



DATE: April 28, 2021
TIME: 6:00 p.m.
LOCATION: 2540 W. Apache Trail, Suite 108; Apache Junction, AZ 85120

I. CALL TO ORDER

Chairman Thompson called the meeting to order at 6:00 PM.

II. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Chairman Thompson led the Regional Council, guests and CAG staff in the Pledge of Allegiance.

III. ROLL CALL AND INTRODUCTIONS

Members Present: Tim Humphrey, Al Gameros, Jon Thompson, Jim Ferris, Bobby Davis, Kevin Cavanaugh, Robert Schroeder, Bob Huddleston, Jamie Ramsey, Vincent Manfredi, Robin Benning, Sammy Gonzales, Anita Hinojos, Mila Besich

Members Absent: Dean Hetrick, Micah Powell, Tara Walter, Patricia Armenta, Ed Honea

Guests: Kevin Adam, Rick Miller, Paul Jepson, Heather Wilkey, James Menlove, Amy Moran, Jennifer Evans, Tami Ryall, John Schempf

Staff: Andrea Robles, Angela Gotto, Yvonne Tackett, Amber Garza, Alan Urban, Travis Ashbaugh, Robert Mawson

IV. CALL TO THE PUBLIC

No one answered the Call to the Public

V. LEGISLATIVE UPDATE

Kevin Adam provided the Legislative Update

VI. CONSENT ITEMS

Mayor Al Gameros, City of Globe, made a motion to approve the consent agenda items as presented. Councilmember Robert Schroeder, City of Apache Junction, seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

A. Approval of Regional Council Minutes – January 27, 2021

The January 27, 2021 minutes were approved under Consent Item VI-A.

B. Approval of the CAG Title VI Non-Discrimination Program Implementation Plan

The CAG Title VI Non-Discrimination Program Implementation Plan was approved under Consent Item VI-B.

C. Approval of the Transportation Technical Advisory Committee (TTAC) Bylaws

The Transportation Technical Advisory Committee (TTAC) Bylaws were approved under Consent Item VI-C.

VII. EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT

Ms. Andrea Robles updated the Council on recent activities and meetings taking place at CAG. She stated that over the last 10 months a majority of her time has been spent working with the PRTA team, member agencies and legal counsel

to prepare for a successful launch of the PRTA when a ruling is received from the Supreme Court. Ms. Robles stated that CAG, along with Sun corridor MPO, hosted its 25th annual Legislative Day virtually on February 25th. She stated that 6 Legislators and 43 Elected Official and staff attended the event. Ms. Robles informed the Council that an RFP has been issued to obtain a financial auditing firm for CAG. She stated that a recommendation would be made to Management Committee and Regional Council in June. Ms. Robles informed the Council that CAG hosted a new member orientation for the new representatives appointed to the CAG Management Committee and Regional Council. She informed the Council that Robert Mawson was appointed as the Economic Development and Planning Manager and that Mr. Alan Urban would be retiring from CAG on April 29th. Questions, comments, and discussion followed. This was an information item.

VIII. NEW BUSINESS

A. Financial Report

Ms. Yvonne Tackett presented the March 2021 financial report. She stated that this represented 75% of the current fiscal year. Ms. Tackett stated that the expenditures continue to be slightly lower and are currently at 61.88% of the budgeted amount and that the revenues were at 62.81% of the budgeted amount excluding any carry-over. She stated that after many years, CAG had updated its server, some program software, and staff computer hardware. Questions, comments, and discussion followed. Councilmember Vincent Manfredi, City of Maricopa, made a motion to approve the financial report as presented. Councilmember Bobby Davis, Town of Star Valley, seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

B. CAG/SCMPO Human Services Transportation Coordination Plan FY2021 Update

Mr. Robert Mawson presented the CAG/SCMPO Human Services Transportation Coordination Plan FY 2021 Update. He stated that the plan is updated annually and that the purpose of the plan is to identify transportation needs of individuals within the CAG and Sun Corridor MPO Regions. Mr. Mawson stated that providers must be included in the plan to be eligible for 5310 transit grant funding. He stated that each 5310 and 5311 transit providers listed in the plan have identified their needs and will be applying for funding. Mr. Mawson stated that staff will be reviewing the provider plans. Councilmember Bob Huddleston, City of Casa Grande, made a motion to approve the CAG/SCMPO Human Services Transportation Coordination Plan 2021 Update as presented. Councilmember Bobby Davis, Town of Star Valley, seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

C. Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy (CEDS)

Mr. Robert Mawson presented the five-year FY 2021-FY 2025 Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy (CEDS). He stated that the five-year plan was done in coordination with SEAGO and NACOG and was supplemented with the CARES Act Grant to include economic recovery from the COVID-19 pandemic. Mr. Mawson stated that demographic data, regional characteristics, economic performance factors, opportunity zones, and the action plan had all been updated. He explained that the resiliency section had been strengthened with particular attention being paid to post-pandemic and post-emergency recovery. Mr. Mawson stated that once the CEDS has been approved by the CAG Regional Council and Economic Development District Board, it will be submitted to the Economic Development Administration by the deadline of April 30, 2021.

