

MINUTES OF THE
MARICOPA ASSOCIATION OF GOVERNMENTS
POPULATION TECHNICAL ADVISORY COMMITTEE

July 27, 2010
MAG Office, Saguaro Room
302 North 1st Ave, Phoenix

MEMBERS IN ATTENDANCE

Jim Bacon, Paradise Valley, Chair
Charlie McClendon, Avondale, Vice Chair
*Bryant Powell, Apache Junction
A- Andrea Marquez, Buckeye
A-DJ Stapley, Carefree
*Usama Abujbarah, Cave Creek
Sam Andrea for David de la Torre, Chandler
A-Mark Smith, El Mirage
A-Eugene Slechta, Fountain Hills
*Terry Yergan, Gila River Indian Community
Thomas Ritz, Glendale
A-Katie Wilken, Goodyear
*Gino Turrubiarres, Guadalupe

*Rick Buss, Town of Gila Bend
A-Linda Edwards for Kyle Mieras, Gilbert
Sonny Culbreth, Litchfield Park
*John Verdugo for Matt Holm, Maricopa County
*Wahid Alam, Mesa
*Ed Boik, Peoria
Chris DePerro, Phoenix
Dave Williams, Queen Creek
*Bryan Meyers,
Salt River Pima-Maricopa Indian Community
A-Eddie Lamperez, Scottsdale
A- Lloyd Abrams, Surprise
A-Arlene Palisoc for Lisa Collins, Tempe
*Anne McCracken, Valley Metro
*Lloyce Robinson, Youngtown

* Not in attendance

A - Participated via audioconference

OTHERS IN ATTENDANCE

Jerry O'Donnell, Census Bureau
Craig Echeveste, Census Bureau
Al Macias, Census Bureau
Heidi Bickart, MAG
Jami Garrison, MAG
Jason Howard, MAG
Peter Burnett, MAG

Kurt Cotner, MAG
Scott Bridwell, MAG
Jesse Ayers, MAG
Rita Walton, MAG
A-Molly Hood, Paradise Valley
Max Enterline, Phoenix
Eric Morgan, Avondale

1. Call to Order

The meeting was called to order at 10:00am by the Chair, Jim Bacon.

2. Call to the Audience

No comments were made by the audience.

Jim Bacon announced that Rita Walton is retiring effective August 6, 2010. Jim Bacon presented Rita Walton with a Resolution of Appreciation. The full POPTAC commended Ms. Walton and wished her best of luck in her future endeavors. Rita Walton said it has been a pleasure working with the MAG POPTAC and that it is her favorite committee.

3. Approval of the Meeting Minutes of June 22, 2010

Dave Williams moved, Thomas Ritz seconded and it was unanimously recommended to approve the meeting minutes of June 22, 2010.

4. Census Update

Jim Bacon introduced Jerry O'Donnell and thanked him for attending POPTAC. Heidi Bickart stated that the PowerPoint is available on the MAG web site for those attending via audio conference. Jerry O'Donnell, Denver Census Bureau Manager of Partnership and Data Services, gave a presentation of an overview of the American Community Survey (ACS), 2010 Census, and population estimates. Mr. O'Donnell provided an update on the U.S. Census Bureau efforts to wrap up door-to-door follow-up in the 2010 Decennial Census. He discussed the additional work that must be conducted before the final counts are announced next spring. He said during the next several months, the Census Bureau will conduct major quality assurance operations to ensure that the 2010 Census is an accurate and complete picture of everyone living in the United States. The Census Bureau is already conducting coverage follow-up on forms returned by mail and re-interviews as a check on employee performance. The Census Coverage Measurement program conducts field operations to determine the effective population and housing coverage within the 2010 Census. These operations are similar to the full decennial Census and the results are matched to measure the accuracy of the count. Coverage measurement crews will continue to work throughout 2010 and into 2011, but the Census Bureau is on track to deliver the state apportionment totals by December 31, 2010.

While work is ongoing for the decennial census, in October the Census Bureau is expected to release the numbers from the first American Community Survey (ACS). The Census Bureau has been gathering ACS information for the last five years. Starting this year, there will be an annual release of data, including population estimates. Mr. O'Donnell said the U.S. Census Bureau wants to avoid confusion regarding this release of data by ensuring that member agencies are aware of how the ACS numbers will differ from the official decennial census numbers. He said the ACS is continuous measurement which are period estimates and Census 2010 is from one point in time. He said there will be a new look for the American Fact Finder designed for the surfer of data. The Census Bureau is working on an e-learning tutorial for the American Fact Finder. He said the 5-year ACS data being released later this year is by 2000 Census geography. He noted that block group data from the ACS should be used as aggregates because of the possibility of large margins of error. Mr. O'Donnell distributed a timeline for 2010 Census data products. He said there will be a Summary File 1 for States in the American Fact Finder and a Summary File 3 from ACS in the American Fact Finder. He added that block group data will be downloadable.

Jerry O'Donnell thanked MAG for making communities aware of the 2010 Census.

