

MINUTES OF THE
MAG MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE MEETING
October 8, 2003
MAG Office Building - Saguaro Room
Phoenix, Arizona

MEMBERS ATTENDING

Meredith Flinn for Terry Ellis, Peoria, Chair	Tom Martinsen, Paradise Valley
Mike Hutchinson, Vice Chair, Mesa	Frank Fairbanks, Phoenix
# George Hoffman, Apache Junction	Cynthia Seelhammer, Queen Creek
David Fitzhugh for Todd Hileman, Avondale	* Bryan Meyers, Salt River Pima-Maricopa Indian Community
Joe Blanton, Buckeye	Steve Olson for Jan Dolan, Scottsdale
Jon Pearson, Carefree	Jim Rumpeltes, Surprise
Usama Abujbarah, Cave Creek	Shannon Wilhelmsen for Will Manley, Tempe
Pat McDermott, Chandler	Ralph Velez, Tolleson
Dick Yost, El Mirage	Shane Dille, Wickenburg
# Tim Pickering, Fountain Hills	Mark Fooks, Youngtown
* Don Steele, Gila Bend	Dale Buskirk for Victor Mendez, ADOT
Urban Giff, Gila River Indian Community	Tom Buick for David Smith, Maricopa County
George Pettit, Gilbert	Ken Driggs, Valley Metro/RPTA
Dana Tranberg for Ed Beasley, Glendale	
* Stephen Cleveland, Goodyear	
Tom Morales, Guadalupe	
Horatio Skeete, Litchfield Park	

*Those members neither present nor represented by proxy.

Participated by videoconference or telephone conference call.

1. Call to Order

The meeting was called to order by Vice Chairman Mike Hutchinson, at 12:05 p.m.

2. Pledge of Allegiance

The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

Vice Chairman Hutchinson stated that transit tickets were available from Valley Metro/RPTA. Parking validation was available from MAG staff for those who parked in the parking garage.

Vice Chairman Hutchinson announced that Tim Pickering, Fountain Hills, was attending the meeting via telephone conference call, and George Hoffman, Apache Junction, was attending via videoconference call.

Vice Chairman Hutchinson noted that an Errata Sheet for agenda item #5C, and a revised summary transmittal for agenda item #5D, previously faxed to members, was at each place. Vice Chairman Hutchinson stated that agenda item #10, Urban Area Homeland Security Strategy, was removed from the agenda because the submission date has been extended. He added that this item will be brought back to the Management Committee next month.

3. Call to the Audience

Vice Chairman Hutchinson stated that public comments have a three minute time limit and there is a timer to help the public with their presentations. When two minutes have elapsed, a yellow light will come on notifying the speaker that they have one minute to sum up. At the end of the three minute time period, a red light will come on. Vice Chairman Hutchinson stated that for members of the audience who wish to speak, comment cards are available from the staff. Staff will then bring the cards to the Chairman. Public comment is provided at the beginning of the meeting for non-agenda items.

Vice Chairman Hutchinson recognized public comment from Blue Crowley, who stated that he appreciated the new public records request form, and also Mr. Morales' statements at the September Management Committee about public records requests. Mr. Crowley stated that what has not been addressed was an occasion at a MAG TRC meeting when he had asked to speak and comment was not allowed. He characterized the minutes as predatory and did not reflect that he tried to input. Mr. Crowley pointed out conclusions reached in a 1990 document that recommends a bus system for Gila Bend within their town and the surrounding area. He said that another recommendation was using existing rail for commuting from Buckeye into Phoenix. Mr. Crowley stated the Input Opportunity Report was not done right. He said that the exhibits he presented at the public hearing to illustrate his comments were not published next to the transcript of his statement. Mr. Crowley stated that public comment is allowed on only about half of the Management Committee agenda items, because they are not for action. He asked how the public is going to make things happen when they cannot input throughout the process? Mr. Crowley noted that it is important to make comment at the Management Committee meetings, because much work is done by the committee. Mr. Crowley requested that he would like to see an audit that would show what each agency received from the 1985 half cent sales tax. Vice Chairman Hutchinson thanked Mr. Crowley for his comments.

