



Pima Association of Governments

177 N. Church Ave., Transamerica Building
5th Floor Main Conference Room, Suite 501

Transportation Planning Committee

August 24, 2011

Agenda Packet Memo

SUMMARY OF REGIONAL TRANSPORTATION STUDIES

Background:

PAG provides quarterly updates to the Transportation Planning Committee on transportation related studies being conducted in the region. The update will include a brief summary of the study and its goals, as well as a brief description of the project status.

If you know of any current studies that are not listed here, and that may be of interest on a regional level, please let us know and we will include the study in the next update.

ADOT Statewide Bicycle and Pedestrian Plan:

Summary:

The Arizona Statewide Bicycle and Pedestrian Plan serves to provide a long-term plan for a system of shared roadways and bicycle and pedestrian facilities for the ADOT State Highway System. The Plan will guide ADOT in making transportation decisions, which impact bicycling and pedestrian activities, and improve the accommodation of non-motorized modes of transportation throughout the state. In addition, the Plan will recommend policies, design, and maintenance guidelines for consideration by all implementing agencies in Arizona.

Status:

The consultant has released a draft of Working Paper No. 1 - Vision, Goal Statement, and Performance Indicators for review of the steering committee. The committee meets on January 12th and Working Paper No. 1 will be finalized at the end of the month

ADOT Route Transfer Procedures Study

Summary:

The Arizona State Highway System includes a number of routes that do not function as State Highways. ADOT has indicated that state highways that do not contribute to the mission and purpose of the system create problems for ADOT and for transportation in Arizona because they use resources that could be used to meet statewide needs, generate administrative and liability costs, and may interfere with the vision and goals of local jurisdictions.

The overall goal of the project is to develop a process that identifies eligible routes for transfer from the State highway system to a local jurisdiction. The study will also develop a process for identifying the jurisdiction responsible for specific improvements prior to route transfer and on-going maintenance after the transfer. Finally, the study will recommend policies that will clarify how ADOT and the State Transportation Board will deal with key issues in route transfers.

Status:

A draft manual has been completed and is currently being reviewed by stake holders (including PAG). The manual includes consideration of transfers in both directions—from state to local jurisdiction, and from local to state jurisdiction.

North-South Corridor Study (Pinal County)

Summary:

The Arizona Department of Transportation and Federal Highway Administration are studying the area between US 60 in Apache Junction and I-10 near Eloy and Marana. The purpose of the study is to identify and evaluate a possible route to provide a connection between these two areas.

This study has elicited significant interest from the public and other stakeholders. Approximately 55,000 post cards were sent out and over 400 responses have been received.

Currently there are several alignments being considered. The goal is to narrow it down to three or four options. There is also communication taking between the FTA and FRA and the ADOT Intercity Rail Study.

Status:

An open house on December 6 presented a number of issues, especially in regard to railroad traffic and freight along the corridor. The project team responded that there are no plans to touch any railroad lines and stated that they will place more emphasis on freight.

There were over 21 alignments being considered for the corridor. After comments are received, the project team hopes to get the alignment choices down to 3 or 4 feasible alignments.

Comments were submitted to the project team by PAG on 12/12/11.

SR 77: Tangerine to Pinal County Line (Oro Valley)

Summary:

ADOT, the Federal Highway Administration and the Regional Transportation Authority are working together to improve traffic flow and enhance safety along State Route 77, also known as Oracle Road. This study is evaluating improvements, including widening the road from two lanes to three lanes in each direction, on Oracle Road between Tangerine Road and the Pinal County Line.

These new improvements will tie into the recently completed improvements on Oracle Road between Calle Concordia and Tangerine Road. The current phase for this project began in 2004, and public meetings were held on June 28, 2005, and January 27, 2009. Input from these meetings and other contacts were used in the development of the design concept report and environmental assessment documents.

Status:

The noise wall being built as part of this project has been one of the more contentious issues. Many residents in the area have concerns that a wall will block views to the surrounding mountains.

Ingress and egress issues have been resolved. Further counts are taking place at Santa Catalina Church. The centerline has been realigned for the project and communication with the Utilities will take place to resolve any issues that may arise.

This project is scheduled to start construction in mid calendar year 2013.

Sahuarita Corridor Study

Summary:

The Sahuarita Corridor study will examine possible east-west corridor alignments in Sahuarita, including El Toro Road, from Mission Road to SR 89. The study is the direct result of a 2010 Small Area Transportation Study conducted by Kimley-Horn on behalf of the Town of Sahuarita. .

The result of the new Study will set the stage for a future preliminary design of an east-west corridor, and will assist in justifying funding for additional corridor planning and engineering. Additionally, the Study will enable the Town to initiate other planning assessments for the region, including the preservation of right of way, a critical factor to the preferred alternative.

Status:

The consultant is currently collecting data and evaluating the current and future conditions in the study area. They are also in the process of preparing Working Paper 1, containing the findings of the current and future conditions, to be provided to the TAC member for review and discussion at the next TAC meeting, probably in January 2012.

