

MINUTES OF THE
MAG MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE MEETING
January 7, 2015
MAG Office, Saguaro Room
Phoenix, Arizona

MEMBERS ATTENDING

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| Christopher Brady, Mesa, Chair | * Rosemary Arellano, Guadalupe |
| Darryl Crossman, Litchfield Park, Vice Chair | # Gregory Rose, City of Maricopa |
| # Matt Busby for George Hoffman,
Apache Junction | * Jim Bacon, Paradise Valley
Jeff Tyne for Carl Swenson, Peoria
Ed Zuercher, Phoenix |
| Jessica Blazina for David Fitzhugh, Avondale | # Greg Stanley, Pinal County
Tracy Corman for John Kross, Queen Creek |
| # Roger Klingler for Stephen Cleveland,
Buckeye | * Bryan Meyers, Salt River Pima-Maricopa
Indian Community |
| * Gary Neiss, Carefree | * Fritz Behring, Scottsdale |
| * Peter Jankowski, Cave Creek
Rich Dlugas, Chandler | * Bob Wingenroth, Surprise
Andrew Ching, Tempe |
| Dr. Spencer Isom, El Mirage | Reyes Medrano, Tolleson
Joshua Wright, Wickenburg |
| # Charles Montoya, Florence | # Jeanne Blackman, Youngtown
Sintra Hoffman for John Halikowski,
ADOT |
| Alfonso Rodriguez for Phil Dorchester,
Fort McDowell Yavapai Nation | Joy Rich for Tom Manos, Maricopa County
John Farry for Steve Banta,
Valley Metro/RPTA |
| Ken Buchanan, Fountain Hills | |
| # Ernest Rubi, Gila Bend | |
| * Tina Notah, Gila River Indian Community
Patrick Banger, Gilbert | |
| Brent Stoddard for Brenda S. Fischer,
Glendale | |
| Brian Dalke, Goodyear | |

* Those members neither present nor represented by proxy.

Participated by telephone conference call. + Participated by videoconference call.

1. Call to Order

The meeting of the MAG Management Committee was called to order by Chair Christopher Brady, Mesa, at 12:02 p.m.

2. Pledge of Allegiance

The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

Ms. Jeanne Blackman, Mr. Greg Stanley, Mr. Ernest Rubi, Mr. Charles Montoya, Mr. Greg Rose, Mr. Roger Klingler, and Mr. Matt Busby joined the meeting via teleconference.

Chair Brady noted that hearing assisted devices are available from MAG staff. He announced that public comment cards were available to members of the public who wish to comment. Parking validation was available for those who parked in the MAG parking garage and transit tickets were available for those who purchased transit tickets to come to the meeting.

3. Call to the Audience

Chair Brady stated that Call to the Audience provides an opportunity to the public to address the Management Committee on 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. Those wishing to comment on agenda items posted for action will be provided the opportunity at the time the item is heard. Public comments have a three minute time limit. A total of 15 minutes will be provided for the Call to the Audience agenda item, unless the committee requests an exception to this limit.

Chair Brady noted that no public comment cards had been received.

4. Executive Director's Report

Mr. Dennis Smith, MAG Executive Director, reported on items of interest to the MAG region. He stated that MAG hosted the Arizona COG/MPO Best Practice Workshop on November 14, 2014. The purpose of the workshop was to share best practices for information technology, human resources, socioeconomic data, geographic information systems, and fiscal services among Arizona COGs/MPOs.

Mr. Smith stated that MAG hosted two meetings on December 3, 2014 – one with the Arizona Commerce Authority's contractor, Marketing One, and with the City of Phoenix, regarding economic development opportunities with Mexico. Mr. Smith stated that MAG is sending funding to the Arizona Commerce Authority. He noted that the Arizona Commerce Authority has a good export ready program. Mr. Smith stated that MAG will be communicating information about upcoming Arizona Commerce Authority sessions to member agencies.

