

April 8, 2003

TO: Members of the Transportation Policy Committee

FROM: Mayor Neil Giuliano, Tempe, Chair

SUBJECT: MEETING NOTIFICATION AND TRANSMITTAL OF TENTATIVE AGENDA

Wednesday, April 16, 2003 - 2:30 p.m.  
MAG Office, Suite 200 - Saguaro Room  
302 N. First Avenue, Phoenix

**DUE TO RELIGIOUS OBSERVANCES FOR PASSOVER, THE APRIL 16, 2003 MEETING HAS BEEN CHANGED TO 2:30 P.M.**

A meeting of the Transportation Policy Committee is scheduled for the time and place noted above. Members of the Committee may attend the meeting either in person, by videoconference, or by telephone conference call. As was discussed at the first meeting of the Committee, proxies would not be allowed. Members who are not able to attend the meeting are encouraged to submit their comments in writing, so that their view would always be a part of the process.

Please park in the garage under the Compass Bank Building. 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 Valerie Day at the MAG office. Requests should be made as early as possible to allow time to arrange the accommodation.

Refreshments and a light dinner will be provided. If you have any questions, please contact me at (480) 350-8865, or Dennis Smith, MAG Executive Director, at (602) 254-6300.

**TRANSPORTATION POLICY COMMITTEE  
TENTATIVE AGENDA**

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 Committee regarding items on the agenda. Citizens will be requested not to exceed a three minute time period for their comments.

4. Approval of Consent Agenda

Prior to action on the consent agenda, Committee members may request that an item be removed from the consent agenda. Consent items are marked with an asterisk.

3. Information.

4. Recommend approval of the Consent Agenda.

**ITEMS PROPOSED FOR CONSENT\***

\*4A. Approval of March 19, 2003 Meeting Minutes

\*4B. FY 2002-2003 Annual Transit Performance Report

The Annual Transit Performance Report, formerly known as the Short Range Transit Report, is prepared and updated annually by the Valley Metro/Regional Public Transportation Authority on behalf of MAG. In addition to providing recommendations for transit improvements over the next year, the report also includes a summary of the regional transit system's operating characteristics from Fiscal Year 2001-2002. The report was developed using input from MAG member agencies and citizen participation efforts that are normally conducted throughout the year. This item is on the April 9 Management Committee agenda. An update will be provided on action taken by the Committee. Please refer to the enclosed material.

4A. Review and approve March 19, 2003 meeting minutes.

4B. Recommend acceptance of the RPTA Annual Transit Performance Report, contingent upon any air quality conformity analysis that may be required.

\*4C. Regional Transportation Plan - Phase II Contract Amendment

The MAG Unified Planning Work Program includes a total of \$750,000 for consultant services for Phase II of the MAG Regional Transportation Plan (RTP). On October 30, 2002, the Regional Council approved contracting with HDR Engineering, Inc. for an amount not to exceed \$500,000, to assist in the development of the RTP. At that time, it was noted that a portion of the \$250,000 balance might be required later, depending on possible study scope revisions. Certain revisions are now being proposed for the scope that would result in an increase of \$60,000 in the total amount of the contract with HDR. The increased contract amount is needed to cover additional public attitude surveying (\$45,000), and a project video (\$15,000). This item is on the April 9 Management Committee agenda. An update will be provided on action taken by the Committee. Please refer to the enclosed material.

\*4D. Proposal to Accelerate Certain Segments for Rubberized Asphalt

The Arizona Department of Transportation has been working with MAG member agencies to advance certain segments for the application of rubberized asphalt. These advancements would be considered under the MAG Highway Acceleration Policy adopted by the MAG Regional Council in March 2000. This policy provides for the advancement of projects by members if such accelerations do not impact the scheduled delivery of other projects. On March 27, 2003, the TRC recommended approval of the proposed accelerations. This item is on the April 9 Management Committee agenda. An update will be provided on action taken by the Committee. Please refer to the enclosed material.

\*4E. Requested Changes for the MAG Regional Freeway Program

The Arizona Department of Transportation has requested that a \$1.4 million new project be added to the MAG Regional Freeway Program to provide for additional noise mitigation measures at two

4C. Recommend approval to increase the contract with HDR Engineering, Inc. for the Regional Transportation Plan - Phase II, from \$499,917 to an amount not to exceed \$559,917.

4D. Recommend that the proposed accelerations be approved.

