

DRAFT

MAG REGIONAL TRANSPORTATION PLAN -

2005 UPDATE

The Draft MAG Regional Transportation Plan - 2005 Update was approved by the Regional Council for air quality conformity analysis on April 27, 2005. The modifications included in the 2005 Update cover changes to the phase in which certain projects will be constructed. The changes proposed in the Draft 2005 Update apply to the RTP that was adopted by the MAG Regional Council on November 25, 2003; and amended on June 23, 2004. The proposed changes have also been reflected, as appropriate, in the Draft FY 2006-2010 Transportation Improvement Program (TIP). An air quality conformity analysis has been conducted on the Draft 2005 RTP Update and Draft FY 2006-2010 TIP. A public hearing was held on June 16, 2005 on the Draft 2005 RTP Update, Draft FY 2006-2010 TIP, and air quality conformity findings.

The November 2003 RTP went through the full plan consultation process and air quality conformity analysis, receiving a finding of air quality conformity in a letter from the U.S. Department of Transportation dated December 9, 2003. The 2004 Amendment also went through full consultation and conformity analysis, receiving a finding of air quality conformity in a letter from the U.S. Department of Transportation dated July 6, 2004.

MAG REGIONAL TRANSPORTATION PLAN (APPROVED NOVEMBER 25, 2003)

On November 25, 2003, the MAG Regional Council adopted the MAG Regional Transportation Plan, culminating a three-year planning effort. The RTP is a comprehensive, performance based, multi-modal and coordinated regional plan, covering the period through Fiscal Year 2026. It provides a blueprint for future transportation investments in the region for the next several decades, and represents the most extensive transportation plan update by MAG since the mid-1980s. The RTP addresses specific project needs and the scheduling of improvements on freeways and highways, arterial streets and transit. It also addresses a variety of other transportation modal needs in throughout the region. The RTP was developed through a cooperative effort among government, business and public interest groups, and included an aggressive community outreach and public involvement program.

In a letter dated December 9, 2003, the U.S. Department of Transportation issued a finding of air quality conformity for the MAG Regional Transportation Plan, as adopted on November 25, 2003 (see Appendix A).

On November 2, 2004, Proposition 400 was passed by the voters of Maricopa County by a margin of 58 to 42 percent. Proposition 400 asked whether the voters in Maricopa County favored the continuation of a countywide sales tax for transportation improvements through 2025, to provide funding for transportation projects as contained in the MAG Regional Transportation Plan. As part of the Proposition 400 election, voters were provided with an information pamphlet describing the key features of the MAG Regional Transportation Plan.

See MAG Regional Transportation Plan, November 25, 2003 final report for further documentation.

MAG REGIONAL TRANSPORTATION PLAN – 2004 AMENDMENT (APPROVED JUNE 23, 2004)

On June 23, 2004 the MAG Regional Council took action to approve amendment of the Regional Transportation Plan and Special FY 2004-07 Transportation Improvement Program to reflect the light rail transit changes proposed by Valley Metro Rail, affecting the Minimum Operating Segment (MOS) and the Metrocenter Link, pending a finding of air quality conformity.

LRT Minimum Operating System

As originally described in the RTP, the MOS was scheduled for a phased opening, with the first phase between the Phoenix Central Station and the Tempe Transit Center to open by the end of 2006. The Central Station to 19th Avenue/Montebello Avenue was scheduled to open in April 2007 and the final phase from the Tempe Transit Center to the end of line station in Mesa, was scheduled to open in August 2007. In response to public comments, the implementing agency, Valley Metro Rail, has identified a number of project changes affecting several facility components. This includes increasing the number of stations, adjusting station locations and the rail alignment, adding park-and-ride spaces, providing additional passenger amenities and adding traffic signals. Due to the project improvements, additional time will be required to complete design, right-of-way acquisition and utility relocation. As a result, the schedule now calls for a single opening of the MOS, with the entire 20-mile line opening in December 2008. In addition, the original estimated cost of \$1.2 billion in year of expenditure (YOE) dollars has been revised to \$1.3 billion (YOE).