Mr. Smith announced that MAG had won the Virginia G. Piper Trust Encore prize for Exceptional Organization for exceeding traditional regional planning and launching the Arizona Age-Friendly Network. Mr. Smith noted that the goal is to connect older adults with people of all ages to meaningful opportunities in their communities. He stated that MAG is one of three agencies to win a \$5,000 prize. Benevilla won the \$5,000 prize and a \$50,000 prize. The award video was played. Mr. Smith stated that MAG staff will assist jurisdictions who would like to create their own Age-Friendly Network program.

Mr. Smith stated that MAG was recognized in the new Transportation for America guidebook cites MAG as a national model for the creation of the MAG Economic Development Committee and data sharing.

Mr. Smith stated that the Transportation Research Board, a national organization that promotes innovation and progress in transportation through research, accepted nine research papers from MAG staff members, Mr. Vladimir Livshits, Mr. Kyunghwi Jeon, Ms. Petya Maneva, Ms. Monique de los Rios-Urban, and Mr. Sarath Joshua. Mr. Smith noted that MAG had the most papers accepted of all of the MPOs in the nation.

Mr. Smith acknowledged the passing of Patrick Flynn, Queen Creek Assistant Town Manager. He noted that Mr. Flynn also served as Queen Creek Chief Financial Officer and as the Tempe Assistant City Manager. Mr. Smith stated that Mr. Flynn worked closely with MAG on major projects in the mid-1990s, such as the Red Mountain Freeway.

Chair Brady thanked Mr. Smith for his report. He congratulated MAG staff for their accomplishments.

5. Approval of Consent Agenda

Chair Brady stated that agenda items #5A, #5B, #5C, #5D, and #5E were on the Consent Agenda.

Chair Brady noted that no public comment cards had been received.

Chair Brady asked members if they had questions or requests to hear a presentation on any of the Consent Agenda items. None were noted.

Chair Brady called for a motion to recommend approval of Consent Agenda items #5A, #5B, #5C, #5D, and #5E.

Mr. Ken Buchanan moved, Mr. Brian Dalke seconded, and the motion passed unanimously.

5A. Approval of the November 5, 2014, Meeting Minutes

The MAG Management Committee, by consent, approved the November 5, 2014, meeting minutes.

5B. Corridor Safety Plan Pilot Project Consultant Selection

The MAG Management Committee, by consent, recommended approval of the selection of Michael Baker Jr., Inc., to conduct the Corridor Safety Plan Pilot Project, for an amount not to exceed \$200,000. The Fiscal Year (FY) 2015 MAG Unified Planning Work Program and Annual Budget, approved by the MAG Regional Council in May 2014, identified a pilot project for developing a Corridor Safety Plan, with a budget of \$200,000. This pilot project will be similar to a Road Safety Assessment but would cover several miles of an urban arterial corridor that has significant crash risk based on crash data for the most recent three years. This resulting Corridor Safety Plan would address road safety issues related to all modes and users of the road system. The pilot project would identify potential countermeasures and strategies, including public information campaigns and increased enforcement for improving road safety. The Indian School Road corridor from 51st Avenue to 75th Avenue has been selected for this pilot project. Four

consultants from the approved list of MAG Intelligent Transportation Systems and Safety On-Call Consultants were invited to submit proposals in response to a Mini Request for Proposals for the pilot project. Three firms submitted proposals which were reviewed by a multi-agency proposal evaluation team. The team recommended to MAG the selection of Michael Baker Jr., Inc. On December 9, 2014, the MAG Transportation Safety Committee recommended approval of the selection of Michael Baker Jr., Inc., to conduct the Corridor Safety Plan Pilot Project, for an amount not to exceed \$200,000.

5C. Prioritized List of Proposed PM-10 Certified Street Sweeper Projects for FY 2015 CMAQ Funding

The MAG Management Committee, by consent, recommended approval of a prioritized list of proposed PM-10 Certified Street Sweeper Projects for FY 2015 CMAQ funding. The Fiscal Year (FY) 2015 MAG Unified Planning Work Program and Annual Budget and the FY 2014-2018 MAG Transportation Improvement Program contain \$1,404,238 in FY 2015 Congestion Mitigation and Air Quality Improvement (CMAQ) funding to encourage the purchase and utilization of PM-10 Certified Street Sweepers. On October 23, 2014, the MAG Air Quality Technical Advisory Committee recommended a prioritized list of proposed PM-10 Certified Street Sweeper Projects for FY 2015 CMAQ funding. Prior to the MAG Air Quality Technical Advisory Committee recommendation, the MAG Street Committee reviewed the proposed street sweeper applications on October 14, 2014, in accordance with the MAG Federal Fund Programming Guidelines and Procedures.

