

**MINUTES OF THE
MARICOPA ASSOCIATION OF GOVERNMENTS
REGIONAL COUNCIL MEETING**

June 25, 2008
Arizona Biltmore Resort
Phoenix, Arizona

MEMBERS ATTENDING

Mayor James M. Cavanaugh, Goodyear, Chair
Mayor Mary Manross, Scottsdale, Vice Chair
Councilmember Robin Barker, Apache Junction
Vice Mayor Ken Weise for Mayor Marie Lopez
Rogers, Avondale
Vice Mayor Elaine May for Mayor Jackie
Meck, Buckeye
Mayor Wayne Fulcher, Carefree
Councilmember Dick Esser, Cave Creek
Mayor Boyd Dunn, Chandler
Mayor Fred Waterman, El Mirage
* President Clinton Pattea, Fort McDowell
Yavapai Nation
* Mayor Jay Schlum, Fountain Hills
* Mayor Fred Hull, Gila Bend
* Governor William Rhodes, Gila River Indian
Community
Mayor Steven Berman, Gilbert
Mayor Elaine Scruggs, Glendale
* Mayor Rebecca Jimenez, Guadalupe

Mayor Thomas Schoaf, Litchfield Park
Supervisor Max W. Wilson, Maricopa
County
Mayor Scott Smith, Mesa
Mayor Vernon Parker, Paradise Valley
Councilmember Joan Evans for
Mayor Bob Barrett, Peoria
Vice Mayor Peggy Neely, Phoenix
* Mayor Art Sanders, Queen Creek
* President Diane Enos, Salt River
Pima-Maricopa Indian Community
Mayor Lyn Truitt, Surprise
Mayor Hugh Hallman, Tempe
Mayor Adolfo Gamez, Tolleson
Mayor Ron Badowski, Wickenburg
Mayor Michael LeVault, Youngtown
* Felipe Zubia, State Transportation Board
* Victor Flores, State Transportation Board
* David Martin, Citizens Transportation
Oversight Committee

* Those members neither present nor represented by proxy.
Attended by telephone conference call.
+ Attended by videoconference call.

1. **Call to Order**

The meeting of the MAG Regional Council was called to order by Chair James M. Cavanaugh at 5:08 p.m.

2. **Pledge of Allegiance**

The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

Chair Cavanaugh thanked the Regional Council for attending the meeting and staff for their efforts in setting up the meeting offsite. He noted that Councilmember Robin Barker, Mayor Adolfo Gamez, and Mayor Ron Badowski were participating by teleconference.

Chair Cavanaugh introduced two new members to the Regional Council: Mayor Scott Smith from Mesa and Mayor Vernon Parker from Paradise Valley. He presented them with their Regional Council membership certificates.

Chair Cavanaugh introduced proxies for the meeting: Vice Mayor Ken Weise for Mayor Marie Lopez Rogers, Avondale, Vice Mayor Elaine May for Mayor Jackie Meck, Buckeye, and Councilmember Joan Evans for Mayor Bob Barrett, Peoria.

Chair Cavanaugh noted materials at each place: for agenda item #5C, a revised Draft Arterial Life Cycle Program, which included changes administrative in nature that do not negatively impact the Arterial Life Cycle Program; for agenda item #7, the memorandum previously mailed regarding the submission of two additional letters for the Transportation Policy Committee and an additional letter from Mayor Scott Smith withdrawing his name from consideration as Chair; for agenda item #9, the bill summary chart; and for agenda items #8 and #9, a letter to the Regional Council from Mayor Lopez Rogers expressing her regrets at being unable to attend the meeting, and her interest in being elected to the Committees.

3. Call to the Audience

Chair Cavanaugh noted that public comment cards were available to members of the audience who wish to speak on items not scheduled on the agenda that fall under the jurisdiction of MAG, or on items on the agenda for discussion but not for action. Citizens are requested not to exceed a three minute time period for their comments. A total of 15 minutes is provided for the Call to the Audience agenda item, unless the Regional Council requests an exception to this limit. Those wishing to comment on agenda items posted for action will be provided the opportunity at the time the item is heard.

