

**MINUTES OF THE  
CENTRAL ARIZONA ASSOCIATION OF GOVERNMENTS  
POPULATION TECHNICAL ADVISORY COMMITTEE**

**May 25, 2010**

**Central Arizona Association of Governments  
1075 S. Idaho Road, Apache Junction Arizona 85119**

MEMBERS IN ATTENDANCE

\*Yanet Ochoa, Apache Junction  
Fred Baker, Apache Junction  
\*Dianne Kresich, ADOT  
Alton Bruce, Coolidge  
Mark Thompson, Florence  
\*Dave Williams, Queen Creek  
\*Shawny Ekadis, Queen Creek  
\*Rachelle Sanchez, Mammoth  
Leila DeMaree, Casa Grande  
\*Chris Collopy, Globe  
\*Evonne Hernandez, Globe  
\*Belinda Cruz, Eloy  
\*Robert Gould, Gila County  
\*Louis Felix, Pinal County  
Jerry Stabley, Chair  
\*Sarah Luckie, Star Valley  
Richard Wilkie, Casa Grande  
\*Paul Jepson, Maricopa  
Rodolfo Lopez, Maricopa  
\*Sue Laybourn, Coolidge  
\*Gary Eide, Kearny  
\*Robert Mawson, Miami  
Ray Erlandsen, Vice Chair  
\*Bob Lorena, Hayden  
\*Sylvia Kerlock, Winkelman  
Steve Cheslak, Marana

*\* Member not in attendance*

OTHERS IN ATTENDANCE

Shiela Deschaaf, Payson  
Bart Smith, AK Chin  
Angela Gotto, CAAG  
Randy Simms, CAAG

Randy Grant, G&G Consulting  
Jack Tomasik, CAAG  
Travis Ashbaugh, CAAG  
Samantha Hull, CAAG

- I. **Call To Order**  
The meeting was called to order by Chair Jerry Stabley at 10:02 am.
- II. **Pledge of Allegiance**
- III. **Roll Call & Introductions**  
Roll call was taken and a quorum was established.

IV. **Approval of Minutes – October 20, 2009 & December 15, 2009**

A motion to approve minutes was made by Ray Erlendsen, seconded by Fred Baker, motion carried.

V. **New Business**

*A. Approval of Final Pinal County RAZ Projections*

Mr. Tomasik presented the final sub-county projections for Pinal County. Mr. Tomasik explained that CAAG was only looking for approval of total population for Regional Analysis Zone by the years 2010, 2020, 2030 and 2040. Mr. Tomasik noted that CAAG has previously approved market area projections for intervening years 2015, 2025 and 2034, but given the time lag between approvals and the economy, we are only asking the decade numbers. This would mean there would be no interim projections for the 2015, 2025 and 2035 which allows for more flexibility with the projections. The draft projections were reviewed by each member agency and all comments were taken to MAG and the final projections were then done with all comments. CAAG is only asking for total population approvals for those years and only by RAZ for maximum flexibility.

Mr. Tomasik presented maps and discussion on the population growth and change through each decade. He explained that the RAZ projections allow for change among population distribution at the traffic analysis zone (TAZ) level.

Mr. Baker of Apache Junction asked if projections were done on the municipal planning area (MPA) level rather than the incorporated city. It is not on the incorporated city level – it is just for the city MPAs. These projections are based on all general plans and all of the regional planning databases that have been built over the last five years and reviewed by members.

Motion to approve the Regional Analysis Zone projections for Pinal County was made by Fred Baker, seconded by Ray Erlendsen. Motion carried.

*B. Regional Planning Activities Update*

1. *Pinal Regional Transportation Plan Progress*

CAAG has secured \$522,000 from STP and SPR funds to start the regional transportation plan (RTP) for fiscal year 10. In FY-11, Pinal County intends to apply for a PARA fund which can be spent on a RTP. CAAG will also ask for additional STP funding that will bring in another \$440,000 for the RTP. Mr. Tomasik explained that a draft work scope would be presented on June 10<sup>th</sup> to the Pinal County TTAC for approval. Once approval has been given by Pinal County TTAC, it will be presented for approval to the Pinal County Transportation Policy Committee on July 12. In the fall of 2010, consulting firm selection will begin. Mr. Tomasik stated that there are some other projects that will start around the same time. MAG is doing a freight study that will include Pinal County. How much freight is being moved; where does it come from; where does it go to. These simultaneous projects can inform one another.

2. *Economic Development Progress.*

The CAAG EDA adjustment strategy is completed. This is an EDA special project that reflects that the CAAG Economic Development District is a distressed economy and that designation gives us a competitive advantage and opens different kinds of EDA funding.

Mr. Tomasik spoke about the contact with the CAAG region representative and at that time he was unsure of the EDA funding amount. He also spoke about EDA changing the requirements for submittal and they follow the livable principles that the Obama Administration is trying to move toward at the Federal planning level.

