



Transportation Advisory Board

MARICOPA COUNTY DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

MINUTES

Tuesday, February 15, 2022

The meeting was held and recorded as a GoToMeeting:

<https://global.gotomeeting.com/join/404164573>

ADVISORY BOARD MEMBERS ATTENDED VIRTUALLY

John Repar (Dist. 1)	Present
Phil Clement (Dist. 2)	Present
Wes Gullet (Dist. 3)	Present
Merlyn Carlson (Dist. 4)	Absent
Kerry Duskin (Dist. 5)	Present

STAFF MEMBERS PRESENT ATTENDED VIRTUALLY

Jennifer Toth, Director
 Jesse Gutierrez, Deputy Director
 Wayne Peck, County Attorney’s Office
 Mitch Wagner, Board Liaison
 Traci Ruth, SCO Division Manager
 Denise Lacey, Planning Branch Manager
 Steven Wilcox, Engineering Division Manager
 Randy Dunsey, Project Management Branch Manager
 Mary Ann Roder, Financial Services Manager
 Kellee Salas, TAB Coordinator
 Margaret Gianfarcaro, TAB Administrator

VISITORS ATTENDED VIRTUALLY

Steve Jimenez, Stanley Group
 Dan Marum, Wilson Co.
 Thirumurugan Bose, Michael Baker Intl.

REGULAR BUSINESS

1. CALL TO ORDER

Wes Gullet, TAB Chairman, called the meeting to order at 11:00 a.m.

2. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Kerry Duskin, Board Member, led the pledge of allegiance.

3. ROLL CALL

Kellee Salas, the TAB Coordinator, led the roll call.

In virtual attendance: Wes Gullet, John Repar, Phil Clement, and Kerry Duskin

A quorum was present.

4. CALL TO THE PUBLIC

Kellee Salas, the TAB Coordinator, did not receive requests to speak at the Call to the Public.

5. APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES

Board Member Clement made A MOTION, and Board Member Duskin SECONDED to approve the minutes of the October 19, 2021 meeting. MOTION CARRIED unanimously.

GENERAL BUSINESS

6. DIRECTOR'S UPDATE

Director Jennifer Toth gave an update highlighting several items:

- Director Toth began discussing this past December. MCDOT held its Holiday Toy Drive to benefit the families of Gustav Danielson, Ben Mueller, and Gabriel Yslava, the three MCDOT employees we lost in 2021. Participation far exceeded our expectations and helped fulfilled the wishes of the children. Some of the families received art supplies, jewelry kits, Legos and roller skates, and many gift cards. The families were incredibly grateful for the thoughtfulness and generosity of the organization.
- Faisal Saleem has retired from MCDOT and has accepted the position of Director for the National Operations Center of Excellence (NOCoE). NOCoE is a partnering organization devoted to supporting departments of Transportation as they move toward better transportation systems management through technology. They also partner with several federal agencies that MCDOT works with, such as the American Association of State Highway and Transportation Officials (AASHTO), the Institute of Transportation Engineers (ITE), and the Intelligent Transportation Society of America (ITSA), with support from the Federal Highway Administration (FHWA). Faisal served as 'MCDOT's Intelligent Transportation System (TIS) Branch Manager and led the SMARTDrive Program, developing and

testing technology for connected vehicle deployment. This program gained national attention with its “Anthem Test Bed” project, which was recognized as an official affiliated testbed by the US Department of Transportation and has won an award from the Society of Automotive Engineers (SAE).

