



RTA committees continue planning process for 20-year regional transportation draft plan



Rick Myers, top left, chair of the Citizens Advisory Committee of the Regional Transportation Authority, provides an overview during the first meeting of

the 35-member committee above on Jan. 5. The RTA and its two committees are charged with developing a 20-year multi-modal transportation plan.

Citizens advisory committee to meet again March 7

Efforts to develop a new 20-year regional transportation plan, which would be funded with a 1/2-cent transaction privilege tax, are proceeding on schedule.

Both the Citizens Advisory Committee and the Technical/Management Committee of the **Regional Transportation Authority** have met multiple times since the beginning of the year.

The chairs of each committee report that committee members have been fully engaged and are working toward development of a plan that will be acceptable to the region.

More information about the RTA and a feedback form for comments are available at www.RTAmobility.com.

"The RTA Citizens Advisory Committee is in the process of reviewing traditional funding mechanisms and past transportation plans, so we can effectively understand the new proposals that will be shared with us soon from the RTA Technical/Management Committee," said Rick Myers, chair of the 35-member Citizens Advisory Committee.

"We will begin meeting twice monthly in an open give-and-take process with the technical committee looking at various options. We will share these with the broader community as we look to set priorities."

The CAC is made up of a diverse group of citizens representing broad community interests.

Quote by Chuck Huckelberry, chair of the 22-member Technical/Management Committee. The new Technical/Management Committee is a balanced blend of 11 jurisdictional transportation managers and 11 members from the private sector who have a strong background in varied transportation disciplines.

The committees will consider the following regional goals as

determined in recent public outreach obtained for complementary transportation plans:

- Cross-town mobility improvements
- Reduced traffic congestion
- Improved travel safety and security
- Improved alternative choices of travel
- Additional bicycle and pedestrian friendly paths

The committees expect that a draft plan may be presented to the public this summer for feedback.

The committees also anticipate they will recommend a final draft plan to the RTA board in September in order to allow time for Pima County to schedule a spring 2006 election. The RTA would seek public approval of the 20-year plan and the transaction privilege tax, which is commonly referred to as a sales tax.

The tax, in fact, is collected in the following categories*:

- Retail Sales
- Contracting
- Utilities
- Restaurants and Bars
- Rental of Real and Personal Property

*Grocery and Pharmaceutical items are exempt.

The 1/2-cent sales tax, if approved, is expected to generate \$2 billion over the 20-year period. The \$2 billion would reduce a current \$4 billion projected shortfall in transportation funding in half over the same timeframe based on projected transportation needs.

The full amount of the proceeds of a 1/2-cent sales tax would stay in the region. Regional dollars would not have the strict requirements that are typically associated with federal and state dollars.

As a result, funds generated from the sales tax may be used for all modes of transportation, including transit, roadways and bicycle or pedestrian enhancements, etc.

Calendar

March 4
Family Self Sufficiency Benefit Golf Tournament
 Sponsor: City of Tucson
 7:30 a.m.
 The Forty Niners Country Club
 Details: 749-4000

March 23-24
2005 Affordable Housing Conference
 University Marriott
 Details: 792-1415

April 1-4
Clean Air Fair
 Various locations
 Details: 740-3947,
www.tucsonaz.gov/caf

April 3
Clean Air Jamboree
 Noon to 5 p.m.
 Reid Park
 Details: 740-3947,
www.tucsonaz.gov/caf

April 2-3
Aerospace and Arizona Days RTA Booth
 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. both days
 Davis Monthan AFB

April 6
U of A Water Resources Center Annual Conference
 8 a.m. to 5:30 p.m.
 Radisson Hotel City Center
 Details: www.ag.arizona.edu/AZWATER/conf2005/

April 10-13
Arizona Transit Association's Annual Conference
 Rio Rico Resort
 Details: www.rioricoresort.com

PAG Meetings

Regional Council
April 27
 177 N Church, 5th Floor
 Times may vary

May 25
 177 N Church, 5th Floor
 Times may vary

Management Committee
March 9
 8:30 a.m.
 N. Church, 5th Floor

April 13
 TBA
 N. Church, 5th Floor

May 11
 8:30 a.m.
 N. Church, 5th Floor

Environmental Planning Advisory Committee
March 4
 9:30 a.m.
 N. Church, 5th Floor

April 1
 9:30 a.m.
 N. Church, 5th Floor

May 6
 9:30 a.m.
 N. Church, 5th Floor

Transportation Planning Committee
March 2
 8:30 a.m.
 N. Church, 5th Floor

April 6
 8:30 a.m.
 N. Church, 5th Floor

May 4
 8:30 a.m.
 N. Church, 5th Floor

Extras

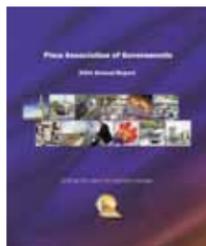


Does your company qualify for a **Best Workplaces for Commuters** designation? Contact Mary Ann Soto at 792-1093 to find out more.

