

RTA **Delivering our promise to you**

Regional Transportation Authority

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S. NOGALES HIGHWAY/ SAHUARITA ROAD INTERSECTION



*Steve Christy
RTA Chair*

Letter from the Chair

When I got behind the wheel of the first Tucson streetcar as it was in final testing in Portland earlier this year, this multi-million dollar transit project became reality for me.

By this time next year, the Sun Link streetcar system will be running daily on its 3.9-mile route in Tucson. In the past fiscal year, as streetcars were being built, many of us watched as the tracks were installed near and through the University of Arizona campus, through 4th Avenue and downtown, and over to the west side of Interstate 10.

This project, which is co-managed by the RTA and the City of Tucson, has generated more than \$809 million in public and private sector investment. Visit www.tucsonstreetcar.com for more project details.

The streetcar project, however, is one of many RTA projects under way. You can read the details in this report but I am happy to report that the RTA and its member jurisdictions have completed 540 projects since the multi-modal plan was approved in May 2006 by Pima County voters. We thank our members for continuing to advance the goals of the RTA and the voting public.

The 20-year, \$2.1 billion transportation plan, now in its 8th year of implementation, includes roadway, transit, safety, and environmental and economic vitality elements to help meet the region's transportation goals of improving our safety and cross-town mobility, while reducing traffic congestion.

The RTA anticipates that in 2014 it will pursue additional bonding, a financing tool that was

built into the original RTA plan. Bonding again will allow the RTA to take advantage of favorable pricing conditions in the construction market in order to advance more RTA projects.

The Economics and Business Research Center of the University of Arizona, Eller College of Management, recently completed an analysis of the RTA's long-term revenue projections. This is the first time the RTA has received a comprehensive update of the original projections completed prior to the plan approval.

The results convey that projected RTA revenues will be \$1.736 billion compared to the original projection of \$2.1 billion in revenues. It's now clear that the recession and real estate collapse had a deeper impact than anyone could have predicted. We will only learn the actual revenues over time.

During the recession we received lower project cost estimates, and competitive labor and material pricing has helped maintain favorable cost estimates.

The RTA will explore future cost savings on projects in order to produce an adjusted expenditure plan.

Still, the RTA wants to be proactive in addressing the long-term financial health of the plan and is in the early stages of initiating a process through its committee structure to identify strategies to minimize impact.

In 2006, the RTA Board established a citizens' accountability committee to ensure oversight of RTA plan implementation, and we will work with them to ensure that RTA projects continue to be built to respect voter wishes.

We appreciate the ongoing public support of the RTA and its mission to advance our regional transportation network and long-term economic vitality.

2013 RTA BOARD MEMBERS:

RTA CHAIR
Steve Christy
Arizona State Transportation Board Representative

RTA VICE CHAIR
Ramón Valadez
Pima County Board of Supervisors

RTA 2ND VICE CHAIR
Jonathan Rothschild
City of Tucson Mayor

Catalina Alvarez
Pascua Yaqui Tribe Vice Chairwoman

Ned Norris Jr.
Tohono O'odham Nation Chairman

Duane Blumberg
Town of Sahuarita Mayor

Paul S. Diaz
City of South Tucson Mayor

Ed Honea
Town of Marana Mayor

Satish Hiremath
Town of Oro Valley Mayor

Farhad Moghimi
RTA Executive Director



TWIN PEAKS / TANGERINE ROAD INTERSECTION

2013 CART COMMITTEE

- Chris Albright
- James Barber
- Ace Chicago
- Allen Cook
- Robert Cook
- Roger Cracraft
- Grace Evans
- Kentton C. Grant
- Sami Hamed
- David Heineking
- Steve Huffman
- Douglas S. Mance
- George H. McFerron
- Joseph Oliva III
- Albert R. Pesqueira
- William N. Poorten III
- Armando Rios Jr.
- Richard R. Roberts
- Charlene Robinson
- William Sheldon
- Amber Smith
- Pamela Traficanti
- Herb Trossman
- M. Joe Yee