Chair Cavanaugh recognized public comment from Dianne Barker, who stated that she had received a transit ticket for using the bus and bicycle to attend the meeting. Ms. Barker referenced a newspaper article on rail that appeared in Saturday's *New York Times*. She stated that the TIME Coalition initiative includes a proposal for intercity trains. Ms. Barker commented on how the use of trains has increased dramatically across the country since the rise in gas prices. She stated that the real problem with rail is that the country has not kept up with rail car and locomotive production, which makes it difficult to expand. Ms. Barker noted that last year the Senate approved a bill that would offer the states 80 cents for every 20 cents they spend on new intercity passenger rail service. She added that some leadership want the passenger rail system to be turned over to private operators. Ms. Barker noted the percentage increase in demand for rail in various cities. Chair Cavanaugh thanked Ms. Barker for her comments.

4. Executive Director's Report

No report by the Executive Director was provided.

5. Approval of Consent Agenda

Chair Cavanaugh noted that agenda items #5A through #5J were on the consent agenda. He noted that no public comment cards had been received. Chair Cavanaugh asked members if they had questions or requests to hear an item individually. None were noted.

Chair Cavanaugh called for a motion to approve consent agenda items #5A, #5B, #5C, #5D, #5E, #5F, #5G, #5H, #5I, and #5J. Mayor Hallman moved, Mayor Manross seconded, and the motion passed unanimously.

5A. Approval of the May 28, 2008, Meeting Minutes

The Regional Council, by consent, approved the May 28, 2008, meeting minutes.

5B. Consultant Selection for the MAG Intelligent Transportation Systems and Transportation Safety On-Call Services

The Regional Council, by consent, approved the selected list of consultants for the Intelligent Transportation Systems (ITS) and Transportation Safety on-call services, for the following areas of expertise: (1) Traffic Engineering, (2) ITS Planning, (3) ITS Operations Planning, (4) ITS Training, (5) ITS Evaluation, and (6) Transportation Safety. The FY 2009 MAG Unified Planning Work Program and Annual Budget includes a number of projects to be launched in the areas of ITS and Transportation Safety. These projects will be executed through on-call consultant contracts with qualified consultants selected in each of the six areas of expertise. A request for qualifications was advertised on March 2, 2008. Two selection panels, composed of members of the ITS Committee and the Transportation Safety Committee, evaluated the proposals and recommended to MAG the selection of a number of qualified consultant teams in each of the areas of expertise. The Management Committee concurred with the recommendation.

5C. Draft Fiscal Year 2009 Arterial Life Cycle Program

The Regional Council, by consent, approved the Draft Fiscal Year (FY) 2009 Arterial Life Cycle Program contingent on a new Finding of Conformity for the amendment to the Regional Transportation Plan 2007 Update and FY 2008-2012 MAG Transportation Improvement Program, which will be finalized in July. The Regional Transportation Plan (RTP) identifies 94 arterial street projects to receive funding from the regional sales tax extension and from MAG federal funds. The Arterial Life Cycle Program (ALCP) provides information for each of the 94 projects spanning a 20-year life cycle. Information contained in the ALCP includes project location, regional funding, fiscal year of work, type of work, status of project and the lead agency. As part of the ALCP process, Lead Agencies update project information annually, at a minimum. MAG staff has programmed the Draft FY 2009 ALCP based on the information provided by Lead Agencies and from projected revenue streams of the Regional Area Road Fund (RARF), MAG Surface Transportation Program funds (STP-MAG), and Congestion Mitigation and Air Quality (CMAQ) funds. The Transportation Review Committee and the Management Committee recommended approval of the FY 2009 Draft ALCP.

