

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

January 28, 2015
MAG Office, Saguaro Room
Phoenix, Arizona

MEMBERS ATTENDING

Mayor Michael LeVault, Youngtown, Chair	* Mayor Rebecca Jimenez, Guadalupe
Mayor W. J. "Jim" Lane, Scottsdale, Vice Chair	Mayor Thomas Schoaf, Litchfield Park
* Vice Mayor Robin Barker, Apache Junction	# Mayor Christian Price, City of Maricopa
Vice Mayor Stephanie Karlin for Mayor Kenneth Weise, Avondale	Supervisor Denny Barney, Maricopa County
* Mayor Jackie Meck, Buckeye	Mayor John Giles, Mesa
* Councilmember Mike Farrar, Carefree	* Mayor Michael Collins, Paradise Valley
* Councilmember Reginald Monachino, Cave Creek	Mayor Cathy Carlat, Peoria
# Mayor Jay Tibshraeny, Chandler	* Mayor Greg Stanton, Phoenix
Mayor Lana Mook, El Mirage	* Supervisor Todd House, Pinal County
* Mayor Tom Rankin, Florence	# Mayor Gail Barney, Queen Creek
* President Ruben Balderas, Fort McDowell Yavapai Nation	* President Delbert Ray, Salt River Pima-Maricopa Indian Community
# Mayor Linda Kavanagh, Fountain Hills	# Mayor Sharon Wolcott, Surprise
* Mayor Chuck Turner, Gila Bend	Mayor Mark Mitchell, Tempe
* Governor Stephen Roe Lewis, Gila River Indian Community	* Mayor Adolfo Gamez, Tolleson
Mayor John Lewis, Gilbert	* Mayor John Cook, Wickenburg
# Mayor Jerry Weiers, Glendale	Mr. Roc Arnett, Citizens Transportation Oversight Committee
Mayor Georgia Lord, Goodyear	Mr. Joseph La Rue, State Transportation Board
	Mr. Jack Sellers, State Transportation Board

* 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 Michael LeVault at 11:35 a.m.

2. Pledge of Allegiance

The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

Mayor Gail Barney, Mayor Linda Kavanagh, Mayor Christian Price, Mayor Jay Tibshraeny, and Mayor Jerry Weiers joined the meeting by teleconference.

Chair LeVault wished everyone a prosperous new year. He introduced his guest at the meeting, Youngtown Councilmember June Miller.

Chair LeVault presented Supervisor Denny Barney of Maricopa County with Regional Council membership certificate.

Chair LeVault welcomed back to the Regional Council Mayor Cathy Carlat of Peoria.

Chair LeVault welcomed Vice Mayor Stephanie Karlin as proxy for Mayor Kenneth Weise of Avondale.

Chair LeVault noted that for agenda item #9, the letter to the Governor in regard to eliminating transfers from the HURF fund was at each place.

Chair LeVault noted that hearing assisted devices were available from MAG staff. Chair LeVault 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. Transit tickets for those who purchased a transit ticket to attend the meeting and parking validation were available from staff.

3. Call to the Audience

Chair LeVault 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 LeVault recognized public comment from Ms. Dianne Barker, who expressed appreciation for the transit ticket. Ms. Barker spoke of champions. She said there was a champion in each of us and it was just a matter of finding your fire. Ms. Barker stated that she was a cheerleader at Ohio State University under Woody Hayes. She said that he won more football championships than many coaches and did it with young teams. Ms. Barker provided some quotes from Coach Hayes, such as, "Without winners there would be no civilization." "I do not like nice people – I like tough, honest people." She also quoted Frederick Douglas as saying that "If there is no struggle, there is no progress." Ms. Barker stated that in the lawsuit on the MAG PM-10 Plan, Arizona states that the Clean Air Act does not have the parameters in law for deciding this. Chair LeVault thanked Ms. Barker for her comments.

