

MEETING MINUTES
MARICOPA ASSOCIATION OF GOVERNMENTS
TRANSIT COMMITTEE

February 14, 2013
Maricopa Association of Governments; Ironwood Room;
302 N. 1st Avenue, Suite 200
Phoenix, Arizona

MEMBERS ATTENDING

#ADOT: Nicole Patrick

Avondale: Kristen Sexton for Rogene Hill

#Buckeye: Andrea Marquez

Chandler: Dan Cook for RJ Zeder

El Mirage: Sue McDermott

Gilbert: Mike Gillespie for Nicole Dailey

Glendale: Matthew Dudley for Cathy

Colbath, Chair

Goodyear: Cato Esquivel

Maricopa County DOT: Mitch Wagner

Mesa: Jeff Martin for Jodi Sorrell

*Paradise Valley: Jeremy Knapp

Peoria: Maher Hazine

Phoenix: Ken Kessler for Neal Young

Queen Creek: Vacant / no proxy

Scottsdale: Madeline Clemann, Vice Chair

Surprise: David Kohlbeck

Tempe: Robert Yabes for Greg Jordan

*Tolleson: Chris Hagen

Valley Metro: Wulf Grote

*Youngtown: Jim Fox

*Members neither present nor represented by proxy. + - Attended by Videoconference

- Attended by Audioconference

OTHERS PRESENT

Eileen Yazzie, MAG

Marc Pearsall, MAG

Alice Chen, MAG

Margaret Boone, MAG

De De Gaisthea, MAG

Terri Kennedy, MAG

Jorge Luna, MAG

Jessica Blazina, Surprise

Deron Lozano, Valley Metro

Mindy Kimball, ASU - SS&UP

Amy Minowitz, ASU - SS&UP

Bill Cowdrey, HDR

Kammy Horne, URS

Jennifer Pyne, URS

1. Call to Order

The meeting was called to order at 10:10 a.m. by Vice Chair Madeline Clemann. She welcomed everyone in attendance and announced that a quorum was present. She noted that two members were joining the meeting by teleconference; Andrea Marquez of Buckeye and Nicole Patrick of ADOT. Vice Chair Clemann asked if there were any public comment cards, and there being none, proceeded to the next item on the agenda.

2. Approval of Draft December 12, 2012 Minutes

Vice Chair Clemann asked if there were any comments or corrections to the Draft December 12, 2012 meeting minutes. Hearing none, she called for a motion to approve the draft meeting minutes. Mr. Mitch Wagner moved to approve the motion, Mr. Maher Hazine seconded, and the motion passed unanimously.

3. Call to the Audience

Vice Chair Clemann stated that she had not received any request to speak cards from the audience and moved onto the next item on the agenda.

4. Transit Program Manager's Report

Vice Chair Clemann invited Ms. Eileen Yazzie to brief the Committee with the Transit Program Manager's Report.

Ms. Yazzie noted that she had a few items to present. She mentioned a few due dates for pending items. She said that Terri Kennedy was working on the new TIP for 2014-2018 and would roll out a draft for approval in May, along with a Transit Database turnaround for March for items in the TIP.

She also noted that the final STLUIS Study public meeting would be on February 28th in Tempe. She also thanked the members for contributing to the Transit Service Inventory Report which was recently completed by Mr. Jorge Luna, and that it was currently posted on the Transit Committee web page.

Ms. Yazzie also directed members to MAG's Twitter account, which was updated every Thursday, aka 'Transit Thursday' with timely news items and information, that was also open for members to news blurbs contribute to. Ms. Yazzie completed her report by congratulating Mr. Ken Kessler for his recent promotion to Deputy Public Transit Director for the City of Phoenix.

Vice Chair Clemann thanked Ms. Yazzie for her report and moved onto the next item on the agenda.

5. MAG Regional Programming Guidelines for Federal Transit Formula Funds and Project Application

Vice Chair Clemann requested that Alice Chen of MAG present and update on MAG Regional Programming Guidelines for Federal Transit Formula Funds and Project Application.

Ms. Chen explained that MAG staff had been working in collaboration with the Transit Committee, Regional Public Transportation Authority (RPTA), the FTA designated recipient - City of Phoenix, and the Transit Operators Working Group to draft policy guidelines for Regional Programming Guidelines for Federal Transit Formula Funds. She added that the plan was to program the next two years of the TIP, then to eventually return and evaluate a new competitive process.

