

PORA Sun Cities Transit Committee Minutes for

Meeting September 17, 2020, 1:30 pm

Members Present: Kathy Chandler, Deeann Hoover, Kate King, Maureen Lansing, Trudy Ware

Members Absent: Pam Schwartz, Carmen Reid, Harry Abramowski, Barbara Horton, JR Reese, Yasmina Snider

Overview

The Committee members first discussed the Public Hearing for the NW Valley Transportation Survey & Implementation Study held on 9/10/20. The basic frustration with the hearing was that **NO FUNDING EXISTS TO SUPPORT ANY OF THE TRANSIT OPTIONS**. Members were concerned that this issue would stop any momentum to develop transit options, especially its preferred circulator, & would relegate the current survey to a shelf as was seemingly the case for previous studies.

Kathy and Trudy began a discussion of several funding strategies that had been discussed in the community and the issues they addressed. Members then decided the draft comments submission to the NW Valley Transportation Survey & Implementation Study should be expanded to include the list of funding strategies discussed. The Committee could then use the list to advocate for funding for transit options. These include:

Funding Options:

1. Incorporate the two Sun Cities areas so they will have the options the cities have to hire a transit planner and look at a transit tax.

Next Steps:

- a. Share survey and plan with PORA and SCHOA Boards to discuss moving forward.
 - b. Hire a transit planner to develop plans, find funding and be included in MAG's regional planning.
2. Develop a special taxing district in the Sun Cities areas for transit.

Next Steps:

- a. Taxing district has to be put together by State Legislature and Senate

- b. Hire a transit planner to develop plans, find funding and be included in MAG's regional planning.
3. Have the State Legislature and Senate mandate a County Transit Planner and the funding for it to handle these and other county areas not included in the cities.

Next Steps:

- a. Send suggestions for this idea to the representatives and senators of our districts.
4. Change the process that MAG and Valley Metro use to plan to a regional planning process like other large cities have.

Next Steps:

- a. Investigate what the planning in other large cities looks like to include in suggestions to MAG's Transportation Policy Committee to review.
 - b. Request the Board at MAG and Valley Metro review and discuss the idea of how this would benefit the whole Metro Phoenix Area.
5. Assure that language for a new Proposition 400 includes funding to support transit options in neighborhoods.

Next Steps:

- a. Send suggested language to the representatives and senators of our districts to incorporate into new Proposition 400 legislation.

Next Meeting: October 13th at 10:00 a.m.