

MARICOPA ASSOCIATION OF GOVERNMENTS

INFORMATION SUMMARY... for your review

DATE:

September 7, 2011

SUBJECT:

Amendment of the FY 2012 Unified Planning Work Program and Annual Budget to Provide Funding for a Northwest Valley Local Transit System Study

SUMMARY:

In December 2010, dial-a-ride services provided through Sun Cities Area Transit (SCAT) were eliminated. Since that time, MAG and Valley Metro/RPTA staff have been meeting with stakeholders to discuss opportunities to improve transit options in the Sun City area. As part of these discussions, the Arizona Department of Transportation has offered to provide \$160,000 in Section 5304 Statewide Planning funds to evaluate the short- and long-term transit needs for this area, which includes both rural and urbanized land. The proposed Northwest Valley Local Transit System Study would also include \$78,000 of matching funds from the MAG Regional Area Road Fund (RARF) for planning and administering the Regional Transportation Plan.

Once completed, the study will identify opportunities and strategies for improving the existing transit service in the northwest valley and to develop a short, mid, and long range local transit plan that effectively provides circulation within the northwest valley and also connects to the regional transit system.

Key project objectives are to:

1. Conduct a comprehensive, market based evaluation of current transit service and future needs in the northwest valley, and also connects to the regional transit system.
2. Develop a transit plan that effectively provides circulation within the northwest valley; specifically the communities of El Mirage, Glendale, Surprise, Peoria, and Youngtown, and the unincorporated Maricopa County communities of Sun City, Sun City West, Sun City Grand and Sun City Festival.
3. Ensure the study results are coordinated with ongoing regional transit plans and studies (e.g., Regional Transportation Plan, Regional Transit Framework Study, Sustainable Transportation and Land Use Integration Study).
4. Develop a market-defined, phased implementation plan for the short-, mid-, and long-range that strategically expands transit service over time, in concert with development trends and available revenues.
5. Develop a sound financial plan for the defined transit system that identifies capital/operating cost and potential sources of revenue.
6. Foster widespread community support for transit service through an effective public involvement program.
7. Develop an implementation road map.

PUBLIC INPUT:

None.

PROS & CONS:

PROS: This study will look for efficiencies in the current transit service and provide detailed evaluations for expanding transit service in the northwest valley for the short-, mid-, and long-range.

CONS: None.

TECHNICAL & POLICY IMPLICATIONS:

TECHNICAL: The resulting transit service study will identify capital and operating requirements, needs-based service options, and funding opportunities for transit service in the northwest valley.

POLICY: The Northwest Valley Local Transit System Study will provide decision-makers in the northwest valley with a comprehensive perspective on the needs and opportunities as well as the cost implications of implementing transit service.

ACTION NEEDED:

Approval to amend the FY 2012 MAG Unified Planning Work Program and Annual Budget to include \$238,000 for a Northwest Valley Local Transit System Study.

PRIOR COMMITTEE ACTIONS:

This item is on the September 7, 2011 MAG Management Committee agenda for recommendation to approve.

On August 11, 2011, the Transit Committee recommended proceeding with the Northwest Valley Local Transit System Study.

MEMBERS ATTENDING

- Phoenix: Karl Matzinger for Debbie Cotton
- * ADOT: Mike Normand
- Avondale: Rogene Hill
- * Buckeye: Andrea Marquez
- Chandler: Ann Marie Riley for RJ Zeder
- El Mirage: Leah Hubbard
- * Gilbert: Ken Maruyama
- Glendale: Cathy Colbath, Chair
- * Goodyear: Cato Esquivel
- Maricopa County: Mitch Wagner
- Mesa: Mike James
- * Paradise Valley: William Mead
- Peoria: Maher Hazine
- Queen Creek: Tom Condit
- Scottsdale: Madeline Clemann
- Surprise: David Kohlbeck
- Tempe: Greg Jordan for Jyme Sue McLaren
- * Tolleson: Chris Hagen
- Valley Metro Rail: Ben Limmer for Wulf Grote
- Youngtown: Grant Anderson
- Regional Public Transportation Authority: Carol Ketcherside

*Members neither present nor represented by proxy.

CONTACT PERSON:

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