



PIMA COUNTY TRANSPORTATION ADVISORY COMMITTEE

SUMMARY OF WEBEX MEETING

Tuesday, May 25, 2021

12:00 PM

Members Present: John Bernal, Dan Eckstrom, Kendall Elmer, Lucretia Free, Albert Letzkus, Tom McGovern, Frank Santa Cruz, John Wallace, Ed Verburg

Members Absent: John Winchester, Melissa Brown-Dominguez, Don Weaver, 1 Vacancy: County Administrator’s representative

Also Present: Transportation Staff: Ana Olivares, Director; Jorge Riveros, Deputy Director; Kathryn Skinner, Deputy Director; Annabelle Valenzuela, Juanita Garcia-Seiger, Michelle Montagnino, Rich Franz-Under, Robert Lane

Madam Chair Lucretia Free brought the committee meeting to order at 12:03 PM.

Item	Agenda Topic	Recording Time
1.	Pledge of Allegiance – <i>Lucretia Free, PCTAC Chair</i> <i>Mr. Verburg led the PCTAC in the Pledge of Allegiance.</i>	01:18
2.	Call to Order and Roll Call – <i>Lucretia Free, PCTAC Chair/Annabelle Valenzuela, PCDOT Staff</i> <i>Ms. Valenzuela took attendance. A quorum was achieved though some members were absent.</i>	01:56
3.	Approval of Meeting Summary for April 27, 2021 - <i>Lucretia Free, PCTAC Chair</i> <i>Vice-Chair Letzkus moved the item requesting correction of a typographical error on top paragraph of page 2. It should be “local roads” and not “local arterials.” The motion was seconded by Mr. Eckstrom. PCTAC unanimously approved Meeting Summary with modification.</i>	03:31
4.	Road Repair Update – <i>Michelle Montagnino, PCDOT Staff</i> <i>Reference Ms. Montagnino’s presentation for details regarding current status of this Fiscal Year’s Pavement Preservation Program and a brief introduction on what to expect for next year’s program.</i>	06:45
	<i>Ms. Montagnino informed milling and paving projects have all started construction with 35% being substantially complete. Curb Ramp and Surface Treatment projects are also substantially complete with 65% of the \$56M already paid. Inspectors and contractors are diligently working towards a strong finish for this year’s pavement preservation program.</i>	07:31
	<i>For the FY 21/22 Program, \$50M is slated for 174 miles of Local Roads within 170 subdivisions, with ADA Ramp upgrades included where necessary using PCTAC’s approved “worst first” criteria. \$35.5M for 126 Arterial and Collector roadway segments on a “benefit cost ratio” for a total FY 21/22 budget of \$85.5M.</i>	08:16
	<i>The \$10M low bid for the Arivaca-Sasabe Road Project came from Sunland Asphalt for the first FY 21/22 assignment that includes a combination of arterial and collector roadways. Two more projects are being prepared: the Southeast Area Milling and Paving hard bid project and the JOC project for the Ajo area roadways.</i>	9:46

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4.	The Road Pavement Repair website has been updated to include the FY 21/22 project list. The link for the interactive map has been moved to top of webpage for ready-reference access.	10:27
	Chair Free asked if a search function is available to the public when a resident wants to know about road repair in their area. Ms. Montagnino said residents can use the “Find” feature in Adobe PDF to locate their road.	11:31
	Chair Free inquired when the FY22/23 road list will available. Ms. Montagnino said the list will be published by Spring 2022. An updated PCI ranking for all of the roadways will also be posted prior to publication of the road list.	12:02
	Mr. Letzkus asked whether the list posted on the PCTAC website, shown as ‘final’ as of April 30, is the same list Mr. Huckelberry’s memo provided to BOS. Ms. Montagnino replied yes.	12:47
	Mr. Bernal said Ms. Montagnino mentioned the engineer’s estimate for Arivaca Road being a little over \$10M. He asked if she was at liberty to disclose the apparent low bidder and whether bid prices came in as expected. She replied the contract had not been awarded but that the bids were out. She noted that, in general, prices had crept up a bit towards the end of the past fiscal year but that for the Arivaca project, bids were competitive and bidding results surprising. Unsure this would be seen again due to volatility of construction and materials prices.	13:13
	Mr. McGovern asked if bids were above or below engineer’s estimate and whether current process of bidding projects “right down to the wire” would be suitable for next year, since there will be more money to spend on longer term contracts. Ms. Montagnino replied bids came below and that this year, the intention is to get as much of the work completed as early as possible. Feedback received from contractors is that the County’s flexibility on time has allowed for successful competitive bidding. The flexibility lies in allowing the contractors to fit projects within their work schedules.	14:16
	Mr. Eckstrom noted Ms. Montagnino appeared reluctant to share the project bid price. He asked if it was a public bid opening; what the winning bid was; and by what percent it was below the estimated budget. Ms. Montagnino replied it was public and confirmed the number came in below the estimated budget but that she did not have the numbers readily available.	16:12
	Chair Free asked staff to provide bid information at the next meeting.	16:45
	Mr. Letzkus said slide 2 titled FY 21/22 Planned Pavement Repair shows \$85.5M total budget with the last bullet stating “Surface treatments list is still being finalized.” He asked if surface treatments are part of the StreetSaver program and whether arterials and collectors are all mill and repave projects. Ms. Montagnino said the StreetSaver program tracks locals and splits the roads list showing arterial and collectors for mill and repave surface treatments. A future discussion is needed to determine when to provide local surface treatments to preserve the longevity of the pavement from previous years’ mill and pave work. Of the \$35.5M for Arterial and Collector roads, there is approximately \$1.5M to \$2M for surface treatment (i.e., fog, crack or double-chip).	16:54