Chair LeVault recognized public comment from Mr. John Rusinek, who spoke about his ongoing dust problem. He stated that he recently spoke at a Maricopa County Board of Supervisors meeting. He said that he received a call from Valerie Beckett, the Ombudsman for planning and development at Maricopa County asking his problem. Mr. Rusinek told her that no one would read his ten-year log or look at the photographs of the non-dustproofed driveway next door. He said that he then met with Heather and Frank from Maricopa County and they would not listen to him and told him they could not help him. Mr. Rusinek reported that he informed them if they could prove him wrong, he would walk away. He stated that he has since found a state ordinance that says that backyards over 3,000 square feet must be dustproofed and he added that the yard next door to him is approximately 6,000 square feet. Chair LeVault thanked Mr. Rusinek for his comments.

Chair LeVault recognized public comment from Mr. Pat Vint, who said that he thought it was great there were new Regional Council members. He said that he hoped those on teleconference were listening to the meeting. Mr. Vint stated that it seemed the higher the position the worse someone is. He stated that this country's president is the worst president ever. Mr. Vint spoke of his service in Korea and took an oath to protect the United States from all enemies. He expressed his concern that this country has the worst domestic terrorists there have ever been. Mr. Vint stated that people say you cannot discuss religion or politics, but cause more deaths than anything else. He said that there is nothing worse than a Muslim even though some people say there are good Muslims. But, if there were good Muslims, they would take out the bad Muslims. Mr. Vint stated that there is a Muslim in the White House and he acts like he hates the United States. Chair LeVault thanked Mr. Vint for his comments.

Chair LeVault recognized public comment from Mr. Marvin Rochelle, who stated that the connector from Loop 202 to Interstate 10 should not be along 51st Avenue or 55th Avenue, because that option will not take pollution out of the Valley. Mr. Rochelle stated that the connection should be at SR-85. Chair LeVault thanked Mr. Rochelle for his comments.

4. Executive Director's Report

Mr. Dennis Smith, MAG Executive Director, reported on items of interest to the MAG region. Mr. Smith stated that MAG was recognized in the new Transportation for America guidebook cites MAG as a national model for the creation of the MAG Economic Development Committee and data sharing.

Mr. Smith stated that the Transportation Research Board, a national organization that promotes innovation and progress in transportation through research, accepted nine research papers from MAG staff members. He noted that the San Diego Association of Governments was the only other MPO that had a comparable number of papers accepted.

Mr. Smith stated that the Joint Planning Advisory Council meeting is scheduled from 9:30 a.m. to 1:00 p.m., February 24, 2015, at the Francisco Grande Resort in Casa Grande. He stated that the focus will be on the advanced manufacturing supply chains for mining and the auto sector. Mr. Smith stated that the luncheon keynote speaker will be Mr. Luis Angel Mendoza, Sr., the Purchasing Manager at Ford Motor Company. He stated that local government and economic development leaders are encouraged to attend.

Mr. Smith announced that the MAG Fiscal Services Division received the Distinguished Budget Presentation Award from the Government Finance Officers Association. He explained that receiving this award is exceptional because only three organizations among the 919 MPOs, COGs, and Regional Councils in the country received this award. Mr. Smith extended his congratulations to Fiscal Services Manager Becky Kimbrough and her staff.

Mr. Smith reported that the Rural Age-Friendly Collaborative is a partnership among the Arizona Age-Friendly Network (administered by MAG) and the Indiana Philanthropy Alliance and Indiana University Public Policy Institute. He stated that the Indiana delegation recently visited MAG. Mr. Smith stated that Mayor LeVault, Mayor Price, Vice Mayor Kardinal, Councilmember Osborne, and Councilmember Tande spoke at the event and the Town of Wickenburg and City of Surprise hosted tours.

Mr. Smith played the Domestic Violence: Law Enforcement Training Video that MAG recently produced.

Mayor John Lewis asked about the availability of the video. Amy St. Peter, MAG staff, reported that the video is available on the MAG website, however, it was developed for use by public safety staff and is sometimes graphic. Mr. Smith stated that staff would email the link to the video to the Regional Council and the city managers.

Mayor Linda Kavanagh stated that she recently visited a domestic violence shelter. She stated that educational materials or videos cannot compare to visiting and speaking with the victims and their children and she would encourage people to visit in person.

