

MINUTES OF THE  
MARICOPA ASSOCIATION OF GOVERNMENTS  
BICYCLE AND PEDESTRIAN COMMITTEE

Tuesday, March 16, 2010 at 1:30 p.m.  
MAG Office Building, Saguaro Room  
302 North First Avenue, Phoenix

MEMBERS ATTENDING

Brandon Forrey, Peoria, Chair of Bicycle and Pedestrian Committee	* Tami Ryall, Gilbert
Susan Conclu for Reed Kempton, Scottsdale, Vice-Chair of Bicycle and Pedestrian Committee	^ Steve Hancock, Glendale
Michael Sanders, ADOT	* Joe Schmitz, Goodyear
Tiffany Halperin for Michael Eagan, ASLA, Arizona Chapter	* Michael Cartsonis, Litchfield Park
Margaret Boone-Pixley, Avondale	* Denise Lacey, Maricopa County
* Robert Wisener, Buckeye	Jim Hash, Mesa
^ D.J. Stapley, Carefree	Katherine Coles, Phoenix
Bob Jenson for Bob Beane, Coalition of Arizona Bicyclists	Lisa Padilla, Queen Creek
Doug Strong, El Mirage	Peggy Rubach, RPTA
	Bob Bortfeld, Chandler
	* Eric Iwersen, Tempe

\*Members neither present nor represented by proxy.

^Attended via audio-conference

OTHERS PRESENT

Hobart Wingard, Surprise  
Mara DeLuca, Maricopa County Dept. Public Health  
Gordon Tyus, MAG  
Jesse Gonzales, Peoria

1. Call to Order

Brandon Forrey called the meeting to order at 1:35 p.m.

2. Approval of the February 16, 2010 Meeting Minutes of the Bicycle and Pedestrian Committee

Peggy Rubach moved to approve the meeting minutes of the Bicycle and Pedestrian Committee for February 16, 2010. Bob Bortfeld seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

### 3. Call to the Audience

An opportunity was provided to members of the public to address the MAG Bicycle and Pedestrian Committee 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. Members of the public were requested not to exceed a three minute time period for their comments. A total of 15 minutes was provided for the Call to the Audience agenda item, unless the Bicycle and the Pedestrian Committee requests an exception to this limit. Please note that those wishing to comment on action agenda items were given an opportunity at the time the item was heard. No one wished to address the committee.

### 4. Staff and Member Agency Reports

Maureen DeCindis reported that the MAG Regional Bikeways Map is now on Google, Inc. It took four years of perseverance but finally success. Bob Bortfeld suggested that Google put a “bike view” on their website.

Bob Bortfeld recommended adding a Public Health representative to the MAG Bike and Pedestrian Committee. Peggy Rubach seconded the recommendation noting that this position would be as a non-voting member.

Peggy Rubach reported that the materials for Valley Bike Month are being distributed during March. The items include a reflective pants strap, a bike tire gauge and reflectors. The safety theme will be “Be Bright”. There will be 75,000 educational brochures printed entitled “Helmet Your Head”. There will be 25,000 printed in Spanish. Bob Bortfeld asked how long the brochures are meant to last because Peggy Rubach indicated that there is no future printing budget. Peggy Rubach responded that the amount will last a few years.

### 5. ADA Ramp Detail Updates

The Chair of the MAG Specs & Details Committee, Jesse Gonzales, presented an overview of the issues related to the proposed wheelchair ramp details in the MAG Specs and Details Manual.

Jesse Gonzales explained that he has been doing significant research in ADA issues. ADA ramps need to be updated because many jurisdictions have been cited by the Department of Justice for being non-compliant for ADA. There is a great effort in MAG agencies to become compliant. If there is a resurfacing project, the ramps need to be redesigned. There is a discrepancy over the detail of whether micro seal and slurry seal constitute the need to upgrade ADA ramps. If an agency were to conduct street improvements and tear out existing non-conforming ramps, the new ramps need to be compliant with ADA. The current MAG Spec & Details ramp design is not ADA compliant. MAG coordinated an effort to collect all details from every jurisdiction. The MAG Specs & Details need to be updated and then all agencies need to adopt the MAG Specs & Details.

Jesse Gonzales showed a ten minute video entitled “Design Issues for Pedestrians Who Use Wheelchairs”.

