

December 9, 2013

TO: Members of the MAG Bicycle and Pedestrian Committee

FROM: Katherine Coles, Phoenix, Chair of the MAG Bicycle and Pedestrian Committee

SUBJECT: MEETING NOTIFICATION AND TRANSMITTAL OF TENTATIVE AGENDA

Tuesday, December 17, 2013 at **NOON**
MAG Offices, Ironwood Room, Second Floor
302 North First Avenue, Phoenix

A meeting of the MAG Bicycle and Pedestrian Committee will be held at the time and place noted above. If you are attending in person, please park in the garage under the building. Bring your ticket to the meeting as parking will be validated. For those using transit, the Regional Public Transportation Authority will provide transit tickets for your trip. For those using bicycles, please lock your bicycle in the bike rack in the parking garage.

Committee members may attend the meeting either in **person, by video conference or by telephone conference call**. Those attending by videoconference must notify the MAG site three business days before the meeting. Those attending by telephone conference call please contact MAG offices for conference call instructions.

Pursuant to Title II of the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA), MAG does not discriminate on the basis of disability in admissions to or participation in its public meetings. Persons with a disability may request a reasonable accommodation, such as a sign language interpreter, by contacting Maureen DeCindis at the MAG office. Requests should be made as early as possible to allow time to arrange the accommodation.

Please be advised that under procedures adopted by the MAG Regional Council on August 21, 2013, all MAG committees need to have a quorum to conduct business. A quorum is a simple majority of the membership based on the attendance of the three previous Bicycle and Pedestrian Committee meetings. If the Bicycle and Pedestrian Committee does not meet the quorum requirement, members who have arrived at the meeting will be instructed that a legal meeting cannot occur and will subsequently be dismissed. Your attendance at the meeting is strongly encouraged. If you are unable to attend the meeting, please make arrangements for a proxy from your jurisdiction to represent you. Please contact Maureen DeCindis at (602) 254-6300 or send email to mdecindis@azmag.gov if you have any questions or need additional information.

TENTATIVE AGENDA

1. Call to Order

For the December 2013 meeting, the quorum requirement is 11 committee members.

2. Approval of the November 19, 2013 Meeting Minutes of the Bicycle and Pedestrian Committee

2. For information, discussion and action to approve the meeting minutes of the November 19, 2013 Bicycle and Pedestrian Committee meeting.

3. Call to the Audience

An opportunity will be provided to members of the public to address the 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 will be requested not to exceed a three minute time period for their comments. A total of 15 minutes will be provided for the Call to the Audience agenda item, unless the Committee requests an exception to this limit. Please note that those wishing to comment on action agenda items will be given an opportunity at the time the item is heard. Please fill out blue cards for Call to the Audience and yellow cards for Action Items.

3. For information.

4. Staff and Member Agency Reports

Staff and committee members are invited to provide an update of pedestrian and bicycle-related activity in their agencies.

4. For information and discussion.

5. Bicycles Count Project

MAG staff will give an update on the status of the MAG Bicycles Count project.

6. Transportation Alternatives Program

Katherine Coles, as a member of the Transportation Alternatives Evaluation group will give an update on the status of the Transportation Alternatives program.

7. Maricopa County Public Health Resources

Kenneth Steel of Maricopa County Public Health will give a presentation of the resources and partnership opportunities between public health and transportation.

8. Request for Future Agenda Items

Members will have the opportunity to suggest future agenda topics.

