

MINUTES OF MARICOPA ASSOCIATION OF GOVERNMENTS
TRANSPORTATION SAFETY COMMITTEE

July 27, 2010
MAG Cholla Room, 2nd Floor
302 North First Avenue
Phoenix, Arizona

MEMBERS ATTENDING

Megan Sigl for
Linda Gorman, AAA Arizona
Tom Burch, AARP
* Kohinoor Kar, ADOT
Dan Sayre for Shane Kiesow,
City of Apache Junction
Margaret Boone-Pixley, City of
Avondale
Martin Johnson, City of Chandler
*Lt. Jenna Mitchell, DPS
Jorge Gastelum, City of El Mirage
Karen King, FHWA
Kurt Sharp, Town of Gilbert

* Chris Lemka, City of Glendale
Hugh Bigalk, City of Goodyear
Bob Woodring for Chris Plumb,
Maricopa County
Renate Ehm, City of Mesa
*William Mead, Paradise Valley
Jamal Rahimi, City of Peoria
Kerry Wilcoxon, City of Phoenix
+ Paul Porell, City of Scottsdale
+ Tracy Eberlein, City of Surprise
Julian Dresang, City of Tempe (Chair)
* Gardner Tabon, RPTA

OTHERS PRESENT

Paul Ward, Town of Buckeye
Kelly LaRosa, FHWA
Anita Shanker, Stantec
Paul Basha, EPS
Heather Thomas, PBS&J
Richard Weeks, AECOM
Lauren Neu, Stand Associates

Marta Gerber, Michael Baker Jr.
+Sanja Grujakovic, City of Mesa
Sarath Joshua, MAG
Kiran Guntupalli, MAG
Leo Luo, MAG

+Teleconference

*Not present

1. Call to Order
Chairman Julian Dresang called the meeting to order at 10:05 a.m.
2. Approval of June 22, 2010 Meeting Minutes
Renate Ehm moved to approve the minutes, Kerry Wilcoxon seconded and it was unanimously carried to approve the minutes of the meeting held on June 22, 2010.
3. Call to Audience
Chairman Julian Dresang made a call to the audience providing an opportunity to members of the public to address the Transportation Safety Committee. No public comments were received.

4. Program Manager's Report

- *Annual School Crossing Guard Training Workshops:* MAG with the help of volunteers from member agencies will be hosting three School Crossing Guard Training Workshops at the beginning of 2010-2011 School Year. The workshops will be held at following venues. The numbers of persons registered to date are also listed for each venue.
 - July 29, 2010 9 a.m. to Noon – Sunnyslope High School, Phoenix – 130 Registrations
 - August 3, 2010 9 a.m. to Noon – Mesa Convention Center – 200+ Registrations
 - August 5, 2010 9 a.m. to Noon – Rio Vista Recreation Center, Peoria - 130 Registrations
- *ADOT Safe Routes to School Program:* ADOT Safe Routes to School Program has provided grants to four infrastructure projects (total funding \$1.2 million) and two Non Infrastructure (\$150,000) and one Materials and Regional Support program in the MAG region (\$30,000).
- *Safety On-Call Consultants:* Ten firms have been selected to be on MAG On-Call Consultant list. Sarath Joshua thanked the members on the selection panel Julian Dresang, Mannar Tamirisa, Paul Porell, Chris Lemka and Linda Gorman for their time and effort in reviewing the proposals.
- *Funds for Future Safety Projects:* In July, MAG and ADOT management had discussed ADOT's policy (as stated in the March 2010 HSIP Manual) that had reserved all of the 70 percent HSIP funds for improvements to state owned roads facilities. ADOT management had indicated that they would revise this policy and update the HSIP manual and open the 70 percent HSIP funds for all public roads in the State of Arizona. In the coming months ADOT will be establishing a process to help identify and fund deserving safety projects statewide. In the interim period, ADOT had encouraged local agencies with potential projects to submit the projects to ADOT via MAG. The intersection at Dunlap and 35th Avenues was particularly pointed out to ADOT as the intersection ranked highest for crashes in the MAG region. ADOT had asked that the project could seek 70 percent HSIP funds right away.

5. MAG Network Screening Methodology for Intersections- Top 100 Intersections

Sarath Joshua described the MAG Network Screening Methodology for Intersections (NSM-I), developed and adopted by the Committee in January 2010. This methodology has identified a list of intersections ranked by crash risk, based on crash data for 2006, 2007 and 2008. This methodology considers two factors in addition to crash frequency and crash severity -- manner of collision and intersection crash rate. An attachment to the agenda provided a complete description of the NSM-I process and the resulting list of top 100 intersections. He stated that this item was included in the agenda for information before programming funds for safety improvement for FY 2011 through 2014.

