



Transportation Advisory Committee Minutes

Thursday, October 7, 2010

6:38 – 7:38 p.m.

San Tan Room – Development Services Building

Committee Members:

Chris Clark	Present
David Brandhorst	Present
Debbie Reyes	Present
Gregory Arrington	Present
Kim Mlazgar	Present
Milos Pavicevich	Present
Nichelle Williams	Present
Patricia Conrad	Present
Richard Turman	Absent
Robin Benning	Absent
Ryan Nichols	Present

Town Staff Members:

Bill Birdwell, Traffic Analyst	Absent
Norma Hernandez, Management Assistant	Present
Tom Condit, Development Services Director	Present
Troy White, Public Works Division Manager	Absent

Public:

Dick Schaner, Resident
Nathan Mlazgar, Resident (Eagle Scout Program)
Nic Veal, Resident (Eagle Scout Program)

1. Call to Order:

Committee Chairman, Ryan Nichols, called the meeting to order at 6:33 p.m.

2. Introductions:

Self introductions were made around the table. The TAC and staff welcomed new TAC member Patricia Conrad.

3. Public Comment:

No public comments were made.

4. Items for Discussion and possible action

Item A: Consideration and possible approval of September 2, 2010 minutes

Motion to approve the September 2, 2010 minutes, (Arrington/Pavicevich/Unanimous).

Item B: Transportation Advisory Committee (TAC) 2010-2011 Work Plan All

Mr. Condit opened dialogue on the TAC's 2010-2011 Annual Work Plan. He pointed out that the TAC Work Plan will guide staff communications to the TAC, and also provides the framework for communication between the TAC and the Town Council. Staff handed out a power point presentation. Mr. Condit reviewed each priority and corresponding project(s).

Mr. Condit also advised the members that if they were interested in attending a Town event staff could supply a name badge. This would give them the opportunity to represent the Transportation Advisory Committee.

Mr. Condit outlined the top five priorities for discussion:

Priority #1 – CIP / Transportation Element: Ocotillo Road 10% Design

- *Scope:* Design Ocotillo Road to 10% including public meetings and business owner meetings. This will include three Charrette meetings with TAC.
- *Results:* Shift alignment south to avoid impacts to Circle K while mitigating impacts to local business shoulder parking.
- *Staff Lead:* Troy White
- *Estimated Time:* 6 Months
- *Meeting Discussion:* The area around Ocotillo/Ellsworth needs improvements; the traffic slows down and backs up. This is a significant project that needs to be done.

Priority #1 – CIP / Transportation Element: Ocotillo UPRR Crossing

- *Scope:* Design Ocotillo Road and UPRR Crossing to 100%. Will include TAC Presentation.
- *Results:* Design Ready Project
- *Staff Lead:* Troy White
- *Estimated Time:* 12 Months
- *Meeting Discussion:* The Union Pacific Railroad (UPRR) requirements have become stricter than in the past. New at-grade crossings will no longer be allowed. The last "new" at-grade crossing UPRR allowed was at Power Road/Pecos Road. This

location is a 6-lane at-grade/at-grade crossing. However, UPRR will allow the Town to expand from two to four lanes; we can do this at both the Ocotillo/UPRR and Sossaman/UPRR crossings.

Question: What about at Ocotillo/Rittenhouse?

Staff reported this is the same project. This project is an existing at-grade location. However, at Sossaman/Germann, we have to do a grade separated (above or below ground) crossing at Germann Road, as this is not an existing at-grade crossing.

Question: Is the Town going to repair the crossing by the Olive Mill?

Staff said they needed to research the issue and report back to the TAC members.

Priority #1 – CIP / Transportation Element: Riggs Road (Hawes to Ellsworth)

- *Scope:* Provide additional lanes, intersection improvements (Hawes Road), and a new bridge over the Sonoqui Wash.
- *Results:* Design and construction in phases - intersection improvements are anticipated to be completed by Spring 2011; bridge design complete by Spring 2011; design and implementation plan for remaining work by Summer 2011.
- *Staff Lead:* Troy White / Chris Dovel
- *Estimated Time:* Ongoing
- *Meeting Discussion:* The Riggs Road and Sonoqui Wash project is currently in process; this is adjacent to Horseshoe Park. There will be a new bridge over the wash at Riggs Road. We are looking into annexing the road as Maricopa County currently owns it. If the County is willing to pay to construct this road into a 4-lane road, then the trade off is the Town would agree to maintain it.