9. Next Meetings

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

January 21, 2014

February 18, 2014

March 18, 2014

April 15, 2014

May 20, 2014

June 16, 2014

July 15, 2014

August 19, 2014

September 16, 2014

October 21, 2014

November 18, 2014

December 16, 2014 (possibly noon)

5. For information and discussion.

6. For information and discussion.

7. For information and discussion

8. For information and discussion

MINUTES OF THE
MARICOPA ASSOCIATION OF GOVERNMENTS
BICYCLE AND PEDESTRIAN COMMITTEE

Tuesday, November 19, 2013 at 1:30 PM
MAG Office Building, Ironwood Room
302 North First Avenue, Phoenix

MEMBERS ATTENDING

Katherine Coles, Phoenix, Chair of Bicycle and Pedestrian Committee	Dave Gue for Thomas Chlebanowski, Litchfield Park
Tracy Stevens, Avondale, Vice-Chair of Bicycle and Pedestrian Committee	Tonya Glass for Denise Lacey, Maricopa County
Michael Sanders, ADOT	Jim Hash, Mesa
^ Raquel Schatz, Apache Junction	Brandon Forrey, Peoria
Robert Wisener, Buckeye	* Rich Purcell, Queen Creek
* D.J. Stapley, Carefree	Ben Limmer, Valley Metro
* Ian Cordwell, Cave Creek	* Susan Conklu, Scottsdale
Jason Crampton, Chandler	Stephen Chang, Surprise
Bryce Christo, El Mirage	Eric Iwersen, Tempe
* Nicole Lance, Gilbert	* Robert Carmona, Wickenburg
* Steve Hancock, Glendale	* Grant Anderson, Youngtown
Joe Schmitz, Goodyear	

*Members neither present nor represented by proxy

^Attended via audio-conference

OTHERS PRESENT

^ Bob Beane, Coalition of AZ. Bicyclists	Alex Oreschak, MAG
Kenneth Steel, Maricopa County Health Dept.	Margaret Boone, MAG
Jennifer Bonnett, Valley Permaculture Alliance	David Maestas, City of Maricopa
Jeff Caslake, Tempe Bike Action Group	
Joel Hormann, Gavan and Barker	

1. Call to Order

Chair Katherine Coles called the meeting to order at 1:31 p.m.

2. Approval of the October 15, 2013 Meeting Minutes of the Bicycle and Pedestrian Committee

Tracey Stevens moved to approve the meeting minutes of the Bicycle and Pedestrian Committee for October 15, 2013. Jim Hash 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.

4. Staff and Member Agency Reports

Maureen DeCindis explained that under the Bike Education program, there is a remaining balance of \$32,506. MAG staff has proposed to purchase 10 Eco-Counters that can be used by the local jurisdictions to conduct bike counts. This could prove useful for before and after counts when developing a project. Katherine Coles and Tracey Stevens said yes – that this is a good idea. All member cities concurred.

Margaret Boone presented an update to the Strategic Safety Plan. The Safety Committee held a visioning workshop where specific action areas were identified. Another meeting today identified two specific action items: eliminate death and injury for vulnerable road users and increase use of safety devices like restraints and helmets. Margaret Boone asked for feedback on the MAG website.

Jim Hash noted that he was the only city representative at the Valley Bike Month meeting.

Margaret Boone reported that Safety Committee is looking at the non-infrastructure Transportation Alternatives program. The goal is for the application to be available in January, 2014.

5. Valley Permaculture Alliance Presentation on the Shade and Tree Program

Valley Permaculture Alliance is a non-profit (501c3 organization), educational organization. Their mission is to inspire sustainable living in the desert southwest. The Valley Permaculture Alliance will give a presentation on the project they are working on with Salt River Project and Arizona Public Service to provide free trees. Jennifer Bonnett from Valley Permaculture Alliance explained that this program is for single family housing. Maureen DeCindis suggested that cities listen for ways to expand the program for public projects.

Permaculture design includes large trees for shade and wind resistance along with flowers, shrubs and drainage for harvesting water. The Valley Permaculture Alliance mission is to inspire sustainable living recognizing that this is a desert environment. There are about 7,000 members and the organization offers classes, newsletter, design courses, events, information, ambassador program, seed library, and the shade tree program.

Valley Permaculture Alliance partners with SRP and APS to give any two or three trees to any rate paying owner or renter. The six types of trees are native mesquite, thornless mesquite, blue palo verde, thornless palo verde, willow acacia and desert acacia trees. These trees are desert adapted and will grow in hot dry climates.

