

Technical/Management Committee Meeting  
Minutes of April 20, 2005

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Andy Gunning, Planning Director

**MEMBERS IN ATTENDANCE**

Jim Glock  
John Bernal  
Barbara Becker  
Roger Caldwell  
George Caria  
Benny Young

Paul Cella  
Chet Davis  
Bob Iannarino  
Farhad Moghimi  
Mike Reuwsaat  
Marcelino Flores

Jim Schoen  
Jim Stahle  
Chuck Sweet  
Frank Thomson  
Marshall Worden

**PAG RTA STAFF**

Gary Hayes  
Natalie Clark  
Andy Gunning

Cherie Campbell  
Tim Ahrens  
Tom Cooney

Jeff Hildebrand  
Sheila Storm  
Jacki Ontiveros

**GUESTS**

Debbie Hecht  
Michael Doney  
Bob Sleight  
Katie Dusenberry  
Kurt Weinrich

Levi Jackson  
Rick Myers  
Jim Degrood  
Curtis Lueck  
Priscilla Cornelio

M.J. Yee  
Edward Sanaghan  
Joanne Homer  
Mike Johnson

**1. Call to Order**

Meeting was called to order at 11:01 a.m.

**2. Approval of minutes**

The minutes were approved by Mr. Davis. Seconded by Mr. Iannarino. Motion was approved.

**3. Report from the RTA Citizens Advisory Committee**

RTA CAC Chair Rick Myers said the CAC had 4 breakout groups at its meeting on Monday. He said they used the feedback provided by the TMC. He noted that there is confusion among committee members regarding how the Regional Transportation Authority fits in with the Regional Transportation Plan. He suggested that the 2030 RTP Task Force needs to quickly bring its work to a close to say “here’s what’s in the RTP” so that the RTA committees will know what they do is in addition to the RTP.

He said the committee is struggling to determine the right combination of transit and roadways. He said some committee members are looking at the cost of transit per person. Myers indicated that the CAC is not opposed to additional funding for transit but is trying to find the best possible mix of projects knowing that transit helps relieve congestion and is good for the environment.

He noted that Tom McGovern, chair of the 2030 RTP Task Force, and George Caria, of Sun Tran, each gave excellent presentations.

Myers asked the TMC to understand that the topic of building a bridge across Sabino Creek at Snyder Road is a “very serious” issue and some CAC members believe the issue may be distracting them and getting in the way of completing a draft RTA plan. Myers said the CAC is looking for a recommendation from the TMC or RTA board on how to address this issue.

Katie Dusenberry, vice chair of the CAC, added that she thought the breakout sessions were successful for the CAC but that the groups needed a little more time to continue their discussion. She also said a question remains as to how much money should be spent on transit in order to still have a good system.

TMC Vice Chair Jim Glock said that the CAC would continue to benefit from input from the TMC.

**4. Status report on updating the cost estimate**

Andy Gunning, PAG’s planning director, said that HDR is working with all jurisdictions to collect the information needed to determine rough cost estimates for the projects

identified in the draft plan thus far. He said HDR is about 2/3 finished with its work and should have a draft of cost estimates to the committee at its May 4 meeting.

Mike Johnson of HDR noted that cost estimates would be about 30 percent within the actual cost estimates based on current information. He noted that contractors' bids normally vary by 25 percent as well.

## **5. Discussion and prioritization of regional transportation projects**

Vice Chair Glock, who ran the meeting for Chair Chuck Huckelberry who was absent, asked the committee to review a memo that Huckelberry prepared for members in advance of the meeting.

The main things Huckelberry noted that need to be evaluated included: overall conceptual cost estimates for highway capacity; transportation system modeling of the proposed projects, and transit expenditures.

Before breaking into 3 groups to prioritize corridors and make further recommendations to the latest draft map, the committee had additional discussion.

Benny Young noted that he was not sure that Swan should be a corridor route. Marshall Worden said he believes there should be some connection from Houghton to River. Without that, he said the plan would be flawed. Glock said currently the work trips do not show a lot of traffic that would go back and forth in that area.

Frank Thomson said he would like to see more information regarding activity centers, jurisdictions, land use and how they connect. He also said technical data should be passed to the CAC to show them how the TMC reached its decisions.

Paul Cella suggested that the work of the 2030 Regional Transportation Plan Task Force needs to be put to bed in order to avoid confusion regarding the RTA and RTP. Worden requested more information about how the categorical programs presented at a previous meeting should be used to select priority projects.

- a. Break-out session to review project priorities and evaluate project readiness.

The committee broke up into three working groups for 40 minutes.

- b. Reconvene for reports from break-out groups and roundtable discussion.

The working groups reconvened as a full group and each facilitator gave a report.

- c. Discussion of transit and other alternate mode needs.

George Caria, Sun Tran, provided copies of a PowerPoint presentation on the benefits

of transit.

6. **Discussion of next report to the Citizens Advisory Committee** (their next meeting is scheduled for May 2)

The TMC will report what the committee worked on but will not provide a new map for the May 2 meeting. The TMC also will report the directives provided by Huckelberry that the TMC needs to address.

7. **Agenda and assignments for the next meeting.**

Glock suggested the creation of two subcommittees, one to address how to clarify the distinction between the RTA and RTP and one to assess transit costs and benefits based on \$400 million, \$550 million and \$700 million in proposed transit costs.

He said the committee also will have more of a discussion on categorical programs.

Cella suggested that another 4-hour session be in order.

Other discussion included requests to obtain more details regarding the Snyder and Silverbell projects and to produce more clearly defined maps with respect to lanes and capacity.

8. **Call to the audience.**

Debbie Hecht, a spokeswoman for the Silverbell Coalition, said that if the RTA doesn't include the Silverbell project in the RTA, the west sides will be isolated.

Ed Sanaghan provided a packet of information to the committee suggesting that the members look at factual information vs. opinions.

Michael Toney voiced his opinion that state population projections don't match up with plans as shown in the Houghton Area Master Plan and that he is opposed to the UA's proposed science center bridge over Interstate 10 at Congress.

9. **Adjournment.**

Meeting was adjourned at 1:17 p.m.