



Transportation Advisory Committee Minutes

Thursday, May 3, 2012 - 6:30 – 8:30 p.m.
San Tan Room – Municipal Services Building

Committee Members:

Ryan Nichols – Chair	Present
John Alston – Council Member	Absent
Chris Clark	Present
David Bond	Present
Gregory Arrington	Present
Kim Mlazgar	Present
Nichelle Williams	Present
Richard Turman	Absent
Tom Nelson	Present
Steve Conklin	Present

Public:

Ron Bartlow – Resident of Queenland Manor and pastor of Song of Life United Methodist Church

Town Staff Members:

Bill Birdwell, Sr. Traffic Engineering Analyst	Absent
Chris Dovel, Town Engineer	Absent
Laura Catanese, Sr. Administrative Assistant	Present
Tom Condit, Development Services Director	Present
Troy White, Public Works Division Manager	Present

1. Call to Order:

In absence of Chair Nichols (who was late to the meeting due to traffic), Committee Vice-Chairman, Chris Clark, called the meeting to order at 6:38 p.m.

2. Introductions:

No introductions were deemed necessary.

3. Public Comment: Ron Bartlow, a resident of Queenland Manor, attended the meeting because of items 4C, 4D, and 4E on the agenda.

4. Items for Discussion and possible action

Item A: Consideration and possible approval of March 1, 2012 minutes **Vice-Chair Clark**

Steve Conklin made the first motion to approve the 3/01/12 minutes. Nichelle Williams seconded the motion. Motion was carried **UNANIMOUSLY**.

Item B: Discussion, Consideration, and Possible Approval of a recommended standard stipulation for private development projects related to traffic calming. **Tom Condit**

Discussion/Comments/Questions:

Staff brought forth the following stipulation to the committee for approval. Tom Nelson made the first motion to approve the stipulation and Steve Conklin seconded the motion. Motion was carried unanimously.

“Residential roadways exceeding 900’ shall be considered for traffic calming measures as determined by Town staff during final plan review”.

Item C. Discussion on available grant opportunities for pedestrian crossings (RR connectivity / safety) Tom Condit

Discussion/Comments/Questions:

Staff is trying a new proactive approach with regard to available grant funding; staff will now apply for any grant that becomes available. Staff is bringing a sidewalk gap analysis to Council on May 16. Staff will be meeting with UPRR and ADOT staff in June 2012 to discuss RR connectivity issues and staff will bring an overview of this meeting back to the committee.

Grant sources include:

- Highway Safety Improvement Program (HSIP)
- Transportation Enhancement Funds
- Safe Routes to School Fund (note: QCUSD must participate in grant process)
- State and Community Highway Safety Grants
- Congestion Mitigation and Air Quality Improvement Program (CMAQ)
- Community Development Block Grant-Small Cities Transportation Assistance Program
- Special Projects Funds
- Warranted Traffic Improvements Fund
- Local Funds (Highway User Revenue Fund, Sales Tax, Enterprise Fund, etc.)
- Improvement District/Assessment District
- Developer Stipulations

Item D. Discussion on the March 29, 2012 Queenland Manor HOA Board meeting; vacant land along Ellsworth Road adjacent to the subdivision Troy White

Troy White attended the March 29 Queenland Manor HOA Board meeting. The HOA would like to do something with the vacant land along Ellsworth Road. What is the ultimate design of Ellsworth Road? This question is difficult to answer at this moment. Will the final design for Ellsworth Road (Ocotillo to Rittenhouse) have two lanes of traffic flowing each way? The Town has cut back on staffing and does not have the capacity to do an in-house traffic study that predicts future road conditions. The Queen Creek Unified School District (UCUSD) owns the right-of way north of the Ellsworth Road triangle and owns half of the buildable section of land south of Queenland Manor. That leaves a small section of land in the Barnes area that can be re-developed. The committee requested staff to bring back some possible scenarios for the ultimate roadway improvements via a small area traffic study. Staff will provide a scope with cost estimate for a traffic study of Ellsworth Road north of the UPRR tracks.

