

**MINUTES OF THE
MARICOPA ASSOCIATION OF GOVERNMENTS
REGIONAL COUNCIL MEETING**

June 27, 2007
MAG Office, Saguaro Room
Phoenix, Arizona

MEMBERS ATTENDING

Mayor James M. Cavanaugh, Goodyear, Chair	Councilmember Mike Whalen for
Mayor Mary Manross, Scottsdale, Vice Chair	Mayor Keno Hawker, Mesa
# Councilmember Robin Barker, Apache Junction	Mayor Ed Winkler, Paradise Valley
Mayor Marie Lopez Rogers, Avondale	Councilmember Joan Evans for
Mayor Bobby Bryant, Buckeye	Mayor Bob Barrett, Peoria
Mayor Wayne Fulcher, Carefree	# Councilmember Peggy Neely, Phoenix
Councilmember Dick Esser, Cave Creek	Mayor Art Sanders, Queen Creek
* Mayor Boyd Dunn, Chandler	* President Joni Ramos, Salt River
Mayor Fred Waterman, El Mirage	Pima-Maricopa Indian Community
* President Raphael Bear, Fort McDowell	Councilmember Martha Bails for
Yavapai Nation	Mayor Joan Shafer, Surprise
Mayor Wally Nichols, Fountain Hills	# Mayor Hugh Hallman, Tempe
Mayor Fred Hull, Gila Bend	* Mayor Adolfo Gamez, Tolleson
* Governor William Rhodes, Gila River Indian	# Mayor Ron Badowski, Wickenburg
Community	Mayor Michael LeVault, Youngtown
Mayor Steven Berman, Gilbert	Joe Lane, State Transportation Board
* Mayor Elaine Scruggs, Glendale	Felipe Zubia, State Transportation Board
* Mayor Bernadette Jimenez, Guadalupe	F. Rockne Arnett, Citizens Transportation
Mayor Thomas Schoaf, Litchfield Park	Oversight Committee
* Supervisor Don Stapley, Maricopa County	

* Those members neither present nor represented by proxy.

Attended by telephone conference call.

+ Attended by videoconference call.

1. Call to Order

The meeting of the MAG Regional Council was called to order by Chair James M. Cavanaugh at 5:00 p.m.

2. Pledge of Allegiance

The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

Chair Cavanaugh noted that those participating by teleconference included Councilmember Robin Barker, Apache Junction; Councilmember Peggy Neely, Phoenix; Mayor Hugh Hallman, Tempe; and Mayor Ron Badowski, Wickenburg.

Chair Cavanaugh presented Regional Council membership certificates to Councilmember Robin Barker, Mayor Wayne Fulcher from Carefree, and Mayor Fred Hull from Gila Bend. Chair Cavanaugh welcomed proxies for the meeting: Councilmember Mike Whalen for Mayor Keno Hawker, Mesa; Councilmember Joan Evans for Mayor Bob Barrett, Peoria; and Councilmember Martha Bails for Mayor Joan Shafer, Surprise.

Chair Cavanaugh noted that materials at each place: for agenda item #5C, revised pages 9 and 10 of the Arterial Life Cycle Program, which were revised to reflect adjustments requested for two City of Mesa projects; for agenda item #9, a bill summary chart. Chair Cavanaugh noted that for agenda item #5I, the MAG Human Services Coordinating Committee recommended approval of the Social Service Block Grant revised allocation recommendations. Chair Cavanaugh stated that parking validation and transit tickets were available from MAG staff.

4. Call to the Audience

Chair Cavanaugh noted that according to MAG's public comment process, members of the audience who wish to speak are requested to fill out public comment cards. The opportunity for public comment is provided to members of the public to address the Regional Council 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. Citizens 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 Regional Council requests an exception to this limit. Those wishing to comment on agenda items posted for action will be provided the opportunity at the time the item is heard.

