

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

March 26, 2014  
MAG Office, Saguaro Room  
Phoenix, Arizona

MEMBERS ATTENDING

Mayor Scott Smith, Mesa, Chair	Mayor Rebecca Jimenez, Guadalupe
Mayor Michael LeVault, Youngtown, Vice Chair	Mayor Thomas Schoaf, Litchfield Park
Vice Mayor Robin Barker, Apache Junction	Mayor Christian Price, City of Maricopa
Mayor Marie Lopez Rogers, Avondale	* Supervisor Steve Chucuri, Maricopa County
Mayor Jackie Meck, Buckeye	* Mayor Scott LeMarr, Paradise Valley
Councilmember Mike Farrar, Carefree	# Councilmember Cathy Carlat, Peoria
Councilmember Reginald Monachino, Cave Creek	Mayor Greg Stanton, Phoenix
Mayor Jay Tibshraeny, Chandler	* Supervisor Todd House, Pinal County
Mayor Lana Mook, El Mirage	Mayor Gail Barney, Queen Creek
* Mayor Tom Rankin, Florence	* President Diane Enos, Salt River Pima-Maricopa Indian Community
* President Ruben Balderas, Fort McDowell Yavapai Nation	Mayor W. J. "Jim" Lane, Scottsdale
Mayor Linda Kavanagh, Fountain Hills	Mayor Sharon Wolcott, Surprise
Mayor Steven Holt, Gila Bend	Mayor Mark Mitchell, Tempe
* Governor Gregory Mendoza, Gila River Indian Community	* Mayor Adolfo Gamez, Tolleson
Mayor John Lewis, Gilbert	Mayor John Cook, Wickenburg
Mayor Jerry Weiers, Glendale	Jack Sellers, State Transportation Board
Mayor Georgia Lord, Goodyear	* Joseph La Rue, State Transportation Board
	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 Scott Smith at 11:34 a.m.

2. Pledge of Allegiance

The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

Councilmember Cathy Carlat joined the meeting via teleconference.

Chair Smith noted that hearing assisted devices were available from MAG staff. Chair Smith 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. Transit tickets for those who purchased a transit ticket to attend the meeting and parking validation were available from staff.

Chair Smith that material for agenda items 6E, 6H, 7, and 12 was at each place and on each side of the room.

3. Resolution of Appreciation

Chair Smith noted that Ms. Carol Kratz, who has served this region for many years, including positions as the Program Director with the Virginia G. Piper Charitable Trust and as MAG Human Services Manager, recently retired. He noted that a Resolution of Appreciation was prepared to recognize Ms. Kratz for her numerous contributions to the MAG region.

Ms. Kratz thanked the Regional Council for the recognition. She noted that she had worked 20 years at MAG and 14 years at Virginia G. Piper Charitable Trust and during that time she worked on such issues as homelessness, domestic violence, the curfew ordinance, the graffiti ordinance, and the leadership role MAG is assuming in helping older adults stay in their communities. Ms. Kratz stated that these accomplishments are the result of collaboration and long standing, trusting relationships. Ms. Kratz stated that this is not the work of one person, but the collective work of many.

Chair Smith read the Resolution.

Mayor Marie Lopez Rogers moved to adopt the Resolution of Appreciation for Carol Kratz for her service to the MAG region. Mayor Mark Mitchell seconded, and the motion passed unanimously.

4. Call to the Audience

Chair Smith 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.

Chair Smith recognized public comment from Ms. Dianne Barker, who said that she had been asked for a monetary handout, and when she ignored the requestor, he said she looked 17. Ms. Barker stated that she was a great supporter of multimodalism and it feels good. She said that ADOT has proposed a high speed train and there are three proposed routes to go to the East Valley. Ms. Barker suggested connecting Sky Harbor Airport with Tucson and having a solar train called the Solar Express. Ms. Barker remarked that this would make the area prosperous and would cut down on collisions that occur with light rail and shut down roads for hours. She noted that a lot of time in the United States is lost to

sitting in traffic. Ms. Barker expressed her appreciation for Mr. Luis Acosta's comments on television regarding saving a dog who mauled a child instead of saving dogs who are euthanized and might be adoptable. Ms. Barker stated that her heart goes out to the child and she wondered about people's priorities when the dog had 59,000 Likes on Facebook. She stated that Mr. Acosta expressed his hope that followup is needed to ensure that the dog is not adopted in a few years. Chair Smith thanked Ms. Barker for her comments.