Chair LeVault asked about the domestic violence resource map developed by MAG. Mr. Smith noted that locations are confidential, however, MAG staff would be glad to arrange tours of facilities if requested.

Mr. Smith introduced Amy Robinson, MAG intern, who has been staffing the MAG Domestic Violence program. He stated that Ms. Robinson stepped in and has done a great job, and he added that she will be graduating in May.

5. Approval of Consent Agenda

Chair LeVault noted that agenda items #5A, #5B, #5C, #5D, #5E, #5F, #5G, and #5H were on the Consent Agenda.

Chair LeVault recognized public comment from Mr. Vint, to requested to speak on agenda items #5A, #5D and #5H. Mr. Vint expressed his appreciation to MAG for inviting the citizens to speak. He said there is nothing worse than a closed committee and meetings that are conducted behind closed doors. They can get away with murder and the City of Phoenix did. Mr. Vint stated that the City of Phoenix promoted one of its staff members until he committed suicide. He stated that the meeting minutes are good, but only if people read them. Mr. Vint stated that there is nothing worse than people not paying attention during meetings or while driving. He stated that members who are not in attendance should

get on the phone on their dead (expletive). Chair LeVault requested that Mr. Vint maintain decorum with his language. Mr. Vint asked whatever happened to free speech. He noted a program on PBS about the rise and fall of Hitler in Germany. Mr. Vint stated that PBS broadcast the show to ensure that these Holocaust would not be forgotten. He noted that there are still some people are trying to cover up that it happened. Mr. Vint stated that history repeats itself and MAG members need to put their foot on the throat of Phoenix because they are terrible. Chair LeVault asked Mr. Vint to explain how his comments fall under the jurisdiction of MAG. Mr. Vint replied his statements were made because MAG is an organization. He stated that he could not hear people's reports because they do not speak up. Mr. Vint stated that if MAG does not like what he has to say, do not invite him, but he will come anyway. Chair LeVault thanked Mr. Vint for his comments.

Chair LeVault recognized public comment from Ms. Barker, who commented that the minutes accurately reflected her recollection of discussion at the meeting. Ms. Barker stated that the Open Meeting Law allows response to criticism. She stated that topics at MAG are inclusive of what happens in cities. Ms. Barker stated that Maricopa County was alarmed at the PM-10 lawsuit. She stated that citizens want to know that the light rail system and bus system are integrated. Ms. Barker stated that she agrees with elements of the approved Central Phoenix Transportation Plan. She spoke of the recent wrong-way driver incident that took the life of a young mother, who was a 9-1-1 dispatcher. Ms. Barker remarked that when an accident happens, the traffic stalls and creates more particulates. She said that chimneys and leaf blowers have been discussed, but not cars and trucks, which are the greatest producers of particulates. Chair LeVault thanked Ms. Barker for her comments.

Chair LeVault stated that he does not need to be reminded that people are the ultimate boss in our form of government. He said that he works for the people and he believes in giving people the opportunity to speak at public meetings. Chair LeVault stated that his rules are simple – dignity and decorum will be maintained during public comment periods. They will not be a platform for personal attacks or untoward language. Chair LeVault requested that comments be restricted to items under the jurisdiction of MAG.

Chair LeVault asked members if they had questions or requests to hear a Consent Agenda item individually. None were noted.

Chair LeVault called for a motion to approve Consent Agenda items #5A, #5B, #5C, #5D, #5E, #5F, #5G, and #5H. Vice Chair Jim Lane moved approval of the Consent Agenda, Mayor Cathy Carlat seconded, and the motion passed unanimously.

5A. Approval of the December 3, 2014, Meeting Minutes

The MAG Regional Council, by consent, approved the December 3, 2014, meeting minutes.

5B. Appointment of Mayor Cathy Carlat, City of Peoria, to Serve as One of the Seven Largest Cities/Towns Elected Officials on the Transportation Policy Committee

The MAG Regional Council, by consent, approved the appointment of Mayor Cathy Carlat, City of Peoria, as the one of the seven largest cities/towns elected officials on the Transportation Policy

Committee. The composition of the Transportation Policy Committee (TPC), established by the Regional Council on April 24, 2002, includes elected officials from the seven largest cities/towns, which includes the City of Peoria. MAG recently received a letter requesting that Mayor Cathy Carlat of the City of Peoria be appointed as the City of Peoria representative on the TPC. The appointment of Mayor Cathy Carlat to the TPC by the Regional Council as one of the seven largest cities/towns elected officials was requested.

