



Transportation Advisory Committee Minutes

Thursday, February 3, 2011

6:30 – 8:30 p.m.

San Tan Room – Development Services Building

Committee Members:

Ryan Nichols – Chair	Present
David Brandhorst – Vice Chair	Present
Robin Benning – Council Member	Absent
Chris Clark	Present
Gregory Arrington	Present
Kim Mlazgar	Present
Nichelle Williams	Present
Patricia Conrad	Present
Richard Turman	Present

Town Staff Members:

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

Staff guests/presenters:

Lisa Padilla, Management Assistant II, Parks and Recreation
Joe LaFortune, Emergency Management Coordinator, Fire
Van Summers, Fire Chief

Public:

David Bond
Sara Christopherson
Sally Galci

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.

3. Public Comment:

No public comments received.

4. Items for Discussion and possible action

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

Motion to approve the December 2, 2010 minutes, (Brandhorst/Arrington/Unanimous).

Item B: Information the Disaster Management Plan Joe LaFortune/Chief Summers

Chief Summers discussed the Town's Disaster Management Committee (DMC). In terms of protection, the Chief noted the Town is part of the "Automatic Aid" system and protected by the Maricopa County Sheriff's Office (MCSO). The DMC includes representatives from homeowner associations, school districts, the religious community, Community Emergency Response Team members, and amateur radio. The DMC is tasked with developing an appendix to the Town's Emergency Operations Plan and for the organization and training of volunteers for use during a disaster situation.

The Town's main areas of concern are flooding issues and old infrastructure; the primary goal in a disaster or emergency situation would be shelter and evacuation. The Town would partner with the Red Cross for shelter. The Town is divided into seven sub-areas, which are roughly equal in population, and each sub-area contains at least one shelter location (a church or school).

In the event of an emergency, the Emergency Operations Center (EOC) would be activated. The EOC is physically located in the Development Services Building (DSB). Communication across various agencies would occur via an 800 megahertz communication system. MCSO is on their own communication system; however, if the Town added a repeater on the DSB, there would be communication available between staff from Fire, other Town staff, MCSO, and volunteers.

A question was asked by a TAC member in regards to moving people on a mass scale and having access to each road. If the Town is low on staff or volunteers, how will residents know where to evacuate to?

Staff said a good traffic plan is critical. On traffic signals with video cameras, staff can monitor arterials, alter timing, implement flashing signal lights, and put every signal in green to direct traffic. Phase II of the Intelligent Transportation System (ITS), will include the installation of additional video cameras, allowing staff to monitor 31 of the 34 intersections in Town. Eventually, the Town's ITS will connect to all of the regional systems.

Staff advised that they are aware of the hot spots around Town; what roads are prone to flooding, and what roads would be the critical roads for safe egress. The Town works closely with Gilbert and Mesa which allows neighboring jurisdictions to coordinate traffic / evacuation plans if a disaster does occur.

One TAC member observed that if the TAC understands the Town's needs, the members may be able to provide ideas to help the Town be bettered prepared for incidents.

Staff said the TAC may have recommendations that would be beneficial to the DMC.

Item D: Presentation on the Town Trail System

Lisa Padilla

Ms. Padilla provided an overview of the Town's award-winning master plan for parks, trails, and open space. She commented that there was extensive public involvement and input from the citizens, which has contributed to the overall use of the trail system. The trail system is designed to benefit everyone in the community; it is an attraction and quality of life feature for residents of all ages.

The trail system plan is to be implemented in phases; different paths have been created to accommodate all types of users. There are sandy paths along the bottom of the trail to accommodate horses; paved paths away from the horse paths to accommodate pedestrians; and lots of greenery to add aesthetics. Connectivity is an important element in the movement of people, just as with traffic. The Queen Creek Wash is the spine of the trail system; which connects to Gilbert and will eventually connect to the San Tan Mountain Regional Park, and Pinal County.

Item C: Presentation on the Town's adopted traffic control policy

Bill Birdwell

Mr. Birdwell provided an overview of the Town's Adopted Traffic Control Policy (attached) which was approved by Council in 2006. Over the next few months, staff will be reviewing the Town's current policy, evaluating surrounding agencies policies, and developing recommendations to modify / update the Town's existing policy.

The purpose of the policy is to set forth the process and criteria by which a citizen request for measures designed to control traffic volumes and speeds will be evaluated and potentially implemented.

Questions raised by TAC members after the presentation:

1. Does Solid Waste have to approve the speed humps too?
2. Is there a time limit they have to be installed?
3. How about removing dips (valley gutters), such as at Sossaman and Queen Creek?

Staff said Solid Waste requests would be considered. There is no time limit when installing the speed humps. Removing existing infrastructure is very expensive, much more costly than the installation of speed humps due to design work needed, and the removal and replacement of asphalt and concrete.

Item E: Update on ITS / CIP

Bill Birdwell

This item was moved to the meeting on March 3.

Item F: Request for future items

The next TAC meeting will be March 3, 2011 at 6:30 p.m. in the Development Services Building – San Tan Room.

5. Announcements

Debbie Reyes has resigned the TAC.

Chris Clark thanked Bill Birdwell for his assistance in the Kiwanis Club Parade in December.

6. Adjournment:

Meeting adjourned at 8:15 p.m.

PREPARED BY: Norma Hernandez, February 8, 2011

PASSED AND APPROVED ON: March 3, 2011

Ryan Nichols, TAC Committee Chair