

Pinal County Transit Feasibility Study

Prepared for

Pinal County

Prepared by

Nygaard\Nelson Consulting Associates
In association with Jacobs Engineering

Completed

April 2011

Introduction

This study was conducted as a result from recommendations in the Pinal County Small Area Transportation Study dated August 2006. This study will analyze existing and future conditions of growth areas as identified in the updated Pinal County Comprehensive Plan. This study addresses steps to take to develop a multimodal transportation system.

Location Bounds

The entire Pinal County is the study area.

Study Purpose

The purpose of the study is to provide recommendations for transit service within Pinal County. The study considered several transit services.

Conclusions

The study provided Potential Short Term Transit Improvements to serve the County's current population. As indicated in the study major travel flows over the short term will be Apache Junction, Maricopa, and Casa Grande to Maricopa County, Maricopa to Apache Junction, Eloy, Maricopa and Coolidge to Casa Grande and Florence to Coolidge which can be served by several transit services as shown in Figure 6-1. The study also provides potential transit improvements for the year 2025, refer to Figure 6-4. The study identified short term (2015) and long term (2025) capital costs for transit facilities. In the short term the recommendation is five park and rides, three large two medium, costing approximately \$4.0 million. As the area grows in the long term, the recommendation is to invest in twenty, three large nine medium eight small, park and rides costing approximately \$9.5 million. Refer to tables 6-3 and 6-6 for a breakdown of transit facility capital costs.

Results

At this time, subsequent studies or projects have not been identified as a result of this plan.

List of Tables

Table 6-3: Short-Term Capital Costs (2015)

Table 6-6: Long-Term Capital Costs (2025)

List of Figures

Figure 6-1: Potential Short-Term Transit Improvements

Figure 6-4: Potential 2025 Transit Improvements

Appendix D

PINAL COUNTY
STATE OF ARIZONA

TEXT OF BALLOT

Regional Transportation Authority

Proposition to be submitted to the qualified electors of Pinal County at the
SPECIAL ELECTION
MAY 2016

Compiled and issued by the Pinal County Board of Supervisors



TEXT OF BALLOT

REGIONAL TRANSPORTATION AUTHORITY

Referred to the people by the board

OFFICIAL TITLE

THE AUTHORITY SHALL DEVELOP A TWENTY YEAR REGIONAL TRANSPORTATION PLAN THAT IS SUBJECT TO APPROVAL BY THE QUALIFIED ELECTORS OF THE COUNTY AND FINANCED BY A TRANSPORTATION EXCISE TAX APPROVED PURSUANT TO SECTION 42-6106 AND BONDS ISSUED PURSUANT TO ARTICLE 2 OF CHAPTER 30, TITLE 48.

DESCRIPTIVE TITLE

This tax will provide funds for right of way acquisitions and for roadway, mobility, and transit improvements. The tax revenues will be distributed among the county, cities, and towns within the county.

LENGTH OF TIME

The tax will start **DATE** and be in effect for twenty years.

SUMMARY OF PURPOSES FOR WHICH TRANSPORTATION EXCISE TAX MAY BE SPENT

1. May give priority to multimodal transportation operations and improvements along corridors where seventy-five per cent or more of the adjacent census tracts had a population density of at least three thousand persons per square mile according to the most recent United States decennial census.
2. Shall include a public transportation component.

NOTE: For either ballot question I or II to be approved, both proposed regional transportation plan and the proposed transaction privilege tax must be approved by a majority of the qualified electors voting on the measure. If either ballot question I or II fails to be approved by a majority of the qualified electors voting on the measure, both fail.

QUESTION I

Do you approve the regional transportation plan for Pinal County?

A "YES" vote indicates your approval of the proposed regional transportation plan as developed by the regional transportation authority and described in the election materials.

A "NO" vote indicates your disapproval of the proposed regional transportation plan.

☐ YES

☐ NO

QUESTION II

Do you favor the levy of a transaction privilege (sales) tax for regional transportation purposes in Pinal County?

A "YES" vote has the effect of imposing a transaction privilege (sales) tax in Pinal County for twenty years to provide funding for the transportation projects contained in the regional transportation plan.

A "NO" vote has the effect of rejecting the transaction privilege (sales) tax for transportation purposes in Pinal County.

☐ YES

☐ NO

ARGUMENTS FOR AND AGAINST

Appendix E

During the development of the RTA Plan the Core Team met on a biweekly basis. Attached are summaries of these meetings.



**Central Arizona Governments
Pinal County Regional Transportation Authority
Assistance and Support Contract**



Biweekly Meeting Summary

November 17, 2015, 1:00 p.m. at Pinal County Court House

1. Participants

The following were present:

- Travis Ashbaugh, Pinal County
- Scott Bender, Pinal County
- Greg Stanley, Pinal County
- Sandie Smith, Pinal Partnerships
- Ken Hall, CAG
- Andy Smith, CAG
- Peter Knudson, Dibble
- Tim Wolfe, Dibble

2. Telling the Story

- Tim provided an outline for “telling the story”. The group reviewed the outline and provided input.
- Tim provided a regional funding map showing MAG, PAG and Pinal County.

