

**DRAFT MINUTES OF THE
MARICOPA ASSOCIATION OF GOVERNMENTS
INTELLIGENT TRANSPORTATION SYSTEMS COMMITTEE**

July 7, 2010
MAG Cholla Room, 2nd Floor
302 North First Avenue
Phoenix, Arizona

MEMBERS ATTENDING

Scott Nodes, ADOT	Luke Albert, City of Goodyear
*Soyoung Ahn, ASU	Nicolaas Swart, Maricopa County
Margaret Boone-Pixley, City of Avondale	Derrick Bailey, City of Mesa
**Thomas Chlebanowski, Town of Buckeye	Ron Amaya, City of Peoria
Mike Mah, City of Chandler	Marshall Riegel, City of Phoenix
*Lt. Jenna Mitchell, DPS	Bob Ciotti, Phoenix Public Transit
*Jerry Horacek, City of El Mirage	Bill Birdwell, Town of Queen Creek
**Jennifer Brown, FHWA	**Bruce Dressel, City of Scottsdale
Kurt Sharp, Town of Gilbert	**Tracy Eberlein for Nicholas Mascia City of Surprise
Debbie Albert, City of Glendale	Cathy Hollow for Jim Decker, City of Tempe
	Arkady Bernshteyn, Valley Metro Rail

OTHERS PRESENT

**Lydia Warnick, ADOT	Farzana Yasmin, ADOT
Christine Warren, Tempe	Darrell Bingham, ADOT
Doug McCants, PBS&J	Smitha Kundur, Olsson Associates
Art Brooks, Strand Associates	Lisa Burgess, KHA
Lauren Neu, Strand Associates	Vinay Vanapalli, Stantec
Trent Thatcher, Horrocks Engineering	Brennan Kidd, Lee Engineering
John Bustraan, Advanced Traffic	Srinivas Goundla, Parsons Brinckerhoff
Paul Basha, EPS Group	Dan Hartig, Ayres Associates
Joe Spadafino, YSMA	Jay Yenerich, Telvent
Sarath Joshua, MAG	Bo Gao, TransCore ITS
Leo Luo, MAG	Kiran Guntupalli, MAG
Craig Chenery, MAG	Micah Henry, MAG

- * Not present
- ** Via teleconference

1. **Call to Order**

Chairman Nicolaas Swart called the meeting to order at 10:05 AM.

2. Approval of June 2, 2010 Meeting Minutes
Scotts Nodes moved, Debbie Albert seconded and it was unanimously carried to approve the minutes of the meeting held on June 2, 2010.
3. Call to Audience
Chairman Nicolaas Swart made a call to the audience providing an opportunity for any members of the public to address the ITS Committee. No comments were received.
4. Program Manager's Report
Sarath Joshua addressed the following items in his report:
RCN Project Update – An RCN meeting held by ADOT with Chandler and Phoenix was successful. The connection between Chandler and RCN has been established. Once the connection with Phoenix is completed, the system will undergo a one-month testing period. The new video conferencing system will be installed following the testing. It is expected that the entire project will be completed by the end of this year. The RCN working group also discussed possible expansion of the RCN. A review of the RCN Phase 1B design as well as status of fiber connections among member agencies that are not currently connected to the RCN will be discussed at the next Working Group meeting. The uncertainty about the TIP programming process due to the EPA actions might also affect future funding allocations. An update on the RCN governance document will be provided.
 - **Non-Recurring Congestion Study**
The non-recurring congestion study received several review comments regarding the proposed data collection plan. The consultant team has addressed the comments and started the data collection process. Brennan Kidd from Lee Engineering briefly presented the selected corridors and the data collection procedure. He also explained that the AWAM Bluetooth device that is used in the study for data collection. Sarath Joshua reported that MAG announced a press release regarding the project and the data collection effort.
 - **Traffic Signal Audit Project**
A traffic signal audit project was conducted through MAG TSOP program. Bob Steele from Maricopa County was invited to provide an update of the project. The main purpose of the project is to improve safety and efficiency on isolated intersections with high speed approaches. The audit results are documented and presented to the committee.
5. 2010-2012 MAG ITS On-Call Consultant Qualification
Sarath Joshua thanked the members of the selection panel for volunteering their time and effort in evaluating the consultant proposals. The unanimous recommendations from the selection panel were presented. A typing error was corrected in the consultant name. **Mike Mah moved, Scott Nodes seconded and it was unanimously carried to approve the recommended list of the consultants to the 2010-2012 MAG ITS On-Call contract.**
6. Freeway Ramp Meter Control Strategies
Scott Nodes from ADOT made a brief presentation on ADOT's freeway ramp meter control strategies following the request of committee members at the last committee meeting. Currently all the 180 ramp meters in the state are located in the MAG region. They are operating during 6 – 9 am in the morning and 3 to 7 pm in the evening from

