



RTAC Board Meeting Minutes
Monday, April 13, 2009, 1:00 PM
1820 W. Washington, Phoenix, AZ 85007
League of Arizona Cities and Towns Bldg.
Room 106

Board members present:

Matt Ryan (Chairman)	Supervisor, Coconino County (NACOG)
Edward Farrell	Councilmember, City of Maricopa (CAAG)
Mike Flannery	Councilmember, Town of Prescott Valley (CYMPO)
Sam Medrano	Vice Mayor, City of Bullhead City (WACOG)
Scott Overton*	Councilmember, City of Flagstaff (FMPO)
Bob Jackson	Mayor, City of Casa Grande (CAAG Alternate)
Bob Rivera	Mayor, Town of Thatcher (SEAGO)

Others in attendance:

Kevin Adam	RTAC
Dave Barber	WACOG
Chris Fetzner*	NACOG
Rich Gaar	SEAGO
Rob LaFontaine	City of Bullhead City
Bill Leister	CAAG
Sharon Mitchell	SEAGO
Jennifer Toth	ADOT

* Participated by phone.

1. Supervisor Matt Ryan called the meeting to order at 1:05 PM and opened the meeting with a welcome and introductions.
2. The March 23, 2009 Board meeting minutes were considered. A motion to pass the minutes was approved unanimously.
3. Supervisor Ryan called on ADOT Director of Systems Planning Jennifer Toth to discuss the reorganization of the ADOT Multimodal Planning Division and the status of the long range transportation planning update. Mrs. Toth indicated that she started as the Director of Systems Planning in November and that much of the team joined in the December/January timeframe and that several additional positions have yet to be filled. In addition, the Director of Transportation Programming, Michelle Conkle had recently resigned so several positions remain in transition in

addition to the reorganization. Mrs. Toth stated that the reorganization is largely based on functionality, and in addition to the five and twenty year plans and special area studies, that the agency would also be conducting studies on various functions such as freight, rail and pedestrian needs. She indicated that planning assistance to rural areas would continue. Dave Barber stated that he was concerned about the lack of open dialogue and communication between ADOT and the COGs and MPOs regarding the organizational restructuring and that regional and local staff often do not know who to contact at ADOT on various issues. Mrs. Toth replied that she would take those concerns back to the Division and Agency Directors and would also forward the organizational chart once it is completed which will provide a better understanding of the appropriate contacts for various issues.

For the long range transportation planning, Mrs. Toth stated that the Building a Quality Arizona (BQAZ) process was also in transition as the regional studies were coming to a completion and the agency was starting the process of incorporating the input from the regional studies into a statewide long range transportation plan. The vision and guiding principles would be addressed at the BQAZ Policy Committee meeting later in the week. In addition to the regional studies, ADOT staff also met with various stakeholders including freight carriers, chambers of commerce, environmental groups, and neighboring states for input on long term trends and needs. She stated that three scenarios were being considered centered around personal vehicle mobility, transit and focused growth and that the agency would develop a preferred alternative out of those scenarios targeted for the year 2050. She further stated that this process would be a departure from the MoveAZ plan which was the last state long range plan which was more project specific. Among the differences, BQAZ would be exploring various potential funding sources and scenarios, more system-wide and corridor-oriented considerations, and the development of decision-making tools for legislators and other policy makers. She further stated that there was a disconnect between MoveAZ and the five year plan updates which would be addressed with the new long range plan.

In closing, Mrs. Toth stated that the consultant for the long range transportation plan had just been selected and that internal meetings were just starting regarding the process but that process details and timelines would be disclosed shortly which would include the development of committees with RTAC, COG and MPO participation as well as public meetings. A round of public meetings is currently anticipated for August. The final product is scheduled for completion in July of 2010. Chairman Ryan thanked Mrs. Toth for her participation.

4. Supervisor Ryan called on Kevin Adam to discuss the possibility of sending a support letter to President Obama for the nomination of Victor Mendez to be the next Federal Highway Administrator. Mr. Adam stated that the President has nominated Mr. Mendez and that his successful confirmation would benefit Arizona and that it may be helpful to demonstrate support for Mr. Mendez from his home state during the confirmation process. A motion to send a support letter as drafted passed unanimously.

5. Supervisor Ryan called on Mr. Adam to provide an update on the State legislative session. Mr. Adam indicated that the focus continues to be on the budget. A \$500 Million shortfall is anticipated for the current fiscal year and a \$3 Billion structural deficit is anticipated for Fiscal Year 2010. The Legislature estimates that \$1.8 Billion will be available from the federal stimulus package. The current plan is to fund the current year shortfall entirely with stimulus funding and for the remaining balance to be utilized in next year's budget. Leadership in both chambers have developed independent plans consisting of various spending cuts and fund sweeps in addition to the federal money yet both plans fall roughly \$500 Million short of the anticipated deficit. In regards to transportation, fund sweeps impacting highways, local streets, aviation and transit are under consideration. One proposal would fund \$101 Million of the general operating budget of the State's Motor Vehicle Division with HURF rather than State Highway Fund dollars. The end result would be a \$50 Million loss of local

HURF which is funding that is directed to local governments for local street projects. In addition, both chambers have included STAN appropriations to be funded with HURF revenue. Mr. Adam stated that leadership seems to be unable to bridge the funding gap and develop budget plans that adequately address the anticipated shortfall for next year and that he would keep the Board apprised of future developments.

6. Supervisor Ryan made a call to the public. Mayor Bob Rivera indicated that he wanted a discussion concerning the Rural Transportation Summit on the next RTAC Board meeting agenda. There were no further comments.

7. Supervisor Ryan adjourned the meeting at 2:33 PM.