5C. Project Changes – Amendment and Administrative Modification to the FY 2014-2018 MAG Transportation Improvement Program, and to the 2035 Regional Transportation Plan

The MAG Regional Council, by consent, approved amendments and administrative modifications to the FY 2014-2018 MAG Transportation Improvement Program, and as appropriate, to the 2035 Regional Transportation Plan. The Fiscal Year (FY) 2014-2018 MAG Transportation Improvement Program and 2035 Regional Transportation Plan were approved by the MAG Regional Council on January 29, 2014, and have been modified six times, with the last modification approved on October 22, 2014. Due to a critical deadline for an Arizona Department of Transportation project bid and an updated Federal Transit Administration grant submittal deadline, there is a need to make project changes. Additional member agency requests and general administrative modifications are also included. Highway project changes are included in Table A. Transit project changes are included in Table B. On January 7, 2015, the MAG Management Committee recommended approval of amendments and administrative modifications. Changes since the Management Committee reviewed this item are tinted.

5D. Prioritized List of Proposed PM-10 Certified Street Sweeper Projects for FY 2015 CMAQ Funding

The MAG Regional Council, by consent, approved a prioritized list of proposed PM-10 Certified Street Sweeper Projects for FY 2015 CMAQ funding and to retain the prioritized list for any additional FY 2015 CMAQ funds that may become available due to closeout or additional funding received by this region. The Fiscal Year (FY) 2015 MAG Unified Planning Work Program and Annual Budget and the FY 2014-2018 MAG Transportation Improvement Program contain \$1,404,238 in FY 2015 Congestion Mitigation and Air Quality Improvement (CMAQ) funding to encourage the purchase and utilization of PM-10 Certified Street Sweepers. On October 23, 2014, the MAG Air Quality Technical Advisory Committee recommended a prioritized list of proposed PM-10 Certified Street Sweeper Projects for FY 2015 CMAQ funding. Prior to the MAG Air Quality Technical Advisory Committee recommendation, the MAG Street Committee reviewed the proposed street sweeper applications on October 14, 2014, in accordance with the MAG Federal Fund Programming Guidelines and Procedures. On January 7, 2015, the MAG Management Committee recommended approval.

5E. Additional Funding for a Sweeper on the Approved Prioritized List of Proposed PM-10 Certified Street Sweeper Projects for FY 2014 CMAQ Funding

The MAG Regional Council, by consent, approved \$1,501.87 in funding for a City of Litchfield Park street sweeper on the Approved Prioritized List of Proposed PM-10 Certified Street Sweeper Projects for FY 2014 CMAQ funding. On February 26, 2014, the MAG Regional Council approved a Prioritized List of Proposed PM-10 Certified Street Sweeper Projects for FY 2014 Congestion Mitigation and Air Quality Improvement (CMAQ) Funding. Also, on March 26, 2014, the MAG Regional Council

approved an additional \$640,169.97 in CMAQ funding for street sweepers through the FY 2014 federal funds TIP closeout. All twelve PM-10 Certified Street Sweeper projects on the approved prioritized list are funded. MAG staff received two inquiries on additional street sweeper funding with only one requesting additional funding at this time. Due to higher costs than anticipated, the City of Litchfield Park is now requesting an additional \$1,501.87 in CMAQ funding for the purchase of a PM-10 certified street sweeper increasing the total CMAQ amount for the project from \$225,516 to \$227,017.87. The additional FY 2014 CMAQ funding is available from street sweeper projects that have cost less than anticipated. On January 7, 2015, the MAG Management Committee recommended approval.

5F. Conformity Consultation

The Maricopa Association of Governments is conducting consultation on a conformity assessment for an amendment and administrative modification to the FY 2014-2018 MAG Transportation Improvement Program and 2035 Regional Transportation Plan. The amendment and administrative modification involve several projects, including projects for the Arizona Department of Transportation. 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.

