

Technical /Management Committee Meeting  
Minutes of June 15, 2005

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Andy Gunning, Director of Planning

**ATTENDENCE**

**MEMBERS IN ATTENDENCE**

Chuck Huckelberry	Bob Iannarino	Paul Cella
Jim Glock	Chet Davis	John Pein
Farhad Moghimi	Jim Stahle	
Frank Thomson	Michael Reuwsaat	
George Caria	Jim Schoen	
John Bernal	Barbara Becker	
Carl Russell	Bill Jansen	

**PAG RTA STAFF**

Gary Hayes	Ben Zimmerman	Tom Cooney
Andy Gunning	Rosie Soto	Tom Fisher
Natalie Clark	Juliee Morrison	
Tim Ahrens	Cherie Campbell	
Jeff Hildebrand	Dan Sullivan	
Sheila Storm	Paul Casertano	

**GUESTS**

Rick Myers	Jan Gordley	Angela Stith
Amber Moore	Wanda Poindexter	Magdalena Barajas
David Buechel	Marc Soronson	Jason Baran
Sylvia Winner	Jane Pall	Jim DeGrood
Matthew Taunton	Vern Paul	Levi Jackson
Mark Gerber	Curt Lueck	Alex Batt
Martin Willett	Jan Gordley	Paul F. Mackey
Bob Cook	Gary Oaks	Joanne Homer
M.J. Yee	Bill Reilly	John Dougherty
Patrick Cavanaugh	Nina Trasoff	Dick Basye
Dewey Brown	Carol Zimmerman	Jonathan Levy
Stevon Sheldon	Shellie Ginn	

1. Call to order.

Chairman Chuck Huckelberry called the meeting to order at 11:00 a.m.

2. Approval of the minutes of the June 01, 2005, meeting.

Bob Iannarino moved to approve the minutes. George Caria seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

3. Report from the RTA Citizens' Advisory Committee

CAC Chair Rick Myers informed the committee that the CAC has had a lot of discussions regarding transit improvements. Originally the CAC was in favor of new buses, but are now leaning more toward the extended service. Rick Myers also mentioned that the Trolley System was not rated too highly on the CAC Transit Survey, but after hearing more information from George Caria of Sun Tran, the CAC is feeling more comfortable with that system. The CAC would still like to see a few more specifics under categorical. Rick suggested not putting a cap on the dollars. Instead of listing intersections with a general cost, list 4-5 top congested intersections and indicate funding to do additional intersections. Green Valley mentioned that a Dial-a-Ride circulator would be better received than a simple circulator system. Lastly, dates are needed as to when these projects will be finished.

4. Project selection and prioritization

Tim Ahrens, RTA Manager, reviewed the RTA Project Cost Estimates explaining that the highlighted items are changes made that were requested by the TMC from the last meeting. Tim also reviewed briefly the proposed RTA corridors handout.

Chair Huckelberry addressed the issue of \$200 million in impact fees raised to \$300 million stretching the highway element to give other elements money. Chair Huckelberry also requested that Rick Myers and the CAC forward to PAG staff the list of additional categorical programs the CAC would like to see added. The Chair briefly went over his memo issued to committee members regarding information and refinement of the 20-year Regional Transportation Plan. PAG staff is currently working and developing an RFP to further refine estimates and develop schematic diagrams associated with each project to give a better idea of the order of magnitude, where the improvements are going, and what they are going to look like. After refinement, the highway costs will more than likely go up.

Tim Ahrens shared that the RFP response should be in by June 20, the RTA board meets July 7, and hopefully will approve the recommendation for a consultant. Overall results should be completed around September.

Andy Gunning of PAG pointed out the Transit Recommendations package and the three map handouts which Tom Fisher will cover. This includes the Recommended

Transit Improvements for new express routes and Bus Frequency Service Enhancements.

