



Regional Transportation Authority

177 N. Church Avenue, Suite 405, Tucson AZ 85701
Phone: (520) 770-9410 Fax: (520) 620-6981

RTAmobility.com

Regional Transportation Authority Transportation Planning Committee (TPC)

Minutes of June 2, 2010, Meeting

Committee Members Present

Priscilla Cornelio, Pima County DOT, Chair
Craig Civalier, Town of Oro Valley, Vice Chair
Ryan Benavides, Town of Marana
George Caria (for Jim Glock), City of Tucson DOT
Artemio Hoyos, Pascua Yaqui Tribe
Farhad Moghimi, Town of Sahuarita
Mark Pugh (for Fred Stevens), San Xavier District of
Tohono O'odham Nation

Public/Agencies

Curt Lueck, CLA
Dave Perkins, Kimley-Horn & Assoc.
Jim Witkowski, Morrison-Maierle

Jurisdiction Representatives

Roy Cuaron, City of Tucson DOT
Ben Goff, Pima County DOT
Beth Gorman, Pima County DEQ
Albert Letzkus, Pima County DOT
Don Mauller, ADOT MPD-Phoenix
Sarah More, Town of Sahuarita
Paki Rico, Gordley
Fred Ronstadt, TUCA
Rebecca Ruopp, City of Tucson HCD
Orville Saling, Town of Marana

Staff:

Cherie Campbell
Paul Casertano
Jim DeGroot
Andy Gunning
Gary Hayes
Pat Kendall
John Liosatos
Jeremy Papuga
Sheila Storm

1. Call to Order and Introductions

The meeting was called to order by Ms. Cornelio, Chair, at 9:00 a.m. and introductions were made.

2 Approval of Minutes of May 5, 2010

Motion was made by Mr. Moghimi to approve the minutes of the May 5, 2010, meeting, seconded by Mr. Civalier, and unanimously approved.

3. Call to the Audience

No discussion occurred.

4. Announcements/Comments

Ms. Campbell reported that a calendar of upcoming meetings and events is available to attendees and also mentioned:

- No TPC meetings are scheduled until Sept. 1, 2010.
- PAG's planning certification review will take place on June 22-24, at PAG, with a public hearing component, reviewing all of our transportation planning and other program efforts to obtain federal certification for our planning process.

Mr. DeGrood reported:

- CART Committee meeting date is being determined and may be scheduled in July (the group met last on Jan. 13, 2010)
- RTA Board will meet next on June 24 and focus on the RTA budget along with a Bike/Ped Working Group recommendation and various IGAs. Since the RTA Board will not meet again until late September, additional agenda items may need to be added.

5. In-Kind Form

The in-kind form was routed to attendees.

6. Report on Recent RTA Board Meetings

Mr. DeGrood reported that the RTA Board met three times in May:

- May 13 – City of Tucson staff gave a special presentation on the modern streetcar, answered questions and the Board discussed a request from the City of Tucson to adopt a new IGA to move forward with the funding of the project using RTA funds prior to using the TIGER grant (not anticipated to be funding the project until late in the year or early next year) for procurement of vehicles (30-month delivery time) and girder rail (more bicycle safe), and to continue its engineering effort. This was an information only meeting with no action taken.
- May 24 – Approved the modern streetcar's intergovernmental agreement (approved by City Council the prior week), as presented, with further discussion of amendments to incorporate additional language requested by County Supervisor Valadez.
- May 27 – Regular Board meeting included approval of 20 IGAs (FY 2011 categorical projects), continued discussion on the modern streetcar's IGA, voted to suspend discussion on the RTA assumption of regional transit operations for now, further discussion on project status and the RTA's financial forecast, and presentation of a staff-created "Earned Value for Dummies" book to Mayor Paul Loomis on his final RTA Board meeting.

7. RTA TIP Subcommittee Report

Mr. Hoyos, TIP Subcommittee Chair, reported that the group met on May 18 with no significant action items or amendments. Updates were received from the RTA Transit Working Group and Mr. DeGrood on RTA project status, and discussion occurred on the proposed yearly RTA project review to be conducted during the summer months.

8. RTA Working Groups' Monthly Reports

Mr. Papuga of the RTA Transit Working Group reported that since his last report in January, the group has made continued progress on a number of projects:

- Regional Paratransit Service Plan – wrapped up a year ago, the RTA Transit Working Group had specific recommendations on how to improve the provision of paratransit service at the regional level, with a small task force, meeting weekly, to determine how to implement those recommendations, and have them implemented into actual service by the end of the calendar year.
- Broadway/Houghton Park-and-Ride – design work continues.

- Sun Shuttle route planning and performance monitoring – ridership and performance of each route is reviewed monthly by the working group with a major update including changes based on this monitoring.
- Bus Maintenance and Storage Facility Phase III - anticipated to go out to bid this month
- 40 Bus Pullouts – still in the planning phase (most are 75 percent plans) and being reviewed by area property owners and Ward offices.
- Smart Card Technology – vendor has been selected and is working through the implementation strategies which are still online for implementation next year.
- Modern Streetcar – the working group receives monthly updates on this project as well as the transit regionalization effort.

In response to a question on the City of Tucson raising bus fares, Mr. Caria indicated that that is not in the budget this year.

9. RTA Project Funding Recommendation

Mr. DeGrood reported that the item was placed on the agenda at the last minute since it is a time sensitive policy issue that can't be delayed due to the summer break in meeting schedules. Since quite a large amount of money is being made available during the current Transportation Enhancements Round 18, jurisdictions have limited resources and the state is going to a two-year TE cycle, the RTA Bike/Ped Working Group, at its May 26, 2010, meeting, pledged support of a policy change that the RTA provide the minimum local funding requirement (5.7 percent match) for any successful Transportation Enhancement projects which are eligible for funding under either the Elderly & Pedestrian Safety (RTA #37) or Greenway, Pathways, Bikeways or Sidewalks (RTA #41) categories.