Priority #1 – CIP / Transportation Element: LTAF II – Park and Ride

- *Scope:* Design underway for a Park and Ride in the Town's Library parking lot.
- *Results:* Implementation, including installation of wayfinder signs.
- *Staff Lead:* Troy White
- *Estimated Time:* FY 2010-2011 (complete by June, 2011)
- *Meeting Discussion:* Staff asked if any of the members knew about the Park and Ride project and would there be an interest in using the facility when it was completed. The facility will be a carpool Park & Ride, not the type where a bus would pick up the riders. The project is to have several parking spaces at the southeast parking lot of the library behind Rudy's Restaurant. There will be a small sitting area for the people

that carpool and park at this location. The Town has received several inquiries about where people can park if they want to carpool, this project will be an option for them. Two years ago the Town had an express bus Park & Ride; however due to low ridership the bus service was discontinued.

Question: How will this project affect Rudy's Restaurant?

Staff said the Park and Ride is west of where people typically park when they eat at Rudy's.

Priority #1 – CIP / Transportation Element: ITS Phase II Project

- *Scope:* Continue to implement the Intelligent Transportation System (ITS) Program.
- *Results:* Phase II Intergovernmental Agreement is in place and funding established through ADOT; design underway
- *Staff Lead:* Bill Birdwell
- *Estimated Time:* 8 months
- *Meeting Discussion:* Bill Birdwell is working with ADOT on the phasing of this project. The project consists of a combination of fiber and wireless communication software to improve traffic flow through town – this will allow the traffic signals to talk to each other. \$1 million will be spent on Phase II. In the future months, there will be another tour of the Town's ITS room.

Priority #2 - Transportation Element Defined Corridors: Meridian / Riggs Design Concept Report (QC Wash to Empire / 228th Street to Kennedy alignment)

- *Scope:* MCDOT is working with the consultant (TY Lin) to determine if a more cost-effective option would be feasible. If the results look favorable, there may be an additional "Alternative 7" for the TAC to review.
- *Results:* Finalize DCR
- *Staff Lead:* Tom Condit / Chris Dovel
- *Estimated Time:* 6 months
- *Meeting Discussion:* Staff informed the members that once MCDOT determines if there will be an Alternate #7, the issue will be brought back to the TAC members for discussion.

Priority #2 - Transportation Element Defined Corridors: Minor General Plan Amendment (GPA) – Transportation Element (realign Signal Butte to connect with Meridian)

- *Scope:* Process Minor GPA with recommendation from TAC to the Planning Commission, then on to the Town Council.
- *Results:* Transportation Element revised to show the connection of Signal Butte and Meridian, between Germann and Queen Creek Roads.
- *Staff Lead:* Tom Condit / Wayne Balmer
- *Estimated Time:* 4 months
- *Meeting Discussion:* Currently, staff has an aerial map that shows Signal Butte to Meridian; this will be available at the next TAC meeting. Staff will be requesting a recommendation from the TAC on this issue.

Priority #2-Transportation Element Defined Corridors: Riggs Road Environmental Clearance (Ellsworth to Meridian)

- *Scope:* An additional \$2M has been allocated through the approved 2011-2015 MAG TIP to complete the required Phase II Environmental Assessment for this project.
- *Results:* Project will advance to 100% design, with associated environmental / archaeological clearances.
- *Staff Lead:* Troy White
- *Estimated Time:* 12 months
- *Meeting Discussion:* This project consists of a 3-mile section between Ellsworth and Meridian roads. Staff said there may be an opportunity for the TAC members to visit the project site when the archaeological work is underway.

Question: Have the environmental clearances been obtained?

Staff responded that the \$2 million will go towards this environmental clearance.

Priority #2 - Transportation Element Defined Corridors: Germann Road Corridor Study (Power to Ironwood)

- *Scope:* Town applied for \$250K grant funding (Planning Assistance for Rural Areas) through ADOT.
- *Results:* Should the grant be awarded, the Town will complete a corridor study along this 7-mile stretch of road. A critical outcome will be a preliminary delineation of ROW requirements for the grade-separated crossing at Sossaman.
- *Staff Lead:* Tom Condit
- *Estimated Time:* 12 months

- *Meeting Discussion:* Germann Road ends at Sossaman, drivers have to turn left to go to realigned Rittenhouse, then turn again. The least expensive way to improve this intersection is to do an at-grade crossing; but as previously discussed, UPRR will not allow any new crossings of that type. Therefore, Germann Road will ultimately need to go under or over the railroad. The Town wants to have a corridor study done, and available, so we can distribute it and advise developers/residents of future right-of-way needs for the project.

Priority #3 - Regional Partners: North-South Corridor Study (ADOT)

- *Scope:* ADOT and FHWA have initiated an engineering and environmental study to identify and evaluate possible transportation routes for a proposed North–South Corridor. The purpose of this study is to provide a connection between US 60 and Interstate 10.
- *Results:* Participate as regional stakeholders in the project.
- *Staff Lead:* Wayne Balmer
- *Estimated Time:* >12 months
- *Meeting Discussion:* Staff advised that there may be a new freeway to the east of Queen Creek in the future; however there is no funding for this project at the present time.

