

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

April 27, 2016
MAG Office
Phoenix, Arizona

MEMBERS ATTENDING

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

* 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 W.J. "Jim" Lane, Scottsdale, at 11:34 a.m.

2. Pledge of Allegiance

The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

Mr. Roc Arnett, Councilmember Dick Esser, and Vice Mayor Dawn Oliphant, as proxy for Mayor Gail Barney, joined the meeting by teleconference.

Chair Lane welcomed Mr. John Halikowski, ADOT Director, to the meeting.

Chair Lane announced that on April 20, 2016, the Transportation Policy Committee recommended approval of items #5B, #5C, and #5D on the Regional Council Consent Agenda. For agenda item #11, a memorandum announcing his appointments to the 2016 Nominating Committee was at each place.

3. Call to the Audience

Chair Lane recognized public comment from Mr. John Rusinek, who spoke of problems with a gravel driveway. He said that three different alternatives have been attempted to dustproof the driveway. First was chemical dustproofing material and second was spreading one-inch gravel -- neither worked. He noted that one-half inch gravel has now been installed on the driveway, but the company said it cannot be laid more than 1.5 inches thick or it could move. Mr. Rusinek stated that no one will talk to him about this and his councilman told him everyone violates the ordinances. Chair Lane thanked Mr. Rusinek.

Chair Lane recognized public comment from Mr. Howard May, who stated that people will not be happy about some changes being proposed to the Regional Transportation Plan. He said that in some places transit service is non-existent or limited, with 30-60 minute wait times in Glendale. Mr. May stated that he would like to see transit service restored to Avondale. Some of the transit routes were delayed due to the economic recession, but they need to be reinstated, especially in the Northwest Valley, along Bell Road to Surprise. Chair Lane thanked Mr. May.

Chair Lane recognized public comment from Ms. Dianne Barker, who said that she advised Mr. Rusinek on the different transit routes available to him. She stated that we can never have enough customer service. Ms. Barker reported problems at Valley Metro: people with disabilities have difficulties speaking at the microphone, there are no agendas available, and they do not post their meetings. She stated that Valley Metro staff need to know the law and have it in their heart to serve the public. Chair Lane thanked Ms. Barker.

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 recently hosted a meeting of honorary international consulates who are located in the Valley. He said that this meeting was organized by Ms. Amy St. Peter, MAG staff, to enhance foreign direct investment.

Mr. Smith stated that the American Planning Association held a national meeting on regional livable communities at MAG. He indicated that MAG data tools were demonstrated.

Mr. Smith stated that the National Tribal Planners of the American Planning Association recently met at MAG. He acknowledged the efforts of Mr. Nathan Pryor, MAG staff, to organize the meeting.

Mr. Smith noted that these are some of the events by outside organizations utilizing the MAG facility to advance best practices in the nation.

Mr. Smith announced that for the 18th year in a row MAG has been awarded the Certificate of Achievement for Excellence in Financial Reporting for the Comprehensive Annual Financial Report for Fiscal Year 2015 by the Government Finance Officers Association. He noted that MAG is one of the few Councils of Governments in the U.S. to receive this award. Mr. Smith added that MAG produces a Comprehensive Annual Financial Report because cities and counties also produce this report. He noted that this demonstrates the high standard MAG needs to meet.

Mr. Smith stated that MAG presented its activity-based model at the American Planning Association 2016 National Planning Conference. Nationally renowned experts on activity-based models in the U.S., cited the MAG activity-based model as the most advanced in the world. Mr. Smith then demonstrated how the model displays work trips and special event trips to certain destinations. He noted that the model could be used as an economic development tool.

Mr. Smith stated that on April 26, 2016, MAG hosted the Intermountain West meeting to discuss best practices. He noted that for many years, the western states got together annually for a conference and he added that they were discontinued a few years ago due to federal budget cuts.

Mr. Smith played the new video, featuring Mayor Georgia Lord, which was produced by MAG for the Don't Trash Arizona anti-littering campaign. During the video, Mayor Lord spoke with customers at a Whataburger drive-through about the littering problem and she distributed litter bags. Mr. Smith noted that other Regional Council members who want to participate in next year's campaign could contact Ms. Kelly Taft, MAG staff.

Chair Lane thanked Mr. Smith for his report.

5. Approval of Consent Agenda

Chair Lane noted that agenda items #5A, #5B, #5C, #5D, #5E, #5F, #5G, #5H, #5I, #5J, #5K, #5L, and #5M were on the Consent Agenda.

Chair Lane asked if members had questions or requests for a presentation on any of the Consent Agenda items.

None were noted.

Mayor Michael LeVault moved to approve the Consent Agenda items #5A, #5B, #5C, #5D, #5E, #5F, #5G, #5H, #5I, #5J, #5K, #5L, and #5M. Mayor Jackie Meck seconded, and the motion passed unanimously.

5A. Approval of the March 23, 2016, Meeting Minutes

The MAG Regional Council, by consent, approved the March 23, 2016, meeting minutes.