4. Executive Director's Report

Dennis Smith reported that on September 30, 2003, President Bush signed into law two bills: the five-month Surface Transportation Extension Act of 2003 and a one-month "Continuing Resolution" extending fiscal year 2003 appropriations into the first month of fiscal year 2004. The five month extension provides more than \$14 billion in contract authority to the states to continue the federal highway program and more than \$3 billion to continue grants to transit agencies around the county. Mr. Smith stated that this extension allows time through February 2004 to work out reauthorization.

Mr. Smith stated that the MAG Executive Committee approved entering into an agreement to provide sponsorship for a 10-month participant from Americorps to work on homeless issues

and domestic violence issues in the MAG region. He mentioned that he would be introducing the staff person later in his report.

Mr. Smith stated that October is Domestic Violence Awareness Month. MAG has been very active in domestic violence issues, including Employers Against Domestic Violence. The program has successfully engaged more than 110 Arizona employers in becoming a member to make their work place free from violence. Mr. Smith encouraged cities to develop a domestic violence process that will provide a workplace free of threats, fear and violence, respond and react to threats and potential violence; and provide access to resources to help employees free themselves from violent situations. Mr. Smith noted that MAG recently revised its employee manual and worked with the MAG attorney to include a workplace violence policy. He stated that Debbra Determan, MAG Human Services Manager, could provide additional information.

Mr. Smith introduced new MAG staff. Haidong Zhu joined MAG in July 2003 as a Transportation Engineer II. He attended the University of Illinois in Chicago and received a master's degree in urban planning and policy, specializing in transportation. Mr. Zhu holds a Bachelor's in transportation and traffic engineering from Southeast University, Nanjing, China. He was a student intern at the Chicago Transit Authority and research assistant for the Urban Transportation Center. Mr. Smith introduced Teresa Franquiz, the volunteer staff person from Americorps. Ms. Franquiz is working toward her master's degree in public administration at Arizona State University. In addition, she has a background in sales, customer service and volunteer service. She spent one year as a teacher in Japan. Mr. Smith introduced Sheryl Rabin, Human Services Planner II. Ms. Rabin has received her Juris Doctor from the University of Arizona College of Law and bachelor of arts in communications, with a minor in sociology and literature, from the University of California, San Diego. Ms. Rabin previously worked for the Arizona State Senate Research Staff as committee analyst, the County of San Diego in the office of Strategy and Intergovernmental Affairs as an analyst, and also with the Arizona Coalition Against Domestic Violence. Ms. Rabin is also a member of the State Bar of Arizona.

Mr. Smith stated that "Adapting Airport Terminals for an Aging Population," a paper on accessibility to airports written by Harry Wolfe, MAG Senior Planning Manager, was published in the *Christian Science Monitor*. Mr. Smith extended his congratulations to Mr. Wolfe.

Mr. Driggs commended Dennis Smith and Eric Anderson for their work on the Regional Transportation Plan.

Vice Chairman Hutchinson commented that even though there were many bumps in the road, MAG and city staffs did a terrific job. He thanked them for their work on the Plan.

5. Approval of Consent Agenda

Vice Chairman Hutchinson stated that public comment will be received before taking action on the consent items. Each speaker is provided with a total of three minutes to comment on the consent agenda. After hearing public comments, any member of the Committee can request that an item be removed from the consent agenda and considered individually. Vice Chairman Hutchinson stated that agenda items #5A through #5E were on the consent agenda.

Mr. Buskirk stated that he understood there were still some errors in draft Special TIP, and asked if corrections could still be made. Mr. Smith replied that corrections would be incorporated into the draft TIP before the TPC and Regional Council meetings.