JURISDICTION REPRESENTATIVES

- Kelle Maslyn
Town of Marana
- David Longoria
City of South Tucson
- Emily Brott
City of Tucson
- Kendall Elmer
Pima County
- Tom Bush
Town of Oro Valley
- John Sullivan
Town of Sahuarita
- Charles Mendonca
Pascua Yaqui Tribe
- Gerald Fayuant
Tohono O’odham Nation



*Kelle Maslyn, Chair
CART Committee*

Letter from CART Chair

During FY 2012-13, the Citizens Accountability for Regional Transportation Committee met four times and heard a variety of updates pertaining to Regional Transportation Authority plan projects, including the streetcar, small business enterprise goals and new project element reports.

Our discussion on Broadway focused partly on the meaning of “functionality” and how that plays into the pending design of the Broadway Boulevard, Euclid to Country Club project. The Broadway Citizen Task Force is expected to make a final recommendation on design and alignment to the Tucson City Council in early 2014.

We also learned the results of various groups reviewing the small business enterprise bid requirements of the City of Tucson and Pima County. This ultimately led to a revision of SBE goals that were agreed upon by the RTA, the Tucson Utility Contractors, the Arizona Construction Trades, the Arizona Builders Alliance and the city and county. The Associated Minority Contractors of America for Arizona also participated in early discussions.

We monitored the progress of the Tucson modern streetcar project and celebrated the arrival of the first streetcar in September 2013.

Finally, the RTA provided summary reports on elements of the RTA plan, focusing on intersections; elderly and pedestrian safety improvements; and greenways, pathways, bikeways and sidewalks. These reports demonstrate that the RTA and its member jurisdictions are completing projects on time and under budget, with over \$200 million in open construction contracts last year.

Clearly, the RTA and its member jurisdictions are delivering projects as promised to Pima County voters and we anticipate another productive year ahead.

2013 TECHNICAL MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE

JURISDICTION REPRESENTATIVES

- Chuck Huckelberry/John Bernal,
Pima County
- Richard Miranda/Daryl Cole,
City of Tucson
- Enrique Serna/Joel Gastelum,
South Tucson
- Gilbert Davidson/Keith Brann,
Town of Marana
- Greg Caton/Jose Rodriguez,
Town of Oro Valley
- Farhad Moghimi/Kelly Udall,
Town of Sahuarita
- Francisco Valencia, *Pascua Yaqui Tribe*
- Fred Stevens, *Tohono O’odham Nation*

PRIVATE SECTOR REPRESENTATIVES

- Timothy Ahrens
- Roger Caldwell
- William Carroll
- Paul Cella
- Chet Davis
- Jordan Feld
- Bob Iannarino
- Jim Schoen
- Steve Shepherd
- Frank Thomson
- Kate Riley

FY 2012-13 RTA Project Status

ROADWAYS/INTERSECTIONS COMPLETED

- Grant to Oracle Intersection. Substantial completion October 2013.
- Twin Peaks Roadway, Tiffany Loop Drainage project. Completed May 2013.
- Magee/Cortaro Farms Corridor, Mona Lisa to La Cañada (Pima County). Substantial completion June 2013.
- Magee/Cortaro Farms Corridor, Thornydale to Mona Lisa (Pima County). Substantial completion June 2013.
- Ina/Oracle Intersection Improvements. Complete October 2013.

ROADWAYS/INTERSECTIONS UNDER CONSTRUCTION

- Magee Road, La Cañada to Oracle. Commenced November 2013. Estimated construction completion May 2015.
- Downtown Links, St Mary's Road. Commenced September 2012. Estimated construction completion January 2014.
- La Cañada Drive, River to Ina. Commenced May 2012. Estimated completion May 2014.
- Houghton Road, Irvington to Valencia. Commenced October 2012. Currently under way. Estimated completion May 2014.
- Houghton Road, Broadway to 22nd Street. Commenced July 2013. Currently under way. Estimated completion April 2015.
- 22nd Street, Kino Interchange. Commenced September 2012. Estimated completion December 2014.
- Valencia Road, Alvernon to Wilmot. Commenced November 2013. Estimated completion August 2015.
- Mona Lisa at Orange Grove (Safety improvements built as part of the Orange Grove/Camino de la Tierra to La Cholla project). Commenced May 2013. Estimated completion June 2014.
- Sahuarita Road, Phase II, La Villita Rd to Nogales Highway. Project Segments 2A/2B estimated completion September 2014.

