

**Arizona Department of Transportation (ADOT)
Traffic Systems Management (TSM) Meeting Summary
Tuesday, June 24, 2008, 10-11 a.m.
Interim Traffic Operations Center (ITOC) Conference Room**

Present at Meeting:

- Carondelet – Bill Pike
- City of Tucson – Lucy Amparano
- City of Tucson Fire Department – Pat Quinn
- City of Tucson Police Department – Jerry Skeenes
- Pima County Office of Emergency Management – Jeff Guthrie
- Strongpoint/Carondelet – Becky Rebenstorf
- SunTran – Jim Porta

Attending from the Project Team:

- ADOT – Rossio Araujo, Rod Lane
- ITOC – Will Dobbs, Micah Henry
- Kiewit/Sundt Joint Venture – Alex Lindsey
- Gordley Design Group – Barb Alley, Paki Rico

Materials Distributed

- Agenda
- Traffic alert
- 2008 Fact sheet

Rod Lane, ADOT Resident Engineer, welcomed everyone to the TSM meeting and asked everyone to introduce themselves and their affiliation. After the introductions, Rod started with the project update.

The traffic switch that occurred on the weekend of May 30 went very well and I-10 was opened earlier than expected. All traffic is now traveling on the west side of the interstate north of St. Mary's Road where the new pavement has been poured. Rod stated that the bridge demolitions would take place over the summer months. The bridges at St. Mary's Road and Speedway Boulevard have been torn down. The Grant Road bridge is scheduled for demolition on the weekend of July 11. Once the Grant Road bridge is torn down, the bridge demolition on the north side of the project will be complete. The bridges on the south end of the project will be demolished once the rest of the concrete has been poured. The next traffic switch is scheduled for mid- to late September 2008.

Rod stated that at the beginning of the project, I-10 was closed over a period of three weekends. When the traffic switch occurred the weekend of May 30, the interstate was only closed for one weekend. Rod stated that the traffic switch in September would be the most complicated and challenging switch so far, due to the fact that school will be back

in session, but he believes it will go as smoothly as the prior switches. Rod stated once the traffic switch was scheduled, everyone would be notified.

Rod said that there is still quite a bit of work that needs to be done on the south end of the project for the switch to happen and that the team was committed to staying on schedule. The contractor is pouring 15 inches of concrete, which equates to approximately 30 truck loads a night up and down the frontage road hauling the concrete to the project site. This process will impact the flow of traffic on the frontage roads during the overnight hours. There have been lane closures and traffic signal timing changes in order to keep traffic moving on the frontage road. It is anticipated that the north end of the project will be completed within the next two weeks, at which time the work on the south end will begin.

Rod stated that there are now more emergency access points in the newly paved area of the project. There are now access points at the entrance ramps, when needed, as well as more pullout areas on the interstate. It is not recommended that emergency services personnel use the exit ramps due to safety issues and the confusion that it may cause motorists. When needing guidance in getting to an incident, Rod suggested emergency services contact the ITOC directly. The ITOC has the most up-to-date information available on their video screens and can visually guide emergency services to the scene.

Rod got clarification from Micah Henry, ITOC manager, about the meetings that have been held between the ITOC and emergency services. Micah stated the meetings had been reduced from weekly to monthly updates.

Rossio Araujo, ADOT Project Supervisor, stated that there is currently no emergency access point at the Miracle Mile ramps due to work being done in that area. Rod asked that the contractor move materials around in order to give emergency services access to those ramps if needed.

Alex Lindsey, Kiewit/Sundt Joint Venture (KSJV) Traffic Engineer, asked if emergency services personnel could help move barrels back into position after they have been moved.

Rossio also stated that the contractors would not be working over the July 4 weekend, and said that ADOT would be removing the double-fine signs for that weekend. Rossio would not be available that weekend and the point of contact would be Rod for ADOT and Alex for the KSJV.

