

**MINUTES OF THE
MARICOPA ASSOCIATION OF GOVERNMENTS
REGIONAL COUNCIL MEETING**

January 25, 2012
MAG Office, Saguaro Room
Phoenix, Arizona

MEMBERS ATTENDING

Mayor Hugh Hallman, Tempe, Chair	Mayor Thomas Schoaf, Litchfield Park
Mayor Marie Lopez Rogers, Avondale, Vice Chair	*Supervisor Mary Rose Wilcox, Maricopa Co.
* Councilwoman Robin Barker, Apache Junction	*Mayor Scott Smith, Mesa
Mayor Jackie Meck, Buckeye	Mayor Scott LeMarr, Paradise Valley
# Mayor David Schwan, Carefree	#Mayor Bob Barrett, Peoria
Councilman Dick Esser, Cave Creek	*Mayor Greg Stanton, Phoenix
* Mayor Jay Tibshraeny, Chandler	Mayor Gail Barney, Queen Creek
Mayor Lana Mook, El Mirage	*President Diane Enos, Salt River Pima-Maricopa Indian Community
* President Clinton Pattea, Fort McDowell Yavapai Nation	#Mayor W. J. "Jim" Lane, Scottsdale
* Mayor Jay Schlum, Fountain Hills	Mayor Sharon Wolcott, Surprise
* Mayor Ron Henry, Gila Bend	*Mayor Adolfo Gamez, Tolleson
* Governor Gregory Mendoza, Gila River Indian Community	#Mayor Kelly Blunt, Wickenburg
Mayor John Lewis, Gilbert	Mayor Michael LeVault, Youngtown
# Mayor Elaine Scruggs, Glendale	*Vacant, State Transportation Board
* Mayor Georgia Lord, Goodyear	Victor Flores, State Transportation Board
* Mayor Yolanda Solarez, Guadalupe	#Roc Arnett, Citizens Transportation Oversight Committee

* Those members neither present nor represented by proxy.

Attended by telephone conference call. + Attended by videoconference

1. Call to Order

The meeting of the MAG Regional Council was called to order by Chair Hugh Hallman at 5:05 p.m.

2. Pledge of Allegiance

The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

Chair Hallman noted that Roc Arnett, Mayor Bob Barrett, Mayor Kelly Blunt, Mayor Jim Lane, Mayor David Schwan, and Mayor Elaine Scruggs were participating in the meeting by teleconference.

Chair Hallman welcomed back to the MAG Regional Council Mayor Sharon Wolcott from Surprise.

Chair Hallman announced that on January 18, 2012, the Transportation Policy Committee recommended approval of agenda item 5E on the Regional Council agenda. He noted that previously transmitted items were at each place: the addendum to the agenda (item 5O) and revised material for agenda items 5C and 5I.

Chair Hallman requested that members of the public who would like to comment fill out a blue public comment card for the Call to the Audience agenda item or a yellow public comment card for Consent Agenda items, or items on the agenda for action. He noted that transit tickets for those who used transit to attend the meeting were available from staff.

3. Call to the Audience

Chair Hallman noted that the Call to the Audience provides an opportunity to members of the audience who wish to speak on items not scheduled on the agenda that fall under the jurisdiction of MAG, or on items on the agenda for discussion but not for action. Citizens are requested to not exceed a three minute time period for their comments. A total of 15 minutes is provided for the Call to the Audience agenda item, unless the Regional Council requests an exception to this limit. Those wishing to comment on agenda items posted for action will be provided the opportunity at the time the item is heard.

No requests for public comment were received.

4. Executive Director's Report

Dennis Smith, MAG Executive Director, reported on items of interest in the MAG region. Mr. Smith first reported on the biennial Desert Peaks Awards, which recognize regional excellence, innovation and cooperation. He said that a letter has been sent to Regional Council members requesting them to submit the names of community leaders with an understanding of regional issues to serve on the judging panel. A list of the award categories was displayed and Mr. Smith stated that due to the formation of the Economic Development Committee, a business award could be added. He noted that this will be a topic of discussion at the next Economic Development Committee meeting. Mr. Smith stated that sponsorship letters have been sent out and the call for entries will be issued in late January with a March 14 entry deadline.