Brandon Forrey asked Jesse Gonzales to explain the effort here in the Valley. Jesse Gonzales reported that he has contacted the Access Board with designs that fit the larger streets in the west. Mr. Gonzales

asked that each of the member of the Bike and Pedestrian committee contact their member of the MAG Specs and Details committee and discuss the ADA issue and making an intersection work as a whole. The ramps can work how the ACCESS board has decided but sometimes the whole street and intersections needs to work better. There is resistance in the Valley to change the design. The concern is that the cities in the Valley may be sued. Chicago had a resurfacing program and the Department of Justice demanded that the ramps be torn out three times and the city had to pay a fine.

Peggy Rubach said that a law firm in the Valley is suing developers. Brandon Forrey urged the jurisdictions to work together. Gordon Tyus reported that the rule for the MAG Specs and Details is that an issue can only be carried over for one year. If the case does not finish, it must wait two years before it can be submitted again. The MAG Specs and Details update is printed each January. One difficulty is that many cities have altered their own details. Bob Bortfeld asked if there is a standard federal design.

Jesse Gonzales said that the ACCESS board changes the designs as new information is discovered.

Michael Sanders said that ADOT standards are up to date.

## 6. MAG Complete Streets Plan

Brandon Forrey led the discussion on certain elements from the MAG Complete Streets Plan including the *implementation steps, goals and strategies, performance measures, applying the guidelines*.

How does the Complete Streets plan garner support? Does the Plan just provide the method for cities to develop their own Complete Streets policy and design?

Should the MAG Bike and Pedestrian Committee give extra points for a jurisdiction having a Complete Streets policy? The committee decided that a point system should not be part of the Complete Streets Plan at this time.

Katherine Coles suggested that Phoenix wants to see the triggers to help define the term “Complete Streets”.

Bob Bortfeld noted that every city could adopt their own Complete Streets policy and they could all be very different without some basic requirements. Chandler supports the Complete Streets philosophy through its general plan and other cities could do the same. Each city has their own general plan and circulation element, which is updated every 10 years.

Susan Conclu explained that if a jurisdiction is retrofitting a street during regular street maintenance/resurfacing, there may be an additional cost to implement the retrofits that is not included in a maintenance funding schedule. In Scottsdale, if there is room, when road is repainted, bike lanes are installed by reducing the existing lanes widths.

Brandon Forrey and Maureen DeCindis noted that during the ITE Spring Conference, Leslie Dornfeld gave a presentation regarding MAG’s Complete Streets efforts where she stated that bike facilities should not be located in downtown areas. The committee disagreed with this philosophy and agreed that bike lanes, shared lanes, or other bike facilities may be appropriate, depending on conditions. This

highlighted the need to review the draft document to ensure the consultant's are philosophically aligned with the committee.

Maureen DeCindis asked each member to read the Goals and Strategies page and to send in their comments. The Goals as written need to be explained better.

Maureen DeCindis asked each jurisdiction to identify examples of Best Practices of Complete Streets in the region so that the consultant can photograph local practices to be illustrated in the Plan.

The committee expressed the desire to review the whole document as soon as possible.

Bob Bortfeld noted that there may be a discrepancy between the goals of Air Quality and Complete Streets, as the goal of one is to move vehicles quickly and the goal of the other is to slow vehicles down and encourage more walking and bike riding. With fewer lanes or narrower lanes, this may make air quality worse. It is important to balance the need for all users.

Brandon Forrey stated that the committee cannot sufficiently discuss the topic until the entire draft document can be reviewed.

#### 7. Request for Future Agenda Items

Members have the opportunity to suggest future agenda topics. Bob Bortfeld asked that ramps issue be brought back at a later date. It was recommended that this issue be brought to the individual Intergovs and to the Streets Committee. Susan Conclu reported that she will be attending an ADA webinar and will report to the committee.

#### 8. Next Meetings

All meetings will be on the third Tuesday of the month in the Cholla Room at 1:30 p.m., except for those noted otherwise.

April 20, 2010

May 18, 2010

June 15, 2010

July 20, 2010

August 17, 2010

September 21, 2010

October 19, 2010

November 9, 2010 (note change)

December 14, 2010 (noon)