

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

December 7, 2011
MAG Office, Saguaro Room
Phoenix, Arizona

MEMBERS ATTENDING

Mayor Hugh Hallman, Tempe, Chair
Mayor Marie Lopez Rogers, Avondale,
Vice Chair
Councilwoman Robin Barker, Apache Junction
* Mayor Jackie Meck, Buckeye
Mayor David Schwan, Carefree
Councilman Dick Esser, Cave Creek
Mayor Jay Tibshraeny, Chandler
* Mayor Lana Mook, El Mirage
* President Clinton Pattea, Fort McDowell
Yavapai Nation
Mayor Jay Schlum, Fountain Hills
* Mayor Ron Henry, Gila Bend
* Governor William Rhodes, Gila River Indian
Community
Mayor John Lewis, Gilbert
Mayor Elaine Scruggs, Glendale
Mayor Georgia Lord, Goodyear
Mayor Yolanda Solarez, Guadalupe

Mayor Thomas Schoaf, Litchfield Park
Supervisor Mary Rose Wilcox, Maricopa Co.
Mayor Scott Smith, Mesa
Mayor Scott LeMarr, Paradise Valley
Mayor Bob Barrett, Peoria
* Vice Mayor Thelda Williams, Phoenix
Mayor Gail Barney, Queen Creek
* President Diane Enos, Salt River
Pima-Maricopa Indian Community
Mayor Jim Lane, Scottsdale
Mayor Lyn Truitt, Surprise
* Mayor Adolfo Gamez, Tolleson
* Mayor Kelly Blunt, Wickenburg
Mayor Michael LeVault, Youngtown
* Felipe Zubia, State Transportation Board
* Victor Flores, State Transportation Board
Roc Arnett, Citizens Transportation Oversight
Committee

* Those members neither present nor represented by proxy.

Attended by telephone conference call. + Attended by videoconference

1. **Call to Order**

The meeting of the MAG Regional Council was called to order by Chair Hugh Hallman at 5:07 p.m.

2. **Pledge of Allegiance**

The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

Chair Hallman noted that Roc Arnett, Councilmember Robin Barker, Mayor Bob Barrett, Mayor Michael LeVault, Mayor Marie Lopez Rogers, Mayor Georgia Lord, Mayor Jay Schlum, Mayor David Schwan, and Mayor Yolanda Solarez were participating in the meeting by teleconference.

Chair Hallman noted that this was the last Regional Council meeting for Mayor Lyn Truitt. He expressed appreciation to Mayor Truitt for his service to the MAG region. Mayor Truitt was applauded.

Chair Hallman noted that the amendment to House Resolution 1633 that was emailed earlier that afternoon was at each place.

Chair Hallman requested that members of the public who would like to comment fill out a blue public comment card for the Call to the Audience agenda item or a yellow public comment card for Consent Agenda items, or items on the agenda for action. He noted that transit tickets for those who used transit to attend the meeting were available from staff.

3. Call to the Audience

Chair Hallman noted that the Call to the Audience provides an opportunity to members of the audience who wish to speak 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 are requested to not exceed a three minute time period for their comments. A total of 15 minutes is 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 Hallman called forward Ms. Dianne Barker for public comment. Ms. Barker complimented MAG on the remodeled office space. She said that she knew MAG originally wanted a new building, but the taxpayers would appreciate the remodeling option more. Ms. Barker expressed support for funding for the study of high speed rail and for having standard types of rail in the region. She stated that when Arizona or MAG invests in corridor studies in cooperation with other states, contractors should be required to bring the manufacturing facilities here in order to bring jobs to this state. Chair Hallman thanked Ms. Barker for her comments.

Chair Hallman called forward Mr. Joseph Ryan for public comment. Mr. Ryan stated that MAG is responsible for transportation planning, which is a key element in the nation's economy, along with education. He stated that some transportation improvements, such as ramp metering, cause traffic congestion and pollution, and these are problematic when an executive is considering whether to locate his company here. Mr. Ryan stated that he objects to anything that slows down commute times, such as implementing new systems that add transfers to trolleys. Chair Hallman thanked Mr. Ryan for his comments.

