

**MINUTES
JOINT MARANA/ORO VALLEY TOWN COUNCIL
STUDY SESSION
FEBRUARY 9, 2011
MARANA COUNCIL CHAMBERS
11555 W. CIVIC CENTER DRIVE, MARANA, AZ**

CALL TO ORDER AND ROLL CALL

Mayor Honea called the meeting to order at 6:01 PM.

ROLL CALL – Town of Marana

Present: Ed Honea, Mayor
Russell Clanagan, Councilmember
Patti Comerford, Councilmember
Carol McGorray, Councilmember
Jon Post, Councilmember

Excused: Herb Kai, Vice Mayor
Roxanne Ziegler, Councilmember

ROLL CALL – Town of Oro Valley

Present: Satish Hiremath, Mayor
Mary Snider, Vice Mayor
Bill Garner, Councilmember
Barry Gillaspie, Councilmember
Joe Hornat, Councilmember
Steve Solomon, Councilmember
Lou Waters, Councilmember

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE/INVOCATION/MOMENT OF SILENCE

Mayor Honea led the audience in the Pledge of Allegiance and a Moment of Silence.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

The agenda was approved by unanimous consent of all Councilmembers.

D1: Presentation: Relating to Economic Development on potential partnerships between the towns of Oro Valley and Marana for tourism development and promotion.

Marana's Assistant to the Town Manager Josh Wright stated that both Oro Valley and Marana have some of the nicest hotels and resorts in Pima County which draw visitors from all over the world, specifically the El Conquistador in Oro Valley and the Ritz Carleton in Marana.

Mr. Wright said that both municipalities benefit from outstanding recreational opportunities such as golfing, hiking, and biking and in order to create a tourist plan, it is imperative to focus on these amenities that everyone enjoys.

Oro Valley's Economic Development Manager Amanda Jacobs stated that the Town of Oro Valley and the Town of Marana have already started to work on a couple of projects. The first project is the Arizona Centennial. The Oro Valley communications staff has been working on different events for the Arizona Centennial and opportunities to joint campaign with Marana on this event.

Ms. Jacobs exclaimed that the second project that both municipalities have been working on is to highlight the hiking trails within Oro Valley and Marana in order to create an extensive trail map which will be distributed to hotels/resorts within both communities.

Lastly, Ms. Jacobs said that they attended an ASU class last week which was led by Dr. Tim Tyrrell, Professor of Tourism, Development and Management. The class recently completed an assessment of Maricopa and they are now looking to conduct research regarding possible tourism attractions and joint opportunities that may exist between the Town of Oro Valley and the Town of Marana. The assessment should be completed by the end of May.

Ms. Jacobs stated that she and Mr. Wright visited the City of Chandler in August in order to gain insight into their visitors program. Ms. Jacobs recommended that in the long-term, a visitor's guide be created that highlights dining and recreational opportunities within Oro Valley and Marana as well as highlighting signature events such as Accenture Match Play, Ironkids, and the Duathlon.

Mayor Hiremath asked if there was a regional or national marketing plan in place for Marana or Oro Valley. Assistant to the Town Manager Josh Wright stated that Marana staff has considered regional and national marketing plans and they will be working with ASU to review their assessment once it's complete. Also, Mr. Wright pointed out the strengths in the City of Chandler's visitors program and stated that they will be looking at their program in hopes of getting some really good ideas that can be utilized by the Town of Marana.

Councilmember Waters asked what will be included in the ASU assessment.

Dr. Tim Tyrrell stated that the class will be assessing environmental attractions and socio and cultural resources. The first step consists of gathering information to see what is actually there, then once that is known, a survey will be sent out to

residents to find out what they want to have. After that is completed, recommendations will be drafted.

Councilmember Garner asked Mr. Wright about the maps that were distributed to local hotels and inquired as to how the Town will gauge the success of the program.

Assistant to the Town Manager Josh Wright stated that the Town of Marana already has a hiking brochure which has been distributed all around the region. The response has been fantastic. Performance measurements will be looked at down the road in order to gauge the success of the program.

Mayor Honea said that he is excited about partnering with the Town of Oro Valley for tourism development. If information pertaining to both Towns is incorporated together, it will draw a lot more people to the area.

Mayor Hiremath said that collaboration is important and that it is "ok" to partner together to create the success needed in order to serve the citizens of both communities.

D2: Presentation: Relating to Transportation regarding the Tangerine Corridor project.