BIKE/PEDESTRIAN IMPROVEMENTS

- HAWK - La Cholla/Ocelot. Completed March 2013.
- HAWK - Speedway/10th Ave. Completed August 2013.
- Fort Lowell Sidewalks. Completed January 2012.
- Camino del Sol, Pedestrian Ramps. Completed May 2013.
- Laguna Elementary, Safe Routes to School. Completed April 2012.
- Valencia Street Lighting. Completed January 2013.
- Picture Rocks, Safe Routes to School. Completed March 2012.
- Valencia Rd, Cardinal to Mission. Bike Lanes. Completed July 2012.
- Abrego Bike Lanes. Completed March 2012.
- Alvernon Way, Golf Links to Ajo. Bike Package 2. Completed July 2013.

TRANSIT PROJECTS IMPLEMENTED OR UNDER CONSTRUCTION

- Bus Pullout Package #4, 5th St./Alvernon (SB). Completed May 2013.
- Bus Pullout Package #5
- Craycroft/29th, Northbound and Eastbound. Completed December 2012.
- Completion of streetcar maintenance and storage facility.

ROADWAY PROJECTS IN DESIGN

- Tangerine Corridor, La Cañada to Twin Peaks/Dove Mountain
- Valencia Rd, Mark to Wade
- Valencia Rd, Wilmot to Kolb
- Silverbell, Grant to Goret
- Wilmot, end of paved road to Sahuarita Rd
- Houghton, Valencia to I-10
- Grant Road, Stowe to Park
- Sunset Road, Silverbell to I-10
- Downtown Links, Broadway to St. Mary's
- 22nd Street, Kino to Tucson Blvd.
- Kolb Road, Sabino Canyon extension

ROADWAY PROJECTS IN PLANNING

- Broadway Blvd., Country Club to Euclid



CROSSWALK AT SAHUARA AND PIMA

RTA PROJECTS COMPLETED THROUGH FY 2012-13

PLAN ELEMENT	
ROADWAY	
Total Roadway	13
SAFETY	
Intersection	103
Elderly & Pedestrian	95
Bus Pullouts	87
Railroad Bridge	7
Signal Technology	58
Total Safety	350
ENVIRONMENTAL & ECONOMIC VITALITY	
Greenways, Bikeways, Pathways & Sidewalks	82
Transportation-related Critical Wildlife Linkages	7
Total Environmental & Economic Vitality	89
TRANSIT	
Weekday Evening	21*
Weekday Service	23
Bus Frequency & Overcrowding Relief	8**
Park 'n Ride Transit Centers	6***
Neighborhood Circulator	12
High Capacity Streetcar	0
Express Service	7
Special Needs	3
Maintenance Storage Facility	1
Total Transit	81
Grand Total	533

* 21 routes received weekday evening service, fully implementing this service expansion

** 7 routes received overcrowding relief; construction of a bus maintenance facility was completed in October 2009

*** Includes completed temporary lots



TUCSON STREETCAR ON CUSHING ST. BRIDGE

**FY 2012-13 RTA FINANCIAL STATEMENT
YEAR ENDED JUNE 30**

REVENUES		(000s)
Sales Tax	\$	71,164
Program	\$	5,966
Grants	\$	811
Bond/Investment	\$	327
Total Revenues	\$	78,268

EXPENDITURES	
ROADWAY IMPROVEMENTS	
Total Roadway	\$ 55,116

SAFETY	
Intersection	\$ 2,161
Transit Corridor Bus Pullouts	\$ 1,516
Elderly & Pedestrian	\$ 1,071
At-grade Rail/Bridge Deficiencies	\$ 256
Signal Technology	\$ 494
Total Safety	\$ 5,498

