



Transportation Advisory Board

MARICOPA COUNTY DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

DRAFT MINUTES **Tuesday, July 21, 2015**

ADVISORY BOARD MEMBERS

Chairman Marc Erpenbeck (Dist. 1)	Present
Vice-Chair Jeff Martin (Dist. 2)	Present telephonically
Wes Gullet (Dist. 3)	Absent
Merlyn Carlson (Dist. 4)	Present
Terrance Evans (Dist. 5)	Present

STAFF MEMBERS PRESENT

Jennifer Toth, Director
Teresa Welborn, Administrator
John Paulsen, County Attorney's Office
Kellee Kelley, Intergovernmental Relations
Denise Lacey, Transportation Planning
Michelle Markson, Engineering

REGULAR BUSINESS

1. CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order at 11:00 a.m.

2. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The Pledge of Allegiance was led by Merlyn Carlson.

3. ROLL CALL

In attendance: Marc Erpenbeck, Jeff Martin, Merlyn Carlson and Terrance Evans.

Absent: Wes Gullet.

4. CALL TO THE PUBLIC

No requests to speak were presented.

5. APPROVAL OF MEETING MINUTES

A MOTION was made by Merlyn Carlson and was SECONDED by Terrance Evans, to approve the minutes of the February 27, 2015 special meeting as submitted. MOTION CARRIED unanimously by a 4-0 vote.

GENERAL BUSINESS

6. DIRECTOR'S UPDATE

Ms. Jennifer Toth presented an update on the July 18th storms. MCDOT Roadway Maintenance is in the process of clearing and repairing roads in the Wickenburg area. It is anticipated that all of the roadways will be open by tomorrow.

Ms. Toth explained that organizational changes have been made to redevelop and reorganize the Department around the key functions of planning, developing, building, maintaining, and operating the transportation system. Denise Brewer has been hired as the Permitting, Construction and Inspection Division Manager. Kevin Kottmer has been hired as the Roadway Maintenance Division Manager. The new organizational chart is on the MCDOT website.

The Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) has been approved by the Board of Supervisors (BOS) for fiscal year 2016.

A program review meeting was held with our Northern Parkway partners, which included the cities of Peoria, El Mirage, Glendale, the Maricopa Association of Governments (MAG) and the Arizona Department of Transportation (ADOT). The meeting was focused on reviewing funding that would be available within the quarter. The next meeting will be held in August and will look at what projects can be completed with the available cash flow.

The BOS approved the recommendations that came out of the Task Force meetings. The Task Force was instrumental in streamlining processes. Although the Task Force is complete, MCDOT will continually re-engage the members in order to receive input regarding other improvements that can be implemented.

MCDOT has formed an internal team to revise its Project Development Manual. Currently, the manual is in six volumes. The team is attempting to make the manual more manageable so that it will provide value when determining what information is required versus what information is wanted on projects. The Scoping Phase of the manual is complete and the team is now reviewing the Design Phase of the manual.

MCDOT and Waste Resources and Recycling (WRR) have reinstated the Safety Committee. The Committee is taking a proactive approach in analyzing incidents that have occurred with our employees, and it will look at improvements that can be made to our road system.

BOS Chairman Chucuri will be visiting MCDOT on September 16th for an "All-Hands" meeting. The MCDOT Management Team will introduce its strategic plan and vision for the next few years to all of the employees at the meeting. A Safety Stand Down Day may also be incorporated to provide safety information to employees throughout the day.

In March, MCDOT celebrated National Work Zone Awareness Week. The theme was "expect the unexpected." Safety in the work zone was communicated to all employees.

Owls were discovered during the repair work on the Tuthill Bridge. Two adults, three owlets, one egg and a kestrel were relocated to a rehab facility.

The Stand Up 4 Transportation event was held to raise awareness for transportation funding. The Highway Trust Fund will run out July 31st and Congress is working to renew the Fund and create a long term bill for transportation.

Two events to support the Arizona Connected Vehicle Initiative were held at our Anthem testing center. The Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) and a subcommittee from the Transportation Research Board (TRB) visited the site. MCDOT has applied for a grant in order to continue the program.

Bike to work day was held on April 23rd. MCDOT staff and Board of Supervisors participated.

MCDOT received a National Association of Counties (NACo) award for its Traffic Management Center's (TMC's) Performance Activity Log. The log is a tool that helps to monitor traffic flow, incidents, and emergencies on County roads. The log also enhances coordination with traffic and roadway conditions with other local jurisdictions.

Chairman Erpenbeck inquired on the status of the County's roads due to the recent storms. Director Toth replied that six roads had been closed; however, most of them were re-opened and all roads should be re-opened by tomorrow even though repairs are still underway. There were no roadways that failed.