Monday through Friday. A study was completed years ago to recommend the list of the ramps being metered. The metering rates varied from 10 to 22 vehicles per minute. Many of the meters are traffic responsive to the traffic on main lane and queue length on the ramps. ADOT is planning to install central control system to remotely control the ramp meters in the near future. Scott confirmed with Marshall Riegel from Phoenix that the central control system will bring ADOT's freeway operations to the next level, allowing the ability to change the operating hours of the ramp meters remotely at TOC based on needs. Mike Mah suggested that while the operation is not at the level of adaptive ramp metering, operating hours of each individual ramp should be studied since very few freeways in the region has a continuous 4-hour PM period of congestion. Scott mentioned that continuous studies of the operating hours of the ramp meters will be based on the corridors and provide the necessary inputs for adjustments. Scott confirmed with Debbie Albert from Glendale that HOV direct access on ramps do not have ramp meters and with the new system, ADOT can adjust the ramp meters during special events. He also confirmed with Derrick Bailey from Mesa that the queue detection will override the main lane detections to avoid traffic spill back on arterial streets. Sarath mentioned that a meeting involving ADOT, MAG and Arizona Republic was held regarding the ramp meter issues. The lack of capability in controlling the ramps from TOC is a key reason preventing other enhancement in freeway operations. Adaptive control and other features can be added later on with the new system in place. He also requested that ADOT establish a technical advisory group so that input from member agencies can be incorporated when determining the criteria to be used to decide on the ramp meter operating hours. Scott concurred and stated that all the ramp meter controllers will be upgraded to 2070.

7. RCN No-Cost Service Addition

Three no-cost service additions to the RCN were proposed at the RCN working group. MAG TAG has already approved the addition. **Luke Albert moved, Margaret Boone-Pixley seconded and it was unanimously carried to approve the three no-cost service additions to the RCN.**

8. City of Tempe TIP Project Change Request

Cathy Hollow from Tempe invited Christine Warrant to make a brief presentation on the proposed changes to the scope of TIP project TMP13-902. The original scope of upgrading the traffic controller cabinets from 12 channels to 16 channels is no longer needed due to recent city projects. As a result, City of Tempe requested to change the scope to upgrade existing traffic signals to meet the MUTCD and US Access Board standards. Jennifer Brown from FHWA expressed concern regarding the benefits of air quality improvement and emission reduction of the proposed changes since the project is funded through CMAQ. City of Tempe agreed to bring back this item at the next committee meeting by providing additional information.

9. Status Reports by Committee Members

Margaret Boone-Pixley mentioned that interviews are underway for a traffic operation supervisor position in City of Avondale. Derrick Bailey mentioned that Mesa upgraded the central control system from ICONS to CENTRACS also from Econolite. He also mentioned that the Phase II fiber communications project on Country Club Drive as well as Santan Freeway is close to completion. Three other projects are expected to start construction, including TMC upgrade, Adaptive signal control in Superstition Spring area and Phase III downtown ITS project. Cathy Hollow from Tempe informed the committee

that Jim Decker has retired from the city and she will be representing Tempe on the ITS committee in the future. Jennifer Brown from FHWA mentioned that the deadline for federal funding obligation is September 17, 2010. Nicolaas Swart mentioned that Maricopa County TMC expansion project DCR received approval and the 99 avenue project is pending on funding obligation.

10. Request for Future Agenda Items

No agenda item requests were received from committee members.

11. Next Meeting Date

Next meeting date was announced at 10:00 a.m. on Wednesday, August 4, 2010 at MAG.

12. Adjournment

Chairman Nicolaas Swart adjourned the meeting at 11:00 a.m.