Town of Marana General Manager of Public Services Ms. Barbara Johnson stated that many years ago, when the RTA was voted on, people with vision submitted the Tangerine Road Corridor project, from I-10 to Oracle Road. The Town of Marana and the Town of Oro Valley are currently in the process of defining what each community wants to see in the Corridor and to make sure that the project flows smoothly and serves the needs of the citizens.

Ms. Johnson stated that the Town of Marana is currently in the process of preparing the Design Concept Report (DCR) which includes safety and design criteria for: roadway features, access control, estimated cost, traffic studies, speed limits, right-of-way requirements, environmental aspects, utility relocations and much more.

The current design elements consists of: safety improvements that will eliminate dip sections and sight distance problems, drainage structures to provide all-weather access and allow wildlife to cross the road, bike lanes in each direction, sidewalks and improved ADA accessibility, intersection improvements, right-of-way acquisition, and relocation of overhead power lines and other utilities.

Ms. Johnson discussed the community and economic benefits of the Tangerine Corridor project which includes:

- 1) Opens key opportunities between Oro Valley and Marana
- 2) Connects two high-tech sectors
- 3) Oro Valley's Innovation Park and biotechnology cluster
- 4) Marana's Technology Nexus at Tangerine and I-10
- 5) Reduced travel times yields improved safety and air quality
- 6) Corridor opens I-10 to State Route 77
- 7) Launches State Land development opportunities
- 8) Wildlife Preservation, AZ Game & Fish

Ms. Johnson gave an overview of the progress made thus far and stated that the following items will be completed next month:

- Draft Geotechnical Report
- Existing Hydrology Report
- Traffic Study
- Initial Project Website

Oro Valley Town Engineer Craig Civalier gave an overview of the funding sources and stated that RTA funding is at \$45.3M and local funding consists of \$28.9M. The project is currently estimated at \$93M.

Mr. Civalier discussed the project milestones noted below.

- Design of the first segment would likely start in 2012
- Construction of the first segment should begin prior to 2016 to meet the RTA commitment of construction in the 2nd period (2011-2016)
- Other segments would be constructed in periods 3 and 4 of the RTA (2016-2021, and 2021-2026, respectively)

Mr. Civalier gave an overview of the two different cross sections and stated that the transition point between the Marana section and the Oro Valley section will take place somewhere around Thornydale Road. Each section is multi-modal which encourages citizens to walk and bike.

Councilmember Clanagan asked if there will be any education or communication to the citizens that live along the Thornydale/Tangerine Roads about what and when they can expect these improvements to be made.

Town Engineer Craig Civalier said that through this process, the Town will hold public meetings and open houses to educate the citizens.

Councilmember Hornat asked if there will be any other modes of transportation incorporated into the design i.e. light rail, bus stops.

Mr. Civalier explained that there would be enough room available if the Town decided to add a light rail system. There currently are no bus stops planned but

the Town could work with RTA to incorporate a transit system along the corridor project.

Councilmember McGorray complimented the Town of Oro Valley on their work on Tangerine Road from Oracle Road to La Canada Drive and asked if the Town is looking into making the extension from La Canada Drive to I-10 similar.

Town Engineer Craig Civalier stated that the project from 1st Ave to La Canada Drive had some state rights-of-way in there but the project was mainly funded by HURF funds.

Vice Mayor Snider stated that it is important for each community to work together on the Tangerine Corridor project because it is a gateway to both communities.

Councilmember Garner asked about the status of the small section of Tangerine Road that is owned by Pima County.

Town Engineer Craig Civalier stated that the County would not have their own cross-section and that Oro Valley and Marana will have to negotiate who will acquire the County owned piece.

Councilmember Gillaspie suggested that both Councils should start thinking about land use options because the Tangerine Corridor project will be a tremendous tool for economic development.

Town of Marana General Manager of Public Services Ms. Barbara Johnson said that that is why it is crucial to overlay the economic development component with the planning component.

Councilmember Solomon stated that it is important to maintain a high speed corridor along Tangerine that will connect Oracle and the I-10.

Town Engineer Craig Civalier stated that speed is an issue that will be addressed by speed studies.

Councilmember Waters asked about the Corridor aesthetics and if the power lines would be grounded.

Town Engineer Craig Civalier stated that it costs roughly \$1 million dollars per mile in order to bury 14kb lines and the cost would be higher to bury the 380kb high tension lines that run along Tangerine Road. Mr. Civalier clarified that the RTA would only help to pay for the burying of the high tension lines if they had prior rights.

Mayor Honea stated that he believes that the Tangerine Road Corridor project has a lot of potential for high end commercial, high end retail, and residential.