Chair Smith recognized public comment from Mr. Pat Vint, who expressed that riding in planes is not safe any more. He stated that he arrived at Luke Air Force Base in 1952, after service in Korea. Mr. Vint stated that this is a disaster – pilots cannot be trusted – some are letting girls into the cockpit. Mr. Vint noted *The Arizona Republic* article by Robert Robb that Mayor Stanton should be fixing the financing at City Hall not the economy. He said that Mayor Stanton is the head puppet man of eight puppets and all love each other and are in one big, happy family. Mr. Vint stated that the City of Phoenix destroyed Jerome Miller. Mr. Vint stated that Phoenix has control over everybody but he will not stand still for it. Mr. Vint stated that he was trying to make a citizen's arrest of the City of Phoenix mayor, council, city manager, and the prosecuting attorney.

Chair Smith thanked Mr. Vint for his comments. Mr. Vint then expressed his wish that he had settled in a city other than Phoenix. He stated that people have to get after their big sister or it will destroy everyone, and he explained that their big sister is the City of Phoenix

Mayor Stanton noted that the description of the mayor and council as a puppet man, eight puppets and one big happy family is probably the minority opinion.

Mr. Vint stated that, certainly, it was a minority opinion and what did Mayor Stanton think? He spoke of the population of Phoenix – that one-third were babies, one-third were old people, and the rest were home watching soaps.

Chair Smith stated that the Regional Council appreciates citizens attending meetings and making public comment, but what is not appropriate is to make personal attacks unrelated to the business of this body. Chair Smith stated that the Regional Council is unable to respond to comments made by citizens. Chair Smith thanked Mr. Vint for attending the meeting.

Chair Smith recognized public comment from Mr. John Rusinek, who reported from his log a meeting he and his wife had on January 3, 2008, with Mayor Stanton and Phoenix staff. He said the meeting was scheduled for 10:00 a.m. but did not start until 10:30 a.m., and it concerned conditions next door: an illegal fence, a two-story playhouse, goats, ducks, pigs, geese, and chickens, which are against city ordinances. Mr. Rusinek reported that the City told him they did not consider goats animals and laughed about it. He stated that Jerome Miller said the City would get back to Mr. Rusinek about the blighted fence in 30 days, and Mayor Stanton said the City could do something about the dust. Mr. Rusinek stated that all he wanted was justice. He wondered if this happens to other citizens or does the City have a vendetta against him. Mr. Rusinek stated that he has problem and Phoenix staff laughs because they do not consider goats animals. Chair Smith thanked Mr. Rusinek for his comments.

5. Executive Director's Report

Mr. Dennis Smith, MAG Executive Director, provided a report to the Regional Council on activities of general interest. Mr. Smith reported that the Toyota 120 NASCAR Mexico Series Race was held February 28, 2014, at Phoenix International Raceway. He stated that Mayor Marie Lopez Rogers was the impetus for MAG and the Arizona Hispanic Chamber to sponsor the business to business events at the race. Mr. Smith added that the City of Avondale sponsored delegates from Mexico and the Consulate in Phoenix to promote better relationships between the two countries.

Mr. Smith stated that the Sonoran Institute of Technology (ITSON) Tour, which includes more than 60 students from Mexico, is underway. He explained that the tour involves MAG, the Arizona Mexico Commission, and the Phoenix Consul General of Mexico. Mr. Smith stated that the group is touring the Phoenix Biomedical Campus, Greater Phoenix Economic Council, Arizona State University, Arizona Center for Algae Technology, United Dairymen of Arizona, Central Arizona Project, Arizona Municipal Water Users Association, and Valley incubators. Mr. Smith reported that the tour participants attended an event at the Mexican Consulate the evening prior. He noted that MAG staff member Alana Chavez-Langdon organized the tour.

Mr. Smith noted that the SouthEastern Arizona Governments Organization (SEAGO) voted unanimously to support extending the border zone in Arizona. He noted that almost all of the regional planning organizations in Arizona support this effort. Mr. Smith stated that MAG staff was in Tucson this past week and discussed streamlining the border process with the joint field command and Customs and Border Protection. He stated that MAG is interested in this because it is all about tourism.

Mr. Smith reported that the MAG region received the Best Intergenerational Community Award, which was presented in Washington, D. C. He stated that the MAG region was the only recipient for which two Congressional representatives were in attendance: Representatives Ann Kirkpatrick and Paul Gosar. Mr. Smith requested that Amy St. Peter display the flag that MAG received.

Mr. Smith stated that the All Ages, One Region Conference on March 27, 2014, from 8:30 a.m. - 4:30 p.m. at the Glendale Civic Center. He noted that attendance was capped at 250, and that number has been reached already.