Vice Chairman Hutchinson recognized public comment from Mr. Crowley, who commented on agenda item #5C. He stated that the Errata Sheet says the projects are regionwide, but the Glendale park and ride was built years ago. Referring to the 1990 document, Mr. Crowley stated that one recommendation includes recognizing the need to design freeways for optimizing the movement of persons rather than vehicles, and coordinating projects so they are constructed at the same time. Mr. Crowley referred to item #10, the Salome Highway project. He stated that the area within western Maricopa County has not been addressed in a long time and needs to be resurfaced. Mr. Crowley stated that he appreciated the effort, but more needs to be done. Mr. Crowley stated that the West Valley transit needs to be addressed. Mr. Crowley commented on agenda item #5E. He commented that he did not see the projections being done where the growth will occur, such as the Sonoran Desert National Monument area. Mr. Crowley asked when Tonopah becomes a community, will they be at the table and how will they be invited? Vice Chairman Hutchinson thanked Mr. Crowley for his comments.

Mr. McDermott moved to recommend approval of the consent agenda. Mr. Buick seconded, and the motion carried unanimously.

5A. Approval of September 10, 2003 Meeting Minutes

The Management Committee, by consent, approved the September 10, 2003 meeting minutes.

5B. Red Letter Notification

In June 1996, the Regional Council approved the ADOT Red Letter process, which requires MAG member agencies to notify ADOT of potential development activities in freeway alignments. Development activities include actions on plans, zoning, and permits. ADOT has forwarded a list of notifications for the first six months of 2003. Upon request any of the notices could be removed from the consent agenda and returned for action at a future meeting. ADOT received 257 Red Letter notifications in the first six months of 2003, of which 59 notices impacted the Regional Freeway System. In the same period in 2002, ADOT received only 62 notices of which three were in or potentially in freeway right-of-way. The reasons for the increase in number of notices appear to be two fold: 1) as a result of more activity along existing and planned freeways, and 2) as a result of increased communication by ADOT with local jurisdictions by telephone, e-mail, and attendance at local staff meetings to inform zoning and planning staff members of the importance of the process. Of the 59 notices received in 2003 for development in or potentially in freeway right-of-way, three were from the City of Avondale, one from the Town of Buckeye, four from the City of Chandler, one from the Town of El Mirage, ten from the Town of Gilbert, two from the City of Glendale, seven from the City of Mesa, five from the City of Peoria, twelve from the City of Phoenix, one from the City of Scottsdale, five from the City of Surprise, two from the City of Tempe, and four from Maricopa County. As a result of zoning changes that would put future developments in or close to freeway

right-of-way, thirty-eight notices were distributed by ADOT to advise that they reserved rights to review all plans as they become available.

5C. Approval of the Draft Special FY 2004-2007 MAG Transportation Improvement Program for an Air Quality Conformity Analysis

The Management Committee, by consent, recommended approval of the Draft Special FY 2004-2007 MAG Transportation Improvement Program for an air quality conformity analysis. The 1990 Clean Air Act Amendments require that the MAG Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) be in conformance with the applicable air quality plans. This Special TIP serves as a four-year regional guide for the preservation, management and expansion of public transportation services, including highways, ridesharing, transit facilities and various congestion mitigation and air quality improvement projects. On September 25, 2003, the Transportation Review Committee recommended approval of the Draft Special FY 2004-2007 MAG TIP for an air quality conformity analysis. Approval of an updated Special 2004-2007 TIP and the accompanying air quality conformity analysis will give the region maximum flexibility during the development of the future 2005-2009 TIP document, which will contain major elements of the Regional Transportation Plan. All MAG member agencies have been consulted regarding changes to projects in the current 2003-2007 TIP and these changes have been incorporated in the draft document, including some new locally and privately funded projects. The draft TIP contains more than 1,000 transportation projects, totals more than \$3.86 billion and identifies Federally funded projects; ADOT projects; transit projects; and all regionally significant projects within the region.