Mr. Mawson stated that the Management Committee recommended staff put some language together for inclusion in the CEDS regarding the legalization of cannabis for the Regional Council to consider. He stated that an additional line that read 'With the passage of Proposition 207 by Arizona voters in 2020, the cannabis industry could become one of the 'new industries' in the CAG Region' could be included in the CEDS document before it is sent to EDA for approval if the Regional Council made the decision to include the cannabis language.

Mayor Jon Thompson, City of Coolidge, stated that he was not sure that the language was as minimal as some thought. He expressed his concern that if the language is included, it might be the difference between winning an award or not, as cannabis is still illegal at the Federal level.

Councilmember Robin Benning stated that he felt it was important for the Regional Council to follow the recommendation of the Management Committee and requested more discussion from the Council.

Supervisor Tim Humphrey, Gila County, expressed his support for the language due to cannabis being legal in Arizona. He also stated that he was elected to work for the will of the people and the will of the people have spoken in the state of Arizona.

Supervisor Kevin Cavanaugh, Pinal County, stated that currently Federal Law contradicts State Law, and he recommended that we don't give or allow an excuse for the Federal Government to deny opportunities to us by including language supportive of marijuana in our document. He stated that he would leave the language out until the Federal Government clarifies their stance.

Councilmember Robert Schroeder, City of Apache Junction, stated that more states continue to legalize recreational marijuana, and that he does not think that it's on the top of the Federal Governments list when it comes to grants, due to language that supports cannabis. He stated that he doesn't think there would be any retribution if the language is included.

Councilmember Bob Huddleston, City of Casa Grande, stated that the sentence for inclusion seems rather benign and that he would be in support of including it in the plan.

Councilmember Bobby Davis, Town of Star Valley, stated that he agrees with Supervisor Humphrey and that they are elected to speak on behalf of the majority of the people and the majority have voted in support of cannabis. He stated that he does not see a problem with including the language.

Councilmember Robin Benning, Town of Queen Creek, made a motion to approve the CEDS with the cannabis language included. Councilmember Bobby Davis, Town of Star Valley seconded the motion. A roll call vote was taken. Supervisor Tim Humphrey – Aye; Mayor Al Gameros – Aye; Councilmember Jim Ferris – Nay; Councilmember Bobby Davis – Aye; Supervisor Kevin Cavanaugh – Nay; Councilmember Robert Schroeder – Aye; Councilmember Bob Huddleston – Aye; Mayor Jon Thompson – Nay; Mayor Jamie Ramsey – Aye; Councilmember Vincent Manfredi – Nay; Councilmember Robin Benning – Aye; Mayor Mila Besich – Aye. The motion passed 8-4.

D. CAG FY2021 – FY2031 Transportation Improvement Program

Mr. Travis Ashbaugh reviewed the TIP Amendments with the Council. The projects listed for approval were removal of Broad Street Rehabilitation and Upgrades (City of Globe), White Mountain Road & Airport Road Street Light Project (San Carlos Apache Tribe), Bus Associated Transit Improvement/Bus Shelter (Payson), and the Tonto Creek Bridge and Roadway Improvements (Gila County). Questions, comments, and discussion followed. Councilmember Bobby Davis, Town of Star Valley, made a motion to approve the CAG FY2021-FY2031 TIP Amendments as presented. Councilmember Robin Benning, Town of Queen Creek, seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

E. Resolution No. 2021-01 Supporting and Declaring April as Fair Housing Month

Ms. Alan Urban informed the Council that each year agencies and communities that participate in the HUD Community Development Block Grant Program are required to pass a Fair Housing Resolution. He stated that this

resolution shows that the agencies are in support of the standards and values of providing fair housing to all residents in their community. Mr. Urban stated that the Fair Housing workshop would be scheduled and take place online. Mayor Al Gameros, City of Globe, made a motion to approve Resolution No. 2021-01 Supporting and Declaring April as Fair Housing Month. Councilmember Robert Schroeder, City of Apache Junction, seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

IX. INFORMATION ITEMS

A. Pinal County Transit Governance Study

Mr. Travis Ashbaugh and Ms. Amy Moran, Wilson & Company, presented the findings of the Pinal County Transit Governance Study. She provided an overview of the study and how the results were derived. Ms. Moran stated that several comments were received from stakeholders for recommendations on the outcomes and the potential steps for implementation. She stated that the focus of the study was to understand how the existing transit services would point to future needs and to come up with a structure on how to address those needs in the most efficient way. Ms. Moran stated that there were six steps involved to complete the study. Ms. Moran stated that the governance models were taken to stakeholder workshops and there seemed to be support for the consolidated model, but there was a preference for the hybrid model. She stated that the hybrid allows jurisdictions at a local level to decide what they want to do, and the stakeholders preferred this model. Ms. Moran stated that this model does still encourage collaboration and coordination. She stated that the recommendation was to consider a hybrid model for Pinal County. Ms. Moran stated that the regional entity under the hybrid model can be led by three options: Pinal Regional Transportation Authority, Central Arizona Regional Transit, or a new regional (or sub-regional) organization. She stated that due to the Pinal Regional Transportation Authority being in litigation at this time the funding is not available to implement a regional transit system. However, the study has been completed and will be available for future use. Questions, comments, and discussion followed. This was an information item.