Mr. Smith stated that on March 21, 2014, MAG staff attended the unveiling of the sign marking the future Interstate 11. Arizona Governor Brewer and Nevada Governor Sandoval unveiled the sign, which is near Hoover Dam. Mr. Smith noted that Mr. Bob Hazlett, MAG Engineer, was instrumental in Interstate 11, and he was applauded by the Regional Council. He stated that when Mr. Hazlett was hired, he said that he needed Illustrator software; Interstate 11 came out of the software, Mr. Hazlett's inventive mind, and the Hassayampa Study.

Chair Smith thanked Mr. Smith for his report.

6. Approval of Consent Agenda

Chair Smith noted that agenda items #6A, #6B, #6C, #6D, #6E, #6F, #6G, #6H, and #6I were on the Consent Agenda.

Chair Smith recognized public comment from Ms. Dianne Barker, who expressed her appreciation for the accuracy of the meeting minutes. She said that a reader gets a sense of what occurred at the meeting when they read the minutes. Ms. Barker remarked that she understands the Open Meeting law, which says that a committee member can ask for clarification, object to criticism, ask staff for further research, or put an item for action on the next agenda – more than just saying that a speaker’s three minutes are up. Ms. Barker stated that she has been coming to MAG for a long time. She said that she is 65 years of age and is looking for employment. Ms. Barker stated that she would be a loyal and honest employee and could comply with an employer’s agenda. She spoke of conformity and said that this region cannot have any more exceedances. Ms. Barker remarked on the inversion problem that exists in the area of the monitor at 39<sup>th</sup> Avenue and Earll. She commented that there are air quality problems, not only with PM-10, but also PM-2.5. Ms. Barker stated that she had downloaded the materials at the Arizona Center for Law in the Public Interest regarding EPA. She remarked that it appears they are contesting the modeling for the July 11, 2011, exceedance. Chair Smith thanked Ms. Barker for her comments.

Chair Smith recognized public comment from Mr. Vint, who commented on agenda item #6D. He said that the material mentions revitalization through snail rail. Mr. Vint stated that once again, *The Arizona Republic* gives all of the credit to Mr. Zuercher who convinced people in the area to give up their property so they could build light rail. He added that the area of north 19<sup>th</sup> Avenue is a disaster. Mr. Vint stated that Mr. Zuercher needs to pay for his mistakes. He suggested that light rail should have been elevated, the system elements assembled elsewhere, and delivered here at night. Mr. Vint stated that there are light rail accidents all the time and the signal lights are difficult to understand. He stated that Frank Fairbanks and David Cavazos expressed that they knew Mr. Zuercher was special from the beginning. Mr. Vint stated that residents of the City of Phoenix are the enemy. He encouraged everyone to read Robert Robb’s article in *The Arizona Republic* about Mayor Stanton and requested that someone get back to him on light rail questions. Chair Smith thanked Mr. Vint for his comments and added that someone from the City or MAG would respond to his questions. Mr. Vint offered an apology to Mayor Smith for getting upset and said that he does not know his breaking point.

Chair Smith asked members if they had questions or requests to hear a Consent Agenda item individually.

Mayor Wolcott requested that agenda item #6F be removed from the Consent Agenda for a presentation.

Chair Smith called for a motion to approve Consent Agenda items #6A, #6B, #6C, #6D, #6E, #6G, #6H, and #6I. Councilmember Cathy Carlat moved approval of the Consent Agenda. Councilmember Mike Farrar seconded, and the motion passed unanimously.

6A. Approval of the February 26, 2014, Meeting Minutes

The MAG Regional Council, by consent, approved the February 26, 2014, meeting minutes.

6B. ADOT Red Letter Process

In June 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 July 1, 2013 to December 13, 2013. None of the 144 notices received had an impact to the state highway system.

6C. Job Access and Reverse Commute Programming Goals and Objectives

The MAG Regional Council, by consent, approved the Job Access and Reverse Commute Programming Goals and Objectives and updates to the Regional Programming Guidelines for Federal Transit Administration funding. On March 27, 2013, the MAG Regional Council approved the MAG Transit Programming Guidelines for the Phoenix-Mesa Urbanized Area. In Section 703 of the Guidelines, it was recommended that Job Access and Reverse Commute (JARC) receive a suballocation of Federal Transit Administration funds to be utilized for a regional competitive process. On October 23, 2013, per Regional Council approval, MAG assumed the role of programming JARC funds. On January 9, 2014, the MAG Transit Committee received a presentation by MAG staff on the draft programming goals and objectives for review and input. MAG staff was requested to host additional working group discussions to review the draft recommendations. The draft programming goals and objectives for the JARC program were recommended for approval on February 13, 2014, by the MAG Transit Committee, on February 27, 2014, by the MAG Transportation Review Committee, and on March 12, 2014, by the MAG Management Committee. The approved programming goals and objectives for the JARC program will be incorporated into the MAG Transit Programming Guidelines.