Chair Cavanaugh recognized public comment from Mike Hernandez, who thanked the Regional Council for the opportunity to speak. He stated that his comments involved public safety. Mr. Hernandez stated that ADOT Natural Resources Division does not post warnings to the community when they are going to spray with chemicals for vegetation control. He spoke about laws and regulations that govern air quality. Mr. Hernandez stated that Maricopa County, when fogging for West Nile Virus, notifies the communities through various media. He said that ADOT should follow the same practice. Mr. Hernandez stated that public safety must never take a back seat to infrastructure. Chair Cavanaugh thanked Mr. Hernandez for his comments.

Chair Cavanaugh recognized public comment from Dianne Barker, who requested a change to the May 23, 2007 minutes. Ms. Barker stated that CTOC is not doing its legislative duty to do a report. She said that Bill Hayden, ADOT staff, had volunteered his time to help her review what ADOT is doing in regard to the Life Cycle Program. Ms. Barker noted that the Transit Division had not yet provided its audit. She said that MAG should be concerned when ADOT has not provided all of the information regarding RARF. Chair Cavanaugh thanked Ms. Barker for her comments.

Chair Cavanaugh recognized public comment from Joe Ryan, who discussed paragraph C of his handout. Mr. Ryan noted laws that provide for public comment opportunities. He noted that sometimes comments are more technical in nature and require more than a three minute comment period. Mr. Ryan stated that he realized people do not want taxes to be higher, but most people do not realize that the half cent sales tax is one-third of what is needed and that one-third of that is not going to highways. Mr. Ryan stated that underfunding results in underbuilt freeway interchanges, which causes congestion and traffic backups. Chair Cavanaugh thanked Mr. Ryan for his comments. Mr. Ryan thanked Chair Cavanaugh for the extra time provided to him.

4. Executive Director's Report

Dennis Smith, MAG Executive Director, reported that the process for Title 34 procurement on the Regional Office Center continues. He noted that Valley Metro, Valley Metro Rail and MAG have been meeting with the landowner. Mr. Smith added that staff has also been researching land comparative estimates and a preliminary report will be provided at the July 9, 2007 Executive Committee meeting.

Mr. Smith stated that more than 200 people attended the Regional Human Services Summit on June 7, 2007. He expressed his appreciation to Mayor Lopez Rogers and to Mayor Manross for speaking at the event, and to the sponsors, ValueOptions of Arizona, ASU College of Human Services, APS, SRP, Arizona Department of Economic Security and the Arizona Council of Human Services Providers. Mr. Smith noted that nine projects to address a wide variety of human services were identified at the Summit. MAG will be reviewing the projects to identify which ones can be best implemented by MAG or by other community partners. Mr. Smith said that a report on the Summit is being drafted.

Chair Cavanaugh thanked Mr. Smith for his report. No questions from the Council were noted.

5. Approval of Consent Agenda

Chair Cavanaugh stated that public comment is provided for consent items. Each speaker is provided with a total of three minutes to comment on the consent agenda. After hearing public comments, any member of the Council can request that an item be removed from the consent agenda and considered individually. He noted that agenda items #5A, #5B, #5C, #5D, #5E, #5F, #5G, #5H, and #5I were on the consent agenda. Chair Cavanaugh asked members if they had any questions or any requests to hear an item individually. None were noted.

Chair Cavanaugh recognized public comment from Mr. Ryan, who commented on agenda items #5B, #5C, #5D, and #5F. He said that he would discuss paragraphs A and B in his handout. Mr. Ryan stated that the key strategy should be making Arizona more competitive. He said that transportation plays an important role. Mr. Ryan stated that keeping costs low is important and the trolley has one of the highest costs. He also said that having peak hour only commuter trains is not a good option, because more frequency than that is needed. Mr. Ryan said that he thought landowners should pay ADOT for putting freeways through their property, because freeways increase land value. Chair Cavanaugh thanked Mr. Ryan for his comments.

Mayor Schoaf moved to approve consent agenda items #5A, #5B, #5C, #5D, #5E, #5F, #5G, #5H, and #5I. Councilmember Esser seconded, and the motion carried unanimously.

5A. Approval of the May 23, 2007 Meeting Minutes

The Regional Council, by consent, approved the May 23, 2007 meeting minutes.