4. Executive Director's Report

Dennis Smith, MAG Executive Director, reported on items of interest to the MAG region. Mr. Smith referenced the MAG-produced domestic violence video that was presented in October to the Regional

Council. He said that at that time, member agencies were requested to show the video on their municipal channel 11s, and as a result, MAG has been receiving calls from women in danger who have seen the video and are asking for help. Mr. Smith stated that this shows that the video is making a difference. He stated that a less graphic version of the video will be released Friday.

Mr. Smith announced that MAG was notified that it had received the Government Finance Officers Association Distinguished Budget Presentation Award for MAG's effective budget presentation. He noted that this is the 13th consecutive year MAG has received the award, and he added that in fiscal year 2009, only three councils of governments out of 1,254 in the U.S. and Canada received the award. Mr. Smith expressed his appreciation to the member agencies for their input into the budget and to Becky Kimbrough, MAG Fiscal Services Manager, and her staff. Chair Hallman extended congratulations on the award.

Mr. Smith stated that the 2012 Desert Peaks Awards will be held in conjunction with the Annual Meeting held in June. He said that MAG is requesting that Regional Council members submit names of community leaders with a solid understanding of regional issues for the judging panel. Mr. Smith noted that the sponsorship request letters are being mailed this week. He added that the call for entries will be issued in late January 2012 with a March 14 deadline for entry.

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

5. Approval of Consent Agenda

Chair Hallman noted that agenda items #5A, #5B, #5C, #5D, #5E, #5F, #5G, and #5H were on the Consent Agenda. He noted that no public comment cards had been received. Chair Hallman asked members if they had questions or requests to hear an item individually. None were noted.

Chair Hallman recognized public comment from Mr. Ryan, who stated his objection to a time limit on public comment at MAG, which he thought violates federal law. He said that when using federal money federal appropriations language says that the public should have as much time as they want to speak. Mr. Ryan stated that most people will change their course of action when they are doing something wrong. He said that he came from Philadelphia where they used to have trolleys, but many cities have removed them because they are costly. Mr. Ryan stated that before the vote for Proposition 400, many people pointed out there were errors in the environmental impact statement and the record of decision, which said that time would be saved going to the airport. He remarked that this is untrue because transfers are required. He said that these things make no sense, but no one says to cancel the trolley. Mr. Ryan described how a rapid transit system could be built at a low cost and less intrusion by using a process similar to what the Japanese are using. Chair Hallman thanked Mr. Ryan for his comments.

Mayor Truitt moved to approve the Consent Agenda. Councilmember Esser seconded, and the motion passed unanimously.

5A. Approval of the October 26, 2011, Meeting Minutes

The MAG Regional Council, by consent, approved the October 26, 2011, meeting minutes.

5B. Arterial Life Cycle Program Status Report

The Arterial Life Cycle Program (ALCP) Status Report provides an update on ALCP projects scheduled for work and/or reimbursement in the current fiscal year, program deadlines, revenues, and finances for the period between April 2011 and September 2011.

5C. FY 2012-2014 MAG Highway Safety Improvement Program Projects

The MAG Regional Council, by consent, approved the listing of selected projects for FY 2012-2014 Highway Safety Improvement Program funds. Starting in FY 2010, MAG has been receiving a total of \$1 million in federal Highway Safety Improvement Program (HSIP) funds from the Arizona Department of Transportation (ADOT) to be programmed for road safety improvements in the region. A total of 29 projects that were approved by the MAG Regional Council for FY 2010 and 2011 are currently being implemented. At the recommendation of ADOT, three fiscal years are being programmed to help expedite project implementation. On August 31, 2011, MAG issued a call for road safety improvement projects to be programmed in FY 2012-2014. A total of 23 project applications was received. The Transportation Safety Committee reviewed all the applications at its meeting on October 4, 2011, and recommended a list of projects for each fiscal year and the funding amounts. The list of projects was recommended for approval by the MAG Transportation Review Committee on October 27, 2011, and by the MAG Management Committee on November 9, 2011. Although the total estimated cost for FY 2012 slightly exceeds the annual allocation, it is expected to be approved by ADOT.

