

CITIZEN'S TRANSPORTATION OVERSIGHT COMMITTEE

Arizona Department of Transportation

Minutes

November 15, 2011

A Citizen's Transportation Oversight Committee (CTOC) meeting was held at the Arizona Department of Transportation, 206 South 17th Avenue, Phoenix, Arizona 85007 on November 15, 2011, with Chairman Roc Arnett presiding.

Members Present:

F. Rockne Arnett, Chairman
Kyle Robinson, Maricopa County District 1
Rodney Jarvis, Maricopa County District 3
Larry Woods, Maricopa County District 4
Sharolyn Hohman, Maricopa County District 5

Members Absent:

Susan Brechbill, Maricopa County District 2
Member at Large – position vacant

Others Present:

James LaSalvia, Citizen	John Anderson, Citizen
Lorraine Anderson, Citizen	Lynn Sugiyama, RFS/ADOT
Debbie Zapatka, Citizen	Wes Lines, Citizen
Alex Soto, Citizen	Paloma Allen, Citizen
Mike Kies, MPD, ADOT	Bill Cowdrey, HDR
Mark Yalung, Parson-Brinkerhoff	Jaimee Robinson, Ames Construction
Dianne Barker, Citizen	Elizabeth Neville, CTOC
Brock Barnhart, CTOC	Salina Tovar, CCP/ADOT
Nicole Patrick, Maricopa County	Adrienne Weinkamer, AG Office
M.J. Vincent, CCP, ADOT	Lori Riddle, Gila River Alliance
Larry Woolson, Citizen	Ross Franklin, Citizen
Karim Dad, Citizen	Sheila Griffin-Dawson, Citizen
Erika Keenan, Citizen	Kent Dibble, Dibble Engineering
John Hauskins, MCDOT Director	Kwi Kang, RFS/ADOT

1. Call to Order:

Chairman Roc Arnett Called to Order the Citizen's Transportation Oversight Committee meeting at 4:00 p.m.

2. Pledge of Allegiance:

The Chair led the CTOC members and the public in the Pledge of Allegiance.

3. Roll Call:

The Chair asked for the Roll Call. Elizabeth Neville Board Secretary Called the Roll.

4. Welcome and Opening Remarks:

The Chair welcomed the public, public officials, members of CTOC and staff to the meeting. Mr. John Hauskins, Director of Maricopa County Department of Transportation, was introduced.

5. Call to the Public:

Wes Lines, citizen, spoke in favor of the Loop 202 that will go through the LaVeen area and South Mountain in the future. He lives off of 51st Avenue and has to take awhile to turn left. The 202 is very badly needed and respectfully requests that CTOC encourage the southwest 202 be built as quickly as possible and offered to help speed things along.

Ross Franklin, citizen, commented that the Loop 202 southwest freeway extension is desperately needed for the area for the traffic aspect and for the economic vitality of the corridor area from the reservation, through LaVeen to I-10. He would like to see this become an action item and priority for an upcoming meeting and for the project to move quickly. It has been on the agenda for several decades.

Debbie Zapatka, citizen and resident of LaVeen with the Gila River Alliance for a Clean Environment, commented about the truck and semi traffic being a problem. If the highway were there it would alleviate traffic problems. She thought this was approved through a vote and that there was a budget for it.

The Chair commented that the alignment is going for a vote on February 7, 2012.

Erika Keenan, citizen and resident of Laveen and serves on the Laveen Village Planning Committee, is an active member of the community and is here to request that CTOC put the Loop 202 South Mountain Freeway on a future agenda and quickly. Based on feedback from the community, there is a lot of information going around that everything has to wait until February 7th for the Gila River Community to vote. But we also know that voters did fund this. There is talk in the community that maybe this is not even feasible. I know you have had meetings in the community; I suggest having more and putting this on a future agenda regarding what can be done. A big part is the Indian Reservation getting approval, but what about the extension from I-10 into Laveen, can that be built? Can that happen, with less money, with less funding, money has been approved, and it's sitting there, what is happening to it? Those are questions that are coming from the community.

The Chair commented that there was a vote in 2004 to provide money. In 2004, there were a number of features and corridors taken into consideration. There has been a drastic reduction in funds due to the economy. It might be helpful for this group to have an update sent to those who provided an address.

Brock Barnhart, Special Assistant to CTOC suggested that the Maricopa Association of Governments (MAG) could possibly provide a presentation on the current status of the Regional Transportation Plan to update the citizens regarding the budget or funding issue.

Dianne Barker, citizen and resident of Phoenix, commented she attended the meeting via bicycle, bus and light rail. I am a big believer in citizen access and am part of the one percent helping to cut down on this congestion. I've put meeting information on Face Book for MAG, CTOC, and ideas for transit. More people are accepting of a multi-model system. People are in fear of making the transition. I ask CTOC to consider an agenda item to try and bring that one percent riding transit into play. The transportation plan spends a

lot time on the highways but from the beginning when this Committee was formed by referendum, they said it would include a future transit system. Arizona, like the United States, needs to get into manufacturing rail systems. I talked to Congressman Ed Pastor about \$1 million going to South Phoenix, I would like to see South Phoenix prosper, but why just bring that grade rail down there, when you have the whole listing for the entire Maricopa County. He said we are going through alternatives analysis to bring that together. I propose we get an at-grade speed rail and go up Grand Avenue. All the parts can and should be manufactured here. Arizona should start a movement to take care of ourselves in this country, energy, income wise and manufacturing.