5B. Federal Fiscal Year 2007 MAG Federal Funds Interim Closeout and Amendments/Adjustments to the FY 2007-2011 MAG Transportation Improvement Program and the FY 2007 MAG Unified Planning Work Program and Annual Budget

The Regional Council, by consent, approved the FFY 2007 interim closeout, as shown in the attached Tables, and of amending/adjusting the FY 2007-2011 MAG TIP and the FY 2007 MAG Unified Planning Work Program and Annual Budget to allow the projects to proceed. In April 2007, the Regional Council approved the deferral of 28 projects, totaling \$39.9 million. Since then, one project has been identified that will not be deferred, and four projects have been requested to be deferred. The interim closeout has established that there should be at least \$13.79 million in uncommitted MAG federal funds available for the current fiscal year. In addition, there may be \$1 million to \$2 million in redistributed Obligation Authority. Member agencies have submitted requests for closeout projects totaling \$9.34 million. To utilize available funds, the MAG Transportation Review Committee and the MAG Management Committee recommended that the Federal Fiscal Year (FFY) 2007 closeout funds be allocated according to the projects listed (Table B), and recommended approving the interim closeout of FFY 2007. An Amendment/ Adjustment to the FY 2007-2011 MAG Transportation Improvement Program and the FY2007 MAG Unified Planning Work Program and Annual Budget will be necessary if the interim closeout is approved.

5C. Draft FY 2008 Arterial Life Cycle Program and Administrative Adjustment to the FY 2007 Arterial Life Cycle Program

The Regional Council, by consent, approved the Draft FY 2008 Arterial Life Cycle Program and an Administrative Adjustment to the FY 2007 Arterial Life Cycle Program. The Regional Transportation Plan (RTP) identifies a total of 94 arterial street projects, which have been programmed by year in the Arterial Life Cycle Program (ALCP). The arterial street projects will be directly funded from the regional sales tax and from MAG federal funds. As part of the ALCP process, Lead Agencies are required to update ALCP Project information at least once a year. MAG staff has programmed the Draft FY 2008 ALCP using this Project information, and the projected revenue streams of the Regional Area Road Fund (RARF), MAG Surface Transportation Program funds (STP-MAG), and Congestion Mitigation and Air Quality (CMAQ) funds. The final reimbursement requests for FY 2007 are underway and there have been requests to administratively adjust the reimbursements for 2007. Since the MAG Transportation Review Committee and the MAG Management Committee recommended approval, three additional projects have been identified that need to be administratively adjusted. The adjustments do not negatively affect the FY 2007 ALCP budget.

5D. Amendment of the FY 2007-2011 MAG Transportation Improvement Program and Consultant Selection for the US-60/Grand Avenue, from SR-303L/Estrella Freeway to SR-74, Access Management Plan Study

The Regional Council, by consent, approved amending the FY 2007-2011 MAG Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) to include \$500,000 of MAG Surface Transportation Program (STP) funds for the US-60/Grand Avenue Access Management Plan, of carrying forward the funds from the FY 2007 MAG Unified Planning Work Program and Annual Budget to the FY 2008 MAG Unified Planning Work Program and Annual Budget, and of selecting the firm Wilson & Company to provide consulting services for the US-60/Grand Avenue Access Management Plan Study for the segment between SR-74 and SR-303L, for an amount not to exceed \$538,000. On October 16, 2006, the Regional Council Executive Committee approved amending the FY 2007 MAG Unified Planning Work Program and Annual Budget to include \$538,000 to conduct the US-60/Grand Avenue Access Management Plan. Funding for the project comes from MAG federal Surface Transportation Program (STP) funds (\$500,000) and the City of Surprise (\$38,000). The STP funds (\$500,000) were inadvertently omitted from the MAG Transportation Improvement Program (TIP). Therefore, the FY 2007-2011 MAG TIP needs to be amended to include the project. A Request for Proposals for the project was advertised on February 22, 2007 and one proposal was received. A multi-agency group reviewed the proposal and determined it met the scope of services, qualifications, and budgetary guidelines outlined in the Request for Proposals. This review group recommended to MAG that Wilson & Company be selected to conduct the study for an amount not to exceed \$538,000. The MAG Regional Council Executive Committee recommended approval of the TIP Amendment and the consultant selection.