6D. Approval of Transit Planning Agreement

The MAG Regional Council, by consent, approved the transit planning agreement (MOU) to be forwarded to the Federal Transit Administration and included in the FY 2015 MAG Unified Planning Work Program and Annual Budget. The current Transit Planning Agreement was approved by the MAG Regional Council in March 2010 and signed by all parties in April 2010. Since then, a new federal transportation authorization bill, Moving Ahead for Progress in the 21st Century (MAP-21), was signed into law in July 2012, which changed requirements for regional transportation planning. Valley Metro, MAG, and the City of Phoenix have been working on revising the Transit Planning Agreement to meet the new federal requirements since August 2013. The revisions include clarifications regarding transit representation on MAG committees, regional transit planning coordination roles, inclusion of the Regional Programming Guidelines for Federal Transit Formula Funds in the programming process, acknowledgment of new funding sources, inclusion of the public hearing requirements, and new sections on performance measurement, safety plans, asset management, and Title VI. The transit planning agreement was recommended for approval on March 12, 2014, by the MAG Management Committee.

6E. Project Changes - Amendment and Administrative Modification to the FY 2014-2018 MAG Transportation Improvement Program, FY 2014 Arterial Life Cycle Program, and as Appropriate, to the 2035 Regional Transportation Plan

The MAG Regional Council, by consent, approved amendments and administrative modifications to the FY 2014-2018 MAG Transportation Improvement Program, FY 2014 Arterial Life Cycle Program, and as appropriate, to the 2035 Regional Transportation Plan. The Fiscal Year (FY) 2014-2018 MAG Transportation Improvement Program and 2035 Regional Transportation Plan were approved by the MAG Regional Council on January 29, 2014, and have been modified one time. The Arterial Life Cycle

Program was approved on September 16, 2013, and updated on January 29, 2014. Requested changes to the highway and transit projects are displayed in Table A. Project changes that relate to a separate agenda item titled, "Evaluation of Federal Fiscal Year 2014 Funding Levels and Tier II and Tier III Proposals," are included in Table B. Conformity consultation on these projects was considered under a separate agenda item. Checkmarks on the attached tables indicate the project changes that were recommended for approval on February 27, 2014, by the MAG Transportation Review Committee and on March 12, 2014, by the MAG Management Committee.

6G. Evaluation of Federal Fiscal Year 2014 Funding Levels and Tier II and Tier III Proposals - Amendment and Administrative Modification to the FY 2014-2018 MAG Transportation Improvement Program and the 2035 Regional Transportation Plan

The MAG Regional Council, by consent, approved proceeding with Option Two: FY 2014 Tier II federal funding advancement of projects, and the FFY 2014 Tier III increased federal funding for projects that submitted requests for additional Congestion Mitigation and Air Quality (CMAQ) funding for FFY 2014 in the Bicycle/Pedestrian, Intelligent Transportation System (ITS), and Air Quality programs and of the associated amendments and administrative modifications to the FY 2014-2018 MAG Transportation Improvement Program, and as appropriate, to the 2035 Regional Transportation Plan. In anticipation of balancing the suballocation of Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) funding to the MAG region, a mid year analysis was completed and two options were prepared to utilize expected available Congestion Mitigation and Air Quality (CMAQ) funding for FFY2014 that relate to existing bicycle-pedestrian, Intelligent Transportation Systems (ITS), and paving of unpaved roads projects. Option Two was recommended for approval on February 27, 2014, by the MAG Transportation Review Committee, and on March 12, 2014, by the MAG Management Committee. Conformity consultation on these projects was considered under a separate agenda item.

6H. 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 (TIP). The amendment and administrative modification involve several projects, including the addition of 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.

6I. 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 26, 2013, the electronic survey and Major Regional Goals and Results for FY 2013-2014 were sent to members of the Regional Council to receive their input on the review. This information was also sent to the members of the Executive Committee. The results of the completed

surveys were summarized and were discussed by the members of the Executive Committee at the January 21, 2014, and February 18, 2014, meetings. On March 17, 2014, the MAG Regional Council Executive Committee discussed the performance of the Executive Director, and took action regarding the compensation/benefits of the Executive Director.

6F. Resolution by the Maricopa Association of Governments Regional Council Supporting Inclusion of: MAG Adopted, Illustrative Corridors; Independent Segments for Environmental Assessment; and Further Study of the Alternative C Through Eastern Pima County as Identified as Part of the Interstate 11 and Intermountain West Corridor Study

This item was removed from the Consent Agenda.

