

Maricopa Road Show Summary Report

Date: July 10, 2007
Time: 6:30 p.m. – 8 p.m.
Location: U of A Agricultural Center – Multipurpose Room

Handouts

The Future at Pinal executive summary
Comprehensive Plan Fact Sheet
Road Show Questionnaire

Attendees (20)

Daphne ?, Kelly Anderson, Ed Borrromeo, Tom Bradbury, Victor Castillo, Chad Chadderton, Adam Gaub, Shelley Gillespie, Karen Kelleher, Gerard Koeckhoven, Roger Kolman, Rodolfo Lopez, Maryanne Lucas, Frank Pratt, Janice Pratt, Jeanine Ray, Don Riet, Brian Roberts, Lowell and Lourdes Samples

MEETING SUMMARY

The purpose of the Road Show event was threefold: introduce the public to the Comprehensive Plan process, discuss the results of the Morrison Institute *The Future at Pinal* report, and to begin a dialogue on the vision for Pinal.

After a brief exercise which identified how long attendees had been residents of Pinal County, the year-long Comprehensive Plan process and current status were presented to the group. Additionally, results from the Morrison Institute were shared, including growth figures, land ownership percentages, and employment data.

Attendees were then asked to share how they answered Section 1 of the questionnaire. The following items were shared:

What ONE thing do you value most about Pinal County?

- Heritage
- Open space
- No pollution; clean air
- Friendly neighborhoods
- Balance between O.S. and accessibility
- Slower pace—more freedom for relaxation
- Small-town atmosphere
 - Lower density
 - Relaxed pace
- Mountain Views

What ONE thing do you not want to lose in Pinal County?

- Clean environment
- Open spaces
- Desert

- Wild ponies

What ONE major change have you seen in Pinal County?

- Housing
- Traffic increase
- Agriculture – pulling away
- Based economy
- Galvanization by elected, citizens (old and new) to address growth.
 - How do we address?
 - Opportunity is present now.

Participants were then shown results of a peer county analysis. Polk County, Florida, Cobb County, Georgia and Arapahoe County, Colorado were chosen as “peer” counties for their rapid growth over the past 20 years, that they were impacted by rapid growth in neighboring metro areas, contained an urban/agricultural/open space interface, had preservation issues and served in some capacity as a “bedroom community.” After lessons learned were shared from these three counties, participants were asked what Pinal County should take away from the counties experiences:

- All important—learn from success and learn from mistakes
- Unify urban/rural; identify jobs
- Municipalities/county work together
 - No cooperation in county/city zoning
 - No consistency in planning
- Identify funding for roads, especially fast-growing areas.
- Maricopa - Urban/rural cooperation needed. Maricopa/County work together in planning (Maricopa an example for success).
- Transportation—affecting economy (gas prices)
- Work with MAG, CAAG, etc. (Indian communities)

Finally, a presentation of the Morrison Institute’s six “placemaking goals” was given to participants, after which attendees were asked what each placemaking goal meant to them:

#1: Distinguishing Pinal from Maricopa County and Pima County.

- Create regional parks (like Maricopa) and preserve open space/desert parks.
- By addressing other five placemaking goals, we’ll distinguish Pinal from Pima and Maricopa Counties.
- Green building

#2: Protect miles of desert land and open space.

- Legislate protected areas
- Recreational opportunities
 - ATV recreational opportunities
 - Way to preserve desert with appropriate access
- Horse trails, lands, etc.

#3: Provide choices for transportation and mobility.

- Protect environment—pollution
- Mass transit
- Connector roads—safety/mobility
- Regional airport (central county?)

#4: Support unique, “fair share” communities.

- Green building

#5: Create and attract “career pay—career path” jobs.

- Identify employment lands and preserve them.
- Centralize opportunities.
- Plan for support services
- Create culture that supports economic development.
- Work together to make area attractive for companies.
- Reverse retail leakage.
- Keep monies local.
- Look to attract companies/technology from outside US; diversify opportunities.

