

RTA Board – Regular Meeting

Gary G. Hayes, Executive Director

RTA Board

Minutes of January 28, 2010, Annual Meeting

Committee Members Present

Mayor Ed Honea, Town of Marana, Chair,
Mayor Lynne Skelton, Town of Sahuarita, Vice Chair
Mayor Robert Walkup, City of Tucson, Member
Mayor Paul Loomis, Oro Valley, Member
Chairman Ned Norris, Tohono O’odham Nation, Member
Steve Christy, Rep., Arizona State Transportation Board, Member
Vice Chair Robert Valencia, Member

Jurisdiction Representatives

Jim Stahle, Town of Sahuarita
Jerene Watson, Town of Oro Valley
Gilbert Davidson, Town of Marana
Enrique Serna, City of South Tucson
Priscilla Cornelio, Pima County
Jim Glock, City of Tucson
Richard Miranda, City of Tucson

Staff

Gary Hayes
Jim DeGrood
Andy Gunning
Jacki Ontiveros
Jeff Hildebrand
Rob Samuelson
Sheila Storm
Cherie Campbell
John Liosatos

Public/Agencies

Adriana Prieta, City of Tucson
Donovan Durband, City of Tucson
Roy Cuaron, City of Tucson
K.C. Carter, Town of Oro Valley
Curt Lueck, CLA
Thomas Benavidez, Legal Counsel
Bob Cook, CART
Bruce Wright, UA
Ken Marcus, UA
Andrea Kelly, AZ Daily Star
Bud Foster, KOLD - TV
Matt Smith, SIMG

1. Call to Order and Roll Call

The meeting was called to order by Chairman Honea at 12:37 p.m. and roll call of members was taken.

2. Election of Officers

Motion was made by Mayor Loomis, seconded by Mayor Eckstrom and unanimously carried that the Regional Transportation Authority (RTA Board) elect Lynne Skelton as Chair; Robert Valencia as Vice Chair; Ned Norris Jr. as 2nd Vice Chair. Remaining Members include Jennifer Eckstrom, Ramon Valadez, Robert Walkup, Paul Loomis, Steve Christy and Ed Honea.

Mayor Honea congratulated the new officers and turned the meeting over to Mayor Skelton.

Mayor Skelton thanked Mayor Honea for his leadership as 2009 RTA Board, Chair.

3. Approval of Minutes of Dec. 10, 2009

Motion was made by Mayor Honea, seconded by Mayor Loomis and unanimously carried that the Regional Transportation Authority (RTA Board) approve the minutes of Dec. 10, 2009.

4. Call to Audience

Speakers included Bob Cook who provided comments on regional transit.

5. Report from the Executive Director

Mr. Hayes reported that the Tanque Verde project came in 30 percent under bid from the original estimate. Mr. Hayes' report also included that the Yuma Metropolitan Planning Organization (YMPO) has invited staff to speak in front of its Executive Board regarding our region's experiences in creating an RTA. The next set of meetings are tentatively scheduled for Feb. 24, 2010. Mr. Hayes presented Mayor Honea with an appreciation award for the leadership he provided the RTA Board as 2009 Chair.

6. RTA Economic Impact Study – Presentation

Mr. Hayes asked Mr. DeGrood to report on this item.

Mr. DeGrood stated that the RTA engaged the University of Arizona's Eller College of Business to help better understand the impact that RTA spending is having on the community and to look at the impact that reduced bid prices are having on our outlook during this time of reduced revenues.

Mr. DeGrood introduced Dr. Alberta Charney of the University of Arizona's Eller College of Business who provided the Board with a PowerPoint presentation with the results of this study which included the research method for impact analysis, economic impacts, revenue impacts, comparison of RTA revenue and cost estimates, and conclusions of the study.

Conclusion of the study included that the RTA project created 720 net new jobs from July 1, 2006 to Dec. 31, 2009.

Mayor Honea thanked Dr. Charney for the presentation and thought it was very informative.

No action required for this item.

7. Consent Agenda

Mr. Hayes stated that item "i" under the IGAs needs to be pulled for approval at a future meeting.