Mayor Wolcott expressed that she was a big supporter of Interstate 11, and she believed its construction would be transformational moment for the Valley and Arizona. She remarked that in her city, items of the magnitude of agenda item 6F are not put on a Consent Agenda, particularly when it appears there has been no discussion since the 2009 policy discussion, which preceded her and most of the Regional Council. Mayor Wolcott stated that having the sign planted for the future Interstate 11 corridor is a big event, but she would like the Regional Council to understand more about the process, what has changed since 2009, and the current study process as it relates to the lay of the land today.

Mr. Bob Hazlett, MAG staff, reported on the status of the process. He said that since mid-2012, the Arizona Department of Transportation and the Nevada Department of Transportation have been conducting the Interstate 11/Intermountain West Corridor Study, in which they have been looking at the Congressionally designated portion of Interstate 11, which is from Phoenix to Las Vegas, and also looking at potential extensions to Mexico and Canada. Mr. Hazlett stated that the study is currently in the second level of analysis and MAG staff has responded to comments and he also noted that the ADOT/NDOT Study Team has agreed to numerous MAG requests to ensure that what was identified in the approved MAG Hassayampa Framework Study that identified future high capacity corridors west of the White Tank Mountains, would be accurately represented in future documentation. He said that MAG also requested that they work on identifying segments of independent utility in order to have an easier environmental process and start construction as soon as possible. Mr. Hazlett stated that the DOT has reviewed MAG's requests and has started holding stakeholder meetings, showing the corridors as identified in the approved Hassayampa Valley and Hidden Valley Framework studies.

Mayor Wolcott expressed appreciation for the work that has been done, but conditions change. For example, when she moved to Arizona in 2003, the population of Surprise was projected to grow to 800,000 people, and just the 150,000 entitled lots exerts a lot of growth pressure. She expressed that it was something she did not envision occurring, but she does see a focus on commerce corridors, such as Interstate 11. She remarked that growth will continue, but perhaps at a more managed pace, and a focus is needed on commerce corridors. Mayor Wolcott stated that she feared if we are not more thoughtful of the way things look today than in 2009 when the Regional Council took a position on a specific corridor, we will miss the reality of what has happened. She noted that some environmental groups have expressed concerns on this corridor and she expressed her agreement with them. Mayor Wolcott stated that Surprise is looking at better managing the environmental impacts of roads and other infrastructure and is concerned with wildlife corridors. She recalled that a couple of years ago, the City

of Mesa assembled some planned arterial projects that were no longer needed and in their place, focused on a light rail extension project that would more be more effective in serving the needs of the people. Mayor Wolcott stated that something this major should be discussed in detail by the Regional Council and that she was uncomfortable with something of this magnitude being on the Consent Agenda since it had not been discussed since 2009.

Chair Smith asked for clarification of who requested that the Regional Council adopt a resolution of support and the purpose of the resolution.

Mr. Hazlett replied that Pima Association of Governments (PAG), the metropolitan planning organization for the Tucson, Arizona, area, requested that the Regional Council support the extension of the Interstate 11 designation and further study of the route to the south of Phoenix. Mr. Hazlett stated that PAG would like to ensure that the planning for the Interstate 11 corridor would not end at Phoenix but would extend to Tucson and down to the border with Mexico. He added that PAG has met with ADOT and NDOT and they have identified Alternative C would continue to be studied and be part of the ultimate recommendation of the Intermountain West/Interstate 11 Corridor Study. Mr. Hazlett addressed Mayor Wolcott's comments by saying that an important document coming from the study is not only a justification report, but also a business case about how Interstate 11 fits in with the Arizona economy, commerce, and movement of goods. Mr. Hazlett stated that the study will also look at how to phase in the Interstate 11 corridor. He noted that the distance from Nogales, Arizona, to the Hoover Dam is approximately 430 miles, and breaking it up into segments could help get it done sooner than later.

Chair Smith asked if there is a possibility that the resolution could be misconstrued in the future and someone could come back and say that the resolution made a commitment rather than just a resolution of support for the study of the southern route.

Mr. Dennis Smith stated that the resolution supports PAG's request, but more importantly, reflects actions already taken by the MAG Regional Council. Mr. Smith noted that the Hassayampa corridor approved by MAG was defined after holding 175 meetings, whereas ADOT, in its work, had merely drawn straight lines in the area, and the corridor approved by MAG was not even shown on the map. He said that MAG did a lot of work and spent a lot of federal funds determining the corridor's route. In addition, the land ownership had changed to reflect the route and residents of the City of Buckeye approved the general plan that contained the corridor alignment. Mr. Smith referenced the independent utility by saying that instead of a massive environmental impact statement throughout the entire state, the work could be split into segments, which could result in greater success.