5G. Ratification of the Annual Performance Review and Compensation Benefits of the MAG Executive Director

The MAG Regional Council, by consent, ratified the action of the Executive Committee regarding compensation/benefits of the MAG Executive Director. In January 2003, the Regional Council approved an agreement to hire the current Executive Director. As part of this agreement, it was provided that the Executive Director would receive an annual performance review conducted by the Executive Committee. On November 25, 2014, the electronic survey and Major Regional Goals and Results for FY 2014-2015 were sent to members of the MAG Regional Council Executive Committee and MAG Regional Council to receive their input on the review. The results of the completed surveys were summarized and were discussed by the members of the Executive Committee. On January 12, 2015, the MAG Regional Council Executive Committee discussed the performance of the Executive Director, and took action regarding the compensation/benefits of the Executive Director.

5H. Arizona Trade and Investment Office Memorandum of Understanding with the Arizona Commerce Authority

The MAG Regional Council, by consent, approved entering into a Memorandum of Understanding with the Arizona Commerce Authority for the Arizona Trade and Investment Office and to send the previously approved \$25,000 for this office to the Arizona Commerce Authority. In December 2013, the Regional Council approved providing \$25,000 in MAG dues to the City of Phoenix to partner in the establishment of an in-market trade, investment and tourism office in Mexico City. Since that time, the City of Phoenix and the Arizona Commerce Authority (ACA) have worked to jointly collaborate on this effort. MAG staff has attended several meetings regarding the trade office with the City of Phoenix, the ACA and their contractors. As a partner to this initiative, MAG has been requested by the ACA to enter into a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) to establish a protocol for services and to memorialize

understandings between MAG and ACA relating to the establishment and operation of the trade and investment office in Mexico City, Mexico. As part of this MOU, MAG will be issuing the previously approved \$25,000 for the trade and investment office in Mexico City to ACA. This item was recommended for approval at the January 6, 2015, Economic Development Committee meeting and at the January 12, 2015, MAG Regional Council Executive Committee meeting.

6. Discussion of the Development of the FY 2016 MAG Unified Planning Work Program and Annual Budget

Ms. Becky Kimbrough, MAG staff, provided a report on the development of the MAG Unified Planning Work Program and Annual Budget. Ms. Kimbrough stated that the Work Program and Budget is developed incrementally, with reports to the Management Committee, Executive Committee, and Regional Council beginning in January. She noted that the agenda material this month included the draft Dues and Assessments and the proposed budget production timeline.

Ms. Kimbrough stated that the Dues and Assessments in the agenda material were developed using the prior fiscal year average Consumer Price Index-Urban Consumers (CPI-U) of 2.07. She noted that the Dues and Assessments included in the February agenda material will be revised based on the 2015 CPI-U number of 1.62 percent. Ms. Kimbrough noted that she is always available to answer any questions on the budget.

Chair LeVault thanked Ms. Kimbrough for her report. No questions from the Council were noted.

7. Update on the Arizona Center for Law in the Public Interest Lawsuit on the MAG 2012 Five Percent Plan for PM-10

Ms. Lindy Bauer, MAG staff, reported that MAG submitted a motion to intervene on the lawsuit filed by the Arizona Center for Law in the Public Interest to challenge the approval of the MAG 2012 Five Percent Plan for PM-10 by the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA). She noted that the motion was filed late, on October 23, 2014. The State supported MAG's motion, but on October 29, the Arizona Center for Law in the Public Interest opposed MAG's motion to intervene. Ms. Bauer stated that EPA maintained a neutral position.

Ms. Bauer stated that MAG's Washington, D. C., legal counsel prepared a reply brief on November 7, 2014. On December 9, 2014, MAG's Washington, D. C., legal counsel indicated that the court would allow MAG to submit a brief to intervene. Ms. Bauer stated that the court will look at the motion to intervene and then the court will decide if it will let it remain an intervenor brief or an amicus brief.