Motion was made by Mayor Honea, seconded by Mayor Loomis and unanimously carried that the Regional Transportation Authority (RTA Board) approve the Consent Agenda items *a-h* and *j*. Item *i* on the agenda was pulled for approval at the next set of meetings.

Intergovernmental Agreements

The following are intergovernmental agreements (IGA) implementing projects within the approved RTA plan:

- a. IGA Amendment between the Regional Transportation Authority of Pima County and the City of Tucson for Bus Pullout Package 1. (RTA #38)
- b. IGA Amendment between the Regional Transportation Authority of Pima County and

- c. the City of Tucson for Bus Pullout Package 2. (RTA #38)
- d. IGA Amendment between the Regional Transportation Authority of Pima County and the City of Tucson for Bus Pullout Package 3. (RTA #38)
- e. IGA Amendment between the Regional Transportation Authority of Pima County and the City of Tucson for ADA Sidewalk Improvements. (RTA #37)
- f. IGA Amendment between the Regional Transportation Authority of Pima County and the City of Tucson for the Wilmot/Park Place intersection improvement. (RTA #36)
- g. IGA Amendment between the Regional Transportation Authority of Pima County and the City of Tucson for the Ft. Lowell/Campbell intersection improvement. (RTA #36)
- h. IGA Amendment No. 2 between the Regional Transportation Authority of Pima County and the City of Tucson for the 22nd Street, I-10 to Tucson Blvd/Barraza project. (RTA #19)
- i. IGA between the Regional Transportation Authority of Pima County and the City of Tucson for the Sixth Street/Highland intersection improvement. (RTA #36)
- j. NO ACTION TAKEN ON THIS ITEM: IGA between the Regional Transportation Authority of Pima County and the City of Tucson for RTDN Technical Support. (RTA #40)
- k. IGA between the Regional Transportation Authority of Pima County and Pima County for the Camino de Mañana project. (RTA #2)

8. RTA Projects for Consideration

Mr. Hayes asked Mr. DeGroot to report on this item.

Mr. DeGroot stated that the RTA Working Groups were asked in August 2009 to develop its project recommendations for inclusion into the Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) for FY 11- FY 13, and the annual funding amount available for programming was determined as the amount of unprogrammed categorical funding remaining in each category divided by the 16 years remaining in the RTA.

The RTA Safety Working Group, with approval from the RTA Transportation Planning Committee (TPC), recommend funding projects for the Intersection Safety and Capacity Upgrades (RTA 36) totaling \$10.8 million; At-grade Railroad Safety/Bridge Deficiencies (RTA 39) totaling \$2.38 million; Signal Technology Upgrades to Improve Intersection Traffic Flow (RTA 40) totaling \$2.18 million. Mr. DeGroot stated that it's important to note that these recommendations include a project that was jointly requested by the City of Tucson and University of Arizona for improvements to the West Frontage of Rita Road between the Union Pacific Railroad and Interstate 10.

Mayor Loomis asked Mr. DeGroot to expand on the City of Tucson, University of Arizona request. Mr. DeGroot explained that the University of Arizona has identified some safety concerns associated with the intersection that is between its main entrance to the Science and Tech Park and Rita Road. There were also concerns at the railroad crossing from a bike and pedestrian standpoint and some Frontage Rd. concerns along the property. TPC supports the request as an RTA project which was hard to categorize and has a variety of benefits associated with the request including future safety and development trends.

Motion was made by Mayor Walkup, seconded by Mayor Honea and unanimously carried that the Regional Transportation Authority (RTA Board) approve the recommended projects for inclusion in the RTA FY 11- FY 13 Transportation Improvement Program.

9. Award of Contract: RTA Project Signage

Mr. Hayes asked Mr. DeGroot to report on this item.