Chair Smith stated that he was hearing three things included in the resolution: (1) Support for PAG so that planning continues south past the Phoenix area. (2) Recognition of the work that has already been done in the Hassayampa Valley and Hidden Valley corridors. (3) Segment the environmental studies so that they can be completed in a shorter timeframe than the ten or fifteen years needed for an EIS on the entire corridor. Dennis Smith replied that was correct.

Mayor Thomas Schoaf moved adoption of the resolution to support Interstate 11 and the points succinctly stated by Chair Smith. Mayor Greg Stanton seconded.

Chair Smith asked if there was discussion of the motion.

Mayor Wolcott stated that she wanted to ensure that what is being moved forward would be the Hassayampa Valley corridor chosen by MAG for the Interstate 11 alignment. She said that she thought the Hassayampa Valley corridor should be included in the study but she expressed her concern that there had not been a holistic discussion of the environmental piece and the sprawl piece. Mayor Wolcott stated that this is a metropolitan area that has water issues and that is a concern for many jurisdictions. She expressed concern for sprawl. Mayor Wolcott expressed concern that in the future we will say this is the corridor the Regional Council approved in 2009, so what is the problem.

Mr. Smith clarified that a federal process needs to be followed and the resolution says to consider the adopted corridors in the federal process that is underway. He added that the resolution also requests that the work done by MAG be acknowledged.

Chair Smith stated that if work is acknowledged, it will be used.

Mayor Stanton stated that he would be supporting the resolution. Mayor Stanton said that by supporting the resolution, MAG is supporting further study of the corridor. He said that Mayor Wolcott had raised important issues regarding environmental concerns, but these concerns will be studied, even in a more detailed examination. He said that he thought that support of the resolution does not suggest that environmental issues would be overlooked. Mayor Stanton remarked that everyone at the table shares concerns for the environment and reserves the right to change their position, and he supported the resolution.

Mayor Wolcott stated that she intended to support the resolution, but wanted the minutes to reflect discussion so that there would be no confusion in the future and this should be included in regional planning.

With no further discussion, the vote on the motion passed unanimously.

Due to some of the Regional Council members needing to leave, the meeting was adjourned for five minutes for a charter signing for the Interstate 10/Interstate 17 Corridor Master Plan. The Regional Council meeting was then called back to order.

7. Second Binational Economic Forum - Collaboration Agreement to Form the Arizona-Sonora Megaregion

Alana Chávez-Langdon, MAG staff, addressed the Regional Council on the Second Binational Economic Forum scheduled for April 10-11, 2014, in Nogales, Sonora. She said that this has been a collaborative effort between the City of Nogales, Sonora and regional planning agencies in Arizona. Ms. Chávez-Langdon stated that the effort originally included the Sun Corridor agencies, but due to a statewide effort in Sonora, it was appropriate to expand the opportunity to the entire state of Arizona and invite the League of Arizona Cities and Towns to join the effort.

Mr. Dennis Smith noted that only six people from the MAG region have indicated they will attend the forum.

Manuel Hopkins, representing Mayor Ramon Guzman's office and the City of Nogales, Sonora, continued the presentation. Mr. Hopkins expressed his belief that working as one region is very important. He extended Mayor Guzman's invitation to attend the Binational Economic Forum on April 10-11, 2014. Mr. Hopkins remarked that last year's event was very successful. He reported that to date, 41 mayors from the state of Sonora, including the major cities of Hermosillo, Obregon, Guaymas, Agua Prieta, and Rocky Point, have confirmed their attendance.

Mr. Hopkins stated that the Mayors in Sonora are very motivated because they view the Binational Forum as an opportunity to connect with Mayors in Arizona. He reported that Christina Luhn, Executive Director of the CaliBaja region, will be presenting their strategies and recommendations for a megaregion. Mr. Hopkins noted that Sergio Arredondo, the General Secretary of the National Federation of the Municipalities of Mexico, will address attendees at the event.

Mr. Smith asked if this organization was similar to the National League of Cities. Mr. Hopkins replied yes.

Mr. Hopkins stated that the Delegate of the Federal Economy from the State of Sonora, Dr. Luis Nuñez, will speak on Mexico's focus for increasing trade between Arizona and Mexico, and will present closing comments. He stated that they realize Regional Council members have busy schedules, but they feel it is important to have representation from each city. Mr. Hopkins suggested another representative be present if the mayor is unable to attend – in case someone wants to approach a city they will have that opportunity.

Ms. Chávez-Langdon noted that a draft partnering agreement, which is still being reviewed by the statewide partnering agencies, had been transmitted via email and was at each place. She remarked that it is envisioned that the agreement will be signed by elected officials attending the event. Ms. Chávez-Langdon stated that the agreement includes very general guiding principles for creating a megaregion and agreement to collaborate. She stated that this is the time to get everyone together, start a dialogue, and put together a vision.