B. Department Updates

Globe-Miami Housing Study

Mr. Robert Mawson informed the Council that work continues on the Globe-Miami Housing Study. He stated that staff is working to finalize the data collection, land use & policy review and needs assessment to address some additional considerations specific to some pending/proposed local projects. Mr. Mawson stated that the results of the study may be released in phases to provide information in more targeted and useful formats. Questions, comments, and discussion followed. This was an information item.

Community Development Block Grant

Mr. Alan Urban provided updates on the CDBG program, stating that the FY2021 CDBG hearings have begun for the City of Globe and have been completed for the Town of Hayden. He stated that the Town of Kearny's (Water System Improvements - \$274,000) project will go to bid for construction this month and that the Town of Miami's (Street Improvements - \$272,000) project began construction in February. Mr. Urban stated that the Town of Winkelman's (Street Improvements - \$91,000) project completed in January. He stated that the Town of Superior (Blight project – approx. \$220,000) and the Town of Payson (ADA Improvements – approx. \$220,000) FY20 projects are awaiting completion of the environmental reviews to begin. Questions, comments, and discussion followed. This was an information item.

USDA

Mr. Alan Urban provided an update on the USDA programs. He stated staff is administering a \$2.5 million Wastewater Treatment Plant Rehabilitation project for the Town of Superior. Mr. Urban stated that the Town has received the final engineering plans and bids for construction will go out in May. Questions, comments, and discussion followed. This was an information item.

Transportation Planning

Mr. Travis Ashbaugh provided updates on activities within the Transportation Planning department programs. He stated that the Gila County Transit Governance Study held two virtual workshops in March seeking input from local agency staff and Elected Officials. Mr. Ashbaugh stated that the workshops included live polling and breakout sessions. He stated that a Technical Working Group meeting was held in March and that individual meetings with providers will be held to discuss the outcome of the workshops.

Mr. Ashbaugh stated that CAG's Regional Traffic Counts program for FY 2021 has been completed and that 17 "growth counts" were conducted throughout the CAG Transportation Boundary. He stated that these counts are required to be physically counted once every six years. Questions, comments, and discussion followed. This was an information item.

Mobility Management

Mr. Robert Mawson provided updates on activities within the Mobility Management program. He stated that the primary focus over the last few months has been completing the Human Services Transportation Coordination Plan, assisting ADOT and the CAG Region's 5310 providers with the 5310-grant application cycle and continuing to support the region's transit providers in their effort to deal with the COVID-19 pandemic. Mr. Mawson stated that in-person meetings and trainings have been replaced with virtual meetings, phone, and email conversations. He stated that regional review of the 5310 grant applications will take place in mid to late April. Mr. Mawson informed the Council that there is now a website (azrideinfo.com) to help older adults and the general public connect more quickly with transportation resources across Arizona. He stated that the website offers resources on transportation providers, social service organizations, nonprofits, and community groups. Questions, comments, and discussion followed. This was an information item.

Water Quality Planning

Mr. Travis Ashbaugh provided updates on the Water Quality Planning department programs. He stated that the final draft review for the Johnson Utilities/EPCOR Pecan/ San Tan WRP 208 Plan Amendment had been completed and will be brought to CAG's Environmental Planning Committee (EPC) to begin the 45-Day Public Hearing Notice process. Mr. Ashbaugh stated that the pre-application meeting was held on November 18, 2020 for the Johnson Utilities/EPCOR Section 11/Anthem/Copper Basin WRP 208 Plan Amendment. He stated that the amendment is to add additional connections within their service area as well as planning adjustments that affect the three WRPs. He stated that stakeholder meeting was held on April 5, 2021 for the Superstition Mountains Community Facilities District No. 1 208 plan amendment to expand their Designated Management Agency (DMA) boundary and build-out

capacity. Mr. Ashbaugh informed the Council that the Town of Miami/City of Globe/Tri City Sanitary District 208 amendment was recommended for approval by the EPC on March 17th. He stated that a public hearing is scheduled for all three amendments on May 19th at 6:00pm at Globe City Hall. Questions, comments, and discussion followed. This was an information item.

X. CALL TO THE COUNCIL

The members present provided updates on their communities.

XI. UPCOMING MEETINGS & EVENTS

The next Regional Council meeting will be held on June 30, 2021 at 5:00 PM.

XII. ADJOURN

Supervisor Kevin Cavanaugh, Pinal County, made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Councilmember Robert Schroeder, City of Apache Junction, seconded the motion. Chairman Jon Thompson adjourned the meeting at 7:44 PM.