5D. Consultant Selection for the MAG Air Quality Technical Assistance On-Call Services Request for Qualifications

The Management Committee, by consent, recommended approval of a selected list of consultants for the Air Quality Technical Assistance on-call services, for an amount not to exceed \$100,000. The FY 2004 MAG Unified Planning Work Program includes potential consultant assistance for air quality planning and modeling activities. A request for qualifications was advertised on August 26, 2003 for technical assistance in development of air quality plans, conformity, modeling, and addressing issues resulting from a future court ruling on the Serious Area PM-10 Plan lawsuit. Proposals were due September 25, 2003. Three proposals were received by the September 25, 2003 deadline. They were submitted by Arizona State University Environmental Fluid Dynamics Program, ENVIRON, and Sierra Research. On October 1, 2003, a multi-jurisdictional evaluation team consisting of Maricopa County, Arizona Department of Environmental Quality, City of Phoenix, and MAG staff reviewed the proposals. The evaluation team reached a consensus on qualifying all three consultant teams in selected areas of expertise.

5E. Approval of the Draft July 1, 2003 Maricopa County and Municipality Resident Population Updates

The Management Committee, by consent, recommended approval of the Draft July 1, 2003 Maricopa County and Municipality Resident Population Updates provided that the final update

is within one percent of 3.4 million people. On September 23, 2003, the MAG Population Technical Advisory Committee (POPTAC) recommended approval of the July 1, 2003 Maricopa County and Municipality Resident Population Updates. The Maricopa County Resident Population Update using the Housing Unit Method was prepared by the Department of Economic Security (DES) staff, using Census 2000 data as the base and housing unit and group quarters data supplied and verified by MAG member agencies. The Municipality Resident Population Updates were prepared by MAG staff, using the same data. The Updates are used to allocate \$23 million in lottery funds to local jurisdictions, and to set expenditure limitations where appropriate. The State Population Technical Advisory Committee will consider these updates on October 24, 2003 and November 21, 2003.

6. Regional Transportation Plan Update

Mr. Smith commented that it was nice to hear Mr. Driggs' accolades for himself and Mr. Anderson, but the Plan is larger than two people. He acknowledged that virtually all MAG staff worked on the RTP. In addition, the mayors and the intergovernmental staff did a great job, and there was exceptional cooperation with MAG, ADOT and RPTA. Mr. Smith commented that the Plan's success was the addition of the business representatives to the TPC, which is a new way of doing business for MAG. Mr. Smith stated that the Plan works for all parts of the region. He mentioned that HB 2292 provided for a more explicit consultation process; therefore, the County and Indian Communities were also a part of the process.

Mr. Anderson expressed his thanks to all. He commented that the RTP was a group effort. Mr. Anderson summarized the changes to the Plan that came about at the September 17, 2003 TPC meeting.

Mr. Anderson stated that the TPC approved East Valley street projects, right-of-way protection for Jomax Road, SR 74, and Loop 303, fully funding new interchanges, and reduction of the overall contingency to 9.3 percent of the Plan. Mr. Anderson stated that the draft Plan includes about 57 percent to freeways/highways, about 31 percent to transit, and about nine percent to streets/arterials. Mr. Anderson reviewed the policy concepts adopted by the TPC: Establish firewalls; implement Life Cycle Program for freeways, transit, and streets; continue material cost change and enhancement policies; expand highway acceleration policy to streets; review Plan every five years. He noted that the TPC will be defining a process for and definition of minor and major plan changes.

Mr. Anderson reviewed the next steps for the RTP. After the air quality conformity analysis is done, the Plan needs to be certified to the Governor and Legislature by November 30th. To accommodate this, a special Regional Council meeting has been scheduled for November 25th. The next step is that the Legislature needs to take action in January 2004 to authorize an election on May 18, 2004. Mr. Anderson noted that the RTP has received tremendous support, for example, the Chamber of Commerce Board. In addition, it is anticipated that the State Transportation Board will pass a resolution of support at their next meeting. Vice Chairman Hutchinson thanked Mr. Smith and Mr. Anderson for their reports.

7. Memorandum of Understanding on a Regional Concept of Transportation Operations

Sarath Joshua addressed members on the Regional Concept of Transportation Operations, which was launched as a 12-month project in September 2002. Dr. Joshua noted that the Chair of the Intelligent Transportation Systems Committee, Jim Book, was present. He explained that the project's intent is to develop a regional strategy to improve transportation operations utilizing advanced technology-based ITS applications. Dr. Joshua stated that the vision and mission were developed to have a safe, reliable, efficient and seamless surface transportation system for the MAG region.

