

MARICOPA ASSOCIATION OF GOVERNMENTS

INFORMATION SUMMARY... for your review

DATE:

August 30, 2011

SUBJECT:

Consultant Selection for the Designing Transit Accessible Communities Study

SUMMARY:

The fiscal year (FY) 2012 MAG Unified Planning Work Program and Annual Budget, approved by the MAG Regional Council in May 2011, includes \$200,000 for the Designing Transit Accessible Communities Study. The purpose of the study is to develop strategies to make transit more accessible for pedestrians and bicyclists. On May 26, 2011, MAG issued a Request for Proposals to conduct the Designing Transit Accessible Communities Study. Seven proposals were received from AECOM, Moore and Associates, Otak, Alta Planning and Design, Civtech, IBI Group and Wilson and Company. On July 20, 2011, a six member multi-agency evaluation team interviewed three consultant teams and recommended to MAG the selection of Wilson and Company to conduct the Designing Transit Accessible Communities Study for an amount not to exceed \$200,000.

The American Public Transit Association (APTA) defines transit access as "the segment of an individual trip that occurs between an origin or destination point and the transit system." The goals of the study are: 1) to identify the challenges that are faced by transit users in the region when accessing transit; 2) recommend improvements, policies, and guidelines that are applicable in the MAG region; and 3) provide a cost analysis and a framework for funding options and prioritization.

PUBLIC INPUT:

No public input has been received.

PROS & CONS:

PROS: Currently in the MAG region, approximately 97 percent of all transit users approach the transit system by walking, biking, carpooling, or via kiss-and-ride; the remaining three percent drive alone and park in designated lots. This project will enable MAG and MAG member agencies to evaluate with and potentially improve the safety and comfort of pedestrian and bicyclist transit access in the region.

CONS: None.

TECHNICAL & POLICY IMPLICATIONS:

TECHNICAL: This project will provide planning, design, and technical support to member agencies that are trying to improve mobility for all users. There have been studies conducted in the region regarding bus stops, bicycling and pedestrian circulation, and street design but none have specifically focused on connecting non-motorized users with transit stops. This study will look for strategies that improve the safety, comfort and experience of the transit user.

POLICY: The findings of the project may provide funding and policy guidance toward improving transit accessibility for bicyclists and pedestrian in the region.

ACTION NEEDED:

Recommend approval of the selection of Wilson and Company to conduct the Designing Transit Accessible Communities Study for an amount not to exceed \$200,000.

PRIOR COMMITTEE ACTIONS:

On July 20, 2011, a multi-agency evaluation team reviewed and ranked the proposals and recommended to MAG the selection of Wilson and Company to conduct the Designing Transit Accessible Communities Study for an amount not to exceed \$200,000.

PROPOSAL EVALUATION TEAM

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Jason Crampton, City of Chandler
Jorie Breshnahan, City of Phoenix

Matt Dudley, City of Glendale
Maureen Decindis, MAG
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