

MINUTES OF THE  
MARICOPA ASSOCIATION OF GOVERNMENTS  
MAG REGIONAL COUNCIL EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

October 15, 2013

MAG Offices, Ironwood Room  
302 N. 1<sup>st</sup> Avenue, Phoenix, Arizona

MEMBERS ATTENDING

Mayor Scott Smith, Mesa, Chair	#Mayor Gail Barney, Queen Creek
Mayor Michael LeVault, Youngtown, Vice Chair	#Mayor Marie Lopez Rogers, Avondale
Mayor W.J. “Jim” Lane, Scottsdale, Treasurer	Mayor Lana Mook, El Mirage
	*Mayor Greg Stanton, Phoenix

\* Not present

# Participated by video or telephone conference call

1. Call to Order

The Executive Committee meeting was called to order by Chair Smith at 12:07 p.m.

2. Call to the Audience

Chair Smith stated that according to the MAG public comment process, members of the audience who wish to speak are requested to fill out the public comment cards. He stated that there is a three-minute time limit. Public comment is provided at the beginning of the meeting for items that are not on the agenda that are within the jurisdiction of MAG, or non-action agenda items that are on the agenda for discussion or information only. Chair Smith stated no comment cards had been received.

3. Approval of Executive Committee Consent Agenda

Chair Smith noted that prior to action on the consent agenda, members of the audience are provided an opportunity to comment on consent items that are being presented for action. Following the comment period, committee members may request that an item be removed from the consent agenda.

Chair Smith requested a motion to approve the consent agenda. Mayor Mook moved to approve items #3A through #3E. Mayor Lane seconded the motion and the motion carried unanimously.

3A. Approval of the September 16, 2013 Executive Committee Meeting Minutes

The Regional Council Executive Committee, by consent, approved the September 16, 2013 Executive Committee meeting minutes.

3B. Consultant Selection for the Public Opinion Quantitative and Qualitative Services

The Regional Council Executive Committee, by consent, approved the selection of WestGroup Research to conduct the public opinion quantitative and qualitative services not to exceed \$50,000. The Fiscal Year (FY) 2014 MAG Unified Planning Work Program and Annual Budget, as amended by the MAG Executive Committee on August 12, 2013, includes \$50,000 for Public Opinion Quantitative and Qualitative Services to better understand public attitudes regarding the current state of the MAG region's transportation system, key transportation priorities, and how willing people are to support various funding options in both Maricopa County and portions of Pinal County. On August 21, 2013, MAG issued a Request for Qualifications. Statements of qualifications were due on September 23, 2013. The MAG evaluation team met on September 27, 2013 and recommended to MAG the selection of WestGroup Research to contract with for these services.

3C. Consultant Section for the Southeast Valley Transit System Study

The Regional Council Executive Committee, by consent, approved the selection of URS Corporation to conduct the Southeast Valley Transit System Study for an amount not to exceed \$375,000. The fiscal year (FY) 2014 Unified Planning Work Program and Annual Budget, as approved by the MAG Regional Council on May 22, 2013, includes \$450,000 from federal and local sources for the Southeast Valley Transit System Study. The study will analyze transit efficiencies, services and ridership demand in transit-established and transit-aspiring communities within the Southeast Valley. This is a joint study between MAG and Valley Metro Regional Public Transportation Authority (RPTA). MAG will contribute \$350,000 and RPTA will provide \$25,000 as a cash match and \$75,000 an in-kind match. The consultant contract for the Study will be for an amount not to exceed \$375,000. On August 5, 2013, MAG issued a Request for Proposals to conduct the study. MAG received proposals from five consultant firms. A multi-agency evaluation team evaluated the proposals on September 23, 2013, conducted consultant interviews on September 30, 2013, and recommended to MAG that URS Corporation be selected to develop the Southeast Valley Transit System Study.

3D. Amendment to the FY 2014 MAG Unified Planning Work Program and Annual Budget

The Regional Council Executive Committee, by consent, approved to amend the FY 2014 MAG Unified Planning Work Program and Annual Budget to add an amount not to exceed \$75,000 from SANDAG, and increase the MAG Consultant Support for the AZ-SMART Enhancement On-Call Project from \$350,000 to \$425,000. The fiscal year (FY) 2014 MAG Unified Planning Work Program and Annual Budget, approved by the MAG Regional Council in May 2013, includes \$350,000 for the enhancement of the AZ-SMART Model system. The purpose of this

consultant support on-call project is to enhance AZ-SMART with regional econometric modeling, business location choice, and data development and visualization routines. The San Diego Association of Governments (SANDAG) has approached MAG to collaborate on the joint development of a regional econometric model system. The cost of the design and development for this custom software is estimated to be \$150,000 to be shared equally by MAG and SANDAG. The additional \$75,000 from SANDAG, along with its staff expertise, will help both organizations better utilize their resources in the development of a system needed by the two organizations. An amendment to the FY 2014 MAG Unified Planning Work Program and Annual Budget is being requested to add an amount not to exceed \$75,000 from SANDAG. The joint project will be conducted as part of the MAG Consultant Support for AZ-SMART Enhancement On-Call Project which is currently in the FY 2014 Work Program for \$350,000. With the approval of the amendment, MAG will enter into a Memorandum of Understanding with SANDAG to accept the \$75,000 and the Request for Qualifications would be issued for \$425,000 with \$150,000 dedicated for the development of a regional econometric model system.