ENVIRONMENTAL & ECONOMIC VITALITY	
Greenways, Bikeways, Pathways & Sidewalks	\$ 1,610
Transportation-related Critical Wildlife Links	\$ 321
Small Business Assistance	\$ 767
Total Environmental & Economic Vitality	\$ 2,698

TRANSIT	
Sun Tran Services Expansion	\$ 11,613
Special Needs	\$ 5,772
New Express Buses	\$ 1,328
Neighborhood Circulator	\$ 2,937
Modern Streetcar	\$ 9,544
Park & Rides	\$ 261
Total Transit	\$ 31,455

Administration Expenses*	\$ 13,666
Total Expenditures	\$ 108,433
Surplus/(Deficit)**	(\$ 30,165)
Year-end Fund Balance	\$ 123,752

* Includes bond principal, interest and administration costs

** Covered by surplus fund balance

RTA Projects Starting in FY 2013-14

ROADWAY IMPROVEMENTS

- Magee Road, La Cañada Drive to Oracle. Commenced October 2013. Estimated completion April 2015.
- Valencia Road, Alvernon to Wilmot. Commenced November 2013.
- Sahuarita Rd, Nogales Highway to Country Club. Construction to begin in early 2014.
- Houghton, Broadway to 22nd St.

INTERSECTION IMPROVEMENTS

- La Villita Rd/Rancho Sahuarita Blvd intersection.
- Tanque Verde/Pima Intersection.

ELDERLY & PEDESTRIAN SAFETY

- Cañada Del Oro shared use path (Oro Valley). Design completed May 2013. Construction project bid June/July 2013.
- Manzanita Safe Routes to School. Commencing January 2014. Estimated completion March 2014.
- Summerhaven Sidewalks. Completed Oct. 2013.
- Palo Verde HAWKS at Alvord and Milton. Construction starting April 2014.
- Orange Grove Bike Lanes: Oracle to Camino de Zorrela. Commenced November 2013. Estimated completion February 2014.
- Homer Davis, Safe Routes to Schools. Commenced June 2013. Estimated completion January 2014.
- Centennial Elementary & Flowing Wells Jr. High, Safe Routes to School Enhancement. Commenced December 2013.
- Pantano River Park Design, Speedway to 5th Street wash. Commenced March 2014. Estimated completion December 2014.
- Harrison Rd, Bike Lanes, Sabino Canyon High School. Commencing May 2014.

BUS PULLOUTS

- 12 pullouts on Oracle Road Corridor.
- 5 pullouts on Speedway Corridor.
- 6 pullouts on 6th Ave Corridor.
- 1 pullout on 1st Ave Corridor.
- 1 pullout on Harrison Rd Corridor.

CRITICAL WILDLIFE LINKAGES

- SR 77 Wildlife Crossing Improvements, Oracle Road Overpass.
- SR 86 Wildlife Crossing Improvements, Santa Rosa & Kitt Peak Washes.

TRANSIT

- Continuing integration of customer service, fare collection and schedule coordination between Sun Shuttle, Sun Express, Sun Tran.
- Streetcar line construction completed.
- Ongoing testing and certification of modern streetcar system and vehicles; 2 streetcars in testing, service expected in summer 2014.



MAGEE RD. / LA CHOLLA BLVD. INTERSECTION

Regional Transportation Authority of Pima County

Pima County voters approved the 20-year, \$2.1 billion Regional Transportation Authority plan in May 2006. The plan is funded by a half-cent excise tax. The RTA is the fiscal manager of the plan and member jurisdictions manage the bulk of the plan elements. The four element areas include roadway, safety, transit, and environmental and economic vitality projects and services. The RTA Board is comprised of members of local, state and tribal governments.

The RTA Board established a Citizens Accountability for Regional Transportation (CART) Committee to oversee plan implementation. The Technical Management Committee provides technical advice.

FY 2012-13 RTA PLAN HIGHLIGHTS

The 2012-13 fiscal year was a peak building period for the Regional Transportation Authority with over \$200 million in open construction projects. Projects ranged from intersection work at Oracle and Ina for the first indirect left intersection to major roadway projects, such as the second phase of Downtown Links, from Interstate 10 to Church Avenue. The largest project under way included the installation of the Tucson modern streetcar track and renewed roadway infrastructure, including utilities along the 3.9-mile route.