Mr. Smith noted that this is similar to the CaliBaja partnership implemented by the San Diego Association of Governments and Baja California, Mexico. He noted that the CaliBaja representatives will provide some insights at the Forum.

Chair Smith stated that he has been to Mexico twice with the U. S. Conference of Mayors. He noted that the U. S. Conference of Mayors has a memorandum of understanding with the National Federation of the Municipalities of Mexico to increase mayor-to-mayor collaboration. Chair Smith stated that the organization has introduced legislation to change the constitution of Mexico to allow mayors to serve multiple terms of office. He stated that the mayors were limited to a single three-year term, and term limits presented a challenge. Chair Smith stated that the Mexican mayors view the Forum as a relationship building effort and they look forward to enhancing and building a mutually beneficial trade relationship with Arizona. He added that he thought it would be positive for the mayors in this region to take the forum as seriously as the mayors from Sonora. Chair Smith added that there is no room to complain if we are not going to participate when this is an absolute outreach. Chair Smith noted that he communicates with Mayor Guzman's office approximately five times per week. He noted that he

is working out scheduling conflicts with his own calendar so that he will be able to attend. This is an outreach from them to us and we should take advantage.

Mayor Marie Lopez Rogers encouraged sending a representative if the Mayor is unable to attend. She added that attendance will send a very strong message to the Sonoran representatives.

Chair Smith asked members to please try to attend the event, even if they could only attend one day.

Mr. Smith reminded members that a passport was required to go to Mexico.

Mr. Hopkins stated that they are working with Customs and Border Protection to streamline the process so that attendees who did not have a passport could attend. He requested that they provide their full name, date of birth, title and organization and a driver's license to him and his staff to assist with border crossing.

8. Discussion of the Development of the FY 2015 MAG Unified Planning Work Program and Annual Budget

Becky Kimbrough, MAG staff, provided a report on the development of the FY 2015 MAG Unified Planning Work Program and Annual Budget. She noted that this month, the draft budget documents, including the detailed Work Program and the Programs in Brief summary of new proposed projects, were sent to members. Ms. Kimbrough noted that a revised Programs in Brief was at each place. She explained that it was revised to add the Grand Avenue Transit Feasibility Study, which is a joint project of MAG and RPTA, in the amount of \$100,000. Ms. Kimbrough stated that staff was available for questions on this new study.

Ms. Kimbrough stated that the detailed draft budget is about 60 percent complete.

Ms. Kimbrough stated that the draft MAG FY 2015 budget includes the program narratives, the estimated budget amounts for each of MAG's projects and programs, and estimated carry forward amounts. She reported that in this draft, the estimated indirect cost rate for FY 2015 has been added to project costs.

Ms. Kimbrough reported that the draft transit agreement was included in the Appendix. She noted that the current approved agreement needed to be revised as a result of federal surface transportation legislation and the draft revised transit agreement was presented under a separate item.

Ms. Kimbrough stated that the draft FY 2015 budget will be reviewed at the Intermodal Planning Group meeting on March 28, 2014. This budget review is conducted by the Federal Highway Administration and the Federal Transit Administration. Ms. Kimbrough added that any comments from this meeting will be presented at the April Regional Council meeting.

Chair Smith thanked Ms. Kimbrough for her report. No questions from the Council were noted.

9. Second Deferral Request on the Construction Phase of the Bicycle and Pedestrian Improvements on the Arizona Canal from Chaparral Road to Indian Bend Wash by the City of Scottsdale

In October 2011, the Regional Council approved the MAG Federal Fund Programming Guidelines and Procedures. Section 600 of the Guidelines and Procedures addresses project deferrals and deletions. This section specifies that a project may be deferred once without justification. A second project deferral requires the project sponsor justify the request before MAG committees with final approval considered by the Regional Council. The City of Scottsdale is requesting to defer the construction phase of the Bicycle and Pedestrian Improvements on the Arizona Canal from Chaparral Road to Indian Bend Wash project from 2014 into 2015. The request for a second deferral was recommended for approval on February 11, 2014, by the MAG Bicycle and Pedestrian Committee, on February 27, 2014, by the MAG Transportation Review Committee, and on March 12, 2014, by the MAG Management Committee.

Chair Smith, noting the length of the meeting, asked members if they required a presentation or had questions. None were noted.

Mayor Sharon Wolcott moved approval of a second deferral for the construction phase of the bicycle and pedestrian improvements on the Arizona Canal from Chaparral Road to Indian Bend Wash project. Mayor Mark Mitchell seconded, and the motion passed unanimously.