5E. Conformity Consultation

The Maricopa Association of Governments is conducting consultation on a conformity assessment for an amendment to the FY 2007-2011 MAG Transportation Improvement Program (TIP). The proposed amendment includes minor project revisions to existing projects in the TIP as part of the Interim Closeout of the Federal FY 2007 MAG Federally Funded Program. Minor project revisions do not require a conformity determination. Comments on the conformity assessment were requested by June 22, 2007. This item was on the agenda for consultation.

5F. MAG 9-1-1 Five Year Plan 2007 Update

The Regional Council, by consent, approved the MAG 9-1-1 Five Year Plan 2007 Update. On November 1, 2000, the MAG Regional Council approved the MAG 9-1-1 Five Year Plan. The MAG 9-1-1 Five Year Plan now needs to be updated to provide guidance for the MAG 9-1-1 system for the next five years. During the past year, a working group comprising Public Safety Answering Point (PSAP) Managers and the Maricopa Region 9-1-1 Office staff, worked on an update to the Plan by reviewing the current state of the system and making recommendations for the direction of the 9-1-1 system. The ultimate goal of this review was to determine how the 9-1-1 system could continue to provide the highest level of service to the communities that are served by the system. Issues of the 9-1-1 system reviewed in this plan update are: The staffing level of 9-1-1 Administration; formalized process to capture statistical data; decrease of the 9-1-1 fund; need for system lifecycles or software maintenance plan; influx of new technology; telecommunicator training and public education; new communications

technological enhancements; recovery procedures; best use of resources. The draft update was recommended by the MAG PSAP Managers Group, the MAG 9-1-1 Oversight Team, and the MAG Management Committee.

5G. Consultant Selection for the Financial Auditor for the Maricopa Association of Governments

The Regional Council, by consent, approved the selection of the firm Cronstrom, Osuch and Company, P.C., to perform the MAG annual financial audit for fiscal years 2007 through 2011. The Maricopa Association of Governments requested proposals from qualified firms of certified public accountants to audit the financial statements for five consecutive years beginning in fiscal year 2007. In response to the Request for Proposals released in April 2007, MAG received three proposals from qualified certified public accountant firms, including Heinfeld, Meech & Co., P.C.; Henry and Horne, L.L.P.; and Cronstrom, Osuch and Company, P.C. The MAG Audit Selection Team reviewed the proposals and met to do a final evaluation of the proposals on May 3, 2007. The MAG Audit Selection Team recommended to MAG that Cronstrom, Osuch and Company, P.C. be selected to perform the financial audit at MAG for the period beginning FY 2007 through FY 2011. The MAG Management Committee recommended approval of the selection.

5H. Urban Land Institute Reality Check

The Regional Council, by consent, approved MAG participating in the Urban Land Institute Reality Check Program by providing data for the exercise and for the MAG member agencies to participate in the event. The Arizona Chapter of the Urban Land Institute (ULI) is tentatively planning to sponsor one of the organization's signature events in the MAG region. The ULI's Reality Check is a one-day, participatory, regional visioning exercise to engage leaders in a regional dialogue on growth issues. Representatives from ULI Arizona have contacted MAG staff to see if MAG member agencies would be interested in participating in the Reality Check. Reality Check is a visioning exercise that allows regional leaders to work in diverse groups of 8-10 individuals in an effort to analyze the region's expected growth. The exercise is designed to provide a region wide awareness of the level of growth that is expected; recognize the legitimate points of view of different stakeholders; and lay the foundation for the development of a concrete list of next steps to assure quality growth to meet the region's needs in the future. Reality Check exercises have been successfully held in Los Angeles, CA, Washington, DC, North Texas, and Maryland. There are also plans to hold Reality Checks in Seattle, Washington; Tampa Bay, Florida; and other regions in Arizona. Representatives from the organization have requested that MAG assist in the effort by providing data and participation from MAG's member agencies in the event. The MAG Management Committee recommended approval.