5D. Additional Funding for a Sweeper on the Approved Prioritized List of Proposed PM-10 Certified Street Sweeper Projects for FY 2014 CMAQ Funding

The MAG Management Committee, by consent, recommended approval of \$1,501.87 in funding for a City of Litchfield Park street sweeper on the Approved Prioritized List of Proposed PM-10 Certified Street Sweeper Projects for FY 2014 CMAQ funding. On February 26, 2014, the MAG Regional Council approved a Prioritized List of Proposed PM-10 Certified Street Sweeper Projects for FY 2014 Congestion Mitigation and Air Quality Improvement (CMAQ) Funding. Also, on March 26, 2014, the MAG Regional Council approved an additional \$640,169.97 in CMAQ funding for street sweepers through the FY 2014 federal funds TIP closeout. All twelve PM-10 Certified Street Sweeper projects on the approved prioritized list are funded. MAG staff received two inquiries on additional street sweeper funding with only one requesting additional funding at this time. Due to higher costs than anticipated, the City of Litchfield Park is now requesting an additional \$1,501.87 in CMAQ funding for the purchase of a PM-10 certified street sweeper increasing the total CMAQ amount for the project from \$225,516 to \$227,017.87. The additional FY 2014 CMAQ funding is available from street sweeper projects that have cost less than anticipated.

5E. Conformity Consultation

The Maricopa Association of Governments is conducting consultation on a conformity assessment for an amendment and administrative modification to the FY 2014-2018 MAG Transportation Improvement Program and 2035 Regional Transportation Plan. The amendment and

administrative modification involve several projects, including projects for the Arizona Department of Transportation. The amendment includes projects that may be categorized as exempt from conformity determinations. The administrative modification includes minor project revisions that do not require a conformity determination.

6. Project Changes – Amendment and Administrative Modification to the FY 2014-2018 MAG Transportation Improvement Program, and to the 2035 Regional Transportation Plan

Mr. Eric Anderson, MAG staff, stated that requests for project changes include general year-end clean up of the Fiscal Year (FY) 2014-2018 MAG Transportation Improvement Program. He said that the changes represent a number of amendments and administrative modifications, such as the funding mix for the traffic interchange at Loop 303 and Grand Avenue. Mr. Anderson noted that none of the requested changes appeared to be controversial and were more housekeeping in nature.

Chair Brady thanked Mr. Anderson for his report. No questions from the committee were noted.

Mr. Ken Buchanan moved to recommend approval of amendments and administrative modifications to the FY 2014-2018 MAG Transportation Improvement Program, and as appropriate, to the 2035 Regional Transportation Plan. Ms. Sintra Hoffman seconded, and the motion passed unanimously.

7. Consultant Selection for the MAG Establishment/ Commercial Surveys

Chair Brady called forward Mr. Vladimir Livshits to provide a report. He first asked Mr. Livshits the title of his papers presented to the Transportation Research Board. Mr. Livshits replied that multiple papers were submitted, which were mostly regarding the development of next generation travel demand forecasting models and transportation data management efforts.

Mr. Livshits reported that the Fiscal Year (FY) 2014 MAG Unified Planning Work Program and Annual Budget includes \$4,500,000 for On-Call Consulting Services for Travel Survey - Data Application. He indicated that the main purpose of the three-year project is to collect regional travel survey data from residential households and non-residential establishments. The On-Call contracts will include up to \$2,500,000 for the regional household travel survey and up to \$2,000,000 for establishment surveys and required modeling support.

Mr. Livshits stated that the surveys are needed to achieve the goals of MAG. He said that regional transportation, air quality, and socioeconomic models cannot be run and tasks for federal funding and air quality conformity cannot be completed without the data from the surveys.