3. Task 2, Public Outreach Plan

- The group reviewed the logo ideas that had been prepared by Pinal County. Greg will provide this information to Jordon Rose and get some input.
- The group discussed the City/Town Council briefings that have occurred to date.
- The Final Version of the Public Outreach Plan will be provided at the December 1st meeting.
- The final Fact Sheet will be provided in mid-December.
- Andy suggested that a mini-summit be held with the managers to provide additional input.
- It was suggested that the October 2016 Pinal Partnership Town Hall be dedicated to the RTA. Sandie will pursue this.

4. Task 3, Revenue Projections White Paper

- The revised revenue projections are due in mid-December.

5. Task 4, Project Identification

- Tim provided a new spreadsheet of projects.
- It was decided that the next meeting would include a discussion of proposed phasing for projects.

6. Task 5, Transitional Plan

- Ken reported that all of the COG’s in Arizona support the changes to the legislation.
- The Final Transition Plan will be provided on December 1st.

7. Action Items from previous meetings

- Andy will contact Kearny and Mammoth concerning presentations to elected officials

8. New Action Items

- Greg will get input from Jordon Rose on the logos.
- Tim will send electronic copies of all handouts from today.
- Sandie will pursue scheduling the RTA for the October 2016 Town Hall.
- Greg will schedule a meeting with Mark Reader for mid-December.
- Ken will develop an RTA resolution to support the legislative changes for ARS 48-5301 to 5315.

9. Other Discussion?

- The group discussed an upcoming meeting on January 8, 2016 in Tucson. The meeting is the Joint Planning Advisory Council Meeting with MAG, PAG, CAG and SCMPO. It was decided that this meeting would not be a good forum to discuss the Pinal RTA.

10. Next Meeting

The last meeting will be Tuesday, December 1, 2015, 2:00 p.m. at CAG



**Central Arizona Governments
Pinal County Regional Transportation Authority
Assistance and Support Contract**



Biweekly Meeting Summary

November 3, 2015, 2:00 p.m. at the CAG Office

1. Participants

The following were present:

- Louis Andersen, Pinal County
- Travis Ashbaugh, Pinal County
- Greg Stanley, Pinal County
- Ken Hall, CAG
- Andy Smith, CAG
- Peter Knudson, Dibble
- Tim Wolfe, Dibble

2. Task 1, Schedule

- Tim provided an updated schedule.

3. Task 2, Public Outreach Plan

- Tim provided a second draft of the Outreach Plan. The plan will not be finalized until the revenue projections and project list have been updated. The Fact Sheet will also be completed at that time.
- Tim provided a current list of City/Town Council briefings.
- Andy confirmed that CAG could host the RTA website and Pinal County would just link to the site.

4. Task 3, Revenue Projections White Paper

- It was agreed that in December, Elliot Pollack will update the revenue projections based on the Demographer's new estimate for population growth.
- Tim provided a breakdown of ½ cent excise tax by jurisdiction. It was unclear whether this was the amount of revenue collected, or the amount of tax disseminated by jurisdiction. Louis was going to check with the Pinal County Treasurer.
- Tim provided a graph of single family permits in Pinal County from 2000 to 2011. The peak was in 2005 and then the number of permits issued declined steadily. This reflects on the decrease in revenue for the current ½ cent excise tax. Tim provided a graph of the revenue collection per year for the ½ cent excise tax.
- Greg spoke with Mark Reader concerning bonding. Mark thought that once a project list and schedule were drafted, he could then sit down and discuss bonding scenarios.

5. Task 4, Project Identification

- Tim provided a revised list of projects and a new map.
- There was a discussion of proposed projects and proposed budget.

6. Task 5, Transitional Plan

- Tim provided a draft of the Transitional Plan. The core team provided a few suggestions for the Transition Plan.

7. Action Items from previous meetings

- Teresa will put together some ideas on branding of the RTA.
- ~~Travis and Andy will check on hosting an RTA website within the Pinal County or CAG websites.~~ (completed)
- ~~Louis will contact Queen Creek and Marana concerning presentations to elected officials.~~ (Completed)
- Andy will contact Kearny, Mammoth and Winkelman concerning presentations to elected officials.
- ~~Greg will talk with Mark Reader concerning bonding of projects.~~ (completed)

8. New Action Items

- Louis will contact Pat Beckwith in the Treasures Office concerning the Excise Tax data.

9. Other Discussion?

- There was no other discussion.

10. Next Meeting

The next meeting will be Tuesday, November 17, 2015, 1:00 p.m. at the Pinal County Court House. Immediately following the meeting will be the Pinal County TAC.



