



**City of Bisbee**  
**Comprehensive Transportation Plan**



**Project:** City of Bisbee Comprehensive Transportation Plan PARA Study  
*ADOT Task Assignment MPD 34-10*

**Subject:** Technical Advisory Committee Meeting # 3 Minutes

**Meeting Date/Time:** Thursday, April 28<sup>th</sup> 2011 / 10:00 am – 12:00 noon

**Location:** Cochise County Complex, Building F, 1415 Melody Lane, Bisbee, AZ 85603  
Human Resources Training Room

<b>Attendees:</b>	Mark Hoffman, ADOT MPD	Tom Klimek, City of Bisbee
	Melissa Reuter, ADOT Environmental	Luke Droeger, SEAGO
	Tom Engel, ADOT Safford District	Randy Overmyer, WSA
	Dee Crumbacher, ADOT Southern Region	Chris Nazar, WSA
	C.T. Revere, ADOT CCP	Heather Honsberger, HDR

**1. Introductions & Opening Remarks**

- a. Mark Hoffman, ADOT MPD opened the meeting. Everyone introduced themselves. Mark welcomed those in attendance and explained that Dale Miller had departed and that Randy Overmyer would be the new WSA project manager for the plan.

**2. Agenda and Introduction of Presentation**

- a. Randy Overmyer began the presentation by reviewing the study purpose and need.
- b. Randy Overmyer reviewed the Stakeholder Identified Needs including:
  - i. Sidewalks, crosswalks & bike lanes along the pit area
  - ii. SR 92/Naco Hwy intersection access management & safety improvements
  - iii. Channelize streets at Court House area
  - iv. Network of multiuse paths
  - v. Signage and wayfinding strategies
  - vi. Control speed & safer crosswalks downtown area
  - vii. Various drainage improvements around town
  - viii. Additional parking for visitors and residents
  - ix. Safety improvements & access control for SR 92
  - x. Funding source(s) for upkeep of public stairs



**City of Bisbee**  
**Comprehensive Transportation Plan**



- xi. Sidewalks needed for good pedestrian circulation
- xii. Poor & rough street surfaces need improvement
- xiii. Handrail and safety rails for structures & stairs
- xiv. Repair & reopen Old Divide Road

**3. Current Conditions (Working Paper #1 Review)**

- a. Randy Overmyer reviewed the Current Conditions Findings from Working Paper #1
  - i. Important to preserve the public stairways and retaining walls – part of Bisbee’s charm
  - ii. Need good circulation & connectivity between the dispersed neighborhoods
  - iii. Enhance pedestrian and bicyclist circulation with more sidewalks, bike facilities and safe and convenient road crossings
  - iv. Provide more parking in Old Bisbee for visitors and residents
  - v. Program and funding needed for incremental construction of the 55% of streets that are in poor condition or have failed
  - vi. Need an effective signage and wayfinding program to enhance the visitor’s experience
  - vii. SR 92 needs a comprehensive look to maintain capacity and improve safety throughout
  - viii. Safety improvements needed on SR 80 & SR 92 due to crash incidents
  - ix. Continue the operation of the successful Bisbee Bus system
  - x. Develop a business park in the vicinity of the airport and attract new business to Bisbee
  - xi. Work with ADOT to preserve a commerce corridor for the Naco Highway to the POE
  - xii. Key to the transportation plan is a strategy to address the travel demands and provide the many needed infrastructure improvements

**4. Future Conditions (Working Paper #2)**

- a. Randy Overmyer reviewed the future land use and population forecasts contained in WP #2. Tom Klimek asked about reconciling the population forecasts with 2010 Census data. The 2010 Census data showed a downward trend. School enrollment is also down. The population numbers may need to be reassessed. The communities are not



**City of Bisbee**  
**Comprehensive Transportation Plan**



attracting sufficient new population to make up for younger population that is leaving. The forecasts need to state where the communities expect to be growth wise.