LRT Metrocenter Link

In the RTP, the Metrocenter link, which extends from 19th Avenue/Montebello Avenue to Metrocenter, had been scheduled in Phase I. Phase I in the RTP covers the period of FY 2005 through FY 2010. Due to the schedule adjustments for the MOS element and expected planning and engineering requirements, the completion date for the Metrocenter link is now targeted by Valley Metro Rail for 2012. This shifts the Metrocenter link to Phase II in the RTP, which covers the period of FY 2011 through FY 2015.

In a letter dated July 6, 2004, the U.S. Department of Transportation issued a finding of air quality conformity for the amended MAG Regional Transportation Plan, approved on June 23, 2004.

See Appendix B for further documentation, including:

- Regional Council Minutes of June 23, 2004 (see agenda item # 5D).
- Agenda material for June 23, 2004 Regional Council Meeting.
- U.S. DOT air quality conformity finding, July 6, 2004.

DRAFT MAG REGIONAL TRANSPORTATION PLAN – 2005 UPDATE

On April 27, 2005, the MAG Regional Council took action to approve the Draft MAG Regional Transportation Plan - 2005 Update for air quality conformity analysis. An air quality conformity analysis has been conducted on the Draft 2005 RTP Update and Draft FY 2006-2010 TIP. A public hearing was held on June 16, 2005 on the Draft 2005 RTP Update, Draft FY 2006-2010 TIP, and air quality conformity findings.

Items included in the Draft 2005 Update are: (1) proposed RTP modifications distributed for MAG agency review on January 21, 2005 and approved for air quality conformity analysis on March 23,

2005 (see Table I), and (2) proposed RTP modifications for air quality conformity analysis distributed for MAG agency review on February 25, 2005 and approved for air quality conformity analysis on April 25, 2005 (see Table II). These modifications would change the phases in which certain projects in the RTP would be constructed. The projects affected are primarily arterial street and intersection improvements that will be constructed by local governments.

See Appendix C for further documentation, including:

- Regional Council Minutes of March 23, 2005 (see agenda item # 6).
- Agenda material for March 23, 2005 Regional Council Meeting.
- Regional Council Minutes of April 27, 2005 (see agenda item # 6C).
- Agenda material for April 27, 2005 Regional Council Meeting.

TABLE I

PROPOSED RTP MODIFICATIONS

(January 21, 2005)

Proposed project phase changes distributed for MAG agency review on January 21, 2005 are identified in this table. The RTP phases are as follows: Phase 1 (FY05-FY10); Phase 2 (FY11-FY15); Phase 3 (FY16-FY20); and Phase 4 (FY21-FY26).

<u>Project</u>	<u>Proposed Modification</u>
• Arizona Ave. at Chandler Blvd.: Intersection Improvement.	Advance from Phase 2 to Phase 1; acceleration funding provided by City of Chandler.
• Arizona Ave. at Elliot Rd.: Intersection Improvement.	Advance from Phase 4 to Phase 1; acceleration funding provided by City of Chandler.
• Country Club Dr. at University Dr.: Intersection Improvement.	Advance from Phase 3 to Phase 1; acceleration funding provided by City of Mesa.
• Dixileta Dr./I-17: New Traffic Interchange.	Advance from Phase 2 to Phase 1; acceleration funding provided by City of Phoenix.
• Gilbert Rd. - Loop 202/Santan Fwy. to Queen Creek Rd. (part of Loop 202/Santan Fwy. to Hunt Hwy. segment): Widen Roadway.	Advance from Phase 4 to Phase 1; acceleration funding provided by City of Chandler.
• Gilbert Rd. at University Dr.: Intersection Improvement.	Advance from Phase 4 to Phase 1; acceleration funding provided by City of Mesa.
• Happy Valley Rd. - Lake Pleasant Pkwy. to Terramar Blvd. (part of Loop 303 to 67 th Ave. segment): Widen Roadway	Advance from Phase 4 to Phase 1; acceleration funding provided by City of Peoria.
• Hawes Rd. - Elliot Rd. to Ray Rd. (Part of Broadway Rd. to Ray Rd segment): Widen Roadway.	Advance from Phase 4 to Phase 1; acceleration funding provided by City of Mesa.
• Power Rd. - Guadalupe Rd. to Loop 202/Santan Fwy. (part of Baseline Rd. to Williams Field Rd. segment): Widen Roadway.	Advance from Phase 2 to Phase 1; acceleration funding provided by City of Mesa.
• Queen Creek Rd. - Arizona Ave. to McQueen Rd. (part of Arizona Ave. to Power Rd. segment): Widen Roadway.	Advance from Phase 2 to Phase 1; acceleration funding provided by City of Chandler.