5I. Social Service Block Grant Revised Allocation Recommendations

The Regional Council, by consent, approved the revised allocation recommendations for the FY 2008 Social Service Block Grant. In May 2007, the Arizona Department of Economic Security (DES) notified MAG that the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services is requiring revised allocation recommendations for the Social Services Block Grant (SSBG) reflecting a 19.722 percent budget cut proposed at the federal level. Also in May, the MAG Regional Council approved a resolution supporting level or increased funding for four federal programs, including SSBG. While it is hoped that the

proposed budget cut will not be approved, a revised plan needs to be submitted to DES by the end of June. In response to the requirement for a revised plan, the MAG Human Services Technical Committee developed recommendations for how the proposed reduction in funding should be applied to the four target groups and services. The Management Committee and the MAG Human Services Coordinating Committee recommended approval of the revised allocation recommendations.

6. Requested Material Changes to the ADOT Program

Eric Anderson, MAG Transportation Director, reported on program changes for FY 2007 and FY 2008 requested by the Arizona Department of Transportation (ADOT). Mr. Anderson advised that MAG is statutorily required to approve material changes to the ADOT Life Cycle Program.

Mr. Anderson reviewed the requested changes that include increasing the FY 2007 construction budget by \$3.3 million to a total of \$32.3 million on the US 93/Wickenburg Bypass project. Mr. Anderson explained that the cost increase is the result of utility relocations, retaining walls, and flood protection.

Mr. Anderson stated that ADOT has requested changes to the I-17, SR 101 to Jomax Road project, which includes increasing the FY 2008 construction budget by \$13 million to a total of \$84 million. He advised that the cost increase includes an additional southbound lane between Pinnacle Peak Road and Deer Valley Road to reduce weaving movements, additional drainage work, an increase the pavement thickness to accommodate heavy truck volumes and soil conditions, and revised unit costs. Mr. Anderson noted that some of the cost increase is being funded by Maricopa County Flood Control District and the City of Phoenix.

Mr. Anderson stated that ADOT has also requested that the FY 2007 design budget for the SR 303, Happy Valley Road to I-17 project be increased by \$5.282 million to a total of \$19.282 million. This includes the cost to design the system interchange that will be required to connect L303 to SR 74. Mr. Anderson explained that when the section of SR 74 between Lake Pleasant Boulevard to I-17 is completed, it will be taken off the state system, but first, ADOT needs to design the system connection so that right-of-way can be identified.

Mr. Anderson stated that a change is also requested to add a new \$4 million pavement preservation project for FY 2008 for the SR 347, County Line to Queen Creek Road traffic interchange. He explained that this project will connect the City of Maricopa with the Queen Creek traffic interchange on I-10. Mr. Anderson advised that funding for this project will be provided by ADOT's Pavement Preservation state fund.

Mr. Anderson stated that the requested changes add \$25.582 million of costs of which \$6 million of additional funding is being added to the program. He advised that MAG has reviewed the requested changes and determined that they are reasonable and necessary to meet the RTP Freeway Program. He added that MAG has also reviewed the ADOT cash flows with the requested changes incorporated into the analysis. The additional costs reduce the cash balances in the ADOT program however, the balances for FY 2007 and FY 2008 are above the minimum balance guidelines used by ADOT to manage the program. These requested changes, therefore, can be incorporated into the program without affecting

other future projects. Chair Cavanaugh thanked Mr. Anderson for his report and asked members if they had questions. None were noted.

Chair Cavanaugh recognized public comment from Mr. Ryan, who said that the Regional Council could go down in history by issuing RFPs to U.S. manufacturers to develop a transportation system that does not exist today. Mr. Ryan spoke about how an elevated system would be the best option for reducing costs and taking cars off of jammed interchanges. Chair Cavanaugh thanked Mr. Ryan for his comments.

Mr. Arnett moved approval of the requested program changes. Councilmember Bails seconded, and the motion carried unanimously.

Mayor Badowski thanked the Regional Council for the assistance on their project.