6. Approval of Minutes for the September 20, 2011 Meeting:

The Chair called for a motion to approve the minutes of the September 20, 2011, meeting.

Board Action: Larry Woods, Member moved to approve the September 20, 2011, minutes. The motion was seconded by Kyle Robinson, Member and carried unanimously.

7. ADOT Intercity Rail Study:

Mike Kies, ADOT Assistant Director of Planning and Programming provided a presentation of the ADOT Study for the Rail from Phoenix to Tucson. The study area includes all of Maricopa, Pinal and Pima counties to look at new transportation options to move people between two metropolitan areas. The large study area is needed because many communities are interested in how to connect in the future. The three-step process needed to reach a locally preferred alternative includes intercity rail and other connections and an implementation system. The study kicked off in March 2011 under the Federal Railroad Administration. Purpose and need were studied. Findings were taken to stakeholders in June 2011; more than 100 agencies attended a meeting and confirmed the findings. Over the summer, the Federal Transit Administration and the Federal Railroad Administration teamed as co-leads on the study to look at intercity movement and commuter movement. The scoping process concluded on November 14, 2011. There were twelve meetings; about 1,000 handouts were distributed that included a questionnaire. There were 2,800 people who completed the questionnaire on-line for a total of 3,000 forms completed. The preferred travel choice was train. Next steps include an initial screening and a detailed evaluation of preferred alternatives. The initial screening is a look at individual elements of an alternative for intercity rail including end of line stations, route location and service type. Initial screening is expected to be completed in December 2011. The second step, the detailed evaluation, will include fully "bundled" alternatives that include an end of line station in each urban area, route with station locations, mode/frequency and connections. The detailed evaluation is expected to be completed in spring 2012. Land use patterns will be reviewed. The third step in the evaluation process is the final evaluation. This will produce the Environmental Impact Statement with several build alternatives and no-build and baseline alternatives. This is expected to be completed in 2013. The locally preferred alternative is the preferred alternative and will include a service development plan that will include implementation and environmental consequences.

Questions Asked:

Sharolyn Hohman, Member commented about destinations and looking further to the west valley.

The Chair asked about funding and an alignment.

In reply Mr. Kies stated the study will look at how an intercity rail system compares against a baseline alternative which could be highway widening or an enhanced bus system.

8. CTOC Proposed Meeting Schedule for 2012:

Brock Barnhart, Special Assistant to CTOC, presented the 2012 CTOC meeting schedule for the Committee's review and approval. There are five meetings proposed with the first being January 24, 2012. Various meeting locations are included in the proposed schedule.

The Chair called for a motion to approve the proposed 2012 CTOC Meeting Schedule.

Board Action: Kyle Robinson, Member moved to approve the CTOC proposed meeting schedule for 2012. The motion was seconded by Sharolyn Hohman, Member and carried unanimously.

9. CTOC Proposed Budget for FY 11/12:

Brock Barnhart, Special Assistant to CTOC, reviewed expenditures for FY 10/11 and presented the proposed CTOC Budget FY 11/12 for approval. The previous year's budget was shared showing the budgeted amount and the expended amount. Last year's budget was \$63,800 with a remainder of \$10,742. The proposed budget for FY 11/12 includes personal services, professional and outside services and other operating expenses for a total amount of \$65,000.

Question Asked:

There was a question about the additional amount this FY for Operating Expenses. Mr. Barnhart replied that it includes the holding of meetings in different locations and possible related logistics.

Board Action: Kyle Robinson, Member moved to approve the CTOC Budget for FY 11/12. The motion was seconded by Larry Woods, Member and carried unanimously.

10. Freeway – Five Year Construction Program:

Kwi Kang, ADOT Transportation Engineer, Regional Freeway System, provided an update on current and proposed work within FY 2012 - FY 2016 Freeway Program in Maricopa County.

Major Projects under Construction include:

Loop 303, Peoria Avenue to Mountain View Boulevard, Loop 101, Interstate-10 (I-10) to Tatum Boulevard HOV Lanes Design Build; MAG Proposition 400 Noise Walls and ten locations in the MAG Region Wide; I-10 / Loop 303 Traffic Interchange construction to begin in late 2011; State Route 143, Sky Harbor Traffic Interchange; and Loop 202, Gilbert to I-10 High Occupancy Vehicle (HOV) lane Design Build to be completed in October 2011.

FY 2012 Construction Program Projects include:

Loop 303, Peoria Avenue to Mountain View Boulevard landscaping; State Route 51, Bell Road to Loop 101 Freeway Management Systems (FMS); I-17, Arizona Canal – Loop 101 FMS; Loop 303, Glendale to Peoria Avenues and Thomas to Camelback Roads; US60 Grand, Loop 101 to McDowell Road is Phase I; and State Route 24, Gateway Freeway, Loop 202 to Ellsworth.

