



Regional Transportation Authority Citizens Accountability for Regional Transportation (CART) Committee

Kelle Maslyn, CART Committee Chair
David Longoria, CART Committee Co-Chair

Minutes of Sept. 17, 2009, Meeting

Committee Members Present

Kelle Maslyn	Dick Roberts
David Longoria	Dennis Skelton
James Barber	Larry Steckler
Robert Cook	Herb Trossman
Joe Dhuey	M. Joe Yee
Grace Evans	Roger Yohem
Kentton C. Grant	
David Heineking	
Douglas S. Mance	
George H. McFerron	

Staff

Gary Hayes
Jim DeGrood
Dan Sullivan
Sheila Storm
Nubia Bertsch
Rob Samuelsen
Jeff Hildebrand

Public/Agencies

Jim Glock
Priscilla Cornelio

1. Call to Order

Meeting was called to order at 12:00 p.m. by Ms. Maslyn, Chair of the CART Committee.

2. Approval of CART Committee meeting minutes of May 27, 2009

Ms. Maslyn informed the Committee of a revised draft of the May 27 meeting minutes with a date correction under #2. The date under #2 was revised to Feb. 4, 2009.

Motion was made by Mr. Mance to approve the minutes of the May 27, 2009, meeting, seconded by Mr. Skelton and unanimously approved.

3. Call to the Audience

Ms. Maslyn asked the members of the audience if they would like to address the Committee on any items.

Hearing none, Ms. Maslyn moved to the next item.

4. Announcements

Mr. Hayes, RTA Executive Director, said the next RTA Board meeting is Sept. 24, 2009, and a ribbon cutting for the completion of the downtown I-10 project will be held in the morning on the same day. Mr. Hayes said the new bus storage and maintenance facility for Sun Tran will be dedicated on Oct. 22.

5. Executive Director's Report

Mr. Hayes reported that the RTA has had several groundbreaking events for roadway element projects and that the main focus of the RTA is to ensure the first 11 roadway projects will be under way before the end of the first phase of the RTA plan. Mr. Hayes added that some of the construction projects have been bidding significantly below what the engineers had estimated.

Mr. Hayes also noted the recent dedication of the park-and-ride at the Casino del Sol, funded by the Pascua Yaqui Tribe with accelerated transit service from the RTA.

6. Technical Management Committee (TMC) Update

Mr. DeGrood, Director of Transportation Services for PAG, said that the RTA TMC met on July 29. The TMC accepted the standard of wall usage as follows:

- It will be each jurisdiction's choice on what wall standard it wishes to use
- Noise walls must meet either ADOT or FHWA noise standards and apply scientifically proven decibel credit for the use of rubberized asphalt in order to be RTA reimbursable
- Screen walls not associated with noise mitigation must have a proven access or safety-related purpose associated in order to be RTA reimbursable

7. RTA Board Report

Mr. Hayes said that the RTA Board adopted a budget for fiscal year 2010 for the operation of the RTA. In addition, the board discussed and approved the contract for 40 new bus pullouts with the RTA managing the construction of the bus pullouts. Mr. Hayes said a transit study is under way to assess options on how to move forward with regionalized para-transit.

Mr. Steckler asked for information about the RTA's role in managing the construction of bus pullouts. Mr. Hayes answered that when jurisdictions are faced with staff shortages and other problems, projects will take longer to complete. By having the RTA manage the bus pullouts, this will help to accelerate the project completion.

8. Status of RTA Projects

Mr. DeGrood presented the Committee with an update on RTA projects. The RTA Board, programming \$465 million in project funds, has approved 307 projects. Forty-one projects are under construction or initiated, 12 transit services have been implemented, and 119 projects have been completed. The RTA has collected \$214.3 million in excise tax revenue for regional transportation projects and services. In addition, the RTA has expended over \$125.1 million for improvements and services.