5D. Recommendation of Prioritized List of Proposed PM-10 Certified Street Sweeper Projects for FY 2012 CMAQ Funding

The MAG Regional Council, by consent, approved a prioritized list of proposed PM-10 Certified Street Sweeper Projects for FY 2012 CMAQ funding and to retain the prioritized list for any additional FY 2012 CMAQ funds that may become available due to closeout, including any redistributed obligation authority, or additional funding received by this region. The purchase of PM-10 Certified Street Sweepers supports committed control measures made in regional air quality plans to reduce particulate matter that becomes airborne from vehicle travel on paved roads. A revised amount of \$1,367,422 is available for distribution. The amount was revised due to \$46,226 now being available from the disposition of older street sweepers. With the funding now available, seven street sweepers may be funded in the region for Tempe, El Mirage, Scottsdale, Surprise (2), Phoenix, and Carefree. With the available funding, seven street sweepers may be funded in the region for Tempe, El Mirage, Scottsdale, Surprise (2), Phoenix, and Carefree. On October 27, 2011, the MAG Air Quality Technical Advisory Committee (AQTAC) recommended a prioritized list of proposed PM-10 Certified Street Sweeper Projects for FY 2012 CMAQ funding and to retain the prioritized list for any additional FY 2012 CMAQ funds that may become available due to closeout, including any redistributed obligation authority, or additional funding received by this region. On November 9, 2011, the MAG Management Committee

recommended approval of the prioritized list. Prior to the AQTAC recommendation, the MAG Street Committee reviewed the proposed street sweeper applications on October 11, 2011, in accordance with the MAG Federal Fund Programming Principles. Please refer to the enclosed material.

5E. Approval of Draft July 1, 2011 Maricopa County and Municipality Resident Population Updates

The MAG Regional Council, by consent, approved the draft July 1, 2011 Maricopa County and Municipality Resident Population Updates provided that the Maricopa County control total is within one percent of the final control total. MAG staff has prepared draft July 1, 2011 Maricopa County and Municipality Resident Population Updates. The Updates, which are used to prepare budgets and set expenditure limitations, were prepared using the 2010 Census as the base and housing unit data supplied and verified by MAG member agencies. Because there may be changes to the Maricopa County control total by the Arizona Department of Administration, on November 1, 2011, the MAG Population and Technical Advisory Committee recommended approval of these draft Updates provided that the County control total is within one percent of the final control total. On November 9, 2011, the MAG Management Committee recommended approval.

5F. Proposed 2012 Edition of the MAG Standard Specifications and Details for Public Works Construction

The MAG Standard Specifications and Details for Public Works Construction represent the best professional thinking of representatives from many agency Public Works/Engineering Departments, and are reviewed and refined by members of the construction industry. They were written to fulfill the need for uniform rules for public works construction performed for Maricopa County and the various cities and public agencies in the county. It further fulfills the need for adequate standards by the smaller communities and agencies who could not afford to promulgate such standards for themselves. The MAG Standard Specifications and Details Committee has completed its 2011 review of proposed revisions to the MAG publication. A summary of cases and a voting summary were provided. A summary of these recommendations also has been sent to MAG Public Works Directors for review for a period of one month. The package sent to the MAG Public Works Directors included links to the Draft MAG Standard Specifications and Details for Public Works Construction - 2012 Edition. This information is available online for review at the following internet address:

<http://www.azmag.gov/Events/Event.asp?CMSID=3905>. If no objections to any of the proposed revisions have been suggested within the month review timeframe, then the proposed revisions will be regarded as approved and formal changes to the printed and electronic copies will be released. It is anticipated that the 2012 edition will be available for purchase in January 2012.

