

FINAL MEETING MINUTES
MARICOPA ASSOCIATION OF GOVERNMENTS
TRANSIT COMMITTEE - SPECIAL MEETING

June 16, 2014

Maricopa Association of Governments; Chaparral Room;
302 N. 1st Avenue, Suite 200
Phoenix, Arizona

MEMBERS ATTENDING

*ADOT: Nicole Patrick	*Paradise Valley: Jeremy Knapp
#Avondale: Kristen Sexton	#Peoria: Bill Mattingly as Proxy
#Buckeye: Andrea Marquez	Phoenix: Maria Hyatt, Vice Chair
Chandler: Jason Crampton for RJ Zeder	#Queen Creek: Mohamed Youssef
#El Mirage: Jorge Gastelum	Scottsdale: Madeline Clemann, Chair
#Gilbert: Kristin Myers	#Surprise: Martin Lucero for David Kohlbeck
Glendale: Debbie Albert	#Tempe: Robert Yabes
*Goodyear: Cato Esquivel	*Tolleson: Chris Hagen
#Maricopa: David Maestas	Valley Metro: John Farry for Wulf Grote
*Maricopa County DOT: Denise Lacey	*Youngtown: Grant Anderson
#Mesa: Jodi Sorrell	

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

OTHERS PRESENT

Eileen Yazzie, MAG	Joe Bower, Phoenix
Marc Pearsall, MAG	Wendy Miller, Phoenix
Alice Chen, MAG	Ken Kessler, Phoenix
Chaun Hill, MAG	
Teri Kennedy, MAG	

1. Call to Order

The special meeting was called to order at 10:32 a.m. by Chair Clemann. She welcomed everyone in attendance and announced that a quorum was present. She noted that ten members were joining the meeting by teleconference: Kristen Sexton of Avondale, Andrea Marquez of Buckeye, Jorge Gastelum of El Mirage, Kristen Myers of Gilbert, David Maestas of Maricopa, Jodi Sorrell of Mesa, Bill Mattingly of Peoria, Mohamed Youssef of Queen Creek, Martin Lucero of Surprise and Robert

Yabes of Tempe. Chair Clemann asked if there were any public comment cards, and there being none, proceeded to the next item on the agenda.

2. Meeting minutes will not be heard this month. Approval of May 8, 2014 minutes to be heard at the July 10, 2014 regular meeting.

Chair Clemann noted that the meeting minutes would not be heard this month. She noted that approval of May 8, 2014 minutes would be heard at the July 10, 2014 regular meeting. Chair Clemann then proceeded to the next item on the agenda.

3. Call to the Audience

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. FTA - Discretionary Grant - Bus and Bus Facilities, Ladders of Opportunity Initiative

Chair Clemann then invited Ms. Eileen Yazzie of MAG to present on the FTA - Discretionary Grant - Bus and Bus Facilities, Ladders of Opportunity Initiative. Chair Clemann noted that the single item was on the agenda for action and possible approval.

Ms. Yazzie thanked the members and those who joined in by teleconference. She explained that the text for the item would also now include an additional two expansion buses that were requested by the City of Tempe after the agenda was sent out. She also noted that the revised agenda was on the website for reference.

She then explained some background on the item: On June 4, 2014, the Federal Transit Administration (FTA) and the U.S. Department of Transportation (DOT) released a notice of funding availabilities (NOFAs) for \$100 million in competitive grant funding from unspent section 5309 Bus and Bus Facilities funds that were authorized under the previous transportation authorization act. She added that this was a nationwide competitive grant opportunity that could be used to purchase, replace, or rehabilitate transit buses and vans as well as to modernize or construct bus facilities (such as maintenance depots and inter-modal facilities) in urban, suburban, and rural communities. She noted that the submittal deadline was August 4th and that the designated recipient Phoenix would be the agency responsible for making the submittal. She further explained that the NOFA required that the MPO (MAG) concurrence was required (through the committee process). The fact that MAG's Regional Council would meet on June 25th was the reason for the expedited Transit Committee special meeting and the urgency of a concurred vote for the application.

Ms. Yazzie further expounded that the monies were old, surplus dollars from SAFETEA-LU bus and bus facilities programs and was tied to the Ladders of Opportunities initiative that support Title VI communities with connections to jobs, education and retail-shopping. She said that the region had fared well in the past in 2010 and 2012 with bus and bus facilities funding grants and state of good repair. She concluded the premise for the application was that the region's TIP was short funding

for five additional buses and that this opportunity was ripe for the region to fill that gap, along with fulfilling the needs of Phoenix' bus service expansion in October 2015. She referred the members to her brief presentation and noted that it was on the agenda for information, discussion, and possible recommendation to support a proposal to the FTA through the bus and bus facilities 5309 discretionary grant program, for 27 (originally 25) buses as part of the region-wide bus replacement schedule and for the service changes to be implemented in October 2014.

