

ACCOMPLISHMENTS SINCE APRIL BOARD MEETING

Proposition 105

- This was placed before the voters of Phoenix by outside “dark money.” It would have killed expansion of Valley Metro Rail and prevented the renewal of rolling stock. It would also have forbidden Phoenix to participate in future commuter rail and intercity rail projects. Passage of Prop 105 would have ended our attempts to restore Amtrak service to Phoenix via the *Sunset Limited* and establish Phoenix-Tucson service.
- Tony Trifiletti wrote an argument against Prop 105 for the voters’ pamphlet, which was filed by Chuck Mott and Roger Clark with the Phoenix City Clerk. This is where we introduced the issue that Prop 105 would kill any and all rail in Phoenix. Our argument made it into the pamphlet, but more importantly, members of the Transportation Choices Coalition used it as a template for their own ballot arguments.
- Tony reformatted the argument into a letter to the editor to the *Arizona Republic*. Amtrak officials had just visited Mayor Gallego to discuss Phoenix-Tucson and Los Angeles-Phoenix-Tucson services thus enabling us to include added new points to the letter and a sense of urgency. The *Republic* published it.
- Our argument played a significant role in turning the Prop 105 vote into a landslide – a rout actually! – for rail. Outside money will think twice before coming to Phoenix again. RPA communications acknowledged AAZ’s role in defeating this proposition as well.

Western Interstate Trains Coalition

- We developed a campaign to stop Amtrak from killing the national network of long-distance trains. A project team was assembled.
- RailPAC produced letter templates for local and federal officials, Tony built a work plan and spreadsheet using Mike Garey’s and Doug Kerr’s “Our Train Stations” website, and RPA supplied full-color posters and statistical sheets. Tony contacted RPA state representatives to solicit their participation.
- John James produced, and Tony narrated, an educational video that was loaded to You Tube. It has garnered 2500 views and some financial support.
- RPA did not provide financial support; RailPAC provided substantial financial support for several months. As of now, 7 states are actively on board and 3 more have agreed to participate.
- We hosted Chef Madison Butler for RPA, setting her up with meetings in Phoenix and Tucson to support Amtrak.
- We’ve held meetings in Yuma, Maricopa, Tucson and Flagstaff with local officials, chambers of commerce, tourism and economic development people, and local media. We’re attempting to set up similar meetings in Phoenix and Benson. Meetings in Kingman and Winslow are set for October 29 and 30 respectively.