

**MINUTES OF THE
MARICOPA ASSOCIATION OF GOVERNMENTS
TRANSPORTATION POLICY COMMITTEE MEETING**

June 16, 2004
MAG Office, Saguaro Room
Phoenix, Arizona

MEMBERS ATTENDING

Mayor Neil Giuliano, Tempe, Chair	Mayor Ron Drake, Avondale
Mayor Elaine Scruggs, Glendale, Vice Chair	Mayor Boyd Dunn, Chandler
Benito Almanza, Bank of America Arizona	+Rusty Gant, ADOT
F. Rockne Arnett, Citizens Transportation Oversight Committee	Mayor Keno Hawker, Mesa
+Mayor Ron Badowski, Wickenburg	*Eneas Kane, DMB Associates
Mayor Steven Berman, Gilbert	*Mayor Mary Manross, Scottsdale
Dave Berry, Swift Transportation	*Diane Scherer, Phoenix Association of Realtors
* Jed S. Billings, FNF Construction	*Councilmember Daniel Schweiker, Paradise Valley
* Vice Mayor Peggy Bilsten, Phoenix	*Martin Shultz, Pinnacle West Capital Corp.
Mayor James Cavanaugh, Goodyear	*Supervisor Don Stapley, Maricopa County
* Councilmember Pat Dennis, Peoria	Mayor J. Woodfin Thomas, Litchfield Park

* Not present

Participated by telephone conference call

+ Participated by videoconference call

1. Call to Order

The meeting of the Transportation Policy Committee (TPC) was called to order by Chairman Neil Giuliano at 4:10 p.m.

2. Pledge of Allegiance

The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

Chairman Giuliano noted that Rusty Gant and Mayor Ron Badowski were participating in the meeting via videoconference call. Chairman Giuliano announced that transit tickets were available for those who used transit to come to the meeting. Validation was available from MAG staff for those who parked in the parking garage. Chairman Giuliano stated that materials for agenda items #4C, #4D, #5, #6 and #7 were at each place to reflect recommendations for approval by the Management Committee. For agenda item #4E, a memorandum on adjustments made to the Closeout that have taken place since the agenda was mailed was also at each place.

3. Call to the Audience

Chairman Giuliano stated that an opportunity is provided to the public to address the Transportation Policy Committee on items that are not on the agenda that are within the jurisdiction of MAG, or non-action agenda items that are on the agenda for discussion or information only. Citizens will be requested not to exceed a three minute time period for their comments. He noted that an opportunity is provided to comment on agenda items posted for action at the time the item is heard. Chairman Giuliano noted that no public comment cards had been turned in.

Chairman Giuliano stated that staff would proceed with presentations until a quorum was present.

5. New Finding of Conformity for the Special FY 2004-2007 MAG Transportation Improvement Program and Regional Transportation Plan, as Amended

This agenda item was taken out of order.

Lindy Bauer reported on the conformity assessment on the proposed amendment to the Special FY 2004-2007 MAG Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) and Regional Transportation Plan (RTP). She stated that the amendment includes three light rail transit changes: an adjustment to the completion date of the light rail transit (LRT) 20-mile minimum operating segment to December 2008, a budget increase from \$1.2 billion to \$1.3 billion, and an adjustment to the completion date of the LRT five-mile link to Metrocenter to 2012. The amendment also included an Arizona Department of Transportation request to advance a State Route 85 project from FY 2007 to FY 2004, and add a new Loop 101 Agua Fria Freeway auxiliary lane project. Ms. Bauer stated that because the projects are regionally significant, a regional emissions analysis had to be conducted. She said that the latest planning assumptions and emissions models were used, including the new EPA model, Mobile 6.2. Ms. Bauer described the consultation process, with documents available for review April 30, 2004. She provided the results for the PM-10, Carbon Monoxide, and Ozone (VOC) conformity budget tests, which found that the RTP and TIP as amended pass the conformity tests. Ms. Bauer reviewed the conformity schedule, with approval by the Regional Council anticipated on June 23, 2004. Chairman Giuliano thanked Ms. Bauer for her report. He noted that a quorum was present.

Mr. Berry asked if a NO_x budget was also required. Ms. Bauer replied that a NO_x budget would be used in the next round of the conformity analysis. She explained that the new Ozone Maintenance Plan has both VOC and NO_x budgets, however, EPA has not provided a final adequacy finding on those budgets, which will be needed before they can be used in the conformity analysis.

Mayor Thomas noted that comments have been made that light rail is not reducing pollution. He asked if there is a way to identify a reduction in pollution resulting from light rail. Ms. Bauer explained that for conformity, MAG is required to evaluate the plan as a whole; therefore, light rail is not modeled separately. She stated that because the entire transportation network is tied together; a change made to one part can impact the other parts.

Mr. Berry moved to recommend approval of the new Finding of Conformity for the Special FY 2004-2007 MAG Transportation Improvement Program and the Regional Transportation Plan, as amended. Mayor Thomas seconded, and the motion carried unanimously.