Dr. Joshua stated that the committee defined performance measures and three year and five year goals. The goals pertain to the urban freeway system, arterials, regional transit, incident/emergency management, and traveler information. Dr. Joshua displayed photographs of current traffic management centers at ADOT, Chandler, Scottsdale, Tempe, Phoenix, and Maricopa County. In addition, traffic management centers are being implemented at the transit control center, Mesa, Gilbert, Glendale, Peoria, and Goodyear. Dr. Joshua stated that the final step in this project is to develop a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) to be signed by all the participating agencies, expressing regional support for the initiatives developed through the project. An operations manual will provide detailed information on operations in the region. Dr. Joshua noted that ten volunteers will serve as local champions to lead initiatives utilizing the existing institutional resources, and the ITS Committee will provide oversight for operations. The tracking of progress and information to support operations will be posted on the MAG Web site. Vice Chairman Hutchinson thanked Dr. Joshua for his presentation. Hearing no discussion, he requested a motion.

Mr. Pettit moved to recommend approval of the Memorandum of Understanding on a Regional Concept of Transportation Operations for consideration by the MAG member agencies. Ms. Flinn seconded, and the motion carried unanimously.

8. 2005 Population Options

Mr. Pettit stated that at the last Management Committee meeting, the recommendation of the Subcommittee on 2005 Population Options was presented. He stated that a priority for the Subcommittee was securing changes in State Law which would allow for the use of methods other than a Special Census to change the distribution formulas. The 2003 Legislative session approved an amendment to State Law which would allow for use of four options other than a direct census. Mr. Pettit stated that the preliminary estimated cost for conducting a Special Census was \$30 million, which was prohibitive, even including the \$6 million funded by FHWA. Mr. Pettit explained that the DES Estimate option was considered by the Subcommittee. Even though this option was the most cost effective, the methodology was somewhat flawed, because it does not provide information on characteristics, such as vacancy rates and household size.

Mr. Pettit reported that the Subcommittee recommended the Census Survey option at a cost of \$9.4 million, with a confidence level of plus or minus two percent. In addition, the Subcommittee recommended that the \$9.4 million cost of the survey be distributed to member

agencies based upon a share of population for jurisdictions less than 6,000 people and whose growth rate is less than 3.5 percent. For other jurisdictions, the cost would be based upon their share of the total housing units sampled in the survey. Mr. Pettit noted that the \$9.4 million cost would be split 50/50 between FHWA and the member agencies if all member agencies participate. He explained that the allocation among member agencies of the \$4.7 million cost was discussed extensively. Mr. Pettit noted that with the Survey option, the largest cities will have to pay to lose state shared revenue, but that was part of the balance that was reached.

Mr. Pettit stated that the final compromise formula recommended by the Subcommittee uses a blending of allocating costs on per capita basis for communities with less than 6,000 population and a projected growth rate of less than 3.5 percent with housing unit sample size for all other communities. In no case can the costs of the 95 percent confidence interval, plus or minus two percent survey exceed the cost of a Special Census, as shown on Table One. Mr. Pettit noted that one member agency has since requested a change to the threshold from 6,000 to 15,000. He stated that another cost allocation table was prepared for informational purposes, and is shown on Table Two. Mr. Pettit noted that Table Two has not been reviewed by the Subcommittee. Vice Chairman Hutchinson thanked Mr. Pettit for his report and asked if there were questions.

Mr. Dille commented that it is his Mayor's and Council's practice to take a regional approach. He expressed his appreciation for the Subcommittee's hard work on this issue, and acknowledged the recommendation was a difficult balance. Mr. Dille moved that action on this item be continued to the next Management Committee meeting. Mr. Dille explained that this would provide time for his small staff to review the impacts.

