

MINUTES OF THE
MARICOPA ASSOCIATION OF GOVERNMENTS
REGIONAL BICYCLE TASK FORCE

Tuesday, June 17, 2003 - 1:30 p.m.
MAG Office Building, Suite 200 - Cholla Room
302 North First Avenue, Phoenix

MEMBERS ATTENDING

Tami Ryall, Gilbert, Chair
Anna Roedler, Avondale
Bill Lazenby, Coalition of Az. Bicyclists
Steve Hancock, Glendale
^Janeen Holloman, Goodyear
*Mike Cartsonis, Litchfield Park
Reed Kempton, Maricopa County
Brian Fellows, Mesa

Tim Bolton, Peoria
Briiana Leon, Phoenix
*Randi Alcott, RPTA
Aaron Iverson, Scottsdale
*Tucker Smith, Surprise
Eric Iwersen for Elizabeth Thomas,
Tempe

*Members neither present nor represented by proxy.

^Attended by audio conference.

OTHERS PRESENT

Mike Normand, Chandler
Maureen DeCindis, MAG
Amy MacAulay, citizen
Jack Hobbs, Coalition of Arizona Bicyclists
Kelly Taft, MAG

Jason Stevens, MAG
Marc Pearsall, Valley Metro Rail
Alexandra Patane, Valley Metro Rail
^Steve Tate, MAG

1. Call to Order

Brian Fellows called the meeting to order at 1:34 p.m.

2. Approval of the January 21, 2003 Meeting Minutes of the Regional Bicycle Task Force and the Pedestrian Working Group

Eric Iwersen moved to approve the meeting minutes of the Regional Bicycle Task Force and the Pedestrian Working Group from January 21, 2003. Reed Kempton seconded the motion and the motion passed unanimously.

3. Call to the Audience

Kelly LaRosa asked if committee members would be interested in sponsoring a Northwestern University course on bicycle engineering and planning. Maureen DeCindis pointed out that the Governor's Arizona Bicycle Task Force and MAG sponsored this course about six years ago. The committee requested to receive an updated agenda for the workshop before making a decision.

4. Staff Report

Maureen DeCindis reported on several items:

- There has been a request by three people in the community to be considered for membership on the MAG Bicycle Task Force and the Pedestrian Working Group. The prospective members represent the general public and the health professionals. Susan Bookspan, Bicycle Safety Coordinator at Phoenix Children's Hospital Injury Prevention and Resource Center; Amy MacAulay, citizen and former City of Scottsdale Bicycle Coordinator and consultant with Logan, Simpson Design; and Tammy Vehige, Program Manager Physical Activity for Arizona Department of Health Services. These new members would bring expertise and access to new partnerships.

According to MAG Bylaws, Article XI, Section 4: Membership on Standing and Special Committees shall be determined by the Regional Council. There shall be no minimum nor maximum number of members on any Standing or Special Committee. Nothing in these By-Laws shall be construed to limit membership on these aforesaid committees exclusively to officials service political subdivisions of the State. The Regional Council, in its discretion, may appoint any individual it deems qualified to serve on a Standing or Special Committee.

The formal process involves the prospective members submitting letters requesting membership. The letters are sent to the Chair of the Regional Council for approval.

There were several questions raised about this issue. Tami Ryall suggested that the applicants submit a cover letter with resume explaining why they would like to be on the MAG Regional Bicycle Task Force. This item will be on the next agenda for discussion and action.

- A reminder was given that the completed original enhancement fund application with 10 copies are due to the MAG office on Monday July 7, 2003 at noon.
- The *America Moves Conference* Proceedings will be available on cd next week. Please contact MAG to receive a copy.

5. Member Agency Report

Reed Kempton announced that Maricopa County received an Achievement Award from the National Association of Counties for the County Regional Trail Plan.

Brian Fellows said that the City of Mesa is applying for the League of American Bicyclist *Bicycle Friendly Community Award* on August 15, 2003.

Eric Iwersen announced that the City of Tempe recently received the designation *Bicycle Friendly Community*. If any other jurisdiction is interested in applying, the application is available on the web site www.bikeleague.org

Aaron Iverson asked what the requirements were to receive such an award. Eric Iwersen responded that the best source is the web site but cities were expected to have programs such as a bicycle advisor committee and safe routes to school program.

Tami Ryall reported that the Town of Gilbert is holding public input sessions discussing the trail system and mountain bike course in Santan Regional Park. Reed Kempton added that there is an agreement to have one trail connection at the very least at the north end of the Santan Regional Park for the County Regional Trail.

Eric Iwersen announced that the City of Tempe is sponsoring an open house for light rail on June 24, 2003 at 6:30 p.m. at Thew school.

6. Light Rail/Bicycle Interface Presentation

Alexandra Patane, Communications Specialist, and Marc Pearsall, Rail Transit Facilities Planner, gave a presentation updating the committee on the status of the light rail system. The presentation included a special focus on bikes and rail, as well as information about light rail funding.

Light Rail is an electrified rail technology that uses an overhead power source, operates on a track, mainly at street level, runs in its own lane, separated from autos with one to three car trains, can carry 450 people, and is 'lighter' than traditional railroad systems.