**Central Arizona Governments
Pinal County Regional Transportation Authority
Assistance and Support Contract**



**Biweekly Meeting Summary
October 20, 2015, 2:00 p.m. at the CAG Office**

1. Participants

The following were present:

- Louis Andersen, Pinal County
- Travis Ashbaugh, Pinal County
- Greg Stanley, Pinal County
- Teresa Makinen, MakPro
- Sandie Smith, Pinal Partnerships
- Andy Smith, CAG
- Peter Knudson, Dibble
- Tim Wolfe, Dibble
- Rick Merritt, Elliott Pollack

2. Task 2, Public Outreach Plan

- Teresa provided a draft of the Public Outreach Plan. The core team provided suggestions for the plan. They included a discussion of branding, hosting of the website, developing a logo, newspaper editorials, and press releases. It was also requested that the AGC, ACEC and Homebuilders be included as part of the plan.
- Sandie Smith provided an update of activities within Pinal Partnerships. They will be coordinating closely with Pinal County and CAG.
- Tim Wolfe provided a list of City/Town Council briefings that have been scheduled.

3. Task 1, Schedule

- Tim provide an updated schedule.

4. Task 3, Revenue Projections White Paper

- Rick Merritt provided a Draft Revenue Projections White Paper. A recommendation was made to use the low estimate for planning purposes instead of the medium or high estimate. The core team concurred with using that estimate. The revenue projection is \$721,380,769 over 20 years.

5. Task 4, Project Identification

- Tim provided a revised list of projects and map. In order to meet the \$721m estimate it was decided to eliminate the Montgomery Road Project, reduce the amount for compensating local governments to only the three along the Copper Corridor, and reducing the Skyline Drive Project. It was decided that a 5% contingency should be included in the project table. It was also decided that the \$300k per year in administrative fees for RTA should be included in the table.
- Andy confirmed that the functional classifications shown in the current table are acceptable.

6. Task 5, Transitional Plan

- The Transitional Plan will be discussed at the next biweekly meeting.

7. Action Items from last meeting

- Louis will brief the Pinal County Transportation Advisory Committee, November 17th. This is scheduled.
- ~~Louis will verify with Greg Stanley that he concurs with removing the 11 Mile Corner Parkway.~~ (completed)

8. New Action Items

- Tim will e-mail electronic copies of the handouts from today.
- Teresa will put together some ideas on branding of the RTA.
- Travis and Andy will check on hosting an RTA website within the Pinal County or CAG websites.
- Louis will contact Queen Creek and Marana concerning presentations to elected officials.
- Andy will contact Kearny, Mammoth and Winkelman concerning presentations to elected officials.
- Sandie Smith will send out a copy of a recent 2 page brochure for the Pima County Bond effort.
- Comments on the handouts from today should be sent to Dibble by Tuesday, November 3rd.
- Greg will talk with Mark Reader concerning bonding of projects.

9. Other Discussion?

- It was agreed that the November 17th meeting will be held from 1:30 to 2:30, prior to the TAC at the Pinal County Office.

10. Next Meeting

The next meeting will be Tuesday, November 3, 2015, 2:00 p.m. at the CAG Office



**Central Arizona Governments
Pinal County Regional Transportation Authority
Assistance and Support Contract**



Biweekly Meeting Summary

October 6, 2015, 2:00 p.m. at the CAG Office

1. Participants

The following individuals were present:

- Louis Andersen, Pinal County
- Travis Ashbaugh, Pinal County
- Ken Hall, CAG
- Andy Smith, CAG
- Peter Knudson, Dibble
- Tim Wolfe, Dibble
- Teresa Makinen, MakPro

2. Task 1, Schedule

- Dibble provided an updated schedule. The core team reviewed the schedule.

3. Task 2, Public Outreach Plan

- Teresa provided an update on the Public Outreach Plan.
- Teresa has contacted a number of other agencies that have completed outreach campaigns for transportation taxes. This includes Gila County, Pinal County, Pima County, Apache Junction and Coconino County.
- Gila County – They have gone to the citizens twice for transportation taxes. The second time was much more robust. It took them about 3 months.
- Pima County – They formed a citizen’s advisory committee. They had a couple of years to prepare for their tax initiative. A County Supervisor was very involved. Teresa got their brochure. They also worked with AGC, ABA and AZ Rock Products. They reached out to civic groups such as Rotary, Kiwanis and the Chamber of Commerce.
- Pinal County – Their second initiative was in 2007. They had a PAC that did the marketing. They started 2 years in advance.
- Apache Junction – the City Manager spoke to chambers. Only a portion of the sales tax was related to transportation. It made sense to reach out to the chambers because it was bigger than just transportation.
- Coconino County – They recently passed Prop 303. Teresa pulled down a 2 page brochure from them. She is trying to contact them as well.
- Teresa also collected ballot language from some of the contacts. She will furnish that to Peter.
- It was agreed that Louis/Greg and Andy/Ken will meet with each of the cities/towns. Tim will send out an e-mail asking the managers what forum they would like to use to meet (i.e., council study session, council meeting, or perhaps a separate meeting) Louis and Greg will meet with Casa Grande and Maricopa. Andy and Ken will cover the other cities within the RTA.
- Louis will brief the Pinal County Transportation Advisory Committee.

