

PORA Sun Cities Transit Committee Minutes for

Meeting October 13, 2020, 10:00 am

Members Present: Kathy Chandler, Deeann Hoover, Kate King, JR Reese, Pam Schwartz, Yasmina Snider

Members Absent: Carmen Reid, Harry Abramowski, Barbara Horton, Maureen Lansing, Trudy Ware

Minutes

Members present approved the minutes to the 9/17/20 SCTC meeting

General Discussion

A wide range of topics were discussed, including:

- Kate should email a copy of SCTC's comments on the MAG/Valley Metro Survey & Options document to legislators covering our districts as well as to Supervisor Hickman. The email will note that members of our Committee would like to meet with them after the elections. District 21 (SC) House: includes Kevin Payne & Tony Rivero Senate: Rick Gray District 22 (SCW) House: Frank Carroll & Ben Toma Senate: David Livingston
- Miscellaneous comments about the above legislators included: **Senator Gray** is very supportive of transit in the Sun Cities; **Senator Livingston** is head of the Transit Committee in the Legislature this year, & very interested in "getting something going [re: transit in the Sun Cities]"; **Supervisor Hickman** is on the Transit Committee, which includes members of both the House & Senate.
- While the article in the *Independent* that Kate sent the SCTC members is correct that cities are already submitting proposals for using Prop 400 extension funds [which has not been submitted to much less passed by the Legislature!], NWVC had additional information about the Prop 400 extension. *Specifically, MAG has \$50 to \$60 billion in projects submitted and a \$40 billion deficit. And they (MAG) don't want to drop a bill with the Legislation or Senate next year but want to wait.*
This news suggests that the SCTC has time to meet with Legislators to request they incorporated important revisions into the Prop 400 extension legislation before it is submitted to the Legislature for a vote.
- The SCTC then reviewed the two recommendations it had submitted to MAG/Valley Metro that addressed necessary changes to the Prop 400 extension. Such changes would enable the Sun Cities & other unincorporated jurisdictions in the county to compete for Valley Metro/MAG resources.

- Assure that language for a Proposition 400 extension includes funding to support transit options **in neighborhoods**.
 - Have the State Legislature **mandate a Transit Planner and the funding for it** to handle transit planning responsibilities for unincorporated county areas.
- Members also discussed a concern of Maricopa County & an issue that was raised by its Human Services Director in a conversation with Kathy Chandler. Specifically, Transit Planning is not within its scope of work, and therefore it doesn't have a place in its organizational structure for such a position. Kathy stated she believed there were ample places for such a position, such as in the Dept of Transportation.

Next Steps

The Committee members identified 3 next steps:

1. Kate will email a copy of our VM/MAG comments to our Legislators, & notify them that we want to meet with them after the elections to discuss transit issues.
2. Schedule meetings after the elections with appropriate Legislators to discuss our preference for circulators in the Sun Cities & necessary changes to the Prop 400 extension.
3. Educate residents in the Sun Cities through multiple channels, including meetings, SCW radio channel, *The Independent* newspaper, and PSAs, about the need for transit/circulators in our areas and funding stream options to address those needs.

Members then brainstormed on possible audiences to educate, identifying churches, select clubs such as the Republican & Democratic ones, library, the Posse, & HOVs.

Members also agreed that *consistent messaging on transit issues in the SC/SCW* was critically important. To achieve this, we will begin developing speaking points & responses to issues, etc at our next meetings. Ideas to incorporate include: a sense of urgency about the transit issue; use the human experience of isolation during the pandemic as an example of how folks without transit feel; include testimonials from individuals without transit (how to get these?)

Next Meeting: Tuesday, November 10th, at 10:00 a.m at PORA.

Issue: HOW DO WE INCREASE SCTC MEMBERSHIP?

Parking lot issue: need for “transit” flexibility