



# Transportation Advisory Board

MARICOPA COUNTY DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

## **DRAFT MINUTES**

**Tuesday, February 16, 2016**

### **ADVISORY BOARD MEMBERS**

Chairman Marc Erpenbeck (Dist. 1)	Present
Ted Geisler (Dist. 2)	Present
Wes Gullet (Dist. 3)	Present
Merlyn Carlson (Dist. 4)	Absent
Terrance Evans (Dist. 5)	Absent

### **STAFF MEMBERS PRESENT**

Jennifer Toth, Director  
Teresa Welborn, Administrator  
John Paulsen, County Attorney's Office

Denise Lacey, Transportation Planning  
Clemenc Ligocki, Intergovernmental Relations

Michelle Markson, Engineering  
Margaret Gianfarcaro, Intergovernmental Affairs

## **REGULAR BUSINESS**

### **1. CALL TO ORDER**

The meeting was called to order at 11:02 a.m.

### **2. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**

The Pledge of Allegiance was led by Ted Geisler.

### **3. ROLL CALL**

In attendance: Marc Erpenbeck, Ted Geisler, and Wes Gullet.

Absent: Merlyn Carlson and Terrance Evans.

### **4. CALL TO THE PUBLIC**

No requests to speak were presented.

## **5. APPROVAL OF MEETING MINUTES**

A MOTION was made by Ted Geisler and was SECONDED by Wes Gullet, to approve the minutes of the November 17, 2015 meeting as submitted. MOTION CARRIED unanimously by a 3-0 vote.

# **GENERAL BUSINESS**

## **6. DIRECTOR'S UPDATE**

Director Toth discussed the current challenges and opportunities facing the Maricopa County Department of Transportation (MCDOT). Director Toth explained that MCDOT's core purpose is to provide connections that improve people's lives. She highlighted current industry trends and identified associated challenges and opportunities.

Director Toth explained that technology is changing rapidly and real-time access to information has resulted in more transit options. There has been a decrease in the demand for transportation systems from the millennial generation. Baby boomers are looking for places to walk, bicycle or utilize mass transit whenever possible. Both generations are making their housing decisions based on walkability and proximity to transit. The increase in telecommuting has also decreased traffic congestion. However, the freight and shipping industries have increased due to online sales. Technology has evolved to provide motorists a way to access real time traffic information and alternative travel routes in an instant. MCDOT has become a national leader in the development of connected vehicles that provide messages between vehicles and hazard alerts to drivers.

Big data is another challenge faced by MCDOT. The amount of data received is growing exponentially. This data provides invaluable information on the day-to-day operations of the roadway and on roadways that require maintenance. The volume of data will need to be managed, analyzed and converted into functional reports. These changes signify innovation in our industry and progress for our community. MCDOT recognizes the need to partner with local schools and colleges in order to train engineers in connected and automated vehicle technologies as well as data management.

The regulatory burden is another challenge. Over the next five years, MCDOT will receive 30% of its project funding from the federal government, which requires compliance with the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA).

An opportunity exists within MCDOT to work on increasing internal collaboration in order to become more efficient. In order to achieve MCDOT's core purpose, each discipline will need to interact and share information. The management team views this as an opportunity to review the processes and procedures that are required to deliver projects on time and within budget.

Director Toth discussed succession planning as an opportunity and the importance of planning for the future now. One example is an Intergovernmental Agreement that MCDOT will enter into with Arizona State University (ASU). ASU and MCDOT will work together to develop a training program that will assist various County departments.

Improving the safety of our roads is another opportunity. MCDOT will focus on improving the safety of our roadways. The revised Project Rating System will assist our department with identifying fatal and incapacitating injury crashes, non-motorized crashes, and work zone crashes.

Replacing and maintaining the County's infrastructure is an opportunity for improvement. The Gilbert Road Bridge is an example of an aging facility that has experienced scour and erosion on several of its columns. The bridge deck is also deteriorating and the post tensioning rods are beginning to lose their tension. The bridge is currently rated as being in fair condition. MCDOT is designing a new bridge that will be located between the current bridge and the northbound lanes of Gilbert Road.

## **7. LEGISLATIVE UPDATES**

Intergovernmental Branch Manager, Clemenc Ligocki, presented an update on federal legislation.

Fixing America's Surface Transportation Act (FAST) was signed on December 4, 2015. The FAST Act reauthorized programs and funding for 5 years and provides for \$42.3 billion for FY 2016 with annual incremental increases in obligation authority up to \$46.4 billion in FY 2020. The bill increases the flexibility of the environmental process and provides for funding of off-system bridges. The FAST Act includes funding for Intelligent Transportation Systems (ITS) and provides for \$67.5 million per year for a Technology and Innovation Deployment Program. MCDOT will seek to acquire funding for its ITS / Connected Vehicle Program.

The Surface Transportation Program (STP) was renamed as a block grant program. The urban share which is dispersed to agencies like Maricopa Association of Governments (MAG), in areas with a population of 200,000 or more, will increase from 50% to 55% over the life of this program.

