

RTA Board – Regular Meeting

Gary G. Hayes, Executive Director

RTA Board

Minutes of March 25, 2010, Regular Meeting

Committee Members Present

Mayor Lynne Skelton, Town of Sahuarita, Chair
Vice Chair Robert Valencia, Member, Vice Chair
Mayor Ed Honea, Town of Marana, Member
Mayor Robert Walkup, City of Tucson, Member
Mayor Paul Loomis, Oro Valley, Member
Steve Christy, Rep., Arizona State Transportation Board, Member
Vice Mayor Pete Tadeo for Mayor Jennifer Eckstrom, Member

Jurisdiction Representatives

Jim Stahle, Town of Sahuarita
Jerene Watson, Town of Oro Valley
Steve Huffman, 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 Samuelsen
Sheila Storm
Cherie Campbell

Public/Agencies

Dan Sullivan, RTA Consultant
Thomas Benavidez, Legal Counsel
Margaret Kish, Pima Co. Community
Development
Nathan Barrett, SXD Planning
Tim Pickrell, Squire Sanders
Norman Solfer, Sundial Energy
Kirby Tatum, Citizen
Mike Collins, Citizen

1. Call to Order and Roll Call

The meeting was called to order by Chair Skelton at 1:06 p.m. and roll call of members was taken.

2. Approval of Minutes of Jan. 28, 2010

Motion was made by Mayor Loomis, seconded by Mr. Christy and unanimously carried that the Regional Transportation Authority (RTA Board) approve the minutes of Jan. 28, 2010.

3. Call to the Audience

Mr. Kirby Tatum addressed the Board regarding the Houghton Rd. expansion project.

4. Report from the Executive Director

Mr. Hayes' report included the news of the TIGER Award and staff is working with the City of Tucson to begin the steps to get the project going, the bid climate remains favorable, and an update on the LTAF cutbacks. Mr. Hayes also noted that the newest version of "Our Mobility" is now available.

5. Consent Agenda

Motion was made by Mayor Loomis, seconded by Mayor Walkup and unanimously carried that the Regional Transportation Authority (RTA Board) approve the Consent Agenda as presented.

Intergovernmental Agreements

- a. IGA Amendment between the Regional Transportation Authority of Pima County and Pima County for the Design and Construction of Valencia Road, Ajo Highway to Mark Road. (RTA #21)
- b. IGA Amendment between the Regional Transportation Authority of Pima County and the San Xavier District of the Tohono O'odham Nation for the Design and Construction of San Xavier Mission Plaza Pedestrian Enhancements. (RTA #37)
- c. IGA between the Regional Transportation Authority of Pima County and the City of Tucson for the Regional Transportation Data Network (RTDN) Mesh Network Expansion Project. (RTA #40)
- d. IGA between the Regional Transportation Authority of Pima County and the City of Tucson for Construction of Bike Lane Package II. (RTA 41)
- e. IGA between the Regional Transportation Authority of Pima County and the City of Tucson for the Design and Construction of Golf Links/Kolb Road Intersection Improvements. (RTA #36)
- f. IGA between the Regional Transportation Authority of Pima County and the Town of Sahuarita for the Construction of Nogales Highway/Old Nogales Highway Intersection Signal Improvements. (RTA #36)
- g. IGA between the Regional Transportation Authority of Pima County and the Arizona Department of Game and Fish for Wildlife Studies. (RTA #41)
- h. IGA between the Regional Transportation Authority of Pima County and the City of Tucson for Houghton Road Corridor Wildlife Studies. (RTA #41)
- i. IGA Amendment between the Regional Transportation Authority of Pima County and the City of Tucson for 19 HAWK Pedestrian Crossing Signals. (RTA #37)
- j. IGA Amendment between the Regional Transportation Authority of Pima County and the City of Tucson for Starr Pass/Mission Intersection Improvements. (RTA #36)
- k. IGA Amendment between the Regional Transportation Authority of Pima County and the City of Tucson for Houghton Road. (RTA #32)

Contracts

- Contract with Squire, Sanders & Dempsey L.L.P. for Bond Counsel services.