FY 2013 Construction Program Projects include:

I-17, Loop 101-State Route 74 FMS; Loop 303, landscaping of two roadway segments; Loop 303, Camelback Road to Glendale Avenue; I-10, Perryville Road Traffic Interchange; State Route 85, Warner Street Bridge; I-10, 32nd Street – Loop 202 local express lane in Phase I; US60, Meridian Road Traffic Interchange; and State Route 51, Black Mountain Boulevard Traffic Interchange which is a City of Phoenix project.

FY 2014 Construction Program Projects include:

L303, US 60 Interim Traffic Interchange; Loop 303, Camelback to Glendale landscaping; US60: Loop 101 to Van Buren is in Phase 2; I-10 / Loop 303: Traffic Interchange landscaping; Loop 202, 17th Avenue to 51st Avenue; Loop 101, Shea Boulevard to Loop 202 general purpose lanes (GPL); I-10, 32nd Street to Loop 202 local express lane in Phase 2; and Loop 202, Dobson Road to I-10 FMS.

FY 2015 Construction Program Projects include: I-17, Arizona Canal to Loop 101 general purpose lane and I-17, Peoria Avenue to Greenway - drainage improvement; I-10, Sky Harbor West Traffic Interchange; L202, Baseline to the Salt River and to Buckeye Road; L202, Salt River Bridge; I-10, Loop 202 – Riggs Road HOV and GPL; Loop 202, Loop 101 – Gilbert Road GPL; I-10, 32nd Street to Loop 202 local express lanes in Phase 3; and Loop 202, Val Vista – Dobson FMS.

FY 2016 Construction Program Projects: are not programmed at this time due to cash flow issues.

The ADOT Highway Program costs chart for F/Y 2012 through 2016 was shared.

Revenue charts were shared including the Regional Area Road Fund (RARF) revenue trends for fiscal years 2001 through 2011 and Highway User Revenue Fund (HURF) revenue trends for fiscal years 2001-2011.

Mr. Kang also shared the RARF Revenue collections for FY 2005 through 2011, and the HURF Revenue collections for FY 2005 through 2011.

Current and upcoming processes include the Regional Transportation Program (RTP) Performance Audit, RTP Freeway Program re-balancing efforts; RTP Tentative Five Year Program and the January 2012 Certification. Program information is also available on the Arizona Department of Transportation and Maricopa Association of Governments websites at:

www.azdot.gov/mpd/priority_programming/five_year_programs.asp
www.azmag.gov/projects/project.asp?cmsid2=1140&mid=transportation

Questions Asked:

There was a question about the interchange expense at Loop 303 and I-10.

Mr. Kang replied that the project was awarded by the Arizona State Transportation Board in September 2011 and the construction will begin late this year.

The Chair asked about portions of the Loop 202, South Mountain in the Five-Year Plan for funding.

Mr. Kang stated the projects shown in my presentations are only for the construction projects and is not including design or right of way projects.

The Chair followed with a question about the South Mountain project programmed in FY 2014.

In reply Mr. Kang stated that project builds a new freeway from 17th Avenue to 51st Avenue. This is the currently approved program and the DCR/EIS studies will provide additional details.

The Chair commented that regarding the RARF, there has been a tremendous reduction in funds.

Public Written Comment Forms submitted to CTOC:

The following citizen's were not in attendance during the Call to the Public; therefore, written comments are included here:

Paloma Allen, citizen regarding the Gila River against Loop 202.

The Gila River Indian Community has two tribal resolutions stating our NO BUILD stance on the issue of the South Mountain extension to the Loop 202. We are stakeholders in the Loop 202 project as well as a sovereign nation, yet ADOT has not respected our NO BUILD wishes, and continues to advance this project against the wishes of our people. We oppose this Loop 202 extension on the grounds that South Mountain is the home of our deity, our Creator. We oppose to protect the air quality for our unborn children, to conserve the natural landscapes, plants and animal habitats that are all on South Mountain.

Alex Soto, citizen regarding the Gila River against Loop 202.

I demand the CTOC to stop the current South Mountain Loop 202 Freeway Extension "project". This freeway will negatively effect my sister tribes, the Akimel O'odham who reside in the Gila River Indian Community. This freeway will add pollution that will affect the health of GRIC, encroach on GRIC, and desecrate South Mountain, which is a sacred site to all O'odham (Akimel Tohana O'odham).

Lori Riddle, citizen with Gila River Alliance for a Clean Environment.

I'd like to make a public comment on the Loop 202 South Mountain portion of this meeting (item 10). Thank you.

11. Recommendations for Future Agenda Items:

Chairman Arnett suggested an update from MAG as mentioned previously regarding the Loop 202 South Mountain Freeway.

It was also suggested to have an update on the sound wall project in Sun City West.

12. Next CTOC Public Meeting:

Tuesday, January 24, 2012 at 4:00 p.m.
Arizona Department of Transportation
206 South 17th Avenue, Auditorium
Phoenix, Arizona 85007

13. Adjournment:

The meeting adjourned.