3E. Amendment to the FY 2014 MAG Unified Planning Work Program and Annual Budget to Accept Funding to Support Aging Services Planning

The Regional Council Executive Committee, by consent, approved the budget amendment to the FY 2014 MAG Unified Planning Work Program and Annual Budget to include grant and cash match funding in the amount of \$145,504 from Grantmakers in Aging and the Pfizer Foundation, Benevilla, Duet, Arizona Grantmakers Forum, and Area Agency on Aging to support aging services planning. The FY 2014 MAG Unified Planning Work Program and Annual Budget (UPWP) was approved on May 22, 2013. On September 28, 2013, a \$140,000 grant from Grantmakers in Aging and the Pfizer Foundation was awarded to Regional Community Partners (RCP) for work on the Community AGenda, a national pilot project. This region was selected as one of five communities in the country to participate in this national pilot project. As part of the project, the region will implement pilot projects in Phoenix, Tempe, and the Northwest Valley; enhance the project's website, Connect60Plus.com; and host another conference on aging issues. Local partners are also providing cash match for the project. This includes contributions from the following entities: Benevilla \$300, Duet \$300, Arizona Grantmakers Forum \$3,904; and Area Agency on Aging \$1,000. This item is to accept this grant and approve an amendment to the MAG 2014 Unified Planning Work Program and Annual Budget (UPWP) increasing the budget for RCP by \$145,504.

4. Proposed Policy Guidance on Metropolitan Planning Organization Representation

Dennis Smith, MAG Executive Director, stated that at each member's place were copies of two letters signed by the National Association of Counties, National League of Cities, United States Conference of Mayors, Association of Metropolitan Planning Organizations, National Association of Development Organizations and National Association of Regional Councils. He added that The Federal Transit Administration (FTA) and the Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) have issued a proposed guidance on implementation of provisions of the Moving Ahead for Progress in the 21st Century Act (MAP-21). This guidance requires representation by

providers of public transportation in each metropolitan planning organization (MPO) that serves a transportation management area (TMA) no later than October 1, 2014. Mr. Smith stated that the purpose of the guidance is to assist MPOs and providers of public transportation in complying with the requirement. He added that MAP-21 requires that MPOs that serve an area designated as a TMA must include local elected officials; officials of public agencies that administer or operate major modes of transportation in the metropolitan area, include representation by providers of public transportation; and appropriate State officials. Mr. Smith added that NARC will be having a conference call later this week to see where other regions are on implementing this provision.

Nathan Pryor, MAG Government Relations Manager, added that this guidance proposes that only representation by providers of public transportation that operates in a TMA and are direct recipients of the Urbanized Area Formula Funding program will satisfy the defined legal provisions and that the specifically designated representative should be an elected official or direct representative employed by the agency being represented. Mr. Pryor added that the City of Phoenix is the only agency in our region that meets both of these requirements. He noted that in other cities such as San Francisco, California and Boston, Massachusetts, there could be multiple agencies that meet this two-part qualification. The question now becomes how do they choose their representative. Mr. Pryor stated that he is looking for input from this committee.

Chair Smith stated that in our region, we only have one agency that meets these qualifications and that is the City of Phoenix, therefore we really are not impacted. He noted that nationally, there are other regions that could be impacted. Mayor Lane asked if this is a matter of interpretation. Mr. Pryor stated that this provision is quite clear in terms of the qualifier.

Mr. Pryor added that MAG received a letter this morning from Steve Banta, CEO of Valley Metro, requesting that they be included in these conversations when they do occur. Mr. Smith stated that previous to the Proposition 400 election, Regional Council would appoint the transit representative on the Transportation Policy Committee. After Proposition 400 was approved, the State Statute provided that the Arizona Speaker of the House and the President of the Senate would make the business appointments to the Transportation Policy Committee, including a transit representative. Chair Smith added that the purpose of the federal law is to ensure that transit has a voice in the regional planning, and we have several overlays.

Mayor Mook asked if there is any reason why we would not want to comment. Chair Smith stated we already meet the law and we have adequate transit representation. Mr. Smith stated that we may know more after the conference call takes place with NARC. He added that if we are going to comment then it would be appropriate to take this to Regional Council. Mayor Lopez Rogers stated that she sees no harm if a representative from the Regional Public Transportation Authority (RPTA) holds a seat. Chair Smith stated that Valley Metro does not qualify because of the legal provision that states they must be a direct recipient. Mayor Lopez Rogers stated that if small cities do not have representation at RPTA, they may have it at Regional Council. She agreed that this should be vetted at the next Regional Council meeting.

5. Request for Future Agenda Items

Chair Smith asked if there were any requests for future agendas items.

6. Comments from the Committee

Chair Smith asked if there were any comments from the committee. There were none.

Adjournment

There being no further business, the Executive Committee adjourned at 12:10 p.m.

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Chair

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Secretary