- Ken said that because of the short timeframe, there will be no citizen's committee. We will rely on Pinal Partnerships for this outreach.
- Teresa will include one meeting with the elected officials and one meeting to reach out to the community in each city/town as part of the Outreach Plan. The managers will be included in the meeting with the elected officials and they will then reach out to other constituents within their respective jurisdictions.
- Ken has been asked by the CAG Regional Council to reach out to each of the 17 cities/towns within the CAG Region. He will be doing this in the next three months. Ken would like to keep the RTA briefings separate from the discussions on CAG.
- Tim is working to schedule a meeting with Pinal Partnerships.

4. Task 3, Revenue Projections White Paper

- Peter provided an update on the Revenue Projections White Paper. A draft of this should be ready in two weeks.
- Peter asked about the cost of the election. Louis confirmed that Pinal County will pay for the cost of the election.

5. Task 4, Project Identification

- Dibble provided each member of the core team with a three ring binder of information that documents the prior studies with the Region. There were thirteen different studies that were summarized. There are a total of 2,063 pages of studies. There is a separate tab for each study with a summary and copies of key graphics.
- Dibble provided a list of projects and an updated map. There are a total of 10 projects identified plus the park and rides. The core team decided to remove the 11 Mile Corner Parkway and reduce the Selma Highway and Skyline Drive to 2 lanes instead of 4. In addition, we need to consider how to address the \$300k per city per year in accordance with the statute. Some cities may receive their benefit from the identified corridors. Others will not.
- The park and ride locations are documented in the Pinal County Transit Feasibility Study.
- Dibble provided a summary of the responses from the managers concerning possible projects.
- Pinal County will be meeting with the City of Maricopa on October 12th to discuss I-11. They will also discuss the RTA Plan if time permits.
- Dibble provided a packet of the current GIS exhibits. This includes data on significant routes, city boundaries, population, county supervisor districts, tribal communities and a separate layer for each proposed corridor.

6. Task 5, Transitional Plan

- Dibble provided an outline of the Transitional Plan. Ken asked that a section be included for legal counsel considerations and coordination with the adjoining MPO's. Also add the following additional funding sources – HSIP, enhancement funds and bridge funds. Tim will be developing the plan in the next two weeks.

7. Action Items from last meeting

- All action items from the previous meeting were completed.

8. New Action Items

- Tim will schedule a meeting with Pinal Partnerships.
- Teresa will furnish Peter with examples of ballot language from those jurisdictions that she contacted.
- Tim will send out an e-mail to the managers asking about the best forum for a briefing to the elected officials.
- Louis will brief the Pinal County Transportation Advisory Committee.
- Louis will verify with Greg Stanley that he concurs with removing the 11 Mile Corner Parkway.
- Dibble will update the map to include multiple alignments for the N-S Corridor and remove the 11 Mile Corner Parkway.
- Dibble will update the list of projects, including removing the 11 Mile Corner Parkway, reducing Selma Highway and Skyline Drive to 2 lanes and adding a new line item for municipality elements in accordance with the statute.
- Tim will e-mail the core team the legislation that addresses the \$300k per city per year.
- The core team will review the information provided at the meeting and send any comments or suggestions to Tim by Tuesday, October 13th.

9. Other Discussion

- There was no additional discussion.

10. Next Meeting

The next meeting will be Tuesday, October 18, 2015, 2:00 p.m. at the CAG Office



**Central Arizona Governments
Pinal County Regional Transportation Authority
Assistance and Support Contract
Meeting with CAG Regional Council**



SUMMARY

September 23, 2015, 6:30 p.m.

Apache Junction, Multi-Generational Center

1. Introductions

- See minutes from CAG Regional Council for list of participants

2. Background of the PCRTA

Ken Hall provided the background on the RTA. The Pinal County Board of Supervisors established an RTA August 5th, 2015 by a unanimous vote of 5-0. Arizona Statutes, ARS 48-5302, addresses the establishment of an RTA. CAG is currently working with Pinal County to establish the RTA. CAG has hired Dibble Engineering to assist with this effort.

Per statute the CAG Executive Director is the RTA Executive Director.

The Pinal County Board of Supervisors has proposed to go to the voters on May 17th for a special election for a ½ cent sales tax to fund the RTA.

Ken reviewed the list of prior studies.