Mr. DeGroot stated that we are recommending an award of RTA signage in an effort to better

identify more project specific information to the public. The signage has been redesigned to use standard construction zone style. The original signage materials were not retroreflective, were prone to fading and proven to be difficult to read. The RTA has also noticed that the project signage has not been consistent among the jurisdictions and the RFP that was issued on Dec. 7 should correct all current issues with the signage. Mr. DeGrood stated that the proposals were due on Dec. 21 and four were received. The evaluation team recommends the contract be awarded to Sign Bizness, Inc., dba Graphic Impact, based on best value basis, price considerations, qualifications and methods of performance.

Mayor Loomis asked if the contractors would be responsible for obtaining each permit and if the redesigned signs meet local jurisdiction requirements. Mr. DeGrood stated that staff will be working with each jurisdiction to ensure each sign meets the needed requirements as well as all permit requirements.

Chairman Norris asked what the contract amount was for and length of the term. Mr. DeGrood stated that there is no contract amount since cost will be on a per unit basis but estimation of the first year is at about \$136,000 for 100 4x4 signs and 60 4x8 signs and believes that the term of the contract is for 1 year renewable over 3 years. Mr. DeGrood also stated that this sign contract is for new projects moving forward, existing signage will not be replaced with new signs.

Motion was made by Mayor Honea, seconded by Mayor Loomis and unanimously carried that the Regional Transportation Authority (RTA Board) award the RTA Project Signage services to Sign Bizness, Inc., dba Graphic Impact, to produce, erect and maintain RTA project signage.

10. Regionalization of Public Transit

Mr. Hayes stated that the packet of documents that were just provided to you include a summary of the Regional Transit Retreat that was held on Jan. 11, 2010, a Pros & Cons statement that was requested at that retreat, a narrative from staff explaining how the RTA has calculated the Maintenance of Effort (MOE) with its understanding of the legislation and finally a memo from Legal Counsel regarding the RTA's interpretation of the MOE. In the memo from Mr. Benavidez he responds to some of the concerns that have been expressed by jurisdictional attorney's on the definition and interpretation of the MOE. Mr. Hayes also commented on the memo he sent to City of Tucson Mayor and Council clarifying points as a followup to this item being discussed at the Mayor and Council Study Session on Jan. 26. Included in that letter was an explanation on the role of the advisory committee back when the RTA legislation was passed. Mr. Hayes noted that one of its primary responsibilities was to recommend to the Board the selection of legal counsel. Mr. Benavidez was selected and continues as RTA's legal counsel and has provided the RTA with interpretations of those elements in the legislation particularly where the legislation is not very specific. Mr. Hayes added that no formal action is being asked today and staff is having conversations with a number of stakeholder groups throughout the region about this concept and reminded the Board that it directed the Executive Director to begin discussions with the City Manager in creating a formal proposal for approval at a later date.

Mayor Loomis stated that he continues to be concerned and not sure, just receiving the documents Mr. Hayes provided, how they fit into the action items that came out of the Retreat. Mayor Loomis explained that his understanding from the Retreat was that the question of "what the RTA is trying to do" would be addressed first, then try to move forward in a manner that allowed for more input and discussion. Mayor Loomis stated that he feels like the "train has left the station." Mr. Hayes responded by stating that the sequence of activities beginning with Mayor Loomis' motion directing the Executive Director to work with the City Manager to create a formal proposal took place at the December 2009 Board meeting. Staff felt that before finalizing the proposal the many unanswered questions such as timing and feasibility needed to be addressed. The purpose of the retreat was to get some of those questions on the table so they could be responded to. Mr Hayes stated that it was

never staff's intent to push this item in any fast fashion unless the Board Members felt comfortable with it. Mr. Hayes continued his remarks regarding the purpose of the Retreat including the two fundamental questions that were raised which are "did the voters approve this initiative" and "how will it be funded" and reiterated that the Board is not trying to be pushed into this idea. Staff will continue to provide all the needed information to better convey this initiative before the formal proposal is finalized.

Mayor Honea stated that it's his belief that the LTAF monies for transportation and transit are very likely to be swept which makes this region at risk for losing \$3.5 million year which would greatly impact the MOE. Mr. Hayes stated that in putting together the finance plan it assumed that the LTAF monies will not be available and stated that the finance portion of the Executive Summary of the Regional Public Transit Development Plan addresses that scenario.

