



*Regional Transportation Authority*

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RTAmobility.com

## **Regional Transportation Authority Technical Management Committee**

Minutes of Aug. 11, 2011, Meeting

### **Committee Members Present**

Barbara Johnson (for Gilbert Davidson), Town of Marana  
Bill Carroll, Engineering and Environmental Consultants Inc.  
Chuck Huckelberry, Pima County, Chair  
Craig Civalier (for Greg Caton), Town of Oro Valley  
Farhad Moghimi (for Jim Stahle), Town of Sahuarita  
Frank Thomson, Thomson Associates  
Jim Glock, City of Tucson, TDOT, Co-Chair  
Joel Gastelum (for Enrique Serna), City of South Tucson  
John Bernal, Pima County  
Roger Caldwell, Retired, UA  
Steve Shepherd, Borderland Construction Co.  
Tim Ahrens, HDR

### **Staff**

Carlos de Leon  
Cherie Campbell  
Dan Sullivan  
Gary Hayes  
Jeff Hildebrand  
Jim DeGroot  
Rob Samuelsen  
Rosie Soto  
Sheila Storm

### **Public/Agencies/Others**

Keith Brann, Marana  
Priscilla Cornelio, Pima County

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

The meeting was called to order by Chuck Huckelberry at 12:02 p.m.

## **2. Approval of April 26, 2011, TMC Meeting Minutes**

**Motion was made by Farhad Moghimi to approve the minutes of April 26, 2011, seconded by Craig Civalier, and approved unanimously.**

## **3. Announcements**

Gary Hayes welcomed Tim Ahrens and Steve Shepherd as new members to the committee and announced that the CART Committee has two openings. La Cholla's ribbon cutting is on Sept. 9. Committee packets will be sent electronically. Since the last TMC meeting, the RTA celebrated its 5-year anniversary on May 16. Eleven out of 11 projects have begun construction or have been completed within the first 5 years. There has been a lot of media attention lately regarding how we contract our work. The Value Analysis has been a very successful program. The RTA went to the bond market in June, it was very successful and the RTA Board is very pleased with the outcome. One of the big challenges ahead is the new SB 1525 regarding impact fees. The RTA Board met June 9 and the primary focus was the report on bond activity, adopting a budget for the upcoming year and transit items.

## **4. Executive Director's Report**

Discussed in announcements.

## **5. RTA Board Report**

Discussed in announcements.

## **6. RTA Fiscal Year 2012 Budget and 2011 Series Bond Issue**

Rob Samuelsen provided a PowerPoint presentation regarding the RTA Fiscal Year 2012 Budget 2011 Series Bond Results:

- Revenue
- Expenditures
- Overview of 2011 Series Bonds
- Bond Pricing Details

If you would like a copy of the presentation, please contact Rosie Soto at 792-1093 or [rsoto@pagnet.org](mailto:rsoto@pagnet.org).

## 7. Modern Streetcar Update

Jim Glock reported that last month was the groundbreaking for the Cushing Street Bridge. An application for a \$2.9 million FTA Liveability Grant has been submitted to allow the purchase of an eighth Streetcar vehicle. Purchasing an eighth vehicle gives us two spares vs. one. A Public Art Open House is scheduled for Aug. 25 at The RiverPark Inn. The RTA MainStreet program is hosting a business workshop on Sept. 21 on how to get through the construction phase. Jim stated that the MainStreet program has done a great job helping business owners brace the disruption that construction projects bring. Facebook and Twitter accounts have been setup. The 8<sup>th</sup> Street drainage project bid opening is scheduled for Aug. 18. The specialty track and traction power substations contracts have recently been awarded. The *Streetcar Systems Timeline* was distributed. Line segments 1-4 should have 100 percent plans by November and the Maintenance Storage Facility should have 100 percent plans by the end of December and be under construction by February.

Bill questioned when construction costs come in under budget, if the difference can be used for maintenance and operations.

Jim said that the project budget is at \$196 million; \$23 million of that is unsecured funding. Grant proposals are being pursued and the goal is to exceed that funding gap.

Gary Hayes stated that another Star article regarding travel is expected and asked Jim to describe to the group what the trips to Europe and Portland are about and why they're necessary.

Jim said that the Modern Streetcar is being built by Oregon Ironworks, a domestic contractor and part of the contract provision requires a significant amount of oversight by the consultant team, the RTA and City of Tucson representatives. This requires quarterly trips to Portland to oversee the design specifications and testing of key components. There are no domestic providers for proportion systems, air conditioning and the systems integration, which called for a trip to Europe.

