

MARICOPA ASSOCIATION OF GOVERNMENTS

INFORMATION SUMMARY... for your review

DATE:

May 17, 2011

SUBJECT:

Conformity Consultation

SUMMARY:

The Maricopa Association of Governments is conducting consultation on a conformity assessment for an amendment and administrative modification to the FY 2011-2015 MAG Transportation Improvement Program (TIP). The amendment and administrative modification involve several projects, including transit projects and projects for the Federal Fiscal Year 2011 MAG Federal Fund Closeout. The amendment includes projects that may be categorized as exempt from conformity determinations. The administrative modification includes minor project revisions that do not require a conformity determination. Comments on the conformity assessment are requested by May 20, 2011.

PUBLIC INPUT:

An opportunity for public comment was provided at the May 11, 2011 Management Committee meeting and no public comments were received.

PROS & CONS:

PROS: Interagency consultation for the amendment and administrative modification notifies the planning agencies of project modifications to the TIP.

CONS: The review of the conformity assessment requires additional time in the project approval process.

TECHNICAL & POLICY IMPLICATIONS:

TECHNICAL: The amendment and administrative modification may not be considered until the consultation process for the conformity assessment is completed.

POLICY: Federal transportation conformity regulations require interagency consultation on development of the transportation plan, TIP, and associated conformity determinations to include a process involving the Metropolitan Planning Organization, State and local air quality planning agencies, State and local transportation agencies, Environmental Protection Agency, Federal Highway Administration, and the Federal Transit Administration. Consultation on the conformity assessment has been conducted in accordance with federal regulations, MAG Conformity Consultation Processes adopted by the Regional Council in February 1996 and MAG Transportation Conformity Guidance and Procedures adopted by the Regional Council in March 1996. In addition, federal guidance is followed in response to court rulings regarding transportation conformity.

ACTION NEEDED:

Consultation.

PRIOR COMMITTEE ACTIONS:

Management Committee: This item was on the agenda of the May 11, 2011 MAG Management Committee meeting for consultation.

MEMBERS ATTENDING

- Carl Swenson, Peoria, Chair
- Charlie Meyer, Tempe, Vice Chair
- # Matt Busby for George Hoffman, Apache Junction
- Charlie McClendon, Avondale
- * Stephen Cleveland, Buckeye
- Gary Neiss, Carefree
- Wayne Anderson for Usama Abujbarah, Cave Creek
- Patrice Kraus for Rich Dlugas, Chandler
- Leah Hubbard for Spencer Isom, El Mirage
- * Phil Dorchester, Fort McDowell Yavapai Nation
- Julie Ghetti for Rick Davis, Fountain Hills
- Rick Buss, Gila Bend
- * David White, Gila River Indian Community
- Collin DeWitt, Gilbert
- Brent Stoddard for Ed Beasley, Glendale
- Mark Gaillard for John Fischbach, Goodyear
- Bill Hernandez, Guadalupe
- Sonny Culbreth for Darryl Crossman, Litchfield Park
- Kari Kent for Christopher Brady, Mesa
- David Andrews for Jim Bacon, Paradise Valley
- David Cavazos, Phoenix
- # Wendy Kaserman for John Kross, Queen Creek
- * Bryan Meyers, Salt River Pima-Maricopa Indian Community
- David Richert, Scottsdale
- Michael Celaya for Mark Coronado, Surprise
- # Chris Hagen for Reyes Medrano, Tolleson
- Gary Edwards, Wickenburg
- Lloyce Robinson, Youngtown
- Tim Wolfe for John Halikowski, ADOT
- John Hauskins for David Smith, Maricopa County
- * David Boggs, Valley Metro/RPTA

* Those members neither present nor represented by proxy.
 # Participated by telephone conference call. + Participated by videoconference call.

CONTACT PERSON:

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