

MINUTES OF THE  
MARICOPA ASSOCIATION OF GOVERNMENTS  
MAG REGIONAL COUNCIL EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

September 15, 2014  
MAG Offices, Ironwood Room  
302 N. 1<sup>st</sup> Avenue, Phoenix, Arizona

MEMBERS ATTENDING

Mayor Michael LeVault, Youngtown, Chair	#Mayor Gail Barney, Queen Creek
Mayor W.J. “Jim” Lane, Scottsdale, Vice Chair	Mayor Jackie Meck, City of Buckeye
*Mayor Greg Stanton, Treasurer	Mayor Lana Mook, El Mirage

\* Not present

# Participated by video or telephone conference call

1. Call to Order

The Executive Committee meeting was called to order by Chair LeVault at 12:00 p.m.

2. Pledge of Allegiance

The Pledge of Allegiance was recited. Mayor Barney joined the meeting via teleconference.

Chair LeVault announced that a hard copy of the addendum that was previously emailed to the committee members was at their place, along with additional handouts for Agenda Item #5 and Agenda Item #6.

3. Call to the Audience

Chair LeVault stated that, according to the MAG public comment process, members of the audience who wish to speak are requested to fill out the public comment cards. He stated that there is a three-minute time limit. Public comment is provided at the beginning of the meeting for items that are not on the agenda that are within the jurisdiction of MAG, or non-action agenda items that are on the agenda for discussion or information only. Chair LeVault noted that no public comment cards had been received.

4. Approval of Executive Committee Consent Agenda

Chair LeVault noted that prior to action on the consent agenda, members of the audience are provided an opportunity to comment on consent items that are being presented for action. Following the comment period, committee members may request that an item be removed from the consent agenda.

Chair LeVault requested a motion to approve the consent agenda. Mayor Mook moved to approve the consent items. Mayor Meck seconded the motion and the motion carried unanimously.

4A. Approval of the August 18, 2014 Executive Committee Meeting Minutes

The Regional Council Executive Committee, by consent, approved the August 18, 2014 Executive Committee meeting minutes.

4B. Consultant Selection for the 2015 Behavior Based Freight Model Development On-Call Consultant Services

The Regional Council Executive Committee, by consent, approved the list of on-call consultants for the Area of Expertise A (Freight Modeling): Cambridge Systematics, Resource Systems Group, and RS&H; and for the Area of Expertise B (Data Collection, Analysis and Management): American Transportation Research Institute, Cambridge Systematics, CDM Smith, Resource Systems Group, and RS&H, for the 2015 Behavior Based Freight Model Development On-Call, for a total amount not to exceed \$350,000.

The fiscal year (FY) 2015 MAG Unified Planning Work Program and Annual Budget, approved by the MAG Regional Council in May 2014, includes \$350,000 for on-call consulting services for the 2015 Behavior Based Freight Model Development On-Call. On February 13, 2014, MAG, the Arizona Department of Transportation and the Pima Association of Governments submitted a joint application for implementation and technical assistance funds in Round 3 of the Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) Strategic Highway Research Program Implementation Assistance Program (SHRP2). MAG was the lead agency in the Freight Demand Modeling portion of the proposal. On March 28, 2014, FHWA and AASHTO announced that MAG was one of the organizations selected in Round 3 of SHRP2 implementation assistance for freight demand modeling. On June 25, 2014, MAG issued a Request for Qualifications to create an on-call consulting list for the project with two areas of expertise: (A) Freight Modeling; and (B) Data Collection, Analysis and Management. A multi-agency evaluation team reviewed the Statements of Qualifications and recommended to MAG firms to be included on a MAG on-call consulting list for the 2015 Behavior Based Freight Model Development On-Call.

