

SUBJECT: Long-Range Regional Transit Plan

Meeting	Meeting Date	Agenda Category	Agenda Item #
Management Committee	Sept. 11, 2019	Discussion Information	5

REQUESTED ACTION/SUGGESTED MOTION

This is an information item.

ASSOCIATED OWP WORK ELEMENT/GOAL

Work Element 40, Regional Transportation Planning.

SUMMARY

Pima Association of Governments (PAG) is undertaking the development of a Long-Range Regional Transit Plan (LRRTP). The desired outcome for the LRRTP is to guide increased mobility options in the PAG region through improvements to public transportation. The LRRTP will focus on enhancing region-wide transit system productivity and customer utility in a way that uses vehicle and labor resources in an efficient manner. To do so, the LRRTP will emphasize improvements in high-performing, high-demand transit corridors while also recommending appropriate service levels for lower-performing areas. The LRRTP will focus on a “frequency-first” approach consistent with the PAG 2015 Future Transit Vision and build on the existing Frequent Transit Network.

Current Project Status

The planning process is approximately two-thirds completed. PAG’s Consultant, Jarrett Walker and Associates, has performed a current system analysis to inventory existing services, define travel markets, understand current system access extents, draft system goals, develop financial scenarios and draft an initial long-range plan. A document summarizing many of the topics the plan will cover, called the Choices Report, can be accessed via the PAG website, www.pagregion.com/transit.

In October 2018, after the completion of the Choices Report, PAG staff and JWA held the first round of community involvement sessions that included a day-long Stakeholder Workshop and two open house events. The workshop was led by JWA and consisted of a series of exercises meant to highlight key decisions the community must make when planning for the future of its transit system. The workshop was followed by open house-style engagement events that allowed members of the public to discuss ideas for the system and vote on key decisions.

During December 2018 and January 2019, the project team released an online and on-board survey to reach a wider set of community stakeholders. The survey included

questions reflecting the same themes as the earlier open house events. Community response to the survey was strong with over 2,600 surveys completed.

In late January, JWA, PAG and jurisdictional staff convened in an intensive design workshop intended to develop the core network elements of a 10-year network plan. The design workshop incorporated the network priorities from the initial round of community involvement sessions along with draft financial scenarios to form the core of a draft long-range plan. Workshop participants covered all aspects of the regional transit system, discussed ways to improve service levels and quality, and drafted network concepts.

PAG and jurisdictional staff are currently reviewing an initial draft of the long-range plan developed by JWA synthesizing the work produced during the design workshop. These materials, along with service classifications, capital prioritizations, access and coverage analysis, and maps of plan elements, will be incorporated into the final document.

The plan includes four main transit service improvement elements:

1. Expansion of the Frequent Transit Network
2. Improve service spans on weekends and evenings
3. Targeted service improvements to suburban transit routes
4. Infrastructure improvements supporting speed, reliability and service quality

A second round of community involvement efforts was held on August 28 and 29 and included a Plan Review Workshop and two open houses. The goal during this phase of plan development was to identify any areas for focus during final plan revision, garner additional input on element development, and identify community sentiment regarding the plan's proposed improvements. Final service benchmarks, capital plans and implementation schedules also will be developed during this period.

Staff anticipates the LRRTP will be finalized by late 2019, with the goal to bring the final document to the PAG Regional Council in December or January for approval.

PRIOR BOARD AND/OR COMMITTEE ACTION

This information was provided to TPC at its Aug. 21 meeting.

FINANCIAL CONSIDERATIONS

Ideally, the LRRTP will help the region understand the associated costs of implementing a desired transit network under various future scenarios.

TECHNICAL, POLICY, LEGAL OR OTHER CONSIDERATIONS

Based on JWA's technical analysis and the community's input, the plan will provide alternatives for the development of regional transit policy over a 10 to 20-year planning horizon.

ATTACHED ADDITIONAL BACKUP INFORMATION

None.

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