Ms. Bauer stated that the briefs have been submitted by EPA on December 17 and the Arizona Department of Environmental Quality (ADEQ) on December 31. She added that the documents are quite large and are posted online on the MAG Air Quality web page of the MAG website.

Ms. Bauer stated that the EPA brief emphasized the technical work done on the exceptional event documentation. She noted that the EPA pointed out it has the expertise to review exceptional events and make determinations. Ms. Bauer stated that EPA stated that it acted in a reasonable fashion to approve

the PM-10 Plan. She stated that EPA pointed out there was no need to update the best available control measures and most stringent measures and can be implemented early. Ms. Bauer stated that EPA's brief states that the court should give EPA deference because EPA has the exceptional events expertise to review these issues.

Ms. Bauer said that ADEQ noted in its brief that this is the sixth petition on PM-10 by the Center for Law in the Public Interest. She added that the State has pointed out that the "sue and settle" approach is not appropriate for this situation and does not reflect the measures in the PM-10 Plan. Ms. Bauer noted that the State also pointed out that the Center for Law in the Public Interest is time-barred from criticizing the exceptional events rule. Ms. Bauer said that the State pointed out that agriculture is a small part of the PM-10 problem and early implementation of contingency measures is appropriate.

Ms. Bauer stated that MAG's brief describes the development of the PM-10 Plan by the member agencies and the State, the extensive documentation submitted for exceptional events, and the historical fluctuations from normal data. Ms. Bauer stated that MAG supports EPA's approval of the PM-10 Plan. She stated that best available control measures and most stringent measures have already been implemented and approved by EPA. Ms. Bauer stated that the MAG brief pointed out that the Center is asking the court to deny approval of the Plan because EPA's approval is an abuse of authority, but the lawsuit does not specify a remedy.

Ms. Bauer stated that MAG is requesting that the court uphold the EPA approval of the MAG 2012 Five Percent Plan for PM-10 and deny the petition for review. She stated that the Washington, D. C., legal counsel expressed that they did not know the timeframe for when the court would decide if MAG's brief would be an amicus brief or an intervenor brief. Ms. Bauer added that they also did not know when it would go to court, but perhaps in the fall or later. Ms. Bauer stated that the Washington, D. C., legal counsel has been very careful to support items submitted by the State and EPA.

Chair LeVault thanked Ms. Bauer for her report. No questions from the Council were noted.

8. Interstate 10/Interstate 17 Corridor Master Plan Update

Mr. Bob Hazlett, MAG staff, provided an update on the Interstate 10/Interstate 17 Corridor Master Plan and a demonstration of the MetroQuest tool for public outreach. Mr. Hazlett stated that this 35-mile section of the region's freeway system is referred to as "The Spine." He noted that \$1.47 billion is programmed in the Regional Transportation Plan for improvements to this corridor.

Mr. Hazlett stated that this corridor extends from the North Stack (Interstate 17/Loop 101) to the Pecos Stack (Interstate 10/Loop 202). He said that the corridor involves the MAG member agencies of ADOT, Chandler, Guadalupe, Phoenix, and Tempe. Mr. Hazlett noted that about 40 percent of the daily freeway trips in Metro Phoenix use some portion of the corridor.

Mr. Hazlett stated that for a number of years, ADOT was conducting environmental impact statement studies, but there was little guidance as to the vision for the corridor. He stated that Interstate 10/Interstate 17 Corridor Master Plan began in response to the 2012 decision for suspending the two

environmental impact statement studies for the corridor between the SR-101L/Agua Fria-Pima “North Stack” and SR-202L/Santan-South Mountain “Pecos Stack” traffic interchanges.

Mr. Hazlett stated that on October 31, 2014, a joint meeting of the participating agencies was held to define a path forward for the corridor. He stated that improvements include a near term improvement strategy to address bottlenecks in the corridor.

Mr. Hazlett stated that the Corridor Master Plan is a four-step process to identify the vision for Interstate 10 and Interstate 17. He stated that the goal is for completion in 2016. Mr. Hazlett displayed a photograph of the Charter Partners, which includes elected officials and executive directors, the Management Partners, which includes staff from MAG, ADOT and Federal Highway Administration Arizona, and the Planning Partners, which includes Federal Highway Administration, Federal Aviation Administration, ADOT, MAG, Chandler, Guadalupe, Phoenix, Tempe, and Valley Metro.