Want to join other major employers in reducing traffic congestion? Visit www.pagnet.org/website/TRP/viewer.htm to see locations of other major employers in the **Travel Reduction Program**.

Regional Council News

The **Regional Council of Pima Association of Governments** elected new officers at its Jan. 26, 2005, meeting. New officers include: Tucson Mayor Robert Walkup, chair; Marana Mayor Bobby Sutton Jr., vice chair, and Pima County Supervisor Ramon Valadez, treasurer. Other board members of the Regional Council include: Pascua Yaqui Chairwoman Herminia Frias, Tohono O'odham Chairwoman Vivian Juan-Saunders, Sahuarita Vice Mayor Marty Moreno, Oro Valley Mayor Paul Loomis, South Tucson Mayor Shirley Villegas and Si Schorr, Arizona State Transportation board. Schorr votes on transportation matters only.



The **2004 Annual Report of Pima Association of Governments** is available at www.pagnet.org. If you would like copies for distribution, please contact Sheila Storm, communications director, at 792-1093.

Pima Association of Governments presented a **Southeast Area Arterial Study** at two open houses in January. The study will recommend a major streets and routes plan for traffic circulation and access throughout the study area. The boundary of the study area is Interstate 19 to the west, Valencia Road to the north, State Route 83/I-10 to the east and Santa Rita Mountains to the south. A draft map is available for viewing at www.searea.com. Additional information is available by contacting Don Freeman at 792-1093.

In the News

Residential building permits hit record

In 2004, Pima County and its jurisdictions issued 11,289 residential building permits, the highest number issued in a single year since 1994. From 2000 to 2003, the number of residential permits issued per year has consistently been over 9,000. However, the number in 2004 was 16 percent higher than the number issued in 2003. Pima County issued the most residential permits followed by the City of Tucson. The Town of Sahuarita issued more residential permits than the Town of Marana for the first time.

Residential Units Permitted	2000	2003	2004	Decade to Date
Marana	779	1,224	1,403	5,558
Oro Valley	1,001	535	509	3,212
Pima County	3,505	3,839	4,131	17,939
Sahuarita	111	911	1,709	3,776
South Tucson	10	20	15	70
Tucson	4,282	3,194	3,522	18,481
Total	9,688	9,723	11,289	49,036

PAG remodeling nears completion

Remodeling of the Pima Association of Governments' (PAG) offices, 177 N. Church Ave., Suite 405, continues. The entire remodeling is expected to be completed by the end of March.

Located in the Transamerica Building, the PAG offices previously were on the 4th and 5th floors. In January 2005, construction was completed on the 5th floor. The 5th floor now houses the newly remodeled conference rooms, staff break room and kitchen. Two conference rooms, the large one accommodating approximately 60 people and the small one accommodating approximately 25 people, also are on the 5th floor, where staff of the PAG Travel Reduction and RideShare programs are located as well.



Upon completion of the remodeling, the 4th floor will house the staff of the Air Quality, Watershed, GIS, Transportation, Regional Transportation Authority, Clean Cities, Communications programs and the executive offices.

Green Tuesdays featured on air

Environmental services in the area are featured weekly on the Tuesday morning show of 92.9 *The Mountain*. The Green Tuesdays show kicked off Feb. 8. Possible upcoming monthly features will include the Clean Air Fair and alternate modes of transportation, March; Earth Day and recycling, April, and the Travel Reduction Program's award program of employers who help reduce traffic congestion, May. Please tune in.

Oracle Road improvements under way

The Town of Oro Valley started \$7 million worth of improvements to Oracle Road and adjoining areas between Pusch View Lane on the south and La Reserve on the north. Improvements include widening Oracle to six lanes (3 in each direction) with double turn lanes at both First Avenue and Pusch View Lane. In addition, First Avenue will be widened to four lanes and will connect with the expanded 4-lane First Avenue bridge now under construction over the CDO wash. Additional information is available by contacting Bob Kovitz at 229-4712.



1st Ethanol station in state opens in Tucson

Arizona Petroleum, 1501 S. Cherry, has opened Arizona's first E85 station. E85 is made from corn with an 85 percent ethanol (alcohol) base and a 15 percent gasoline base. It is cleaner burning and helps reduce our dependence on foreign oil.

For more information, contact Colleen Crowninshield at 792-1093.

