



Regional Transportation Authority

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## Regional Transportation Authority Transportation Improvement Program Subcommittee (TIP)

### Minutes of May 18, 2010, Meeting

#### **Committee Members Present:**

Artemio Hoyos, Pascua Yaqui Tribe, Chair  
Ryan Benavides, Town of Marana, Vice Chair  
Sal Caccavale, Pima County DOT  
Thomas Garcia (for Farhad Moghimi), Town of Sahuarita  
Danny Granillo (for Todd Emery), ADOT-Tucson District  
Andy McGovern, City of Tucson DOT  
Jose Rodriguez, Town of Oro Valley

#### **Jurisdiction Representatives:**

Natalie Clark, ADOT-Tucson District  
Orville Saling, Town of Marana

#### **Staff:**

Jim DeGrood  
Pat Kendall  
John Liosatos  
Jeremy Papuga  
Tim Thurein

#### **1. Call to Order and Introductions**

Artemio Hoyos, Chair, called the meeting to order at 9:03 a.m. in PAG's main 5<sup>th</sup> 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 – April 20, 2010**

**Motion was made by Mr. Benavides to approve the minutes of the April 20, 2010, meeting, seconded by Mr. McGovern, and unanimously approved.**

#### **4. Review and Approve Agenda**

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

#### **5. RTA Working Group Report**

- RTA Transit Working Group  
Mr. Papuga of the RTA Transit Working Group reported that since his last report in December, the group has made continued progress on a number of projects:
  - Regional Paratransit Service Plan – wrapped up a year ago, the RTA Transit Working Group had specific recommendations on how to improve the provision of paratransit service at

the regional level, with a small task force, meeting weekly, to determine how to implement those recommendations, and have them implemented into actual service by the end of the calendar year.

- Broadway/Houghton Park and Ride – design work continues.
- Sun Shuttle route planning and performance monitoring – ridership and performance of each route is reviewed monthly by the working group with a major update next week including changes based on this monitoring.
- Bus Maintenance and Storage Facility Phase III - anticipated to go out to bid this month
- 40 Bus Pullouts – still in the planning phase (most are 75 percent plans) and being reviewed by area property owners and ward offices.
- Marana Bus Pullout Application – approved by the working group and will become a TIP amendment as it moves through the committee process.
- Smart Card Technology – vendor has been selected and is working through the implementation strategies which are still online for implementation next year.
- Modern Streetcar – the working group receives monthly updates on this project as well as the transit regionalization effort.

## **6. RTA TIP Amendments as Needed**

Mr. Liosatos reported that there are no pending RTA TIP amendments.

## **7. RTA Project Discussion**

- Update on RTA Board Actions

Mr. DeGrood reported that the RTA Board has met twice with one regular meeting where no action was taken, and a special meeting last week on the modern streetcar that included a presentation by City of Tucson staff. Currently, the RTA Board is working on a revised IGA for possible consideration at its May 27 meeting. That meeting's agenda includes over 20 IGAs for projects approved for the FY 2011-2015 TIP.

- Project Progress

Mr. DeGrood mentioned that he did not have the opportunity to present an RTA project update on the recent earned value management review which looked at all of the implementation period one projects at the last regular RTA Board meeting. We continue to see the schedule variance (gap) increase. Projects under construction are generally performing fairly well, but projects not under construction in both implementation periods one and two have the greatest problems with schedule variance, and are shown as being over budget.

This summer RTA staff will conduct a comprehensive project-by-project review with the jurisdictions on the performance of their projects looking in great detail at many different things including soft costs, public involvement costs, surveying costs, consultant costs, etc. and start benchmarking to find trends that will prove useful for future jurisdictional project reviews and more accurately reflect project status for RTA staff and board members. Earning rules may need to be tweaked toward this end also.

Mr. DeGrood suggested that Subcommittee members consider that each project may require a day's review, provide as much project information as possible, and hopefully realize, in the end, that we're doing better than the earned value is showing us, or if not, we need to know why and where.

To date, \$521 million in RTA funding has been committed with 394 projects approved by the RTA Board, 154 projects have been completed and more than 30 projects are under way. The RTA's fund balance, at the end of April, was \$69 million and is currently \$63 million.

In response to a question on consultant fees, Mr. DeGrood stated that the first step is to benchmark these costs to determine commonality, as DOT directors have asked for guidance in negotiating discussions. The RTA can furnish tools, but any direction will come from the DOT directors.

Mr. DeGrood mentioned that he had distributed a list of detailed project review questions to the DOT directors in anticipation of the summer sessions. RTA staff is working hard toward getting its budget adopted by early summer and also has been focused on transit for the past 18 months. Once that issue has resolved itself, the focus can turn to project performance. With the reduced meeting schedule in July and August, there should be time to spend on this issue. Another summer project, requested in an IGA with Pima County, will look at the equity among jurisdictions for development-related contributions to regional roadway projects, which allows the RTA to reimburse the Town of Marana for Camino de Manana project expenses. Town clerks will be contacted for copies of development agreements and impact fees.

Mr. DeGrood indicated that Amendment #9 to the FY 2010-2014 TIP, to be addressed at next week's Regional Council meeting, allows us to accelerate the use of STP funds. ADOT, with the current budget situation, is not capable of swapping out old STP for new STP, as in the past, and leaves the region with a potential loss of \$25 million. RTA staff has been working with John Fink of ADOT regarding spending the STP funds overprogrammed to the Twin Peaks project first and then reimbursing the RTA for funds already expended, with this money (RTAx) held in the RTA's LGIP account until the project concluded. Once the project is completed, some of the money, now RTA dollars, can be reprogrammed more flexibly. Initially, it was thought that the overprogrammed funds might be used for loans requested by the jurisdictions in a shortfall situation in order to move projects forward, but our bond counsel has indicated that the RTA may not have the legislative authority to do that. Worst case scenario is that these RTAx funds become another fund source programmed by this subcommittee, but it's hoped that the funds can be used more to our benefit and help a jurisdiction out of bond or impact fee cash flow problems.

Mr. Liosatos added that the full \$25 million wasn't just exchanged into Twin Peaks, but also advanced the La Canada and Mountain Ave. HELP loans.

Mr. DeGrood thanked the Town of Marana subcommittee members for their support and hoped that the Town will benefit with the release of excess funds ADOT is holding on their project as well. It was made clear to ADOT that the Town of Marana's financial commitment to the project remains the same.

In conclusion, Mr. DeGrood indicated that this summer's first project review will likely be an annual event, and as we approach the RTA's fifth anniversary, it's appropriate that we assure the public that we're "rock solid" in delivering projects as promised.

- Currently approved RTA projects (List Attached)

Materials were part of the e-mailed meeting packet.

**8. Other Business**

No discussion occurred.

**9. Adjournment**

The next regularly scheduled meeting will be on Aug. 17, 2010, at 9:00 a.m.

All agenda items were covered, and the meeting adjourned at 9:28 a.m.