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The City Council Listened!

Thanks to the many COPP members who signed a petition asking the City Council members to have the question of constructing a light rail system on Scottsdale Road be placed on the ballot at some future date, they listened. At the February 8th meeting, the Council agreed to put the question to the voters before it decides to go ahead with a plan for a high capacity system on our signature road. The vote was 6 to 1, with Councilman McCullagh opposing.

It was a spirited session with council members voicing their opinions about the petition, but in the end, the majority felt that a decision to move ahead on such an important, long lasting and very expensive transportation decision should have the support of the electorate. That was the very reason why we submitted the petition, and it worked.

In a few months, the city will complete the Transportation Master Plan, which, among other things, will recommend a type of high capacity transportation for Scottsdale Road. The choices are light rail,

modern street car or buses. All have pros and cons as to how they will change the character of the road, the neighborhood and costs. All will require a subsidy to operate, no matter what system is selected.

We believe the study element for high capacity transportation should look beyond Scottsdale Road to determine if other city roadways should be considered. While we are not supportive of HCT anywhere in the city because it has not been demonstrated that it will successfully solve traffic concerns, a broader look at the issue would provide a more complete picture for the City Council and the public to evaluate.

COPP has impressed upon the consultant and city staff the necessity to identify and define the city's traffic problems before a solution is recommended. Simply stated, one cannot solve a problem before it is fully understood. For example, if the transportation of employees to and from the Airpark from outside Scottsdale is a major concern, a recommendation should

(see "City Council" on page 2)

Calendar of Events

- March 1 Mayor Manross will deliver her annual State of the City address at the Kiva, Scottsdale City Hall, 3939 North Drinkwater Blvd. A reception will be held starting at 5:30 pm with the program immediately following at 6:00 pm. Please call (480) 312-2335 with any questions. No reservations are necessary.
- March 3 Auto Theft and Identity Theft Awareness Day; please refer to the Message from the Scottsdale Police Department, page 3. *(see "Calendar" on page 2)*

COPP's mission is to educate the public and hold government officials accountable to the public on any issue that poses a threat to neighborhoods, the environment, and fiscal responsibility.

City Council (continued from page 1)

convincingly explain how a type of high capacity transportation will address and solve the problem.

A COPP board member serves on the city's Transportation Master Plan citizen group to provide feedback on transportation issues. It is clear that transportation problems have not been adequately identified and defined to ultimately support convincing solutions for the City Council to decide. We will keep working on this concern to make sure that residents will have an opportunity to understand all the issues and problems so if a high capacity system is proposed, our members and the public will be well informed, and will have an opportunity to weigh in on the question at the ballot box.

The Board of Directors

Transportation Master Plan: Background and Objectives

Traffic congestion is a primary concern for Scottsdale residents. As such, the city under the direction of City Council has instituted a Transportation Master Plan study, as part of the General Plan, approved by voters in 2001 to anticipate and plan the city's transportation needs for the next 20 to 25 years.

City Council has designated Scottsdale Road as the north/south High Capacity Transit (HCT) Corridor for the city. A consulting firm under the supervision of city staff and the Council is considering mass transit options, including light rail, street cars, and buses.

The proponents of rapid transit have not defined specific transportation problems the city needs to solve. Costly mass transit will only serve a very small percentage of Scottsdale residents and will have a profound, negative impact upon our signature roadway. Conventional wisdom says that the majority of residents will not abandon their cars.

Some of the concerns that need to be addressed are as follows:

- How can rapid transit along a specified corridor improve traffic congestion throughout the city?
- What plans are in effect to improve roadways?
- How do we move out-of-town employees in and out of the Airpark or Scottsdale Healthcare facilities with the least impact on residents, visitors, and tourists?

In order for a Transportation Study to gain public support, further attention needs to be given to identify, define, and prioritize transportation problems. By keeping these goals in mind, more effective decisions can be made about the city's future transportation concerns.

Calendar of Events (continued from page 1)

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|----------|---|
| March 4 | Hike the Preserve; Join a free four-mile guided hike to Brown's Ranch, a former working ranch. Expect mild inclines only. Call (480) 312-7957 to register if you have a city recreation account, and (480) 312-3111 if you do not, and one will be established for you. This event is scheduled from 8:30 am-1:00 pm. |
| March 25 | Hike the Preserve; Ringtail Loop. This is also a four-mile hike, with mild inclines only. Please access the same information as for the above-listed hike. |

Notice of Bylaws Amendment: Annual Meetings Election of Directors by Mail

The Board of Directors voted to terminate regularly scheduled monthly meetings of the Membership due to light attendance of members and the excessive cost of renting the room from Legend Trail. Our query in the *COPP News* indicated that the membership supports this decision.

Since the Bylaws of the Coalition of Pinnacle Peak required that Board Directors be elected at the Annual Meeting of the general membership held each April, the Board of Directors unanimously voted to amend the bylaws to permit the election of Directors by mail. The provision states that a ballot must be mailed to members by April 1 and returned not later than April 31.

