

August 2015 Pima County REAC Meeting
8/13/15

1. **The County recently released its Economic Development Plan – 2015 through 2017.**

- ◆ What significant changes have been made and where will we see the majority of the County's Economic Development focus?

The Economic Development Plan 1015 – 2017 was substantially changed and updated with additions to most existing chapters as well as addition of 7 new chapters. An example of change to an existing Chapter is the expansion of the Chapter on Leveraging the Intellectual Capacity of the University by adding and Community College Systems in Arizona.

New Chapters were added for:

1. The Logistics Center at Tucson International Airport Environs: Pima County as the Logistics Hub of the Southwest
2. Mining – Modernizing a Traditional Industry
3. Enhancing our Relationship with Canada
4. Enhancing our Relationship with East Asia and the Republic of Korea
5. Downtown Enhancement
6. The Role of Economic Development in Ending Poverty
7. Investing for an Economically Competitive Future – This Chapter focuses on a number of regional issues and initiatives and includes a section highlighting cooperative regional economic development planning with a segment from our regional jurisdictions to identify areas of alignment and individual focus.

Each Chapter has a number of Action Items that will guide the County's Economic Development efforts in relation to each chapter's topic with particular focus on regional cooperative Economic Development Planning.

- ◆ Describe to us the role of the Navigator that you have proposed to protect D-M.

The "Navigator" role was introduced by an article in the Arizona Daily Star based on the successful of a gentleman named Parker Greene of Valdosta, GA and Moody AFB.

He is paid by the city and county to advocate for Moody and Valdosta. His mission is to keep alive the connection between the Pentagon, Washington, Moody and Valdosta.

Mr. Greene has excellent access to the Congressional team and local contacts, and has been the "go to" person for nearly 40 years as an advocate for Moody AFB and the local community. We had a similar person in Tucson for many years. Her Name was Dorothy Finley. Like Greene, she was granted broad access to the Pentagon, Congressional Offices and to D-M and local officials. A day care center at Davis-Monthan is named after Mrs. Finley.

The objective of this proposed "Navigator" position is to have someone that works on base and facilitates solutions to issues whether they be ways the community can support the base or when the community needs an issue addressed by the base. Davis-Monthan and nearly 100 community leaders have been working on an Air Force Community Partnership program where the community assists with or assumes some of the non-fighting functions on the base to allow the Air Force staff to perform their primary fighting operation. The scope of this position and buy-in

needs to be worked out with the leadership at Davis-Monthan, DM-50, and the Southern Arizona Defense Alliance (SADA) to insure that there is a true need by the base for this type of effort and that there is limited overlap with the efforts of DM-50 and SADA. Whether the scope includes efforts in Washington D.C. like Greene, or focuses on local issues must be decided. Assuming that scope is successfully agreed upon, then the County will work with Davis-Monthan and the various jurisdictions in the region on funding, operations, and how to integrate this position into Davis-Monthan leadership.

◆ **What role do our federal elected officials play in protecting D-M?**

There are three major factors that are important in protecting D-M.

- i) First, is unilateral community support for the mission picked by the Pentagon and the Air Force. That is up to local jurisdictions and citizen's groups.
- ii) Second, are the assets that D-M and our region possess that will be used by the Air Force and Pentagon to make decisions on which bases to close or to receive new missions. Other than encroachment prevention, this is a function of base leadership and our location near high speed traffic areas, the Barry M. Goldwater Range and extremely good training weather. Locals must advocate for these assets and their importance in the decision making process with the Pentagon, and make sure their Federal team is aware of these assets.
- iii) Third, are our Federal elected officials. While sterile technical decisions based on criteria above are desirable, politics clearly have a major impact on the process. Without strong advocacy for our bases, region, and state by our federal elected officials, funding and basing decisions will most likely flow toward those regions that do have a strong federal delegation. Our experience is that even simple inquiries by our federal elected officials on stalled critical federal (and even local) projects often generate much stronger results than local inquiries. It is important for the locals to keep the federal elected officials apprised of local priorities and provide guidance on desired outcomes.

