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Citizens Accountability for Regional Transportation (CART) Committee Meeting Summary

Summary of Noon, September 9, 2026, Meeting

The meeting was held in person and electronically and can be viewed in its entirety at: https://www.youtube.com/live/_QlBazTF7X8

The audio recording serves as the official minutes.

Committee Members Present	Members Absent
Chris Albright	Lisa Hagins
Melissa Andrade	Erin Pazos
Deanette Bewley	
Vanessa Cascio	
Vanessa Gallego	
Gene Kunde	
Ryan Mackey	
Fred Narcaroti	
Ana Olivares	
Jim Olson	
Kyle Snowden	
Amanda Wiggins	

1. Call to Order

The meeting was called to order by RTA Executive Director Mike Ortega at 12:00 p.m.

2. Staff and Committee Introductions

Committee members and staff introductions were conducted.

3. **Election of Officers**

Video Timestamp: 2:05

RTA Executive Director Mike Ortega reviewed the officer roles and bylaws of the Citizens Accountability for Regional Transportation committee, including term length and appointment. Members were asked to nominate and take action on the election of officers.

***Action*:** A motion was made by Kelle Maslyn to nominate Fred Narcaroti as Chair. This motion was seconded by Deanette Bewley. After brief discussion, an additional motion to nominate Vanessa Cascio as Chair was made by Vanessa Gallego and seconded by Gene Kunde. The motion to nominate Fred Narcaroti as Chair passed with 8 in favor, 5 opposed, and 1 abstention.

Action: A motion was made by Kelle Maslyn to nominate Chris Albright as Vice Chair. This motion was seconded by Deanette Bewley. After brief discussion, an additional motion to nominate Vanessa Cascio as Vice Chair was made by Vanessa Gallego and seconded by Gene Kunde. The motion to nominate Chris Albright as Vice Chair passed with 7 in favor, 6 opposed, and 1 abstention.

4. **RTA Quarterly Report**

Video Timestamp: 12:14

RTA Executive Director Mike Ortega began the discussion with a brief review of the purpose of the Quarterly Report. Additionally, members were informed of the efforts made into creating the quarterly report and were requested to provide feedback at any time for any additional information to be included.

Deputy Executive Director, Business and Finance Greg Byres began the quarterly report with a review of what will be included in the report. This included information on the streamlined IGA process, advances on the delivery team, advances on right of way acquisitions, updates on utility engagement, process mapping activities, and delivery partnerships for First Avenue, Houghton Road, and other jurisdictional projects.

After a brief introduction, Director of Strategic Planning, Programming and Policy Jaime Brown and Budget Manager James Towe provided the members with an in-depth review of the RTA financial overview. Mr. Towe reviewed the projected revenues, which included comparing the FY 2026 excise tax revenues, EBRC pessimistic forecast, and EBRC baseline forecast. In addition, members reviewed the FY 2026 RTA 1 budget, including fund balances and expenditures. Mr. Brown informed the members of upcoming financial activities, such as the University of Arizona Eller EBRC updates, the FY 2028 to FY 2032 Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) development, and rebalancing of the programming for RTA 1 roadway projects to include RTA 2 projects through formal TIP amendments. In addition, Mr. Ortega emphasized to the members the goal of funding and delivery of RTA 1 projects by the end of year 5.

Kyle Snowden inquired about preparations for possible funding shortfalls due to economic downturns. Mr. Ortega informed the members that the current RTA plan was built with a pessimistic revenue budget in mind and anticipate generating revenue above that baseline. Mr. Snowden further inquired about above baseline funding usage should revenues exceed the anticipated values. Mr. Ortega informed the members that the current RTA project list does have a potential revenue allocation for each project should funding come in above the baseline.

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Chair Fred Narcaroti inquired about the purpose of the residual collections from RTA 1. Mr. Towe informed the members that those values are based on the Arizona Department of Revenue's calculations based on the contingency that some activity was conducted during RTA 1.

Continuing the report, Mr. Byres informed the members of current project delivery accountability strategies. Members were informed of 22 KPI standards with the goal of tracking projects' financial status and delivery schedule. In addition, members were informed of staff direction, such as regular meetings with jurisdictional project teams and collaboration to mitigate any schedule and budget changes and explore positive opportunities. Members were also shown an example delivery performance analytics tracker, which included color coded statuses.

Mr. Snowden inquired about the CART's role in ensuring accountability in project delivery. Mr. Ortega informed the members that the CART's role in accountability is community feedback and transparency communicated to the RTA Board.

Following this, members were also provided with updates of current RTA project deliverables. This began with follow-up from June and September inquiries, such as the Sonoran Corridor project, the 2006 plan roadway elements, and transit activities. In addition, members reviewed the 30% design milestone for North First Ave. from Grant Road to River Road. Members were asked to make a recommendation to the board to approve RTA staff as lead partner in the North First Ave project.

Vice Chair Chris Albright inquired about the impacts of rising fuel costs for transit at the jurisdictional level. Mr. Ortega informed the members that fuel costs increases do not affect costs at a jurisdictional level.

Additionally, representatives from Sahuarita and City of Tucson provided updates on their respective RTA projects and roadwork activities. Mr. Ortega and Mr. Byres also reviewed the KPI matrixes for the 2006 RTA projects and current RTA projects.

Members were provided with the opportunity to ask questions and engage in discussion.

This was a possible action item. No action was taken.

5. **30% Design Review for North First Ave. from Grant Road to River Road**

   Video Timestamp: 1:49:19

   After a brief reminder of the 30% design for North First Ave. from Grant Road to River Road, which was reviewed in Item 4, members were asked to recommend to the RTA Board approval of the 30% design for North First Ave., River Road to Grant Road project.

   ***Action*:** A motion was made by Kelle Maslyn to recommend to the RTA Board approval of the North Fist Ave., River Road to Grant Road project. The motion was seconded by Deanette Bowley. The motion passed with 12 in favor, 1 opposed, and 1 abstention.

6. **Future Agenda Items**

   Members requested the following items:

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- A review and update of the current committee Bylaws
- An update of current RTA projects deliveries in Oro Valley

7. Adjournment

A motion to adjourn the meeting was made by Kelle Maslyn and seconded by Chris Albright. The motion passed unanimously and the meeting was adjourned at 1:53 p.m.

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