

**Technical/Management Committee Meeting
Minutes of September 23, 2005**

Andy Gunning, Director of Planning

ATTENDANCE

MEMBERS IN ATTENDANCE

| | | |
|-------------------|------------------|-------------------------------|
| Chuck Huckelberry | Michael Reuwsaat | Martin Roush for Jim Stahle |
| Jim Glock | Bob Iannarino | David Andrews for Chuck Sweet |
| Fernando Castro | George Caria | |
| John Bernal | Marshall Worden | |
| Farhad Moghimi | Roger Caldwell | |
| Frank Thomson | Chet Davis | |
| Barbara Becker | Benny Young | |
| Fred Stevens | | |

PAG RTA STAFF

| | | |
|-----------------|-----------------|----------------|
| Gary Hayes | Dan Sullivan | Natalie Clark |
| Andy Gunning | Cherie Campbell | Paul Casertano |
| Tim Ahrens | Rosie Soto | Tom Fisher |
| Jeff Hildebrand | Sheila Storm | Tom Cooney |

GUESTS

| | | |
|-------------------|--------------------|------------------|
| Thomas Benavidez | Ed Sanaghan | M.J. Yee |
| Kurt Weinrich | Curt Lueck | Vern Pall |
| Lori Lustig | Mark Gerber | F. Ann Rodriguez |
| Michael Toney | Martin Willett | Bill Reilly |
| Patrick Cavanaugh | Ramon Gaanderss | Jim DeGrood |
| Joe Cesare | Kurt Weinrich | Amber Moore |
| Tom Moncitak | Lorraine Hernandez | Bill Dorgan |
| Erica Meltzer | Daniel Patterson | Ben Changkakoti |
| Amy Mignella | | |

1. Call to order

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

2. Approval of minutes dated Sept. 7, 2005

3. Report from the RTA Citizens Advisory Committee

Mr. Gary Hayes reported that the CAC has not met since the last CAC TMC joint meeting, Sept. 12. The joint meeting was an engaged productive session, specifically going through the whole project list and suggesting additional projects, which were included Sept. 14, by the RTA board. Gary also noted that there is only 4-5 weeks left to finalize the plan.

4. Transportation-related Critical Wildlife Linkage program element

Carolyn Campbell provided a PowerPoint presentation on Biological Considerations in Road Design. Carolyn explained how roads impact wildlife and wildlife habitat. There have been numerous studies about how much mortality happens on our roads. There are certain species that avoid roads and that affects the population of species because they are unable to connect and reproduce. Highways divide habitats.

Rick Ellis of Pima County continued to explain how wildlife crossings are being addressed. One example is using larger landscaped medians along with more vegetation on both sides of the road. Another is using culverts. Rick also mentioned that Pima County has adopted Environmentally Sensitive Roadway Design Guidelines into its transportation design manual.

John Pein asked if the monies would go toward existing or new construction and how much culverts cost.

Chair Huckelberry responded that the monies would be used on both new and existing roads. He also mentioned that it is time to signal the CAC of the suggestion to rename and increase the critical wildlife element from \$25 million to \$45 million.

Mike Reuwsaat motioned to change the landscape linkage to environmental and critical wildlife linkage. Farhad Moghimi seconded. The motion was passed unanimously.

5. New proposed project additions suggested during the September 12, joint meeting for Phase II

Chair Huckelberry suggested changing the red line on the roadway map from Wilmot to Kolb because of its connectivity and limited access to Davis Monthan.

Martin Roush commented that the thought process was to give up the \$125 million for the Swan Road right-of-way and put into construction project for Wilmot.

Bob Iannarino suggested showing a graphic with the western loop.

John Bernal stated that at public meetings during presentations we are stating that we have a \$4 billion deficit, but we are presenting a \$2 billion plan. Where is the other \$2 billion?

Chet Davis suggested that we show the 2030 map (showing what we'd like to do) in one color and in another color show the improvements that we can afford with the ½ cent sales tax.

Jim Glock questioned if Kolb Rd. could extend up to the completed cross sections.

Roger Caldwell agreed with Bob Iannarino's suggestion regarding the addition of the dotted line around the I-10 / I-19 bypass.

Martin Roush stated that he preferred the priorities be spent on the southeast area in order to solve existing problems.

Chair Huckelberry noted that the route would be added based on Martin's observation.

Marshall Worden suggested using the words high capacity transit instead of Modern Streetcar.

Frank Thomson also suggested using the words activity center connector along with high capacity transit.

6. Cost Estimates

Tom Moncetak from URS provided a PowerPoint presentation reviewing RTA project cost estimates. Construction cost bids are coming in 20 percent to 30 percent over engineering estimates. Cement, steel and fuel costs influence everything in construction.

Eric Simpson continued with the PowerPoint explaining the details that were put into each project and explained that estimates were gathered based on today's costs.

John Bernal mentioned that ADOT is doing a thorough review of its program based on what's happened over the last 4 weeks in order to see what the cost implications will be. We will need something similar to address the unit costs.

Bob Iannarino suggested that the CAC individually review the projects to see how we can trim down some of the costs. Material costs are going up, so we need to

see how we can better manage the design operations of these projects and bring them forward quicker. It takes 3 years from inception to bid and that's a significant amount of time considering the amount of projects we have over a 20-year period.

7. Revenue Forecasts

Tim Ahrens reported that the revenue from the 20 year ½-cent sales tax has increased from \$1.9 billion to \$2.1 billion. Tim also reviewed the estimated project costs handout detailing RTA funded costs, impact fees, federal and total updated costs. To date, we are \$153 million over initial estimates.

Roger Caldwell questioned the possibility of a disclaimer to make people aware of uncontrollable uncertainties.

John Bernal mentioned that the debt service that we incur could be balanced out with the investment program.

8. Project evaluation and selection criteria

Chair Huckelberry commented that projects eventually will need to be placed in rank order.

Chet Davis suggested that as a technical committee we should provide a list to the CAC of what the projects would be with the volume over capacity, along with the costs for each project and let them decide what the plan should be.

Farhad Moghimi suggested forming a joint PAG, TMC, CAC and anyone who would like to work together to prioritize the projects, then bring back to the committees.

Chair Huckelberry asked for PAG staff to concentrate on the volume over capacity ratios for existing links.

Bob Iannarino stated that the jurisdictions should have a chance to look at cost estimates for their area in order to know what the numbers are and to know what they are dealing with.

9. Project implementation

The Sub-committee will meet next week.

10. Future RTA meetings and agenda items

The next TMC meeting is scheduled for Oct. 5, 2005.

11. Call to the Audience

Joe Cesare addressed the committee with his support of the Snyder Rd. Bridge and the Avra Valley to Ajo Rd. connection.

Daniel Sullivan addressed the committee with his support of the wildlife linkage and questioned if the twin peaks interchange will help cut traffic off of Picture Rocks Rd., and if so, when will it happen. He also addressed concerns on the 22nd St. project. On behalf of the Santa Rita neighborhood, they want a commitment on neighborhood mitigation.

Michael Toney addressed the committee regarding various aspects.

Ann Rodriguez addressed the committee requesting that Van Tran be reduced to \$80 million and public information regarding 22nd and the Barraza Aviation link needs to be clarified.

Ed Sanaghan addressed the committee with his support of the Snyder Rd. Bridge.

Mark Gerber addressed the committee with his support of the Snyder Rd. Bridge.

12. Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 1:00 p.m.