5. 2013 MAG Freight Transportation Plan Consultant Contract

Tim Strow, MAG Senior Transportation Project Manager, provided an overview on the completion of the first phase of the Freight Transportation Framework Study, which was a high-level freight analysis of the Arizona Sun Corridor, to evaluate the long-term needs and opportunities. Mr. Strow reported that they are now ready to move into Phase II, which will be specifically focused on the MAG region. The study has identified 16 different freight industry development opportunities and will look deeper into specifics. Mr. Strow stated in addition to looking at the mainline interstate corridors for freight opportunities and distribution of goods, the study will also look at the transportation, distribution and manufacturing job clusters in the MAG region. He added that they will also create different stakeholder groups throughout the region and discuss transportation infrastructure improvements that these stakeholders would like to see

completed. Mr. Strow stated that the goal of this phase is to come up with a list of transportation projects that this region can go after funding for in the future.

Mr. Strow reported that future transportation bills will have a heavy freight focus and that the MAG region has to have a dedicated freight plan with a list of projects that have been identified and prioritized. He added that this project will be done in coordination with the Arizona Department of Transportation (ADOT) and Federal Highway Administration. Mr. Strow noted that ADOT is currently advertising for a state freight plan that will get started in the next two months and that this phase of the project is expected to take 15-18 months to complete.

Mr. Strow stated that the Request for Proposals for this study included a provision that MAG may, at its discretion, offer an additional contract to extend the study into an additional phase based on consultant performance and available funding. He added that the MAG FY 2013 Unified Planning Work Program and Annual Budget, approved by the MAG Regional Council in May 2012, included \$400,000 for an additional phase for the Freight Transportation Framework Study.

Mr. Strow indicated that due to the ongoing success of Phase I and federal regulations requiring additional freight planning in our region, staff recommends initiating a new contract with Parsons Brinckerhoff for this additional phase of the original study, to prepare the 2013 MAG Freight Transportation Plan (Phase II) for an amount not to exceed \$400,000. He noted that this project was carried forward in the FY 2015 Unified Planning Work Program and Annual Budget, approved by the Regional Council on May 28, 2014.

Chair LeVault asked if there were any questions or comments from the committee.

Mayor Lane asked the cost for the first phase of the study. Mr. Strow stated the cost of Phase I was \$500,000 for the entire Sun Corridor. Mayor Lane asked if Phase I was always meant to lead to Phase II. Mr. Strow stated that was correct and that Phase I will support Phase II of the study, which will be a much more focused study on specific clusters and targeted areas.

Mayor Mook motioned to approve a new contract with Parsons Brinckerhoff for the 2013 MAG Freight Transportation Plan Consultant (Phase II), for an amount not to exceed \$400,000. Mayor Mitchell seconded the motion and the motion carried unanimously.

6. Appointments of the MAG Economic Development Committee (EDC) Business Member Positions

Denise McClafferty, Regional Program Manager, stated that in September 2013, MAG Regional Council approved changes to the MAG Committee Operating Policies and Procedures that included increasing the EDC committee business members from 11 members to 12 members. The EDC business members serve a two-year term, with possible reappointment by recommendation of this committee and approval of the Regional Council. She stated that the EDC business member positions are up for reappointment and on August 7, 2014, staff sent a memorandum to the EDC business members, Regional Council, Management Committee and the Intergovernmental Representatives soliciting letters of interest.

Ms. McClafferty stated that staff received request for reappointment letters from all the business members, except the two transportation seats. She added that one letter of interest has been received from David Martin, President of the Arizona Chapter Associated General Contractors, recommending Dan Spitz, Vice President of Achen-Gardner Construction, to this committee. A copy of the letter was provided to each committee member.

Ms. McClafferty noted that this item is on the agenda to recommend approval of the EDC business member positions, not including the one vacant transportation seat. She stated that this will provide an opportunity to receive additional letters of interest to be considered at a future meeting. Ms. McClafferty stated that this recommendation will move forward to the September 24, 2014 Regional Council meeting for approval.

Chair LeVault asked if there were any questions or comments from the committee.

Mayor Meck motioned to recommend approval of the appointments of the Economic Development Committee business member positions, not including the one vacant transportation seat. Mayor Lane seconded the motion and the motion carried unanimously.