5G. MAG Transportation Safety Committee Vice Chair Appointment

The MAG Regional Council, by consent, appointed Renate Ehm, City of Mesa, to serve as Vice Chair of the MAG Transportation Safety Committee beginning January 2012. On July 22, 2009, the MAG Regional Council approved the MAG Committee Operating Policies and Procedures. Officer appointments for technical and other policy committees will be made by the MAG Executive Committee and are eligible for one-year terms, with possible reappointment to serve up to one additional term by consent of the respective committee. According to the policies and procedures, the committee's vice

chair will ascend to the chair position, and letters of interest were requested for the vice chair positions to be appointed by the Regional Council Executive Committee. A memorandum was sent to the Transportation Safety Committee explaining that the officers of this committee have served their second one-year term. No letters were received for the Vice Chair position of the Transportation Safety Committee. On November 14, 2011, the MAG Regional Council Executive Committee recommended that MAG staff reach out to the Transportation Safety Committee members to fill the position of Vice Chair and forward that recommendation to the MAG Regional Council for approval. The name of Renate Ehm, City of Mesa, has been submitted to serve as Vice Chair of the MAG Transportation Safety Committee beginning January 2012.

5H. Metropolitan Business Planning Initiative Business Consultant Selection

The MAG Regional Council, by consent, approved the selection of Value Point for tasks five and six to guide the development of the business plan and prospectus with the greater economic development community for an amount not to exceed \$88,000. At the November 24, 2011 Regional Council Executive Committee meeting, the consultant selection for the Metropolitan Business Planning Initiative was considered. The Executive Committee selected Elliott D. Pollack and Company to perform tasks one through four (data collection and analytics) for the effort. For tasks five and six (develop the business plan and prospectus), the Executive Committee directed staff to collect more information from the review team regarding their preference for a business consultant if it were to proceed immediately. The review team was consulted and the majority indicated agreement to proceed with Value Point to develop the business plan and prospectus.

6. Salt Lake City/Utah Transit Authority Transit Tour

Marc Pearsall, MAG Transit Planner, provided an overview of the multimodal tour of the Salt Lake City/Utah Transit Authority transit system. Mr. Pearsall stated that about one year ago Peoria City Manager Carl Swenson requested that MAG examine the possibility of a tour to a peer region that best showcased mixing multimodal transit modes, while emphasizing the economic development benefit of that transit. He noted they looked into the peer cities of Dallas, Denver, Portland, Salt Lake City, San Diego, and Seattle. Mr. Pearsall stated that Salt Lake City rose to the top of the list because the location was relatively close and also Salt Lake City has gone to great lengths in the last 12 years to expand their transit service and programs.

Mr. Pearsall noted that 41 representatives from the MAG region attended the one and one-half day tour, which included a trip from Salt Lake City to Ogden on their front runner commuter rail system, which is an inter-urban system that runs every half hour, all day long. He noted that throughout the tour, the mayors of different municipalities stepped on board and told participants what the rail has done for their particular city and community and how it linked all the communities. The Ogden Mayor greeted them and gave them a bus tour of downtown Ogden and focused on transit oriented development and bringing people back to the downtown area.

Mr. Pearsall stated that the tools to renovate and focus on economic development were discussed. He said that these tools included the Utah Redevelopment Agency (RDA), Economic Development Agency

(EDA) and Community Development Agency (CDA) funding mechanisms. Mr. Pearsall noted that these types of mechanisms are not available in the MAG region.

Mr. Pearsall stated by 2015 Utah Transit Authority will have five light rail lines and two commuter rail lines. He noted the common themes and observations seen throughout the UTA team included cooperation, focusing on economic development through transit oriented development, enabling unique financing and funding options, centralized operations (one transit provider), engineering and technology innovations, linked policies for land use and transportation, and designation as a real estate broker (able to own land). He indicated that the UTA website (www.rideuta.com) contains more information. Chair Hallman thanked Mr. Pearsall for his report. No questions from the Council were noted.

7. Update on the MAG Five Percent Plan for PM-10

Lindy Bauer, MAG Environmental Director, stated that there were two exceptional events since the last Regional Council meeting, which brings the total of exceedances of the PM-10 standard to 101 in 2011. She noted that all but one of these 101 exceedances were due to high winds.