Mr. Hazlett stated that public meetings will be launched on February 23, 2015. He noted that a project fact sheet was at each place and includes the locations of the public meetings. Mr. Hazlett stated that MetroQuest, a public outreach tool, was developed. He described it as a bilingual online engagement/survey tool used to obtain input regarding public’s values/concerns, and feedback on potential scenarios and improvements. He stated that MetroQuest is more interactive than just taking a survey. Mr. Hazlett stated that MetroQuest will be embedded into the study website: spine.azmag.gov, which will be live approximately the second week of February. He noted that an online survey would be available throughout the duration of the public comment period and is mobile compatible.

Mr. Hazlett then demonstrated MetroQuest. He said the starting point is a ten-minute survey where respondents are asked to rate their priorities. Mr. Hazlett noted that respondents can suggest additional priorities and can rate strategies. He said that respondents will be able to report where they are experiencing problems and can offer comments about a particular freeway segment. Mr. Hazlett stated that respondents can add their demographic information and can opt in if they would like to receive updates about the study. He added that the website also will be able to disregard responses not from this region. Mr. Hazlett stated that staff will be able to access all of the data received from the survey when completed. He said they anticipate they will be able to determine trends that traffic data might not reveal.

Mr. Hazlett stated that the public information meetings will take place on February 25 at the Academia Del Pueblo Elementary School Gym at 201 E. Durango Street, Phoenix; February 26 at the Deer Valley Community Center at 2001 W. Wahalla Lane, Phoenix; and on March 4 at the Sheraton Four Points Inn (formerly Grace Inn) at 10831 S. 51st Street, Phoenix. He noted that all meetings will take place from 6:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m. Mr. Hazlett stated that planning, environmental, engineering and safety work done to date will be available at the meetings and he added that iPads or tablets will be available for the public to use.

Mr. Hazlett stated that a Near Term Improvement Strategy for the corridor is under development and study by ADOT. He said that multiple options are under consideration, including those targeting

bottlenecks and enhancing traffic operations. Candidate projects must rapidly meet environmental requirements and a near-term construction timeframe.

Mr. Hazlett reported on possible near term improvements on Interstate 10, which include striping an additional outbound lane between SR-51/SR-202L and US-60 (unknown if this would be a High Occupancy Vehicle lane or a General Purpose lane); adding collector/distributor roads between SR-143 and US-60 to eliminate weave; adding a bicycle/pedestrian overpass at Tempe Diablo Stadium to allow for parking on both sides of the freeway; adding an extra General Purpose lane between Baseline Road and the Pecos Stack (Loop 202); and adding a bicycle/pedestrian overpass at Guadalupe Road. Mr. Hazlett reported that possible near term improvements on Interstate 17 could include reconstructing ramps between 16th Street and 19th Avenue, which are among the oldest sections of the freeway.

Mr. Hazlett stated that one of the most important improvements is Active Traffic Management, which reduces the potential for crashes when speed and conditions change, reduces congestion with variable speed limits, lane control, and adaptive ramp metering, improves reliability and enhances information to motorists, and provides meaningful traffic-flow benefits at a relatively low cost, and coordinated with local communities. He explained that one of the things they are trying to eliminate with Active Traffic Management is the “shockwave,” which occurs with stop and go traffic.

Mr. Hazlett stated that staff anticipates implementation of the Near Term Improvement Strategy projects by late calendar year 2016 or early 2017.

Mr. Smith stated that Active Traffic Management would provide electronic messaging signs to provide route options when there is heavy traffic on a freeway. He noted that the City of Chandler and City of Mesa have experimented with Active Traffic Management and he added that it could be one of the best improvements to the freeway system.

Chair LeVault asked Mr. Hazlett when MetroQuest would go live. Mr. Hazlett replied that they anticipate implementation in the second week of February. He added that the English version is virtually complete and they are just finishing up the Spanish version.