7. Representation by Providers of Public Transportation on MPO Boards

Eileen Yazzie, MAG Transportation Planning Project Manager, provided an update on the new requirement under the federal transportation law, Moving Ahead for Progress in the 21st Century (MAP-21), that requires transit representation on the governing bodies of metropolitan planning organizations (MPOs), such as MAG. She noted that on June 2, final guidance was released, which stated that the transit representative must be a representative of a provider that operates public transportation in the region and is an elected or appointed member of the provider's board of directors or a senior officer of the provider.

Ms. Yazzie stated that various options for the transit position have been developed and were presented to the Executive Committee and Regional Council at the August meetings. Since that time, staff has continued gathering information on all potential options. She added that MAG staff has reached out to the National Association of Regional Councils and the Federal Transit Administration to research what other MPOs were doing.

Ms. Yazzie explained that since the time that the Federal Transit Administration issued final guidance on this one item, the whole topic of MPO Transportation Planning, has been reopened for comment and input for final recommendation. This means that the final rule for the transit representation on MPO Boards guidance could change. She noted that the due date for implementation of the federal guidance for transit representation on MPO Boards is October 1, 2014, however, other MPOs, are not taking this as a firm date.

Ms. Yazzie stated some MPOs already have this representation on their board and meet this recommendation; some MPOs are waiting for the final rule to come out; and others are waiting to see if they are exempt from this requirement. Ms. Yazzie explained that in Intermodal Surface Transportation Efficiency Act (ISTEA), it states that an organization is exempt from certain things

in regard to its committee structure and board if the organization was formed prior to 1991. Ms. Yazzie stated that staff is requesting to explore this exemption clause further, as well as wait for the final rule to be released.

Mr. Smith added that there is not a clear answer on this. He did speak with Mid-America Regional Council in Kansas City and they were holding off. Both Omaha and Philadelphia have filed for exemption. He stated that staff would like to learn more before moving further because there may be other options.

Chair LeVault thanked Ms. Yazzie for the update and asked if there were any questions or comments from the committee.

Mayor Lane stated that there is no point in moving forward in any aspect of this because everything can change, including the exemption. He asked what is the intention of this guidance. Mr. Smith stated that in some areas of the country transit is not well represented on MPO Boards.

Mr. Smith also explained that one of the explicit provisions is that this transit representative is a stand alone seat. Ms. Yazzie stated that when input was asked on this topic, MAG, working with the National Association of Regional Councils, submitted comments requesting that one representative be allowed to hold both designations. She added that Phoenix, Glendale, Peoria, and Scottsdale are all transit operators, so there are a lot of voices on our Regional Council. She noted that a transit representative also serves on the Management Committee, Transportation Policy Committee, and the majority of our technical committees. The committee agreed that MAG should wait on the final rule.

The next item was taken out of order and is the addendum to the agenda.

10. Report on an Economic Development and Cultural Opportunities Event

Dennis Smith, MAG Executive Director, stated that on January 29, 2014 the Regional Council approved a resolution to support expanding the statewide border zones. He added that Councilman, Tony Rivero, City of Peoria, invited MAG to discuss efforts on extending the border zone in Arizona at a roundtable discussion and press conference taking place at the Arizona Chamber of Commerce, as well as a luncheon discussing women in economic development and trade, at Peoria City Hall on September 23, 2104. Mr. Smith stated that staff has been preparing a video on the efforts to extend the border zone in Arizona and that former Congressman Kolbe, Co-Chair of the Transportation and Trade Corridor Alliance, was filmed today in Washington, DC. He added that Congressman Kolbe was instrumental in implementing the last expansion in 1999. Mr. Smith stated that MAG was asked to sponsor a table at the Third Annual State of Americas Dinner at Arizona State University West for the amount of \$5,000. He added that keynote speakers include Former President, Vincente Fox of Mexico and Former President Laura Chinchilla of Costa Rica. Their discussions will focus on the various positive economic opportunities for Mexico and Arizona. Mr. Smith noted that members of this committee would be invited to the event and added that this is a great opportunity to further our efforts.