The question was raised if Mayor Badowski would be a voting member since his appointment to the Committee had not yet been confirmed by the Regional Council. It was determined that the seat belonged to the city, not the official, and that Mayor Badowski would be able to vote in the capacity of the elected official from Wickenburg.

4. Approval of Consent Agenda

Chairman Giuliano stated that any member of the committee can request that an item be removed from the consent agenda and considered individually. Chairman Giuliano stated that agenda items #4A, #4B, #4C, #4D, and #4E were on the consent agenda. He noted that no public comment cards had been turned in on the consent agenda. No comments from the Committee were noted.

Mayor Drake moved to approve consent agenda items #4A, #4B, #4C, #4D, and #4E. Mayor Dunn seconded, and the motion carried unanimously.

4A. Approval of May 26, 2004 Meeting Minutes

The Transportation Policy Committee, by consent, approved the May 26, 2004 meeting minutes.

4B. Conformity Consultation

MAG is conducting consultation on a conformity assessment for an amendment to the FY 2004-2007 MAG Transportation Improvement Program (TIP). The amendment includes a request from Maricopa County to add a new Design Concept Report and Environmental Assessment Project for Loop 303 from I-10 to US 60 (Grand Avenue) to FY 2004. The proposed amendment also includes new transit projects and changes to existing transit projects from Valley Metro to ensure that the Federal Transit Administration Grant Application and the TIP are in conformance. In addition, as part of the Federal FY 2004 Interim Year End Closeout, the proposed amendment includes new projects and changes to existing projects in the FY 2004-2007 MAG TIP. The amendment includes new projects that may be categorized as exempt to determine conformity and minor project revisions that do not require a conformity determination. This item was on the agenda for consultation.

4C. Proposed Amendment and Administrative Adjustments to the FY 2004-2007 MAG Transportation Improvement Program for Transit Projects

The Transportation Policy Committee, by consent, recommended approval of an Amendment and Administrative Adjustments to the FY 2004-2007 MAG TIP for transit projects submitted by RPTA as shown in the Attached Table. Each year, when the Federal Transit Appropriations are released, the Regional Public Transportation Authority (RPTA) reviews the Federal Transit Administration (FTA) Grant Application that is under development and adjusts the projects listed in the Grant and the TIP to ensure that the two programs are in conformance. It is necessary to either amend the TIP or to carry out some Administrative Adjustments to incorporate several changes to existing transit projects. These changes include the deletion of four projects, adjustments to 12 projects, the deferral of six projects and the addition of 19 new projects. Other projects have had the scopes and funding sources changed, increased and/or reduced. All of the proposed changes may be categorized as exempt projects or minor project revisions for which an air quality conformity analysis is not required. Consultation on the

conformity assessment for the proposed changes is considered under a separate agenda item. The Transportation Review Committee and Management Committee recommended approval.

4D. Amendment of the FY 2004-2007 MAG Transportation Improvement Program for ADOT Highway Projects and a Maricopa County Design Concept Report and Environmental Assessment

The Transportation Policy Committee, by consent, recommended approval of an Amendment of the FY 2004-2007 Transportation Improvement Program to advance a State Route 85 project from FY 2007 to FY 2004; to add a new project on Loop 101 (Agua Fria Freeway) between 31st Avenue and 51st Avenue to FY 2004; and to add a Design Concept Report and Environmental Assessment for Loop 303, from I-10 to US-60 (Grand Avenue), to FY 2004, contingent upon a finding of air quality conformity. On November 25, 2003, the FY 2004-2007 MAG Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) was approved by the MAG Regional Council. Since that time, ADOT has notified MAG that it is making several changes to the improvements scheduled on State Route 85, between Buckeye and Gila Bend. In addition, ADOT is adding a State funded District Minor project on Loop 101 (Agua Fria Freeway) to FY 2004. Maricopa County has requested the addition of a Design Concept Report for Loop 303, from I-10 to US-60 (Grand Avenue). All of these projects require an amendment to the TIP to be able to proceed. The Transportation Review Committee and the Management Committee recommended approval of an amendment to the TIP.

4E. Federal Fiscal Year 2004 MAG Federal Funds Interim Closeout and Amendment/Adjustments to the FY 2004-2007 MAG Transportation Improvement Program and FY 2004 and FY 2005 Unified Planning Work Programs and Annual Budgets