Katie Wilken asked if the Census Bureau is using 2009 population estimates to determine if cities greater than 65,000 people will be included in the ACS 1-year data. Jerry O'Donnell replied yes; for 1-year ACS data they use the most recent Census Bureau population estimate and for multi-year ACS data they use an average of the population estimates.

5. Arizona Department of Commerce Update

Heidi Bickart thanked the member agencies for providing annexation information for the time period of April 1 to June 30, 2010. Ms. Bickart said this information will be sent to the Arizona Department of Commerce for use in the July 1, 2010 population estimates. She noted that the due date for supplying MAG with group quarters information was July 26th. She said she would be in contact with those agencies that have yet to respond and thanked those that have responded.

Rita Walton said Governor Jan Brewer established the Arizona Commerce Authority which is quasi-public and is to replace the Arizona Department of Commerce. She said the Council for Technical Solutions as well as the entire "Strategic Investment and Research" group headed by Bill Schooling (State Demographer) will be moving to the Office of Strategic Planning and Budgeting. She noted that Jessica Smothermon was leaving the Department of Commerce to take a job in the private sector. She thanked Allen Barnes and Jim Chang for attending MAG POPTAC, as they are MAG's contacts at the State for population estimates.

6. Major Developments Data Collection and Review

Jason Howard said MAG staff maintain a number of regional databases on an ongoing basis to assist member agencies. These databases are also used to develop an official set of population, housing unit, and employment projections.

He said MAG staff had completed a draft version of the Developments database. To ensure that we have the latest available information, MAG will be asking member agencies to review the Major Developments dataset for accuracy and completeness. Members of the MAG POPTAC will begin receiving review materials within the next week. These materials will be provided as Excel spreadsheets and shapefiles. Mr. Howard asked that members pay particular attention to the status of developments and total units expected to be built.

7. Data Collection Timeline and Major Data Collection Schedule

Heidi Bickart referred members to Attachment One, a schedule for the collection of data for the next 6 months. Ongoing data collection efforts include land use information, employment and residential completions. She noted that group quarters data is due to the Department of Commerce in August, not July as written in Attachment One.

8. Maricopa County Assessor's Office: Discontinuation of Accelerated Property Splits and New Subdivisions

Rita Walton said that Attachment Three states that on August 1, 2010 the Maricopa County Assessors Office will discontinue the free service to accelerate property splits and new subdivisions with accurate and prompt assignment of new Assessor Parcel Numbers (APNs). She said that it is important for all cities and towns to know that this is happening. The Assessor's Office is doing this in order to provide better service to their core business of providing normal business splits and subdivision functions within a four week time frame. She noted that accelerated parcel numbers for subdivision requests were submitted by developers within 10 days of a recorded plat and accelerated parcel numbers for splits and combines were submitted by property owners to get APNs. She said the Assessor's Office said they had notified all the cities and towns.

9. National Local Technical Assistance Program (LTAP) Training

Jami Garrison reported on the National Local Technical Assistance Program (LTAP). She said that the LTAP is the primary way that the Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) helps local transportation agencies learn about maintaining and improving their roads, innovative methods and materials, and ways to work smarter. In Arizona the LTAP is administered through the Arizona Department of Transportation (ADOT). Ms. Garrison said that the Arizona LTAP offers training and technical assistance to LTAP members for free and for non-member local government agencies they offer reduced rates on training. For example, a typical 2-day ArcGIS course offered through ESRI would be \$980. LTAP members could attend the course for free while non-member local government employees can attend for the reduced rate of \$290.

Ms. Garrison referred to agenda packet Attachment Four, which provides course descriptions for the classes offered through the Arizona LTAP. Most of the courses are specific to transportation, since LTAP is an FHWA program, but there are some courses on planning, grant writing and GIS that POPTAC members may find beneficial.

Ms. Garrison directed members to visit the Arizona LTAP website at azltap.org for a current course description list and training schedule. She said that if you look at the schedule today there are only a handful of classes actually scheduled. However, if there is a course offered in their course catalog/descriptions that you are interested in, contact them as they generally schedule courses as needed. Their phone number is 602.712.4050 and email is ttraining@azdot.gov. Ms. Garrison added that the courses are usually held in Phoenix at the ADOT training center located at 1130 North 22nd Avenue (under the I-10/I17 "stack").

10. Foreclosure Maps and Data

Rita Walton said based on interest at the last MAG POPTAC meeting, MAG staff have created a project page on the MAG web site that contains maps and data tables on valley foreclosures. She provided the URL: <http://www.mag.maricopa.gov/project.cms?item=12289>.

She said MAG staff obtain distressed residential property data from The Information Market on a regular basis. MAG locates each housing unit geographically, and plots both the foreclosures and pending foreclosures on maps. There are three maps for every time period. The foreclosure map shows all residential properties that have already been foreclosed and have not yet been purchased. The pending foreclosure map displays all residential properties that have received a letter stating the property will be foreclosed but have not yet been foreclosed. The third map combines the two into "distressed residential properties."

She said this analysis has been done for September 2009 and March 2010. June 2010 data will be available shortly. It is anticipated that MAG will produce the maps and analysis quarterly in the future.