#6: Develop Pinal’s talent pool.

- A lot of similar ideas to #5

Participants were encouraged to participate in future Comprehensive Plan events.

QUESTIONNAIRE SUMMARY

Section 1

Responses to the following questions:

What ONE thing do you value most about Pinal County?

- Balance between undeveloped land and access to Phoenix
- Clean air (2)
- Friendly area (2)
- Crossroads between rural “small town” and development
- Mountain views and wildlife
- Natural landscapes
- Open spaces (2)
- Slower pace of life
- Small-town atmosphere
- Transportation of Pinal County
- Water

What ONE thing do you **not** want to lose in Pinal County?

- Affordable housing
- Clean air
- Dark skies
- Desert

- Friendly attitudes of people
- Jobs
- Mountain views
- Natural landscapes
- Open spaces (5)
- Roots of Pinal County
- Rural beauty
- Water

What ONE major change have you seen in Pinal County?

- Fast-growing (people and traffic)
- Growth
- Population growth
- Traffic (3)
- Lots of people—lots of ATVs
- Many buildings that all look the same
- Housing (4)
- Transformation from farming economy. Prepare for future; honor the past.

If we do everything right, how would you describe a successful Pinal County in the future?

- Work, play, and entertain all here with many educational opportunities and public transportation.
- A balance of open spaces, buildings (both residential and commercial), parks, agriculture, and jobs (both blue and white collar). Develop the arts.
- Increases in employment, lower taxes, land preservation
- A county of prosperous towns allowing a variety of lifestyles
- An economically vibrant and charming community
- Balance between homes, retail, and employment. Would like to see employment at destinations like Pinal Airpark and I-8 Corridor with employment between Casa Grande and Maricopa Regional Airport in county. E-W transportation corridor between Kearny and Coolidge. Regional plan (transportation) north central part of county.
- Controlled, planned growth, retaining the rural feel. Open space remaining.
- People coming here
- Low-density, higher-income jobs, mass transit (rail), better schools
- Progressive governing with integrity and for the people
- Creating a different selection of sustainable employment for the community. Be more environmentally friendly. Learn how to adopt the different types of culture, including positive and negative aspects.

Section 2

The average level of agreement for each of the six placemaking goals (1 strongly disagree, 5 strongly agree.)

Distinguish Pinal from Maricopa County and Pima County:	3.64
Protect miles of desert land and open space.	4.50
Provide choices for transportation and mobility.	4.36

Support unique, “fair share” communities.	4.36
Create and attract “career pay—career path” jobs.	4.36
Develop Pinal’s talent pool.	4.50

Responses to “what does each statement mean to you?”

Distinguishing Pinal from Maricopa County and Pima County.

- Plan better—especially transportation.
- Being special—unique
- What Pinal County has to offer that the others don’t
- Keep charm—don’t cookie-cutter.
- Don’t have wall-to-wall subdivisions.
- Green building
- Pinal is known for being “Pinal”—unique, self-sufficient.
- Give Pinal its own identity.
- I don’t understand this concept.

Protect miles of desert land and open space.

- Breathing space and trails
- Preservation
- Select lands of value—public recreation
- Near the Town of Maricopa there is much vacant land, but it is closed to the public. We could use more desert parks open to the public.
- Lower density than other areas
- New legislation to work with State land
- Hinders growth—make available to people to use
- Critical
- Don’t rely on existing protected lands (federal and tribal)—create and save private and State lands.
- Key to our future
- Lower density, equestrian
- “Flavor” of the county
- Legislate designed areas
- Important to preserve for wildlife
- Protect land from development in order to keep the original land scope of the environment

Provide choices for transportation and mobility.

