

TAC Meeting #1 1:00-3:00 November 18th, 2015 Meeting Notes

Overview/Summary

The first Technical Advisory Committee (TAC) for the What Moves You Arizona (WMYA) update effort was held in The Transportation Board Room on November 18. The purpose of the meeting was to:

1. Formally convene the TAC and set expectations about their role in the WMYA update;
2. Review the anticipated planning process
3. Present findings from the draft “Transportation in Arizona” (TIA) report
4. Discuss issues, questions, and concerns associated with the anticipated planning process

The meeting was well attended and highly participatory. The consultant team provided a Powerpoint presentation that highlighted findings from the TIA report and served as the basis for the meeting discussions. Key findings and observations from the meeting included:

- Careful thought needs to be given to how multi-modal needs are defined. In particular, it will be important to delineate how needs are to be defined, and how the issue of all needs vs. ADOT’s responsibility will be handled.
- The relationship between the plan development efforts related to needs, the investment choices, the revenue scenarios, and refinements to the P2P Link process are unclear to many. A clear and simple description is needed to help TAC members and ADOT stakeholders better understand the anticipated planning process.
- It is important that ADOT use feedback from the two stakeholder involvements rounds to inform plan development; they should not be used for ADOT to simply “tell everyone what has been decided.”

Meeting Notes

Introduction

- Mike Kies (ADOT Planning Director) requested that the project maintain a continual emphasis on the fact that the plan is intended to address only needs which fall under ADOT’s fiscal responsibility.
- Sarah Allred, ADOT Transit Coordinator, inquired as to how the transit needs will be defined. It was recognized that there may be challenges in defining what is an ADOT vs. local/other responsibility.

TIA Chapter 2: Who We Are Today

- TIA text should reference that the demographic data was derived from the State Demographer Medium Growth scenario.
- Keith Killough (ADOT MPD) questioned whether CEDDS (Woods & Poole's Complete Economic and Demographic Data Source) sensitivity testing might be required given the recent volatility of the demographic forecasts.
- Monique de los Rios Urban (MAG) indicated that it may be helpful to also address commute patterns based on different MPO/COG regions and/or urban versus rural considerations since there may be different characteristics and needs.
- Census data does not reflect the seasonal nature of Arizona's population in the winter months. May need to consider some discussion on this topic. Charlene Fitzgerald (YMPO) emphasized that the system needs should not be based on peak season demands.

TIA Chapter 3: Arizona's Economy

- Tourism is listed as a primary economic driver for the State but a lot of tourism occurs on federal lands. Elijah Henley (FHWA) indicated that there is currently a collaborative long-range planning effort for federal lands. Coordination with the LRTP update would be valuable since there may be funding opportunities for state routes that provide access to federal lands.

TIA Chapter 4: System Conditions and Needs

- Reference to \$220 million expenditure on maintenance is incorrect. This is what ADDOT would ideally like to have, but currently levels are much lower (approximately \$150M).
- Need to be cognizant of proposals for intermodal transfer facilities related to freight – both new and relocation of existing.
- Address rest areas and park-n-ride facilities.
- Regarding safety and security – while ADOT has the SHSP, COGs and MPOs are also developing safety plans that should be considered.

TIA Chapter 5: Funding and Program Delivery

- Concern was expressed about how the historic HURF "sweeps" be accounted for in the revenue scenarios and investment choices (consultant team was unclear but will explore).
- Consider having the plan include a strategy for performance monitoring.

- Need to develop a flow chart that better illustrates the process and linkage to P2P that can be shared with the various MPOs and COGs at their TAC meetings to familiarize them with the process prior to the first round of stakeholder outreach.

Wrap Up

Due to the lengthy discussion of some of the TIA Report elements, the TAC did not have the opportunity to discuss the questions presented regarding the planning approach for vision & goals refinement, scenario analysis, and P2P Link criteria weighting efforts. Attendees were therefore asked to provide any applicable comments or thoughts via email. It was also agreed that the ADOT/consultant team would work on better describing the interrelationships of the different planning elements and get back to TAC members with this information. The meeting was concluded at 3:00 pm.