



Hidden Valley Roadway Framework Study Study Review Team (SRT) Meeting #1 Meeting Summary Notes

Date: Thursday April 12, 2007
Time: 2:00 p.m. to 4:00 p.m.
Location: Gila River Indian Community
 Governance Center, Conference Room C-140

Participants:

Victor Yang, ADOT	Alia Maisonet, Gila River Indian Community
Floyd Roehrich, ADOT	George Joe, Gila River Indian Community
Tim Wilson, ADOT	John Roberts, Gila River Indian Community
Dianne Kresich, ADOT-TPD	Sandra Shade, Ak-Chin Indian Community
Marco Fierro, ADOT-Predesign	David White, Gila River Indian Community
Ed Stillings, FHWA	Bob Hazlett, MAG Project Manager
Adrianna Jalle, FHWA	Ken Hall, MAG Deputy Project Manager
Don Homan, Town of Buckeye	Robert Dubsy, Luke AFB
Brent Billingsley, City of Maricopa	Doug Hansen, Pinal County
Edward Farrell, City of Maricopa	Andy Smith, Pinal County
Cheryl Toy, Maricopa County DOT	
Chuck Horvath, David Evans & Associates	
Jon Vlaming, LVA Urban Design	
Michelle Green, ASLD	

Consulting Team:

John McNamara, Project Mgr. DMJM Harris
 Ethan Rauch, Deputy Project Manager DMJM Harris
 Jackie Pfeiffer, DMJM Harris
 Peggy Fiandaca, PSA
 Audra Koester Thomas, PSA
 Pete Lima, Lima & Associates
 Curtis Lueck, Curtis Lueck Associates (CLA)
 Jim Barry, Curtis Lueck Associates (CLA)

Agenda

1. Welcome and Introductions
 - Bob Hazlett, MAG Project Manager
 - David White, Gila River Indian Community, Community Manager welcomed everyone to the Gila River Indian Community, and their new Governance Center, and provided an

overview of the community. He stressed the importance of addressing transportation issues and impacts on the community and was pleased to be a part of this study.

2. Project Overview

John McNamara, DMJM Harris Project Manager

Bob Hazlett, MAG Project Manager

- PowerPoint presentation, (included on MAG website www.mag.maricopa.gov) including:
 - Project Team
 - Project Understanding
 - Approach to Project
 - Work Plan/Project Schedule
 - Lessons learned from I-10/Hassayampa Study
 - Summary

3. Regional Development, Facilitated Discussion

John McNamara, DMJM Harris Project Manager

Jaclyn Pfeiffer, DMJM Harris

Peggy Fiandaca, PSA

- Issue Identification and Challenges
 - City of Maricopa:
 - 2005—fastest growing community in US (from 1,100 to 35,000 since the 2000 Census)
 - Growth slowing, however the City received 523 permits in March 2007, whereas only averaged 300 per month in 2006.
 - 80% of Maricopa residents work/shop in south Phoenix Metropolitan Area with only one real route to/from the City (SR 347)
 - Need to address a regional transportation plan; SR Loop 303 and I-10 bypass are key roadways that impact Maricopa
 - Marry Hidden Valley, Pinal County Regionally Significant Routes Study and Maricopa Small Area Transportation Study into a unified network
 - Stanfield area: 120,000 dwelling units in some stage of processing; may complicate development of a regional system
 - Pinal County:
 - Regional connectivity is imperative
 - Connectivity between Pinal County cities/towns
 - Connectivity between Maricopa and Pinal counties
 - Access management; not just more lanes of traffic
 - Need to define facility types through studies
 - Population 300,000 now to 1.9 million in 2029
 - Need to get north and south in Pinal County but to do that, you need to go east and west - problematic
 - Need to address interstate corridors; great potential for economic development
 - Update traditional “farm roads” to more suitable higher capacity roadways
 - Flooding issues throughout the county
 - Old infrastructure (bridges, etc.) need upgrading or replacement