Mr. Smith remarked that there is good news in the housing situation. He displayed newly revised regional foreclosure maps as of December 2011 that showed foreclosed residential properties totaled 9,178 and pending residential foreclosures totaled 17,873, for a total of 27,051 distressed residential properties. Mr. Smith said that this is a significant improvement over the March 2010 peak of 63,182 distressed residential properties. Mr. Smith added that the maps were sent to the MAG Management Committee and are available on the MAG website for anyone to download and use in their presentations.

Mr. Smith reported on the "Planning for the Next 100 Years" aging conference that will be held February 15, 2012, at the Phoenix Convention Center. He said that the no-cost, all-day event, which is

sponsored by the Virginia G. Piper Charitable Trust, will assist agencies in preparing for services that will be needed by their residents aged 65 years and older. Mr. Smith stated that an expert from the Atlanta Regional Commission discussing best practices will be one of the presenters. He urged members and their staffs to attend this event.

Mr. Smith noted that MAG is leading the way in innovative practices. He announced that MAG was published in the *Transportation Research Board Journal* for Innovative Methods for Collecting Data and for Modeling Travel Related to Special Events. Mr. Smith acknowledged the MAG modeling team: Vladimir Livshits, Lavanya Vallabhaneni, and Ted Brown, assisted by MAG consultants, Cambridge Systematics and Kathy DeBoer from WestGroup Research.

Chair Hallman thanked Mr. Smith for his report. No questions from the Council for Mr. Smith were noted.

5. Approval of Consent Agenda

Chair Hallman noted that agenda items #5A, #5B, #5C, #5D, #5E, #5F, #5G, #5H, #5I, #5J, #5K, #5L, #5M, #5N, and #5O were on the Consent Agenda. He noted that no public comment cards had been received. Chair Hallman asked members if they had questions or requests to hear an item individually. None were noted.

Mayor Rogers moved to approve the Consent Agenda. Mayor LeVault seconded, and the motion passed unanimously.

5A. Approval of the December 7, 2011, Meeting Minutes

The MAG Regional Council, by consent, approved the December 7, 2011, meeting minutes.

5B. ADOT Red Letter Process

In June of 1996, the MAG Regional Council approved the Arizona Department of Transportation (ADOT) Red Letter process, which requires MAG member agencies to notify ADOT of potential development activities in freeway alignments. Development activities include actions on plans, zoning and permits. ADOT has forwarded a list of notifications from January 1, 2011 to June 30, 2011. Of the 84 notices received, none had an impact to the State Highway System.

5C. Project Changes – Amendment and Administrative Modification to the FY 2011-2015 MAG Transportation Improvement Program

The MAG Regional Council, by consent, approved amendments and administrative modifications to the FY 2011-2015 MAG Transportation Improvement Program, and as appropriate, to the Regional Transportation Plan 2010 Update. The Fiscal Year (FY) 2011-2015 Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) and Regional Transportation Plan (RTP) 2010 Update were approved by the MAG Regional Council on July 28, 2010, and have been modified nine times with the last modification

approved by Regional Council on October 26, 2011. Since then, there is a need to modify projects in the programs. The projects listed in Table A are the technical modifications related to the Arterial Life Cycle Program that was approved by the MAG Regional Council on September 21, 2011. The additional project change requests are modifications to project costs and new projects related to newly awarded federal funds for both safety and transit projects. On December 8, 2011, the Transportation Review Committee (TRC) recommended approval of the project changes. Since TRC met, project changes and modifications were requested. These modifications are mainly clerical and minor adjustments to financial information. The projects in Table A are dependent on a new finding of conformity, which will be heard through the MAG Committee process as a separate agenda item beginning at MAG Management Committee. The projects in Table B may be categorized as exempt from conformity determinations and an administrative modification does not require a conformity determination. These changes were recommended for approval by the MAG Management Committee on January 11, 2012, and by the Transportation Policy Committee on January 18, 2012. Since these actions were taken, a request was received by METRO light rail to divide the solar canopy project, #VMR11-105T, into two phases: pre-design/design and construction. Previously it was just a construction phase. An amendment to the TIP was required to move these projects forward. In addition, the 38 projects approved by the MAG Regional Council to receive federal Highway Safety Improvement Program (HSIP) funds on December 7, 2011, needed to be added to the TIP.