The election results will be announced in the following month's *COPP News*.

Members of the Coalition are invited to volunteer for a director position by calling Bob Vairo at (480) 585-4463 or Linda Whitehead at (480) 488-7093.

A ballot will appear in the March issue of the *COPP News* as an insert. Directions for voting and returning the ballot by mail will be included.

Development Updates

Pinnacle Peak Road Improvements

As promised, the city has begun the design work necessary to widen Pima Road to four lanes from Pima Road to Scottsdale Road. Center turn lanes, raised landscaped medians, drainage improvements, and public art are currently in the planning stages.

Construction is scheduled to begin during the spring of 2008. It is anticipated that the project will take one year to complete.

Cooperation of the new owners of Silverstone at Rawhide with the city made it possible for the Coalition to support City Council's unanimous approval of the 160-acre mixed use project, which will be developed at the southeast corner of Pinnacle Peak and Scottsdale Roads.

COPP was very persistent in negotiating a creative approach between the city and the developer to handle the anticipated increase in traffic. We are pleased that the city is moving forward to provide road improvements prior to construction of the project.

Neighborhood meetings and outreach sessions are continuing to receive residents' input. Please email John Lynch, Transportation Planner, at jlynch@scottsdaleaz.gov or call (480) 312-7077 to provide comment or for further information.

Scottsdale Fire Department Outreach

The Scottsdale Fire Department is continuing to study sites for a permanent location of Station #613 and is requesting input from neighbors in the area bounded by Dynamite Boulevard, Hayden, Jomax and and Scottsdale Roads.

Current response times for the temporary facility located at the intersection of Jomax and Pima Roads now averages seven to eight minutes to some neighborhoods. The stated goal of the Fire Department is to respond to emergencies in four minutes or less, 80% of the time.

At the outreach meeting on February 1, the Fire Department demonstrated how each station in the north evolved and the area that each can cover in the optimum four-minute response time. The Department reviewed 23 original locations and unveiled nine possible finalists in the selection process.

Still under consideration are sites close to residential neighborhoods in the vicinity of Jomax and Miller Roads. These sites would create negative impacts on the neighborhood's rural locations and create disruptive noise and traffic. Other sites are subject to flooding and would impede response time.

COPP is encouraging the selection of one of the proposed sites on Dynamite Blvd., which will move the station further west, away from the immediate residential area. We believe this will result in a favorable outcome for the Fire Department as well as for the neighbors.

At the present time no further public meetings will be planned until further site evaluations are completed by the Department under City Council direction.

However, with the involvement of COPP and the surrounding neighbors, many of the potential locations have been removed from consideration. We continue to participate and support the process between the residents and Chief McDonald and the Scottsdale Fire Department.

With questions or comments, please contact the COPP hotline at (602) 230-5233 or at COPPeak@coppeak.org. Chief Willie McDonald can be reached: (480) 312-1880 or fire@scottsdaleaz.gov.

Message from the Scottsdale Police Department

The Scottsdale Police and Fire Departments, along with Target Team Members will be partnering in a joint safety event. Free services will be provided and include: VIN etching and shredding of personal documents. Vin Etching is the process that acid etches your vehicle's VIN number on each window of the vehicle. Each attendee may shred five boxes of personal documents and help prevent ID theft. Crime prevention and fire safety information will be distributed.

When: Saturday, March 3
Time: 9:00 am -12:00 noon
Where: Target Parking Lot-
West Side
Frank Lloyd Wright
and the 101 Freeway

Officer Jason Glenn
District 3 Crime Prevention Officer
jglenn@scottsdaleaz.gov
Phone: 480-312-8802

Commander William Wilton,
District 3 Commander
wwilton@scottsdaleaz.gov
Phone: 480-312-7318



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Join COPP today! Your support will help COPP continue its mission as a volunteer organization serving the Northeast Valley.
 If you cannot join COPP right now, please consider making a donation.

COPP's mission is to educate the public and hold government officials accountable to the public on any issue that poses a threat to neighborhoods, the environment, and fiscal responsibility.

I support COPP's mission and would like to join COPP. Your membership and/or donation is greatly appreciated.

- Annual Membership \$50 per household** (Make check payable to COPP, Inc.)
 COPP Political Committee Donation of \$ _____ (Make check payable to COPP Political Committee)

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Alternate Address

Address _____
 City _____ State _____ Zip _____
 Phone (_____) _____
 Fax (_____) _____
 Start Date _____ End Date _____

In what neighborhood/HOA do you live? _____ In which city do you vote? _____

Comments/Suggestions _____

Office Use Only

2/07

Have a question? Call the **COPP Hotline** at: 602.230.5233 or E-mail us at: **COPPeak@coppeak.org**
 Make your check(s) payable as indicated above. Please return this form and your check(s) to:
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