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Regional Transportation Authority Transportation Improvement Program Subcommittee (TIP)

Minutes of October 20, 2009, Meeting

Committee Members Present:

Artemio Hoyos, Pascua Yaqui Tribe, Chair
Ryan Benavides, Town of Marana, Vice Chair
Michael Bends (for Fred Stevens), San Xavier
District of the Tohono O'odham Nation
Sal Caccavale, Pima County DOT
Ron Casper, ADOT-Tucson District
Andy McGovern, City of Tucson DOT
Jose Rodriguez, Town of Oro Valley
Walker Smith, City of South Tucson

Members of the Public Present:

Carolyn Campbell, Coalition for Sonoran
Desert Protection

Jurisdiction Representatives:

Rick Ellis, Pima County DOT
Todd Emery, ADOT-Tucson District
Siobhan Nordhaugen, ADOT-Environmental
Services-Phoenix
Orville Saling, Town of Marana

Staff:

Paul Casertano
Jim DeGroot
Pat Kendall
John Liosatos
Terry Ruiz

1. Call to Order and Introductions

Artemio Hoyos, Chair, called the meeting to order at 9:03 a.m. in PAG's main 5th floor conference room and introductions were made.

2. In-Kind Form

An in-kind form was routed to attendees.

3. Approval of Minutes of Previous Meeting – August 18, 2009

Motion was made by Mr. Saling to approve the minutes of the August 18, 2009, meeting, seconded by Mr. Rodriguez, and unanimously approved.

4. Review and Approve Agenda

Motion was made by Mr. Caccavale to approve the agenda, as presented, seconded by Mr. McGovern, and unanimously approved.

5. RTA Working Group Reports

- Project Recommendations from RTA Working Groups as needed

Mr. Ellis, Chair of the RTA Wildlife Linkages Working Group, reviewed the SR 77 Wildlife Crossing Structures recommendation requesting \$8,230,600 of RTA funds to restore connectivity between two large habitat blocks (the Tortolita and Santa Catalina Mts.), with three proposed crossings (2 under the roadway and 1 over the roadway), with construction to be coordinated with ADOT's SR 77 widening project from 4 to 6 lanes between Tangerine Road and the Pima/Pinal County line.

Ms. Nordhaugen of ADOT's Environmental Services in Phoenix has been the lead in the proposal's engineering work and project element coordination within ADOT and with the town of Oro Valley, Pima County and other involved jurisdictions.

The RTA Wildlife Linkages Working Group has reviewed the project and unanimously agreed that it fits within its strategic effort to restore connectivity identified under this funding allocation.

A display board depicting the project's location, topography and element highlights was made available to members.

In response to a question on the source of the funding requested, Mr. DeGrood mentioned that it is consistent with the recent call for projects and will consume all wildlife linkages' categorical funds over three years, but only \$24,000 has been expended, to date, in this category which has a \$45 million allocation. Identifying the year of draw downs, as the TIP process progresses, will be dependent upon ADOT's project timeline.

Mr. Ellis added that ADOT expects to start its roadway design phase in January/February 2010 with construction anticipated in 2013. Working closely with ADOT, as this time approaches, an appropriate project cash flow implementation and how structure construction will be handled within the confines of the road widening project will be developed.

Motion was made by Mr. Rodriguez to approve recommendation of the RTA Wildlife Linkages Working Groups SR 77 proposal, as presented, to the RTA Board, seconded by Mr. Caccavale, and unanimously approved.

- Working Group Quarterly Report

Mr. Casertano, liaison of the RTA Safety Working Group, reported that the RTA Safety Working Group reviews and makes recommendations on potential projects under three categorical elements: intersection safety and capacity, signal technology upgrades and at-grade railroad safety and bridge deficiency. Recent activities include:

- Review of new projects: started review of signal technology and at-grade rail crossing projects and also made some progress reviewing intersection projects. Submitted intersection projects are nearly \$4 million over, at-grade rail/bridge deficiency projects are \$2 million over and signal technology projects are nearly \$850,00 over remaining respective categorical balances.
- Further project review will take place with the RTA Safety Working Group meeting again on Nov. 10 to develop its final recommendation to bring to the RTA TIP Subcommittee on Nov. 17.
- Development of a tool to use in the evaluation process to help identify intersections that are the best candidates for signal timing and the best candidates for geometric changes or upgrades complemented with review of crash data to determine which intersections should be recommended.

Mr. Casertano noted that factor forms on all submitted safety projects are needed since a large portion of the review process is done off line and then brought to the working group meeting for review and consensus.

6. RTA TIP Amendments as Needed

Mr. Liosatos reported that Amendment #3 to the FY 2010-2014 TIP does not include any RTA projects or RTA funds, and will be heard by the PAG TIP Subcommittee.

7. RTA Project Discussion

Mr. DeGrood reported that the FY 2009 earned value management report has been completed and will be made available to interested RTA Board members at their meeting on Oct. 22, 2009. This meeting will be held at the new SunTran Bus Storage and Maintenance Facility near Prince and I-10, which is expected to be fully operational by mid-November. A ribbon-cutting ceremony followed by a tour is scheduled to start at 10:00 a.m. The Regional Council meeting begins at 12:00, followed by the RTA Board meeting at 12:30 p.m.

The Town of Marana will host a ribbon-cutting ceremony on its Camino de Manana project at 9:00 a.m. on Oct. 21.

The RTA's Technical Management Committee (TMC) will meet on Nov. 5 and focus on the shortfall of local funds, with presentations from each jurisdiction.

Of the 11 RTA projects in implementation period 1, nine will likely be out to bid by early next year. Five have already broken ground. Two that are further out are the Kolb Road and the Magee projects. Implementation period 2 includes some big projects: Tangerine, Broadway, 22nd St., Downtown links – a lot of projects that have some local funding and potential bond funding. Jurisdictions may have some trouble meeting local government financial requirements for funding these projects.

Mr. DeGrood mentioned that a Technical Management Subcommittee (made up of the DOT directors and two private sector engineers) will meet on Mon., Nov. 2, to discuss possible modifications updating the POPs (Policies, Operations and Procedures) document approved shortly after the RTA vote in 2006, to be revisited a year later. After three years, a review is needed for any revisions or additions. Staff and DOT directors discussed interim issues and created the MOPs (Memorandums of Policy) document that filled in some gaps in the POPs document.

Mr. DeGrood indicated that the earned value report will be posted on the RTA Web site, but can be transmitted by e-mail, if requested. Each category and sub-element was reviewed. The appendix includes each roadway element project as well as a summary by jurisdiction. The report is a snapshot in time, June 30, when a fairly substantial (\$2 million) cost variance was shown. This has since diminished. The negative schedule variance, however, continues to grow (currently \$40 million delay). In March, when jurisdictions were asked to update their cash flows, adjustments were made and from that date forward there was a very steep budget cost work schedule which we haven't kept up with.

8. Other Business

No other business was discussed.

9. Adjournment

The next regularly scheduled meeting will be on November 17, 2009, at 9:00 a.m. Meetings will be followed by a work session to develop the FY 2100-2015 TIP.

All agenda items were covered, and the meeting adjourned at 9:33 a.m.