5D. Recommendation of Projects for FY 2012 Traffic Signal Optimization Program

The MAG Regional Council, by consent, approved the list of FY 2012 Traffic Signal Optimization Program projects and before-and-after project evaluations for an estimated cost of \$230,740, and a regional training workshop on the SYNCHRO software for an estimated cost of \$10,000. On July 19, 2010, the list of consultants for the Intelligent Transportation System (ITS) and Transportation Safety on-call services was approved by the MAG Regional Council Executive Committee. The FY 2012 Unified Planning Work Program and Annual Budget, approved by the MAG Regional Council in May 2011, includes \$430,000 for the Fiscal Year (FY) 2012 Traffic Signal Optimization Program (TSOP), including an estimated balance of \$30,000 carried over from FY 2011. On October 17, 2011, a request for new projects for the FY 2012 TSOP was announced. A total of seven project applications was received that would lead to improved traffic operations at 127 traffic signals in seven affected jurisdictions. A new feature of the program will be the performance of before-and-after evaluations of projects. The estimated cost of these projects and the evaluations is \$230,740. All TSOP projects will be carried out using the approved qualified on-call consultants. The applications also identified the need for training 15 individuals on SYNCHRO, a traffic signal timing software used by local agencies. The estimated cost of the SYNCHRO training is \$10,000. The total cost for these projects including training is estimated at \$240,740. A second call for projects may be needed to utilize all available TSOP funds. under contract with MAG. This item was recommended for approval by the MAG ITS Committee on November 27, 2011, by the Transportation Review Committee on December 8, 2011, and by the MAG Management Committee on January 11, 2012.

5E. Amendment of the FY 2010-2014 MAG Transportation Improvement Program and the Regional Transportation Plan 2010 Update to Include High Occupancy Vehicle (HOV) Lane Ramps at Loop 101 and Maryland Avenue

The MAG Regional Council, by consent, approved a new project to add HOV direct connection ramps at the L101 and Maryland Avenue for an estimated cost of \$14.5 million, that the remaining uncommitted funds in the Statewide Transportation Acceleration Needs Account (STAN) for the MAG region, estimated to be approximately \$8 million, be allocated to this project with the MAG Freeway/Highway program paying for the balance of the costs up to \$7.5 million, and that the FY 2010-2014 MAG Transportation Improvement Program and the Regional Transportation Plan 2010 Update be amended, pending a finding of air quality conformity. In July 2010, the Regional Council approved a \$9 million increase in the budget to construct High Occupancy Vehicle (HOV) lanes on Loop 101 from Tatum Boulevard to the junction with Interstate-10 in the West Valley so that the freeway in the vicinity of the Maryland Avenue overpass could be widened to accommodate the future construction of ramps that would provide direct access to the L101 HOV lanes from Maryland Avenue. As part of the MAG Regional Council action, the ramp connections were included in the MAG Regional Transportation Plan as an illustrative project. The HOV lane project is almost complete, and the final component of the project is to construct the ramp connections from the overpass to the L101 HOV lanes. Glendale has identified about \$8 million that is in the Statewide Transportation Acceleration Needs Account (STAN) for the MAG region that Glendale is proposing to use to pay for a portion of the project. Glendale is proposing that the balance of the regional funding of up to \$7.5 million be used to cover the remaining cost of the project. This item was recommended for approval by the MAG Transportation Review Committee on December 8, 2011, the MAG Management Committee on January 11, 2012, and by the Transportation Policy Committee on January 18, 2012.