2. **What prompted the County to propose spending approximately \$50k to put fencing around County buildings downtown to address homeless issues?**

We have had numerous vandalism and human waste incidents around our buildings over several months. The frequency of these incidences has resulted in a lot of man-hours doing cleanups, which take FMD staff away from other duties and responsibilities. In addition, several times human waste has been found near the air intake for AC system of our buildings. The fence will protect these areas from such activities and potential adverse health issues. Total cost was \$28,600.

How will that impact access to County facilities?

The areas that are currently being fenced will not impede access to any County facilities.

How will it affect aesthetics of the County facilities?

The fences are wrought iron fences, which are aesthetically compatible with our facilities and they are painted to match existing handrails.

3. **What is the status of the court challenges on the 1 percent cap issue?.**

- ◆ Are we past the point where it can be resolved before you set the tax rate?

Yes, we are past the point where a resolution of the case will happen in time to change the 2015 tax levy. The Arizona Supreme Court declined to take the case, so the case has now been filed in the Superior Courts for a trial. The tax levy occurs on the first Monday of August each year. The 2015 tax levy will happen on August 17th this year.

- ◆ What is the likelihood of getting this overturned in the future?

Pima County believes the statute is unconstitutional and expects to ultimately be successful in its challenge.

- ◆ Is the Property Tax Oversight Commission a state commission or is one established for each county and what is their role and authority?

PTOC is a state-wide commission with members appointed by the Governor, the President of the Senate, and the Speaker of the House.

4. **We have heard that there was an IGA issue relative to the wording on the bond package regarding the City's requirements raised by Steve Kozachik.**

- ◆ What was the issue?

Long term maintenance of bond-funded improvements. The County wanted to make sure the jurisdictions did not take on a project they could not afford to maintain. The City was concerned that the language in the IGA bound their elected officials during budget deliberations for an extended period of time.

- ◆ Has it been resolved?

We believe so. The County offered that the maintenance would be tied to the useful life of the asset. There are standard accounting practices used to depreciate assets. We agreed to use those standards to define the required maintenance period.

- ◆ Is it anything that jeopardizes the bond package moving forward or that would make the City not be supportive of the package?

Mr. Kozachik objected to county requiring city to adequately maintain bond funded improvements for 25 years, and objected to the penalties for not meeting this requirement. As a result, county's draft bond ordinance now includes clarifying text to inform future bond project IGAs stating that there may be differing useful lives of certain facilities and such could be agreed upon in the IGA. Plus clarifying text that provides city 120 days to correct the deficiency or to submit an agreed upon plan for fixing deficiency if funding to fix would need to come from future fiscal year.

5. **It was announced recently that Pima County selected Ortega National Parks to operate Colossal Cave Mountain Park.**

- ◆ What is the status of their contract?

Going to be on the BOS Meeting Agenda on August 17. Ortega has been operating park on an interim agreement since August 4; we did not want to close down due to heavy European tours

already pre-booked. EDT, County agency overseeing contract, is working with new GM on-site and staff on a daily basis. All is going well.

- ◆ What are their primary areas of focus as they take over operations?
Cleaning, modernizing, rehabilitation of the infrastructure and CCC structures, gift shop and food and beverage enhancement, new cave and adventure experiences in a natural park setting.
- ◆ Has Pima County committed to expend funds to update facilities or expand the recreational opportunities on the site?
On the Bond Schedule of Projects for \$3.35 million to include infrastructure, water and toilets, park entrance and roads, ranch house and area reuse. Enhance the park operation to coincide with park developments by developing a Park Management Plan with the assistance of professional park planners.
- ◆ Attendance has fallen off since the opening of Kartchner Caverns, what has Ortega proposed to increase attendance at Colossal Cave?
Enhance operation, unique tours of cave that Kartchner cannot do (lantern tours, wild cave tours, etc.); modernize the facility while maintaining the CCC look of the 1930's, adventure activities respecting historical significance of property, Co-operative marketing with State Parks, Visit Tucson and Southern Arizona Attractions Alliance, AZ Office of Tourism.

