



MEETING SUMMARY NOTES

Regional Planning Team Meeting #6

Date: Wednesday March 19, 2008
10:00 a.m. to noon

Location: Pinal County Government Complex
31 N Pinal, Building F
Florence

Purpose: Municipal Planning Areas and the Preferred Alternative

Handouts: Agenda, Meeting #5 Summary Notes

Participants:

Janet Apkaw-Williams, Ak-Chin Indian Community; C. Alton Bruce, City of Coolidge; Ken Buchanan, Pinal County; Leila DeMaree, City of Casa Grande; Michelle Green, Arizona State Land Department; Gilbert Olgin, Town of Florence; Paul Popelka, Town of Marana; Fred Stevens, Tohono O'Odham Nation; Jack Tomasik, Central Arizona Association of Governments; and Jeremy Wells, Ak-Chin Indian Community

Meeting was called to order at approximately 10:10 a.m.

Welcome and Project Overview

Peggy Fiandaca, Project Consultant welcomed everyone and thanked them for their continued support of the project.

Update Plan Process and Schedule

Peggy provided an update on the project progress made to date, and asked participants to review the November 2007 meeting summary notes.

Alternatives Presentation and Workshop Results

Peggy and Audra Koester Thomas gave a PowerPoint presentation reviewing the land use and transportation alternatives presented to the public in February, as well as the initial results of the Workshops. Peggy also introduced the draft preferred alternative, developed in response to the public input received in February.

Preferred Alternative Discussion

Peggy handed out a map showing the Municipal Planning Area (MPA) boundaries in Pinal, and highlighted those municipalities that had overlapping boundaries. Participants discussed the map, providing insight to several conflicting MPA areas and updating the status on other MPA expansions.

Peggy then asked for participants to provide their comments regarding the draft preferred alternative. Comments included:

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- Support illustrating economic development on Indian Communities
- Don't completely eliminate the two mixed use centers from the corridor that you moved to SR 79— consider reducing their intensity rather than removing them altogether
- Is there conflict with supporting transit out of the County if there is such an emphasis on promoting job creation and economic development within the County?
- Consider continuing the North/South Freeway corridor to US 60 at Apache Junction
- It would be nice to see the Native American communities move forward with economic development and transportation plans
- Corridor-focused makes sense; consider lowering activity centers along SR 79 from high- to mid-intensity
- Need to show economic development in west County (along I-8) in next iteration of Plan
- Is it logical to dump traffic from the North/South Freeway onto I-10 if I-10 is already at or beyond capacity? We need to find another southern/Tucson route.
- We need to ensure the Hidden Valley Study is reflected
- Need to address land use compatibility with RSRs
- It would be nice to produce a connectivity map, showing circulation and how to address problem areas in Pinal
- Need to address the costs of maintaining open space in Pinal

Peggy then asked participants to offer their thoughts on needed policy for the Comprehensive Plan. Participants offered the following:

- Plan should address a policy on density transfers as it relates to State Land and implementing the Open Space Plan
- County should continue planning all unincorporated areas of the County, including those within a MPA
- Plan should add potential activity centers within MPAs
- County should give guidance to a municipality when they plan
- Need to ensure compatible land uses on borderlands
- Plan needs to identify roles and responsibilities of County and other entities when collaborating on economic development, annexation, etc.; we need to find a way to minimize land use conflicts between jurisdictions, perhaps through a municipality/County plan review/comment process

Next Steps

Audra reviewed the following upcoming Comprehensive Plan activities:

- Pinal Preferred Future Workshops (April 2008)
- Comprehensive Plan Forum Series (May-June 2008)
- RPT Meeting #7 (last meeting, July 30, 2-4 p.m.)

Meeting adjourned at noon