Chair Clemann asked if there were any comments on the agenda item. She initiated by noting that she had a couple of comments of her own. She noted that on the first map, the Routes 17 and 29 connecting from Phoenix east to Scottsdale should be shown as increased frequencies from 6am to 6pm and displayed in red. She also said that Route 56 to Scottsdale wasn't mentioned, but that it was a key route due to its serving General Dynamics and SkySong work-sites and low-income neighborhoods with a direct connection to light rail in Tempe. Ms. Yazzie replied that she would coordinate with Valley Metro and Scottsdale to confirm if additional fleet was needed to ensure those frequency increases.

Maria Hyatt of Phoenix noted that the City of Phoenix' routes were listed in the report and stated that most of routes in need of additional fleet were JARC lines, with all of them serving areas ranging from 56-94 percent of average regional poverty levels. She offered that City of Phoenix would be willing to forgo the articulated bus purchases in favor of the less expensive 40 footers, therefore permitting the total grant request to be nearer to \$15 million, a more palatable and competitive number for the region as a federal grant. Ms. Yazzie thanked Ms. Hyatt and noted that the action language was fluid and flexible so that if the bus numbers needed to fluctuate from the 25-27 buses identified, then the region could work on that exact amount prior to submittal. Debbie Albert of Glendale inquired about editing the language to reflect 'up to 27 buses'. Ms. Yazzie replied in the affirmative and added that the FTA NOFA grant application process is scalable, which assists for demonstrated need in the Ladders of Opportunity areas.

Chair Clemann asked if the application's narrative could be reviewed by the group via collaboration. Ms. Hyatt replied that the City of Phoenix, as the Designated Recipient, would take the lead and work directly with the cities to ensure consensus for the best possible application. Chair Clemann requested that a draft text be sent out in advance so that comments, especially those pertaining to economic development and jobs served, could be solicited prior to application submittal. Jason Crampton of Chandler inquired if any consideration was given to expansion needs in the East Valley, and observed that with the coming April 2015 transit book, some expansions were looming. Ms. Yazzie replied that it was discussed, but adhering to the main focus of the NOFA required the region to look at un-funded fleet needs and whether or not the operating agencies had solid funding available to operate the programmed expansion service.

John Farry of Valley Metro added that these quick-application scenarios occur often with new NOFA or TIGER grants whenever they become available, and suggested that the region look into having a 'go to' list of ready projects that could be used on future application opportunities. Ms. Yazzie replied that in the future the Committee could work with the Service Planning Working group for state of good repair and preventive maintenance for Program of Projects, but noted that in the past it was challenging to get the entire region to agree on a few select 'ready to go' projects. Kristen Sexton of Avondale also inquired if some of the expansion fleet for the 3 and the 17 was due to come out of their UZA. Ms. Yazzie replied that those buses were for normal replacement of general fleet

and not necessarily for service expansion.

Ms. Yazzie summarized that the region has had successful grant application opportunities in FY 10, 12 and 14, so there was a decent track record of the value of projects for the FTA. Ms. Albert asked if the new buses needed to be assigned to specific routes or if they were released into the general fleet pool; and she also wondered if the old buses that Phoenix would be replacing would be retired or used elsewhere in the fleet. Ms. Hyatt stated that the new buses would be used in the general fleet and that the old buses would need to be retired as they were beyond their service life. Ms. Albert replied that surplus articulated buses would come in handy for the regional express lines, but Ms. Hyatt said that the only buses being retired this cycle would be the older 40 foot buses. Brief discussion followed.

Chair Clemann asked if there were any additional comments on the agenda item. Hearing none, she called for a motion. Ms. Albert of Glendale moved to approve the motion with the language to include 'up to 27 buses' as written, Ms. Myers of Gilbert seconded, and the motion passed unanimously. Chair Clemann then proceeded to the next item on the agenda.

6. Next Meeting Date

Chair Clemann thanked those present for participating in the brief special meeting and announced that the next meeting of the MAG Transit Committee would be held on Thursday, July 10, 2014 at 10:00 a.m. in the MAG Chaparral Room. There being no further business, Chair Clemann adjourned the meeting at 10:57 a.m.