
SUMMARY NOTES

Transportation Task Force – Meeting #3

Date: Wednesday March 19, 2008
1:00 p.m. to 3:00 p.m.
Location: Ocotillo Room
Pinal County Government Complex; 31 N. Pinal; Bldg. F

Attendees:

A.J. Blaha, Pinal County; C. Alton Bruce, City of Coolidge; Victor Castillo, City of Maricopa; Anne Ellis, Arizona State University; Paul Keesler, Town of Oro Valley; Dianne Kresich, ADOT - TPD; Tim Oliver, MCDOT; Andy Smith, Pinal County

After welcome and introductions, participants received a project update. Participants were asked to review and comment on the September 26, 2007, meeting summary notes.

Alternatives Presentation and Workshop Results

Curt Dunham and Audra Koester Thomas provided a review of the land use and transportation alternatives developed and the feedback received from the February Workshops. A draft preferred alternative, developed using the feedback received from Workshop participants, was presented for review of the Task Force.

Transportation and the Preferred Alternative

After review of the draft preferred land use and transportation alternative, and a brief overview of commuter rail, the Task Force was asked to provide comments regarding how the alternative addresses transportation.

Comments from the Task Force included:

- Political will is need to implement the Open Space Plan
- A grid network will likely be needed beyond the “context sensitive corridor” along SR 79
- Need an enhanced parkway to San Manuel if a high-density mixed use center will be placed there
- Consider moving bus rapid transit (BRT) from I-10 to SR 79
- Ensure that the use of the term “freeway” doesn’t mean it will be “free of cost” to the users
- Be consistent: if transit is really an extension of the Phoenix Express Bus, then the Plan should use “Express/Rapid Bus” not BRT



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- Corridor approach is great—very realistic and addresses market conditions
- We need to “hard plan” the context sensitive corridor along SR 79 in order to ensure its implementation
- Communities need to collaborate on economic development
- I love that the draft preferred alternative map represents the public input received
- Need to address the Pecan to Deep Wells (north/south) route connecting I-10 and SR 79
- Need to expand/add Regionally Significant Roads (RSRs)
- Add, as a second stage of a grid system, one that parallels alluvial fan
- Coordination with the Statewide and Regional Planning Framework is essential

Participants were also asked about any policy recommendations and necessities as Plan development occurs. The Task Force offered the following:

- How do you fund open space plan? Comprehensive Plan needs an implementation mechanism to make this reality.
- Role of the County in economic development is necessary to define in the Plan; municipalities need to cooperate in this effort.
- Need to incorporate environmental policy to guide future development.

Next Steps

Participants thanked for their participation in the Transportation Task Force. Future Comprehensive Plan events include:

- Pinal Preferred Future Workshops (April 2008)
- Comprehensive Plan Forum Series (May- June 2008)
- 60 Day Review Begins (June 2008)

Meeting was adjourned at 2:55 p.m.