7. Regional Freeway Program Update on Status of Studies and Construction Activity

Bill Hayden, Arizona Department of Transportation, provided an update on the status of studies currently underway. Mr. Hayden stated that the final design concept report and environmental impact statement for the study examining widening concepts along an 18-mile segment of I-17, from I-10 to Loop 101, are due in FY 2009. He noted that the study will identify feasible alternatives and provide cost estimates.

Mr. Hayden stated that the final scoping letter for the auxiliary lane project on I-10 from Southern Avenue to SR 143 is anticipated in July 2007, with construction beginning in FY 2008. He stated that the final project assessment of the five-mile segment of general purpose lanes on US 60 from I-10 to Loop 101 in Tempe is anticipated in FY 2008. Mr. Hayden added that is anticipated in July 2007, with construction in FY 2008.

Mr. Hayden stated that the study on the widening of I-10 from SR 143 to Baseline Road is underway, with the design concept report and environmental impact statement expected in May 2009, and construction is scheduled for 2010, 2011, and 2012. He noted that this is the segment that has received much publicity nationwide. Mr. Hayden added that he had brought a video that simulated the traffic and proposed design for the segment. It was decided that the video would be shown following adjournment of the meeting.

Mr. Hayden stated that construction of SR 85 to I-8 as a four-lane highway will begin in 2009. The final design concept report to add general purpose lanes to the Red Mountain from SR 51 to Loop 101 is due the end of June 2007, with construction anticipated in FY 2009. Mr. Hayden stated that the construction on the six miles of HOV lane improvements on the Red Mountain from Loop 101 to Gilbert Road is anticipated in FY 2009.

Mr. Hayden stated that the final design concept report and environmental assessment of the Loop 303, from I-10 to US 60 project is anticipated in September 2007. He said that construction is scheduled for FY 2011. Mr. Hayden stated that the final design concept report and environmental assessment for the traffic interchange to connect Loop 303 to the new SR 801 (I-10 Reliever) is due January 2009, with construction anticipated in FY 2011. Mr. Hayden stated that following that project will be the extension

south from I-10 to SR 801, scheduled for construction in FY 2018 and 2019 at a cost of approximately \$90 million.

Mr. Hayden stated that the draft environmental impact statement (EIS) on the South Mountain Freeway from I-10 east to I-10 west is in its final review process. He advised that the document reflects resolution to comments received from Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) and MAG. Mr. Hayden stated that upon completion of the review and the inclusion of environmental, engineering and technical comments, the document will be forwarded to FHWA for a legal sufficiency review. He said that upon satisfactory completion of the legal review, the document will be made available to the public. Public hearings will be held and the public will be invited to provide comments on the draft EIS. Mr. Hayden advised that all comments, questions, and other public input will be addressed and included in a final EIS, which will be submitted to FHWA for approval. Mr. Hayden said that after the final EIS, the final step in the environmental process is the Federal Record of Decision, which is anticipated to be approved in late 2008. He added that this will permit ADOT to proceed with the final design plans, and acquisition of necessary right-of-way. Mr. Hayden stated that construction is likely to begin at I-10 on the west side and head south, in FY 2010.

Mr. Hayden stated that the SR 801, Loop 202 to SR 85 project has been divided into two projects: from Loop 202 to Loop 303, and from Loop 303 to SR 85. He advised that the final design concept report and environmental assessment for the first segment of 15 miles are due July 2008; the design concept report and environmental assessment for the second segment of nine miles are due December 2008. Mr. Hayden noted that the engineering study for the new SR 802 (Williams Gateway), from Loop 202 to Meridian, is underway. He stated that construction is anticipated in FY 2016. Mr. Hayden indicated that advanced right-of-way activity is taking place utilizing STAN and RTP funds.

Mr. Hayden provided an update on the status of Regional Freeway Program construction. He advised that the quiet pavement (rubberized asphalt) application on I-10 from Van Buren to Baseline Road was completed earlier in June 2007. Mr. Hayden stated that construction for the addition of HOV and general purpose lanes on I-10 from Loop 101 to Sarival Road is scheduled for late FY 2009.