Ms. Bauer explained that the San Joaquin Unified Air Pollution Control District estimated that it took 453 hours of staff time to document one high wind exceptional event, and she stated that the work to document the 21 days of exceptional events in the MAG region to the EPA will require 1,189 work days. Ms. Bauer remarked that this imposes a tremendous workload on staff and MAG staff has been working closely with the Arizona Department of Environmental Quality (ADEQ).

Ms. Bauer stated that ADEQ submitted the first batch of documentation for July 2 to July 8, to the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) for comment. She noted that on November 22, EPA sent back a number of positive comments and suggestions that will be incorporated. Ms. Bauer stated that the plan is to officially submit the first batch by the end of December. Ms. Bauer noted that final guidance on exceptional events from the EPA is anticipated in early 2012.

Ms. Bauer stated that due to the extensive workload for documenting exceptional events, MAG has been working with its Washington, D. C., legal counsel regarding potential legislative remedies for exceptional events. Ms. Bauer stated that they drafted legislation that was provided to the Regional Council. She stated that the draft legislation, a section by section summary, and talking points were discussed at the November 14 Executive Committee. Ms. Bauer said that after the meeting, these materials were provided to the EPA in the hope that the materials could be of some help to EPA, but a response has not been received.

Ms. Bauer stated that Chair Hallman has been working with Senator John McCain's office on draft legislation. She said that the intent of the legislation is to come up with a reasonable approach that is acceptable and helpful to everyone and is based on the concept that states would make the determination on exceptional events after consultation with EPA.

Ms. Bauer stated that in addition to assistance by Senator McCain's office, Representative Jeff Flake's office contacted MAG and expressed an interest in helping. She said that Representative Flake now has

an amendment that would go on the farm dust regulation bill. Ms. Bauer stated that the amendment was authorized to be presented on the floor of the House today. She said that the idea behind the amendment is to make a statement, called a sense of Congress. Ms. Bauer stated that the amendment urges EPA to maximize transparency and predictability and minimize cost and burden to states, Indian communities, and local governments in documenting exceptional events. She reported that Representative Flake will propose the amendment on the House floor tomorrow. Ms. Bauer stated that just before the Regional Council meeting began, staff heard from the Washington legal counsel that the President may veto the farm bill. She expressed appreciation to Chair Hallman, Senator McCain, and Representative Flake.

Ms. Bauer then provided an update on the PM-10 Plan by saying that MAG has completed all but one of the chapters in the plan. She noted that information is still forthcoming from ADEQ on the general permits, agriculture rules, a committal SIP and a commitment to serve as a backstop for the dust action general permit in case benefits are not yielded as expected. Ms. Bauer stated that MAG can demonstrate attainment with the local measures being implemented and with the new dust action general permit measure. She added that Maricopa County adopted a resolution in November to track the effectiveness of their rules.

Ms. Bauer stated that she reported earlier on the request of Arizona State Legislator, Representative Reeve, for information from MAG on how cities and towns are enforcing their dust ordinances because she had heard from the private sector that the cities and towns had gotten off easy in enforcing the ordinances. She expressed her appreciation to the 23 cities and towns in the nonattainment area for submitting their forms back to MAG. Ms. Bauer stated that the City of Scottsdale met with Representative Reeve, and she indicated the meeting helped clear up some misconceptions. Ms. Bauer stated that Representative Reeve indicated that she may have a bill next session that all agencies would report on their enforcement efforts to ADEQ.

Chair Hallman thanked Ms. Bauer for her report and asked members if they had questions.

Mayor Lewis asked if there was anything Regional Council members should be doing to show support for Representative Flake in his efforts on the amendment. Ms. Bauer replied that she thought there might be a better feel after the amendment is presented on the floor, and perhaps ultimately, the Regional Council might want to take a position.

Mayor Smith stated that everyone supports transparency and minimizing cost burdens. He asked what changes EPA is expected to make regarding exceptional events. Ms. Bauer replied that they have heard that EPA intends to abandon the 25 mph speed for high winds and allow localities to determine their own wind speeds. She added that staff has not seen this in the final guidance yet. Ms. Bauer stated that the Representative Flake amendment does not fully address MAG's concerns, but the intent is to send a message to EPA that it needs to work toward that end.