Mr. Livshits stated that the establishment survey is needed now for a timely update of the regional models to maintain a relevant transportation forecast, synchronize the timeline with the regional household survey and facilitate the integration of data from both surveys within the MAG activity based model framework, update regional freight travel data for freight planning and analysis purposes, and address new requirements of the next generation of transportation models, including the new MAG freight model. Mr. Livshits explained that the freight model is being developed

with funding by the Federal Highway Administration under the Strategic Highway Research Program 2 Implementation Assistance Program grant.

Mr. Livshits stated that the project tasks were included under the On-Call contracts and data from both the Establishment and Commercial Vehicle Surveys will be integrated into the activity based travel demand forecasting model and freight forecasting model. He stated that survey data go far beyond modeling efforts and will be the data source for freight planning and transportation system analysis.

Mr. Livshits stated that questions are usually asked about how the trips are generated by industry sectors, how trips are linked, how economic activities generate travel, and how economic agents interact with each other. He noted that many of the large MPOs are likewise conducting similar surveys to fulfill federal requirements, planning and modeling needs.

Mr. Livshits stated that the cost of the project is determined by the sample size, sample design, survey methods, and other factors. He said that the sample size was determined in accordance with the size of the region. Mr. Livshits stated that the estimation of transportation models requires a certain sample size for each of the model segments.

Mr. Livshits noted that Cambridge Systematics submitted the successful proposal. He said that highlights of the project include surveying 1,100 establishments and 10,000 employees during 2015-2016 with a total budget of \$1.5 million. He noted that survey methods will include tablet-held intercept, on-line, phone-based, and GPS-device-based. Mr. Livshits concluded his report and noted that the action being requested was a recommendation to approve the selection of Cambridge Systematics, Inc., to conduct the MAG Establishment/Commercial Surveys as a part of the Travel Survey - Data Application On-Call for an amount not to exceed \$1,500,000.

Chair Brady thanked Mr. Livshits for his report. He asked if the commercial freight in the survey was originating in the region or passing through the region. Mr. Livshits responded that both types of freight would be captured since the MAG model includes both types.

Mr. Smith stated that the larger MPOs in the country are moving toward an activity-based model which is needed to move toward new technology. He said that this item was presented to the Management Committee due to the cost, but also it is the bedrock of MAG's modeling, which needs to be done right for everything to work together correctly. Mr. Smith acknowledged that Mr. Livshits and his modeling team are top-notch.

Mr. Ed Zuercher asked the funding source. Mr. Livshits replied federal funds.

Mr. Josh Wright moved to recommend approval of the selection of Cambridge Systematics, Inc., to conduct the MAG Establishment/Commercial Surveys as a part of the Travel Survey - Data Application On-Call for an amount not to exceed \$1,500,000. Mr. Ken Buchanan seconded, and the motion passed unanimously.

8. Enhanced Online Mapping and Reporting Tools

Mr. Anubhav Bagley, MAG staff, provided a report on the enhanced online mapping and reporting tools that showcase regional datasets. He noted that MAG, as a Metropolitan Planning Organization, has extensive data in the areas of population, employment, and housing to conduct transportation and air quality modeling and planning. Mr. Bagley noted that MAG has been working over the past few years to post the data online to make them useful for planning and economic development.

Mr. Bagley added that eight different tools that MAG has developed are available to everyone free of charge on the MAG website. He said that the employment viewer, representing 1.45 million jobs and 45,000 employers of five or more employees, just went live the day before. Mr. Bagley demonstrated the different views. He said that the idea was to build a dataset using not only the North American Industrial Classification System code, but looking at clusters and sub clusters. He stated that so far, 17 employment clusters and 39 sub clusters have been identified by MAG and member agency economic development staff. He pointed out the maps can be run to show where employment centers for such industries as education, hospitality, manufacturing and high tech are located.