A handout was provided showing the dates, times, and locations of the upcoming ADOT Public Scoping Meetings. ADOT is accepting written comments until November 11, 2010.

Question: Would it be beneficial to do a group recommendation?

Chairman Nichols responded by informing the members that a recommendation by the group could be provided to Council, and then ask the Town to provide to ADOT.

Staff can provide further information at the next TAC meeting, and will contact ADOT once a recommendation is determined. The recommendation will be provided after the deadline as the next TAC meeting is November 4, and Council would then have to review. Staff will confirm that an extended deadline for written comments is acceptable to ADOT.

Priority #3 – Regional Partners: Apache Junction Comprehensive Transportation Study (Apache Junction)

- *Scope:* The planning study will address growing demands placed on the City's current and future roadways and will identify multimodal transportation and

infrastructure needs. An emphasis will be placed on the southern portion of the community while ensuring current infrastructure will withstand the growth impact.

- *Results:* Participate as regional stakeholders in the project.
- *Staff Lead:* Troy White
- *Estimated Time:* Through June, 2011
- *Meeting Discussion:* We are just going to participate.

Priority #3 – Regional Partners: Pinal County Transit Study

- *Scope:* To date, Pinal County has completed the studies of Existing Conditions, Existing Services, Population Projections and Demand Modeling, Proposed Route Options, and Governance. A series of Open Houses on the Transit Study will be held between Oct 1 and Nov 15.
- *Results:* Participate as regional stakeholders in the project.
- *Staff Lead:* Tom Condit
- *Estimated Time:* 6 Months
- *Meeting Discussion:* Staff informed the members that Pinal County has already done a lot of work on existing conditions.. There was discussion about inviting Pinal County to attend a future TAC meeting and present the study information.

Priority #3 – Regional Partners: State Rail Plan / Intercity Rail Plan (ADOT)

- *Scope:* Complete the State Rail Plan as required for certain Federal Funds. Establish the preferred alignment for the inter-city rail connection between Tucson and Phoenix.
- *Results:* Participate as regional stakeholders in the project, as well as advocating for the existing UPRR corridor as a preferred alignment for inter-city rail.
- *Staff Lead:* Tom Condit
- *Estimated Time:* Unknown
- *Meeting Discussion:* ADOT has not completed a State Rail Plan; the State has to have one in order to obtain Federal funds. The Town prefers to have the inter-rail and commuter rail on the UPRR line and not to construct a new rail system next to the I-10.

Priority #3 – Regional Partners: MAG Liaison (Streets Committee, ITS Committee, Transportation Review Committee, Regional Council)

- *Scope:* Local and regional transportation projects and priorities, including the Regional Transportation Plan (RTP) and Transportation Improvement Program (TIP)
- *Results:* Varies depending on issue. Participate as stakeholders in any given project or program, advocate for Town-sponsored initiatives.
- *Staff Lead:* Varies
- *Estimated Time:* Ongoing.
- *Meeting Discussion:* All of these plans tie into federal funds; staff advised that the Town will provide information as it becomes available.

Priority #3 – Regional Partners: CAAG Liaison (Technical Transportation Advisory Committee, Transportation Policy Committee, Regional Council)

- *Scope:* Local and regional transportation projects and priorities, including CAAG's seven-year 2011-2017 Transportation Improvement Program (TIP)
- *Results:* Varies depending on issue. Participate as stakeholders in any given project or program, advocate for Town-sponsored initiatives.
- *Staff Lead:* Varies
- *Estimated Time:* Ongoing.
- *Meeting Discussion:* Staff informed the TAC members that the Town serves on both CAAG and MAG committees.

Priority #3 – Regional Partners: Phoenix-Mesa Gateway Airport (staff committees, executive committee)

- *Scope:* Bring the TAC information related to transportation improvements being planned or constructed at the Airport.
- *Results:* Varies depending on issue. Participate as stakeholders in any given project or program, advocate for Town priorities.
- *Staff Lead:* Varies
- *Estimated Time:* Ongoing.
- *Meeting Discussion:* Staff informed the members that the Town is part owner of the airport. That there is currently an East Side Study taking place that focuses on the future terminal area. This new terminal will be built in the future, possibly 10 years from now. The 802 Freeway will be built to Ellsworth Road, this is being designed right now.

Priority #4 – Emerging Safety Projects and Traffic Control Issues: Emerging Safety Projects

- *Scope:* Anything from installation of critical infrastructure to repair / renovation of observed safety hazards
- *Results:* Bring items to the TAC at the regular monthly meetings for information / discussion / recommendation
- *Staff Lead:* Varies
- *Estimated Time:* Ongoing.
- *Meeting Discussion:* Staff proposed changing the title of this priority and asked if all the members were in agreement.