5F. Ratification of Geographic Representative for the Transportation Policy Committee

The MAG Regional Council, by consent, ratified the appointment of Mayor Sharon Wolcott, City of Surprise, to fill the unexpired portion of the geographic balance seat, two-year term (June 2012), on the Transportation Policy Committee. The composition of the Transportation Policy Committee (TPC), established by the Regional Council on April 24, 2002, includes three members selected from areas that need to be represented to achieve geographic balance, with the members selected from and by the under represented geographic area and ratified by the Regional Council. Interstate 17 is used as a boundary in determining geographic balance. Due to recent elections, one of the geographic balance seats is vacant. The West Valley members have conferred and concurred on Mayor Sharon Wolcott, City of Surprise, to fill the unexpired portion of the two-year term (June 2012).

5G. Status of Remaining MAG Approved PM-10 Certified Street Sweeper Projects That Have Not Requested Reimbursement

A status report was provided on the remaining PM-10 certified street sweeper projects that have received approval, but have not requested reimbursement. To assist MAG in reducing the amount of obligated federal funds carried forward in the MAG Unified Planning Work Program and Annual Budget, MAG

is requesting that street sweepers be purchased and reimbursement be requested by the agency within one year plus ten calendar days from the date of the MAG authorization letter.

5H. New Finding of Conformity for the FY 2011-2015 MAG Transportation Improvement Program and Regional Transportation Plan 2010 Update, As Amended

The MAG Regional Council, by consent, approved the new Finding of Conformity for the FY 2011-2015 MAG Transportation Improvement Program and Regional Transportation Plan 2010 Update, as amended. On September 21, 2011, the MAG Regional Council approved a Draft Fiscal Year 2012 Arterial Life Cycle Program amendment for several projects to the FY 2011-2015 MAG Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) and MAG Regional Transportation Plan 2010 Update, as appropriate, contingent on a new Finding of Conformity. Since that time, MAG staff has completed a regional emissions analysis for the proposed amendment. The results of the regional emissions analysis for the proposed amendment, when considered together with the TIP and RTP as a whole, indicate that the transportation projects will not contribute to violations of federal air quality standards. On December 2, 2011, a 30-day public review period began on the conformity assessment and amendment.

5I. Conformity Consultation

The Maricopa Association of Governments is conducting consultation on a conformity assessment for an amendment and administrative modification to the FY 2011-2015 MAG Transportation Improvement Program (TIP). The amendment and administrative modification involve several projects, including revisions to Arizona Department of Transportation projects, the addition of new Highway Safety Improvement Program projects, and new transit projects. 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. Comments were requested by January 20, 2012.

5J. Update on the MAG Five Percent Plan for PM-10 and EPA Proposed Ozone Nonattainment Area Boundary

The Arizona Department of Environmental Quality (ADEQ) is continuing to prepare the documentation for the 21 days of exceptional events in 2011 with technical assistance from Maricopa County and MAG staff. On November 22, 2011, positive comments and suggestions were received from the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) informally on the first group of exceptional events for July 2-8, 2011. The documentation will be revised and submitted officially at the end of December. Following the November Regional Council Executive Committee meeting, a letter was sent to EPA to discuss a concept for streamlining the exceptional events process by enabling the states and tribes to make the exceptional events determinations, after consultation with EPA. Regarding the plan, ADEQ needs to provide the final Dust Action General Permit, a commitment to assess the effectiveness of the voluntary and emerging control measure (Dust Action General Permit), Agricultural Best Management Practices Program Rule Revision, and a commitment to submit the technical support documentation for the Agricultural Best Management Practices Rule Revision. Regarding ozone, EPA sent a letter to the Governor on December 9, 2011 that proposed the nonattainment area boundary for the 2008 eight-hour

ozone standard (0.075 parts per million) based upon a recent recommendation from ADEQ. The proposed boundary would expand the current nonattainment area to the west and southwest where new power plants are located.