Mr. Bagley stated that the viewers can show what is happening in the region. He stated that maps can be run that show such data as the largest employer in a certain area or the population that commute to work outside or inside of their jurisdiction's residence. He noted that this data was obtained from city and town data and the Maricopa County Trip Reduction program. Mr. Bagley used the Town of Gilbert as an example and he noted that 84.6 percent of its residents in business, finance, professional occupation work outside the town and only 5.4 percent of its residents in this occupation work in the town.

Mr. Smith expressed his appreciation to Maricopa County for providing data on the Trip Reduction Survey to MAG. Mr. Bagley noted that the Trip Reduction Survey is taken by approximately 500,000 people, which is a very large survey, is extremely rich in data, represents a larger sample and is available much sooner than the same type of data available through the Census Bureau. Mr. Smith noted that Maricopa County allowed MAG to add questions, such as employment questions, to the Trip Reduction Survey. Mr. Bagley stated that worker age data are helpful in disproving that this region is composed of older adults, when the reality is that the average age in this region is lower than the national average.

Mr. Bagley stated that the Trip Reduction Survey data can be used on commute patterns. Mr. Bagley noted that the catchment area with 80 percent of the workers in the Town of Gilbert showed that predominantly workers in Gilbert reside east of Interstate 17. He also noted that the data will also show where Gilbert residents go to work. Mr. Bagley noted that this is the type of information useful in attracting and retaining businesses. Mr. Smith stated if a jurisdiction is exporting a certain type of job, it might be used to attract a company in that industry to locate in a jurisdiction because the labor force is available.

Mr. Bagley stated that MAG is working with Maricopa Community Colleges and Arizona State University to develop even more datasets. He said that during the road shows, many questions

were asked about the topic of the labor force. Mr. Bagley stated that Arizona State University has provided MAG with the data on approximately 190,000 alumni, such as residence and degree program. He added that MAG is also working with East Valley Institute of Technology and WESTMEC. Mr. Bagley noted that the data disprove the myth that Arizona State University graduates pack up and leave the state after graduation. He added that approximately 64.6 percent of Arizona State University graduates since 1990 are still in Arizona.

Mr. Bagley demonstrated how a jurisdictional report suitable for handout can be run in a matter of seconds. He added that the maps can also be inserted into powerpoint slides. Mr. Bagley stated that MAG staff and member agencies have so far identified 160 job centers in the region. He said that reports can be processed from the data that show largest employers, worker age groups, occupations, or commutes, etc. Mr. Bagley demonstrated a custom analysis for a selected area and he noted that the graphic viewer and employment viewer are mobile-friendly.

Mr. Bagley stated that MAG staff provides hands-on training sessions at the City of Phoenix computer lab on the sixth floor of the MAG building and he added that they will gladly come to member agencies to provide training on using the tools. Mr. Bagley stated that suggestions on enhancements are always welcome. He explained that demographic data are available by county supervisor district and they are working on integrating employment data by county supervisor district.

Mr. Smith stated that most metropolitan planning organizations are transportation-centric, but the real end game is the economy and transportation is the enabler.

Chair Brady thanked Mr. Bagley for his report and asked members if they had questions.

Mr. Alfonso Rodriguez asked for clarification of the Native American jurisdictions' data. Mr. Bagley responded that all of the data for all of the Native American jurisdictions in the MAG region are included in both the MAG local and statewide viewers.

Mr. Brent Stoddard extended his compliments to Mr. Bagley and his staff. He stated that he needed to provide a report at a council meeting but had not attended a training session. Mr. Stoddard reported that he called Mr. Bagley and a few clicks later, he obtained information to compile a report that was invaluable in his presentation. Mr. Stoddard added that MAG staff even made a follow up telephone call to ensure that he had everything he needed. He stated that the information has been useful for new council members and discussions about economics and investments. Mr. Stoddard expressed appreciation for the user-friendly interface of MAG tools.

Mr. Brian Dalke stated that his city will be taking advantage of this incredible educational tool. He expressed appreciation for the training provided by MAG staff and remarked that is an incredible economic development tool. Mr. Dalke asked for clarification how the data and model will be updated as a result of the mid-decade census.

