



**SMART GROWTH FOCUS AREA:
Public Facilities and Infrastructure Policy Working Group Meeting
March 16, 2012**

Meeting Notes

Underserved Areas:

- Underserved areas/ neighborhoods right in our midtown area
- Dealing with unmet needs
- Evaluate existing conditions and unmet infrastructure in existing areas
- Let's reassess needs for facilities and infrastructure
- Leave downtown on its own
- When we identify those needs, prioritized, impacts of projects on other departments
- City services should level the discrepancies between different neighborhoods - City could have a scaled matching program for different neighborhoods
- Parks and Rec goal to deliver equitably - offended about the reduction of open space available at Reid Park – (Miramonte Pocket Park)
- Improvement districts kinds of things - Internal service find concept

Maintenance:

- Quality is a major thing as well – Build things that will last – think safety
- Lots of infrastructure is not conforming – Need a policy about annexation
- CIPs have changed – focus more on maintenance of what we have, infrastructure replacement of what we have
- We have CIPs pretty regularly, but we haven't taken care of the facilities we already have – we should reinforce the concept of sustainability
- Two radical different issues: -Maintenance -Deficiencies
- Separate capacity expansion and maintenance
- Maintenance is never part of grant
- One of the polices should be including what the maintenance/operation costs will be - We don't have any standards for those estimates
- Capital improvements not included- in the 68% restricted and 32% unrestricted – Only for operation activities
- Grants are for shaping policy
- Would like to see basic policy that encapsulates what's going to cost, what are the funding sources – what are the life cycles
- Demonstrate projects' cost of life
- How is the city budget created - find efficient ways to maintain our systems

Funding:

- Idea of cost-matching should exist to be equitable
- Nobody does it better than TFD – allocates based on humanity – fire first/ police first
- We don't change what things cost – As costs are changing, less capacity improvements – things go to maintenance- no capacity to tax other forms of energy
- Look at other fund sources
- We're too concerned about who's going to pay the bill
- Budget needs to be put forward – not just on yearly basis
- Start building option of finding sources

Prioritize Spending:

- Require some kind of template that all departments have to follow about facility's needs – maintenance vs. inadequate level of services – Less focus on capacity expansion.
- In the next 10 years: challenge of funding the \$ to pay for what we have right now – Maintenance cost, will keep going up
- Balance and understand balance of cost of maintaining, adequate capacity expansion - Some already happens
- Where do you put your dollars? – Where do you get most Bang for your Buck?
- We need to live within our means
- What services do you want to provide? And at what level?
- Need to convey message the longer you delay maintaining, the more expensive will be later on–Deferred maintenance
- We need to know the life-cycle cost
- We need to plan for uncertainty
- Is there some structure on how decision-making is done?
- It's done incrementally and by each department
- At the end is a political decision
- Consider consolidation of projects – to minimize expenditure

Public/Private Partnership:

- How do we partner in the partner enterprises? Economic benefit- Especially if you don't know what costs will be in the future
- Managing home owner associations- we don't have how the HOAs are participating in the maintenance and improvements of neighborhood infrastructure
- How do you manage various income levels in HMOs throughout various neighborhoods?
- Repurposing – old strip malls – old churches – cant waist that opportunity
- Developing “teams” - if you can identify the “real” necessity
- Rather than securing private/ public partnerships for the short term – public to be engages in the funding sources identification

Planning:

- None of the plans considers phasing of infrastructure – incremental or “modular” approach should be part of the equation.
- There is a paradigm shift – “development ready” is no longer feasible, especially now-a-days.
- But there is a timing issue – infrastructure planning is a much longer process – a paradigms change along the way. Infrastructure is a moving target.
- Plan Tucson could identify “trigger points”. That would be useful.
- Optimization of systems is key for effective system performance.
- A clear inventory of existing infrastructure is needed.
- Abandon the CIP – If we’re planning for a 25 year roadmap – we need to rethink things on a small modular basis
- Land use and Transportation need to be integrated
- City as a whole need to assess infrastructure projects – effectiveness in serving the population
- Rethink our assets
- Full cost recovery for all capacity expansion
- Lack of long-range plan
- Go back and look at old plans - sometimes doing redundant work
- Are Complete Streets part of PAG’s (Pima Association of Governments) interests?
- Repurposed parking spaces for livable uses is a trend to be considered.
- Another trend is the use of neighborhood parks for the production of food.
- Why does PAG exist? Federal transportation moneys are given back to jurisdictions. Federal mandate if you are 50,000 or more in population, a metropolitan transportation planning organization is needed.
- Innovation should be part of the process in infrastructure and facilities planning.
- We need to think in terms of the possibility of major innovations that will reduce the need of the use of certain infrastructure and their maintenance costs
- Entire communications buildings need very few space now
- Ways to be creative to make existing neighborhoods more walkable, bikable
- Move to best use of our resources – e.g. if streets were designed to be parkways as well – Community gardens would also help take care of Parks and Rec and Police needs
- Multi-beneficial facilities
- Do more with less
- Alternative systems

Scale:

- Is there anything that talks about decreasing transportation investment? True land use/transportation integration would result in a reduction of trips needed per capita.
- Up and down economic times- easy to scale up when times are up – Downsizing/ downscale to have sustainable city – Challenge for government: going in the opposite direction – Nobody wants to give up existing resources –Easy for government when its new \$/growth departments are not happy about giving up existing funds

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- We need to plan for the most minimum amount possible for new investment – What’s the least that we need? Pay for what we can afford
- Be more holistic and integrated

Education:

- Helping people (the public) understand the regulations, what it takes to
- Realistic understanding of the true costs for the life of the project
- Policy makers need to be educated on how that works
- M&C should help educate people on a regular basis
- People need to see budgets to understand cuts
- Transparency

Population Growth:

- Missing is an analysis of population growth – is there anything in infrastructure studies that considers the impact of population growth on infrastructure?
- If you over-build infrastructure, then you can’t pay for it.
- But undermining population growth could be detrimental for Tucson’s economic prosperity.
- Variable population growth rates should be considered.

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