She further explained that the MAG Regional Programming Guidelines for Federal Transit Formula Funds outlined the policies and procedures for Transit Programming in the MAG region. The Project Application was specific to the competitive regional process and would be utilized for un-programmed funds after regional priorities are met. She also explained that the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (ARRA) Project Close-Out item was for the reallocation of any unspent ARRA funds by May 31, 2013 to either Operations and/or Preventive Maintenance, and utilizing the methodology approved by Regional Council on May 25, 2011. She noted that the item was on the agenda and was recommended for approval.

Ms. Chen also explained a bit of history and time-line on the agenda item. She said that all final documentation for current ARRA projects reimbursements were due from member agencies to the City of Phoenix. On June 12, the Management Committee would recommend approval of TIP amendment for Preventive Maintenance/Operations, then on the 13th, the Transit Committee would recommend approval of TIP amendment for Preventive Maintenance/Operations. On June 23, MAG Regional Council would approve the TIP amendment. On July 31, all final documentation for Preventive Maintenance/Operations reimbursements would be due from member agencies to City of Phoenix. Then on August 31, the final draw down from FTA and reimbursements would be made to agencies, with the estimated FTA TEAM closure on September 23, 2013.

Vice Chair Clemann thanked Ms. Chen for her presentation and asked if there were any questions or comments. Ms. Marquez of Buckeye noted that on Page 7 of the document, both METRO and Valley Metro were listed as separate agencies, although merged agencies. Ms. Yazzie replied that for programming and project purposes, they would continue to be listed separately due to the bus/rail programs. Mr. Cook of Chandler asked about Page 6's regional priorities list, and noted that the JARC grant was ranked second to last and wondered if it should be higher. Vice Chair Clemann added that her understanding was that JARC would be funded at the same level as previous years due to its characterization for a high regional priority. After clarification, the item would be elevated and moved to #4 behind Preventive Maintenance. Brief discussion followed. Vice Chair Clemann called for a motion to approve the agenda item. Mr. Ken Kessler moved to approve the motion with the revision of JARC to #4, Mr. Robert Yabes seconded, and the motion passed unanimously.

Vice Chair Clemann thanked Ms. Chen for her presentation and asked if there were any questions or comments. the Committee for their dialogue. Vice Chair Clemann then proceeded to the next item on the agenda.

6. American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (ARRA) Project Close-Out

Vice Chair Clemann requested that Alice Chen continue to present a followup update on MAG Regional Programming Guidelines for Federal Transit Formula Funds. Vice Chair Clemann noted that it was a continuation of the discussions from the December 2012 Transit Committee meeting.

Ms. Chen explained that the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (ARRA) was passed by Congress and signed into law by President Obama in February 2009. The legislation required all Federal Transit Administration funds to be obligated by September 30, 2010. It also required all ARRA funds be drawn down/reimbursed by September 30, 2013. She noted that as of January 15, 2013, there was \$11 million dollars that have not been reimbursed. MAG and City of Phoenix staff were tasked to work with the sub-recipients to reimburse any outstanding invoices. If the sub-recipients could not meet the final deadline for invoice submission as outlined in the memo, MAG staff proposed reallocating unspent funds to Operations and/or Preventive Maintenance utilizing the methodology approved by Regional Council on May 25, 2011.

Vice Chair Clemann asked if there were any questions for Ms. Chen. Mr. Cook inquired that he noted that within the write up, it said there was potentially \$11 million available for closeout of ARRA funding. He asked for clarification on the actual amount of available funds. Ms. Chen noted that there was a range of anywhere from \$3 million to \$11 million, and Ms. Yazzie replied that if it were \$11 million, then \$3 million would be moved to operations with the remainder moved to PM based on the previous formulas established for the region. Mr. Kessler also replied that the City of Phoenix, as the Federal Recipient, was expecting no more than about \$8 million total, which leaves the some flexibility for the region for both O&M and PM.. Discussion followed.

Vice Chair Clemann called for a motion to approve the agenda item. Mr. Dan Cook moved to approve the motion, Mr. Wulf Grote seconded, and the motion passed unanimously. Vice Chair Clemann thanked Ms. Chen again for her presentation and the Committee for their participation in the agenda item. Vice Chair Clemann asked if there were any further questions. Hearing none, Vice Chair Clemann then proceeded to the next item on the agenda.

7. Northwest Valley Local Transit System Study Update

Vice Chair Clemann requested that Marc Pearsall of MAG, who would present a status update on the Committee on the Northwest Valley Local Transit System Study. He began by noting that the purpose of the study was to identify opportunities and strategies for improving the existing transit service in the Northwest Valley, and to develop short, mid, and long range local transit plans that effectively provide circulation within the area and also connect to the regional transit system. He added that the study's spirit was similar to the Southwest Valley Transit Study that was currently wrapping up. He noted that the Northwest Valley study would be completed by summer 2013.