Mr. Bagley responded that MAG keeps the population data from the census updated as they become available, and he would follow up with an answer regarding the mid-decade census after consulting with the Census Bureau. Mr. Bagley stated that credit for the employment data belongs

with member agency staff, who helps MAG staff with building datasets and updates. He added that different data have different lag times, but staff strives to keep the data updated as much as possible. Mr. Bagley stated that the MAG Population Technical Advisory Committee is integral on the population numbers MAG receives.

Mr. Smith stated that MAG staff keeps the data current so that member agency staff do not have to wade through many resources to find the most current information.

Mr. Patrick Banger complimented MAG staff on the effort. He noted that he served on the MAG Population Technical Advisory Committee for two years when Mr. Charlie McClendon was Chair and is now Chair himself. Mr. Banger encouraged member agency staff to utilize these tools and provide timely and complete data to ensure the datasets are useful and relevant.

Mr. Smith stated that GPEC and ACA were present at the January 6, 2014, MAG Economic Development Committee meeting when a presentation on the enhanced online mapping and reporting tools was given. He said that after the meeting, both organizations approached him and indicated they would like to use the MAG tools at their organizations. Mr. Smith added that he informed the organizations to let MAG know of any enhancements that they needed. MAG could make the enhancements and everyone could work from the same tool and be more efficient and quick. He complimented Mr. Bagley on his staff.

9. Discussion of the Development of the FY 2016 MAG Unified Planning Work Program and Annual Budget

Mr. Smith provided the report in place of MAG Fiscal Services Manager, Ms. Becky Kimbrough, who was on jury duty. Mr. Smith stated that the MAG Dues and Assessments are developed using the prior fiscal year average Consumer Price Index-Urban Consumers (CPI-U) at approximately two percent. He added that the calendar year 2014 CPI-U is not yet available, and the draft Dues and Assessments are the same as last year. Mr. Smith stated that the Dues and Assessments will be updated after the final CPI-U number is received, however, little change to the CPI-U is anticipated.

Chair Brady thanked Mr. Smith for his report. No questions from the Committee were noted.

10. Update on the Arizona Center for Law in the Public Interest Lawsuit on the MAG 2012 Five Percent Plan for PM-10

Ms. Lindy Bauer, MAG staff, reported that previously, MAG submitted a motion to intervene in the lawsuit filed by the Arizona Center for Law in the Public Interest to challenge the approval of the MAG 2012 Five Percent Plan for PM-10 by the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA). She noted that the motion was filed late. The State supported MAG's motion, but the Arizona Center for Law in the Public Interest opposed MAG's motion to intervene.

Ms. Bauer stated that MAG's Washington, D. C., legal counsel prepared a reply brief in November 2014. On December 9, 2014, MAG's Washington, D. C., legal counsel that the court would allow MAG to submit a brief to intervene. Ms. Bauer stated that the court will look at the

motion to intervene and then the court will decide if it will let it remain an intervenor brief or an amicus brief.

Ms. Bauer displayed the files of the briefs that have been submitted: by EPA on December 17, Arizona Department of Environmental Quality on December 31, and MAG. She added that the documents are posted online on the MAG Air Quality web page of the MAG website.

Ms. Bauer stated that the EPA brief was very thorough and explained that the EPA reasonably approved the exceptional event documentation. She noted that one exhibit EPA submitted was an actual demonstration for an exceptional event of June 27, 2012. Ms. Bauer stated that EPA also pointed out that contingency measures can be implemented early, have continuous benefits, and that EPA has approved several early implementation measures for other areas. She stated that EPA pointed out there was no need to update the best available control measures and most stringent measures. The EPA approved them as part of the Serious Area Particulate Plan for PM-10 in 2002.

Ms. Bauer said that EPA indicated that agriculture is a small part of the PM-10 problem. The court should give EPA deference. EPA has the exceptional events rule and experts to review these issues.

Ms. Bauer said that ADEQ noted that this is the sixth petition on PM-10 by the Center for Law in the Public Interest. She added that the State has pointed out that the “sue and settle” approach is not appropriate for this situation. Ms. Bauer noted that the State provided data that showed a downward trend in PM-10 monitor data, supports the technical documentation submitted for exceptional events, and contingency measures. She added that the State also noted that agriculture is a small piece and new agriculture measures are not needed to demonstrate attainment. Ms. Bauer stated that the State’s brief also calls for denial of the petition for review.