Clean Air Fair sets annual celebration

Pima Association of Governments, the City of Tucson, Pima County and Sun Tran will hold their annual celebration to promote actions that will lead to healthier air for our community.

The Clean Air Fair, April 1-4, includes historic walks, bike rides, an exhibit of clean-fueled vehicles, carpooling activities, transit promotions, contests and prizes, and more!

Don't miss the Clean Air Jamboree on Sunday, April 3, from noon to 5 p.m. at Reid Park's DeMeester Outdoor Performance Center. The Jamboree features live music, kid's activities, bike maintenance tips, a biodiesel fuel demonstration and environmentally related booths and information.

For more information, call 740-3947 or visit www.tucsonaz.gov/caf for a schedule of events.

Watershed forum to focus on area conservation plans

The Tucson Audubon Society and PAG will co-sponsor a Watershed Forum on March 11 to discuss conservation and restoration plans for the Tucson region.

The morning session will focus on Pima County's, Marana's and the City of Tucson's habitat conservation plans, how they dovetail with Corps of Engineers projects and planning requirements.

The group will participate in an afternoon restoration workshop at the Audubon Society's North Simpson restoration site located along the lower Santa Cruz River northwest of Marana.

For more information or to register, contact PAG at 792-1093.



Rep. Jim Kolbe, R-Arizona, provided PAG's Regional Council and other regional elected and government officials with a legislative update on Dec. 13, including a status report on the Transportation Equity Act Reauthorization.



Barrio Anita project unveils 3 murals

The Barrio Anita Neighborhood Association (bounded by I-10, Speedway, Granada and St Mary's Road) recently unveiled cultural murals on neighboring I-10 sound walls as part of a transportation enhancement program.

The \$500,000 project, directed by Joshua Sarantitis and William Wilson, consists of three murals that measure over 7,300 square feet. The Barrio Anita Neighborhood Association worked cooperatively with the Tucson-Pima Arts Council to develop the murals.

The neighborhood association worked with the City of Tucson to submit a Transportation Enhancement application in 1999 to ADOT to develop pedestrian improvements, a pocket park and artistic treatments for the sound walls for the area located at the northeast corner of I-10 and St. Mary's Road. The pocket park is nearly completed.

The project was funded by a Transportation Enhancement grant and City of Tucson local match. The Transportation Enhancement program is administered locally for ADOT by Pima Association of Governments.

Outreach Connection Web site ready to launch

A new water resource Web site is expected to be available to the public in late March or early April.

The Outreach Connection Web site, which highlights water-related issues, is currently used by 17 different entities for education and outreach.

The site, developed to help these entities coordinate information and avoid duplication, was developed by PAG and the University of Arizona's SAHRA (Sustainability of semi-Arid Hydrology and Riparian Areas) program.

You may access the site through the SAHRA Web site, www.sahra.arizona.edu.

Southwest Regional Community Impact Assessment conference in Scottsdale June 5-9

The 2005 Southwest Regional Community Impact Assessment Conference will be June 5-9 at the Hilton Scottsdale Resort and Villas in Scottsdale.

Additional information is available by contacting Flora Mondragon at (602) 778-7318 or by visiting www.azdot.gov/Highways/EEG/documents/cia_workshop.asp.

2005 Orthophotography project gears up

PAG has recommended an orthophotography vendor for the Regional Ortho 2005 Project. Negotiations are pending. Orthophotography combines aerial photos with geographic information system (GIS) and terrain data. The project kick-off meeting had been tentatively scheduled for late February.

The agenda for the meeting consisted of project team introductions; technical specifications and project timelines.

PAG also is managing the Regional Oblique Imagery Pilot Project which consists of oblique imagery (side-angle captured imagery).

- **Robert Walkup, Chair**
Mayor of Tucson
- **Bobby Sutton, Jr., Vice Chair**
Mayor of Marana
- **Ramon Valadez, Treasurer**
Pima County Board of Supervisors
- **Hermilia Frias, Member**
Chair, Pascua Yaqui Tribe
- **Vivian Juan-Saunders, Member**
Chairwoman, Tohono O'odham Nation
- **Paul Loomis, Member**
Mayor of Oro Valley
- **Marty Moreno, Member**
Vice Mayor of Sahuarita
- **S. L. Schorr, Member**
Arizona State Transportation Board Representative
- **Shirley Villegas**
Mayor of South Tucson
- **Gary G. Hayes, Executive Director**
Pima Association of Governments

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ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED

Regional Outlook, produced by the Pima Association of Governments (PAG), promotes information sharing among PAG member jurisdictions and greater understanding of regionally significant activities, resources and services. PAG invites submissions about items of interest.

Spring 2005
REGIONAL Outlook

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