5D. Federal Fiscal Year 2008 MAG Federal Funds Interim Closeout and Amendments/Modifications to the FY 2008-2012 MAG Transportation Improvement Program and FY 2008 MAG Unified Planning Work Program and Annual Budget

The Regional Council, by consent, approved the federal fiscal year (FFY) 2008 Interim Closeout, as shown in the attached tables and amended/adjusted the FY 2008-2012 MAG TIP and the FY 2008 MAG Unified Planning Work Program and Annual Budget to allow the projects to proceed. In May 2008, the Regional Council approved the deferral and deletion of federal funds for 38 projects totaling \$40.05 million (shown on Table A). Considering the available amount of federal funds and the projects approved in Table A, the FFY 2008 Interim Closeout has established the availability of \$14.7 million in unobligated MAG federal funds for the current federal fiscal year. Additional funds may become available due to last minute project deferrals and funds from redistributed Obligation Authority (OA). Member agencies have submitted requests for \$18.45 million in closeout projects. As shown in Table B, the Transportation Review Committee recommended funding 18 projects for a total of \$14.7 million, and recommended approval of a rank ordered contingency list of four projects for the FFY 2008 Interim Closeout. The Management Committee recommended approval.

5E. Conformity Consultation

The Maricopa Association of Governments is conducting consultation on a conformity assessment for an amendment and administrative modification to the FY 2008-2012 MAG Transportation Improvement Program. The proposed amendment includes the addition of new projects and the administrative modification includes minor revisions to existing projects in the TIP as part of the Interim Closeout of the Federal FY 2008 MAG Federally Funded Program. The new projects may be categorized as exempt and the minor project revisions do not require a conformity determination. Comments on the conformity assessment are requested by June 20, 2008. This item was on the agenda for consultation.

5F. Regional Heat Relief Planning Efforts

The Maricopa Association of Governments has developed two maps of resources to help make water and shade available to vulnerable populations during the hot summer months. The first map shows where water hydration stations and refuge locations are located throughout the county, or where people in need can go for water and shade. The second map shows water collection and donation sites in the county, and is useful to people wanting to donate items like water, sun block, lightweight clothing, hats, or other items that provide relief. This item is presented to alert member agencies to resources available throughout the summer months and to solicit assistance in making these resources available. This item was on the agenda for information and discussion.

6. Progress Report on the Interstates 8 and 10-Hidden Valley Transportation Framework Study

Bob Hazlett, MAG Senior Engineer, provided an update on the Interstates 8 and 10-Hidden Valley Transportation Framework Study. Mr. Hazlett advised that none of the projects is funded and locations are subject to change. He added that additional studies will be needed before anything could move forward.

Mr. Hazlett reported that the Hidden Valley study area covers approximately 3,200 square miles in southwest Maricopa County and western Pinal County. He said that the study determined a population projection of approximately 700,000 by 2030 and a population of more than 2.4 million at buildout.

Mr. Hazlett stated that study's funding partners include MAG, the Arizona Department of Transportation, the Maricopa County Department of Transportation, the Pinal County Department of Public Works, the Town of Buckeye, the City of Goodyear, and the City of Maricopa. He acknowledged the key stakeholders and the agencies that participated in the project study review team, and noted that the Gila River Indian Community participated extensively.

Mr. Hazlett stated that the purpose of the study is to define high capacity corridors (both highway and transit), identify the future principal arterial network, recommend access management strategies for high capacity corridors, identify the future role of high-capacity transit, and develop alternative funding and implementation strategies.

Mr. Hazlett noted that the framework study began with an environmental scan of 35 factors, including aviation, slopes, and wildlife corridors. He said that more information on the mapping is available at www.bqaz.org. Mr. Hazlett showed maps of the project's Transportation Framework Alternatives. Mr. Hazlett stated that Alternative A is balanced capacity, Alternative B is maximum mobility (more capacity on the highway side); and Alternative C is minimum impact (freeways or highways downgraded to arterials or parkways). He noted that the Alternatives do not identify new projects across the land of the Gila River Indian Community, other than those presently under study.

Mr. Hazlett also introduced two transit overlay alternatives for the framework study area. He compared the preliminary network assessment of the Interstates 8 and 10-Hidden Valley Transportation Framework Study with the present day Phoenix urban area and with select peer cities. Mr. Hazlett stated that the study's goals include maximizing safety on roadways, maximizing mobility to meet travel needs, providing sufficient access to land uses, ensuring a high degree of planning consistency, minimizing negative environmental impacts, minimizing the construction and maintenance costs, maximizing opportunities for project implementation, and selecting an alternative that has attracted community support. Mr. Hazlett stated that these goals are being used to identify more than 40 criteria to evaluate this study's alternatives. This effort is underway and will identify a framework recommendation in September 2008.

