



Approval of Contract Nexxus Consulting LLC

July 16, 2012

Purpose

Nexxus Consulting provides federal lobbying services for the City of Maricopa:

- Federal funding for transportation projects
 - SR 347-UPRR Grade Separation Project
- Federal flood control projects
 - Lower Santa Cruz River Watershed
- Other opportunities ...

Strategy

The City of Maricopa follows a strategy of:

- “No stone unturned”
 - Grant requests
 - Obscure funding sources
 - Follow all leads
- “The squeaky wheel”
 - Meet with senators and representatives
 - Meet with federal administrative officials
 - Meet with committee and division staff

Activities

- August 2012 —Transportation Summit in Irving, Texas: Meetings with FHWA Administrator Victor Mendez and ADOT Director John Halikowski concerning SR 347 NEPA “chicken or the egg” issue
- November 2012 — Meeting with Director John Halikowski and key staff in Maricopa specifically on SR 347 NEPA issue
- December 2012 — Meeting with Representative elect Ann Kirkpatrick in Maricopa, overview of issues
- February 2013 — Meeting with FHWA State Director Karla Petty on SR 347 NEPA issue
- February to May — Consultation on TPT efforts

Activities (Continued)

- March 2013 — Washington DC visits with majority of AZ delegation on I-11 Transportation Corridor
- March 2013 — Washington DC visits with key stakeholders in support of City of Maricopa's Legislative agenda
- March 2013 — Meetings in Washington DC with FHWA Administrator Victor Mendez, along with Ak-Chin Vice Chairman and ADOT staff on NEPA issue
- March 2013 — Support of Mayor on GPEC trip to DC
- April 2013 — Lunch Meeting with Congressman Gosar
- April 2013 — Tour of Maricopa with Congresswoman Kirkpatrick
- June 2013 — Support on ADOT Five Year Plan strategy

Achievements

Preparation of NEPA Documents:

- Direction by Victor Mendez to begin the NEPA process
- Letter from Karla Petty outlining specific conditions for approval of NEPA
 - Placement of Phase I of the SR 347 on MAG 5 Year Plan
 - Demonstration of a reasonable assurance of full funding

Pathway to ADOT Funding:

- 7-0 vote by the State Transportation Board to potentially allocate \$35 million for SR 347 project
- Clarification by ADOT staff on conditions to fund
- Commitment to revisit \$35 million in March of 2014

Letter of support by full Arizona Congressional delegation

Opportunities for 2013-2014

- August visit by Congressman Schweikert CD6
- Finalization Of NEPA clearance
- Potential ADOT Board action in 2014
- Increased advocacy by full Arizona delegation
- Potential lifting of earmarks ban

Strategy and Coordination

Communication between Nexxus and designated Maricopa point of contact (Paul Jepson)

- Received more than 210 emails from Bob Holmes
- Received more than 60 emails from Richard Travis
- Phone conversations at least twice a week from Bob Holmes
- Phone conversations at least twice a month from Richard Travis
- Receive more than 50 text messages every month to and from Bob Holmes

Communication between Nexxus and Maricopa's Grants Manager

- Weekly communication (phone, email, text) during grant season (Sep. to Apr.)
- Bi-monthly communication (phone, email, text) during off season

Contract Summary

- No change from last year
- A 12 month contract at \$7,500 a month
- Includes an additional \$500 a month for direct expenses, not to exceed \$6,000 total
- Requires written quarterly reports
- Yearly presentation to Council
- Total contract cost not to exceed \$96,000

Questions?