



Regional Council

12:00 p.m., Thursday, October 22, 2009

Sun Tran Bus Storage & Maintenance Facility
3920 N. Sun Tran Blvd. – Operations Building

AGENDA (2 pages)

Partnering
Planning
Projecting

Pursuant to A.R.S. 38-431.02, notice is hereby given to the public and to the Council's members, that the Regional Council of Pima Association of Governments will have a meeting at the above stated time and location. This meeting is open to the public. The following is an agenda of the matters to be considered, discussed and acted upon. The sequence of the agenda may be changed by order of the Council.

The Council may vote to go into Executive Session on any agenda item, pursuant to A.R.S 38-431.03 (A) (3), for discussion and consultation for legal advice with its attorney on any matter(s) as set forth on the agenda.

1. Call to Order and Roll Call

2. Pledge of Allegiance

REGULAR AGENDA

3. Report from the Executive Director

This is a summary of all PAG's recent activities, including activities of its committees.

4. Call to the Audience

Speakers are limited to a three-minute oral presentation and may submit written comments of any length for the Council's files. Those wishing to address the Council should complete a Citizen Information Card prior to the meeting being called to order, which will specify the topic to be addressed. Individual Council Members may respond to criticism made by those individuals who have addressed the Council and may ask staff to review a matter and place it on a future agenda. However, the Council will not discuss or take action on a matter raised during a Call to the Audience that is not already on the agenda.

3. Information

4. Information

DISCUSSION/ACTION

5. Approval of Minutes of September 24, 2009

5. Discussion/Action

That the Regional Council approve the meeting minutes from September 24, 2009.

6. Amendment to the FY 2009/2010 PAG Budget and Overall Work Program

6. Discussion/Action

Regional Council is asked to approve the amendment to the FY 2009/2010 PAG Budget and Overall Work Program to allocate \$30,000 in support of the Southern Arizona Buffelgrass Coordinating Center's regional mapping and assessment project .

Each year, the PAG Regional Council adopts a budget and overall work program describing all PAG work activities and funded programs. The current program includes a work element titled Sustainability and Energy Planning (#1400), which references activities dealing with buffelgrass and invasive plant species. However, with the exception of staff support for these activities, no other funding is included for the work element. PAG was approached by the Southern Arizona Buffelgrass Coordinating Center with a request to partner on a regional mapping and assessment project to identify the extent of the buffelgrass invasion problem. The Center is seeking financial support to hire a consultant to coordinate the mapping project. Staff will discuss the several goals associated with this project.

CONSENT AGENDA

7. Consent Reports.

a. Functional Classification Change

There is a public right-of-way within the Town of Sahuarita that needs to be added to the Federal Functional Classification System in order to qualify for federal American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (ARRA) funding. PAG staff is in the process of submitting a formal request for approval by Arizona Dept. Of Transportation (ADOT) and Federal Highways Administration (FHWA).

b. Program Highlights Report

A list of program highlights for Sept. 2009 is attached.

c. Environmental Planning Advisory Committee (EPAC) Report

PAG's Environmental Planning Advisory Committee meets monthly. A summary of the last committee meeting and subcommittee meeting activities is provided as an information item for Regional Council.

7. Recommend Approval of Consent Agenda

a. Information/Discussion

Regional Council is asked to approve the proposed additions to the regional Functional Classification Maps subject to additional modifications, as may be necessary, to comply with the ARRA, to be submitted for approval by ADOT and FHWA.

b. Information/Discussion

This is an information item.

c. Information/Discussion

This is an information item.

OTHER INFORMATION/DISCUSSION

8. Future Agenda Items

Members of the Council and the Executive Director may request items for future discussion/action.

9. Adjournment

8. Discussion

ACTION MAY BE TAKEN ON ANY ITEM

Two Council Briefing Packets containing material related to the Meeting are available for public review the day before and the day of the Meeting during office hours at: 177 N. Church, Suite 405, Tucson, Arizona 85701 (520) 792-1093. The Briefing Packets also are available for public review at the Meeting.