6. RTA Projects for Consideration

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

Mr. DeGrood stated that the RTA Bike/Ped Working Group has met several times to develop recommendations for funding projects for FY 2011-2013. After moving the package through TIP and TPC and refining the recommendations, both committees approved the package. Mr. DeGrood detailed to the Board the 41 projects that are being recommended and stated that the package totals \$10.6 million.

Motion was made by Mayor Honea, seconded by Mayor Loomis and unanimously carried that the Regional Transportation Authority (RTA Board) approve the Bike/Ped Working Group's proposed projects for inclusion in the RTA FY 11-13 Transportation Improvement Program.

7. Sun Shuttle Service Changes

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

Mr. Papuga provided the Board with a PowerPoint presentation of the Sun Shuttle Service Update. The presentation included a general service overview including route performance, year one performance standards, future performance standards, recommended route and service changes specifically to routes 412, 420 and 402.

Mayor Honea asked if route 412 would be reviewed again once the Dove Mountain/Twin Peaks Interchange opens because he believes ridership will rise when it does open. Mr. Hayes, Mr. Papuga, and Mr. DeGroot all offered comments on the process staff takes when a route/service change is required.

Motion was made by Mayor Honea, seconded by Mayor Loomis and unanimously carried that the Regional Transportation Authority (RTA Board) accept staff's and the RTA Working Group's recommendations for Sun Shuttle Service Changes.

8. RTA Technical Management Committee (TMC) Report

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

Mr. DeGroot stated that at its last meeting on Feb. 18, the TMC heard reports on project updates and was briefed on the ongoing transit discussions. TMC also had a lengthy discussion on recent bid savings and the role of TMC's Policy Subcommittee.

No action.

9. Status of RTA Projects

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

Mr. DeGroot reported that to date the RTA has collected \$251 million in excise taxes since collections began in 2006. The RTA has expended \$181 million on project related reimbursements over the same period and there was a fund balance of \$78.5 million at the end of February. Mr. DeGroot continued his status report to the Board using a PowerPoint presentation, hand-outs and materials supplied in the meeting packet including jurisdictional project status report, approved detailed project listing and earned value management.

Mayor Loomis stated that he is concerned after reviewing the earned value management chart that it basically shows that projects are 6 months behind schedule and over budget and advises that staff begin to look at numbers more closely and raise red flags because the challenges that are associated with catching up on schedule and budget will usually cost more money. Mr. DeGroot responded by acknowledging that projects are behind schedule and added that most of the slippages are in the roadway elements and intersection/safety elements. Mr. DeGroot also addressed the issue of being over budget and explained that the earning rules would need to be reviewed before speaking about being over budget but believes that the problem is coming from the timing and planning phase of the roadway elements and staff will be reviewing the issue in more detail. Discussion continued among staff and the Board regarding the bidding climate and how it affects the budget.

No action.

10. Finance Report

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

Mr. Samuelson provided the Board a few slides detailing the RTA finances including RTA revenue collection, RTA monthly revenue and the RTA Fund balance. The RTA sales tax collection have declined 23 consecutive months over the prior year and are broad-based across all major sales tax components. Mr. Samuelson noted that the fund balance at the end of February 2010 was \$89.3 million. The Board also briefly discussed on how the RTA receives the sales tax collections.

No action.

11. Future Agenda Items

- TIGER Grant and Modern Streetcar.

Mayor Walkup requested that a special meeting of the RTA Board be scheduled for April 1 to discuss amending policy to allow long lead items and allow the Modern Streetcar project to move forward.

Mr. Hayes agrees that this project should be expedited and asked for some flexibility in scheduling this meeting and explained that at the next meeting of the RTA Board, which is scheduled for April 22, staff will be prepared to discuss an IGA outlining the money flow and recommended changing policy among other items.

Mayor Honea stated that the reimbursement clause in the policy needs to be addressed to allow some flexibility or exceptions on certain projects. Mr. Hayes stated that the full policy will be reviewed.

16. Adjournment

Mayor Skelton adjourned the meeting at 1:59 p.m.

CERTIFICATION

I hereby certify that the foregoing are the true and correct minutes of Regional Transportation Authority Board meeting held on March 25, 2010. I further certify that a quorum was present.

Gary G. Hayes, Executive Director