

MINUTES OF THE  
MARICOPA ASSOCIATION OF GOVERNMENTS  
INTELLIGENT TRANSPORTATION SYSTEMS COMMITTEE

October 2, 2002  
MAG Cholla Room, 2nd Floor  
302 North First Avenue  
Phoenix, Arizona

MEMBERS ATTENDING

Jim Book, Glendale	Bruce Dressel, Scottsdale
Alan Sanderson, Mesa	Jim Decker, Tempe
Mike Mah, Chandler	Tim Wolfe, ADOT
Mike Sutton for Bruce Ward, Gilbert	Scott Nodes, Peoria
Faisal Saleem Maricopa County	Chuck Hydeman, Goodyear
Bob Steele, Phoenix	Mary Kihl, ASU
Bob Ciotti, RPTA	Alan Hansen, FHWA
*Terry Conner, DPS	*Michael Smith, Avondale
Bob Maki, Surprise	Janice Jacobo, Phoenix Aviation

OTHERS PRESENT

James Colyar, FHWA	Chris Jordan, Kimley-Horn & Assoc.
Mike Nevarez, Phoenix Transit	Ryan Gulick, IBI Group
Xiao Qin, MAG	Tracy Rivas, Sky Harbor Airport
Sarath Joshua, MAG	David Walter, PBS&J
Cody Christensen, BWR	Anne McCracken, ValleyMetro
Yogesh Mantri, MCDOT	
Jimmie Dixon, Glendale	

\* Not present or represented by proxy

1. Call to Order

Acting Chairman Alan Sanderson called the meeting to order at 9:12 AM. Everyone present made self-introductions. The Chairman welcomed the new committee member for Sky Harbor Airport, Janice Jacobo. Shortly afterwards Mr. Jim Book arrived and assumed the role of chair.

2. Approval of September 4, 2002 Meeting Minutes

Faisal Saleem moved and Alan Sanderson seconded, and it was unanimously carried to approve minutes of the September 4, 2002 ITS Committee meeting.

### 3. Call to Audience

Chairman Book made a call to the audience providing an opportunity to members of the public to address the ITS Committee. There was no comment from the audience.

### 4. Program Managers Report

- New Transportation Policy Committee – This committee replaces the Transportation Subcommittee. The chairman of this new committee is Mayor Guiliano and Vice-Chair Mayor Scruggs. It consists of 25 members with 13 MAG members and 6 from private sector, Chairs of House and Senate Transportation Committee. Meetings will be held monthly. How this committee fits within the MAG organizational structure was depicted in a figure displayed. The current main role for the TPC is providing oversight to the Regional Transportation Plan.
- Regional Transportation Plan: In nearing completion of Phase 1. Four main goals of the RTP were: 1) Maintenance and Safety; 2) Access and Mobility; 3) Sustaining the Environment; and 4) Accountability and Planning. He stated that ITS strategies were included in 3 of the 4 goals. Requests for Qualifications for Phase 2 are currently being evaluated. The ITS strategic plan will provide input to RTP on regional ITS priorities. Sarath Joshua went on to brief the committee on a series of MAG transportation studies that are supporting the RTP, with some of them incorporating recommendations from the ITS Strategic Plan.
- TEA-21 Reauthorization – Based on information coming from Washington DC emphasis is likely to be on safety and security. They are also encouraging infrastructure systems that can gather systemwide performance data. Funding is not likely to be increased to the region. Alan Hansen agreed with this observation and said that he will keep everyone informed on any new developments. Sarath Joshua asked members to respond to the call for input by USDOT.  
ITS On-Call RFQ – The plan is to have this released by middle of the month.

### 5. Traffic Signal Synchronization

In highlighting the background for this topic, Sarath Joshua indicated that there was a perception among many in the region that not enough was being done to address synchronization of traffic signals. This perception was also reflected in discussions at a recent meeting of the Policy Committee. MAG staff member Xiao Qin provided examples on how other regions were displaying information on signal synchronization. The idea of depicting signal synchronization status on a map for public information was presented. Alan Sanderson said that many folks seem to have little understanding of road capacity and a map may cause confusion. He stated that an education component must accompany any information on a map. Jim Decker pointed out that Phoenix produced a good video on traffic signalization that he has used to educate citizens. He also mentioned a similar video produced by Chandler.

Sarath indicated that he would like to develop a 20-minute presentation using these materials Jim Decker said there are obvious conflicts when serving many clients. Chairman Book indicated that we have been mostly reactive and stated that the video will help a lot. He said that everyone is looking for a silver bullet and have been told that signal synchronization is a

cheap fix. Chairman Book said that at the TPC meeting Mayor Goodyear said that he understood that it has its limitations. Faisal Saleem stated that MCDOT has begun a study on Bell Road to look at this problem. Yogesh Mantri stated that MCDOT did a before and after study. Since ADOT has changed the timing at 101 to meet Glendale pattern it has reduced effectiveness. Mike Mah volunteered to provide a copy of the Chandler video. He said it was played on the community channel and was very well received. Mike Sutton pointed out that we could better inform public about the directional nature of progression. Sarath Joshua asked if it was possible to better inform traveling public on how to drive in order to experience progression. Mike Mah said that since 80 percent of all signals are already coordinated it will be a challenge to show better performing intersections on a map. Sarath Joshua asked if this can be done on Smart Corridors. Jim Decker questioned unrealistic expectations from Smart Corridors.

Bruce Dressel asked if there are any news forums that may be utilized to better inform public on these issues. Bob Steele encapsulated the issue as one that dealt with Total System Delay Versus Corridor Efficiency. Chairman Book pointed out the fragility of the system such as due to preemption. He pointed out that Glendale city council decided to extend yellow phase to mitigate the red light running problem. Jim Decker said that the Tempe Transportation Plan considers some level of congestion good. Mike Mah said that any education has to be continuous, the effect of a video may last 2 weeks. Every misconception needs an explanation.

Janice Jacobo mentioned that Sky harbor is carrying out a continuous education program with Channel 11. Chairman Book hoped that we could develop a map like the FMS speed map. The final conclusion was for MAG staff to develop a webpage and supporting information pages on this issue with data form a few cities. This will be shown at a committee meeting in a few months. At that time a decision could be made on if we should go forward or not for the full region. Sarath Joshua mentioned that Channel 3 carried a story on the Freeway Service Patrol project sponsored by the committee. Jim Book closed the discussion with a story about a boy who was picking up and throwing starfish back into the ocean being questioned the wisdom of that task. Jim pointed out that the boy's answer that it made a difference to each individual was also reflected how the Freeway Service Patrol program helps thousands of motorists stranded on the freeway system.

6. Status Reports by Committee Members

Bob Steele mentioned that the Phoenix downtown traffic management system was approved by Council on October 2<sup>nd</sup>. The 40-mile ITS fiber backbone is at Draft DCR stage. Bruce Dressel stated that the Indian School Road project is complete from Pima west to 64<sup>th</sup> Street. The project involved 14 VMS signs. Faisal Saleem indicated that Phase 2 of Smart Corridors have been approved. He also requested that a presentation on the Draft Telecomm Study be scheduled for a future meeting. Scott Nodes mentioned the upcoming ITS Arizona meeting on October 9<sup>th</sup>. Alan Hansen mentioned the Systems Engineering course coordinated by Local Technical Assistance Program.

7. Next Meeting Date

Next meeting date was announced as 9:00 AM on Wednesday November 6, 2002. The Concept of Operations project meeting was announced as 10:30 AM on the same day.

8. Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned by Chairman Jim Book at 10:25 AM.