- Director Toth spoke about the Infrastructure Investment Jobs Act. President Biden signed the five-year \$1 trillion Infrastructure Investment Jobs Act (IIJA) into law. This infrastructure bill is different from its predecessors. It envisioned providing tax relief for American workers and businesses, putting workers back on the job while rebuilding after COVID-19. For the first time, it recognizes that roads, carbon reduction, rail, wildlife crossings, transit, electric vehicle charging infrastructure, broadband, reconnecting communities, supply chains for clean energy, airports are each and together infrastructure. Agencies are still studying the bill and what it will provide. We have heard there will be more competitive opportunities for local and regional agencies to apply for discretionary grants, and we are exploring what options we may be able to pursue and take advantage of the funding that is made available.
- Next, she discussed information regarding the Deer Valley Road Bridge. This project creates a brand-new connection across the Agua Fria River to provide residents greater access to Loop 303 in the west valley. This project will widen and extend Deer Valley Road to meet Williams Drive and install new roundabouts. The project is approximately 2.5 miles long and includes a 700 ft bridge over the Agua Fria River and a short 45 ft long bridge over Tessmer Road. We began construction last June and are currently 45% completed. We anticipate completing the Deer Valley Road Bridge in the fall of 2023.
- Director Toth provided a quick glimpse at a new Notify MCDOT application MCDOT that will hopefully launch in March. Notify MCDOT is a web-based issue-reporting platform that will give customers an easy way to share non-emergency roadway issues with MCDOT, such as a pothole or sign down, much like a traditional 311 system. It is GIS-based, so residents can pinpoint the issue location and submit photos to help us address the problem. In addition, it connects with our cartograph system, so by putting the issues into Notify MCDOT, it automatically puts it in cartograph and assigns it to a road crew.
- She announced that the MCDOT Mentorship program is back in full swing. This year the program runs from January 2022 through September 2022. Participants will have monthly one-on-one meetings with their mentee/mentors during the program. In addition, they will attend 13 different workshops. The program will cover various focus areas: goal setting, resume building, interview techniques, HR practices, networking, effective communication, professionalism, emotional intelligence, decision-making, team building, home/work-life balance, and public speaking. We had such an incredible demand for this program that we ran two sessions this year.
- Director Toth shared news about another employee development program, the MCDOT leadership Academy. MCDOT has launched a leadership and management development program to help unlock the potential of its managers as team builders and inspirational leaders. MCDOT’s Leadership and Management teams will complete the program that will focus on creating a thriving culture, ethics in leadership, and managing people, objectives, and

change. We are excited to share this opportunity with leaders in the organization. In addition, we plan to institute this as a regular training opportunity for new supervisors as they are promoted or hired.

- The Maricopa County Leadership and Education Advancing Public Service program (MCLEAPS) was created with Arizona State University. It offers top students hands-on experience and enhances their education with an introduction to the opportunities and rewards of public service careers, including in county government. The interns toured the Traffic Management Center (TMC). While there, Mark Brown, REACT Program Manager, highlighted the REACT/TMC interface and what the TMC does to support REACT during a call-out. Alex Lemka, ITS Project Manager, explained the AZTech Regional Archive Data Systems (RADS), an ITS data hub for the greater Phoenix area that collects, processes, and fuses ITS operations data. They also toured the Materials Testing Lab, where Aaron Spears, Materials Lab Supervisor, showed them a variety of tests that his team performs to evaluate the performance and integrity of different asphalt materials.

7. MCDOT FY 2023-2027 TRANSPORTATION IMPROVEMENT PROGRAM (TIP)

Chuck Williams, Capital Program Manager, presented the prioritization of projects and development of the FY 2023-2027 Transportation Improvement Program.

- FY 2023-2027 Proposed TIP
 - Mr. William's first slide was the budget he proposed in December. The draft TIP budget for 2023 was \$113 million with a five-year program total of \$476.2 million. Typically MCDOT budgets 5% for reserves. Due to the uncertainty in the economy, we increased reserves for the five-year program to \$53 million or 11%. January, we updated the quarterly project updates with the project teams; we had discussions with our partners over the project cost increases to ensure they were ok with that and if they were still interested in doing the project.
- FY 2023 Challenges Updated
 - We continue to experience the impact of inflation and shortages due to supply chain issues. Of particular concern is the lead time for precast concrete items, steel, and all types of pipe. In addition, the demand locally for concrete and a driver shortage is affecting bid prices and concrete deliveries on projects.
 - In December, I mentioned Vulture Mountain Park; the Parks Dept and the Director have met and agreed to continue with that project even though the cost has increased over the engineer's estimate. The concern was making sure the Parks Dept had sufficient funds to cover their costs of the project in their budget.
 - McKellips Rd was bid for construction last month. There was only one bidder. The bid was \$22.7M, which was approx. 57% higher than the engineer's estimate of \$14.4M. The area with the highest increase over the engineer's estimate was piping with over a 200% increase. We cannot be sure this indicates the future with only one bidder. Still, we are just starting to consider our options and ways to handle the risk associated with significant impacts like this. We are beginning to implement this on some of the larger projects in the program.