6. Transportation.

- ◆ What is the status of RTA funding relative to the approved plan? If there is not adequate funding for completion of the entire Plan what will be done?
The RTA is initiating discussions with its Technical Management Committee later this month as to the shortfall and possible actions the region may consider as well as extension of the RTA funding.
- ◆ The Regional Transportation Plan committed \$45 million for wildlife crossings. It was recently announced that cost of the SR 77 crossing near Catalina has grown from the estimate of \$8.2 million to \$11 million.
 - What was the cause of the increase?
Specific to SR 77 overpass, the increase was reviewed and approved by the RTA Board in December of 2012. The increase was associated with a variety of utility, design, geotech, fencing, right of way and other misc. costs that were originally allocated for, but were underestimated. As a result of this experience, the cost estimates for pending and future proposals have already been adjusted.
 - Does this mean that less crossings than had been committed to will be constructed with the \$45 million or that we need more money to construct all of the crossings?
None of the authorized crossings, nor any of the future proposals, have been affected at this time. In addition, the Wildlife Linkage Committee has been made aware of the reductions in the various categorical allocations, and have adjusted future planned efforts accordingly.
- ◆ There are ten Pima County bridges that have been determined to be functionally obsolete and 16 that are structurally deficient in Pima County.

- Does the County have a plan for repairing/replacing them and is there adequate funding available?

PCDOT as well as the region lacks sufficient funding to address the obsolete and deficient bridges in our current inventory. To try and address this existing funding deficiency, PCDOT is assisting Pima Association of Governments (PAG) and the Regional Transportation Authority (RTA) with an ongoing regional bridge infrastructure assessment and summary of funding needs. The goal of this work effort is to obtain an increase in funding for bridge infrastructure in the proposed extension of the RTA sales tax or other new funding source.

7. **Rochester NY was recently announced as having been selected as the location of the \$600 million public-private partnership American Institute for Manufacturing Integrated Photonics (AIM Photonics) which the U of A was also in the running for.**

There was a brief article in the Star the other day.

http://tucson.com/business/local/ua-allies-with-photonics-institute/article_71aee05a-3498-11e5-97be-c32f6786bb7e.html

I don't think it should be viewed as a case that "UA was also in the running for." This is still a huge win for UA. The UA, Rochester, MIT, UC Santa Barbara and many other institutions (124 in total) are all part of a large consortium that will be working on the AIM Photonics.

Yes, Rochester will be the base of operations but they already had three successful federal Photonics-related grants land there and I'm sure politics played a role as well (see below.) Plus the State of New York kicked in a \$250m match

<http://www.rochester.edu/newscenter/vice-president-biden-and-governor-cuomo-announce-that-rochester-will-be-headquarters-for-nations-newest-manufacturing-innovation-hub-111382/>

- ◆ Was Pima County a partner in this pursuit and if so do you know what made Rochester the preferred location?

The article above lays out the Rochester's strengths and why they landed the HQ.