Mayor Smith remarked that EPA has said this before. He said that it sounds like EPA has not provided any formal reply to the draft legislation. Ms. Bauer replied that was correct.

Mr. Smith stated that late that afternoon staff heard that those representing Imperial County, California, might have an amendment that a plan could not be disapproved if annual rainfall totaled 10 inches or less.

Chair Hallman stated that Senator McCain's staff is going back to research legislation to potentially attach the MAG bill.

Chair Hallman asked how many events were included in the first batch sent to EPA. Ms. Bauer replied that the first batch of documentation was for July 2 to July 6, so the number of events would be six. Chair Hallman asked if all events that happened on one day is a single event. Ms. Bauer replied yes, and she added that the first package was related to a particular series of events, but each day had to be addressed separately.

Mayor Scruggs asked for confirmation that the number of exceptional events for July 2 to July 8 was six. Ms. Bauer replied that was correct.

8. MAG Support for Electronic Technology to Reduce Copying and Mailing Cost

Audrey Skidmore, MAG Information Technology Manager, provided a report on the enhancements being made to the agenda process to better accommodate the use of electronic hand-held devices to access meeting materials. She said that after consultations with member agency staff and the MAG Technology Advisory Group to make accessing materials more user-friendly, the agenda packets will be posted on the MAG website and FTP site as a single, bookmarked document. Ms. Skidmore added that any changes to the original material will be posted as separate documents so as not to lose any annotations that a user has made. She noted that this process will apply to all MAG committees. Ms. Skidmore stated that they continue to make changes as suggestions to improve this process are received.

Chair Hallman thanked Ms. Skidmore for her report. He noted that some of the Regional Council members were using electronic devices at the table, and he said that these efforts could lead to a reduction in the amount of paper used.

9. Update on the MAG Economic Development Committee

Denise McClafferty, MAG Management Analyst, began the update on recent activities of the MAG Economic Development Committee (EDC). She said that the December 6, 2011, EDC meeting focused on innovation, and included a discussion on the Thunderbird Consulting Programs and an update on the Metropolitan Business Planning Initiative. The discussion on innovation included representatives from SkySong, Sandia Research Corporation, AZ TechCelerator (the Surprise Incubator) and INNOVATIONS Technology Incubator in Chandler. Ms. McClafferty stated that the speakers noted the importance of developing an environment and infrastructure that encourages and supports innovation as a means of promoting economic growth. They also discussed how innovation is linked to economic development and how it can help improve the region's economy.

Ms. McClafferty stated that staff has been working with the City of Nogales, the Arizona Mexico Commission, the Central Arizona Association of Governments and the Pima Association of Governments to coordinate a trip to the Nogales Ports of Entry on December 12, 2011. She indicated that there has been considerable interest from MAG, PAG, CAAG, ADOT and a few staff members from the Arizona Congressional Delegation, and so far, 51 people have registered to attend.

Ms. McClafferty stated that staff is also working with the Arizona Mexico Commission to coordinate a trip to San Luis on December 20, 2011, with MAG elected officials and the Mayors of San Luis, Yuma and Somerton to discuss issues involved in Punta Colonet, such as the Presidential Permitting process and rail crossings.

Ms. McClafferty stated that work continues with the Arizona Commerce Authority, ADOT, and the Arizona Aerospace and Defense Commission on a supply chain study for Arizona.

Ms. McClafferty stated that staff also continues to work with the Canada Arizona Business Council on a “meet and greet” event with Canadian businesses and elected officials in February 2012. She said that MAG staff attended the Canada Arizona Business Council Board meeting on December 2, 2011, at the Scottsdale Airport in the AirSprint hangar. Ms. McClafferty noted that Mayor Lane, Secretary of State Ken Bennett, Jerry Colangelo, representatives from the Arizona Commerce Authority, and several Canadian companies such as Capital Power, DIRTT, Stantec and Walton International, were in attendance.