11. HUD Sustainable Communities Planning Grant Program

On June 24, 2010, the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) made \$100 million available nationally to support the creation of regional plans for sustainable development through the Sustainable Communities Planning Grant Program. This program is offered through HUD in partnership with the U.S. Department of Transportation and the Environmental Protection Agency. The purpose of the Sustainable Communities Planning Grant Program is to integrate housing, economic development, and transportation planning in order to enhance the economy, environment, and social equity. On July 19, 2010, the MAG Regional Council Executive

Committee received a report on activities undertaken to determine an approach that puts the region in the most advantageous position and best reflects the priorities of the region. It appears that there is consensus for MAG to apply as the lead applicant on behalf of the Sun Corridor. A potential focus for this region could be developing green housing and jobs along high capacity transit routes and completing paths along the canal system. The application process is expected to be very competitive. Feedback will be solicited from the Committee to ensure the region's response to this grant will be competitive and reflect local priorities and activities. Please refer to Attachment Five.

Amy St. Peter said that Housing and Urban Development (HUD) Sustainable Communities Planning Grant Program makes \$100 million available nationally to support the creation of regional plans for sustainable development. Of this amount, \$5 million is available for large metro areas and \$2 million is available for small metro or rural areas. She noted the grant period is three years. She said applying for this funding now may position the region well if such plans become a requirement for the reauthorization of federal funding. She added that if the application meets certain threshold requirements, then all partners of the project can receive a "preferred sustainability status" that will make them more competitive when applying for other federal grants. Ms. St. Peter said the Notice of Funding Availability was released on June 24th with a deadline of August 23rd. This provided just 60 days to prepare a competitive application. She said MAG has been working hard to develop a response that puts the region in the most advantageous position and best reflects the priorities of this region. She said MAG did confirm with the US Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) that the Sun Corridor is eligible as a mega-region and will include the entire areas of Maricopa, Pima, and Pinal Counties. To date, MAG is aware of two other mega-regions applying (Utah and Florida).

Amy St. Peter said MAG has been working closely with the Pima Association of Governments (PAG) and the Central Arizona Association of Governments (CAAG) to identify unifying elements that retain flexibility and control at the local level. One area of focus that has been identified in this region is developing additional green housing and jobs along high capacity transit routes. She said CAAG and PAG are each taking approaches that respond to their needs. CAAG is very interested in economic development and PAG has been partnering with Imagine Greater Tucson in a visioning process. Unifying elements for the entire Sun Corridor include conducting a centers study, supporting the Arizona Health Survey by St. Luke's Health Initiative, conducting a tribal transit study, and completing the path along the canal system. Activity will be driven by the councils of governments and their member agencies with support from community partners. The organizational chart reflects that the Joint Planning Advisory Council is proposed to coordinate activity at the Sun Corridor level and will not dictate any activity or requirements to the councils of governments. The grant requires applications be submitted by consortia. She said MAG has been actively seeking partners to help fulfill this requirement and to assist with the activities proposed in the grant. The Urban Land Institute, Local Initiatives Support Corporation, Morrison Institute, regional and state transportation agencies, and a number of nonprofit agencies have all expressed interest in partnering on the grant. PAG and CAAG are in the process of identifying their partners now. She said the MAG Executive Committee approved the following four recommendations.

1. Recommend MAG as the lead applicant to work collaboratively with MAG member agencies, PAG, CAAG, and community partners to submit an application for the Sustainable Communities Planning Grant Program on behalf of the Sun Corridor by August 23, 2010. The application will request up to \$5 million for a three year period.

2. Direct MAG staff to solicit signed partnership agreements and memoranda of understanding from diverse representatives including but not limited to MAG member agencies, nonprofit agencies, educational institutions, and philanthropies. This will demonstrate a high level of community engagement and collaboration.

3. Recommend that the MAG Regional Council Chair sign a partnership agreement on behalf of the MAG Regional Council at the July meeting.

4. Recommend that MAG, PAG, and CAAG convene local stakeholders to identify strategies at the regional level and work with the Joint Planning Advisory Council to advise on the interfaces among the planning regions.

Amy St. Peter said the goal is to position the MAG member agencies to receive as much support as possible for local priorities where appropriate.

Charlie McClendon noted that a potential focus for this grant application is green housing and jobs along high capacity transit routes such as commuter rail, and since this region does not have commuter rail he questioned what MAG was looking at in terms of routes. Amy St. Peter replied that MAG was looking at possible routes and that MAG is launching a sustainable transportation and land use study that will look at proposed routes. Charlie McClendon said that is good and commented that the commuter rail study conducted by MAG a couple years ago evaluated possible routes using evaluation criteria based on conventional development that has occurred. He encouraged MAG to use different evaluation criteria in order to create a different style of development along the high capacity transit corridor. Amy St. Peter responded that HUD is asking all applicants to integrate their plans, so that current, older and new and emerging plans become one plan moving forward with one common goal.

Jim Bacon thanked Amy St. Peter for her informative update.

12. Regional Updates

No updates were provided.

13. Next Meeting of the MAG POPTAC

Chairman Jim Bacon said the next meeting of the MAG POPTAC is scheduled for Tuesday, August 24, 2010 at 10:00 a.m. The meeting adjourned at 11:06 a.m.