Vice Chairman Hutchinson asked if a one month delay would negatively impact moving forward with the Special Census. Mr. Smith replied that because the region has until March 2004 to sign a contract with the Census Bureau, a one month delay could be accommodated.

Mr. Martinsen seconded the motion. A vote taken on the motion passed unanimously.

9. Update on Compiling Information on Regionally Significant Development Projects

Jack Tomasik reviewed past approvals on compiling information on regionally significant development projects that might create impacts to the regional transportation system. He explained that specific criteria were developed by the Planners Stakeholders Group and MAG Executive Committee that defined these projects. He explained the policy approved in June 2003, that MAG staff would meet with the submitting member agency after compiling the information on regionally significant development projects. Mr. Tomasik noted that the information would be used by the member agency in their own jurisdiction. In addition, a compilation of the cumulative impact of all of the regionally significant development projects would be included in a Regional Annual Report.

Mr. Tomasik stated that since the approval in June, meetings have taken place with the largest member agencies that might have developments of significant size. A formal criteria sheet and transmittal form were developed. Mr. Tomasik stated that ten regionally significant

development projects have been submitted to date. He noted there was a delay in reports on the projects because information services and transportation modeling staffs were dedicated to the higher priority of the Regional Transportation Plan. Mr. Tomasik stated that with the approval of the draft Plan, staff is currently reviewing those projects, and the goal is to catch up on the reviews as quickly as possible. Vice Chairman Hutchinson thanked Mr. Tomasik for his presentation.

Mr. Smith restated the process: MAG staff receives the information from the agency; the project is modeled for impacts; this information is transmitted to the agency for their review and use. He emphasized that the goal is not to share the information through the MAG committee process, which was a concern of many agencies. Mr. Smith stated that the cumulative impacts would be rolled into an annual report.

Vice Chairman Hutchinson expressed appreciation for Mr. Tomasik's work on this issue. He mentioned that this issue is of great interest to his city. Vice Chairman Hutchinson asked if there had been feedback on whether agencies' needs were being met. Mr. Tomasik replied that there were two issues in process: member agencies indicated a desire for a formal process for transmitting regionally significant projects, which has been put in place; and a timing issue in sorting through developments that meet the criteria, but were approved by member agency councils prior to the June 25, 2003 date that MAG Regional Council approved the policy for compiling information on regionally significant development projects. Mr. Tomasik noted that the Planners Stakeholders Group has a meeting scheduled for October 21st to discuss these and other technical issues.

10. Urban Area Homeland Security Strategy

This item was tabled.

11. Update on MAG's Public Involvement Process

Kelly Taft gave an update on MAG's Public Involvement Process and how citizens may request public records through a revised Public Records Request Process. Ms. Taft noted that MAG's philosophy is that "Public input is crucial to the decision-making process." She stated that the Communications Division has a number of identified goals, including responding to all requests in a timely fashion, making MAG meetings accessible to all, increasing public awareness and involvement in MAG activities; and ensuring the most effective public involvement process possible. Ms. Taft reviewed the adopted public process followed by MAG, which includes four phases, an Early Phase, Mid-Phase, Final Phase and Continuous Involvement. During the Mid-Phase and Final Phase, all citizen comments received are included in an Input Opportunity Report, along with staff responses. Ms. Taft noted that this is just one means of providing responses to citizens. She stated that requests for public records are provided in compliance with the Arizona Public Records Law, which states that the requestor must contact the public agency during normal business hours; allows the agency to charge for copies of public records; and provides that additional information may be requested and additional costs may be collected when the request is for commercial uses. Ms. Taft noted that the law also refers to public records that are in the custody of the agency. She explained that public agencies are not required

to create documents that currently do not exist or that are in the custody of another agency. She stated that a new public records request form was developed that will further ensure timely response to requests. In addition, staff recently met with citizens familiar with the MAG process. Ms. Taft stated that staff is exploring solutions to address the 14 issues identified in this meeting. She added that responses and recommendations will be communicated in the near future. Vice Chairman Hutchinson thanked Ms. Taft for her presentation.