D3: Presentation: Relating to Water Resources; regarding cooperative water resource development opportunities for the towns of Marana and Oro Valley and other area water providers.

Town of Marana Utilities Director Dorothy O'Brien stated that the Mission of the towns of Marana and Oro Valley is to provide safe, efficient and reliable water services to customers.

Each Town has a water portfolio that consists of Groundwater, Central Arizona Project water, and reclaimed water to varying degrees and each town belongs to the Water Conservation Alliance of Southern Arizona (Water Casa), Southern Arizona Water Users Association and each participates in Central Arizona Project's Acquire, Develop, and Deliver water project.

Ms. O'Brien discussed the mutual challenges faced by Marana and Oro Valley.

- Ground water regulations
- Increase water conservation
- Central Arizona Groundwater Replenishment District
- Long term need for renewable water supplies

Town of Oro Valley Water Utilities Director Philip Saletta discussed the partnership between the Northwest Water Providers which includes Flowing Wells Irrigation District, Metropolitan Domestic Water Improvement District, and the Towns of Marana and Oro Valley.

Water quality studies are currently being conducted by the four main partners as well as the University of Arizona and Tucson Water to look at reverse osmosis and the management of the salt concentrate which is created through the reverse osmosis process.

Mr. Saletta stated that the town has reviewed studies that looked at the cost to relocate pipelines and where the routing would be and regardless of the routing, it will cost approximately \$1 million/mile depending on the size, diameter, flow rates, and who would share what piece of the pipe.

Mr. Saletta gave an overview of possible future partnership opportunities between Oro Valley and Marana regarding water. One possible option would be to partner to create a recharge and recovery facility. The town is currently looking into developing a demonstration site. Long term, the towns will need to look at where they would like to locate wells. These wells would need to be located close to the recharge facilities. One of the key recharge facilities is the lower Santa Cruz recharge project which is located near the Marana airport.

In addition to recharge and recovery, the town is not ruling out any options for treatment of water off of the canal and may look at the possibility of a water treatment plant near the canal.

Mayor Hiremath asked what is the most important aspect of water that needs to be looked at in the short term.

Town of Marana Utilities Director Dorothy O'Brien stated that the water portfolio for the Town of Marana is not as in depth as Oro Valley's portfolio so they would like to continue to expand their portfolio. It is also important for the Town of Marana to have an adequate distribution system in place in order to meet the growing needs of the community.

Town of Oro Valley Utilities Director Philip Saletta stated that the most important element to Oro Valley's water plan was to be able to obtain a renewable supply of CAP water. Mr. Saletta also stated that water levels in Oro Valley are declining more rapidly than in Marana.

Councilmember Gillaspie asked what the pros/cons are with having a recharge facility in Marana rather than Tucson.

Mr. Saletta said that one of the key elements of recharge and recovery is the location of the lower Santa Cruz facility which is a large facility that many water users can share in. The Town of Oro Valley would like to store water there and retrieve it at a later time. In the short term, there might be availability within Tucson Water's recharge facility.

Ms. O'Brien stated that the Town of Marana is looking at a mutually shared distribution system. It is a lot easier and less expensive to cooperatively partner with other users in order to build and maintain the distribution system.

Mayor Honea said that the Town of Marana and the Town of Oro Valley may want to partner down the road in order to move water over the mountain since it is difficult to get water to the Dove Mountain and Sky Ranch areas.

Mayor Honea thanked everyone for coming and stated that he looks forward to working with the Town of Oro Valley in the future.

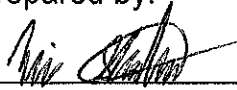
Mayor Hiremath thanked Mayor Honea, the Marana Town Council and staff for reaching out and talking with the Council and staff of the Town of Oro Valley. Mayor Hiremath stated that during these economic times, it's difficult to keep doing things on our own. It's important to form partnerships with communities that have the same goals and demographics.

ADJOURNMENT

MOTION: A motion was made by Oro Valley Councilmember Waters to adjourn the meeting at 7:05 PM, seconded by Marana Councilmember Post.

MOTION carried unanimously.

Prepared by:



Michael Standish, CMC
Deputy Town Clerk

I hereby certify that the foregoing minutes are a true and correct copy of the minutes of the joint study session of the Town of Marana and the Town of Oro Valley held on the 9th day of February 2011. I further certify that the meeting was duly called and held and that a quorum was present.

Dated this 21st day of MARCH, 2011.



Julie K. Bower, MMC
Town Clerk