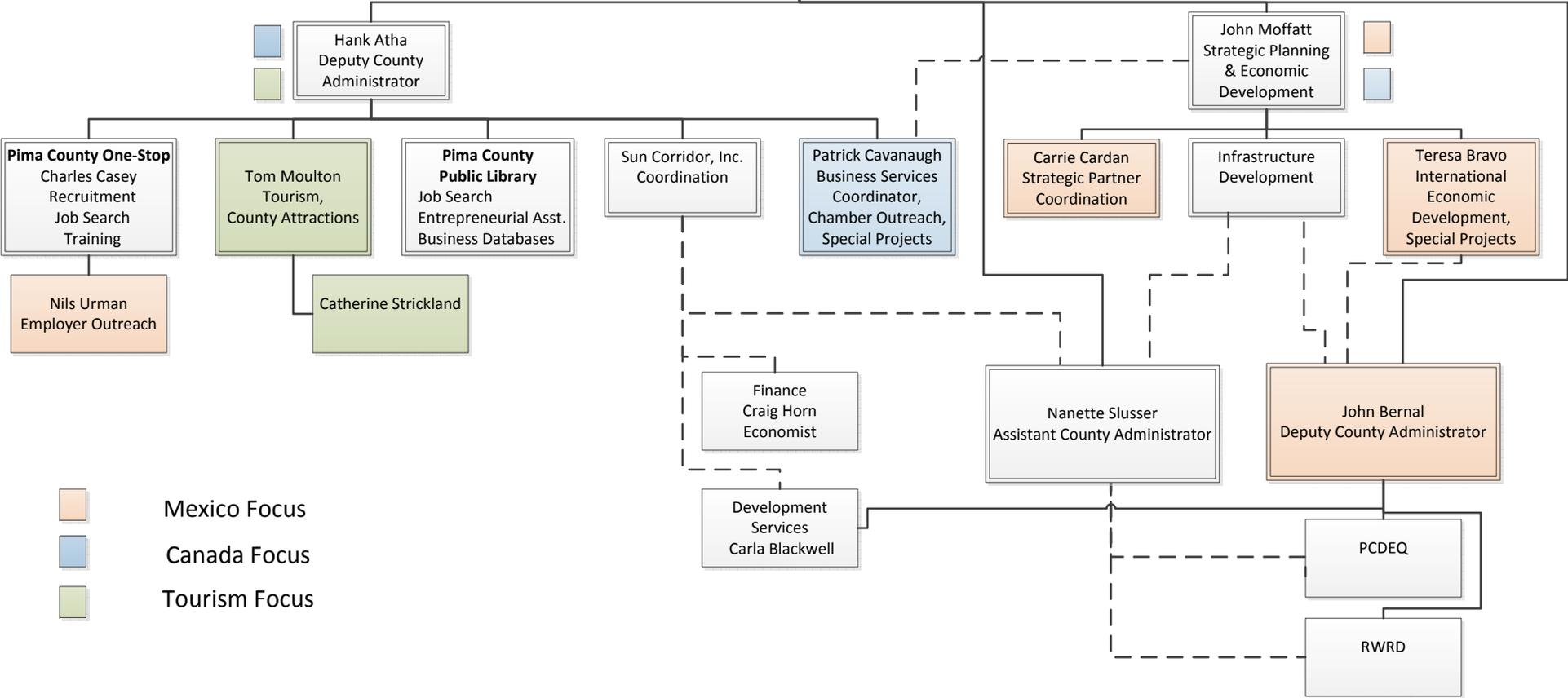
- ◆ Is there any takeaway that would help us in future pursuits such as this?

I think the take away is that the UA should be congratulated and supported for its world-renowned Optics program that was recognized in the important national initiative. Now it becomes incumbent on Pima County, the municipalities, and Sun Corridor Inc. to work closely with the UA to leverage the AIM Photonics participation in to a reinvigoration and expansion of our Optics sector here in Pima County.

<http://www.optics.arizona.edu/news-events/news/quicknews/osc-part-national-team-launch-photonics-institute>

Pima County Economic Development Functional Organization Chart

Chuck Huckelberry
County Administrator



PIMA COUNTY BOND ELECTIONS 1974 - 2006

PROJECTS AND PROGRAMS COMPLETED

Pima County has had a long successful history of voter-approved bond authorizations for the construction of capital improvements, such as parks and recreational facilities, community centers, libraries, justice and law enforcement facilities, roads, museums, flood control improvements, neighborhood reinvestment projects, public health clinics, land acquisition, affordable housing, and sewer treatment facilities. These projects serve all communities and are located throughout the region.

Since 1974, voters in Pima County have approved 12 separate bond proposals in countywide elections. A total of 54 bond proposition questions have been approved, with only four not being approved. In the last 41 years, a total of \$2.06 billion in General Obligation, Highway User Revenue Funds and Sewer Revenue bonds have been approved.