3. Map

Ken provided a copy of the map of possible projects. The Regional Council had a number of comments. Attached is a summary of comments.

4. Next Steps

CAG is working with Pinal County to develop this further.

Summary from CAG Regional Council 9/23/15

Commenter	Comment	Response
Stakeholders		
Rankin (FI)	Need to include MAG/PAG/SCMPO	Meetings have occurred with MAG/PAG/SCMPO/ADOT.
Rankin (FI)	CAG is made up of two counties and the RTA Board needs to be represented by both. He does not favor a legislative change to address a single county.	Will address with Pinal County.
Pastor (GC)	Gila county passed a 1/2 cent tax successfully for transportation. He supports this. His main concern is that it does not fracture the unity within CAG.	Will address with Pinal County.
Timeframe of Election		
Waldron (AJ)	0.2% tax for A.J. took 9 months to prepare.	May vs Nov. will be addressed by RTA.
Manfredi (MA)	CAC recall for property tax increase may happen in May.	May vs Nov. will be addressed by RTA.
Rankin (FI)	Time is short for May '16. If that is what the BOS decides, then they will support that.	May vs Nov. will be addressed by RTA.
Process		
Rios (PC)	There is a separate group looking at bringing in a lobbyist.	CAG will coordinate with Pinal Partnerships.
Benning (QC)	He supports this and thought it was good discussion.	General comment.
Project Selection		
Rios (PC)	Most important is N-S corridor.	Will be considered in project selection.
Rios (PC)	In order to get support from western portion there has to be an E-W corridor.	Will be considered in project selection.
Rios (PC)	In order to get support from the eastern portion there has to be a corridor such as Florence Kelvin.	Will be considered in project selection.
Manfredi (MA)	SR347 is more important than East-West for Maricopa.	Will be considered in project selection.
Manfredi (MA)	SR347 in Maricopa County needs to be addressed as well.	CAG has had discussions about this. Will continue to pursue.
Rankin (FI)	Transit and rail should be considered.	Considering 90% roads and 10% transit.



**Central Arizona Governments
Pinal County Regional Transportation Authority
Assistance and Support Contract
Summary of Biweekly Meeting**



September 22, 2015

1. Participants

The following individuals were present:

- Travis Ashbaugh, Pinal County
- Andy Smith, CAG
- Ken Hall, CAG
- Peter Knudson, Dibble
- Tim Wolfe, Dibble
- Paul Balch, Dibble
- Teresa Makinen, MakPro

2. Review of the City Manager/Public Works Director meeting- (9/21/15)

- The group discussed the meeting with the City Managers and Public Works Directors. The meeting was well attended. Eight of the twelve municipalities were present. The discussions were very beneficial.

3. Task 2, Public Outreach Strategy

- Teresa Makinen will be working on the Public Outreach Plan.
- Discussed the differences between the CAG Outreach Plan and the Pinal Partnerships Outreach efforts.

4. Task 3, Revenue Projections

- Peter reviewed the financial analysis.
- There was a discussion about the \$300k per municipality that is called out in the statute.

5. Task 4, Project Identification

- Dibble will be producing supporting documentation for this effort.

6. Action Items

- Travis will send Tim the list of studies that was discussed at the meeting yesterday.
- Dibble will develop the base maps in GIS
- Paul will send Travis an e-mail identifying specific GIS information needed.
- Dibble will develop a spreadsheet of possible projects
- Dibble will develop a high level cost estimate of the corridors.
- Dibble will produce three ring binders with summaries of each of the studies.
- Tim will send out a link to the appropriate statutes for developing an RTA.
- Tim will type up summary notes from the PAG meeting.

- Tim will type up summary notes from the Public Works Director/City Manager Meeting.
- Tim will develop a comment resolution list from the comments yesterday.
- Ken will send an e-mail to PAG, thanking them for the informational meeting and following up on information that Jim Degrood was going to provide.



Central Arizona Governments
Pinal County Regional Transportation Authority
Assistance and Support Contract



Meeting with City Managers and Public Works Directors

SUMMARY

September 21, 2015, 2:00 p.m.

Pinal County

1. Introductions

The following individuals were present:

- Bryant Powell, City Manager, Apache Junction
- Matt Busby, Assistant City Manager, Apache Junction
- Giao Pham, Public Works Director, Apache Junction
- Duane Eitel, Traffic Engineer, Casa Grande
- Steven Turner, Maintenance Analyst, Casa Grande
- Robert Flatley, City Manager, Coolidge
- Susanna Struble, Public Works Director, Coolidge
- Harvey Krauss, City Manager, Eloy
- Ken Martin, Public Works Director, Eloy
- Wayne Costa, Public Works Director, Florence
- Gregory Rose, City Manager, Maricopa
- Paul Jepson, Intergovernmental, Maricopa
- Louis Andersen, Public Works Director, Pinal County
- Scott Bender, County Engineer, Pinal County
- Travis Ashbaugh, Transportation Planner, Pinal County
- Margaret Gaston, Town Manager, Superior
- Irene Higgs, Transportation Planner, Sun Corridor MPO
- Andy Smith, Transportation Planner, CAG
- Ken Hall, Executive Director, CAG
- Kent Dibble, Principal Engineer, Dibble Engineering
- Tim Wolfe, Practice Leader, Dibble Engineering
- Paul Balch, Project Engineer, Dibble Engineering

2. Background of the PCRTA

Ken Hall provided background on the Regional Transportation Authority.