- Gila River Indian Community:
 - Fast Facts
 - 327,000 acres, most in trust
 - 20,000 tribal members, not all live on tribal land
 - Two tribes: Maricopa and Pima
 - Environmental protection important
 - Safety—including hazardous material transport
 - Economic development
 - Cultural preservation and identity
 - Historic preservation imperative
 - Incident management on I-10
- Town of Buckeye:
 - Planning area of 600 sq miles
 - Very dynamic area, as a huge growth center in the future
- ADOT-Transportation Planning Division (TPD):
 - Governor’s 2030 initiative is an important “partner”; should coordinate with this
 - I-10 Bypass/Re-route study impacts this area significantly; preliminary corridor through the middle of the Hidden Valley study area
 - Want to have an opportunity to comment on study and all working papers
 - REALLY want to see summaries of public involvement (interview summaries, public event summaries, etc.)
 - Keep us informed—more info the better
 - Working on the Pinal County Regional Profile
- ADOT Predesign:
 - Functioning of I-10 and I-8 corridors is important in the future
 - Redefine CANAMEX corridor
 - Define buildout traffic interchange locations on I-8; access to State Lands that may be declared developable
 - Conducting SR-85 Design Concept Report that includes ultimate TI spacing, new system interchanges, and the ultimate freeway corridor; apparent that maybe a 6-lane corridor is not adequate
 - Public lands along I-8 could be developed
 - How will all of the different corridors function with other systems?
 - Corridor profile on I-8 would be nice
 - Look to build-out maps so that we can try to get “ahead of the curve”
 - Role of Luke Air Force Base—flyover locations
 - Potential to resurrect I-10 widening study from SR 202 to I-8 ; would like some guidance from Gila River Indian Community (GRIC) on what GRIC’s needs are
- Maricopa County Department of Transportation:
 - Interested in multimodal facilities, system-to-system interchanges
 - Need for a real study (last one was 40 years ago)
 - Need to look at funding opportunities
- Ak-Chin Indian Community:
 - Fast fact: 700 members

- Concerned about rights-of-way, specific to the Indian community, as major roads are expanded (from 4 to 6 lanes)
 - Expecting development near casino; what will transportation be?
 - Concerned about cultural and environmental aspects
 - Have worked with developers to ensure artifacts/remains preservation
 - Bureau of Indian Affairs transportation study done previously, not recently
- Luke AFB:
 - Noise contours
 - Typically take off to the West to Luke AFB; to the east to Davis Monthan AFB
 - Volkswagen test track facility with a large lease on State Lands; currently approximately 2,000 acres, could expand to 8,000 acres in the future
 - Federal military training routes
 - Southeast south of Buckeye to Florence
 - Low-level route (100-300 feet) at 300-500 knots
 - Luke AFB does not control these routes; FAA does, but Luke likes to have influence over FAA and pilot's routes
 - Maricopa County reflects these training routes (also on website)
- Federal Highway Administration:
 - ADOT statewide Access Management study is well along, will come into play on State Highways
 - Full and partial access on proposed roadways
 - NEED EMPLOYMENT CENTERS IN THE AREA to reduce the number of trips leaving the area (in the Hassayampa study: 70% of the locally generated trips leave the area)
 - Multimodal capacity is important
- Private Development around Mobile (unincorporated Maricopa County):
 - Maricopa and Casa Grande are working regionally
 - Growth in Maricopa coupled with much privately-held land in area, Goodyear annexed south (65 sq. miles)
 - Wildlife corridor from Sonoran Desert National Monument northeast to Sierra Estrella Wilderness Area
 - Development will continue to move southward to I-8
 - BLM lands, as well as Sonoran Desert National Monument, bracket this proposed private development pretty well
 - Multimodal important—Union Pacific in the area and there is a potential for commuter rail
 - Mexico as an off-rail storage facility for Union Pacific; might Union Pacific put in another corridor?
 - There are other current transportation studies in the area, and the framework must pay serious attention to them
 - 10,000 acres of land have a Planned Area Development permit underway to be served by water, wastewater and transportation
 - Vekol Valley: possible additional Goodyear annexation (all the way to I-8)
 - Imperative to work together!

4. Next Study Steps

- Bob mentioned that SRT meetings will be every few months and in conjunction with other events if possible, such as the Development Forum
- Early June—Planning Summit (all current planning studies will come together to coordinate and collaborate) – Purpose is to develop joint message points and a protocol on how the different studies will be coordinated.
- Proposed June 7—first Development Forum

5. Adjourn—4:00 pm

Additional Notes:

- Request for PowerPoint to be placed online www.mag.maricopa.gov
- Request for updated contact list to be emailed to group
- Everyone was asked to copy any project correspondence to hiddenvalley@mag.maricopa.gov so a complete project history can be maintained