Light Rail Project Milestones:

Phoenix	13.34 miles of light rail with 4/10 cent sales tax approved in 2000
Tempe	5.5 miles of light rail with ½ cent sales tax approved in 1996
Mesa	1.14 miles of light rail that is budgeted in their General Fund Program

The hours of operation will be 7 days per week 20 hrs/day (5 am to 1 am) with a frequency during the peak periods of 6 to 10 minutes and off-peak 10 to 20 minutes.

Light Rail Stations:

- Number of stations: 26 (plus 2 deferred)
- Average station spacing: ¾ mile
- Number with bus interface: 16
- Number with transit centers: 6
- Number with park-and-ride: 8
- Number with walk-in access only: 4
- Platform length: 3 car

Light Rail Bicycle Policy states that there will be four bikes per car with twelve bikes per three cars. Bicycle racks will be provided at every station and bicycle lockers at certain park & ride lots. In terms of accessibility, there will be four wheelchair spaces in each of the low-floor vehicles. Wheelchair access will be separate from bicycle access.

To contact the Valley Metro Rail:
 Hotline (602) 534-1807
 Community Office
 411 N. Central Ave, Suite 195
www.valleymetro.org

7. Overview on the Public Involvement Process on the Regional Transportation Plan

MAG Communications Manager Kelly Taft discussed the public involvement efforts and the progress being made by the Transportation Policy Committee in the development of a new Regional Transportation Plan. She walked the committee through a hands-on exercise in which participants created their own plan based on individual priorities and perspectives.

The Transportation Policy Committee (TPC) was created in May 2002 by the Regional Council. The TPC is composed of twenty three members comprised of MAG member agencies and representatives from the business community, transit, freight, Citizens Transportation Oversight Committee and the Arizona Department Of Transportation.

The TPC is charged with developing the Regional Transportation Plan. The Transportation Plan is the largest planning initiative in the region for the past 40 years. It is the blueprint for regional transportation investments for the next 20 years. It provides the policy framework that identifies the transportation priorities.

The plan is necessary because the sales tax is expiring in 2005 leaving the Valley without a major source of funding for transportation. Maricopa County's population grew by about 45% each decade since 1960 and travel is increasing faster than population growth. Congestion costs both time and money. The ability to move people and goods is the backbone of the economy.

Transportation was identified as the third largest problem facing the residents of Maricopa County behind education issues and crime. When surveyed, 43% of the population said they would definitely vote yes for a sales tax extension and 39% said they probably would vote yes

with 17% saying they probably would vote no. When asked how voters would prioritize the funding if they had \$100 to divide between the options:

Light Rail	\$21
Bus improvements	\$22
Street and Road Improvements	\$25
Freeways	\$32

Kelly Taft noted that bicycle and pedestrian options were omitted from the survey. The draft plan is expected to be finished in July and will be on the web site www.LetsKeepMoving.com to illicit public comment. The final plan is expected in September.

Kelly Taft stated that no bicycle/pedestrian projects will come out of half-cent tax at this time. That could change depending on public input and the decisions of the TPC. One policy decision currently being discussed is that bicycle/pedestrian facilities and streets would be funded locally.

Jason Stevens passed around a handout listing the public workshops, public events, community groups and transportation commissions where a survey was given. Kelly Taft reported on the 1,400 responses to the question “What is the single most important thing that can be done to improve the Valley’s transportation system?”

The survey results (in approximate points) indicated:

Freeways	100 points
Bus Service	300 points
Rail	100 points
Streets	35 points
Carpool/Vanpool	25 points
Bike/Ped	10 points
Senior/ADA	8 points

Eric Iwersen asked what the best way was to influence the draft plan. Kelly Taft responded that committee members should come and speak during the public comment section at the TPC meetings and comment on the draft plan. There will be additional public outreach in July to seek input to the draft plan. Brian Fellows suggested that photos be shown as part of the educational presentation to the general public and the TPC.

Bill Lazenby reported that people have complained to him that they do not feel safe bicycling on streets without bicycle facilities. Aaron Iverson suggested that language in the plan should state that bike lanes are automatically included in every street project. Bike lanes encourage ordinary people to ride bikes. Maureen DeCindis handed out the results of the *National Survey of Pedestrian and Bicyclist Attitudes and Behaviors*, U.S. Department of Transportation, May 2003 survey results which show that 80.8% of bicyclists and 87.2% of pedestrians say the biggest change in communities is the need to provide more facilities.

Eric Iwersen suggested that committee members be notified when the draft Transportation Plan is available for comment on the MAG web site.

7. Next Meeting

The next meeting will be a joint meeting of the Pedestrian Working Group and Bike Task Force in the MAG Chola Room on Tuesday July 15, 2003 at 1:30 p.m. to review bicycle-related and pedestrian-related Transportation Enhancement applications.

Tami Ryall suggested convening a joint Pedestrian Working Group and Bike Task Force on August 19, 2003 to discuss the draft Transportation Plan for the sales tax extension.