

September 22, 2009

TO: Members of the MAG Regional Council

FROM: Councilwoman Peggy Neely, Phoenix, Chair

SUBJECT: MEETING NOTIFICATION AND TRANSMITTAL OF TENTATIVE AGENDA

Meeting - 5:00 p.m.
Wednesday, September 30, 2009
MAG Office, Suite 200 - Saguaro Room
302 North 1st Avenue, Phoenix

The next MAG Regional Council meeting will be held at the MAG offices at the time and place noted above. Members of the Regional Council may attend either in person, by videoconference or by telephone conference call. Members who wish to remove any items from the Consent Agenda are requested to contact the MAG office. MAG will host a dinner/reception for the Regional Council members following the meeting in the MAG Cholla Room on the 2nd floor. Supporting information is enclosed for your review.

Please park in the garage underneath the building. Parking places will be reserved for Regional Council members on the first and second levels of the garage. Bring your ticket to the meeting, parking will be validated. For those using transit, the Regional Public Transportation Authority will provide transit tickets for your trip. For those using bicycles, please lock your bicycle in the bike rack in the garage.

Pursuant to Title II of the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA), MAG does not discriminate on the basis of disability in admissions to or participation in its public meetings. Persons with a disability may request a reasonable accommodation, such as a sign language interpreter, by contacting the MAG office. Requests should be made as early as possible to allow time to arrange the accommodation.

If you have any questions, please call the MAG office.

c: MAG Management Committee

**MAG REGIONAL COUNCIL
TENTATIVE AGENDA
September 30, 2009**

COMMITTEE ACTION REQUESTED

1. Call to Order

2. Pledge of Allegiance

3. Call to the Audience

An opportunity will be provided to members of the public to address the Regional Council 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 will be requested not to exceed a three minute time period for their comments. A total of 15 minutes will be provided for the Call to the Audience agenda item, unless the Regional Council requests an exception to this limit. Please note that those wishing to comment on agenda items posted for action will be provided the opportunity at the time the item is heard.

4. Executive Director's Report

The MAG Executive Director will provide a report to the Regional Council on activities of general interest.

5. Approval of Consent Agenda

Council members may request that an item be removed from the consent agenda. Prior to action on the consent agenda, members of the audience will be provided an opportunity to comment on consent items. Consent items are marked with an asterisk (*).

3. Information.

4. Information and discussion.

5. Approval of the Consent Agenda.

ITEMS PROPOSED FOR CONSENT*

MINUTES

*5A. Approval of the July 22, 2009, Meeting Minutes

5A. Review and approval of the July 22, 2009, meeting minutes.

TRANSPORTATION ITEMS

*5B. Project Changes – Amendments and Administrative Modifications to the FY 2008-2012 MAG Transportation Improvement Program and FY 2010 Arterial Life Cycle Program

The fiscal year (FY) 2008-2012 Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) and Regional Transportation Plan 2007 Update were approved by the MAG Regional Council on July 25, 2007, and the FY 2010 Arterial Life Cycle Program (ALCP) was approved on June 24, 2009. Since that time, there have been requests from member agencies to modify projects in the program. The project change requests related to ADOT projects include new sign and pavement preservation projects, and financial adjustments to American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (ARRA) funded projects. The majority of local projects being amended or modified into the FY 2008-2012 TIP are paving dirt road projects. These projects were previously approved by the Regional Council to be amended into a draft TIP. Project changes are needed for local projects in the FY 2010 ALCP to align with the FY 2008-2012 TIP. Due to the timing of producing the FY 2011-2015 TIP, it is necessary to amend/modify the paving and ALCP projects in the current TIP for projects to begin. The Transportation Review Committee and the Management Committee recommended approval of the requested changes. Included in the Project Change item and noted on page six of the attachment under the table titled: New Requests, are eight projects that will be heard for the first time at the Transportation Policy Committee (TPC) meeting on September 23, 2009. The one freeway project is dependent on the Regional Council action for the prioritization of the ARRA-Highway funds. The transit projects were recommended for modification/amendments to ARRA-Transit funds by the RPTA Board on September 17, 2009. An update will be provided on action taken on this item by the TPC. Please refer to the enclosed material.

5B. Approval of amendments and administrative modifications to the FY 2008-2012 Transportation Improvement Program, as appropriate, to the Regional Transportation Plan 2007 Update, and the FY 2010 Arterial Life Cycle Program.

