



RTAC Board Meeting Minutes
Wednesday, January 21st, 2009, 3:00 PM
Hon-Dah Resort & Conference Center
State Routes 73 & 260 Junction
Hon-Dah, Arizona 85935

Board members present:

Matt Ryan (Chairman)	Supervisor, Coconino County (NACOG)
Paul Johnson (Vice Chair)	Councilmember, City of Yuma (YMPO)
J.R. DeSpain	Supervisor, Navajo County (NACOG Alternate)
Edward Farrell	Councilmember, City of Maricopa (CAAG)
Mike Flannery	Councilmember, Town of Prescott Valley (CYMPO)
Bob Rivera	Mayor, Town of Thatcher (SEAGO)

Others in attendance:

Fred Abousleman	NARC
Kevin Adam	RTAC
Dave Barber	WACOG
Brent Billingsley	City of Maricopa
Chris Bridges	Yavapai County
Maxine Brown	CAAG
Chris Fetzer	NACOG
Rich Gaar	SEAGO
Joe Hughes	Go21
Bill Leister	CAAG
Sharon Mitchell	SEAGO
Jodi Rooney	CYMPO
Carol Springer	Supervisor, Yavapai County
Ken Sweet	NACOG

1. Supervisor Matt Ryan called the meeting to order at 3:16 PM and opened the meeting with a welcome and introductions.
2. The November 10th, 2008 Board meeting minutes were considered. A motion to pass the minutes was approved unanimously.
3. Supervisor Ryan called on Kevin Adam to provide an update on the federal stimulus legislation. Mr. Adam indicated that the passage of a stimulus package has become a priority back in Washington

for both the Obama Administration and Congressional Leadership. Congressman David Obey, Chairman of the House Appropriations Committee, released a report last week with his recommendations for a stimulus plan totaling \$825 Billion including \$275 Billion in tax cuts and \$550 Billion in targeted spending. The spending increases include \$30 Billion for highways, \$9 Billion for transit and \$1.1 Billion for rail. The transportation funding is lower than the \$85 Billion that had been proposed by Congressman James Oberstar, Chairman of the House Transportation and Infrastructure Committee. Selected projects will be 100% federally funded. 55% of the funding will be allocated to state projects and 45% will be allocated for local projects. For the state projects, 50% of the funds must be obligated within 180 days, and for the local projects, 50% must be obligated within 150 days. No federal regulatory requirements will be waived and all projects must be part of an approved State Transportation Improvement Program or regional Transportation Improvement Program. Mr. Adam indicated that the full House would likely vote on a bill as early as next week and that the Senate was also working on their own version of stimulus legislation. Mr. Adam indicated that he traveled to Washington the previous week to meet with Arizona Congressional delegation staff. He shared two primary concerns with the delegation that remain priorities as the stimulus package continues to be deliberated. First, the level of funding for transportation infrastructure has been reduced and has become a dramatically smaller part of the overall package despite being the initial focus. A second concern is the level of funding to be allocated to local projects and the regulatory flexibility that will be needed to make many projects eligible. While there has been no advancement concerning the regulatory flexibility, Mr. Adam indicated that the decision in the Obey bill to allocate 45% of the funding to local projects was significant as no previous allocation requirement existed. Mr. Adam indicated that the stimulus package is quite possibly the only significant level of transportation funding that will be received in the foreseeable future and that every effort needs to be made to maximize the funding levels.

4. Supervisor Ryan called on Mr. Adam to discuss the RTAC federal agenda and the inclusion of an additional resolution supporting federal funding for ports of entry and related infrastructure. He stated that he was bringing forward last year's agenda which includes; the solvency of the Highway Trust Fund, reimbursement for the Hoover Dam bypass bridge, construction of an additional Colorado River bridge in the vicinity of Bullhead City, the awarding of an ADOT federal transit application to develop a statewide rural transit program, and the expansion of rail capacity with the condition that public safety at railroad crossings is addressed concurrently. Concerns were raised regarding the Bullhead City Bridge. Mr. Adam responded that the resolution passed last year with the condition that any support for funding would be for revenue above the federal formula funding that Arizona receives so that the resolution would not be in competition for money with other Arizona projects. He further stated that the bridge is a priority for Senator Harry Reid of Nevada who is the Senate Majority Leader and that such a resolution would provide visible Arizona support for Senator Reid's efforts. Questions were raised concerning the priority order of the resolutions. Mr. Adam replied that there is no priority and that each carries equal weight on the RTAC agenda. Ken Sweet suggested that if there were no priorities that the resolutions should be listed in bullet point format rather than numbers on the RTAC agenda list.

Mr. Adam stated that in addition to continuing last year's agenda, that he was proposing to add a resolution supporting additional revenue for the infrastructure needs of Arizona's ports of entry. He indicated that the needs were great, that the logjam of traffic impacts economic activity and the local infrastructure, and that the ports are eligible to receive Arizona transportation funding and compete with other transportation needs across the state. He stated that with the likelihood of policy changes with the new Administration and former Governor Napolitano's appointment as Secretary of Homeland Security that there was a lot of potential to develop new sources of funding for border infrastructure. This would benefit both the ports of entry and also other transportation projects statewide that are impacted by the levels of transportation funding that are currently awarded to port

projects. Councilmember Mike Flannery stated that the draft resolution did not state the described purpose and wanted revisions. Councilmember Edward Farrell stated that he was a member of the Governor's CANAMEX Coalition and wanted to make sure that RTAC's efforts were complimentary and coordinated with other ongoing state efforts and requested that Mr. Adam contact Marisa Walker with the Coalition to start the coordination. Specification was also requested to clearly state that the proposed resolution concerned "international" ports of entry. Mr. Adam stated that he would contact Ms. Walker, revise the resolution language with the requested changes and have a new draft ready for consideration at the next RTAC Board meeting. The Board voted to continue the resolutions from the previous year and to postpone action on a port of entry resolution. Mr. Adam further stated that future additions to the RTAC Federal Agenda are likely as the SAFETEA-LU reauthorization process would likely start in earnest in a couple of months and a consideration of the state's priorities are underway.

5. Supervisor Ryan called on Kevin Adam to provide an update on the State Legislature. He stated that the Joint Legislative Budget Committee estimates the current year's budget deficit at \$1.58 Billion and the structural deficit for Fiscal Year 2010 is estimated at approximately \$3 Billion. A Special Session is expected shortly to make adjustments to the current year's budget. He stated that fund sweeps including HURF, the State Aviation Fund, and the Local Transportation Assistance Fund (LTAF & LTAF II) are all potential targets. While budget will be the overriding issue for the upcoming year, additional legislation will be considered regarding public private partnerships and the composition and role of the State Transportation Board. Mr. Adam stated that the RTAC Board would have lunch with the rural state legislators on January 24th and suggested that the conversation should focus on preventing raids on transportation and local government funding sources.

6. Supervisor Ryan made a call to the public. No comments were received.

7. Supervisor Ryan adjourned the meeting at 5:02 PM.