Mayor Skelton asked Mr. Hayes to expand more on the MOE and how the figures were calculated, and Mr. Hayes referred the Board to the MOE Calculation of Assumptions Statement that was provided at the beginning of this item.

Mayor Loomis continued to express his concerns regarding the formal proposal that will be provided and what it will consist of, the concern of impacts to our communities and the region if the system is regionalized and if there will be a need to expand services within the region. Mr. Hayes stated that staff is having conversations with each jurisdictions on how its service would fit under the RTA umbrella and explained that some of the concerns are not ready to be addressed at this time. Mayor Loomis stated that the Board needs to understand the basic question of what this initiative is trying to provide especially if the RTA, in the future, will seek additional funds to provide the service. Mr. Hayes explained to the Board the needed steps that are being taken and specific elements that are being examined to put the formal proposal together that may or not be available at the next set of meetings. Mr. Hayes added that the RTA is mirroring the steps taken by the transit leaders in the West who have all gone through the same process.

Mayor Skelton stated that her understanding is that there is a sense of urgency, but the Board is not willing or ready to embrace that sense of urgency at this time and Mayor Loomis agreed.

No action required for this item.

11. RTA Citizens Accountability for Regional Transportation (CART) Committee Report

Mr. Hayes asked Kelle Maslyn, Chair of the CART Committee, to report on this item.

Ms. Maslyn reported that at their last meeting on Jan.13 the Committee heard reports from staff regarding the Regionalization of Public Transit which included long-term funding, its relationship to the original plan and public involvement. Also at the meeting the Committee received updates on the status of RTA projects, finance reports and report on the last TMC meeting.

Discussion continued on the CART's objective and roles related to Regionalization of Public Transit.

No action required for this item.

12. RTA Technical/Management Committee (TMC) Report

Mr. Hayes stated that in absence of the TMC Chair, Mr. DeGrood will report on this item.

Mr. DeGrood reported that the TMC last met on Nov. 5, 2009, and in addition to the normal updates received, the jurisdictions were tasked with giving information to the TMC on how able each were to meet its local match commitments for implementation periods 1 and 2 for roadway projects.

Discussion also included archaeological requirements on RTA projects and the TMC heard a report from the RTA TMC Policy Subcommittee which included an RTA wall policy. Mr. DeGrood also clarified the relationship between TMC and the CART Committee.

No action required for this item.

13. Status of RTA Projects

Mr. Hayes asked Mr. DeGrood to report on this item.

Mr. DeGrood stated that to-date the RTA Board has approved 318 transportation projects and 140 construction projects have now been completed and another 34 projects are currently under construction. Mr. DeGrood continued discussion detailing this item using materials provided in the meeting packet as well as providing a PowerPoint presentation which included updates on the roadway improvement element, safety element, Sun Shuttle service updates.

Following Mr. DeGrood's report, discussion continued regarding earned-value management (EVM) and the relationship between EVM and the actual cost of work produced, policies for projects that come in under bid, completed project cost vs. the budgeted cost for each project. Mr. Hayes stated that the concern of having a policy in place in regard to under bid projects and where the extra monies will be spent will be discussed at the next RTA TMC meeting.

14. Finance Report

Mr. Hayes asked Mr. Samuelson to report on this item.

Mr. Samuelson stated that RTA sales tax collections have declined 12 consecutive months over the prior year including a 10 percent year-over-year decline in December. The RTA fund balance at the end of December was \$89.9 million. Mr. Samuelson provided the Board with a PowerPoint presentation including graphs of monthly revenue trends and market value of RTA fund.

Mr. Samuelson provided the board with clarifications on how to read the graphs and better understand them.

15. Future Agenda Items

- RTA Policy on funds from under bid projects

16. Adjournment

Mayor Skelton adjourned the meeting at 1:55 p.m.

CERTIFICATION

I hereby certify that the foregoing are the true and correct minutes of Regional Transportation Authority Board meeting held on Jan. 28, 2010. I further certify that a quorum was present.

Gary G. Hayes, Executive Director