Mr. Hayden stated that construction of the Lone Mountain interchange to connect I-17 and Loop 303 begins this year. Mr. Hayden noted that the freeway widening of US 60 from Gilbert to Power roads was completed and opened June 2007. He added that the US 60/Higley Road and US 60/Glendale Avenue traffic interchanges improvements are anticipated to be completed in July 2007.

Mr. Hayden stated that the 3.5 mile segment of the Red Mountain Freeway, from University to Southern Avenue, will be opening this weekend. He advised that the five-mile segment of the Red Mountain Freeway from Power Road to University is anticipated to be completed in late summer or early fall 2008. Mr. Hayden noted that this segment will complete the Proposition 300 Regional Freeway System.

Mr. Hayden stated that the northern half of the Bethany Home traffic interchange on Loop 101 is under construction and should be completed this summer. He said that completion of the traffic interchange improvements on I-10 from 43rd Avenue to 51st Avenue is anticipated in 2008. The traffic interchange project on I-10 at Ray Road will be completed in July 2007.

Mr. Hayden said that construction has begun on the I-17 Jomax and Dixileta traffic interchanges project, estimated to cost \$47 million. Mr. Hayden said that the contractor is in place and is doing pre-construction work on the I-17/SR 74 traffic interchange improvement project. He noted that the larger project is the I-17 general purpose and HOV lane improvements extending from Loop 101 north to the Carefree Highway. Mr. Hayden added that this is a \$207 million project that has been divided into two segments.

Chair Cavanaugh asked Mr. Hayden asked about the next step after the completion of the South Mountain design concept report anticipated in late 2008. Mr. Hayden replied that the draft Environmental Impact Statement has been published and is being circulated for review by federal, state, and local agencies. He said that ADOT anticipates completion of that portion of the study and forwarding it to Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) for the legal sufficiency review sometime this summer. Mr. Hayden said that following this, public hearings would be held on the document. He noted that public input would be incorporated into the document and submitted to FHWA with the anticipation that the record of decision would be received late next year.

Chair Cavanaugh asked the next step after the record of decision. Mr. Hayden responded that the first step would be to initiate a full design concept report. He stated that ADOT could proceed with preliminary right-of-way activities. Mr. Hayden added that construction could not begin for one to two years.

Chair Cavanaugh asked if any issues with the acquisition of the north/south right-of-way were anticipated. Mr. Hayden stated that ADOT has been coordinating with the West Valley business community, and the City of Phoenix. He said that the eastern location from 51st Avenue to Ahwatukee remains a concern for residents. Mr. Hayden added that there could be further discussion or perhaps legal action.

Chair Cavanaugh asked those participating by telephone if they had any questions. None were noted.

8. Election of Regional Council Officers and Executive Committee Members

On May 23, 2007, the MAG Nominating Committee recommended a slate of officers for 2007-2008. The MAG officer positions are Chair, Vice Chair and Treasurer. In accordance with the MAG Nomination Process, three At-Large members were also nominated to serve on the Executive Committee. According to the MAG Nomination Process, the Past Chair of the Regional Council also serves on the Executive Committee.

Councilmember Esser, member of the 2007 Nominating Committee, reported on the recommendations of the Committee for the Executive Committee slate. He read the memorandum from Nominating Committee Chair, Mayor Keno Hawker, dated May 29, 2007. Councilmember Esser stated that the Nominating Committee recommended Mayor James Cavanaugh as Chair, Mayor Mary Manross as Vice Chair, Councilmember Peggy Neely as Treasurer, Mayor Steve Berman, Mayor Thomas Schoaf, and Mayor Marie Lopez Rogers as At-Large Members, and Mayor Keno Hawker as Past Chair. Chair Cavanaugh thanked Councilmember Esser for his report. He asked if there were any other nominations or removals. None were noted.

Councilmember Bails moved to elect the slate recommended by the Nominating Committee. Councilmember Esser seconded, and the motion carried unanimously.

9. Legislative Update

Matthew Clark, MAG Senior Policy Planner, provided an update on legislative issues of interest. He said that the House and Senate adjourned June 21, 2007 after passing the budget.

Mr. Clark reviewed the provisions of House Bill (HB) 2781, which includes \$62 million for the Statewide Transportation Acceleration Needs (STAN) account and funding for the Arizona Department of Transportation and for the Maricopa County Travel Reduction Plan.

