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## MEMORANDUM – SUMMARY MEETING MINUTES

December 7, 2009

**TO:**

- Mark Hoffman, Project Manager, Multimodal Planning Division, Arizona Department of Transportation
- Karen Lamberton, Transportation Planner, Cochise County
- Brad Hamilton, Public Works Director, City of Benson
- Members, Northwest Cochise County TAC

**FROM:** Matt Carpenter, Project Manager, URS Corporation

**SUBJECT:** SUMMARY MEETING MINUTES FOR DECEMBER 7, 2009  
TECHNICAL ADVISORY COMMITTEE

**ATTENDEES:**

Karen Lamberton, Cochise County  
Brad Hamilton, City of Benson  
Mary McCool, Cochise County Trails Association  
Tom Engel, Safford District Office, ADOT  
Matt Carpenter, URS Corporation  
Aaron Iverson, URS Corporation  
Randall Beck, URS Corporation

**LOCATION:**

City Hall, City of Benson

The meeting agenda is attached to these minutes for reference.

Randall Beck provided introductory remarks discussing the transition of URS Project Manager from Ron Ross to Matt Carpenter. Matt introduced himself and outlined the meeting objectives, as follows.

**Meeting Objectives:**

- The primary objectives for this meeting were:
  - Review comments received to date for Current Conditions Report

- Review comments received to date concerning Key Issues, Common Themes, and Interview Notes
- Review proposed population projection and distribution rate
- Update: Traffic modeling
- Update: Access railroad/highway crossings
- Update: Funding strategies
- Project schedule

### **Review and Discussion: Current Conditions Report**

- Matt Carpenter briefly summarized the intent of the Current Conditions Report and opened the topic for discussion amongst the TAC members.
- Mary McCool asked for clarification between comments in the Key Issues summary paper as compared to the Current Conditions Report. It was pointed out that the comments in the Key Issues are summaries of comments and opinions expressed by the interviewed stakeholders and may or may not be entirely factual.
- Karen Lamberton would like to have the maps made larger, Tom Engel suggested having an inset for the Benson area. Aaron Iverson suggested finalizing the current conditions maps as they are and that he would try to maximize their size as formatted. However for future working papers and final report, a larger map format will be developed. The TAC approved this approach.
- Karen Lamberton asked that the colors depicting road classifications be made consistent for all maps in the report.
- Karen Lamberton asked that "Smith Ranch Road/Skyline" be referred to as "Skyline".
- Karen Lamberton asked that reference to the Highway 90 Access Management Plan not being accepted by the County and the SATS being accepted by the County be deleted from the report.

- Mary McCool asked for confirmation that her review comments were received and incorporated into the document.
- Karen Lamberton, Cochise County, and Tom Engel, ADOT, questioned the existing Level of Service (LOS) shown for B-10 in Benson – specifically in what context the low LOS existed. Tom Engel questioned whether the LOS represents the peak hour or average driving conditions? It seems it is too low. Brad Hamilton, City of Benson, suggested that at times LOS is low, but that it is a seasonal issue. Aaron Iverson said he would check the data and clarify the LOS shown for that section of B-10 in Benson.
- Karen Lamberton stressed that the Current Conditions and modeling effort will determine if additional system lanes are warranted.
- Karen Lamberton asked that a conclusion paragraph be added to the Current Conditions Report indicating “next steps”.
- Matt Carpenter indicated that all final comments are requested by December 14<sup>th</sup>, close of business.
- Matt Carpenter finalized the discussion on comments for the two papers, and the TAC agreed to provide all additional comments by close of business on December 14<sup>th</sup>. A working draft version that was sent to Karen Lamberton, Brad Hamilton, and Mark Hoffman will also be sent to Tom Engel and Mary McCool for their review.

### **Review and Discussion: Key Issues, Common Themes, and Interview Notes**

- Matt Carpenter introduced the subject of the draft Key Issues, Common Themes, and Interview Notes document, then opened the topic for discussion amongst the TAC members.
- Karen Lamberton suggested that a sentence (in bold type) be added in the Key Issues paper identifying that these are interview comments and not facts.

## **Review Proposed Population Projection, Distribution Rate, and Traffic Modeling**

- Aaron Iverson led the discussion on future population growth. Aaron provided a basis for developing a growth rate for use in this study as part of the traffic modeling. The TAC agreed on a 2% growth rate for the horizon years of 2020 and 2040. This growth rate is consistent with the growth rate that Cochise County uses for the county as a whole. Karen Lamberton added that the growth rate needs to be fully explained and is a sensitive issue in the County and that 2% is a reasonable and defensible rate.
- Aaron Iverson led a discussion on the distribution of future growth. The TAC provided detailed comments on where they anticipate growth to occur. Much of the growth is likely to happen along the SR 90 corridor. Brad pointed out that water and sewer is available on the east side of SR 90. In general the consensus was that growth was likely to happen in areas currently annexed into the City of Benson and then those areas adjacent to Benson. In the unincorporated areas growth would be slower but likely to occur in the Pomerene and St. David areas. Growth is not expected to occur on the State Land holdings.
- Karen Lamberton and Brad Hamilton were provided working maps to take back and discuss with their respective planning staffs to provide detail guidance on growth distribution.
- Aaron Iverson summarized for the TAC the next steps entailed in traffic modeling being conducted by Wilbur Smith. The modeling efforts are taking into account existing and future population growth within the region. Karen Lamberton reported that the modeling from Wilbur Smith is expected to be complete at the end of March, 2010.
- Finally, there was some interest by ADOT to potentially split TAZ 11 to determine this affect on the socio-economic distribution. Aaron Iverson, URS, acknowledged that this item would be further researched before any action was taken.

## **Update: Assess Railroad/Highway Crossings and Funding Strategy Efforts**

- Matt Carpenter provided updates on the RR Assessment and Funding Strategy efforts. Karen Lamberton provided some guidance as to what the county is looking for in terms of funding. The county is looking for innovative strategies for funding operation and maintenance costs. The county is also in need of a menu of typical improvement costs. URS will look to incorporate both of these elements into the funding strategy paper.
- Karen Lamberton is interested in exploring if it is possible to obtain a funding stream from travelers entering or passing through the County for tourism. She suggested checking the County statutes to determine if this is possible.
- Aaron Iverson will prepare outlines of the railroad and funding tasks for TAC review and approval prior to drafting the documents.

## **Update: Project Schedule**

- Matt Carpenter indicated that the project schedule has shifted slightly, but June 2010 as a completion timeframe should still be feasible. Matt added that modeling efforts could slow the project, but the TAC will be kept apprised in this regard.

## **Actions Taken:**

- No actions taken at this time.

## **Next TAC meeting:**

- The next TAC meeting was set for February 4<sup>th</sup> 1:00 to 4:00 pm. Matt Carpenter will confirm this date and time with Mark Hoffman. To be discussed are the RR Assessment and Funding Strategy working papers as well as finalizing future population projections and distributions.

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