



MEETING SUMMARY NOTES

Transportation Task Force Meeting #1

Date: Wednesday August 22, 2007
1:00 p.m. to 3:00 p.m.
Location: Pinal County Government Complex; 31 N. Pinal; Bldg. F
Purpose: Regional Context and Opportunities

Handouts: Agenda

Participants:

Wayne Balmer, Town of Queen Creek
A. J. Blaha, Pinal County
Bill Brown, Central Arizona College
C. Alton Bruce, City of Coolidge
Ken Buchanan, Pinal County
Wayne Costa, Town of Florence
Rick Eades, HDR Engineering
Anne Ellis, Arizona State University
Doug Hansen, Pinal County
Paul Keesler, Town of Oro Valley

Dianne Kresich, ADOT/TPD
Bill Leister, CAAG
Kevin Louis, City of Casa Grande
Tim Oliver, Maricopa County DOT
Brad Ross, Resolution Copper Company
Andy Smith, Pinal County
Jim Smith, Union Pacific Railroad
Greg Stanley, Pinal County
Dean Werstler, SaddleBrooke Hiking Club

Sandy Weir, Lima and Associates
Pete Lima, Lima and Associates
Peggy Fiandaca, PSA
Audra Koester Thomas, PSA
Curt Dunham, PSA
Jerry Stabley, Pinal County

Meeting was called to order at approximately 1:00 p.m.

Welcome and Project Overview

Jerry Stabley, Pinal County Project Manager welcomed everyone and thanked them for agreeing to serve on the Pinal County Comprehensive Plan Transportation Task Force.



MEETING SUMMARY NOTES

Project Overview

Curt Dunham, PSA, introduced the Pinal County Comprehensive Plan project and the role of the Transportation Task Force.

Regional Context Presentation

Curt Dunham and Sandy Weir, Lima and Associates, presented a PowerPoint on “Regional Context”, including an overview of the Comprehensive Plan results thus far, the requirements for the Transportation Element of the Comprehensive Plan and some of the existing conditions in Pinal.

Planning Gaps and Challenges

After the presentation, a discussion on what some of the planning gaps and/or challenges in terms of transportation in Pinal County were discussed. The following was offered for discussion:

- There are various levels of planning and planning sophistication amongst the entities (municipalities, county, agencies, etc.)
- There are inconsistencies in highway planning; while challenges caused by funding or resource availability may not be alleviated, better collaboration and communication can be addressed.
- It is unclear what role Pinal County will play in transportation planning and implementation short- and long-term; this needs to be better defined.
- In general, better collaboration between entities/agencies is needed.
- Potential in resources, most notably rail, needs to be investigated.
- The potential role for private entities in transportation, such as toll roads, needs to be pursued.
- A transportation asset inventory is desperately needed for Pinal County.
- Land use plans and transportation plans need to correspond.
- The current State Land process impedes transportation and transportation planning in Pinal County.
- There needs to be better coordination with impact fees.
- The inability to move people throughout the county is a challenge for Central Arizona College.
- School and transportation planning need to correspond.

Expanding Multimodal Aspects

A discussion then continued on the multimodal opportunities in Pinal County. Dialogue included the following:

- A transportation asset inventory would help in this endeavor.



MEETING SUMMARY NOTES

- Expanding rail opportunities is important in Pinal County, but it's important also to recognize the rigidity of rail.
- An airport, to serve in a secondary or regional aspect, is a reality for Pinal. Consideration should also be taken to cargo and an airports positioning to rail and roadway corridors.
- Connected open space is important for Pinal.
- State Land process is also a challenge to expanding multimodal aspects in Pinal.
- Alternative modes need to be addressed, including hiking/walking, horse, etc.
- Transportation corridors need to be identified and protected now!
- The parkway concept should be considered.

Next Steps

The next scheduled meeting of the Transportation Task Force is September 26, 1-3 p.m. at the County Complex in Florence.

These meeting summary notes reflect the notes taken by Partners for Strategic Action, Inc. during the meeting. If corrections are needed, please provide those recommendations as soon as possible, preferably within two weeks of receipt of these notes.

Respectfully submitted,

Peggy A. Fiandaca, AICP
Project Manager