Pedestrian Compatibility Study: SR86 from MP112 to MP115 (Sells):

Summary:

This study will examine SR 86 through the Town of Sells with the goal of improving overall pedestrian safety. The study will analyze the best location to place bridges over a drainage channel, appropriate crossing treatments and the need and feasibility of sidewalks or a shared-use path along the roadway.

Status:

A survey was distributed to gain input into current walking behaviors in the Town of Sells. The consultant held a public open house and has collected data of the study area. The information is being compiled and is expected to be released soon.

I-19: San Xavier Road to I-10

Summary:

The I-19 Corridor study includes approximately six miles of I-19, from the interchange at I-10, south to the traffic interchange at San Xavier Road. The study will evaluate long term improvements for the area in question. The study will include a Design Concept Report and an Environmental Assessment.

Possible improvements in the study area include additional travel lanes, reconstruction of older traffic interchanges that do not meet current standards, construction of new traffic interchanges at both Drexel Road and Los Reales Road, construction of a pedestrian bridge between Irvington Road and Ajo Way, and improved drainage at Rodeo Wash and other locations.

Status:

The final DCR is nearing completion, and ADOT will advertise for a consultant for the first project (out of seven) within the next month or two.

Freight Framework Study:

Summary:

The freight framework study is a joint effort between MAG, CAAG, and PAG. The study will identify current trends in freight transportation in the Sun Corridor, and recommend ways to improve freight transportation capacity and efficiency throughout the mega-region between Phoenix and Tucson. MAG is lead agency on this project.

Status:

The first tech memo has been completed by the consultant, which outlines current freight and shipping trends in the Sun Corridor region. The tech memo included surveys and interviews with shippers and summarized their responses. PAG submitted comments on the tech memo in November.

The consultant is currently collecting data on geographic freight hot spots (both current and potential) that can be developed to maximize the region's economic potential. PAG recommended several hot spots to be included in the study.

I-10: Tangerine Road to Ina Road corridor study

Summary:

The Arizona Department of Transportation and Federal Highway Administration are beginning an engineering and environmental study of Interstate 10 between Tangerine Road and Ina Road. The goal for this study is to develop a long-range plan for providing an improved roadway for general traffic, commuters and truck traffic traveling along this portion of the I-10 corridor. To support that goal, the study will:

- Develop and evaluate possible alternatives for widening I-10.
- Develop and evaluate possible alternatives for reconstructing the Cortaro Road and Avra Valley Road interchanges to provide grade-separated crossings with the Union Pacific Railroad (UPRR).
- Look at potential improvements to frontage roads in the study area.

The study will include:

- An Alternative Selection Report (ASR) to identify and assess possible alternatives, including the consequences of not making any improvements along this corridor (no-build alternative).
- A Design Concept Report (DCR) to document the preferred alternative.
- An Environmental Assessment (EA) to document public and agency outreach and the potential impacts to the social, economic and natural environments.
- A Corridor Implementation Plan for recommended improvements.

Status:

A PAG representative was in attendance for the kickoff meeting on 12/07/11. The project is in the Long Range Plan (RTP) and the PAG TIP.

I-10: Junction I-19 to SR 83 and SR 210: Golf Linke Road to I-10

Summary:

Improving mobility along I-10 southeast of downtown Tucson has been a major goal of ADOT, the City of Tucson, Pima County and PAG. This project consists of two phases; the first phase will examine many alternatives, study each one closely, and identify those which will be carried forward into the next phase. Phase two will advance the study to the DCR and EA stages focusing on I-10 from I-19 to SR 83, an area expected to become more urbanized in the future.

Status:

Traffic models for SR 210 and I-10 from its junction with I-19 to SR 90 have been completed. The conceptual design for the SR 210 extension and I-10 from its junction with I-19 to SR 83 has been completed as well. The traffic group presented results of the traffic microsimulation model for I-10 from Marsh Station to SR 90. The roadway group presented revisions to the conceptual design and access control strategy presented over the last few progress meetings. Revisions were in response to comments from Stakeholders.

Comments are due 12/30/2011. There are a number of issues that PAG is interested in, particularly concerning the Aerospace and Defense Corridor and the Wilmot TI that will be affected by this project.

No additional public meetings were held since the 10/6/2011

University of Arizona Bicycle and Pedestrian Study

Summary:

In partnership with UA, Pima County, and the City of Tucson, PAG has contracted with a consultant to produce a comprehensive study to enhance bicycle and pedestrian circulation within the U of A campus, while creating seamless links with the surrounding community.

The goals of the study are to reduce the risk of collision, improve existing infrastructure, develop design standards, increase bicycle and pedestrian mode shares, increase bicycle and pedestrian safety, and to create an implementable plan.

Status:

The kick off for this study was in October and the consultants are drafting the first working paper. There will be a public workshop at the UA Student Union January 26th from 11-2. There will also be bicycle and pedestrian tours to gain more public input during that week. There is a website with more information about the plan available through the PAG website.

Discussion and Recommendation:

This is an information item.