The Meeting Room is accessible to the handicapped. In compliance with the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA), those requiring special assistance, such as large-type face print, sign language or other reasonable accommodations, may request those through the administrative offices at: 177 N. Church, Suite 405, Tucson, Arizona 85701 (520) 792-1093, at least twenty-four hours before the meeting.

AGENDA PACKET MEMO**EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT****AGENDA ITEM #6 – AMENDMENT TO THE FY 2009/2010 PAG BUDGET AND OVERALL WORK PROGRAM
BUFFELGRASS MAPPING PROJECT****Background:**

Each year, the PAG Regional Council adopts a budget and overall work program describing all PAG work activities and funded programs. The current program includes a work element titled Sustainability and Energy Planning (#1400), which references activities dealing with buffelgrass and invasive plant species. However, with the exception of staff support for these activities, no other funding is included for the work element.

The spread of buffelgrass poses a major threat to the Sonoran Desert. It causes rampant wildfire, destruction of habitat, potential loss of property and buildings, and threatens a significant regional economic driver (tourism).

Discussion:

PAG was approached by the Southern Arizona Buffelgrass Coordinating Center with a request to partner on a regional mapping and assessment project to identify the extent of the buffelgrass invasion problem. The Center is seeking financial support to hire a consultant to coordinate the mapping project. There are several goals for this project. The first is to establish the extent and severity of the infestation across the landscape. This information will be used to do cost estimates for eradication based on terrain and level of infestation. At the moment, this is the most critical need for this effort. Long term, the information will be used to assess the region's success in the eradication effort.

Another goal is to use this information as the basis for seeking funds through grants, foundations, and other sources in order to execute an aggressive and coordinated eradication effort. But before those fund sources are pursued, the significant question that continues to be asked is "how extensive is the problem?"

Performing this mapping effort now is timely because significant federal grants are available, and every year the problem continues to get much worse. Also, Congressional hearings are expected to be held in February on the problem of invasive species, so having this information available will position the region to better compete for those funding opportunities. Economically, this is an opportunity to bring significant funds into the region to combat the problem.

PAG is proposing to amend the work program to allocate \$30,000 in Planning and Research (SPR) federal transportation funds for this regional mapping and assessment project. The required local match (20%) will be provided by the Center. The total project cost for consultant support is estimated at \$60,000.

It is appropriate to use transportation funds for two main reasons: (1) buffelgrass has become very pervasive along our primary roadway corridors, and thus represents major areas that require mapping and field verification (and ultimately eradication), and (2) the spread of buffelgrass into all reaches of the community occurs primarily as a result of our transportation corridors. Should this amendment be approved by Regional Council, the request will then be forwarded to ADOT for their consent as well since ADOT provides these funds to PAG, and also approves the work program and budget each year.

Finally, all the jurisdictions and federal entities in the area will be part of the design and implementation of this project as well.

The PAG Management Committee recommended approval of the item, subject to a briefing before the Environmental Planning Advisory Committee (EPAC) in order to ensure coordination of efforts that may be occurring with the jurisdictions.

Suggested Motion:

That Regional Council approve the amendment to the FY 2009/2010 PAG Budget and Overall Work Program to allocate \$30,000 in support of the Southern Arizona Buffelgrass Coordinating Center's regional mapping and assessment project.

AGENDA PACKET MEMO

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT**AGENDA ITEM #7a – FUNCTIONAL CLASSIFICATION CHANGE****Background:**

The Federal Functional Classification System establishes the eligibility of roadway projects for federal funding through the various transportation acts (TEA-21). In Arizona, the system is maintained by ADOT in cooperation with the COGs and MPOs. All changes to a roadway's classification or additions to the system must be approved by ADOT and the FHWA. Changes are typically processed on an as-needed basis or in conjunction with the decennial census.

Roadways proposed for classification must meet certain standards of improvement and use. The total mileage of roadway within the state that may be functionally classified is limited by federal rules and classification criteria.

Discussion:

The attached map and listing identify a route located in the Town of Sahuarita that needs to be added to the Federal Functional Classification System in order to qualify for federal American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (ARRA) funding. PAG staff is in the process of submitting a formal request for approval by ADOT and FHWA.

Suggested Motion:

That the Regional Council Regional Council of the Pima Association of Governments approves the proposed additions to the regional Functional Classification Maps subject to additional modifications, as may be necessary, to comply with the ARRA, to be submitted for approval by ADOT and FHWA.