Below are brief information and project highlights for each voter-approved bond authorization.

1974

General Obligation Bonds	\$63,210,000
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Voters approved a total of \$63.2 million in bonds for public safety and justice facilities, street and bridge improvements, parks and public health facilities. Highlights of the 1974 bond program include:

- Construction and opening of the Kino Community Hospital, now the Banner-University Medical Center – South Campus facility
- Development of the downtown Superior Courts building
- Acquisition of land for Catalina State Park and expansion of Tucson Mountain Park
- Development of three regional parks – Arthur Pack Regional Park, Drachman – Agua Caliente Regional Park, and Southeast Regional Park/Fairgrounds

1979

General Obligation Bonds	\$48,210,000
Flood Control District Bonds	\$20,600,000
Sewer Revenue Bonds	\$12,900,000
TOTAL	\$81,710,000

Voters approved a total of \$81.7 million in bond funds for flood control improvements, correctional facilities, transportation corridors, highway safety and sewer improvements. Highlights of the 1979 bond program include:

- Construction of 7 major bridges and related flood control improvements following 3 presidentially-declared flood disasters between 1977 and 1978
- Construction of the Oro Valley flood control levee, which removed the Town from the Cañada del Oro (CDO) Floodplain
- Local matching funds for the development of the Kolb Road and Palo Verde Corridors, leveraging approximately \$150 million in federal and state transportation funds
- Completion of 15 traffic safety projects that included safety improvements at various intersections or roadway segments, drainage improvements and safety studies.

1980

General Obligation Bonds	\$60,000,000
Sewer Revenue Bonds	\$12,900,000
TOTAL	\$72,900,000

Voters approved a total of \$72.9 million in bond funds for transportation and sewer improvements. Highlights of the 1980 bond program include:

- Improvements to 19 miles of major arterial highway segments to increase highway capacity and all-weather access, including: Tanque Verde, Sunrise Drive, Ina Road, Ajo Way, Mission Road, Valencia Road, La Cañada Drive, Swan Road, Orange Grove, Ruthrauff Road, Sabino Canyon
- Completion of 41 traffic safety projects at high hazard segments and intersections, railroad crossing improvements, paving and bike paths.

1982

General Obligation Bonds	\$9,100,000
Sewer Revenue Bonds	\$10,000,000
TOTAL	\$19,100,000

Voters approved \$19.1 million in bond funds for solid waste disposal and sewer projects. Project highlights included:

- Mitigation of groundwater contamination near the Camino del Cerro landfill and development of landfill environmental studies
- Development of additional cells at the Tangerine Road Landfill

1984

General Obligation Bonds	\$63,800,000
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Following the devastating 1983 flood, voters authorized \$63.8 million in bond funds to repair damaged infrastructure and reduce future flood damage. Flood control improvements under the 1984 bond program included the:

- Repair and replacement of 13 bridges, 15 bank stabilization projects along Santa Cruz River, Rillito River and Tanque Verde and Pantano confluence; purchase and relocation of hundreds of severely flood-damaged residential property; and purchase of floodprone lands to prevent future damage

1985

General Obligation Bonds	\$5,000,000
Sewer Revenue Bonds	\$10,000,000
TOTAL	\$15,000,000

Voters approved a total of \$15 million in bond funds for highway safety and sewer projects. Projects included:

- Completion of 24 traffic safety projects that included safety improvements at various intersection locations.