- b. Randy Overmyer indicated that he had spoken with Karen Lamberton at Cochise County about adjustments to the data and indicated he would follow-up on this. Randy explained that WSA used the official Arizona Department of Commerce Data, which were pre-2010 Census estimates.
- c. Tom Klimek suggested that the forecasts should take into account a variety of factors in determining the growth rate including economic conditions and business incentives. The City lost \$400,000 in HURF funding from the state, as the Census indicates Bisbee only has 5,500 people. Tom would rather the growth projections be more conservative. Bisbee will likely challenge the census numbers as their utility accounts show that the households are in place and that the Census likely miscounted due to absentee/holiday residents. Bisbee has a new growth initiative, announced at council this week.
- d. Randy Overmyer proposed showing multiple population forecasts in the working paper including the original forecast based on official Arizona Department of Commerce data and a revised forecast. There was general support for this type of approach.
- e. Luke Droeger stated that every community in the SEAGO Region lost population according to the Census.
- f. Randy Overmyer reviewed the future traffic forecasts contained in WP #2. Dee Crumbacher asked about the source of the data on Slide 11 regarding the volume to capacity ratios used to define level of service. Randy Overmyer stated that these criteria were developed with ADOT Traffic Staff on a prior study for use in estimating LOS based on daily volumes. Dee Crumbacher does not believe that current conditions reflect LOS D at any locations and wants to make sure the study is realistic on traffic congestion. Dee would like to look at the input parameters/base values used in the modeling in more detail. Randy Overmyer will arrange for this.
- g. Randy Overmyer discussed the lack of connectivity within and between the various neighborhoods off of the state highways as a key issue. Dee Cumbacher stated that it is also a safety and not just a congestion issue, as there are not good alternatives to the state highways in emergency situation.
- h. Randy Overmyer reviewed the driveway, safety, and crash issues discussed in WP #2. These included:
  - i. The traffic circle has eight driveway openings within or immediately adjacent.
  - ii. SR 92 has an excessive number of driveway access points in the vicinity of the Naco Highway intersection.
  - iii. Naco Highway has fourteen driveway access points within 700 feet of the intersection.



**City of Bisbee**  
**Comprehensive Transportation Plan**



- iv. The lack of turn lanes on SR 92 exacerbates this high number of conflict points.
  - v. There appears to be adequate space to add a center turn lane or a four lane cross section with a narrow median and turn lanes in the segment from Melody Lane to School Terrace Road. ROW may be required.
  - vi. A connection to the Safeway Center from Collins Road will help alleviate conflicts at the entrance on SR 92.
  - i. Randy asked Tom Engel about a copy of the 1999 DCR for Highway 92. Tom Engel will provide a copy and WSA will update WP #2 with relevant information.
  - j. Comments have been provided on WP #2 by some members of the Advisory Committee. Tom Klimek and Luke Droeger indicated they would have comments next week.
  - k. Tom Klimek asked about the comment in the report that Bisbee bus fares are “quite low” and asked about looking at transit operations in the study. Randy Overmyer indicated that this was based on looking at neighboring communities. Ridership forecasts are based on population growth. WSA will add more benchmark transit data in the report from the ADOT report on transit including cost per mile and cost per passenger for similar systems.
  - l. Tom Klimek mentioned that the Copper Queen Hospital and Copper Queen Hotel are expanding and that he would like to see bus bays considered there and at Ace Hardware. Mark Hoffman explained that there are state requirements for bus stops on state highways that will need to be taken into account.
5. **Schedule**
- a. Randy Overmyer reviewed the project schedule. The project is on-schedule.
6. **Upcoming Public Meeting(s)**
- a. The Advisory Committee discussed the format for the upcoming public meeting. They agreed on using roll plots that the public can mark-up and a dot voting exercise based on an issues map. Members of the public would be able to vote on the transportation issues/concerns identified that they thought were the most important. A mixed open house and presentation format was agreed upon. There will also be a survey for members of the public to fill-out. There was discussion of making the meeting as interactive as possible.
  - b. Tom Klimek indicated that a lot of locals will want to have input and suggested multiple meetings around the community during the day. For example, there could be a 10 AM to Noon, a 2 pm to 4 pm, and a 5 pm to 7 pm meeting at three different locations. Ideally the team could do three shorter meetings during the day and still hold an evening meeting. There was agreement that this could be achieved. WSA will prepare a focused issues slide and map for each part of the community for use at individual meetings. Otherwise the presentation and exhibits would be the same at each meeting.



**City of Bisbee**  
**Comprehensive Transportation Plan**



- c. There was agreement on target meeting locations: Old Bisbee – Conference Center Basement, Warren – City Hall, San Jose – Seniors Center, and the evening meeting at the County building. The evening meeting would be a little later than normal, 6 pm to 7:30 pm. Tom Klimek indicated that local staff would be available to setup and that HDR should coordinate with Community Development staff on preparing for the meetings.
- d. The Advisory Committee agreed that the schedule for advertising for meetings was tight at that the meetings could be pushed back a week. May 25<sup>th</sup> was the target date for the meetings (Editorial Note: this was subsequently pushed back a week). Heather Honsberger will coordinate to finalize the dates and locations.
- e. HDR will draft posters and these will be reviewed with Mark Hoffman, Tom Klimek, and CCP staff. HDR will also prepare location maps for directions to the meetings. WSA will prepare issues maps for review.

**7. Other Discussion**

- a. Melissa Reuter suggested that the SHPO will need to be involved in the review process. There was agreement that the third working paper draft is probably the correct point. Likely an early August meeting and site tour would be best. Melissa will touch base in July regarding setting this up.

**8. Adjournment**

Meeting notes prepared by: Chris Nazar, Wilbur Smith Associates