Kelly Taft, MAG Communications Manager, discussed the benefits of Mexican Nationals being able travel across the entire state of Arizona. She noted that the crossing card would be valid for 30 days of travel and visitors would have the opportunity to experience Snowbowl, the Grand Canyon, attend spring training baseball games, and stay and shop in different cities and towns. Ms. Taft stated that when the extension went from 25 miles to 75 miles, a study was done by the City of Tucson that showed an estimated \$53.4 million impact to their economy. She added that this border crossing card would also decrease the administrative workload for U.S. Customs and Border Protection officers at the Arizona ports of entry, allowing them to focus resources on those individuals posing higher risk. Mr. Smith indicated that in order to get one of these cards, a Mexican National has to prove that their intention is to return to Mexico and that they have business ties in Mexico.

Chair LeVault asked if there were any questions or comments from the committee.

Mayor Mook asked the length of our state in miles, and who has voiced an opposition on this extension. Mr. Smith stated that it is approximately 400 miles and the only opposition that they have received was from the Metropolitan Planning Organization in Prescott, where no one called for a vote on the resolution. He added that staff went to planning agencies in Yuma, Bisbee, Mohave, the Inter Tribal Council, and Pima Association of Governments and they have all passed the resolution. The Transportation and Trade Corridor Alliance has a similar action in their Arizona's Path to Global Market Expansion Roadmap.

Mayor Lane asked if we are trying to create a replacement to a visa, or a separate kind of passage to Arizona. Mr. Smith stated that if you live in Canada, you fill out one, online application, have one visit and you receive your NEXUS card, which allows you to travel anywhere in the United States for six months. Mayor Lane asked if we sponsor this event, will we be inundated with sponsorship requests from other organizations? Mr. Smith stated that the distinguishing factor is that MAG is directly involved in this issue and is similar to the request for funding of the NASCAR Mexico Series event held last year. He added Glenn Hamer, President and CEO of the Arizona Chamber of Commerce and Industry, has gone down to the congressional hearings in Tucson and advocated the border crossing card because he sees it from the sales tax aspect. Chair LeVault added that ultimately this is a decision for Homeland Security.

Mayor Mook stated that MAG's focus has been to encourage all kinds of economic development, and this is another step that we should take to increase whatever kind of spending will occur. Mayor Meck asked if this has been vetted with the cities along the border and Homeland Security. Mr. Smith stated that the two planning agencies that represent the border communities have passed the resolution. He added that staff went down to the joint field command in Tucson to make sure that we were working on something viable and they liked the idea. The I-94 is very time consuming and Homeland Security may consolidate some of these programs to streamline the process for people that are fully vetted.

Chair LeVault stated if this becomes a reality, one of the important side benefits would be freeing up federal resources at the border to focus on real security threats and not the people that have been pre-cleared. Mayor Meck suggested that in the future, an expansion for trucking would also

be useful. He added that trucks have to unload within 25 miles of the border and if this could be expanded, it could also boost our economy. Mr. Smith stated that if we have success here, we could possibly look at that issue.

Mayor Mitchell motioned to approve sponsoring a table at the State of Americas dinner for an amount not to exceed \$5,000. Mayor Meck seconded the motion and the motion carried unanimously.

8. Request for Future Agenda Items

Chair LeVault asked if there were any requests for future agendas items. There were none.

9. Comments from the Committee

Chair LeVault asked if there were any comments from the committee. Mayor Meck announced that the City of Buckeye will hold their first marathon on December 31, 2014. He added that this event will take place on a certified course and serve as a Boston Qualifier. All distances will end at the Buckeye Municipal Airport. The half marathon, 5K and 1 mile will begin at the airport, with the marathon course starting at Festival Foothills Elementary School in the Sun City Festival community. He added that the marathon route is downhill and features a drop of over 640 feet from start to finish. Proceeds will benefit the City of Buckeye Youth Scholarship Fund, giving kids the opportunity to participate in recreational activities throughout the city.

Adjournment

There being no further business, the Executive Committee adjourned at 12:52 p.m.

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Chair

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Secretary