

**MINUTES OF THE  
MARICOPA ASSOCIATION OF GOVERNMENTS  
INTELLIGENT TRANSPORTATION SYSTEMS COMMITTEE**

**January 7, 2004  
MAG Cholla Room, 2nd Floor  
302 North First Avenue**

**Phoenix, Arizona**

**MEMBERS ATTENDING**

**Jim Book, Glendale  
Alan Sanderson, Mesa  
Mike Mah, Chandler  
Mike Sutton for Bruce Ward, Gilbert  
Faisal Saleem for Nicolaas Swart,  
Maricopa County  
Bob Steele, Phoenix  
Bob Ciotti, RPTA  
Iven Wooten for Terry Conner, DPS  
Bob Maki, Surprise  
Carrol Reynolds, Buckeye**

**Bruce Dressel, Scottsdale  
Jim Decker, Tempe  
Pankaj Gupte for Tim Wolfe, ADOT  
Scott Nodes, Peoria  
  
Don French, Goodyear  
Mary Kihl, ASU  
Alan Hansen, FHWA  
\*Dennis Murphy, Phoenix Aviation  
\*Michael Smith, Avondale**

**OTHERS PRESENT**

**Debbie Burdette, Glendale  
Tami DeRuiter, Phoenix  
Sarath Joshua, MAG**

**Xiao Qin, MAG  
Brent Crowther, Kimley-Horn Associates  
Mike Nevarez, Phoenix Transit**

**\* Not present or represented by proxy**

1. Call to Order

Chairman Jim Book called the meeting to order at 10:00 AM.

2. Approval of December 3, 2003 Meeting Minutes

Bruce Dressel moved and Alan Sanderson seconded, and it was unanimously carried to approve the minutes of the December 3, 2003 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

The following is a summary of the report to the committee provided by Sarath Joshua:

- **Schedule for 2004** - The schedule of meetings was distributed to members. Meetings will continue to be held on the first Wednesday of each month in the Cholla Room. Audio and Video conferencing facilities are available to any member that cannot attend a meeting at MAG. It was pointed out that as discussed during the Concept of Operations project, all future meetings will have either an infrastructure planning focus or an operations planning focus. The emphasis will alternate each month. Members were asked to suggest topics for committee discussions accordingly.
- **ITS Outreach project** - The scope of work for this task was drafted as discussed at the December meeting and MAG has begun steps to commence work utilizing the MAG on-call consultant DKS Associates.
- **ITS Evaluation Projects** – Funding is available for a few evaluation projects. Scott Nodes had identified an evaluation project for Peoria. Scott Nodes was asked to brief the committee on what he had in mind for a project. He described an evaluation of the effectiveness of TBC or time-based coordination along Bell Road corridor. This would involve a before and after type comparison. The signal timing has been developed by a consultant and Peoria is ready to implement TBC. Scott Nodes stated that he will report on the scope of work. A question was asked if there was preemption in that corridor. Jim Book pointed out that preemption may eliminate benefits from TBC. Jim Decker pointed out the MAG travel time data that can serve as before data for this project. This item will be brought back next month for committee action. A question was asked if some of the TSOP projects can be evaluated.

5. Do We Need Warrants for ITS?

Sarath Joshua indicated that this item was included due to a question raised at a MAG member agency. Bruce Dressel started this discussion and pointed out that this question was recently raised by one of the transportation commissioners. The question was if there were any criteria in place to guide the when and where to place CCTV cameras or VMS etc. He stated that he did not have any established criteria for doing so. Alan Hansen distributed a copy of the ADOT statewide ITS Plan that had some criteria for placement of ITS devices. Jim Decker stated that rather than a warrant a Guideline could be of use. Jim Book stated that we don't do a good job of explaining benefits of ITS. Bruce Dressel stated that his response to questions on value of ITS was that if we had a camera on an arterial we can fix a problem fast if we can see that – where we deploy cameras is based on where we anticipate problems. Should we place cameras at places worse than LOS D.. Scottsdale approach is to place cameras in areas that are not going to change anymore and is at full development of streets. The next option therefore is using ITS. In Scottsdale's M&O Plan included police utilizing with ITS. Jim Decker suggested guidelines or criteria for when new ITS functions may be added to a signal system such as when it is centralized. Alan Sanderson stated that Mesa feels that ITS should be built in from early planning stages. The big item is