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5.	Topics for Future Discussions – Lucretia Free, PCTAC Chair	
a.	<u>Local Covid-19 Impact</u> – Jorge Riveros, PCDOT Deputy Director	
	Reference Mr. Riveros’ presentation for details regarding the impact COVID-19 has had on Pima County’s travel and transportation activities and long-term impacts as workforce returns.	19:25
	Last month, Mr. Riveros briefed PCTAC on global impacts of COVID-19 and worldwide health effects, as well as many issues affecting transportation networks across our nation. Like many other states, cities, towns and counties, Pima County saw similar trends related to COVID-19 outbreaks and the BOS declared a state of emergency on March 19, 2020. The first two slides show the impact on public health during the first and second waves – summer and fall – of COVID-19 peaks and the vehicular travel trends in Pima County.	21:00
	Travel activity trends reported by PAG and Google Mobility showed significant reductions in vehicle miles traveled at the onset of COVID-19 due to school and business closures and ‘stay at home’ orders. Travel to grocery stores, pharmacies and workplaces declined. Public Sun Tran ridership declined. Special Events and Right-of-Way permits also declined, as compared to prior years’ similar time frame.	22:03
	In support of mental health, people started visiting parks and natural reserves as witnessed by increased parking near trailheads and open spaces. More people started walking and bicycling outdoors to deal with COVID-related confinement.	25:24
	An unfortunate trend seen in Pima County and across the nation was an increase in fatalities resulting from increased speeds in otherwise non-congested roadways. A traffic speed comparison of 2020 against 2019, showed interstate roadways in 2020 had speeds greater than 55 mph due to free flow allowance as a result of less roadway congestion.	26:13
	Long term COVID-19 impacts, globally and locally, are uncertain. Businesses and schools could return to hybrid work models, permanent telecommuting or virtual learning opportunities, which could impact traffic peaks. Mr. Riveros said he was looking forward to learning more from an upcoming Transportation Research Board seminar. Of interest are results throughout the country of studies on the impact COVID is having on transportation networks and public transportation as a whole. Some cities, such as Seattle, have seen an uptick in the use of public transportation but in Pima County, the trend has gone down. Some people fear going back into such environments, could spread contaminants.	27:38
	Mr. Letzkus asked for a breakdown of the traffic fatalities data. He would like crash information by mode of travel or injuries vs property-only damages or vs fatalities. If available, he requested the data be published in an annual report. Mr. Riveros said he would inquire as to the publication of any available data.	30:56
	Mr. Verburg was appreciative of the excellent and informative presentation Mr. Riveros provided.	32:41
	Mr. McGovern asked if the 2020 fatalities data had been analyzed to determine prevailing types or trends, year over year. He said in preparing for the RTANext Plan, urban areas seemed to be focusing project needs and improvements on things such as complete streets,	33:23

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5.	pedestrian and bicycle safety projects. He asked if there are similar trends in the unincorporated area that could help determine the types of projects and locations for them. Mr. Riveros said the information will be provided once gathered and reviewed for trends to determine the cause of fatalities and serious injuries.	
	Chair Free asked Mr. Riveros how the data compared and whether he saw anything in Pima County not seen in national trends. Mr. Riveros said the data is nationally similarly aligned but compared to some major cities in the country, like Nashville, Pima County is in a better position. In terms of fatalities and higher speed accidents resulting from drag racing or activities that lead to a less safe transportation network, the trends surprised Mr. Riveros in that the numbers were not higher. However, the high numbers will need to be reviewed to see what can be done to help move the statistic downward.	36:26
	<i>b. Other – Lucretia Free, PCTAC Chair</i>	
	Mr. Verburg asked about availability of RTA maintenance money. He said the County will have more new roads, but more maintenance dollars will be needed. If only construction dollars are available, it will be a lot more challenging to maintain roads in the future. Mr. McGovern explained maintenance monies come from jurisdictions that are part of the RTA. The CAC has consistently followed up on jurisdiction presentations with questions on how maintenance will be handled and requested lists of current and proposed projects.	38:22
	Chair Free said the topic would be included as a future agenda item.	41:52
6.	Future Meeting Schedule – Lucretia Free, PCTAC Chair	42:17
	Chair Free asked PCTAC preferences on meeting through the summer or pass on the June and July meetings and resume meeting in August. Mr. McGovern asked that the PCTAC be kept informed on the progress for bidding individual packages starting up after July 1. He requested a summer report be provided on challenges and successes experienced during bidding processes, good information to have when meetings resume in the fall.	
	Next Meeting: August 24, 2021 via WEBEX – Lucretia Free, PCTAC Chair Agenda items – request topic submittal by August 6, 2021 to Annabelle.Valenzuela@pima.gov .	44:04
7.	Call to the Audience – Lucretia Free, PCTAC Chair	44:48
	Mark Dresang resides in Arivaca. He informed an arroyo is getting close to the road and there is a concern regarding bicycle safety. Chair Free informed that responses to his concerns would be emailed and posted online.	
	Ms. Olivares offered to provide PCTAC road report updates for June and July. The PCTAC agreed. Chair Free asked for information regarding progress on project bidding processes.	47:23
8.	Adjournment – Lucretia Free, PCTAC Chair	47:53
	Motion to adjourn made by Vice-Chair Letzkus; seconded by Mr. Verburg. Without opposition, meeting adjourned at 12:51 PM.	

Respectfully submitted, Juanita Garcia-Seiger, Assistant