12. 2004 Desert Peaks Awards

Denise McClafferty addressed the Committee on the Desert Peaks Awards. She stated that the awards were initiated in 1998 to recognize regional efforts and cooperation of governments, citizens, and the private sector. Ms. McClafferty stated that on February 26, 2003, the Regional Council voted not to hold the 2003 Desert Peaks event due to local budget conditions and to allow jurisdictions additional time to develop projects for future submission. On September 15, 2003, the Executive Committee discussed continuing with the 2004 Desert Peaks Awards event and reached a consensus that the awards program is important to the region and that it should be continued.

Ms. McClafferty reviewed the proposed structure for the event. The awards would be held in conjunction with the Regional Council annual meeting in June, and could begin with a reception in place of the dinner. The annual Regional Council meeting would follow with the distribution of the awards. Ms. McClafferty stated that staff believes the event could be held at approximately half the cost of last year's event, with no cost to attendees. She commented that the idea is to reduce costs, but still have a quality event. Ms. McClafferty stated that if the decision is made to hold the program, one item that would need to be determined is whether to disclose the award recipients prior to the event. She explained that the Denver Regional Council of Governments and Kansas City's Mid-America Regional Council disclose their award recipients prior to the event, and they have indicated it contributes to the overall success of their events. Vice Chairman Hutchinson thanked Ms. McClafferty for her report.

Mr. Smith stated that input from the Committee was requested by the Executive Committee on whether award recipients should be disclosed prior to the event. Consensus of the Management Committee was noted to disclose the recipients ahead of the program. Mr. Smith stated that the guest host and Regional Council would present the awards at the program. He added that the Executive Committee would be considering the Desert Peaks program at their next meeting.

13. MAG Telecommunications Advisory Group Update

Greg Binder, Phoenix, Chair of the MAG Telecommunications Advisory Group (MAGTAG), said that MAGTAG was formed by the Regional Council in 1994 to encourage the development of telecommunication infrastructure and applications which increase government efficiency, improve access to public information, and expedite delivery of local government services in the region. Mr. Binder stated that to further these goals over the last year, MAGTAG has been planning and conducting a series of informational sessions on various telecommunications issues. Mr. Binder said that the informational sessions thus far have included a Government Information Technology Agency (GITA) update by GITA Director Chris Cummiskey and a

panel discussion on Member Agencies and Public Safety Telecommunications with presentations on the Arizona Department of Transportation Freeway Management System, the Phoenix-Mesa 800 Megahertz Trunked Radio System, the Community Emergency Notification System and the Department of Public Safety Internet protocol. Future scheduled sessions include: Cyber Security, Homeland Security and Wireless. He invited any interested parties to attend the MAGTAG informational sessions.

Mr. Binder stated that in addition, MAGTAG has completed a Regional Connections project to ensure all member agencies have e-mail, internet and a Web presence. He noted that many agencies have expanded their systems and one agency is completely independent of the project now. Mr. Binder stated that the Regional Community Network Study was recently completed and will reduce costs by connecting MAG member agencies. Mr. Binder reported that another project underway is the Digital Oasis, which includes the development, certification, and marketing of wired buildings. He added that this project would encourage telework, promote infrastructure development, and attract business development. Mr. Binder noted that the Regional Videoconferencing System (RVS) has just completed its first year of operation. He stated that the System has saved member agencies 3,823 hours, 24,044 miles, and \$175,985. Mr. Binder added that MAG is also tracking savings on pollution by the system's use. Mr. Binder described the RVS marketing efforts and two RVS success stories. Vice Chairman Hutchinson thanked Mr. Binder for his presentation.

11. Comments from the Committee

An opportunity was provided for Management Committee members to present a brief summary of current events. The Management Committee is not allowed to propose, discuss, deliberate or take action at the meeting on any matter in the summary, unless the specific matter is properly noticed for legal action.

Mr. Buskirk affirmed that the State Transportation Board is expected to endorse the Regional Transportation Plan at its next meeting.

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 1:22 p.m.

Chairman

Secretary