Item E: Overview of A.R.S. 9-240 and 28-7205: vacating/abandoning roadways Tom Condit

Discussion centered on whether the abandoned right-of-way in front of the Queenland Manor subdivision would revert back to the original landowner or to the (Queenland Manor) HOA. Based on two Arizona statutes (listed below), the land would revert to the HOA.

- Under A.R.S. 9-240(B)(3) (e), "The common council shall also have power within the limits of the town: To vacate or abandon any street, avenue, alley, park, public place or sidewalk in such a town or to abolish them, provided that rights-of-way or easements of existing sewer, gas, water or similar pipelines and appurtenances and for canals, laterals or ditches and appurtenances, and for electric, telephone, and similar lines and appurtenances shall continue as they existed prior to the vacation, abandonment, or abolishment thereof".
- A.R.S. 28-7205(2) states "If less than the entire width of the roadway is vacated, title to the vacated portion vests in the owners of the land abutting the vacated portion".

Item F: Update on Regional Transportation Projects

Tom Condit

Staff gave updates on Regional Transportation Projects including:

- **State Route 802/Loop 202 San Tan Freeway:** This project is on track and due to be completed by Fall 2013.
- **N-S Freeway Corridor Study Refinements:** Currently considering 20 criteria (impacts, public, stakeholder screening) for revised alternatives selection process.
- **Inter-City Rail Corridors:** A meeting was held with Town staff on February 29, in which the staff supported concepts to bring the Inter-City Rail through the Town, with a station stop in Queen Creek.
- **Commuter Rail Study:** A "heavier" rail compared to light rail. A good chance Queen Creek will get this type of rail as the Town has double the national ridership potential.
- **CAAG-RTP (Regional Transportation Plan):** CAAG has a new director (Mark Griffin) who is developing a large scale transportation report (20 year plan). Currently in Phase 1 – scope of study design.
- **Meridian Road Design Concept Report:** Still ongoing; Maricopa County has incorporated some alternatives into the study. This study should wrap up this fiscal year.
- **Riggs Road Projects:**
 1. **Ellsworth to Hawes:** Construction due to start this summer.
 2. **Power to Hawes:** Design plans are currently at 90%. A public outreach meeting will take place on Tuesday, May 15, 5 p.m. to 7 p.m.
 3. **Ellsworth to Meridian:** This is a Town/Maricopa County IGA project, currently in Phase 2 Environmental (archeology dig for articles of historical significance).
- **Hunt Highway (Empire to Thompson):** Pinal County was thought to be at 100% design but in April, staff learned that the project is *currently at the 60% design review stage*. Design plans will need Federal Highways final approval prior to construction.

Item G: Request for future agenda items

Vice-Chair Clark

The next meeting will be held on Thursday, June 7, 2012. The **July 5, 2012 meeting was cancelled** due to the July 4 holiday. Items for future agendas include:

1. Approved Town budget for FY12-13 (CIP roadway projects, in particular).
2. Continued discussion of abandonment of vacant land along Ellsworth Road adjacent to Queenland Manor.
3. Overview of the June 2012 UPRR/ADOT meeting (if this meeting is held before TAC meets on 6/7/12).
4. Staff presentation of scope / cost estimate for small traffic study of Ellsworth Road north of the tracks.

5. Consultant presentation for Germann Road Corridor Study (Power to Ironwood).

FOR AUGUST TAC MEETING:

1. Discussion and possible action on the FY12-13 TAC Work Plan.
2. Discussion and review of Town Center Access Management Plan.

5. Announcements

Tom Condit has resigned as Development Services Director for the Town and this will be his last meeting. Tom thanked the committee for their "kind tolerance" of his administration during his tenure with the committee, saying that he enjoyed the TAC meetings and valued his interactions with committee members. Troy White, Public Works Manager, will assume interim leadership of the Transportation Advisory Committee until Tom's successor is chosen.

6. Adjournment

The committee adjourned at 8:13 p.m.

PREPARED BY: Laura Catanese
PASSED AND APPROVED ON: _____

6/7/12



Ryan Nichols, TAC Committee Chair