People who request a tree have to attend a free workshop taught by professionals. At the workshop, the owner will receive an aerial map of their home. Instructions are to plant on south, west and east side at least 15-feet away from the home to afford the most shade. Participants will be allowed to pick out two to three trees at the Tree Corral for their home.

Partners include Master Gardeners, School groups, Fire Fighters, ASU Global Institute of Sustainability, Central Arizona Phoenix Long Term Ecological Research project and the Arbor Day Foundation. In 2013 over 9,000 trees were planted.

Benefits of trees include:

- trees produce 260 pounds of oxy
- remove 2.6 tons of carbon dioxide per acre
- can make buildings and paths 20 degrees cooler

Expansion, if funded by APS and SRP, could include:

- multi family
- schools
- public spaces such as streets and sidewalks

Valley Permaculture Alliance is a volunteer driven organization. There is an Ambassador team representative at community events.

Maureen DeCindis asked how cities could help with the expansion of this program. The Alliance suggested that the biggest help would be with getting the word out. Libraries are very helpful. Katherine Coles said that one problem with this in the public realm is that utility companies preclude planting trees in the utility easements because certain tree heights block utility wires or the plants will affect those utilities that are underground. It is also difficult because the utility company will not allow a structural shade over the utilities.

Joe Schmitz asked if any other city has had problems with departments who resist planting trees because of maintenance with street sweepers. Eric Iwersen said that Tempe has to be careful with species and spacing far away from curb for example Tempe has Specs and Details for root barriers to allow closer placement to underground utilities. Sometimes political influence will help with for example with clearance issues if the council or the neighborhood really want the trees. Joe Schmitz asked if any city has good standards for tree placement. Eric Iwersen offered to share the city of Tempe standards.

6. Presentation on Cost-Effective Ways to Retrofit Bike Lanes

The city of Peoria presented ideas and information on cost-effective ways to retrofit bike lanes on roadways and methods to conquer the most common concerns that prevent bike lane installation. Brandon Forrey presented “Take Another Look at Bike Lanes”. Brandon Forrey is very proud that in the past four years, Peoria had only 50 miles of bike lanes and now there is 100 miles of bike lanes. Peoria found ways to be cost-effective and communicate with other departments.

Biases Against Bike Lanes

- Auto-centric streets designs - overbuilt infrastructure
- Fear of the unknown - uninformed opinions
- Bikes don’t belong on arterial streets
- No or few observed cyclists
- Anti-bike sentiment

You wouldn’t count cars in a desert and you wouldn’t count bikes on a crowded freeway.

Obstacles to Bike Lanes

Problem: Little or no funding

Solution

- Apply for funding
- Add bike lanes during development, CIP, and pavement maintenance projects

Problem: No destinations or other bike facilities

Solution

- Just build it - start somewhere
- Design for bike lanes but do not install at the time

Problem: Not enough road

Solution

- Reduce lane width (typical lane minimum is 10' wide)
- Widen shoulders
- Road diets
- Sharrows

Implementation Process

- Gain support from elected officials
- Adopt a Complete Streets policy
- Create implementation policies
- Update policies as needed
- Build on successes and keep on pushing

Peoria's Implementation Plan

- Coordinate with Street Maintenance
- Develop striping plans
- Fund additional work

Brandon Forrey gave examples of successful bike lane projects in Peoria including:

- 83rd Avenue: Thunderbird to Cactus Avenue.,
- Happy Valley Parkway Bridge at Agua Fria River,
- Terramar Blvd. at Desert Moon Way,
- 107th Avenue - Northern Avenue to Olive Avenue

Public Feedback

- Peoria is becoming bike friendly
- Road diets must have public support to succeed
- Need for bike counts
- Keep the momentum going

Tracy Stevens asked if Peoria has a standard bike lane width. Brandon Forrey said the standard is six-feet but sometimes there is not full support especially with turns or higher speeds with 10' lanes.