The previous title: Emergency Events and Traffic Control Issues / Transportation Element

Proposed Title: Emerging Safety Projects and Traffic Control Issues

Question: Is the Emergency Evacuation item going to remain part of this priority? The Disaster Prevention Committee has divided the Town into four grids; we need to know how the Town will get people in and out of town in case of an emergency situation. It is important that this remain part of an element of this priority.

Staff responded this would remain as part of the priority. This priority would be for safety issues, which would include evacuation.

Priority #4 –Emerging Safety Projects and Traffic Control Issues: School Beacons

- *Scope:* Presentation and recommendations regarding upgrading existing school areas at 4 schools to solar powered flashing beacons.
- *Results:* Determine if upgrading to solar powered flashers is the best course of action at all or some of the proposed locations.
- *Staff Lead:* Bill Birdwell
- *Estimated Time:* Ongoing
- *Meeting Discussion:* None.

Priority #4 –Emerging Safety Projects and Traffic Control Issues: Count Down Pedestrian Signals

- *Scope:* Presentation and recommendations regarding upgrading existing traffic signals at 34 traffic signals to count down modules.

- *Results:* To determine the best course of action in meeting the future requirements of the 2009 MUTCD for Town owned traffic signals.
- *Staff Lead:* Bill Birdwell
- *Estimated Time:*

Priority #4 - Emerging Safety Projects and Traffic Control Issues: Audible Pedestrian Push Buttons

- *Scope:* Develop a Town policy for the installation of audible pedestrian push buttons.
- *Results:* The policy would assist staff in responding to resident requests for these types of devices.
- *Staff Lead:* Bill Birdwell
- *Estimated Time:*

Priority #5 – Community Outreach: Community Involvement

- *Scope:* Update TAC membership on the Town website; assure that TAC agendas, minutes, handouts, and results are posted on the Town website; post upcoming TAC meetings in the Town Newsletter; advise TAC of upcoming meetings including Citizen Leadership, Ice Cream Social, Pancake Breakfast, and others, as appropriate.
- *Results:* Accurate and timely information is transmitted to the TAC for their information and use.
- *Staff Lead:* Norma Hernandez
- *Estimated Time:* Ongoing
- *Meeting Discussion:* Staff expressed interest in taking a group photo of the committee to post on the Town website. Staff will continue to post TAC information on the website.

Conclusion

Chairman, Mr. Nichols, asked the members if any action was ready to take place to adopt the five priorities; if all members were in agreement to change the wording of Priority #4; and if they were in agreement to include the disaster prevention element as part of this priority. Mr. Clark asked the members to take note that as the routes are established in the Disaster Prevention Committee, to think if this would impact transportation.

Chairman Nichols asked what elements are to be included in the Work Plan. Staff suggested having the title of each priority followed by a list of projects that will be part of that task included in the final 2010-2011 TAC Work Plan document.

The committee finalized the 2010-2011 TAC Annual Work Plan discussion. It was moved and approved to adopt and implement the five priorities of concentration (Clark/Brandhorst/ Unanimous). The Work Plan will be forwarded to the Town Manager and Council for approval.

Item C: Updates on CIP and ITS

Troy White and Bill Birdwell

Mr. Condit advised that Troy White, and Bill Birdwell, were not available to attend the meeting this evening, but that he could provide update information on current projects.

He informed the members that there was going to be a celebration on Saturday, October 16, to open up Ray Road to Ellsworth Road. Traffic signalization may not occur on the same day.

The members said they received significant project information during the Work Plan discussion and additional information was not necessary.

Item D: Request for future items

November items:

- Input on the North/South Corridor Study and possible recommendation to Council
- General Plan Transportation Element – Signal Butte / Meridian Alignment

Possible December/Future Agenda Items:

- Annexation of Riggs Road between Hawes and Ellsworth
- Riggs Road – Archeological findings
 - Mr. Schaner said the findings would not be too much, they are general items.
 - Member Chris Clark said his thought was that the Town could capitalize on this; other cities have had an increase in tourists due to archeological findings.
 - Member Milos Pavicevich asked if there was a report they could look at.
 - Staff informed the members that this item was recently taken to Council and that Staff could give a presentation on the issue.

Early 2011

- Trail System – status report, exhibits to demonstrate what has been completed.
- Disaster Management Committee – Summary/information
- ITS – Discuss all five phases

5. Announcements

None

6. Adjournment:

Meeting adjourned at 7:38 p.m.

PREPARED BY: Norma Hernandez, October 12, 2010

PASSED AND APPROVED ON: November 4, 2010

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Ryan Nichols".

Ryan Nichols, TAC Committee Chair