Intergovernmental Coordinator, Caitlin Brady, presented an overview of the 2016 Arizona State Legislature. The legislature went into Session on January 11, 2016. The Joint Legislative Budget Committee has estimated that the FY 2017 budget will have a starting cash balance of \$625 million, of which \$600 million is one-time revenue and should not be used for reoccurring expenses. These funds may be used for transportation and infrastructure improvements.

Governor Ducey's Executive Budget Proposal was approved, which increased the transfer of Highway User Revenue Fund (HURF) monies from approximately \$89 million to \$97 million to the Department of Public Safety (DPS).

## **8. TRANSPORTATION SYSTEM PLAN (TSP)**

Systems Planning Branch Manager, Denise Lacey, identified the milestones completed by the Planning Branch to date. The Planning Branch completed the first round of public outreach. Ms. Lacey presented the Goals, Objectives, & Strategies of the Transportation System Plan 2035.

The Project Recommendation Process began with staff running data through the Maricopa Association of Governments (MAG) model for the years 2015, 2020, 2025 and 2035. Staff reviewed the raw data from the models and provided information on roadways that were functioning above our service volume threshold. Projects were combined whenever possible and run through MCDOT's Project Rating System. Staff then made recommendations to MCDOT's leadership team on 209 projects. Staff recommended 39 projects for further studies such as scoping, operational enhancement or safety. Staff recommended 74 projects for annual monitoring through the State of the System Report. Staff removed 109 projects from the list due to physical restraints, developer responsibility, annexation, etc.

The next step is for the Planning Branch to hold a Stakeholder Partnering Workshop on February 24<sup>th</sup>. A funding plan will be developed and public outreach round two will begin in March 2016. Planning project recommendations should be finalized in June of 2016.

## **9. MCDOT FY 2017-2021 TRANSPORTATION IMPROVEMENT PROGRAM (TIP)**

Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) Manager, Chuck Williams, presented the FY 2017-2021 program. MCDOT's core functions can be described as Plan, Design, Build, Maintain and Operate. Mr. Williams identified MCDOT's two budget funds: the operating fund (232) and the TIP Capital Fund (234) which is used for the construction of projects. He explained that the Board of Supervisors (BOS) approves MCDOT's "Bins" which consist of a group of projects with a certain amount of funding. This allows for monies to be moved within bins with BOS authorization without the need for BOS approval of specific project changes. This also increases the efficiency of the program. Currently within the TIP there are twelve bins. In order for MCDOT to align the process, the twelve bins will be combined into three bins (build, maintain, operate). There are two other bins that remain separate, the MAG Arterial Life Cycle Program (ALCP) and Dust Mitigation. Therefore, the FY 2017 budget will consist of five bins. The five bins are Capacity, System Preservation and Reconstruction, Traffic Management, MAG ALCP, and Dust Mitigation.

Mr. Williams discussed an overview of future financial projections. In FY 2017 revenue projections appear to be increased by \$16.2 million over FY 2016. It is projected that \$79.1 million will carryover from FY 2016 into FY 2017. There is approximately \$101 million in unprogrammed expenditures for the years FY 2017 – FY 2021. There is \$24 million available in FY 2017 – FY 2019 to start design on new projects for construction in FY 2020 – FY 2021.

Mr. Williams identified the eight major corridors comprising \$290 million and their challenges. These are as follows: Northern Parkway \$99.5 million, MC 85 \$45.4 million, Riggs Road \$38.9 million, Deer Valley Road \$29.3 million, Gilbert Road \$26.8 million, Dobson Road Bridge \$24.7 million, Olive Avenue \$15.0 million and El Mirage Road \$10.6 million.

Based on the request of three board members present a Special Session will be held on Wednesday, February 24, 2016 at 11:00 a.m. The meeting will be held in the MCDOT Transportation Building located at 2901 West Durango Street, Phoenix, Arizona 85009. Staff will present for discussion and approval, the prioritization of projects and development of the FY 2017-2021 TIP.

Vice-Chair Geisler asked if there were any concerns by the BOS with regards to staff taking responsibility for managing and moving funds within projects. Director Toth responded and stated that MCDOT has discussed the issue with the BOS and both agree that it is a matter of efficiency. Mitch Wagner, Liaison to the Board, agreed that the BOS understands that this change will allow for more efficient operation of the Department and its projects.

**10. CONNECTED VEHICLE DEMONSTRATION AT ANTHEM**

Director Toth invited the Transportation Advisory Board members to participate in the Connected Vehicle Demonstration which will be held at the Anthem Test Bed Facility on March 17, 2016.

**11. TAB FORUM**

Chairman Erpenbeck announced that the Arizona Science Center will hold a “Future of Mobility” event on February 25, 2016.

**12. NEXT MEETING DATE**

The next regular meeting of the TAB is planned for April 19, 2016 at 11:00 a.m.

**13. REQUEST FOR FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS**

Vice-Chair Geisler stated it is important to occasionally receive updates from the Director on the challenges faced by MCDOT.

**14. CALL TO ADJOURN**

The meeting adjourned at 12:35 p.m.