Michael Sanders asked what the traffic volumes were in Terramar Boulevard? Brandon Forrey responded that about 2,000 vehicles per day and that the speed was 38 mph although the speed is posted at 30 mph. The gutter pan is 18 inches and is included in the bike lane with 3-feet of rideable surface, this minimum bike lane would only be considered for short distance routing. New AASHTO says install 4-feet from gutter pan. Anything less is really uncomfortable. Future retrofits would then need to be considered to make the lanes 10' wide to allow for more space for adequate bike lanes.

Michael Sanders asked if Peoria's Complete Streets policy illustrates changes to bike construction standards to incorporate adequate bike lane width. Brandon Forrey responded that bike lane width is covered by Peoria's road's specs and details cross sections. Michael Sanders noted that ADOT worked with Flagstaff area to add bike lanes to a corridor that already had a shared-use path, to reduce bike street and driveway intersections crashes.

Margaret Boone noted that there were 64 counter safety measures for bike and ped and that the stakeholders group added "bike lanes" as a safety measure.

7. MAG Unified Planning Work Program

MAG staff proposed the Design Assistance program as a 2015 project and the committee was encouraged to submit options for one other project.

Maureen DeCindis explained that the MAG Unified Planning Work Program was being developed for 2015 and proposed that the committee consider requesting \$400,000 for the Design Assistance program. The committee concurred unanimously.

Maureen DeCindis also proposed that MAG purchase a specially mounted camera for a bike to capture segments along pathways. This would include video clips, still photos, wayfinding and directions for the on-line bike map.

No member had another idea for the Unified Planning Work Program. Katherine Coles encouraged members to submit ideas to MAG staff via email by the end of the week.

8. Update on the Transportation Alternatives Program and the I-10/I-17 Spine Study

MAG staff will provide an update on the Transportation Alternatives Program and on recent activity for the bike/ped bridge on the Sun Circle trail as part of the new I-10/I-17 Study. Maureen DeCindis reported that 34 projects have been submitted for infrastructure improvements under the MAP-21 Transportation Alternatives Program. There is a panel of nine evaluators: two representatives from the Bike and Pedestrian committee (Katherine Coles as chair and Denise Lacey as the committee's representative to the Transportation Review Committee (TRC); one representative from ADOT, Federal Highway Administration and Transit Committee plus two representatives from Safety Committee and two representatives from Streets Committee. There is \$12 million available and \$26,457,558 in requests. The Evaluation panel will hear presentations on December 5, 2013 and recommend a list of projects for approval to the Management Committee and Regional Council.

In 2001, Federal Highway Administration and ADOT initiated Environmental Impact Studies for capacity expansion of I-10 and I-17. At the completion of these studies, it was determined that the projects would significantly exceed the budget. As part of a reevaluation, ADOT and FHWA have suspended the current EIS studies. MAG in conjunction with member cities, ADOT and Valley Metro is initiating a corridor master plan. As part of the master plan, MAG will be identifying interim "spot improvements" along both Interstates 10 and 17. There was a meeting with ADOT on November 8, 2013, to discuss building the bicycle/pedestrian bridge next to the bridge crossing I-10 on Guadalupe Road. This project was originally approved as an Enhancement project in 2001, but due to lack of funds and the project being put on hold in anticipation of widening I-10, it was never built. This bridge would provide a critical link on the Sun Circle Trail/County trail system to Phoenix South Mountain park.

Eric Iwersen said that there was a meeting held in Tempe on this spine study and he encouraged other jurisdiction to look at other bridges and mitigation options for crossing the freeway.

9. Request for Future Agenda Items

Members will have the opportunity to suggest future agenda topics.

Kenneth Steel of Maricopa County Department of Public Health Data said that he would like to do a presentation on the data and resources that his department has available to assist cities and towns.

10. Next meetings:

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