



Regional Transportation Authority

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RTAmobility.com

TRANSIT WORKING GROUP

Meeting Summary of May 12, 2010, Meeting

Committee Members Present:

George Caria, City of Tucson
Mary McLain, Sun Tran/Sun Van
T. Van Hook, Town of Marana (by telephone)
Tom Amparano, University of Arizona
Aimee Ramsey, Town of Oro Valley
Jonathan Crowe, Pima County

Staff

Jim DeGrood
Jeremy Papuga
Gary Hayes
Teresa Ruiz
Ruth Reiman
Sheila Storm
David Joseph

Jurisdictional Representatives

Tom Fisher, City of Tucson

Public /Agencies

Michele Joseph, Sun Tran
Jenny Sirnio, Sun Tran

1. Call to Order and Introductions

The meeting was called to order and introductions were conducted.

2. Approval of Minutes of April 14, 2010

The minutes were approved as presented.

3. Call to Audience

The call was made. No member of the audience requested to address the Working Group.

4. Announcements/Comments

No announcements or comments were presented.

5. Status Report on RTA Projects

Mr. Fisher reported the bus storage and maintenance facility – phase 3 should be out to bid next week. Bids are due back in 25 days. The City hopes to award the contract by the end of June 2010. The contract will contain an option to include the administration building.

The Houghton park-and-ride is at 50 percent design; there is an issue with the setback.

The City Streets division has completed ADA upgrades at 10 bus stop locations. There are 30 locations still to be completed. Shelter pads are going in at the locations as well.

6. Sun Shuttle Service Update

Mr. Papuga reported ridership continues on an upward trend. Even though April monthly appears to decrease there were more service hours in April. Passengers per hour increased in April. By route, the largest number of riders is on the "old" Pima County routes. All routes are performing better than average. The four routes with the lowest ridership are due for changes. When viewed with respect to passengers per hour, the routes, with exception of route 440, are performing above average.

The new brochures have been delivered. The May 24 service changes are moving forward. There is a training session scheduled for May 19 to provide information on the changes which are closer to dial-a-ride service.

Ms. Joseph noted that Sun Tran is finalizing a direct mailer to Marana. The mailer will go to approximately 3,000 houses within $\frac{3}{4}$ of mile of route 410. The goal for the coupon return is 2 percent of what is mailed out. Also, there are print ads that will target the mother of teens in Marana.

7. Update on Regional Seamless Farebox Implementation

Ms. Sirnio reported that the vendor is planning on using our region as a showcase for the farebox technology. The vendor is hiring more engineers in order to meet the initial deadlines. Sun Tran will start issuing new cards in August to begin the transition to the new card system. The issue at this point is the integration of the UA Cat Card. Originally, the transit application was going on the card; however, meetings with the UA have reached an impasse. The UA prefers a card that is not, and never will be, compatible with the Sun Tran system. There is a compatible card. However, it is more expensive and would require re-engineering of the technology which would delay the implementation. The fall back position is not to place the application on the Cat Card and issue separate cards for transit use. As to incorporating the ability to pay for parking, Sun Tran is meeting with Parkwise this Friday.

8. Modern Streetcar Status

Mr. Caria reported on the streetcar project. Sections 2 and 3 are at 60 percent; sections 1 and 4 should be at 60 percent in June. City staff traveled to Oregon Iron Works, the vehicle vendor's facility. The City has received the Federal Transit Administration's review schedule for the streetcar project. The TIGER funding will be available in December 2010.

The streetcar maintenance facility schematics will be submitted for review in May.

9. Regionalized Transit Service Update

Mr. Hayes distributed a draft of the RTA Transit Element Cash Flow Projections for Operating and Capital Costs. He emphasized that the draft is not final. The draft will be

discussed at the RTA Board meeting on May 27 and he anticipates discussion at the City of Tucson Mayor and Council meeting.

In the draft is a five-year budget which continues to be updated as discussions continue. Mr. Hayes said the emphasis of the budget is that if transit moves to the RTA it will operate in the black. The draft assumes that LTAF funding is not included in the first fiscal year. One of the options assumes LTAF is available in the subsequent years and the other option assumes it is not available. He noted there are legal issues with LTAF in relation to the state budgeting process. However, even without LTAF, transit can be operated in the black. The key item for the draft is the continued level of 2004 funding level by the jurisdictions for transit. The City of Tucson and Pima County are the primary "players" in this issue. The City is aware of the funding commitment and moving transit to the RTA will result in a savings of \$3 million for the City. He asked the Working Group to review the draft.

Ms. Ramsey expressed concern about the funding numbers listed in the draft about Coyote Run. Mr. DeGrood noted that the draft distributed was written before he received the most recent numbers from Oro Valley. When the Town of Oro Valley Mayor and Council determine what option they prefer for Coyote Run, staffs can meet to discuss the issues.

10. Other Business

No other business was discussed.

11. Adjournment

Meeting adjourned