Tom Fisher of PAG reviewed the Transit Recommendations spreadsheet which has been customized to fit the RTA budget, including the top 10 ranked projects plus 3 additional projects recommended by the TMC from the last meeting, which includes the circulator in Rita Ranch, the extension of the Ajo/Sells rural transit route and the modern street car system. With those additions, there were extra funds that were proposed as part of the RTA budget which was trimmed back to \$475 million at this time. Tom also reviewed the major cost revisions, and explained that the farebox revenue for each project was subtracted to come up with the total net RTA costs.

Frank Thomson expressed his concerns on how we are communicating this information to the people who are going to be making a call on whether or not these are reasonable or non-reasonable expenditures.

Vice Chair Jim Glock explained that with the corridor by corridor project descriptions, the capability is there to say how many additional seat miles are available or how much transit capacity is provided along with the roadway capacity.

Andy Gunning of PAG explained that the ridership increases are included in the survey of other communities, but unfortunately they didn't have the cost increases. An explanation of reasons that were behind the increases are explained on the sheet, including service expansion, weekend-evening service, Saturday's and Sundays. There were some indicators that increase transit service by 1 percent or frequency increases or operating hour increases, that the likely ridership increase is anywhere from .6 to 1 percent. With other communities, it depends on a lot of other factors such as other congestion management strategies, parking management, employer reduction programs.

Chair Huckelberry said it would be interesting to find out how other communities comparable in size, have spent their excise tax, or what they have said about an appropriate commitment for transit.

Bob Iannarino questioned how we can get better efficiency for Van Tran ridership.

Vice Chair Glock explained that Van Tran is operating essentially under federal law that requires a complementary and comparable paratransit system available for those persons who can't use Sun Tran. It's the Vice Chair's belief that within a year or two, the efficiency should be increased at least by one. This item is fair to send back to the drawing board and work on this a bit more.

John Bernal mentioned that the Core Service is at 15 years of service for \$134 million and Van Tran is at 19 years of service and \$116 million. Why are they not comparable?

Paul Cella requested more information on Street Cars. The City indicted a presentation is ready and can be provided.

Andy Gunning read Roger Caldwell's statement on Street Cars (See Attached).

Chair Huckelberry questioned if Core Sun Tran Routes and Essential Sun Tran Routes are reflected in the graphics.

Si Schorr commented that the general public does not read spreadsheets therefore it would be a good idea to use clear visual graphics and educational material to describe what the public is getting.

The Chair stated that with the acceptance of this plan, the refining will continue in the areas mentioned, VanTran, Trolley, Land use/density, information on what other communities (Las Vegas/Albuquerque) are spending.

Michael Reuwsaat motioned to move forward the transit package with the revision with the understanding of further refinement. Farhad Moghimi seconded. There were no objections.

5. Upcoming RTA Committee meetings: June 17-18 joint session of the TMC and CAC

Mr. Gary Hayes of PAG stated that the June 17-18 joint session event will include a presentation on the transit component as conveyed by the TMC. The concept of the joint committee is to get everyone on the same page. Any questions or issues the CAC may have would be benefited from the direct dialogue of the TMC. The fundamental question is, Are we ready? Are we going to be prepared on July 7, when Mr. Schorr's RTA board meets? The answer we are looking for is yes, we are ready to present this to the public for their input.

It was suggested the maps need to be cleaned up with the activity centers added to it.

Future meeting agenda items will include:

Categorical refinement/specificity, Break-up individual highway corridors by jurisdiction, RTA public outreach, Legal Council to look at proposal to see how it fits into the legislation.

July 6<sup>th</sup> will be the next TMC meeting.

6. Call to the Audience

Mark Gerber addressed his support of the Snyder Road Bridge.

Wanda Poindexter of the Silverbell Action Coalition expressed her thanks to the committee for adding the Silverbell project to the list.

Vern Pall of CROS addressed the committee of his support of the Snyder Road Bridge

Sylvia Winner addressed the committee of her support of a bridge, not necessarily the Snyder Road Bridge, but in the general area.

Bob Cook addressed the committee of his support of educating the community of the transit plan.

Dick Basye addressed the committee with concerns of false documents and requested that they are reviewed and corrected.

11. Adjournment

Chairman Chuck Huckelberry adjourned the meeting at 12:13 p.m.