5K. Mesa Fire Department Request for a Public Safety Answering Point

The MAG Regional Council, by consent, approved Mesa's request to be defined as a member of the Maricopa Region 9-1-1 community, and an Ex-Officio member of the MAG Public Safety Answering Point (PSAP) Managers Group. The City of Mesa Fire Department is requesting to be defined as a member of the Maricopa Region 9-1-1 community, and an Ex-Officio member of the MAG Public Safety Answering Point (PSAP) Managers Group. Mesa Fire recently has expanded its facilities and has expressed interest in developing and implementing a new PSAP in addition to the existing Mesa Police PSAP, which will continue its activities and representation on the MAG PSAP Managers Group. The Mesa request has been recommended for approval by the MAG PSAP Managers Group on October 13, 2011, the MAG 9-1-1 Oversight Team on December 7, 2011, and the MAG Management Committee on January 11, 2012.

5L. Status Update on the June 30, 2011 Single Audit and Management Letter Comments, MAG's Comprehensive Annual Financial Report and OMB Circular A-133 Reports (i.e., "Single Audit") for the Fiscal Year Ended June 30, 2011

The MAG Regional Council, by consent, accepted the audit opinion issued on the MAG Comprehensive Annual Financial Report and Single Audit Report for the year ended June 30, 2011. The accounting firm of LarsonAllen, LLP has completed the audit of MAG's Comprehensive Annual Financial Report (CAFR) and Single Audit for the fiscal year ended June 30, 2011. An unqualified audit opinion was issued on November 16, 2011, on the financial statements of governmental activities, the aggregate discretely presented component units, each major fund and the aggregate remaining fund information. The independent auditors' report on compliance with the requirements applicable to major federal award programs, expressed an unqualified opinion on the Single Audit. The Single Audit report indicated there were no reportable conditions in MAG's internal control over financial reporting considered to be material weaknesses, no instances of noncompliance considered to be material and no questioned costs. The Single Audit report had no new or repeat findings. The CAFR financial statements and related footnotes were prepared in accordance with the Government Finance Officers Association's (GFOA) standards for the Certificate of Achievement for Excellence in Financial Reporting awards program. Management intends to submit the June 30, 2011 CAFR to the GFOA awards program for review. If awarded the certificate for the June 30, 2011 CAFR, this would be the agency's 14th consecutive award. The audit opinion was recommended for acceptance by the MAG Management Committee on January 11, 2012, and the MAG Regional Council Executive Committee on January 17, 2012.

5M. MAG Committee Operating Policies and Procedures

The MAG Regional Council, by consent, approved updating Section 5.05 - Terms of Officers to two-year terms for the technical and other policy committees in the MAG Committee Operating Policies and Procedures. On July 22, 2009, the MAG Regional Council approved the MAG Committee Operating

Policies and Procedures. Officer appointments for technical and other policy committees will be made by the MAG Executive Committee and are eligible for one-year terms, with possible reappointment to serve up to one additional term by consent of the respective committee. The MAG organization has been operating under these polices and procedures for approximately 2½ years. On January 17, 2012, the MAG Regional Council Executive Committee recommended that the terms for the technical and other policy committee officers be extended to two-year terms to provide more continuity. The terms of officers for the Regional Council, Executive Committee, Transportation Policy Committee, Management Committee and Economic Development Committee will remain the same.

5N. Ratification of the Annual Performance Review and Compensation Benefits of the MAG Executive Director

The MAG Regional Council, by consent, ratified the action of the Executive Committee regarding compensation/benefits of the MAG Executive Director. In January 2003, the Regional Council approved an agreement to hire the current Executive Director. As part of this agreement, it was provided that the Executive Director would receive an annual performance review conducted by the Executive Committee. On November 30, 2011, an evaluation survey and Major Regional Goals and Results for FY 2011-2012 were sent to members of the Regional Council to receive their input on the review. On January 17, 2012, the MAG Regional Council Executive Committee discussed the performance of the Executive Director, and took action regarding the compensation/benefits of the Executive Director.