1986

General Obligation Bonds	\$165,400,000
Sewer Revenue Bonds	\$54,000,000
TOTAL	\$219,400,000

Voters approved a total of \$219.4 million in bond funds for transportation, parks, public safety facilities, land acquisition, flood control, libraries and other public facilities. Project highlights under the 1986 bond program include:

- Land acquisitions that established the Cienega Creek Natural Preserve, which spans nearly 4,000 acres along a 12-mile long reach of Cienega Creek; Colossal Cave Mountain Park; and Tortolita Mountain Park • Bank stabilization along major portions of the Santa Cruz River • 3 new libraries • jail expansion and new Sheriff Administration building • Development and improvements of 26 miles of arterial roadways, including River Road, Skyline, Irvington Road, Stone Avenue and others • Development or expansion of 19 regional/district parks, including Anamax District Park, Agua Caliente Regional Park and Mehl-Foothills District Park; 15 neighborhood parks and school sites

1997

General Obligation Bonds	\$256,980,000
Sewer Revenue Bonds	\$105,000,000
Highway User Revenue Fund Bonds	\$350,000,000
TOTAL	\$711,980,000

Voters approved a total of \$711.9 million in bond funds for public safety facilities, parks, land acquisition, flood control improvements and court facilities. Project highlights under the 1997 bond program include:

- Construction of 5 new pools, 8 new community centers, and development or expansion of two community centers and 16 neighborhood parks that included 22 sports fields, lighting for 18 fields and other amenities • Construction of the Lower Santa Cruz Flood Control Levee along a 7.4 mile reach of the northern bank of the Santa Cruz River from Avra Valley Road to Sanders Road. The levee removed a significant portion of the Town of Marana from the regulatory FEMA floodplain • Facility improvements and upgrades to Tucson Mountain Park, Colossal Cave Mountain Park, Tucson Children's Museum, Agua Caliente Park, and Southeast Regional Shooting Range • Construction of 9 miles of linear river park, along with trailheads, pedestrian bridges and other amenities; expansion of several trails, including CAP trail, Tortolita Mountain Park, Anza Trail, Arizona Trail and Fantasy Island • Land acquisitions that significantly expanded Tucson Mountain Park and established the historic Canoa Ranch • Construction and improvement of 59 miles of major roadway projects • Completion of over 80 traffic safety improvement projects consisting of intersection and roadway improvements.

2004

General Obligation Bonds	\$582,250,000
Sewer Revenue Bonds	\$150,000,000
TOTAL	\$732,250,000

Voters approved a total of \$732.3 million in bond funds for land conservation, public health and safety facilities, parks, flood control improvements and sewer system improvements. Project highlights include:

- A new Regional Emergency Communications Center and Network that is being used by 55 police and fire agencies and organizations

- A new Downtown Court Complex and Public Service Center, providing all Justice Court functions at one location for the first time in 18 years • Construction of the new Herbert K. Abrams Public Health Center • The new Wheeler Taft Abbett Marana Library, remodel of the Wilmot library, and major expansions to the Oro Valley and Eckstrom Columbus libraries • 25 new sports fields; lighting of 34 sports fields; 19 new playgrounds; 5 new community centers; 3 new skateboard parks and 2 new dog parks • Significant expansion of The Loop, including 18 new trailheads and 38 miles of new multi-use paths and trails, and the acquisition of almost 300 acres for a future regional park and community facilities development in the Vail area • The purchase of 52 properties totaling 47,000 acres, expanding regional parklands and conservation areas, providing 20 years of mitigation for future development, and increasing recreational access via seven new trailheads and 77 miles of new trails • Acquisition of 461 acres of land in the vicinity of Davis-Monthan Air Force Base to prevent urban encroachment on the base and its operations • Rehabilitation of 23 historic buildings, eight new miles of the historic Anza Trail along with three new trailheads and acquisition of four priority archaeological sites

2006

General Obligation Bonds	\$54,000,000
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Voters approved \$54 million in bond funds for much needed behavioral health facilities. The key projects under the 2006 bond program included:

- Development of the new psychiatric inpatient hospital and expanded emergency department as well as the new psychiatric urgent care center (Crisis Response Center). Both facilities compliment and expand on the existing psychiatric services located at the Banner-University Medical Center South Campus.



More information on completed bond projects will be available through an interactive online map that will provide information on completed bond projects since 1997, totaling approximately 700 projects. This system should be available by mid-July 2015.