

**CITY OF BUCKEYE  
COUNCIL WORKSHOP  
JUNE 17, 2014  
MINUTES**

**City Council Chambers  
530 E. Monroe Ave.  
Buckeye, AZ 85326  
4:00 p.m.**

**1. Call to Order/Roll Call**

Mayor Meck called the meeting to order at 4:04 p.m..

Members Present: Councilmember Hess, Councilmember McAchran, Councilmember Heustis, Vice Mayor Orsborn and Mayor Meck.

Members Absent: Councilmember Garza and Councilmember Strauss.

Departments Present: City Manager Stephen Cleveland, Assistant City Manager Roger Klingler, City Attorney Shiela Schmidt, City Clerk Lucinda Aja, Assistant to Council Carol Conley, Fire Chief Bob Costello, Government Relations Manager George Diaz, Economic Development Manager Len Becker, Development Services Director George Flores, Community Services Director Cheryl Sedig, Public Works Director Scott Lowe, Human Resources Director Nancy Love, Technical Services Manager Greg Platacz, Planning Manager Terri Hogan, Library Manager Jana White, Water Resources Director Dave Nigh, Marketing and Communications Manager Jennifer Rogers, City Engineer Scott Zipprich, and Finance Director Larry Price.

**2. ADOT Passenger Rail Corridor Study**

**Staff Liaison: Sean Banda, Development Services Planner**

**District No. All**

Sean Banda opened the presentation and introduced Michael Kies (Director of Planning, ADOT), Carlos Lopez (Rail Planner, ADOT) for the Passenger Rail Corridor Study prepared by ADOT. Preliminary Alternatives for commuting to Tucson including bus and rail opportunities were discussed. Three alternatives are presented that are currently available for public comment prior to making final recommendations. The "green" alternative follows Interstate-10 and is projected to have the lowest ridership potential; the "orange" alternative is also adjacent to Interstate-10 and shares right of way with a North South Corridor currently in the planning process, and is projected to be the highest cost; the "yellow" alternative is adjacent to Union Pacific Corridor that exists from Tucson to Phoenix, and proposes the highest ridership potential and the lowest projected cost. A summary of the level three evaluation is displayed including safety, mobility and financial feasibility; the system is approximately 120 miles. Ridership projections and cost estimates for each alternative are discussed. ADOT has sought and received public input regarding this project through several events and venues. The next steps include concluding public outreach process, completing alternative analysis, draft Tier I Environmental Impact Statement, and finalizing a Service Development Plan. The speed the system may obtain is 125 miles per hour and the intention of the system is to be an alternative to I-10 and should be competitive to that driving time. Clarification was provided regarding access to Gateway Airport. Railroad funding for transit systems was discussed; federal funding requires a local match. The project may be done in specific portions if funding sources are identified. Each mile of the system is estimated to cost approximately \$40 million; the fee commuters may pay is discussed. The system may either be a diesel or electric system. This study is not a duplicate to the one initiated by the Maricopa Association of Governments (MAG), but incorporates the work that was done by MAG. A public private partnership may be utilized to fund the project. The width of corridors for this passenger

rail system is anticipated at being a minimum of 60 feet of right of way and estimated costs include acquiring rights-of-way where necessary. If all funding was available, the time frame for starting the project is estimated to be 8 to 10 years.

**3. Annual Update from the Greater Phoenix Economic Council (GPEC)  
Staff Liaison: Len Becker, Economic Development Director  
District No. N/A**

Len Becker opened the presentation and introduced Jaime Northam (GPEC). Ms. Northam discussed GPEC performance from fiscal year 2008 through fiscal year 2013; service has expanded to six communities; replaced 40% of the private-sector forum; recently named a top ten economic development group for 2013 and number one in Mountain West region for facilities and expansions by Site Selection magazine. Several GPEC initiatives that bring business to Arizona were discussed including the California 50, international strategies and Velocity: Metropolitan Business Plan. Buckeyes investment in GPEC was approximately \$21,000 in 2014; \$24,825 is requested for fiscal year 2015. The five year trend on revenue return was discussed; revenue is estimated at \$44 of direct revenue for every \$1 dollar invested. A variety of services have been implemented including community partnership, evaluation of new technology targets, new research tools and resources, and more targeting marketing in California and Chicago. The fiscal year 2015 Action Plan for Business Development and competitiveness is presented. GPEC offers the city access to unique tools and expertise to attract companies. City of Buckeye prospect activity was presented. Key drivers for prospect include labor, operating costs, real estate, transportation, business climate, community and accessibility to other markets. Users are drawn to Buckeye because of the proximity to California, land supply, land costs, rail-served sites, and convenience to Interstate-10, MC Highway 85 and Loop 303. Buckeye also has a proactive community and foreign trade zone support. Buckeye challenges include infrastructure, lack of existing inventory, lack of shovel-ready sites, perceived smaller residential community and workforce density, and access to labor.

**4. Adjournment**

A motion was made by Vice Mayor Orsborn and seconded by Councilmember Hess to adjourn the meeting at 5:25 p.m. Motion passed unanimously.

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Jackie A. Meck, Mayor

ATTEST:

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Lucinda J. Aja, City Clerk

I hereby certify that the foregoing minutes are a true and correct copy of the Council Workshop held on the 17th day of June, 2014. I further certify that a quorum was present.

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Lucinda J. Aja, City Clerk