5O. Appointment of Mayor Greg Stanton to the MAG Regional Council Executive Committee, the Transportation Policy Committee and the Economic Development Committee

The MAG Regional Council, by consent, appointed Mayor Greg Stanton to the MAG Regional Council Executive Committee, the Transportation Policy Committee and the Economic Development Committee. On January 3, 2012, Mayor Greg Stanton took office as the Mayor of Phoenix. In his efforts to work with the other cities, towns, Maricopa County and the Native American Communities to create a regional collaboration, Mayor Stanton has requested that the MAG Regional Council consider his appointment to the Regional Council Executive Committee, replacing Vice Mayor Thelda Williams who has been serving on the Committee. Mayor Stanton additionally requests that he be appointed as the Central City elected official on the Transportation Policy Committee and the Economic Development Committee, replacing Vice Mayor Thelda Williams who has been serving on the Committees. He would also serve on the MAG Regional Council as the City of Phoenix representative.

6. Appointment of the Vice Chair of the Transportation Policy Committee

Chair Hallman noted that two letters of interest had been received, from Mayor Jackie Meck of Buckeye and Councilmember Jack Sellers from Chandler.

Mayor Schoaf addressed the Council on this item. Mayor Schoaf stated that the Regional Council is being requested to appoint a Vice Chair to the Transportation Policy Committee (TPC) to fulfill the remainder of the term through June 2012. He explained that due to recent municipal elections, Mayor Lane ascended to the position of Chair and the Vice Chair position is vacant. Mayor Schoaf stated that

according to the normal rotation of geographic balance, the seat would be a West Valley seat. Both the Chair and Vice Chair positions will be eligible to serve an additional full-year term.

Mayor Schoaf moved to appoint Mayor Jackie Meck of the Town of Buckeye as Vice Chair of the TPC. Mayor Barrett seconded.

Chair Hallman explained the process to ensure that there is geographic balance of the officers.

Mayor Schoaf stated that he understood that the geographic balance concept was discussed with Councilmember Sellers. He understood that Councilmember Sellers left in his application to show his interest in the next election.

Chair Hallman asked members if there was discussion. Hearing none, the vote on the motion passed unanimously.

7. Results of the Proposition 400 Performance Audit

Monique De Los Rios Urban, MAG Transportation Performance Program Manager, provided a report on the results of the Proposition 400 Audit. Ms. De Los Rios Urban stated that an audit of the Regional Transportation Plan is required to be conducted every five years, beginning in 2010, and every five years thereafter. She said that the Performance Audit produced recommendations to improve the oversight and management of the program and the recommendations would be presented today. Ms. De Los Rios Urban explained that the recommendations were grouped into three categories: Green, recommendation is already in practice; Yellow, recommendation is proposed to be implemented with modifications; Red, recommendation is proposed not to be implemented.

Ms. De Los Rios Urban stated that the packets provided to members included detailed information on the 25 recommendations in the audit report as well as MAG's official response letter to the Auditor General and a link to the original audit report. Ms. De los Rios' slide presentation included all 25 recommendations and focused on those that were coded yellow and red. For example, recommendation #5 is to publish a dashboard-format summary of performance data on a regular basis on MAG's website showing targets, budget and schedule by corridor and by project. She noted that MAG has this information on its website but it is not fully interactive as the auditors suggested, so it is being redesigned.

Ms. De Los Rios Urban stated that recommendation #7 is to continue to implement the current transportation system and strive to continually reassess system performance to make modifications as necessary. She stated that it is proposed that MAG continue to implement this recommendation as has been the practice.

Ms. De Los Rios Urban stated that recommendation #8 is to develop a "report card" type feature to provide project snapshots summarizing project performance, budget schedule and percent completion. She noted that MAG agrees with this recommendation and proposes implementation.