3. Map

The group discussed possible projects. Attached is a summary of comments.

4. Roundtable

Each participant was given an opportunity to provide their thoughts and concerns. Attached is a summary of comments.

5. Next Steps

Ken Hall will be meeting with the Regional Council on Wednesday night. He will be provided the same briefing to the mayors.

Summary from Manager's Meeting 9/21/15

Commenter	Comment	Response
Stakeholders		
Rose/Martin/Gaston	Reach out to the mayors and council members.	Will contact mayors and council members.
general comment	Need to include State Land Department	Will contact SLD.
general comment	Need to consider Open Space and Trails Master Plan.	Will contact Pinal County, OS& T Dept.
Timeframe of Election		
Matt Busby	0.2% tax for A.J. took 9 months to prepare.	May vs Nov. will be addressed by RTA
Paul Jepson	CAC recall for property tax increase may happen in May.	May vs Nov. will be addressed by RTA. Jepsen will contact Greg Stanley
Process		
general comment	Need to consider other sources of funds such as Federal.	RTA Plan will only address the 1/2 cent sales tax
Giao Pham	Need to develop criteria and then develop list of projects.	N/R
Krauss/Struble	Don't break into little pieces. Consider region.	There is general agreement with this approach.
Paul Jepson	Whatever we say, we need to do.	There is general agreement with this approach.
Project Selection		
Duane Eitel	Kortsen Rd/ Kleck Rd is important to Casa Grande.	Will be considered in project selection.
Duane Eitel	Selma Highway is ok. It hasn't been studied much.	Will be considered in project selection.
Pham/ Powell	SR24 should not be the north portion of the N-S corridor.	Will be considered in project selection.
Duane Eitel	N-S won't compel Maricopa or Casa Grande.	Will be considered in project selection.
Susanna Struble	Why is N-S and Intermountain local instead of ADOT?	Plan is to acquire/preserve ROW and construct county Parkway
Greg Rose	SR347 is more important than East-West for Maricopa.	Will be considered in project selection.
Giao Pham	Need to consider freight movement.	Will be considered in project selection.
Wayne Costa	Need a better crossing of the Gila River.	Will be considered in project selection.
Pham/ Eitel	Transit should be considered.	Will be considered in project selection.
Giao Pham	Consider the passenger rail study.	Will be considered in project selection.
Steven Turner	What about long term maintenance?	Current thought is not to include maintenance in the RTA funding and use HURF instead.
Margaret Gaston	The N-S doesn't tie into the US60.	ADOT study is addressing.
Transition Plan		
general comment	How will Regional Council and RTA be addressed?	Will be addressed in the transition plan.
Irene Higgs	Air quality modeling.	Will be addressed in the transition plan.
Public Outreach Plan		

Summary from Manager's Meeting 9/21/15

Margaret Gaston	This will be a tougher sell for Eastern Pinal County.	Should be addressed in public outreach plan.
Margaret Gaston	Superior has a 0.4% tax. Why would they pass another tax?	Should be addressed in public outreach plan.
Matt Busby	Easier to convince the elected. Tougher to convince public.	Should be addressed in public outreach plan.
Paul Jepson	Need to consider Saddlebrooke Ranch constituents.	Should be addressed in public outreach plan.

**Central Arizona Governments
Pinal County Regional Transportation Authority
Assistance and Support Contract
Meeting with PAG/Pima County RTA Staff in Tucson**

SUMMARY

September 16, 2015

1. Participants

The following individuals were present:

- CAG – Ken Hall
- PAG – Jim DeGrood, Paul Casertano Cherie Campbell
- Dibble – Kent, Tim Wolfe, Peter Knudson