- Better roads/rail/ bus
- Utilize existing rail for transportation—pollution
- Maybe more bus service into the Phoenix area
- Private sector partnerships
- E-W corridor heavy rail to Central Phoenix and Williams
- Without spending a huge sum of money and polluting our air
- Impacts quality of life
- Mass transit, many connector roads, no highway dependent

- A necessity in any community
- Need to protect environment (pollution). Get people to work until jobs come.
- Needs to be “easy” to get around within and to and from
- Bus, rail, auto and airport
- Airport. Train to Maricopa and Tucson. Plan for wider roads/freeways before more growth.
- Improve freeways and main streets due to population growth. Create other freeways in other locations.

Support unique, “fair share” communities.

- This is Maricopa’s goal.
- Community’s farming/services
- Self-sustaining communities
- Cooperation among cities/towns
- Communities pay their way “for all aspects—jobs, recreation, homes, natural areas
- Neighborhood identity
- Baby Boomers like “different/unique.”
- Improve quality of life through services.
- Each community participating and communicating to solve/versus abandoning the issue and not be taken care of.

Create and attract “career pay—career path” jobs.

- I’m not sure the County could keep everything here, but it is an admirable goal.
- Build centers to attract companies.
- Balance of industry
- Support CAC.
- Top jobs
- Very important—City of Maricopa needs a hospital.
- Good jobs—pay well
- Key to separating ourselves from Phoenix
- Discourage Wal-Marts—encourage hospitals, medical, research (ex: bio diesel fuels, solar).
- Keeps people in the county and attracts others
- Bring industry to Pinal.
- Attract employment centers. Need the industry to provide jobs.
- Bring a multiple diversity of industry in order for the community not to experience a level of abandonment of their resilience.

Develop Pinal’s talent pool.

- Yes! Make Pinal a place with many talents. Maricopa reflects that now—need jobs for them all.
- Arts and education to be an important focus
- Education/training
- It’s good that Central Arizona College offers some courses in the Town of Maricopa, but it would be good to expand its courses.

- Support CAC.
- Improve schools
- Education
- More professionals than people think
- Got to have a reason for coming to Pinal
- Education—local
- Plan for higher education—ASU

Responses to “what five key words do you think should be part of the Pinal County Vision Statement?”

- Accessible
- Airports
- Balance
- Career jobs that pay
- Charming
- Choice
- Community
- Cooperative
- Creativity
- Education (3)
- Employment
- Energy efficient
- Environment
- Environmentally friendly
- Family-oriented
- Farming
- Good schools
- Great employment opportunity
- Health
- Higher education
- Imagine
- Integrity
- Jobs (2)
- Leadership (2)
- Local jobs
- Low cost of living
- Natural landscapes
- Nature
- Open space/trails
- Opportunities (2)
- Parks
- Partnership (city-county-private)
- Proactive

- Progressive (2)
- Recreation centers
- Recreation opportunities (2)
- Re-establish
- Regional planning
- Re-invent
- Renew
- Respect
- Responsible
- Responsive
- Safe
- Small town
- Smart growth
- Sustainable (2)
- Technically state-of-the-art
- Traffic
- Transportation (2)
- Transportation choices
- Universities
- Visionary
- Walkable communities
- Work

Other issues identified:

- Should have developed dedicated funding for infrastructure and roads.
- Develop recreation areas—provide a diversity of developed passive recreation opportunities and areas.

Demographic Information

Attendees from:

- | | |
|---------------------------------|---|
| • Maricopa | 8 |
| • Casa Grande | 1 |
| • Sonoran Desert Nat'l Monument | 1 |

I've lived in Pinal County for:

- | | |
|--------------|---|
| < 2 years: | 6 |
| 2-5 years: | 2 |
| 5-10 years: | 1 |
| 10-20 years: | 1 |
| > 20 years: | 1 |

I am:

- | | |
|--------------|---|
| 18 or under: | 0 |
| 19-29: | 3 |
| 30-39: | 0 |

40-49:	3
50-64:	7
Over 65:	1