Ms. De Los Rios Urban stated that recommendation #9 is to ensure consistency in reporting and to facilitate the tracking of totals and data between the Annual Proposition 400 Reports, Regional Transportation Plan Updates and life cycle program reports. She explained that the proposal is to improve the process to create consistency in the reporting timelines.

Ms. De Los Rios Urban stated that recommendation #12 is to have MAG require the use of the Congestion Management Program tool among local cities and counties to identify and prioritize projects. She stated that the recommendation is agreed to and a proposed different method is recommended for implementation. Ms. De Los Rios Urban stated that the Congestion Management Program tool may not be the best vehicle for transit, and MAG will be exploring different analytic tools that could enhance transit programming.

Ms. De Los Rios Urban stated that recommendations #18 and #19 were similar because they address the Memorandum of Understanding (MOU): To develop detailed provisions for the MOU agreements among the four Regional Transportation Plan Partners, and possibly the City of Phoenix; Strengthen the existing transit planning MOU to describe the mechanics and specificity of process. She advised that there may be ways to establish new functions, but the assessment is that the existing MOU in place is adequate.

Ms. De Los Rios Urban stated that recommendation #22 is to adjust MAG Transportation Policy Committee membership requirements to include RPTA and METRO transit representatives. She said that MAG has included transit representation on the TPC since the beginning of the committee and stated that this recommendation is not proposed for implementation.

Ms. De Los Rios Urban stated that recommendation #23 is to reaffirm the role of CTOC and increase effectiveness by implementing several changes; among them, to be staffed by MAG. She said that staff looked at this recommendation and proposes that some of the recommendations could be implemented, but legislative action would be required for final implementation.

Ms. De Los Rios Urban stated that a MAG public hearing on the audit was held on January 18, 2012. She said that per the Arizona Statutes action is required from RPTA, Valley Metro Rail, the Board of Supervisors, the State Transportation Board, and CTOC. Ms. De Los Rios Urban stated that implementation items will be proposed for recommendation and action at upcoming meetings of the MAG Transportation Review Committee, Management Committee, Transportation Policy Committee, and Regional Council.

Chair Hallman thanked Ms. De Los Rios Urban for her report. He said that the auditor's report includes comments and recommendations that are not in compliance with State law and when an auditor is working from a perspective of not understanding State law, it is difficult to put weight behind criticisms driven by that misunderstanding. Chair Hallman commented on the response letter written by staff, which he thought was exceptionally well done and extraordinarily polite for the circumstances. He remarked that the auditor made changes to the document, but did not indicate the changes in the marked up version, which required MAG staff to figure out what had changed. Chair Hallman stated that the auditor did not even understand how the MAG organization operates, as the committee structures used

in their report were inaccurate. He thought this spoke volumes about the veracity and accuracy of the report. He encouraged MAG staff to not be apologetic for work done in the most tough economic times imaginable. Chair Hallman commented that being able to pull together as a region and make significant adjustments to the Regional Transportation Plan without ending up in a bloodbath spoke volumes, not only about the regionalism demonstrated by the members, but also the ability of staff to pull everyone together.

No further comments from the Council were noted.

8. Proposed Change of Time for Regional Council Meetings

Chair Hallman stated that the Regional Council meeting time of 5:00 p.m. is longstanding meeting start time. He said that the Executive Committee discussed a potential change to start the meetings at 11:30 a.m. Chair Hallman stated that the Executive Committee praised the idea and unanimously thought this was something the Regional Council ought to do. He noted that changing the meeting time is challenging for elected officials because their calendars sometimes are set months in advance. Chair Hallman noted that there are obstacles to evening meetings, such as driving into Phoenix during rush hour and returning home at night. He stated that changing the time could be an advantage, but wanted to know if the change would present any fatal flaws.

With no questions, Chair Hallman called for a motion. Mayor LeVault moved to approve moving the start time for the Regional Council meetings from 5:00 p.m. to 11:30 a.m. Councilmember Esser seconded and the motion passed, with Mayor Blunt voting no. Chair Hallman expressed his hope that the meeting time change would not cause Mayor Blunt any major inconvenience.

