

Technical /Management Committee Meeting Minutes of April 6, 2005

Andy Gunning, Director of Planning

ATTENDENCE

MEMBERS IN ATTENDANCE

Chuck Huckelberry	Bob Iannarino	Paul Cella	John Bernal
Jim Glock	Jill Merrick	Chet Davis	
Farhad Moghimi	Jim Stahle	John Pein	
Frank Thomson	Chuck Sweet	Roger Caldwell	
Michael Reuwsaat	Fred Stevens	Benny Young	
George Caria	Jim Schoen	Marcelino Flores	

PAG RTA STAFF

Gary Hayes	Andy Gunning	Natalie Clark
Juliee Morrison	Sheila Storm	Cherie Campbell
Jeff Hildebrand	Tom Fisher	Tom Cooney

GUESTS

Hurvie Davis	Amber Moore	Priscilla Cornelio
Rick Myers	Curtis Lueck	Dan Sullivan
Bob Cook	Carolyn Campbell	Walker Smith
Frank Sax	Katie Dusenberry	Amy Ramsey
Jim DeGroot	Kurt Weinrich	Martin Willet
Bill Reilly	M.J. Yee	Dick Bayse
Mike Johnson		

1. Call to order.

Chuck Huckelberry called the meeting to order at 11:10.

2. Approval of the minutes of the March 16, 2005, meeting.

Farhad Moghimi moved to approve the minutes. Seconded by George Caria
Motion carried.

3. Report from the RTA Citizens Advisory Committee

CAC Chair Rick Myers reported that in two weeks the CAC members will hear the report from the 2030 Task Force and conduct a breakout session to assess TMC ideas, discuss roadway and transit options and see how they fit into the regional vision. He noted that discussion at the last CAC meeting appeared to be the most emotional so far. Bringing out ideas to consider has brought out the passion of the CAC members. Myers noted that the members remained respectful of each other and they are appreciative of TMC's efforts.

He added that one member indicated at the last CAC meeting that when the TMC addresses categorical areas for funding that members consider a category for Small Business Assistance to help businesses during future construction projects.

4. Prioritizing regional transportation projects:

- a. Discussion of outcomes and project scenarios from the study session of April 2, 2005.

Members of each of the three breakout groups from Saturday reported out for the full committee and audience. Two of the groups worked off one base map and one group worked off of another base map. Huckelberry noted that the committee will have to work together to combine the two maps that were developed from the April 2 discussion.

- b. Discussion and prioritization of transit and other alternate mode needs.

Chuck Huckleberry informed the audience that one of the questions asked during the TMC's session on April 2 was what more could be done if \$700 million was spent on transit vs. \$400 million.

Jim Glock noted that Tom Fisher would provide an overview of the benefits of transit while George Caria would present scenarios on a route-to-route basis.

Fisher presented a report that compared weekday transit ridership on local fixed routes with weekday ADT as a percentage of all person trips. One example of the findings include that 7 of 27 local routes have weekday ridership that equals between 8% and 17% of all person trips made by car on those corridors. He also provided a handout of the benefits of transit.

TMC member John Pein asked that if this information is presented to the public that specific numbers are provided rather than percentages. Member Walker Smith asked that the information focus on peak/congestion hours.

Huckelberry asked if the transit improvements will reduce highway capacity needs and said there is a need for the committee to see quantitative data.

Member John Bernal suggested that the direction of routes be considered since more major routes appear to be north-south vs. east-west.

Glock noted that there is a correlation between transit and roadway capacity improvements based on observing the following three scenarios: If you add roadway capacity, everyone who avoided certain roadways will now start using them; those who avoided certain travel times will now shift

their travel times and those using transit may switch to driving. As a result additional road capacity without transit could fill up the day it is made available.

Caria gave a PowerPoint presentation outlining four levels of costs and services that could be phased in over time. He also said there needs to be a focus to get choice riders to get on board. He said there is a strong need for additional evening service, particularly for those who work second shift.

Members discussed how an increase in transit services would require mandatory improvements to Van Tran paratransit services for new routes. They also discussed the need for additional data regarding costs of transit.

Glock said a mode split model analysis will be completed in six months but other information may be available sooner.

Huckelberry suggested the committee begin to look at how they can narrow and focus on the most important expenditures.

Myers asked the committee to consider the regional nature of transit services needs.

Glock indicated that Sun Tran currently offers regional services but is not serving all the customers it would like to.

Member Benny Young noted that the city of Tucson currently spends \$30 million a year out its general fund for transit.

Chet Davis suggested that cost-benefit ratios need to be determined.

Caria said that 75 percent of current ridership is dependent on bus service. Glock also noted that the results of an onboard survey should be available within six months.

Huckelberry said that the committee needs more analytical information to start cutting transit or roadway projects out of the draft plan.

c. Discussion of policy issues.

No discussion.

5. Discussion of next report to the Citizens Advisory Committee

Huckelberry said the two new maps would be shared with the CAC.

6. Agenda and assignments for next meeting.

Glock suggested future policy discussion on constraints of the RTA legislation and a possible discussion on who will operate the transit system in the future. Another discussion may be to begin to determine top priority projects.

7. Call to the audience.

Frank Sax said that a plan needs to be developed to sell motorists on transit options and how the motorists will benefit from any transit improvements. He also suggested that express service be included in transit.

8. Adjournment.

Chairman Huckelberry adjourned the meeting at 12:40 p.m.