10. Soft Launch of Building an International Economic Network

Mr. Anubhav Bagley, MAG staff, reported on the new website, Building an International Economic Network, or BIEN, developed at MAG. Mr. Bagley stated that BIEN is a way to connect businesses in Arizona with businesses in Canada and Mexico, and provide additional opportunities for small and medium businesses to connect with each other. He explained that BIEN came about as a result of the MAG Freight Transportation Framework Study, studies by the Thunderbird School of Global Management Study on the importance of Arizona/Mexico trade relations, and the reauthorization of the federal surface transportation law, named Moving Ahead for Progress in the 21st Century (MAP-21). Mr. Bagley stated that MAP-21 includes a number of provisions to improve the condition and performance of the national freight network and to support investment of freight-related transportation projects.

Mr. Bagley stated that Mexico and Canada are Arizona's top trading partners and moving freight more efficiently between Mexico and Arizona and Arizona and Canada were factors that led to the development of the BIEN website. Mr. Bagley stated that the trade region for the BIEN website is Arizona, Canada, and Mexico. He stated that businesses can come onto the website and self report their business activities.

Mr. Russell Miles, MAG staff, continued the presentation with a demonstration of the BIEN website. Mr. Miles stated that searches can be made by keyword, business activity, or distance. He explained that the Business Search page takes a user to the profile of a business, and when the user finds a business of interest, the user can send an email message to the business. Mr. Miles stated that the business who was contacted can reply directly to the email and at this point communication moves beyond the BIEN

website and is between the two parties only. Mr. Miles noted that the website is being translated into Spanish. He stated that the website was developed entirely in-house by MAG staff. He acknowledged the assistance of Matt Nielsen, Jon Christiansen and Jason Cheney. Mr. Miles stated that the website's address is [www.connectbien.com](http://www.connectbien.com).

Chair Smith thanked Mr. Bagley and Mr. Miles for their reports and asked if there were questions.

Mr. Smith encouraged members to inform their businesses about joining the network, which is not only to connect businesses in Arizona with businesses in Canada and Mexico, but also to connect businesses in Arizona to other businesses in Arizona. He stated that the goal is to develop a supply chain and use technology to cross the border.

Mr. Miles added that the website is being translated into Spanish.

Mr. Smith stated that the Canadian American Business Council requested translation into French, due to the aerospace industry.

Mayor Schoaf remarked that he has visited the website and he was a big supporter of this project. He said that [www.connectbien.com](http://www.connectbien.com) is easy to use and presents a tremendous opportunity for businesses to connect with other businesses. Mayor Schoaf stated that the success depends on businesses visiting the site and entering their information, which takes about 10 or 15 minutes. He urged members to talk to people or groups, such as chambers of commerce, and encourage businesses to enter their information. Mayor Schoaf stated that it has great potential for connectivity.

Councilman Mike Farrar expressed his appreciation for the site. He said that he had entered his company's information. He said that he noticed there was the ability to enter information in Spanish and wondered if this was something a user provided or if it would be provided in the translation feature.

Mr. Bagley replied that for now, businesses would translate the information themselves. He noted that Google Translate is not that accurate and they need to find a solution for the future. Mr. Bagley said that the project has ten partners, such as Arizona Commerce Authority, Arizona Mexico Commission, Arizona Chamber of Commerce, Small Business Association, and the Greater Phoenix Chamber of Commerce, and an email announcing the BIEN website will be sent to their members. In addition, an email will be sent to employers in the MAG employer database.

Mr. Smith noted that staff had examined similar websites and Thomas Registry for Maricopa County totaled 2,500 businesses. He noted that the MAG employer database has more than 45,000 employers in Maricopa County. Mr. Smith commented that this could be a powerful tool when utilized to its full extent.

#### 11. Enhanced Online Mapping and Reporting Tools

Due to the length of the meeting, this item tabled to a future meeting.

12. Legislative Update

Chair Smith noted that staff advised that no report was needed. He referenced the Bill Summary that had been distributed and asked members if they had questions. None were noted.

13. 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 were noted.

14. 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.

Vice Chair LeVault read the Resolution of Appreciation that had been prepared for Chair Smith. The Resolution noted his service at MAG beginning in 2008, when he became Mayor of Mesa. Chair Smith's service on MAG committees included membership on the Transportation Policy Committee, Economic Development Committee, and Regional Council Executive Committee. Chair Smith held the offices of Vice Chair and Chair of the Transportation Policy Committee, Vice Chair of the Economic Development Committee, and Treasurer, Vice Chair, and Chair of the Regional Council.

The MAG Regional Council unanimously supported the Resolution of Appreciation. Chair Smith received a standing ovation.

Adjournment

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 12:55 p.m.

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Chair

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Secretary