

July 1, 2019

Honorable Mayor and City Council Members, City Manager, and Director of Tucson Department of Transportation

RE: Status of Transit Task Force

We, the Transit Task Force (TTF), are aware that the Tucson Department of Transportation is considering the elimination of some or all of the transportation related Boards, Commissions, and Committees (BCC), as well as the TTF, in conjunction with the creation of the new Complete Streets Coordinating Council (CSCC).

We appreciate the Department's desire to reduce redundancies and inefficiencies in the City's public input bodies and we are encouraged to see and support the inclusion of a transit representative on the CSCC. The CSCC will provide a critical opportunity to examine the role public transit can and should play in the overall mobility of our city and region. However, we are greatly concerned that if the TTF is eliminated, the broader mission and goals of the CSCC will not allow the time needed for the detailed analysis and review of many transit-specific issues.

The TTF has a history of providing thoughtful and considered input on a wide range of topics, including rate structures, route modifications, the adoption and expansion of the Frequent Transit Network, budgets, marketing, user experiences, connectivity to other modes, transit center amenities and policies, and more. The TTF also serves as a critical interface with transit customers who are able to share their personal experiences as users of the system and bring often unrecognized issues to light. This aspect of the TTF makes us uniquely positioned to respond to citizen input, the needs of transit users, and to communicate these needs to each Council Member

We envision the TTF continuing its important work of advising on many of the transit-specific topics listed above, while also working collaboratively with the CSCC, through a representative to that body, in order to elevate those issues that would warrant consideration in a broader mobility context. We would eagerly work with the Department to explore and test what division of responsibilities would be most effective and efficient.

Therefore, we request that the TTF not be eliminated and request that the TTF be transitioned from a task force into a formal advisory BCC with Bylaws reflecting these responsibilities.

[Approved unanimously by the Transit Task Force on July 1, 2019.]

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Colby Henley". The signature is written in black ink and is positioned above the printed name.

Colby Henley
Chair, City of Tucson Transit Task Force