

NOTES OF THE  
MARICOPA ASSOCIATION OF GOVERNMENTS  
PLANNERS STAKEHOLDERS GROUP

Tuesday, June 17, 2003  
MAG Office Building, Suite 200 Saguaro Room  
302 North First Avenue, Phoenix

MEMBERS PRESENT

Wahid Alam, City of Mesa  
Hank Pluster, City of Chandler  
Kevin Kugler, City of Goodyear  
Ron Short, City of Glendale  
Mark Smith, El Mirage  
Mike Cartsonis, City of Litchfield Park  
Gary Neiss Town of Carefree  
Diana Kaminski, City of Tempe

Ed Billings, FHWA  
Don Hadder, City of Scottsdale  
Matt Holm, Maricopa County  
Joy Mee, City of Phoenix  
James Carpentier, SRPMIC  
Nathan Crane, City of Avondale  
Ian Cordwell Town of Cave Creek

OTHERS PRESENT

Michelle Green, MAG  
Constance Kish, MAG  
Roger Herzog, MAG

Jack Tomasik, MAG  
David Williams, MAG Associate  
Laurel Arndt, Lincoln Institute of  
Land Policy

Jack opened the meeting by explaining that there are significant items to be discussed today, first Roger Herzog will provide an update on the Regional Transportation Forum and then Laurel Arndt will present the video sponsored by the Lincoln Institute of Land Policy entitled, "Making Sense of Place".

Jack then mentioned that a wealth of information has been created through the Growing Smarter Implementation Project. He indicated that much of the information was available through the MAG website, and that the final reports will all be on the website by September 2003. A copy of the relevant pages from the website were distributed for informational purposes.

Jack also mentioned that the task of developing an annual report is underway, indicating that a lot of information for this project will be collected over the next 12 months.

1. Update on Regional Transportation Plan) RTP Progress

Roger explained that MAG is working with the Transportation Policy Committee (TPC) to prepare a Regional Transportation Plan on a very tight schedule. The intent is to have

the plan ready in time to present it to the voters in May as supporting documentation for an extension of the ½ cent sales tax.

#### Chronology of RTP progress:

- April 16th -- Presented three plan scenarios (Freeway Emphasis, Arterial Emphasis, Transit Emphasis) and performance measures to the TPC for input and comment.
- April 24th -- TPC workshop on more details regarding performance measures and the three scenarios.
- May 21st -- An analysis of the plan scenarios was reviewed with TPC and approval was given to distribute the scenarios to the Maricopa County Board of Supervisors, the ADOT Transportation Board, Valley Metro, and MAG cities and towns for a 30-day review and comment period. The TPC also instructed staff to start developing a hybrid scenario based on the evaluation of the scenarios and comments from the reviewers. The hybrid scenario will serve as the basis for the final draft plan.
- June 18th -- An initial hybrid scenario concept was reviewed with the TPC and guidance was provided to staff regarding key issues for further refinement of the hybrid scenario.
- July 2nd -- TPC workshop will be held to review the status of the hybrid scenario and receive additional input on plan components.
- July 16th -- TPC meeting at which the refined hybrid scenario will be reviewed and possibly approved for distribution to the Maricopa County Board of Supervisors, the ADOT Transportation Board, Valley Metro and MAG cities and towns for a 30-day review and comment period.
- July 22nd -- Additional TPC meeting, if necessary, to approve distribution of the hybrid scenario for review.
- (Meetings of TPC may be held in August if necessary.)
- Sept 17th -- TPC meeting to consider approval of final draft plan.
- Sept 30th -- Deadline for approval of plan by Regional Council for air quality conformity analysis.
- Nov/Dec 03 -- Final approval of plan after conformity analysis.

#### Questions/Comments

*Q. What kind of reaction have you had to the planning effort so far?*

**Roger** So far, we have had no formal written response. The public participation efforts we have undertaken; however, have generated some comment. The range of input we have received varies depending on your perspective. A couple of key issues include, the question of whether or not proceeds from the ½ cent should be used to fund operating expenses for transit, The feedback is clear that the plan should be multi-modal the question then becomes how much of the tax should be dedicated to transit, third key issue is the lack of funding. Currently the plan is over-funded by approximately 1.6 billion dollars.

*Q. Does air quality come into that? Is it in the minds of the people who are working on that?*

**Roger** There will be a full-scale analysis of that in October. So far, in our preliminary analysis, an emphasis on arterials performed better.

## 2. Making Sense of Place

Laurel Arndt, representing the Lincoln Institute of Land Policy introduced the documentary “Making Sense of Place”. She then explained that she is working on Public Outreach for the documentary for the Institute. She then explained that she would be available to present the documentary to groups free of charge. The 58-minute documentary was then played.

### Questions/Comments

*Q. What other venues are there for distributing this video?*

**Laurel** The video is being shown on several community networks and we tried to get it shown on KAET channel 8 but no luck so far, but we will keep trying. We do have a website that lists ways access the video. It is [www.makingsenseofplace.org](http://www.makingsenseofplace.org)

*C. Understanding that you can't do everything but it would have been good to see something related to the limited role of the State in dealing with these issues. A map showing the context at the beginning would be helpful. The video did not address the way in which local government is financed.*

*C. The video could have addressed the private financing aspect.*

*C. It is also important to understand that Arizona does not have Tax Increment Financing (TIF) and that is a part of the story. More on Regional governance and light rail and Transit would be useful.*

**Laurel** Urban Land Institute (ULI) may do a symposium with the private sector, builders and others.

*C. It seems that there is too much focus on cities spending money rather than encouraging lenders to provide loans for creative and interesting projects.*

*C. Just a couple of comments that might make the film more useful; shorten the film, as people typically do not have the attention span to watch that long of a film without a break; and, simplify the film for the lay public.*

**Laurel** If one is viewing the DVD format, it is possible to choose the chapters to view or not view. The DVD version provides much greater flexibility.

*C. This documentary just presents the problems; it does not show potential solutions.*

Laurel We have heard comments both ways and we really walked a fine line here of being unbiased, the intent of the film is to start the discussion about solutions.

*C. The lending and real estate industries would be a good audience for this film.*

**Laurel** Thanked everyone for their comments and indicated that they are useful in making future documentaries.