



Curtis Lueck & Associates

Transportation Planning
Traffic Engineering
Public Policy

MEMORANDUM

To: Subhash Raval, Development Review and Technical Support
Division Manager
Pima County Development Services Department

C: Keith Brann, Marana Public Works Dept.
Vincent Catalano, Tucson Transportation Dept.
Paul Keesler, Oro Valley Public Works Dept.
Kevin Kish, Marana Planning Dept.
Artemio Hoyos, Pascua Yaqui Tribe Development Services Dept.
John Liosatos, PAG Transportation Planning Div.
Brandon Matheson, Pima County Development Services Dept.
Glenn Moyer, Tucson Development Services Dept.
John Neunuebel, Sahuarita Planning and Zoning Dept.
David Ruelas, South Tucson Transportation/Flood Control Dept.
Fred Stevens, Tohono O'odham Nation Planning Dept.
Jesus Valdez, Sahuarita Public Works Dept.
Bayer Vella, Oro Valley Planning and Zoning Div.
Robert Young, Pima County Transportation Dept.
Curtis Lueck, CLA
Marcos Esparza, CLA

From: Kenneth Shackman, P.E., PTOE
Senior Associate

Date: May 8, 2008

Subject: **Regional Access Management Plan (RAMP)**
Minutes from April 25, 2008 Working Group Meeting
CLA Project Number: 2007.36

The monthly meeting of the Working Group was held at the City of Tucson/Pima County Public Works Building in the 9th Floor Conference Room of the Pima County Department of Transportation (PCDOT) GIS Division. The 15 individuals who attended this meeting are shown on Attachment 1.

Dr. Lueck commenced the meeting at approximately 2:05 PM by asking the attendees to introduce themselves. Once that was completed, he explained how the RAMP project was initiated starting with a transportation study related to the proposed construction of a Wal-Mart at the intersection of Ajo Way and Kinney Rd. This project then progressed through a proposal to develop Pima County

overlay zones for state highway corridors and a proposal to evaluate a countywide access management plan for the unincorporated area. Finally, it was expanded to be an access management effort for the PAG Region after obtaining the cooperation of the PAG staff. The project was to be funded by both PAG and Pima County. A contract was executed by Pima County with the consultant and a Notice to Proceed was issued in late November 2007. Currently, PAG and Pima County are sharing the cost of the project equally.

Dr. Lueck next discussed the importance of access management and how it is the interface between the roadway network and the adjacent land uses. Access management affects both the safety and the mobility of the roadway network. He noted that there needs to be greater emphasis on addressing the need of pedestrians, bicyclists, and transit. Dr. Lueck told the attendees that there is an excellent DVD on access management available from the Transportation Research Board (TRB) and he will obtain one copy for each jurisdiction.

Now is a good time for all of the local jurisdictions to be evaluating and updating their access management policies and standards. The Regional Transportation Authority (RTA) corridor projects commenced only a few years ago and will continue for the next 18 years. The corridor projects will provide many opportunities for improving access. Examples that he used included the Valencia Rd. and Grant Rd. corridor projects.

There are other opportunities for implementing improved access management policies and standards, including the upcoming updates of the local jurisdictional General Plans and Comprehensive Plans. These plans can be revised to contain new and improved statements about how access management is to be addressed. Dr. Lueck stated that access management needs to be addressed earlier in the planning and design processes than it has been in the past. In addition, the development community needs to be better educated on this subject and involved in discussions with the local jurisdictions earlier in the private sector project development process. That is one reason why the development community is represented on one of the advisory committees, i.e., the Stakeholders Group.

Mr. Shackman briefly discussed the recently approved *Project Management Plan – Deliverable Product 1A* (DP 1A) document. DP 1A is a detailed explanation of the project based on the contract scope of services. The purpose of DP 1A is to describe the work tasks to be performed, the roles of the various participants, and the project schedule. There are 11 work tasks and 11 deliverable products. The project started in December 2007 and is expected to be completed in February 2009. However, the project was recently suspended until July 1, 2008 at the request of Pima County due to adverse financial conditions. Those work tasks currently underway will be allowed to continue. Mr. Shackman explained a number of the outcomes of the RAMP project, the most obvious ones being the creation of regional access management policies or guiding principles and

standards for the local jurisdictions using the best local and national practices available. As part of this discussion, Mr. Shackman noted that some of the hand-outs for the meeting included the current membership lists, with contact information, for the management committee and the two advisory committees.