Mr. Pearsall then noted the basic elements and principles of the study that were tasked to Project consultant Moore & Associates: To evaluate current service offerings in the Northwest Valley; identify pros and cons of various service offerings; engage the community; define a system which reflects the needs and expectations of the NW Valley; identify practical service recommendations; maximize efficiency within the framework of funding realities; and to base those future service on market-driven needs. He also detailed the six main questions asked to the over 2000 respondents who participated in the study: 1.) What should transit look like in the NW Valley?; 2.) What is

demand likely to be?; 3.) What services are most important to you?, 4.) What level of service can the NW Valley afford? 5.) Which locations should be served?, and 6.) Who should manage the program/services?

He further explained some of the service recommendations, which were developed through multiple outreach efforts, with Project Management Team guidance and assistance from the member agencies. He added that there was a four-phase community outreach, with focus groups, stakeholder input, and a meetings customized for each community in the study area. So far there had been over 22 community meetings along with numerous PMT briefings, with the most recent activity from a second round of community meetings during January 28 – 30th in El Mirage, Peoria, Sun City, and Sun City West. He added that after that round of meetings, the recommendations were being formulated into Initial Findings/Recommendations.

Mr. Pearsall noted that some of the basic fundamentals coming from the study were that bus routes were the foundation to begin a mass transit system; that volunteers and faith based resources remained untapped as alternative providers; that based on data collected, it would determine where neighborhood circulators made sense, as well as expanding the existing Valley Metro regional and local bus services into the Northwest. The study also cataloged previous public transportation efforts and “lessons learned”, compiled an inventory of existing vehicles and potential for use in future endeavors, explored the feasibility of contracted services and Public Private Partnerships (PPP), as well as taxi voucher programs. He concluded with noting that the final plan would be presented to each community by April or May, with the findings from the study being sent to each agency for acceptance and by the MAG Committee process.

Vice Chair Clemann thanked Mr. Pearsall for his presentation and asked if there were any additional comments. Brief discussion occurred with Chair Clemann inquiring as to how the recommendations within the study may be funded in the future. Mr. Pearsall replied that an array of funding sources were identified within the study, but that all the recommendations within the study would require a new, dedicated funding stream per each community. He also noted that the cities had asked that the report also show the adverse economic and service impacts of adding transit, particularly regarding the ADA required service envelopes that come with increased arterial bus service. Mr. Hazine also thanked Mr. Pearsall and the PMT member agencies for the work they had done so far.

Vice Chair Clemann thanked Mr. Pearsall again for his presentation and asked if there were any further questions. Hearing none, Vice Chair Clemann then proceeded to the next item on the agenda.

8. Quarterly Status Report on Federal Grant Activity

Vice Chair Clemann introduced Mr. Ken Kessler of the City of Phoenix Transit Department and noted that he was available to answer committee questions for the Quarterly Status Report on Federal Grant Activity for June 2012. Vice Chair Clemann asked if there were any questions or comments on the agenda item.

Mr. Cook inquired if the grants written in the listing could be bundled and broken down along with the name of each project, as well as the amount of each award amount and schedule status, so that folks could get a clearer view of the projects as a whole. Mr. Kessler said that they would be happy to

offer more specifics for the benefit of reporting and clarity.

Mr. Grote offered additional commentary and inquired about the 5339 Program, and noted that the previous MAG/RPTA Onboard Surveys were paid for out of this funding source, however there were additional funds left in that pot. He noted a new Regional Park & Ride Utilization Study that was pending, may be a candidate for those unspent funds, should the deadline for the program be extended for Phoenix, the regional recipient. Ken Kessler concurred. Brief discussion followed.

Hearing no further comments or questions, Chair Clemann thanked Mr. Kessler and proceeded to the next item on the agenda.

9. Request for Future Agenda Items

Vice Chair Clemann asked the members of the Committee if there were any issues that they would like added as future agenda items. Hearing no further comments, Vice Chair Clemann proceeded to the next item on the agenda.

10. Next Meeting Date

Vice Chair Clemann thanked those present and she announced that the next meeting of the MAG Transit Committee would be held on Thursday, March 14, 2013 at 10:00 a.m. in the MAG Office, Ironwood Room. There being no further business, Vice Chair Clemann adjourned the meeting at 11:10 a.m.

Adjourn.