Mayor Lewis asked the effective date of the new start time. Mr. Smith replied that the change would be in effect beginning with the next Regional Council meeting on February 22, 2012. He added that a memorandum with the revised meeting schedule would be sent out.

9. Legislative Update

Nathan Pryor, MAG Intergovernmental Policy Coordinator, provided an update on legislative issues of interest. He said that the focus of his presentation would be federal surface transportation reauthorization. Mr. Pryor noted that SAFETEA-LU expired in September 2009 and has been extended eight times, with the current iteration set to expire in March 2012.

Mr. Pryor stated that a couple of months ago, the Senate Environmental and Public Works Committee passed a bipartisan bill called Moving Ahead for Progress in the 21st Century, called MAP-21. He said that a freight component was added in December by the Commerce, Science, and Technology Committee that is pending discussion of its transit provisions by the Senate Banking, Housing, and Urban Development Affairs Committee.

Mr. Pryor reported that the House Transportation and Infrastructure Committee may introduce its bill as early this week in response to the March 2012 deadline. He added that he has no language yet but will continue to monitor activities.

Mr. Pryor stated that there is a question is whether the bill can get done in 2012 because of the presidential election and the budget process. He noted that there are discussions of adding other issues to the legislation, such as the Keystone pipeline or a health care provision.

Mr. Pryor stated that there are concerns with MAP-21 in its current form. He stated that the provisions in ISTEA have been in effect for some 20 years, but we are now seeing a lot of language on rulemaking from the U.S. DOT regarding the provisions for MPOs.

Mr. Pryor gave three examples of concern with MAP-21: 1) The CMAQ restructuring gives more priority to PM-2.5, which is not an issue in the MAG region, and is less flexible than the current CMAQ structure; 2) A tiered MPO structure. MAG would be a tier one MPO due to population size, but there are no additional responsibilities and there is uncertainty what is meant by a tier one MPO; 3) The Surface Transportation Program would be revamped as the Transportation Mobility Program. Mr. Pryor stated that it appears there are lower obligation limits based on population, and this is a concern to metro areas. Defining obligation for the rest of a state appears to be more subject to the U.S. Department of Transportation and state departments of transportation and there are no requirements to make obligation authority available.

Mr. Pryor stated that a lack of clarity regarding major metro areas is a great concern. He reported that a phone call of major metro areas was organized by the Chicago MPO to discuss reauthorization concerns. Mr. Pryor stated that the National Association of Regional Councils is considering adopting possible amendment language to have ready in case it is needed. He stated that MAG also has urged the member agencies to continue to work through their organizations, for example, the League of Arizona Cities and Towns and the U. S. Conference of Mayors.

Mr. Pryor stated that Brookings Institution wrote an article on what was learned from 20 years of ISTEA and is considering a follow up article regarding pending reauthorization and what it could mean to major metro areas. He added that he will continue to monitor this.

Chair Hallman thanked Mr. Pryor for his report. No questions from the Council were noted.

10. Request for Future Agenda Items

Topics or issues of interest that the Regional Council would like to have considered for discussion at a future meeting were requested. No requests for future agenda items were noted.

11. Comments from the Council

An opportunity was provided for Regional Council members to present a brief summary of current events. The Regional Council 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.

Mayor Blunt invited Regional Council members to Wickenburg’s Gold Rush Days, which will take place the third weekend in February.

Chair Hallman encouraged members to attend Gold Rush Days. He recalled that his grandmother lived in Wickenburg for about 50 years and he had fond childhood memories attending such events.

Chair Hallman stated that Regional Council members had been invited to the Spotlight Is on Our Region at the Herberger Theater following the Regional Council meeting. The goal of the event is to continue to build regional relationships and to welcome the newly elected officials and invite them to continue building a stronger region.

Adjournment

There being no further business, Mayor LeVault moved and Mayor Lewis seconded the motion to adjourn the meeting at 5:40 p.m.

Secretary

Chair