Construction of bus pullouts, viewed as popular projects by the public when the RTA plan was developed, continued in the past year. Pedestrian construction continued at a strong pace, including such projects as a high-intensity activated crosswalk, also known as a HAWK, installed at La Cholla and Ocelot. Safety and environmental projects were completed for less than original estimates, allowing jurisdictions to redistribute the available funds for more projects.

The RTA also assumed the lead managing role in the Valencia, Wilmot to Kolb, project, which previously was managed by Pima County.

On the Broadway, Euclid to Country Club, project, the RTA Board approved an intergovernmental agreement with the City of Tucson to reallocate \$2 million in advance right-of-way funds toward project planning.

The RTA began a review of project categories, starting with a report on Intersection Safety and Capacity Upgrades and has completed seven reports to date. The reports include project overviews, status to date information, individual project scopes and budgets, and actual cost of the projects. The reports show that projects have been delivered on time and on budget. All project reviews are available online at www.RTAmobility.com.

In addition to highlights shared below, please see the FY 2012-13 Project Status on previous page spread for a list of other major activities in the past year.



ORO VALLEY BIKE LANES

STREETCAR

The economic impact of the Tucson modern streetcar is taking hold. To date, more than \$800 million has been generated in public and private sector investment along the route.

A majority of the construction of the streetcar track occurred during the fiscal year as well as the bulk of the construction of the Sun Link Maintenance and Operations Facility. Construction included utility work, installation of rail and the overhead electric system and streetcar stops. Landscape work is currently being completed.

Representatives from the RTA and City of Tucson, co-managers of the project, visited OIW in Portland, Ore., to oversee manufacturing of eight streetcar vehicles, with the first vehicle delivery in August 2013. A celebration with several hundred people, including local, state and federal dignitaries, welcomed the first vehicle to Tucson. Streetcar operations are expected to begin in the summer of 2014.

Sun Link will provide streetcar services to the 100,000 people who live and work near the streetcar line. The streetcar, which runs on electric power, will connect to Sun Tran, the region's mass transit system, and Cat Tran, the University of Arizona's transit service.

TRANSIT

The RTA plan provides enhanced transit service in the Tucson region by expanding Sun Tran's operating area and times and funding and managing Sun Shuttle services. Sun Shuttle includes both a

regional circulator system that brings regular fixed-route service to regional municipalities and communities, and Dial-a-Ride service providing origin-to-destination trips within defined service boundaries.

Since beginning service in 2006, Sun Shuttle has steadily grown in service area and ridership. The past year saw a 12 percent ridership growth driven in large part by the success of the Oro Valley Dial-a-Ride service and the growing popularity of the newest neighborhood circulator operating in the Civano/Rita Ranch area. The RTA also enhanced the service it provides between Tucson and Ajo with the introduction of two new Sun Shuttle branded vehicles, providing enhanced customer comfort along the renamed route 486.

MAINSTREET

When the RTA plan was developed, funding for small business assistance was included to assist businesses before and during construction projects. Businesses that are within ¼-mile of a project are eligible for MainStreet's Small Business Assistance program services.

The program is funded as part of the Environmental and Economic Vitality element of the RTA plan. Services are provided at no cost to the businesses.

MainStreet's "private sector" consulting team combines over 200 years of direct business experience with over 50 years of construction mitigation experience at its disposal. Over 4,500 businesses on or near RTA projects have used the MainStreet program since its inception.





KINO AT 22ND ST.



PUBLIC ART AT LA CHOLLA AND MAGEE



LA CHOLLA BRIDGE



GRANT/ORACLE INDIRECT LEFT

*Front cover photos clockwise from top:
Tucson Streetcar, first daylight testing;
Tucson Streetcar maintenance facility;
Twin Peaks at Linda Vista Blvd.; New Hawk
crossing at Speedway Blvd. and 10th Ave.;
last weld of streetcar tracks on Congress St.*