MPO Planning in Small Metro Areas
Sun Corridor MPO
Pinal County, Arizona

2013 AMPO Annual Conference
Portland, OR
October 22-25, 2013
Quick Intro

- 110,000 people
- 1646 sq. miles
- 5 agencies
- 2 interstates
- UPRR Main line
- Between PHX and TUC
Planning....What’s That?

• Casa Grande, AZ designated UZA as a result of the 2010 Census
• One of three new MPOs in AZ
• All cities in AZ were assigned COGs in 1970.
  – Largely handled all regional planning
• Pinal Co. designated non-compliant for PM10 AND PM2.5 in 2010
Arizona’s COGs/MPOs (2010)
Arizona’s COGs/MPOs (2013)
Creation of the Sun Corridor MPO

- Governor Jan Brewer officially designated SCMPO as Arizona’s seventh MPO on May 6th, 2013
Challenges

• “Let’s not make anyone else suffer”
• Who wants to join!?!?
  – Create new MPO or join a neighboring one?
  – Dozens of Council meetings across County
• AIR QUALITY CONFORMITY LAPSE
  – Led to partnership with MAG (Phoenix TMA)
• Juggling formation/operation while also handling normal job duties
Opportunities

• FTA funds available (No current transit system)
• More money to region (now split between 4 agencies instead of 19)
• RTP was already underway from COG
• TIP and Work Plan are already being developed as part of AQCA
• Hit the ground running!
How is the shop being run?

• Will be housed at Pinal County building
• City of Casa Grande serves as fiduciary agent
• CURRENTLY HIRING FOR FIRST EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR
• One additional person to be hired to support Director
• No member assessments
Questions?
Contact Us
(Or Apply for Director Position)

http://www.scmpo.org

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