TABLE I (continued)

<u>Project</u>	<u>Proposed Modification</u>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ray Rd. at Gilbert: Intersection Improvement. 	<p>Advance from Phase 3 to Phase 1; acceleration funding provided by Town of Gilbert.</p>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ray Rd. at McClintock Dr.: Intersection Improvement. 	<p>Advance from Phase 2 to Phase 1; acceleration funding provided by City of Chandler.</p>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ray Rd. - Sossaman Rd. to Ellsworth Rd. (part of Sossaman Rd. to Meridian Rd. segment): Widen Roadway. 	<p>Advance from Phase 4 to Phase 1; acceleration funding provided by City of Mesa.</p>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Shea Blvd. - Loop 101/Pima Fwy. to Via Linda (part of Loop 101/Pima Fwy. to SR 87 segment): Improve Roadway. 	<p>Advance from Phase 4 to Phase 1; acceleration funding provided by City of Scottsdale.</p>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Val Vista Rd. - Warner Rd. to Pecos Rd.: Widen Roadway. 	<p>Advance from Phase 2 to Phase 1; acceleration funding provided by Town of Gilbert.</p>

TABLE II

PROPOSED RTP MODIFICATIONS

(February 25, 2005)

Proposed project phase changes distributed for MAG agency review on February 25, 2005 are provided in this table. The RTP phases are as follows: Phase 1 (FY2005-FY2010); Phase 2 (FY2011-FY2015); Phase 3 (FY2016-FY2020); and Phase 4 (FY2021-FY2026).

<u>Project</u>	<u>Proposed Modification</u>
McKellips Rd. - Higley Rd. to Power Rd. (part of Gilbert Rd. to Power Rd. segment): Widen Roadway.	Defer from Phase 1 to Phase 2; local funding provided by City of Mesa.
Pecos Rd. - Ellsworth Rd. to Meridian Rd. : Widen Roadway.	Defer from Phase 1 to Phase 2; local funding provided by City of Mesa.
Power Rd. - Baseline Rd. to Guadalupe Rd (part of Baseline Rd. to Williams Field Rd.) Widen Roadway.	Advance from Phase 2 to Phase 1; acceleration funding provided by multi- jurisdictional project partners.
Southern Ave. - Greenfield Rd. to Recker Rd. (part of Country Club Dr. to Recker Rd. segment): Widen Roadway.	Defer from Phase 1 to Phase 2; local funding provided by City of Mesa.
Southern Ave. - Lindsay Rd. to Greenfield Rd. (part of Country Club Dr. to Recker Rd. segment): Widen Roadway.	Defer from Phase 1 to Phase 2; local funding provided by City of Mesa.
Southern Ave. - Stapley Dr. to Lindsay Rd. (part of Country Club Dr. to Recker Rd. segment): Widen Roadway.	Defer from Phase 1 to Phase 2; local funding provided by City of Mesa.