6. Arizona's Top Five Percent Intersections for Crash Risk

The SAFETEA-LU Act requires that each state produce, by August of each year, an

annual report with the top five percent locations with the most severe road crash history. Sarath Joshua stated that the 2009 report for Arizona includes a list of 20 intersections as the top five percent list of intersections in the State. Thirteen (13) out of the twenty (20) intersections are all located within the MAG region. The 2009 report is based on crash data for 2006, 2007 and 2008. Since crash data for 2009 are not available as yet, the State is preparing to submit the 2009 report for 2010 and have asked affected member agencies to provide updates on any safety improvements carried out since the 2009 report. Attachment Two shows the Top Five Percent list of intersections from the 2009 report for Arizona. Sarath Joshua also stated that ten of the 13 intersections also appear in MAG top 100 locations. He suggested that local agencies considering safety improvements at these locations could apply to ADOT seeking 70 percent HSIP funds. Two projects from the list were identified as obvious candidates – Dunlap and 35th Avenue in Phoenix and Hayden and Thomas intersection in Scottsdale. Kerry Wilcoxon of Phoenix and Paul Porell of Scottsdale both confirmed that their agencies were interested in seeking HSIP funds for safety improvements at these locations.

7. Programming Projects for FY2011, 2012, 2013, 2014 and 2015

Sarath Joshua reported that at the meeting held on May 25, 2010, the committee established a Working Group to develop and recommend a strategy for programming transportation safety projects for inclusion in the MAG 5-year Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) for FY 2011, 2012, 2013, 2014 and 2015. The Working Group, made up of committee members and MAG staff, held one meeting and developed a programming process for FY 2011-2015 that was provided as Attachment Three. The committee was briefed on the uncertainty of programming FY 2015 due to possible EPA action on a MAG air quality report. The committee discussed programming options recommended by the Working Group. Instead of attempting to address all programmable years, the committee agreed on the following programming process for FY 2011 MAG allocation of HSIP funds. The members of the committee agreed that they would discuss the programming process for later years at the next meeting.

Recommended MAG HSIP Programming Process for FY 2011:

1. **Regionwide Systematic Safety Improvements** (to be identified through a MAG call for projects): Any or all Safety Improvements that qualify as Group 1 Categorical Exclusions. For example:
 - Upgrading of existing Pedestrian WALK/DON'T WALK signals to Pedestrian Countdown Signals;
 - Upgrading of existing 8-inch signal heads to 12-inch LED signal heads; and,
 - Installation of additional 12-inch signal heads if an existing Mast Arm can accommodate (to comply with 2009 MUTCD) – could also include conversion of signal heads at the intersection to LEDs.

Funding Allocation: \$800,000 (MAG Allocation of HSIP) to be allocated to projects based on a Safety Committee recommendation.

2. **Road Safety Assessments (RSAs) & Design Concept Reports (DCRs)** – Perform RSAs and where necessary produce DCRs at priority intersections or arterial corridors identified through the MAG Network Screening Method.

Funding Allocation: \$200,000 (MAG Allocation of HSIP).

3. **An additional \$200,000 for performing RSAs & DCRs from the MAG FY 2011 Unified Planning Work Program.**

Funding Allocation: \$200,000(MAG Unified Planning Work Program).

Paul Porell, City of Scottsdale, moved to recommend the FY 2011 MAG HSIP programming process as described above, Kerry Wilcoxon, City of Phoenix, seconded and it was unanimously carried to approve the motion.

8. Data Needs for the Investigation of Crashes in Unincorporated Areas of Maricopa County
Bob Woodring, Maricopa County DOT, stated that the County is responsible for all roads located within unincorporated areas of Maricopa County. Often this requires crash analyses at intersections that have one or more legs located within the boundaries of a city or town. Some crashes at these locations are erroneously coded as all located within the local agency. For proper analysis of road safety at such intersections Maricopa County needs the assistance of affected local agencies in obtaining crash data for such locations. The ADOT Data Access policy does not allow Maricopa County to obtain crash data for locations outside its jurisdiction. Other agencies also expressed similar concern in getting crash data for neighboring cities. Karen King stated that the ADOT Traffic Records is now moved to work under ADOT Engineering and suggested meeting with ADOT to resolve these issues. Sarah Joshua stated that MAG Safety Committee has no authority to make recommendations to ADOT about ADOT policies. The committee would need to follow the MAG process and make such a recommendation through the Regional Council. Karen King stated that FHWA will lead an effort to bring all the concerned parties to table and resolve this issue.
9. Reports by the Committee Members on Transportation Safety Activities
Kerry Wilcoxon, City of Phoenix, reported that a citizen task force has been formed to study the reversible lane operations on 7th Street and 7th Avenue.
10. Request for Future Agenda Items
No agenda item requests were received from committee members.
11. Next Meeting
The next meeting is scheduled to be held on September 28, 2010 at 10:00 a.m. in the Cholla Room at MAG.
12. Adjournment
Chairman Julian Dresang adjourned the meeting at 12:02 p.m.