Motion was made by Mr. Civalier to recommend that the RTA agree to provide the minimum local funding requirement for any successful Transportation Enhancement projects which are eligible for funding under either the Elderly & Pedestrian Safety (RTA #37) or Greenway, Pathways, Bikeways or Sidewalks (RTA #41) categories to the RTA Board, seconded by Mr. Moghimi, and unanimously approved.

10. RTA Project Update (construction, billings and IGAs)

Mr. DeGrood made the same presentation on the RTA Short-Term Financial Outlook heard by the RTA Board on May 24 in support of the streetcar project as a result of concern about financial implications involved in moving the project forward.

The RTA had a fund balance of \$70 million at the end of April 2010, which has declined to \$66.6 million at the end of May. Updated forecasts from the jurisdictions inputted into our earned value management model were used for the RTA FY 2010 budget, which shows the RTA fund balance exhausted by the end of May. Clearly, there is a disconnect between what we'd expected to do and what we've done. Monthly depletions average \$4 million.

Major factors influencing cash flow include:

- Sales tax revenues
- Large project construction draws
- Recurring transit operating expenses
- Small project expenses
- Large project design costs

Sales tax revenues - FY 2010 budgeted amount: \$63 million, collected year to date: \$57.8 million and projected FY 2010 collections: \$62.7 million. The sales tax slump appears to be "bottoming out."

Large project construction draws – 8 first implementation period projects under way, approx. \$4 million per month in billings, including the Twin Peaks TI project billing \$1.8 million per month through November, 2010. Next projects likely will not mobilize until spring 2011.

Recurring transit operating expenses – Nearly \$1 million per month, no new transit services are anticipated next year, though capital purchases of new buses will occur.

Small project expenses – RTA accelerated small projects to deliver projects in the early part of the program while major projects were designed: 4 intersections have started or soon will start, along with Pantano & Arroyo Chico Greenways, bike lanes, bus pullouts and ongoing design for small projects with monthly reimbursements of \$1.5 million likely to remain constant.

New construction will be seen on intersections, and projects are winding up (Grant/Craycroft – largest project to date just completed billings). Larger intersection projects: Kolb/Valencia (\$6.9 million) and Oracle/Ina (over \$4 million) won't occur over the course of the next fiscal year.

Large project design costs – 18 projects in Implementation Periods 1 & 2 are currently in planning or design with \$2 million monthly average reimbursement for these services. The largest project planning/design reimbursements have been for: Grant Road, Houghton Road, 22nd Street, Downtown Links and the next phase of La Canada Drive. The RTA is spending half on design of what its spending on actual construction, which raises questions on portionality.

Mr. DeGrood continued that in looking at the end of the next fiscal year, the RTA fund balance is estimated to be \$30 million excluding the modern streetcar, with a positive \$1.3 million. Going to bond before the end of calendar year 2010, with a fund balance of less than \$20 million, has been discussed possibly through Build America bonds. Actual expenses are under FY 2010 estimates and revenues are stabilizing, streetcar expenses are already delayed and stable expenditure rates may decline. The 2006 cash flow anticipated bonding in FY 2011 will be desirable with or without streetcar acceleration.

Mr. DeGrood reported that to date the RTA has collected \$261 million in excise tax and expended just under \$201 million, with a current RTA fund balance of \$66.6 million through the end of May. To date, \$521 million in RTA funding has been committed with 394 projects approved by the RTA Board and 158 projects have been completed.

Sun Shuttle ridership is hitting a summer lull period, but exceeded 11,000 passengers in March, a little more in April and dropped slightly under that figure for May, but still five times greater than it was in its first month, May 2009. Continued growth is anticipated with impacts of shuttle changes made at the end of last month including adjusting Route 412, which now accesses the JTED campus at Shannon/River and extends to the Tonoho Tadaï Transit Center.

Mr. DeGrood mentioned a letter sent out yesterday by Mr. Hayes based upon feedback received from the RTA Board on our performance as it relates to implementation period 2 projects. Mr. Hayes asked that jurisdictions suspend work on these projects while comprehensive project reviews, discussed at this Committee's May 5 meeting, are conducted over the course of the summer, to better understand where cost drivers are (particularly with respect to soft costs). As mentioned earlier, on a monthly basis, the RTA is spending one half as much on design of implementation period two projects as it is on actual construction of implementation period one projects. Project reviews should be wrapping up prior to the September RTA Board meeting.

Being aware of the impacts of succession of work, Mr. DeGrood indicated that further discussion will occur, and restated that only Implementation period 2 roadway design projects are affected. Work

continues on expediting implementation period 1 projects, and categorical and transit projects are not impacted. This review may result in policies relating to soft costs, but will provide benchmarking that jurisdictions can use in contract negotiations.

Ms. Cornelio noted that the RTA's proposed action has significant ramifications to Pima County's schedules and consultant contracts which will be detailed in a letter so that the RTA Board has a full understanding of this edict's implications. Mr. Hayes encouraged Ms. Cornelio to submit the letter, and added that he'd spoken to Mayor Walkup and Mr. Huckelberry, and they understand and support the action.

11. Future Agenda Items

Mr. DeGrood suggested that discussing the project review process would be an appropriate discussion item. If results of the review are available prior to the scheduled Sept. 1 meeting, an earlier meeting date may be determined.

12. Adjournment

The next regularly scheduled meeting will be on Wed., Sept. 1, 2010, at 9:00 a.m.

Motion was made by Mr. Moghimi to adjourn the meeting, seconded by Mr. Civalier, and unanimously approved.

Meeting adjourned at 9:43 a.m.