Ms. Bauer stated that MAG’s brief describes the development of the PM-10 Plan by the member agencies and the State and the extensive documentation submitted for exceptional events. The Washington, D. C., legal counsel included charts that showed the exceptional events are historical fluctuations from normal data. Ms. Bauer stated that legal counsel also pointed out that early implementation of contingency measures is allowed. She stated that best available control measures and most stringent measures do not need to be updated. Ms. Bauer stated that the Washington, D. C., legal counsel pointed out that the Center asking the court to deny approval of the Plan is an abuse of discretion, is contrary to law, but does not seek a remedy.

Ms. Bauer stated that MAG is requesting that the court uphold the approval of the MAG 2012 Five Percent Plan for PM-10 and deny the petition for review. She stated that the Washington, D. C., legal counsel expressed that they did not know the timeframe for when the court would decide if MAG’s brief would be an amicus brief or an intervenor brief. Ms. Bauer added that they also did not know when it would go to court, but perhaps in the fall or later. She stated that past legal challenges to EPA’s approval of the Plan have taken five to six years, and MAG and the County fared well in the outcomes. Ms. Bauer stated that the Washington, D. C., legal counsel has been very careful to support items submitted by the State and EPA.

Mr. Smith noted the extensive amounts of work and money expended by MAG, ADEQ and Maricopa County regarding exceptional events. He added that EPA even included pictures of the haboob to show the court that this region is dealing with conditions outside its control. Mr. Smith acknowledged the extra effort by Ms. Bauer and her staff, especially Mr. Matt Poppen, who all worked late on New Year's Eve to ensure that the MAG brief was submitted on time.

11. Legislative Update

Chair Brady called forward Mr. Nathan Pryor to provide a legislative report. Mr. Pryor stated that since 2001, more than \$1.8 billion has been diverted from the Highway User Revenue Fund (HURF), including \$96 million in FY 2015.

Mr. Pryor stated that MAG has been requested by the Rural Transportation Advisory Council to sign a letter to the Governor and Legislature requesting an elimination of transfers from the HURF. He noted that councils of governments, metropolitan planning organizations, various chambers of commerce, and other interested organizations statewide are anticipated to sign onto the letter. Mr. Pryor stated that the Rural Transportation Advisory Council indicated that as of that morning, 25 organizations had signed on and another 40 are expected to sign on by the end of the week.

Mr. Pryor stated that the MAG Executive Committee will consider signing onto the letter on January 12, 2015, for possible approval. If approved, it is anticipated that the letter will be sent to the Governor and Legislature early next week.

Mr. Smith noted that the Utah Legislature has proposed a ten cent increase in its gas tax. He remarked that while gas prices are low is the most opportune time if an entity were to propose a tax increase. Mr. Smith referenced the severe problems at ADOT, which is not as critical in the MAG region due to its sales tax for transportation. He added that ADOT's Five Year Program is in deep trouble and taking any more funds could jeopardize its ability to match federal funds.

12. Request for Future Agenda Items

Topics or issues of interest that the Management Committee would like to have considered for discussion at a future meeting were requested.

No requests were noted.

13. Comments from the Committee

An opportunity was provided for Management Committee members to present a brief summary of current events. The Management Committee is not allowed to propose, discuss, deliberate or take action at the meeting on any matter in the summary, unless the specific matter is properly noticed for legal action.

Mr. Andrew Ching acknowledged the recent passing of Mr. Patrick Flynn. He noted that Mr. Flynn spent more than 17 years with the City of Tempe. Mr. Ching stated that Mr. Flynn was well respected, a great mentor and friend to a lot of people and will be missed.

Ms. Tracy Corman, on behalf of Mr. John Kross, who was unable to attend the meeting that day, expressed their appreciation for the kind words and support during the time of loss. She said that the Town would share information on the arrangements when they become available.

Adjournment

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 1:00 p.m.

Secretary

Chair