The role of the Working Group was next discussed by Mr. Shackman. He stated that the Working Group, which will meet monthly, is a technical advisory committee composed of representatives from the five municipalities, the two Native American governments, the county, and PAG. The purpose of the Working Group is to exchange information, to provide input/feedback to the consultant, and to review the consultant produced documentation and submit review comments. With the assistance of this group, the consultant will develop realistic regional policies, guiding principles, regulations, guidelines, and standards. In addition, this group will provide guidance for implementing any opportunities for access management improvement developed by this project.

Mr. Esparza briefly discussed the recently approved *Local and Non-Local Access Management Programs – DP 1B* document. Currently, there are only two jurisdictions that have single, stand alone access management documents. The other jurisdictions rely on various documents, including zoning codes, engineering procedure manuals, and subdivision/development street standards. In some cases, one jurisdiction may be using the documentation of another jurisdiction.

DP 1B is divided into three parts. The first part discusses the current access management documentation and legal authority for each jurisdiction in the PAG Region. There is also a discussion about the PAG November 2005 *Access and Mobility Study Report*. Mr. Shackman stated that he would provide a copy of this report to the members of the Working Group. The second part discusses several access management efforts within Arizona, e.g., Pinal County Significant Routes Plan, Building a Quality Arizona, and the ADOT Framework Studies. The third part discusses other access management efforts at the national level, e.g., *Access Management Manual* published by TRB. Mr. Esparza asked the attendees to inform him if there were any errors or omissions related to their jurisdictions in the document.

Mr. Shackman discussed the draft *Issues and Opportunities Paper – DP 2* document. The purpose of this document is: 1. to identify the access management issues currently faced by the local jurisdictions, 2. to describe statewide programs and legislation that can affect the RAMP project or be affected by the RAMP project, 3. to describe some of the differences between the policies and standards of the local jurisdictions, and 4. to discuss any access management opportunities for the PAG Region. Mr. Shackman provided a number of examples of the current issues and opportunities that are being addressed in this document. Mr. Moyer commented on the difficulty of addressing trail access. Mr. Catalano commented that developing access

management roadway networks would be very difficult, based on his experiences. However, he believes that developing access management strategies for individual corridors would be achievable. Mr. Shackman requested that the members review the draft document and submit review comments by May 16. It was suggested that an electronic WORD document be provided to the members and that the “track change” method of documenting comments would be used. Mr. Shackman promised to provide the electronic document.

Next, Dr. Lueck initiated a discussion about the ADOT Statewide Access Management Plan. Although the effort has been in development for more than two years, it is unknown when it will be completed or what the final product will look like. It was stated that the development community is opposed to the current proposal, which is based on a unique roadway classification system. During this discussion, Mr. Catalano questioned whether ADOT should be represented on the Working Group. It was explained that ADOT is represented on the second advisory committee. However, Dr. Lueck stated that the CLA staff will evaluate this issue.

Dr. Lueck discussed a side effort (not included in RAMP) to finalize a golf cart crossing evaluation/warrant document. Such a document would be based on a document prepared for Oro Valley in the mid-1990’s. Dr. Lueck stated that he would forward copies to the members. There was some discussion about the need for this as part of the RAMP project. It was explained that pedestrian and bicycle crossings would be addressed, so it was logical to discuss this subject, considering the number of golf courses and the use of golf carts in some parts of the PAG Region. This lead to a question about equestrian crossings and whether those will be addressed. Since this project will be addressing access points, the subjects of golf cart and equestrian crossings should be discussed.

In July, there will be a TRB access management conference in Baltimore, MD. Dr. Lueck briefly discussed the benefits of attending this conference, which is held every other year. He also promised to return from the conference with information relevant to the RAMP project.

The final topic of discussion was selecting a day and time for the monthly meetings. It was decided to have the Working Group meeting on the same morning as the Direct Project Participants Meeting, which is the third Thursday of the month. The Working Group will meet at 10:00 AM at a location to be selected.

The next meeting of the Working Group is scheduled for Thursday, June 19, 2008 at 10:00 AM at a location yet to be determined.

ATTACHMENT 1 – INDIVIDUALS ATTENDING THE MEETING

Marana

Keith Brann
Kevin Kish

Oro Valley

Paul Keesler

Pima Association of Governments

Robert Done

Pima County

Brandon Matheson
Subhash Raval
Robert Young

Sahuarita

Dylan Parry

South Tucson

David Ruelas

Tohono O'odham Nation

Fred Stevens

Tucson

Vincent Catalano
Glenn Moyer

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