2. Discussion

- The Pima County RTA is a non-profit organization.
- In 2004 the Arizona State Legislature passed enabling legislation for RTA's.
- PAG formed two committees. These two committees determined projects to be in the RTA. Committees formed in 2004. The plan was completed in 2005 with vote in 2006. Each jurisdiction endorsed the plan.
 - Citizen Committee – 32 people, they took applications. Tried to get a diverse group. The considered geographical, ethnic, gender, and prior experience with PAG.
 - Technical/Management Committee –every jurisdictions manager or public works director. The City of Tucson and Pima County each had two members.
- **Substantial Change Language** – there is language in the statute which requires the RTA to go back to the voters for a substantial change (any element exceeding 10% change from the original estimate). If the RTA goes back to the voters and they do not approve the substantial change, it is unclear how that impacts the funding source.
- **Elements** – PAG decided they needed multiple elements in order to appease the separate stakeholders.
 - Roadway (58%)
 - Transit (27%)
 - Safety (9%)
 - Economic Development and Environment (6%)
- **Original forecast** – PAG's original forecast for revenue was \$2.1B (2005 dollars). The current estimate is \$1.736B. This would require them to go back to the voters. They are currently assessing when they should go back. Perhaps to ask for a renewal of the tax.
- **Additional Funding Sources** – PAG included 12.6% funds, developer fees, and STP funds as a means of making up some of the revenue shortfalls.

- **Optional ½ cent sales tax** – Pima County has not adopted the optional excise tax for transportation. Jim DeGrood does not think they will ever pass it.
- **History of Pima RTA** – Here is the history:
 - Pima Region/City of Tucson had four unsuccessful votes for transportation funding.
 - Mid 2004 the RTA was formed.
 - November 2005 the plan was completed.
 - May 2006 they had the vote.
 - They took the plan to every jurisdiction and got buyoff.
- **Bond Election** – in November there will be a bond election for Pima County. This is primarily pavement preservation plus the Sonoran Corridor.
- **Maintenance** – the legislation says it is the obligation of the local jurisdiction to maintain the infrastructure after it is build.
- **Municipality Benefit** – statute requires that each municipality receive 1% or \$300k per year. As long as there was projects going through the jurisdiction, PCRTA counted that towards the total.
- **Tribal members** – the RTA Board includes two tribal members. They are not part of the \$300k minimum.
- **RTA Organization** – The RTA is a Department under PAG. They get \$300k/year to offset administrative expenses. All direct expenses are charged back to projects. The RTA has only one employee – The Executive Director. All other employees are under PAG, but may charge their time to RTA projects when appropriate.
- **Projects** – each year PCRTA develops an MOU with local jurisdictions for upcoming projects. There are not freeway projects and no light rail projects.
- **Dealing with detractors** - they had to develop approaches to deal with detractors. After four unsuccessful votes, they had to find a way to bring on board the nay sayers. As an example, they included \$45m for wildlife linkages. This addressed the environmental nay sayers. The same was true for transit. The first four votes ignored transit. The economic development was for small businesses.
- **Renewal** – PCRTA is estimating that the renewal process will take 30 months. They are currently assessing when best to approach the voters.
- **Multiple RTA's** – they are considering multiple RTA votes. Perhaps staggered every 10 years.
- **Tax initiation** – the tax initiated within 2 months of the fiscal year.
- **Department of Revenue** – legislation passed last year allows DOR to now charge a fee for collecting and distributing the sales tax.
- **Operations funding** – this is a consideration. In order to build something, there has to be money to operate it. Transit is a good example.
- **Project Management** – They use a lead agency strategy. Most of the time it is the County or cities that design and construct projects. PAG did take over one project from the County. (Valencia – Kolb to Wilmot).

- **Cost of Election** – the election cost \$1.5M.
- **Revenue Forecast** – they use University of Arizona, Eller College of Management for their financial forecasting. Revenue forecast for this year is 1.1% above last year. A major issue is leakage due to Internet sales. They estimate a 12% loss in revenue. The RTA is not allowed to charge excise tax. The cities and counties are allowed to recover their sales tax, but not the non-profits. This is a loop hole in the tax laws.
- **Audit and Analysis** – all of the audit reports are on-line and available to the public.
- **Transportation Planning** – the RTA is integrated into the PAG TIP.
- **Committee Structure** – they have maintained the two committee structure. Both committees meet quarterly. They are reducing the Citizen Committee to 21 members.
- **Value Analysis** – any project over \$10M in construction cost is considered for a value analysis study. The cost of the study is charged to the project.
- **Branding** - they developed their own brand. They print about 500-600 copies of the annual brochure each year.
- **Insurance** – they pay for their own liability insurance. A couple of years ago the cost went through the roof. They are current looking into the Arizona Retention Risk Pool (ARRP). Very few insurers know what an RTA does. That is why the liability insurance is so high.
- **Attorney** – they use Tomas Benovides. They were selected through an RFQ process.
- **Banking** – they started with three bank accounts, but then with bonding of projects, it became much more complex. They now have a dozen separate accounts.
- **Action Items**
 1. Jim will try to locate copies of the original brochures and distribution materials that were used for the election.
 2. Jim will see if it would be acceptable to provide copies of legal determinations. They have a number of them from the past 10 years.
 3. Tim will locate the administrative procedures on the PCRTA website.



