

DRAFT MEETING SUMMARY

Client/Project: South Mountain Corridor Study Citizens Advisory Team

Date: September 26, 2002 **Time:** 5:30 p.m. **Location:** Vee Quiva Casino

CAT Members Attending:

Rock Argabright, Ahwatukee Foothills Chamber of Commerce
Carlie Billen Back, SM/Laveen Chamber of Commerce
Chuck Crist, Lakewood HOA
Ron Chohamin, Lakewood HOA
Peggy Eastburn, Estrella Village Planning Committee
Michael Goodman, Phoenix Mountains Preservation Council
Don Jones, Southwest Valley Chamber of Commerce
Robert Moss, United Arizona Dairymen
Silverio Ontiveros, Laveen Village Planning Committee
Laura Prendergast, Laveen Citizens for Responsible Development
Nathaniel Percharo, Pecos Road/I-10 Landowners Association
Jim Stroger, Kyrene de los Lagos Elementary School
James Slaker, Ahwatukee Foothills Village Planning Committee

Staff and Consultants Attending:

Thor Anderson, ADOT	Bill Rawson, GRA
Dave Anderson, HDR	John Roberts, GRIC
Fred Garcia, ADOT	Mary Viparina, ADOT
Theresa Gunn, GCI	Bill Vachon, FHWA
Angie Newton, ADOT	

Meeting Facilitation: Theresa Gunn, GCI

Meeting Summary: Bill Rawson, GRA

MEETING HANDOUTS:

- Air Quality Information
- Mass Transit Newsletter

DECISIONS:

The CAT agreed that no meeting should be held in November or December unless there is actual work to be done. The team further agreed that the November and December meetings should be combined into a single meeting in early December if it is determined that a meeting is warranted.

ACTION PLAN:

Task/Activity	WHO	WHEN
Provide GRIC district map and org chart	John Roberts	October 23 meeting
Report on ongoing transportation plans within the study area, including city of Phoenix master plan	Dave Anderson	October 23 meeting
Discuss possibility of building north-south leg only	Dave Anderson	October 23 meeting

PROJECT UPDATE:

Dave Anderson reported that work is continuing on technical aspects of the study. The technical team has:

- Completed the outline for the Design Concept Report
- Updated the 1988 alternative to comply with current standards
- Begun to analyze corridors on the west side of the study area

In addition, Anderson said the team has begun its study of the 1988 (Pecos Road) alignment and that other alternative alignments will be studied as they are identified. The technical team also is looking at interchange alternatives and their potential impact on I-10 interchanges.

PUBLIC INVOLVEMENT UPDATE:

- Theresa Gunn reported that the newsletter will be going to the printer in the next week and that it should be distributed in the next two weeks. Approximately 2,000 will be mailed to people who have asked to be on the mailing list. The newsletter also will be delivered door-to-door in the study area and will be inserted into the Ahwatukee/Foothills News newspaper. A special edition of the GRIC newspaper also is being prepared for publication.
- Two new SMCAT members were introduced. Rock Argabright has replaced Chuck Cunningham as the representative of the Ahwatukee Chamber of Commerce. Chuck is moving to California. Ron Chohamin is replacing Chuck Crist as the representative of the Lakewood Homeowners Association. Chuck also is moving to California. Replacements also will be named for Angela Mazzi (Valley Forward), who is moving to Ohio; and Jim Slaker (Ahwatukee Village Planning Committee), who is moving to Scottsdale.

FOLLOW-UP FROM PREVIOUS MEETINGS:

- John Roberts is working on obtaining GRIC district maps and org chart. They should be available for the next meeting
- Dave Anderson will have information on the Pecos Road Traffic Interchange for the next meeting.

PRESENTATIONS:

- Angie Newton, ADOT's Environmental Planning Section, gave a presentation on freeway noise consisting of ADOT's noise video.

Questions from CAT members:

- If there are no receivers (homes, schools, etc.) when the freeway is built, are noise walls built anyway?
Response: Noise mitigation is considered only when receivers are present or if building permits have been issued prior to the Date of Public Knowledge, which is the date that all environmental documents are finalized and approved.
 - Will enough right-of-way be available to build berms instead of noise walls on the South Mountain Freeway?
Response: That depends on the cost of the right of way. Berms are not often used along urban freeways because of the cost of buying additional right of way.
 - Would depressing the freeway help mitigate noise?
Response: Yes. However, the profile of the freeway will be decided during the design phase. Also, depressed freeways are more expensive to build.
- Fred Garcia, also of ADOT's Environmental Planning Section, gave a presentation on air quality. Garcia said the only pollutant measured at the "project level" is carbon dioxide. Other pollutants, such as ozone and particulates, are regional and are measured and regulated by Maricopa County and the Arizona Department of Environmental Quality. Each alternative will be studied to determine its impact on air quality.

GENERAL CAT MEMBER COMMENTS:

- I received the Phoenix city-wide transportation plan in the mail. It appears the city plans to go ahead with development of Pecos Road as a parkway with or without a South Mountain Freeway.
Response from Mary Vigarina: Our task is to continue with the study. We don't plan to change the scope of the study. The South Mountain Freeway was approved by the voters as part of a Regional Freeway System

- I heard that the \$85 million that has been set aside for the South Mountain Freeway has been reallocated for use elsewhere. Is it still available for this project?
Response from Mary Viparina: Some of that money has been used for a right of way purchase and to fund this study; the remainder is still available for this project.
- If we can't get approval from GRIC to put the freeway on Indian land, can we go ahead and build the north-south leg only?

EVALUATION:

Members were asked to evaluate the CAT process to date and the meetings.

- We should meet in December if we have something to work on. Otherwise, we may be able to skip November and December and pick up in January without missing anything.
- We seem to be treading water.
- The project appears to be moving ahead without CAT input.
- What are we accomplishing? We seem to be stalled; we're not refining any alignments.
- We're not going to feel that we're accomplishing anything until we have alignments.

NEXT MEETING:

- October 24, 2002 (***NOTE: Following the meeting, it was decided to cancel the October meeting. The next meeting will be on December 5.***)