Technical Management Committee Meeting | Retreat Summary

Summary of Wednesday, May 13, 2026, Meeting

Full Video Recording (YouTube): at: **https://www.youtube.com/live/6ePGFbaUUbk**

The meeting recording serves as the official minutes of the meeting.

Committee Members Present
Jeremy Moore, ADOT
Sam Credio, City of Tucson
Terry Rozema, Town of Marana
Paul Keesler for Jeff Wilkins, Town of Oro Valley
Josué Licea for Veronica Moreno, South Tucson
Jason Bahe, Pascua Yaqui Tribe
Jan Lesher, Pima County
Shane Dille, Town of Sahuarita
Kristina Swallow, City of Tucson (virtual)
Carmine DeBonis, Pima County
William Carroll
John Bernal
Bob Iannarino

Members Absent
Damascus Francisco, Tohono O'odham Nation
Tim Thomure, City of Tucson
Frank Thomson

Standing Committee Activities

1. Call to Order

The meeting was called to order at 8:40 a.m.

2. Approval of March 18, 2026, TMC Meeting Summary

Action: A motion was made by Terry Rozema, Town of Marana, to approve the Meeting Summary of March 18, 2026. The motion was seconded by Shane Dille, Town of Sahuarita, and unanimously approved.

3. RTA Quarterly Analysis

Video Timestamp: 8:03

RTA Executive Director Michael Ortega introduced the quarterly analysis and provided opening comments regarding the progressively deeper dive into the details surrounding the overall program delivery that started earlier this year. He then introduced Director of Transportation Services Rick Ellis to present.

Video Timestamp: 8:36

Mr. Ellis shared a reminder that the purpose of the quarterly analysis is to provide updates on ongoing project and program activities, financial performance and delivery progress. This reporting activity will highlight any challenges or emerging issues, so the committee is aware of them early, even if no action is needed at this time. The team, which included several RTA staff, then proceeded with the presentation, including key financial and project highlights.

Following the presentation staff addressed committee questions related to transit allocations, possibilities of expansion, and the possibility of reinstating fare revenues either holistically, or on a jurisdiction basis.

Discussion and feedback were provided by the TMC, but no action was taken.

4. TMC retreat

Video Timestamp: 31:18

The meeting then transitioned into the retreat format with discussion surrounding a broader range of topics and in a more open conversational forum. The following topics were introduced and/or presented and discussed:

a. Mr. Ortega opened the discussion by reminding the committee of the magnitude of the delivery challenge, which equates to roughly four times the highest production year achieved, and that it will need to be sustained over the full 20-year plan duration. He emphasized the importance of doing things differently and highlighted the need to work together to make this all come together. He also restated the challenge is to complete all RTA 2006 plan projects by 2031, and the overall RTA 2026 plan program within 18 years.

Video Timestamp: 36:15

b. The next topic was an overview of the IGA refinements, and Mr. Ortega introduced Director of Outreach Melanie Lawson to present. Ms. Lawson shared an overview of the refinements being proposed to the overall process, highlighting the use of the IGA to establish the relationship, and then using individual charters to handle projects and program activities. She also provided a couple of specific examples to show the versatility of the tools. The authority to approve the IGAs would remain with the elected bodies, but the authority to approve the charters would be delegated to the Executive Director of the RTA and to a designee of the jurisdiction, e.g. , the Town Manager, or Administrator.

   Following the presentation, staff addressed committee questions related to the listing of projects, escalation of issues, need for collaboration in developing the charters, disposition of any surplus funds, ability to adjust timing of funding, projects with multiple partners and the possible need to have multiple parties approve, and the possible need for a more unique version with the Arizona Department of Transportation (ADOT). At the conclusion of the discussion, the committee agreed that it would be beneficial to convene the TMC Policy Subcommittee to review, discuss and make final recommendations on the charter template and IGA format.

   Video Timestamp: 1:11:20

c. Mr. Ortega then introduced the next topic, which is a review of the overall cash flow, particularly highlighting the first 10 years. Mr. Ortega introduced RTA Budget Manager James Towe to provide an overview of the details.

   Following the presentation, staff addressed committee questions related to anticipated bonding including timing, potential tradeoffs, relationship to project timeframes and delivery schedules, and when cash flow will return to a more stabilized condition.

[Video Timestamp: 1:24:08]

d. Mr. Ortega then introduced the next topic, which was an update on the activities regarding the ongoing coordination with ADOT on the 20-year planning of the Resource Allocation Advisory Committee (RAAC) funding. Mr. Ortega introduced Program and Policy Manager Adam Ledford to provide a presentation of the details regarding the estimated timeframes for the five RTA interchange projects and the integration with the other projects on the ADOT highway system.

   Following the presentation, staff addressed committee questions related to timing and sequencing of the various interstate projects, along with the interchange projects, particularly advancing the Cortaro Road project.

   [Video Timestamp: 1:37:49]

e. Mr. Ortega then introduced the next topic, which was an overview of the continuing conversation regarding RTA's role in delivery. Mr. Ortega emphasized that the RTA is going to transition from primarily a funding role to being a more active participant working in partnership with the jurisdictions to deliver the program. He emphasized that we are looking for suggestions and feedback from the jurisdictional partners on any potential opportunities, and with regard to timing, the sooner the better.

f. Mr. Ortega then introduced the next topic, which was an overview of the Advance Delivery Team. He also asked Mr. Ellis to expand on the purpose of and updates on the solicitation efforts currently underway.

   Following the presentation staff addressed committee questions related to eligibility of firms for future projects, anticipated deliverables, need to emphasize focus on utilities plus railroad as both have traditionally affected project delivery, funding to pay for these efforts and activities, and the need for frequent updates on cost trends. At the conclusion of the discussion, the City of Tucson and Pima County members asked if the solicitation materials could be provided to them for awareness and any comments, feedback and/or input.

g. Mr. Ortega then asked if there were any other delivery thoughts, suggestions or requests from the committee members. Suggestions included the following:
    i. Members would like to see RTA develop a database of costs.
    ii. RTA staff to help identify federal funding for projects well in advance.
        1. Note: This effort is already underway being led by the PAG/RTA programming team.

    [Video Timestamp: 2:11:11]

h. Mr. Ortega then introduced the next topic, which was an overview of the proposed committee restructuring, based on a request made by the Regional Council to look at the current committee structure and identify potential recommendations. Mr. Ortega then introduced Communications Director Sheila Storm to present.

    Following the presentation, committee members expressed appreciation for this effort. Staff addressed committee questions related to timing of this effort and gave a reminder that the TMC and CART Committee have unfiltered access directly to the RTA Board, and the need to show in the documents that there is ongoing communication that takes place between the executive director, the various committees and the board.

    Action: *At the conclusion, there was a request for a motion to recommend this proposed committee restructuring and ask staff to develop the accompanying draft bylaws. Motion made by Terry Rozema, Town of Marana, and seconded by Sam Credio, City of Tucson, and unanimously approved.*

Mr. Ortega then concluded the agenda item with the following:

1. Introducing Greg Byres as the new Deputy Executive Director.
2. Expressing appreciation for the committee members' participation, along with all the staff that have been so actively involved for both RTA, as well as the jurisdictions.
3. Looking to replicate this information and discussion at the RTA Board level, but that is proving to be challenging due to schedules, and the retreat will now likely happen later this summer, possibly in July or August.
4. Will be considering how to coordinate the rotation of the TMC chair position to coincide with the chair position for the PAG Regional Council as well as RTA Board so there is consistency and alignment.

5. Future Agenda Items

There were no agenda items requested.

6. Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 11:00 a.m.