*5C. Central Mesa Light Rail Transit Locally Preferred Alternative

On June 17, 2009, the METRO Board of Directors approved a locally preferred alternative (LPA) resulting from the alternatives analysis on the technology and alignment to extend high capacity transit improvements in the Central Mesa corridor. The LPA included a light rail transit (LRT) extension on Main Street east to an interim end-of-the-line east of Mesa Drive as Phase I. In addition, METRO also approved forwarding Phase II recommendations to MAG for future funding consideration, which included a future extension of the LRT corridor on Main Street to approximately Gilbert Road and to improve service frequency on the Main Street LINK Bus Rapid Transit to match LRT. The Mesa City Council approved these recommendations on May 18, 2009. The MAG Transportation Review Committee and the Management Committee recommended approval. This item is on the September 23, 2009, Transportation Policy Committee agenda. An update will be provided on action taken by the Committee. Please refer to the enclosed material.

*5D. Acceptance of the Interstates 8 and 10-Hidden Valley Transportation Framework Study

As a follow-up to the Interstate 10-Hassayampa Valley Framework Study, MAG and its funding partners, the Arizona Department of Transportation, the Maricopa County Department of Transportation, Pinal County Public Works, the Town of Buckeye, and the Cities of Goodyear and Maricopa, recognized the need to extend framework planning into southwestern Maricopa County and western Pinal County. Beginning in May 2007, a consultant team began framework planning efforts for a 3,200 square mile study area bounded by Gila River on the north, SR-87 and Overfield Road on the east in Pinal County, the Tohono O'Odham Indian Community and Barry Goldwater Range on the south, and 459th Avenue on the west in Maricopa County. This study is the second framework effort in the MAG region since the

5C. Approval of the Central Mesa locally preferred alternative as Phase I, which includes light rail transit on a Main Street alignment to the east side of Mesa Drive in accordance with the Regional Transportation Plan (RTP) and the consideration of the Phase II recommendations for future funding consideration as an "illustrative project" in the next RTP update.

5D. Accept the findings of the Interstates 8 and 10-Hidden Valley Transportation Framework Study as the surface and public transportation framework for the Hidden Valley area of the MAG region that is bounded by the Gila River on the north, SR-87 and Pinal County on the east, the Tohono O'Odham Indian Community and the Barry Goldwater Range on the south, and 459th Avenue on the west; adopt a two-mile traffic interchange spacing policy for new freeway facilities within the Hidden Valley area with appropriate planning for non-access crossing of the freeway facilities to facilitate local transportation improvements; accept the findings and implementation strategies as described in the study for inclusion as long-range unfunded illustrative corridors in the Regional Transportation Plan; recommend the affected jurisdictions within the Hidden Valley study area incorporate the study's recommendations into future updates of their general plans; and

conception of the regional freeway network in 1960 and the Hassayampa Study in 2008, to establish a network of transportation facilities to meet the buildout travel demand. The Transportation Review Committee, MAG Management Committee, Transportation Policy Committee, and MAG Regional Council have received a briefing on the project's framework recommendation for the Hidden Valley study area. The Management Committee recommended acceptance. This item is on the September 23, 2009, Transportation Policy Committee agenda. An update will be provided on action taken by the Committee. Please refer to the enclosed material.

*5E. Arizona Department of Transportation 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, 2009 to June 30, 2009. If a member wishes to take action on a notification, the item can be removed from the consent agenda for further discussion. The item could then be placed on the agenda of a subsequent meeting for action. Please refer to the enclosed material.

*5F. Transportation Regional Planning Roles and Responsibilities Update

At the June 13, 2009, MAG Regional Council Executive Committee meeting, staff provided an update on working group discussions regarding transportation regional planning roles and responsibilities. The working group, which includes representatives from MAG, the Regional Public Transportation Authority (RPTA) and Valley Metro Rail (METRO) met on July 16, 2009. On September 21, 2009, the Executive Committee discussed four options that had been developed by the working group and recommended

coordinate this acceptance with the tribal councils of the Gila River and AK Chin Indian Communities.

5E. Information and discussion.

5F. Approval of (1) Option 1: Programming Consolidated at MAG; (2) forming a MAG transit committee; (3) addressing potential budget issues regarding the Regional Public Transportation Authority and Valley Metro Rail in the development of the FY 2011 MAG Unified Planning Work Program and Annual Budget; and (4) directing MAG staff to report back to the Executive Committee in 90 days or sooner with a plan on progress regarding the remaining options including a budget analysis of the options.

approval of Option I: Programming Consolidated at MAG; forming a MAG transit committee, addressing potential budget issues regarding the Regional Public Transportation Authority and Valley Metro Rail in the development of the FY 2011 MAG Unified Planning Work Program and Annual Budget, and reporting back to the Executive Committee on progress in 90 days or sooner with a plan on progress regarding the remaining options including a budget analysis of the options. Please refer to the enclosed material.