Roadway Improvement Elements are as follows:

- 22 of 35 RTA Roadway Element projects are under way
- 19 are currently in planning or design
- Construction contracts have been awarded to:
 - Camino de Manana and Twin Peaks Interchange
 - Houghton/Old Vail Intersection
 - I-19 Frontage Road
 - Phase 1 of Sahuarita Road
- La Canada Drive, Ina-Calle Concordia: bids to be opened Nov. 22, 2009
- La Cholla Blvd., River-Ruthrauff: bids to be opened Oct. 13, 2009
- Tanque Verde Rd., Catalina Highway-Houghton: bids to be opened Nov. 09
- Speedway Blvd., Camino Seco-Houghton: bids to be opened Winter 2009-2010

The first implementation period is as follows:

- 5 major roadway projects have initiated construction
- 3 more projects to be under construction before the end of 2009
- Speedway Blvd. starts construction in early 2010
- 9 of 11 first implementation period projects are expected to be under construction by May 2010

Mr. DeGrood continued with the presentation and said the safety element of the RTA plan includes:

- 82 Intersection Safety and Capacity Projects
- 42 Intersection improvement projects completed

The Sun Shuttle service started on May 4 with two routes each in Oro Valley and Marana and four routes serving Green Valley/Sahuarita area. Mr. DeGrood mentioned Pima Rural Transit will be managed by the RTA as part of Sun Shuttle on Nov. 1, 2009, and new JARC service in Marana starts Nov. 1, 2009. In addition, Mr. DeGrood stated a summary on August improvements on transit, which are: travel time reduction, increase frequency, coordinate transfers with Sun Tran, Sun Express, and eliminate/reduce unproductive portion of routes.

Mr. Roberts said he has been working with PAG transportation planners on the Sun Shuttle routes that service the Green Valley area. If there are transit routes that are not being used, he suggested those routes should be removed from the planning and funding could be allocated to other service areas.

Mr. Trossman asked what projects from the plan are delayed. Mr. DeGrood answered that some projects were delayed and others were accelerated. For

example, the Grant/Craycroft project was delayed about a year and the Speedway Blvd. project also was delayed a few months.

Ms. Evans asked about the deviated service in the Green Valley area and how to limit requests. Mr. DeGrood said the request for deviation would not be granted if the service was already booked.

9. Finance Report

Mr. Samuelson, RTA Controller, reported on the RTA finance report and provided an update on monthly revenues received. He said the revenue is about 12.5 percent below prior year and July/August was 8 percent below prior year. The cash for clunkers tax collection will be added in the next RTA revenue collection. The balance of the RTA funds for Fiscal Year 2009/2010 is about \$94 million.

10. Establishment of Annual Report Subcommittee

Mr. DeGrood reported on the process of developing the Annual Report for Fiscal Year 2009. He urged Committee members to volunteer for the annual report subcommittee. Mr. Yohem, Mr. Skelton, Mr. Trossman, and Ms. Evans agreed to serve.

11. Project Presentation- Modern Streetcar

Mr. Glock, Transportation Director for the City of Tucson, updated the Committee with a presentation on the Modern Streetcar project. The project includes: alignment length is 3.9 miles, the system has 7 streetcars, 18 stops, and a maintenance facility. Ridership is estimated at 5,700 per weekday and a capital cost of \$150 million.

The modern streetcar features:

- fixed-guideway electric rail system
- operates in mixed traffic
- articulated for tight radii turns
- compatible with on-street parking
- shares lanes and stops with buses and bicycles
- safe in high pedestrian areas
- ADA accessible, transit station fare collection, and approximately seats about 35 people and 95 standing.

Mr. Glock said the streetcar will connect Main Gate Square, Keatings BIO 5 Research, Drachman Hall, Arizona Health Science, Scott Avenue, Ronstadt Transit Center, One North 5th, 4th Avenue Underpass, Mercado District, UMC, Hotel & Convention Center, Fire Central, and Congress/Downtown area.

Mr. Glock said Transit Oriented Development (TOD) is characterized by mixed-use development that caters to transit riders and pedestrians. He said TOD emphasizes neighborhood, business, and historic preservation. The streetcar project is estimated to cost about \$150 million and the RTA will fund \$88 million.

12. Future Agenda Items

Mr. Cook suggested that Marshal Vest present to the CART on the revenue and expense projections.

Mr. Steckler would like information on how the RTA plans to manage regional transit.

Mr. Dhuey suggested adding information on the finances and its impacts of the RTA to the next agenda.

13. Adjournment

Ms. Maslyn adjourned the meeting at 1:21 p.m.