Mr. Clark stated that HB 2793 extends the allowable repayment period for State Highway Fund bonds from 20 to 30 years. It also includes provisions on railroad right-of-way, the Highway Expansion and Extension Program Fund (HELP), and the STAN account. Mr. Clark noted that funding for the statewide framework studies was not included, but assurances have been made that they will be funded.

Mr. Clark noted that the creation of a Blue Ribbon Transportation Committee was included in Senate Bill (SB) 1640. He then reviewed the composition of the committee and its responsibilities.

Mr. Clark stated that HB 2486 was signed into law on June 20, 2007. He said that it would allow county residents to establish a road and maintenance district with the purpose of building a community road to less than county standards.

Mr. Clark stated that the air quality bill, SB 1552, has been transmitted to the Governor. Mr. Clark stated that many of the measures approved by the MAG Regional Council were included in the bill. He then reviewed the provisions on unpaved roads, parking areas, vacant lots, leaf blowers, street sweepers, off-highway vehicles, agricultural best management practices, and dust control training. Chair Cavanaugh thanked Mr. Clark for his report.

Mr. Arnett asked if SB 1552 would take care of the air quality problem and what was not included in the bill that MAG wanted. Lindy Bauer, MAG Environmental Director, replied that the bill would not solve all of the PM-10 air quality problems. She added that detail was still needed from local governments on unpaved roads, alleys, shoulders, and parking lots, to get credit. Ms. Bauer advised that local governments are working hard on resolutions and commitments to implement the measures. Mr. Smith noted that MAG requested funding to assist the cities and towns with enforcement and the county with paving dirt roads, but none was provided.

Councilmember Whalen inquired about the placement of air quality monitors. Ms. Bauer replied that the Maricopa County Air Quality Department has official monitoring networks that have to meet the requirements of the Environmental Protection Agency. She advised that each year, the County goes through a network review; sometimes monitors are added; sometimes monitors are moved. Councilmember Whalen noted that some monitors are nearby active gravel pits and asked if there was any appeals process regarding these decisions. Ms. Bauer replied that she would contact the County about the process.

Mr. Smith commented that new dirt roads are formed due to the lot splits taking place in the unincorporated parts of the County. He said that MAG approved an additional \$5 million in emergency funds last month to pave dirt roads. Ms. Bauer advised that prohibiting new dirt roads was a measure included in the Suggested List of Measures. She explained how dirt roads are created during lot splits, and when the dirt roads become public roads, MAG spends its public money to pave them. Ms. Bauer noted that the Legislature was asked to put a stop to new dirt roads. The Maricopa County Air Quality and Planning Departments put forth a proposal that to receive a building permit would require paving of roads first. Ms. Bauer noted that this proposal was met with opposition by the Board of Realtors and was not included in the bill. She advised that MAG is currently doing an inventory of dirt roads. She added that a map might make a compelling argument.

Vice Chair Manross asked how HB 2486, which allows roads to be built to less-than-county standard, would mean in the context of dirt roads and the standards that must be met by this region. Mr. Clark replied that he felt the intent of the legislation was to allow the residents living with dirt roads to form a district to tax themselves for road improvements. Mayor Manross stated that her concern was why some roads would not have to meet county standards. Mr. Anderson replied that staff expressed concern for allowing roads to be built less than standard. He stated that the road could be within an area that is subsequently annexed by a city or town, and then becomes that jurisdiction's responsibility. Mr. Anderson advised that there could be safety and liability concerns. Vice Chair Manross commented that it sounded like some roads would be exempt from the burdens others have to meet.

Chair Cavanaugh asked those participating telephonically if they had questions. None were noted.

10. Comments from the Council

An opportunity will be provided for Regional Council members to present a brief summary of current events. The Regional Council is not allowed to propose, discuss, deliberate or take action at the meeting on any matter in the summary, unless the specific matter is properly noticed for legal action.

No comments from the Council were noted.

There being no further business, the Regional Council meeting adjourned at 6:05 p.m.

Chair

Secretary