



MEMORANDUM

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

Cc: Andrew Gunning, PAG
Cherie Campbell, PAG
John Liosatos, PAG
Ben Goff, Pima County DOT
Robert Young, Pima County DOT
Carmine DeBonis, Jr., PC DSD
Brandon Matheson, PC DSD
Hal Gilbreath, PC Attorney
Lesley Lukash, PC Attorney
Curtis Lueck, CLA
Ken Shackman, CLA

From: Marcos Esparza, P.E., PTOE
Senior Associate

Date: August 22, 2008

Subject: **Regional Access Management Plan (RAMP)**
Minutes from August 21, 2008 Direct Project Participants Meeting

CLA Project Number: 2007.36

The monthly meeting of the Direct Project Participants was held at the City of Tucson/Pima County Public Works Building in the 2nd Floor Conference Room of the Pima County Development Services Department (DSD). The following representatives from the Pima Association of Governments (PAG), Pima County, and CLA participated in this meeting:

Pima Association of Governments

John Liosatos

Curtis Lueck & Associates

Curtis Lueck

Marcos Esparza

Pima County

Subhash Raval (DSD)

Robert Young (DOT)

Mr. Lueck discussed the updates to the Project Management Plan. The Think Tank task was added as Work Task 12, and the RAMP web page on the PAG web site was added as Work Task 13. Mr. Lueck also provided an updated project schedule. Mr. Raval asked about the cost of adding the Think Tank task, and Mr. Lueck said that there is a contingency item in the budget and that the Think Tank task would offset other tasks in the Project Management Plan. Mr. Lueck said that CLA has expended about

55 percent of the budget and this reflects the amount of work completed in the project. Mr. Lueck said that we were on track to complete the project as scheduled, and that as of today a budget increase was not needed. Mr. Raval stated that Pima County has a severe budget problem, and that additional funding would be difficult.

Mr. Raval asked that since we have completed the Think Tank sessions, has CLA compiled the results and what are the useful results. Mr. Liosatos said the Ken Shackman is summarizing the results and is identifying what the Think Tank participants have found to be their priority issues. Mr. Lueck said that the Think Tank sessions had two indirect benefits. First, it compelled people to discuss and become involved in access management issues. Second, it will also help to stem controversy by obtaining “buy-in.”

Mr. Raval asked if CLA gathered good information at the Baltimore Access Management conference. Mr. Esparza said that several presentations were very relevant to what the RAMP participants are trying to achieve. Mr. Esparza said that all of the presentations are available at the Access Management website.¹ Mr. Raval suggested that the Think Tank sessions associated with the RAMP project may be a good candidate for an APWA presentation at the next APWA conference.

Mr. Lueck discussed the issue of maintaining interest in the project by keeping the project participants engaged in the project. Mr. Lueck said that he will ask Mr. Shackman to send out a status report on the project to the Working Group and the Stakeholder Group. Mr. Young asked if Mr. Shackman could send a summary of the Think Tank results to the Working Group and Stakeholder Group participants with the project status.

Regarding the RAMP web page, Mr. Lueck asked if there was a way to track “hits”, or the number of visitors to the page. Mr. Liosatos said that he would check to see how PAG could do this. Mr. Lueck suggested that a newspaper article on the RAMP activities could provide positive publicity for jurisdictions.

Mr. Raval asked when it would be good time to discuss the project with County and PAG administrators. Mr. Lueck suggested that after Tasks 6 and 7 are completed, and after the documents have been through review. Based on the project schedule, this would happen sometime in December 2008.

Mr. Lueck said that as of last week, the ADOT Statewide Access Management Plan design guidelines were not yet available on the ADOT web site. The passing of Rick Ensdorff, the URS consultant to ADOT, may delay the continuation of the project. Mr. Liosatos also indicated that the status of the TIME initiative may also impact the Statewide Management Plan release.

Mr. Raval asked if there was progress on the goal of bringing the participating jurisdictions into the regional context of access management. Mr. Lueck said that he believes this will happen as the project

¹ <http://www.accessmanagement.info/conference.html>

progresses. He said that the Town of Marana is waiting to see how the RAMP will impact their current plans.

Mr. Esparza said that the next deliverable for the project would be the Best Practices paper. He submitted a draft outline, the scope for the paper as provided in the Project Management Plan, and excerpts from TRB's *Access Management* document that will help in determining what existing local access management policies and guidelines can be applied to a regional plan. Mr. Esparza asked the direct participants to review the outline and the excerpts and to provide comments. No time period was set to receive comments.

Mr. Liosatos said that PAG has an RFP out for a Congestions Management Program. The purpose of this program is for PAG to develop a congestion management "process", rather than a "system", to help in the development of their year 2040 Long Range Plan and future TIPs. It is PAG's hope that the process will be used to evaluate whether other types of congestion reduction techniques can be applied to projects. Triggers based on project cost or ADTs could be developed to determine when congestion mitigation improvements would be considered. These techniques can be the provision of bikeways and sidewalks, additional and better transit service and retrofitting existing roadways without the need to widen them.

An example of new policy may be to develop an access purchase program whereby, the local jurisdiction could purchase roadside parcels for reducing the number of driveways along sections of roadways. Mr. Raval asked if this type of policy could be recommended in the RAMP. Mr. Lueck said yes, and due to the timing of the commission of the CMP study, and the continuing activities of the RAMP there will likely be some "overlap" in policy development for both. As part of the Best Practices Paper task, we would interview jurisdictions that may have similar policies to determine if they have been successful.

Mr. Young said that local agencies should identify symptoms of congestion problems before assuming a roadway widening would be necessary.

Mr. Liosatos said that results from the RAMP can be provided in the PAG 2040 Long Range Plan public outreach materials to emphasize the importance of access management in current and future planning.

The next meeting of this group is scheduled for Thursday, September 18, 2008 at the City of Tucson/Pima County Public Works Building in the 2nd Floor Conference Room of the Pima County Development Services Department. The meeting will start at approximately 9:00-9:15 AM, depending on the length of the agenda. The goal is to end the Direct Project Participants meeting just before the Working Group meeting, which starts at 10:00 AM on the same day.

MUE/me