- FY 2023-2027 Transfers to TIP
 - Once the operating budget is done, we then establish how much will be sent into the TIP. The income transfer is up by \$33 million. That is over what we anticipated in December. Starting in FY 2024, the increase in the transfer every year is only 1%. With inflation of 7% and a 1% increase in the HURF transfer, the concern has sufficient funds for projects constructed in the out years 2025-2027. We will have to take this one year at a time, and we will have to adjust as we get more information and adjust as needed.
- Budget Concerns
 - The current concerns are what is affecting the 2023 budget.
 - Southern Avenue is a project with the City of Phoenix. It is currently planned for FY 2027 construction. Phoenix is asking to move construction up. The 60% plan cost estimate has been received and shared with Phoenix staff. They are discussing with their management to see if they are still ok with the increase. I don't believe we will get a response before we finalize the budget, but given the response from the Phoenix staff, we will move that up to start construction in 2025. That is a \$21 million project. We are taking a bit of a risk here, but we will be ok.
 - We have already discussed McKellips Rd and its high construction bid. After a review of the bid items by staff and the consultants, we will do this as a two-stage project. We will start and do all of the underground work first, followed by the road construction. We think we have enough time and money available to cover that project. It's a \$28 million project in total with almost \$20 million in construction.
 - Gilbert Rd Bridge is scheduled to be bid this summer and start construction this fall. The total cost of that bridge is \$59 million. The concern is with lead time. However, we have an issue with birds and bats, the bird and bat mitigation needs to start in October, which gives us a seven-month lead time for long-term items, so I think we are good on the bridge. We are using McKellips and ADOT to provide us with an idea for large quantities. We have adjusted the price for Gilbert by just about \$9 million to account for the increase in material. The two Northern projects are a long-term concern, with one (Agua Fria to 99th Ave) scheduled to start in 2025 and the second (99th Ave to 87th Ave) beginning in 2026-2027. Agua Fria is a \$59 million budget; the second segment 99th Ave is \$48 million. The concern is MAG funding; we won't get any funds from MAG with cost increases and knowing MAG funding is fixed. They have already allocated; the problem is will the partners be willing and able to cover the cost increases if we receive significant cost increases in the 2025-2026 time frame.
 - Mr. Williams presented the proposed program for the TIP showing the portion allocated to pay for projects, and the other is the reserve that we set up. The total now is \$528 million, which is an increase of \$51 million over what was presented in December. The increase in HURF is only \$33 million; the balance of the funds is coming from our partners, mainly the Parks Dept, the City of Phoenix, Salt River Pima

Indian Community, and the Salt River Project, to cover their share of the big projects. There are seven projects, five I previously talked about, plus Vulture Mountain Park and Olive Ave represent more than half of the project expenditures in the five-year program. The two Northern Park projects are half the costs planned in FY 2026-2027. Inflation and supply chain issues are the primary concern in developing this program. What we have done is set aside as uncommitted funds \$79.5 million, \$27 million for the first two years to cover cost increases due to construction, and another \$29 million in reserve. We have tentatively set \$25 million, \$14 million in 2026, and \$10 million in 2027 for new projects; those funds can be re-allocated or moved to cover cost increases in the last couple of years. I think we are in good shape to handle the situation, but not knowing for sure what will happen, whether inflation will continue or whether we will see a recession. We will have to take it a year at a time.

- He referenced the handouts they received. The yellow highlighted areas are the major projects moved in the program that affect the first part of the five-year program, primarily FY 2023-2024.

Board Member Clement made A MOTION, and Board Member Repar SECONDED that the Transportation Advisory Board recommend that the Board of Supervisors approve the Proposed FY 2023-2027 Transportation Improvement Program.

MOTION CARRIED unanimously.

8. NEXT MEETING DATE

The next meeting date is Tuesday, April 19, 2022, at 11:00 a.m.

9. REQUEST FOR FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS

Board Member Repar requested an update on the Anthem Test Bed traffic management, how that is developing, also communication with the city. He would like an update on how they are meeting the goals and what they are communicating to everyone.

Board Member Clement requested that we keep them updated on any new information regarding inflation and the cost of materials.

10. CALL TO ADJOURN

The meeting adjourned at 11:39 a.m.