Both the adjustment strategy and the CEDS document are both in line with where EDA is moving toward. Next year it will be very easy to get them in line with what EDA is expecting. The goals in the CEDS document are long range goals that we are committed to, but will not be completed this year.

Mr. Tomasik explained that the CEDS went further and delineated the CAAG staff responsibilities versus the committee responsibilities. As a result of this, the work scope for Pinal County was changed to include economic development research. The information will be provided on our website for easy accessibility and download. Mr. Tomasik explained that they are trying to turn the CEDS committee into a working committee, but it's a process in motion currently.

Mr. Tomasik explained that CAAG has applied for a USDA grant on Capital Access. CAREDF and Pinal County are applying for a joint grant focused on Alternative Energy. SGCEDC, CCEDC, Payson and NGCEDC are jointly applying for a Natural Resources grant. At this time, this was the best opportunity for the region to apply for grants as CAAG staff is limited and wouldn't be able to apply for all the grants.

CAAGs priorities are establishing a revolving loan fund (RLF) through EDA. CAAG already has a contact at Gold Canyon Bank that could possibly open doors with other contacts. This would help with entrepreneurial development, small business centers and incubators.

Mr. Tomasik spoke about the thing he hears a lot is that CAAG does information well and could staff possibly help with economic development information. EDA doesn't like to fund asset inventories as they have been burned in the past by providing funding, but then the inventories not being up kept. CAAG might seek funding to develop a CAAG region website that would include an asset inventory, but is not limited to just that.

### 3. *HUD Regional Sustainability Plan Grant*

The HUD Regional Sustainability Grant is 100 million nationwide and five million per state. HUD anticipates that there will be 40 awards nationwide. CAAG/MAG/PAG are submitting a joint application for the Sun Corridor through the JPAC. Mr. Tomasik explained that there are no others in the USA applying jointly and HUD will look upon the joint application favorably. The joint application is only for the first stage – regional plans for sustainable development. If there is a submittal early, there is a better chance that you will receive follow up funding in coming years. When this category is completed, you can apply for the second and third categories.

Mr. Tomasik explained that the federal livability principles are showing up in HUD, USDOT and EDA. Everyone will need to start paying attention to them because they are important. They are willing to be flexible regarding the term "sustain" as each area's urbanizing qualities may be different. They recognize that suburbs, exurbs and rural areas are going

to have what livability and sustainability mean to them so there is some flexibility built in.

What have we done so far here at CAAG? MAG/CAAG/PAG have all done some background work. A couple of weeks ago, Mr. Tomasik had a phone meeting with approximately 20 technical staff from each committee and had a productive discussion that lasted over an hour. The general direction was to avoid redoing local plans, carry them forward rather than start plans over; a cohesive regional multi modal transportation plan for the region; urban forum for continuous development patterns; water supply; economic development – identify future industries for the sun corridor; lack of higher education in Pinal and Gila County.

### *C. Planning Research FY11 Work Program*

Mr. Tomasik discussed the change in the work scope and department programs name. It has been changed to the Planning Research Department. Planning research is more descriptive of the department's role. This broadened the departments work to include all aspects – planning research, economic development, regional transportation planning, regional economic development databases, state population and census 2010. With STP funding, the department will also be developing Gila County databases.

There are plans for CAAG to build a one stop source for all economic development information as a snapshot for people interested in developing in the area. There will be links to other economic development foundations in the region. CAAG will specialize more in what business and prospects look for – how many people you have by educational attainment, what industries does your workforce live in, etc. CAAG will work with each entity to make sure the information is accurate.

Some of the economic development information that CAAG will compile is location quotients to identify each communities economic basin, active parks and sites that are actively being prospected by communities currently, housing trends including values and rental rates for Pinal County only and tax rates for all the jurisdictions.

This year, the department will not update every database for Pinal County. Each database is needed for projections and we've reached that. The Planning Research department has achieved our mission and the work scope is changing. CAAG is being more realistic about what has to be updated annually.

For the first year, CAAG has been given STP funding for the production of Gila County databases. The databases will be the full set of planning databases for Gila County. Hopefully this will lead to projections in 2012 at which time we will update the Pinal County projections as well.

## **VI. Round Table Discussion**

The City of Apache Junction had their consultant make a presentation on the revitalization of downtown. The consulting firm explained that the goals are short term so they can be achieved quickly. They have a vision and a purpose to the plan so that Apache Junction has a distinctive down town area.

## **VII. Date, Time, Location of next meeting**

The next CAAG POPTAC meeting is to be determined

VIII. **Call To The Public**  
No one answered the Call to the Public

IX. **Adjourn**  
Motion to adjourn by Alton Bruce, seconded by Mark Thompson. Meeting adjourned at 11:51 a.m.