Ms. McClafferty reported that staff continues to work with the Thunderbird School of Global Management to develop a scope of work for a Supply Chain Landscape Analysis including Arizona-Mexico nearshoring. She said that after meeting with the new Canadian Consulate for Arizona, Brad Niblock, he and his staff expressed interest in a Supply Chain Landscape Analysis for Arizona and Canada with a focus on better understanding trade and the movement of products or services.

Chair Hallman thanked Ms. McClafferty for her report. No questions from the Council were noted.

Amy St. Peter, MAG Human Services and Special Projects Manager, continued the presentation with an update on the Metropolitan Business Planning Initiative. She said that staff has been refining the analysis of the regional economy and the highlights were presented to the EDC for feedback. Ms. St. Peter stated that the highlights of the analysis will be presented to colleagues in Washington, D. C., this week. She noted that all of the teams from the first and second rounds of the Brookings Initiative program will be in attendance, and MAG was asked to be the first presentation because it is considered the best team.

Ms. St. Peter stated that Kathleen Lee from the Greater Phoenix Economic Council and part of the MAG team, will lead the discussion on the cluster analysis. She expressed that she felt the MAG team’s work was cutting edge, and this would be showcased in the presentations.

Ms. St. Peter stated that next steps include vetting the strategies. She said that some themes have begun to emerge from the data analysis and this will lead to identification of the lead initiative and the business plan and prospectus will be based on that.

Chair Hallman thanked Ms. St. Peter for her presentation. No comments from the Council were noted.

Chair Hallman recognized public comment from Ms. Barker, who stated that Brazil is making strides with its economy. She remarked that it has a good president. Ms. Barker stated that she has been reading about Brazil's bus and rail systems. She noted that the rail company, through the company Caterpillar, has been developing a tier four, EPA-approved electric diesel locomotive due out in 2014. She added that the company has facilities in San Luis and La Grange, IL. Ms. Barker stated that their competition, GE Transportation, also is involved with locomotives and has added a lot of jobs in Erie. She stated that MAG has commuter rail and high speed rail corridor studies and she hoped MAG would look into these companies. Ms. Barker expressed her wish that this region would have a multimodal transportation system that hopefully includes high speed rail and more fuel efficiency. Ms. Barker added that she thought Caterpillar bought its interest from Berkshire. Chair Hallman thanked Ms. Barker for her comments.

10. Legislative Update

No report.

11. Request for Future Agenda Items

Topics or issues of interest that the Regional Council would like to have considered for discussion at a future meeting were requested. No requests for future agenda items were noted.

12. Comments from the Council

An opportunity was 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.

Mayor Lewis noted that the announcement had recently been made that Spirit Airlines will now be flying in and out of Phoenix-Mesa Gateway Airport.

Mayor Smith stated that a second commercial airline at Phoenix-Mesa Airport is an important milestone. He said that this opens up another section of the country that can be accessed from this region and takes the facility one step closer to becoming a reliever airport. Mayor Smith stated that their goal is to expand the air market and economic opportunities, and he added that they are working on a third airline for the airport. Mayor Smith stated that Sky Harbor is a great economic driver and they want to build upon that. He said that Phoenix-Mesa Gateway Airport is a big step in economic development activities in the entire Valley. Mayor Smith remarked that Phoenix-Mesa Gateway Airport is not an airport for East Valley residents only, and people would be surprised how many West Valley residents use it.

Chair Hallman expressed his delight that a second airline would now be flying out of Phoenix-Mesa Gateway Airport. He related his positive experience when a relative recently flew out of the airport. He said that even though he lives six and one-half minutes from Sky Harbor Airport and even allowing for travel time, it was a faster process at Phoenix-Gateway. Chair Hallman expressed his gratitude for the efforts of leaders, past and present, to improve that asset. He said that this region has an opportunity to create a total transit network as did Utah, and the Phoenix-Mesa Gateway Airport is a part of that.

Adjournment

There being no further business, Mayor Truitt moved, and Councilmember Esser seconded the motion to adjourn the meeting at 6:00 p.m.

Secretary

Chair