Attachment: Map and Listing of Functional Classification Changes

AGENDA PACKET MEMO

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT

AGENDA ITEM #7b –PROGRAM HIGHLIGHTS REPORT

Background:

Lists of program highlights for September 2009 are attached.

Discussion:

Highlights are provided for Technical Services, Transportation, Environmental and Communications.

Suggested Motion:

This is an information item.

AGENDA PACKET MEMO**EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT****AGENDA ITEM #7c – ENVIRONMENTAL PLANNING ADVISORY COMMITTEE (EPAC) REPORT****Background:**

EPAC provides information to and coordinates among jurisdictional and other members in order to advise the PAG Regional Council, Management Committee and Executive Director on regional environmental planning issues.

Discussion Points:**EPAC Updates**

- EPAC meeting was held on October 2

September EPAC Items of Interest:

PAG staff is working to fill several vacancies on EPAC. At the October meeting, the Committee voted to endorse the nomination of Mark Novak (representative) and Grant McCormick (alternate) to represent the University of Arizona in the special interest group category. In accordance with the EPAC Bylaws, these nominations will be included in the proposed EPAC membership list, which will be submitted to the Regional Council for approval in early 2010.

At the October EPAC meeting, PAG staff presented a draft pharmaceutical disposal resolution for EPAC review. This resolution describes ramifications of improper disposal of unused pharmaceuticals and encourages member jurisdictions to promote proper disposal. EPAC members will provide input to ensure that the resolution successfully represents their perspectives. The resolution will be considered again at EPAC's November meeting.

Each year, EPAC and subcommittee members provide feedback on an environmental issues list which is then forwarded to PAG Management Committee and Regional Council as an informational item. The list was distributed to EPAC members in mid-September and will be discussed again at the November meeting.

Presentations at the October EPAC meeting included one from the Oro Valley Police Department about their new pharmaceutical take-back program, which emphasized the importance of proper disposal in order to prevent illegal and possible lethal use of prescription drugs by teenagers. In addition PAG provided an overview of its recent survey of long-term care facilities to determine how they were disposing of pharmaceuticals.

EPAC Subcommittee and Program Updates**Air Quality**

The Air Quality Subcommittee held its quarterly meeting on Oct. 6, and the meeting focused on climate change. Presentations were given by PAG on the updates to the City and County inventories along with an update by the County on their Sustainability Action Plan Report Card and a presentation by the City on its Climate Change Committee and mitigation and adaptation activities. Staff also reported that ozone levels for the Tucson region for the summer remained below the EPA health standard, but that EPA will be reconsidering the ozone standards set in March 2008.

Watershed Planning Subcommittee

The Watershed Planning Subcommittee met last on September 28 and had presentations on water retention earthworks applied to the Santa Cruz River. Arizona Department of Environmental Quality staff provided an overview of projects constructed near Nogales to protect and enhance stormwater and sewer conveyance infrastructure through water harvesting techniques such as gabions and dry-wells. In addition, the Bureau of Reclamation presented about a regional cooperative effort in Marana to enhance recharge rates of treated effluent by slowing and spreading the flow. The group also heard about services available, including professional training, at the UA Laboratory for Emerging Contaminants. The next meeting will be held on October 26. At that meeting, WPS members will be reviewing the EPAC list of water-related environmental issues and community goals.

Stormwater Management Working Group

The Stormwater Management Working Group will meet again in October. PAG staff reported that the summer outreach program, featuring the slogan "Clean Water Starts With Me," was concluded in early September and had been very favorably received by the community. An on-line survey has been posted on the PAG Web site to assess community response to the campaign.

Future EPAC Agenda Items

The next EPAC meeting will be held on Friday, Nov 2 at 9:30 a.m. in PAG's 5th floor conference room. At the meeting, EPAC will have an opportunity to provide input City County Water Wastewater Infrastructure, Supply, and Planning Phase II report, which will be in the final week of the public comment period. The December EPAC meeting will be a joint meeting with the Watershed Planning Subcommittee and will focus on water and energy issues.

Suggested Motion:

This is an information item.