Gary added that the project is in a great place right now. The FTA and its consultants have said really good things about where we are with the streetcar project.

## 8. RTA Project Review Update – Grant Road Value Analysis & Valencia Road Value Analysis

Jim DeGrood provided a PowerPoint presentation regarding Grant Road and Valencia Road Project Value Analysis Efforts. Items reviewed:

- Grant Road Project Specifics
- Value Analysis Process
- Stated Goal at Outset of Meeting
- Area of Focus in Value Analysis
- RTA TMC Policy Subcommittee Actions
- Major Recommendations Accepted
- Next Steps

- Valencia Road Project Specifics
- Challenge to VA Team
- Stated Goal at Outset of Meeting
- Major Recommendations Accepted
- Future Value Analysis Projects

Jim provided an outline of various common observations and suggested that this list be shared with design teams.

John Bernal expressed a concern regarding the Swan Rd. intersection. The stretch from Craycroft going west on Grant Rd. will be upgraded and the Swan intersection will only have minor improvements. That won't look too good for the RTA program as a whole.

Frank Thomson asked if the business community has been asked what their thoughts are regarding the Value Analysis.

Jim added that he has presented the findings to TUCA and is happy to make the information available. Private Sector Consultants sit on our Policy Subcommittee and are making recommendations.

Bill Carroll applauded the City of Tucson for the work on Grant Rd. and the Downtown Links because not only will the value be received from selling the remnant parcels but it'll kick start the opportunity for significant corridor development to reoccur along those corridors without the burden of going back to the City Council to ask for a zoning change.

Chuck Huckelberry questioned if we're making sure that the Value Analysis recommendations are in the design plans, if the project is constructed and if it is evaluated for effectiveness. Chuck suggested that Jim DeGrood create a matrix to show the process of the Value Analysis.

Jim DeGrood recommended that we have a combination Value Engineering partnering session between notice of award and notice to proceed. It would need to have the appropriate people to make decisions at that meeting to quickly identify potential savings and recommendations that are mutually beneficial to the contractor and the community.

If you would like a copy of the presentation, please contact Rosie Soto at 792-1093 or [rsoto@pagnet.org](mailto:rsoto@pagnet.org).

## **9. RTA ThinkTank on the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers Section 404 Permit Process**

Jim reported that he's had an ongoing dialogue with Sally McGuire, Corps of Engineers, and has discussed a number of things: 1) Develop training programs for project managers and interested parties within the jurisdictions 2) Looking at the potential of doing a regional general permit which addresses RTA projects 3) Jurisdictional delineations in advance of the commencement of RTA projects 4) a position that we may fund under the Water Resources Development Act (WRDA) agreement. Pima County Flood Control District is working with Marjorie on a new agreement with additional language that deals with the participation in the selection of the individual to fill

the new position, bringing the position in at higher level of authority and a specific scope of work. Sally has been very receptive to the concerns and ideas.

Frank asked if the position was only for Flood Control District and roadway projects or if the scope is considered larger.

Jim said that under the new WRDA act; only those funding the position would be able to have their projects worked on. Therefore, having the RTA as a co-funder would draw all of the RTA projects into the scope of work.

## **10. RTA Tangerine Road Project**

Chuck explained that in 1986, the State Board of Transportation designated Tangerine Road a State Route. Therefore, the Arizona Department of Transportation is an integral partner in the decisions to be made regarding upgrading this roadway. The actions taken to upgrade this roadway must consciously involve ADOT to assure the roadway remains eligible for state funding for both construction and maintenance. The issue is whether to follow up and have the potential of converting the State Route to a State Highway, or to remove the State Route status to make that status available for other roadways.

Barbara added that Marana is uncomfortable with the land use issues and that ADOT is beginning to put a lot of pressure to do master agreements.

Gary Hayes added that we've been remiss not to have ADOT as a participant in this group.

## **11. RTA Progress Report**

Jim DeGroot provided a PowerPoint presentation regarding the RTA Progress Report. Items reviewed:

- RTA Financial Statistics
- RTA Project Update
- Roadway Element Projects
- Roadway Improvement Element
- Safety Element
- Environment & Economic Vitality
- RTA Transit Element
- Modern Streetcar
- RTA Monthly Sales Tax Receipts
- Monthly Revenue Trends (YoY)
- Market Value of RTA Fund

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**12. Call to the Audience**

None.

**13. Future Agenda Items**

None.

**14. Adjournment**

The meeting adjourned at 1:39 p.m.