4E. Recommend approval of the requested change to add the new project to provide additional noise mitigation at the Price Freeway and Guadalupe Road interchange and on the Red Mountain Freeway between Center and Mesa Drive and to provide a portion of the funding for a screen wall on the Red Mountain between Mesa Drive and Gilbert Road.

locations. The first location is the Price Freeway interchange at Guadalupe Road. The other location is along the Red Mountain Freeway between Center Street and Mesa Drive. The scope of work for these locations primarily includes construction of new noise walls at an estimated cost of \$1.0 million. The proposed project also includes \$400,000 of RARF funding for a screen wall between Mesa Drive and Gilbert Road. Through an IGA with Maricopa County an additional \$1.7 million is being provided for the remaining costs of the screen wall. A review of the net impact of these changes indicates that the cash balances for the MAG Regional Freeway Program are adequate to accommodate the requested changes. This item is on the April 9 Management Committee agenda. An update will be provided on action taken by the Committee. Please refer to the enclosed material.

**ITEMS PROPOSED TO BE HEARD**

5. Update on MAG Town Hall on Transportation

On March 28, 2003, the first MAG Town Hall was held. More than 100 Valley residents, mainly from local leadership groups, worked throughout the day to gain a better understanding of the Valley's transportation challenges. Electronic voting was held at the end of the session to summarize the thoughts of the participants.

6. Guidance on the Conceptual Framework for Development of the Alternatives Packages

Since the March TPC meeting, staff has been developing a conceptual framework for the development of the alternatives packages for consideration by the TPC. Staff is recommending that three modeling scenarios (Scenario A: Higher Freeway Emphasis; Scenario B: Higher Arterial Street Emphasis; and Scenario C: Higher Transit Emphasis) be developed to check the performance of the projects in the transportation model. After the scenarios are evaluated using the model, the output will be examined to determine which projects perform best in the various corridors in the Valley. Following that step, the high performing freeway, arterial street and transit projects will be combined into a preferred alternative and the

5. Information and discussion.

6. Provide guidance regarding the conceptual framework for the development of the alternatives packages.

performance measured in the model. Guidance on this conceptual framework from the TPC is requested. Please refer to the enclosed material.

7. Performance Measures

At the March TPC meeting, a preliminary discussion was held regarding performance measures. These performance measures will be used in the RTP process to assess the relative strengths and weaknesses of the scenarios and to help provide insights into the tradeoffs associated with different transportation investment strategies. A set of proposed performance measures for use in the alternatives evaluation phase of the RTP process has been prepared. Please refer to the enclosed material.

8. Update on the MAG High Capacity Transit Study

On October 30, 2001, the MAG Regional Council approved the IBI Group as the consultant to develop the High Capacity Transit Study. The study evaluated the possible use of existing railroad corridors for commuter rail and identifies other high capacity transit technologies, such as bus rapid transit or light rail, in other high demand corridors in the region. The planning efforts for the High Capacity Transit Study will be integrated with the development of the Regional Transportation Plan. Several reports to various committees and groups have been made in developing the High Capacity Transit Study. On March 27, 2003, members of the Transportation Review Committee requested that final approval of the study be delayed to have questions addressed. Due to the complexity of the issues addressed in the study, the questions posed by the TRC are being presented at the April Management Committee meeting, with approval being delayed until these questions are addressed, with possible approval in May 2003. This will allow a greater understanding of the study and outstanding issues before it proceeds. After the briefing on the study, the MAG consultant, Cantelme, Kaasa Associates will provide a brief overview of previous polling results relating to transit investments. Please refer to the enclosed material.

7. Accept the proposed set of performance measures to assist in evaluation of alternatives. As the RTP proceeds, the performance measures may need to be adjusted or refined based on their actual application in the planning process.

8. Information and discussion.

9. Formation of Maintenance Stakeholders Group

At the March TPC meeting, the topic of funding maintenance needs was initiated. Due to the policy/legislative and technical nature of this issue, it is recommended that a stakeholder group consisting of TPC members, ADOT staff/board member(s), Governor's Office and Legislative representatives be formed to develop a recommendation for consideration by the TPC.

10. Legislative Update

On March 31, 2003, the Senate Finance Committee heard HB 2292. At the Committee hearing, the Chairman of the Committee presented an amendment to the bill incorporating the amendments requested by MAG. In addition, the existing language that allowed for the election to be held in 2004 was modified to prescribe that the election be held at the November General Election in 2004. MAG and the business coalition supported the bill as amended except for prescribing the November election date. The bill will next go to the Rules Committee and then to the Senate Committee of the Whole.

11. Future Agenda Items

At the May 21, 2003 TPC meeting, we anticipate discussing the following items:

- Revenue Projections
- Preliminary Evaluation of Scenarios

9. Formation of a maintenance stakeholders group to develop a recommendation for consideration by the TPC.

10. Information and discussion.

11. Information.