Chair Cavanaugh thanked Mr. Hazlett for his report and noted that this item was on the agenda for information and discussion. No questions from the Council were noted.

7. Appointment of Members and Officers for the Transportation Policy Committee

Mayor Cavanaugh stated that on April 24, 2002, the Regional Council approved the composition of the Transportation Policy Committee (TPC). The composition of the TPC provided that the central city and the seven largest cities have a seat on the TPC, and five seats be selected from the remaining cities and towns. Three of the five would be from areas that need to be represented to achieve geographic balance, with the members selected from and by the under-represented geographic area and ratified by the

Regional Council. Interstate 17 is used as a boundary in determining geographic balance. Two At-Large (geographically balanced) would be selected by the Regional Council. The approved composition provided for two-year terms for the three members to achieve geographic balance, the two At-Large members, and for the Native American member. The Chair and Vice Chair serve two-year terms. The Regional Council is requested to appoint the members of the TPC and the officer positions (Chair and Vice Chair).

Chair Cavanaugh noted that two letters of interest, from Mayor Scott Smith and Mayor Steve Berman, had been submitted for the Chair position. He noted that Mayor Smith had submitted an additional letter withdrawing his name for consideration as the Chair. Chair Cavanaugh noted that one letter of interest for the Vice Chair position had been submitted by Mayor Lopez Rogers.

Chair Cavanaugh stated no public comment cards had been received on this item.

Mayor Smith moved to approve Mayor Steve Berman as Chair of the TPC and Mayor Lopez Rogers as Vice Chair of the TPC. Vice Mayor Neely seconded. The vote on the motion passed unanimously.

Clarification was requested if the motion included approval of the appointments of the members of the Transportation Policy Committee. Mayor Smith restated his motion to approve Mayor Steve Berman as Chair of the TPC and Mayor Lopez Rogers as Vice Chair of the TPC, and approve the appointments of the members of the TPC as shown on the table. Vice Mayor Neely seconded, and the motion carried unanimously.

8. Election of Regional Council Officers and Executive Committee Members

Chair Cavanaugh stated that on May 28, 2008, the Nominating Committee met and made recommendations for the positions of Chair, Vice Chair, Treasurer, and three At-Large Members for the coming year. According to the Nomination Process, the past Chair also serves on the Executive Committee. He noted that the Nominating Committee recommended Mayor Mary Manross as Chair; Vice Mayor Peggy Neely as Vice Chair; Mayor Thomas Schoaf as Treasurer; and Mayor Marie Lopez Rogers, Mayor Steve Berman, and Mayor Hugh Hallman as At-Large Members. Chair Cavanaugh noted that as Past Chair, he would also serve on the Executive Committee. Mayor Fulcher moved, Mayor Gamez seconded, and the motion carried unanimously.

9. Legislative Update

Nathan Pryor, Senior Policy Planner, provided an update on legislative issues of interest. He said that the bill summary chart reflected the bills that are technically active.

Mr. Pryor then addressed two budget proposals. He said that the House budget bill includes \$95.6 million from the Highway Users Revenue Fund (HURF) for the Department of Public Safety (DPS), \$30.3 million from the State Highway Fund for DPS, and \$25 million from the emergency telecommunications fund to the state general fund. Mr. Pryor stated that the Senate budget bill includes a potential transfer of \$106 million from the HURF fund to the Highway Patrol.

Mr. Pryor reported on federal legislation. He said that the House is considering the Federal Aviation Administration Extension Act, and would transfer \$8 billion to the Highway Trust Fund. He noted that staff will continue to monitor this item. Mr. Pryor stated that the House Appropriations Committee approved the FY 2009 Appropriations Bill. He noted that the House approved a spending allocation of approximately \$54.9 billion to the Transportation-HUD appropriations bill. No questions for Mr. Pryor were noted.

There being no further business, the Regional Council meeting adjourned at 5:35 p.m.

Secretary

Chair