AIR QUALITY ITEMS

*5G. Conformity Consultation

The Maricopa Association of Governments is conducting consultation on a conformity assessment for an amendment and administrative modification to the FY 2008-2012 MAG Transportation Improvement Program (TIP). The proposed amendment and administrative modification involve several projects, including Arizona Department of Transportation projects and PM-10 Pave Unpaved Road projects for FY 2011 and FY 2012. 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. Please refer to the enclosed material.

5G. Consultation.

GENERAL ITEMS

*5H. 2010 Census New Construction Program

The 2010 Census is only seven months away. To ensure that all new housing units are counted, jurisdictions need to complete the New Construction program Registration Form. The Registration Form was sent to the highest elected official and census liaison at each member agency in August 2009. The form needs to be completed by each jurisdiction, signed by the jurisdiction's highest elected official, and returned to the U.S. Census Bureau by its deadline of October 8, 2009. The 2010 Census New Construction program will help ensure that the U.S. Census Bureau's address

5H. Information.

list is as complete as possible by Census Day, April 1, 2010. The New Construction program is the opportunity for every MAG member agency to submit city style mailing addresses for units constructed after the address canvassing operation was completed. MAG will be offering assistance to all agencies participating in the program. Please refer to the enclosed material.

ITEMS PROPOSED TO BE HEARD

TRANSPORTATION ITEMS

6. Update on the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009: Reallocation of Unused Funds – Policy Options

The American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (ARRA) of 2009 was signed by President Obama on February 17, 2009. The ARRA directs transportation infrastructure funds to both highways and transit agencies in states and metropolitan planning organizations. In February 2009, the MAG Regional Council prioritized Highway projects, including a backup list, to be programmed with ARRA funding and approved specific projects to be funded with ARRA transit funds. On March 25, 2009, the MAG Regional Council established a deadline of November 30, 2009, for the ARRA funds designated to the MAG region for local projects to be obligated. It was noted in the action approved by the Regional Council that funds from projects that are not obligated will be reprogrammed to meet the federal obligation date of March 2, 2010, in order for Arizona to be eligible to receive funding from other states that are unable to obligate their funds. Subsequent to these actions, MAG staff and member agencies worked together to program all ARRA funds for the region. Per federal regulations, projects are required to undergo a set of federal clearances prior to obligation and advertisement. Bids for initial ARRA funded projects have come in 20 percent to 50 percent below original estimates, and it is anticipated that future bids will follow this trend. This will result in unobligated ARRA funding available for additional projects in Highway, Transit, and Local categories. Policy options for allocation of unused ARRA Highway funds are presented in

6. Reprioritize the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (ARRA) Highway project list based on the ability to obligate.

the attached memorandum and table. The September status report on all ARRA projects programmed in the MAG region is also enclosed. This item was on the August agenda of the Transportation Review Committee for information and discussion. On September 16, 2009, the MAG Management Committee recommended reprioritizing the ARRA Highway project list based on the ability to obligate. The Committee discussed that the policy issues would be discussed further and considered in October. This item is on the September 23, 2009, Transportation Policy Committee agenda. An update will be provided on action taken by the Committee.

7. Building a Quality Arizona Update

The Arizona Department of Transportation (ADOT) has been conducting the Building a Quality Arizona (BQAZ) process throughout Arizona. ADOT representatives will provide an update on these activities and will highlight the statewide recommendations that are related to Maricopa County. It is anticipated that the current MAG planning efforts, including the Regional Transportation Plan and its updates, the Hassayampa Valley, the Hidden Valley, and Regional Transit framework studies will be incorporated into this planning effort. This item was on the September Management Committee and Transportation Policy Committee agendas for information and discussion.

7. Information and discussion.

AIR QUALITY ITEMS

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

At the June 10, 2009 MAG Management Committee meeting, discussion took place on the implications of delaying the expenditure of MAG Federal Funds. In addition to projects listed in the Transportation Improvement Program, street sweepers were given as an example. In some cases approved sweeper projects have taken up to three years to request reimbursement. The delay in requesting reimbursement for street sweepers results in obligated federal funds being carried

8. Information and discussion.

forward in the MAG Unified Planning Work Program and Annual Budget. The Federal Highway Administration has expressed concern regarding the amount of obligated funds being carried forward in the Work Program. To assist MAG in reducing the amount of obligated federal funds, 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. The status of remaining PM-10 certified street sweeper projects that have received approval, but have not requested reimbursement is provided. Periodic updates will be provided on the status of the reimbursement requests. Please refer to the enclosed material.

GENERAL ITEMS

9. Legislative Update

An update will be provided on legislative issues of interest.

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 will be requested.

11. Comments from the Council

An opportunity will be 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.

12. Adjournment

9. Information, discussion and possible action.

10. Information and discussion.

11. Information.