The Transportation Policy Committee, by consent, recommended approval of the interim closeout of Federal FY 2004, as shown in the attached Tables and recommended amending/adjusting the FY 2004-2007 MAG TIP and the FY 2004 and FY 2005 Unified Planning Work Programs and Annual Budgets to allow the projects to proceed. Following the actions taken by the MAG Management Committee on June 9, 2004, in their recommendations for projects in the Closeout of the FY 2004 MAG federally funded program, there have been some changes. A further project has been requested to be deferred and there have been some adjustments to projects currently programmed in FY 2004. These changes will affect some of the projects on the contingency list and Tables Two and Three have been revised. Additional Funds Available: The further request for a deferred project has been added to Table One. The amount shown on the Management Committee List, of \$18.4 million, has now increased to \$19.1 million in deferred funds available, almost all of it being CMAQ funds. The uncommitted funds have slightly increased from an original \$4.6 million to \$4.9 million and include an adjustment to a MAG project that has been dropped from the MAG Unified Planning Work Program. These actions have increased the amount of expected MAG Federal funds available to \$24.0 million, including approximately \$1 million in STP-MAG funds, the remainder being CMAQ. Recommended Projects: The TRC recommended \$22.2 million in specific projects for the uncommitted and deferred funds available and prioritized approximately \$3 million in projects on a "contingency" list for any further obligation authority (OA) that may be received. The Management Committee recommended \$23.4 million in projects. Due to the additional funds available as shown above, the top three priorities on the contingency list can be added to the funds currently available list. This leaves only three projects, totaling \$1.1 million, on the contingency list for any redistributed or supplemental OA that may be received. Additional Recommendations: It is anticipated that the existing contingency list of recommendations for redistributed or supplemental funds that may become available will no longer be sufficient to utilize all

of the further funds that are expected. It is possible that there may be some further deferrals and it would be appropriate to identify some additional contingency projects. It is anticipated that the Transportation Review Committee will identify some further contingency projects at their meeting later this month and send them forward to the Management Committee, Transportation Policy Committee and Regional Council next month for final action.

6. Amendment of the Special FY 2004-2007 MAG Transportation Improvement Program and the Regional Transportation Plan for Light Rail Transit

Roger Herzog reported on modifications to the Regional Transportation Plan requested by Valley Metro Rail. Mr. Herzog reviewed the requested changes include to the budget and schedule for completion of the light rail transit system, including an adjustment to the completion date of the light rail transit (LRT) 20-mile minimum operating segment to December 2008, a budget increase from \$1.2 billion to \$1.3 billion, and to the completion date of the LRT five-mile link to Metrocenter to 2012. Mr. Herzog reported that in accordance with State law, the proposed modifications to the RTP were submitted in April for consultation to the Regional Public Transportation Authority, the Arizona Department of Transportation, Maricopa County, Indian communities and to cities and towns. Mr. Herzog noted that no adverse comments on the changes were received through the consultation process. He noted that at its meeting on May 26, 2004, the Transportation Policy Committee reviewed and responded to comments received. He reported that the results of an air quality conformity assessment indicate that the proposed transportation action meets the applicable transportation conformity criteria. A public hearing on the conformity analysis was held on June 1, 2004. He stated that the Transportation Review Committee and Management Committee recommended approval of an amendment to the RTP and TIP to reflect the LRT changes. Chairman Giuliano thanked Mr. Herzog for his report and asked if there were questions for Mr. Herzog or Mr. Rick Simonetta, Valley Metro Rail, who was also present at the meeting.

Mayor Thomas asked the proximity of the light rail line to the baseball stadium and America West Arena. Mr. Simonetta replied that the line would operate on Jefferson Street, which fronts the ballpark and America West Arena.

Vice Chair Scruggs moved to recommend approval of an Amendment of the Regional Transportation Plan and Special FY 2004-2007 Transportation Improvement Program to reflect the light rail transit changes proposed by Valley Metro Rail, affecting the Minimum Operating Segment and the Metrocenter Link. Mayor Thomas seconded, and the motion carried unanimously.

7. Requested Changes to the FY 2004 MAG Regional Freeway Program

Mr. Herzog reported on a request by the Arizona Department of Transportation for two material changes to the FY 2004 MAG Regional Freeway Program. He explained that state statute requires that MAG approve any change in priorities, new projects, or requests that materially increase the cost of a project. Mr. Herzog stated that the first request is to add \$1 million to the Systemwide Preliminary Engineering component due to the production of a design concept report, extensive hydraulic studies and geotechnical investigations and a change in interchange concepts for a section of the Red Mountain Freeway between University and Power. He said that the second request is for a new project for design work necessary for utility relocation along the Pima Freeway in the amount of \$80,000. Mr. Herzog stated that MAG has examined the need for both of these changes and finds that they are warranted. He

noted that both of these changes are required to complete the current Regional Freeway Program in 2007. Mr. Herzog stated that 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. He reported that the Management Committee recommended approval of the requested changes on June 9th.

Vice Chair Scruggs moved to recommend approval of the requested changes to increase the funding for Systemwide Preliminary Engineering by \$1.0 million and add the new project to provide for utility relocation design work in the amount of \$80,000. Mayor Dunn seconded, and the motion carried unanimously.

Vice Chair Scruggs noted that this was Chairman Giuliano's last TPC meeting. She expressed appreciation on behalf of the Transportation Policy Committee to Chairman Giuliano for his leadership as Chair of the Committee. She stated that the Regional Council would be thanking him and saying farewell at the June 23rd Regional Council meeting and Desert Peaks Awards. Chairman Giuliano was applauded. Chairman Giuliano expressed his thanks to everyone involved in the effort.

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 4:35 p.m.

Secretary

Chairman