Rod turned the floor over to Micah to give an update on the ITOC. Micah stated that the traffic volumes are much lighter, as expected, over the summer months. There have been signal modifications as needed. The ITOC has hired a retired Department of Public Safety (DPS) officer as a part-time operator. He has been very helpful in giving the ITOC additional DPS contacts. On July 11 there will be some traffic signal timing adjustments for the closure of Grant Road due to the bridge demolition. The ITOC is expecting the Grant Road closure to go as smoothly as the Speedway Boulevard closure a few weeks ago.

Micah said that the ITOC will have similar plans in place for traffic flow on the Fourth of July, as was in place last year with a few modifications.

The ITOC is closely monitoring traffic operations at Prince Road as there have been recurring issues with the traffic signal controller. The ITOC is working with the City of Tucson (COT) to help isolate the issues.

The ITOC has been holding in-house meetings with the operators to ensure that everyone is up to speed on the current issues and procedures due to some changes over the past several months. Micah said he plans to hold these meetings quarterly, with all operators.

Another meeting was held with KSJV, COT Communications, COT Signal department and the ITOC. This meeting was held in order to go over after-hours response to traffic signal timing issues.

Rod started the discussion on the July 4 weekend. Tucson Police Department (TPD) stated that there would only be a few changes to last year's traffic control plan. TPD stated that those using the parking lots in order to enjoy the July 4 festivities at 22nd Street would only be given the option to turn north onto the frontage road. Those parking at any of the state buildings will also be required to head north on the frontage roads and those who opt to park on Congress Street west of I-10 must head east out of those parking areas. TPD feels that making everyone travel in the same direction initially will move traffic along at a faster rate.

Lucy Amparano, COT, stated that Cushing Street was still under construction and wanted TPD to be aware of those restrictions. TPD said they were aware of that area of construction and would do their best to keep the area blocked off during the July 4 activities.

TPD gave a brief description of their schedule, which includes:

- 5 a.m. – temporary no-parking signs will be in place
- 3 p.m. – traffic restrictions will be in place
- 3 p.m. – TPD offices will be at their assigned post
- 5 p.m. – barricades in selected areas will be placed
- 9 p.m. – everything will be in place

The Tucson Fire Department (TFD) mentioned that there would be three children's events throughout the day on Friday, July 4. Rod stated that he would get more specific information on those activities and their locations. There was some concern that one of the tours was going to be on the frontage road. Rod would look into that further since the frontage road is not conducive to additional activity at this time.

There was a question about the timeline of the I-10 project. Rod stated the team was where they wanted to be and they had hit the halfway mark. So far the project is on time and on budget.

Rod introduced Paki Rico, Gordley Design Group, to give an update on communications. Paki started out by asking TPD if there would be an increase in patrol due to July 4 falling on a Friday night. TPD stated that their coverage would be the same as any Fourth of July. TPD did say that DPS would be putting extra officers on I-10 July 4. He stated that Sgt. Todd Smith, DPS, would be in charge the extra officers that evening if there were any questions.

Paki stated the communications team had been busy this summer. The hotline calls and public relations had increased over the past month due to the traffic switch. She said most of the hotline calls were people asking how to get to surface streets within the project area. Paki also let the group know that there would be increasing public relations, as we get closer to the traffic switch in September. She stated there would be a new map created to show the new traffic configuration once that is determined and there will be additional outreach to the public to make sure they stay informed on the changes that will be coming their way in September. Paki said that there would be a presentation to Office of Emergency Management next month, and there had been an increase in requests of presentations by ADOT. Paki also let the group know that she continues to be in contact with the University of Arizona to ensure they have the necessary materials, in reference to the project area, for their orientation packets for incoming students. Traffic alerts continue to go out weekly with updates as needed.

One big concern will be working the traffic switch around the University of Arizona's football season. The team will work with the University to coordinate this effort.

Rod said that as soon as the plans are in order for the traffic switch, the group would be notified of the next meeting. This will occur either the end of August or the beginning of September.

The meeting was adjourned.