Board member Carlson asked if the TMC Performance Activity Log monitored traffic flow for all roads or just County roads. Director Toth explained that the Log monitors traffic activity from all roads within Maricopa County. All of the different jurisdictions submit information into the Regional Data Archive System (RADS) and the information can be projected and then communicated to travelers.

7. PROJECT RATING SYSTEM

Director Toth discussed the Project Rating System and explained the different gaps and challenges associated with the system. Some of the improvements include establishing performance targets for each category, creating an impartial scoring system and developing an automated project rating system database and scoring interface. Currently, MCDOT has a technical team developing recommendations that will enhance the system. An update will be provided at the next TAB meeting.

Chairman Erpenbeck asked if MCDOT is going to request input on implementation guides and benchmarks from the Board. Director Toth confirmed.

Chairman Erpenbeck asked if the Project Rating System would be used for all projects or if it would only apply to TIP Projects. Director Toth responded that for the most part the Project Rating System would be used for new projects coming into the system and possibly for use on projects that look at future projections.

8. TRANSPORTATION SYSTEM PLAN (TSP)

Systems Planning Branch Manager, Denise Lacey provided an update on the TSP. Ms. Lacey reviewed the purpose of the TSP and explained that the TSP establishes a framework for the future transportation needs of County residents. The TSP recognizes

MAG, ADOT, local cities' and individual towns' plans. The TSP identifies a new 5, 10 and 20 year needs analysis and it actively seeks stakeholder input.

Ms. Lacey explained that the first step was to perform a capacity needs analysis which is nearly complete. In order to perform the analysis it is important to understand the growth patterns and projections by reviewing and updating socioeconomic information. Capacity results of the Socioeconomic review indicated the following statistics for Maricopa County: 39% of the land is open / undeveloped; the County owns, operates or maintains 2,365 miles of roadway; 66% of the County's roadways received an "excellent" pavement condition rating.

The capacity needs analysis further shows that Maricopa County owns, operates and maintains 429 bridges, of which 404 have a "good" rating and 23 have a "fair" rating. Two bridges are currently under construction. Maricopa County owns, operates or maintains 468 miles of sidewalks. Seventy-four miles of roadways have sidewalks on both sides and 394 miles only have one side of sidewalk.

Lastly, the County's crash rate growth is lower than the incorporated areas of the County. Hot spots for crashes include Sun City, Sun City West, Youngtown, east Mesa, and Anthem. It should be noted that these areas also have the highest population.

The next step to prepare for the capacity needs analysis was to review the service volumes and update current service volume thresholds. This will result in the ability to determine capacity improvements needed for the future County's roadways. An update will be provided at the next meeting.

Alternative modes were also reviewed. There is a combined total of 1,690 miles of bike lanes, 406 miles of pedestrian trails, 23 miles of light rail and 2,275 miles of bus routes in all of Maricopa County.

The Bike/Pedestrian Team has presented suggestions and goals to the MCDOT Management Team for review. MCDOT is also participating in quarterly transit meetings with Valley Metro and MAG to ensure that our roadways are accommodating the transit community's needs. MCDOT's Bike Plan is projected for update in 2016.

Public outreach efforts included open houses, emails, the MCDOT website, and the TSP website, which includes an interactive map. Thirteen open houses were held. All of the public outreach comments were evaluated, and connectivity accounted for 21% of the comments and bike/ped accounted for 17%. On April 21, 2015, a Stakeholder Partnering Workshop was held with more than 50 attendees. The next Workshop is scheduled for July 29th.

Upon completion of the capacity needs analysis MCDOT staff will prioritize the projects as follows: needs analysis results will be fed into the Project Rating System, results will be relayed to the stakeholders for input, and then a draft project list will be created and compared to financial projections. After the financial programming is complete the draft implementation plan will be presented to the TAB and other stakeholders. A recommended implementation plan will be entered into the overall TSP and again presented to TAB and to the BOS. It is estimated that the final TSP will be adopted in November of 2016.

Member Carlson asked if growth and anticipated growth had been calculated into the plan. Ms. Lacey explained that growth is a big factor which is why a needs analysis is completed at 5, 10 and 20 year intervals.

Member Evans inquired if input from the tribal governments was part of the stakeholder outreach. Ms. Lacey confirmed that the tribes did provide input at the meetings. Member Evans also asked if the crash data that was used in the presentation was current. Lee Jimenez with MCDOT Transportation Planning replied that the data used was inputs from the last 5 years of crash data.

Vice-Chair Martin suggested that the comments related to Transit should be listed separately instead of having them under the "Other" category. Ms. Lacey agreed and will provide an update at the next meeting.

9. TAB FORUM

None at this time.

10. NEXT MEETING DATE

September 15, 2015 at 11:00 a.m.

11. REQUEST FOR FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS

None at this time.

12. CALL TO ADJOURN

The meeting adjourned at 11:50 a.m.