Chair LeVault asked who would manage and collate the data. Mr. Hazlett replied that MetroQuest will collate the data and MAG will analyze it.

Vice Chair Jim Lane stated that we are looking to expand existing assets in a roadway by utilizing Active Traffic Management and technology. He asked if an analysis had been done to show the value that might be received for its cost.

Mr. Hazlett replied yes, but mainly it has been done on a national scale. He stated that a typical freeway lane can handle 2,200 vehicles per hour, and in the MAG freeway system, things begin to break down at about 1,500 vehicles, which means that our freeways should be able to handle approximately 700 additional vehicles per hour. Mr. Hazlett stated that their goal is to look at technology to get more out of the pavement. He noted that places where Active Traffic Management has been implemented, such as Seattle, Minneapolis, and Australia, have seen 20 percent increase in capacity and in crash reduction.

Vice Chair Lane commented that potentially, a lane is added by increasing the utilization of existing pavement. Mr. Hazlett replied yes, and there is no need to restripe or build another lane with speed harmonization to increase traffic flow.

Vice Chair Lane expressed concern for routing traffic off freeways and congesting city streets in order to provide alternate routes during a freeway incident. Mr. Hazlett replied that coordinating with local communities will be an extremely important element of the Active Traffic Management effort.

Mayor John Lewis asked what is being done to publicize the public meetings and how could member agencies assist. Mr. Hazlett replied that newspaper ads, the MAG Web site, Twitter, Facebook, and press releases are among the components to inform the public. Ms. Kelly Taft, MAG staff, noted that a communications strategy is in place. In addition to the public meetings, staff will be present at a number of special events. She noted that the public comment period is fairly short, only 30 days. Ms. Taft stated that jurisdictions broadcasting announcements on their Channel 11s would be helpful. Mr. Hazlett advised that the Web site address is spine.azmag.gov, without the "www."

Chair LeVault asked if the pilot program with ADOT and DPS at the ADOT Traffic Operations Center was an aspect of the Active Traffic Management program. Mr. Hazlett replied yes, it is a part of the ITS/Active Traffic Management deployment. He said that the traffic officers at the Traffic Operations Center will be able to advise on raising or lowering the speed limits.

Chair LeVault stated that everyone is interested in looking for ways to utilize and stretch existing resources.

9. Legislative Update

Nathan Pryor, MAG staff, provided an update on legislative issues of interest. He noted that his presentation would focus on the state side of legislation.

Mr. Pryor noted that MAG was requested to consider signing onto a letter sent to the Governor and Legislature requesting an elimination of transfers from the Highway Users Revenue Fund (HURF). Mr. Pryor stated that the letter was coordinated by the Rural Transportation Advisory Council and was signed by councils of governments, metropolitan planning organizations, various chambers of commerce, and other interested organizations. Mr. Pryor stated that a copy of the letter was at each place. He explained that since 2001, more than \$1.8 billion has been diverted from the HURF: \$119 million transferred to support Highway Patrol activities in FY 2014, \$96 million to DPS in FY 2015, and \$30 million in general fund transfers.

Mr. Pryor stated that due to the timely nature of the letter, the MAG Executive Committee took action to support signing the letter at their January 2015 meeting and Chair LeVault signed the letter on behalf of MAG. Mr. Pryor stated that last year the MAG Regional Council sent a letter to the Governor and Legislature requesting that the HURF not be swept above the statutory limit of \$20 million.

Mr. Pryor stated that Governor Ducey has released a budget proposal that recommends dedicating the motor vehicle registration fee to DPS and authorizing the ADOT director to determine the amount of

the fee, such that total fee collections would cover half of the cost of highway law enforcement operations. He noted that the funding restructure will provide approximately \$65 million for the Highway Patrol in FY 2016, saving the General Fund \$30 million and leaving the overall funding amount for DPS unchanged. The amount of HURF to fund DPS would be reduced to \$54.3 million per year.

Chair LeVault thanked Mr. Pryor for his report. No questions from the Council were noted.

10. 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 will be requested.

No requests were noted.

11. 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 were noted.

Adjournment

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 12:48 p.m.

Secretary

Chair