Centralized system. Mesa has 3 people operating this large system and these folks cannot be in many places at the same time. Bruce Dressel stated that those that do not have a TMC yet and are considering one should be interested in this topic too. If we all use the same criteria it will be easier to make the case to City Hall. Mike Mah asked if the intent of such a Guideline to say that if city A does not have some level of ITS infrastructure they cannot apply for regional funds to implement a particular ITS feature as it is counter to such a Guideline?

Dressel responded that it could be for that and also to document that ITS was implemented based on a uniform practice. Alan Sanderson stated that the ITS Project rating system and the ITS Plan should be used and the Guidelines should not be another mechanism for screening projects.

Chairman Book stated that if we do not develop some guidelines we might be forced to develop such a guideline. Jim Decker stated that some basic guidelines that establishes an order for implementing ITS may be necessary. Bob Maki suggested if MAG could provide some statistics such as fuel consumption reduction due to signal improvements can be used.

Alan Sanderson moved that: MAG continue to use the ITS Strategic Plan and the ITS Rating System in evaluating ITS projects & to develop a educational or guidance document to inform elected officials and policy makers on how and where ITS elements are deployed. The motion passed unanimously.

Jim Book left the meeting and requested Alan Sanderson to assume the chair for rest of the meeting.

## **6. Traffic Signal Optimization Program**

The committee was briefed on progress of this program by Xiao Qin. He indicated that a total of 9 projects were received by MAG. Don French pointed out that two projects submitted by Goodyear before the deadline were not on the list. Xiao Qin carried out a quick check of email submissions to MAG and confirmed that Goodyear did submit tow projects. The next step is the evaluation and recommendation of projects by a review committee. A review committee made up of MAG ITS Committee member agencies will be meeting this afternoon to accomplish this step. The total amount of funding for this program is \$300,000. Projects were limited to \$ 25,000 each.

Sarath Joshua indicated that there was \$ 150,000 for evaluation projects. One projects to be evaluated was the Freeway Service Patrol project. He asked how TSOP projects could be evaluated as it requires before data. Jim Decker said that a few of the TSOP projects could be evaluated. It was agreed that the project selection team will be requested to select two of the 11 projects for evaluation.

Mike Mah asked how will consultants be assigned to each projects. Sarath Joshua responded that MAG would attempt to distribute the work among all five consultants taking into account the preferences of the member agencies.

## **7. Status Reports by Committee Members**

Bob Steele reported that the Phoenix downtown traffic management system would begin construction next week. He is still waiting for clearance from ADOT for the fiber optic backbone project. Pankaj Gupte reported on the progress of the 511 system. The video switch and camera chameleon projects will be completed by end of January. Debbie Burdette reported that Glendale should have the TMC occupancy permit very soon. Glendale is also developing an ITS master plan for the arena area using ITS Engineers. That plan will be available by October and should of use to other members. She also reported that ADDCO trailers performed very well. Alan Hansen stated that 402 funds that go to GOHS are also eligible for use in traffic signal projects and asked if anyone in Arizona has used 402 funds for projects. Alan Hansen also stated that FHWA would be developing some information on how to use 402 funds. Bruce Dressel reported that 7 miles of fiber backbone is being installed along Loop 101 on a project with ADOT, 96 fibers for each agency. Will go to bid next month on 31 new cameras around downtown area, and also had four other projects. Sarath Joshua reported that the Regional Transportation Plan will be presented at the legislature on January 14<sup>th</sup>. A number of ITS applications as well as the Freeway Service Patrol will be presented there. He also noted the separation of Icons and Siemens. Laminated copies of the RCTO poster was distributed to all members.

9. Next Meeting Date

Next meeting date was announced as 10:00 AM on Wednesday February 4, 2004.

10. Adjournment

Acting Chairman Alan Sanderson adjourned the meeting at 11:30 AM