provider (Spin) wants a NMSU-City partnership. If NMSU supports  
33 scooter-share, then the City needs to time the revised ordinance, so they  
34 can transition from the pilot program to the expansion. Probably a first read  
35 in March, and a second reading in April. Mr. Hume asked Mr. Bartholomew  
36 how it affects needs for bringing scooters on the buses. Ms. LaRocque  
37 stated that the scooter share companies do not want the scooters on buses.  
38

39 **d. Bicycle Parking Ordinance.** Vice-Chairman Sorg introduced Katherine  
40 Harrison-Rogers. Ms. Harrison-Rogers gave a short presentation on the  
41 bicycle parking ordinances regarding new construction or change of  
42 occupancy. She covered why there was bike parking, and the City's effort  
43 to minimize damage to people's bike property, theft of bikes and damage to  
44 City's infrastructure. Ms. Harrison-Rogers presentation covered  
45 commercial-industrial-office-multi-family. Committee discussed. Mr. Hume  
46 remarked that perhaps what the Downtown Parking Committee would do to  
47 benefit the City and other business owners is maybe look at strategic places  
48 for bike parking expansion. Then the Downtown Parking Committee

1 recommendation can be made to utilize some TIDD funds to enhance  
2 downtown. Secondly, Mr. Hume stated that end of trip facilities that were  
3 eliminated before, can be brought back. Vice-Chairman Sorg asked Mr.  
4 Hume to list the parking "gaps" and bring them back to a Committee meeting  
5 for action. Mr. Hume and Ms. Harrison-Rogers will work together on the list.  
6

7 **5. Future Discussion Items & Task Listing:** Vice-Chairman Sorg stated that  
8 reviewing the items today, they are going to have some kind of action item on  
9 Hospital speed zones and SCRTD funding support for Z-Trans. Scooter will have  
10 to wait on that one for another month, probably March. Mr. Hume will get with Ms.  
11 LaRocque on that, get her timeframe as to when she will be back. Vice-Chairman  
12 Sorg stated that they might be prepared for a work session the first week of  
13 March and then finally, the Bike Parking Ordinance, put something for an action  
14 item there.

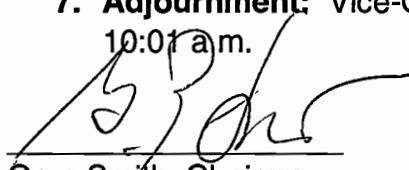
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16 **6. New Discussion Items & Next Meeting Date:**

17 **a. New Discussion Items:** Promotion of Walking and Bicycling – February;  
18 and Pedestrian safety – includes cross walk location and unmarked rural  
19 roadways – March.

20  
21 **b. Next Meeting Date:** February 20, 2019.

22  
23 **7. Adjournment:** Vice-Chairman Sorg adjourned the meeting at approximately

24 10:01 a.m.

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27 \_\_\_\_\_  
28 Greg Smith, Chairman

29 Approved: 2/20/19  
30