**Central Arizona Governments
Pinal County Regional Transportation Authority
Assistance and Support Contract**



Kick-off Meeting

SUMMARY

September 10, 2015, 2:00 p.m.

CAG Conference Room

1. Introductions

The following individuals were present:

- CAG – Ken Hall, Andy Smith
- Pinal County – Greg Stanley, Louis Andersen, Doug Hansen
- Dibble – Kent Dibble, Tim Wolfe, Peter Knudson, Paul Balch
- Elliott Pollack – Rick Merritt

The team discussed the key stakeholders. It was decided to add the Tohono O’odham Nation to the list of stakeholders included on the agenda. Other interested parties should include MAG, SCMPO, and State Land. Attached is a list of key stakeholders that was agreed upon.

The communication approach for this core team was discussed. Andy Smith and Tim Wolfe will be the direct points of contact for CAG and Dibble. It was decided that a regular meeting would be scheduled for every other Tuesday at 2:00 p.m. at the CAG facility.

Action Item – Dibble will send out a meeting invitation.

2. Task 1, Work Schedule

Dibble provided copies of the schedule. The group reviewed the critical items and milestones.

3. Task 2, Public Outreach Strategy

Pinal Partnerships is looking to hire a lobbyist. They may conduct telephone surveys. Ken Hall reiterated that it is important that both Pinal County and CAG just provide the facts. They will not be involved in marketing or in taking a side either for or against the tax. Greg Stanley confirmed this and stated that they may be asked to meet with both “pro” and “anti” groups. Both will be treated the same way and provided the same information.

Pinal Partnerships is planning to provide public outreach that could include groups like AGC and ACEC. This campaign will be from November 2015 to May 2016.

The City of Phoenix voters recently approved a sales tax for transportation. The brand for this was “Move Phoenix”. The Pinal County Excise Tax may want to include a similar branding approach.

Action Item – Pinal County will furnish the original language from the excise tax for potential ballot measure language.

4. Task 3, Revenue Projections

Rick Merritt discussed the task to develop revenue projections. Their effort will include considerations such as inflation, salary increases, population growth, employment growth, and leakage of retail sales. They will produce both an optimistic and conservative model. They

will then make a best prediction. Elliot Pollack will be looking at CAG data and University of Arizona data.

Action Item – Rick will get tax history information from the treasurer's office.

5. Task 4, Project Identification

There have been a number of studies/planning documents completed to date. CAG would like Dibble to take the numerous plans and consolidate them into a synopsis for Pinal County. CAG handed out a map with six specific corridors identified. The group discussed possible corridors and the format of the map.

Action Item – Doug will update the map based on the discussion today.

The group also discussed the prioritization process. It is important that there be equitable distribution of projects within the County. Consideration should be given to equitably distribute across the 5 supervisor districts.

6. Task 5, Transitional Responsibilities

Dibble has scheduled a meeting with PAG on September 16th to discuss their approach to developing a Regional Transportation Authority (RTA).

Ken talked about the transitional plan. This should be a blue print for CAG to develop the RTA. Items that should be considered include: staffing, personnel issues, relationship to other agencies, best practices and role of the RTA Executive Board.

7. Task 6, Meetings and Presentations

Next Monday Ken and Greg are meeting with John Halikowski of ADOT and Dennis Smith of MAG.

There is a meeting on September 21st with the public works directors and city managers from CAG. This meeting will be run by CAG and Pinal County. Dibble will attend, but will not be coordinating the meeting.

The meeting every other week should be sufficient to provide opportunities for Pinal County, CAG and Dibble to interact. There should not be a need to hold separate meetings to meet with staff.

Attachment – List of Key Stakeholders

1. Cities

- Apache Junction
- Casa Grande
- Coolidge
- Eloy
- Maricopa

2. Towns

- Florence
- Kearny
- Marana
- Mammoth
- Queen Creek
- Superior

3. Tribes

- Gila River Indian Community
- Ak-Chin Indian Community
- San Carlos Indian Community
- Tohono O’odham Indian Community

4. Pinal County

5. Arizona Department of Transportation

Appendix F

The following are the current excise tax rates by city and town:

City	State	County	City	Total
Superior	5.6%	1.1%	4.00%	10.70%
Mammoth	5.6%	1.1%	4.00%	10.70%
Coolidge	5.6%	1.1%	3.00%	9.70%
Kearny	5.6%	1.1%	3.00%	9.70%
Eloy	5.6%	1.1%	3.00%	9.70%
Apache Junction	5.6%	1.1%	2.44%	9.14%
Queen Creek	5.6%	1.1%	2.25%	8.95%
Casa Grande	5.6%	1.1%	2.00%	8.70%
Florence	5.6%	1.1%	2.00%	8.70%
Maricopa	5.6%	1.1%	2.00%	8.70%
Unincorporated areas	5.6%	1.1%	0.00%	6.70%