



PRESS RELEASE

For Immediate Release

Rex Scott, District 1

Monday, August 2 2021

Supervisor Scott proposes RTA-Citizens' Advisory Committee Roster Composition

PIMA COUNTY- At its last meeting, the Regional Transportation Authority (RTA) Board voted unanimously to reappoint 23 members of the Citizens' Advisory Committee (CAC) who have been working since 2018 to develop the next RTA plan for submission to the voters for approval. They will serve until at least 2024 and will be joined by 12 new members (to be appointed by the RTA Board) so that the CAC can return to its full complement of 35 members. The 23 current members of the CAC represent the following jurisdictions or areas within Pima County:

Tucson: 11
Unincorporated Pima County: 7
Marana: 2
Oro Valley: 2
Sahuarita: 1

I have placed an item on the August 5 RTA agenda that asks my colleagues to approve the following composition for the 35-member CAC:

Tucson: 18
Unincorporated Pima County: 8
Marana: 2
Oro Valley: 2
Sahuarita: 2
South Tucson: 1
Pascua Yaqui Tribe: 1
Tohono O'odham Nation: 1

Tucson has approximately 52% of our county's population, so it is appropriate that they have a slight majority of the CAC's membership. The remaining 17 members are divided based on the population of the other jurisdictions and areas. However, regardless of their residency, each CAC member should commit to the prioritization of regional needs over individual concerns. That mindset would also be consistent with the operating framework approved by the CAC in January, 2020.

The current RTA plan was approved by Pima County voters in 2006 and will expire in five years. There is no doubt that it would be catastrophic for every jurisdiction in Pima County and its citizens if a new plan is not put before the voters for approval before that time. A new RTA plan will address our region's needs for the next twenty years. There are both current and future transportation costs that rely on RTA funding. No single jurisdiction can do as much on its own as all of us can accomplish working together.

In recognition of this fact, I hope that each of my colleagues will vote to approve this agenda item. Doing so will result in a CAC that is proportionally representative of the population of the jurisdictions within our region. Reaffirming the language of the framework the CAC adopted last year (attached) will direct their work. It will also provide reassurance to each jurisdiction that the CAC will engage in an open, deliberative process as they work to develop the next RTA plan. The result should be a plan that each one of us can present to our voters with pride and a strong recommendation for their approval of a new RTA plan.

Leadership should always be about selflessness and bringing people together. Each one of my colleagues on the RTA Board and the people we represent are all Pima County citizens. As the county's representative to the RTA Board, it is my duty to ensure that all our residents have their voices heard and their concerns addressed. Approval of this agenda item will give the CAC the direction and support it needs to develop a new RTA plan all of us can support. Each of my colleagues should vote for its approval at our August 5 meeting.

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