5B. 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 Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) and 2035 Regional Transportation Plan were approved by the MAG Regional Council on January 29, 2014, with the last modification approved at the March 23, 2016, Regional Council meeting. Since then, project additions have been requested by ADOT and other general project changes by member agencies. The requested project changes were recommended for approval on March 31, 2016, by the MAG Transportation Review Committee, on April 13, 2016, by the MAG Management Committee, and on April 20, 2016, by the Transportation Policy Committee.

5C. Changes to Regionally Significant Projects Within the Draft FY 2017-2021 Transportation Improvement Program and Amendment to the FY 2014-2018 MAG Transportation Improvement Program and Amendment to the 2035 Regional Transportation Plan

The MAG Regional Council, by consent, approved changes to the revised opening dates for rail transit projects within the Draft FY 2017-2021 Transportation Improvement Program and an amendment to the FY 2014-2018 MAG Transportation Improvement Program and 2035 Regional Transportation Plan. Four light rail transit projects in the MAG region now require revision to their current opening dates, along with one new light rail capital structure added to the Draft FY 2017-2021 Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) and 2035 Regional Transportation Plan (RTP) Amendment, and will undergo necessary air quality conformity analysis. These changes are the result of the January 26, 2016 Phoenix City Council decision to approve the acceleration of two light rail projects, the deferral of one phase of a light rail project and the addition of one light rail station. The Tempe Streetcar project will also be deferred by one year as per the Valley Metro Transit Life Cycle Program (TLCP). This action will more closely align with the Federal Transit Administration (FTA) funding allocations and project delivery schedule. The requested project changes were recommended for approval on March 15, 2016, by the MAG Transit Committee, on March 31, 2016, by the MAG Transportation Review Committee, on April 13, 2016, by the MAG Management Committee, and on April 20, 2016, by the Transportation Policy Committee.

5D. Draft FY 2017-2021 MAG Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) - Interim Listing of Projects for an Air Quality Conformity Analysis

The MAG Regional Council, by consent, approved the Draft FY 2017-2021 MAG Transportation Improvement Program - Interim Listing of Projects for an air quality conformity analysis. The 1990 Federal Clean Air Act requires that regional transportation plans and programs be in conformance with all applicable air quality plans. To comply with this requirement, an air quality conformity analysis of the Draft FY 2017-2021 MAG Transportation Improvement Program - Interim Listing of Projects needs to be conducted, prior to consideration of the program for final approval. Members are being asked to review and comment as appropriate, on the Interim Listing of Projects that will undergo an air quality conformity analysis. The interim listing of projects was recommended for approval on April 13, 2016, by the MAG Management Committee, and on April 20, 2016, by the Transportation Policy Committee.

5E. Transfer Federal Highway Administration Surface Transportation Program Apportionment from MAG to ADOT

The MAG Regional Council, by consent, approved transferring \$80,000,000 in Federal Highway Administration suballocated Surface Transportation Program apportionment from the Maricopa Association of Governments to the Arizona Department of Transportation. The Arizona Department of Transportation (ADOT) has requested that the Maricopa Association of the Governments (MAG) transfer back to the state, Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) Surface Transportation Program (STP) apportionment that is suballocated to the MAG region in order to utilize STP apportionment that is due to lapse this year if not accessed. Transfer of the STP apportionment from MAG to ADOT was recommended for approval on March 31, 2016, by the MAG Transportation Review Committee, and on April 13, 2016, by the MAG Management Committee.

5F. Add Bike Share to the List of Design Assistance Eligible Categories for the MAG Design Assistance Program

The MAG Regional Council, by consent, approved adding Bike Share as a category to the Design Assistance eligible categories under the MAG Design Assistance Program and make the corresponding change in the MAG Pedestrian Policies and Design Guidelines. The MAG Design Assistance Program was initiated in 1996 to encourage the development of pedestrian facilities according to the approved MAG Pedestrian Policies and Design Guidelines. The intent of the program has been to stimulate integration of facilities into the planning and design of all types of infrastructure and development. In 2006, MAG initiated the Bicycle Facilities Design Program. In 2011, the Design Assistance Program combined pedestrian and bicycle facilities into one program and included shared-use facilities. Currently, there are three categories that receive Design Assistance funding: 1) Completion of the Regional Shared-use Path and Canal Network. 2) Bicycle and Pedestrian Access to Transit. 3) Bicycle and Pedestrian Facilities. A member agency contacted MAG staff to inquire about adding Bike Share to the list of Design Assistance eligible categories. The MAG Bicycle and Pedestrian Committee discussed Bike Share as an opportunity for increasing bicycling and future connections to transit in the region. Adding Bike Share as a new Design Assistance eligible category was recommended for approval on March 15, 2016, by the MAG Bicycle and Pedestrian Committee, on March 31, 2016, by the MAG Transportation Review Committee, and on April 13, 2016, by the MAG Management Committee.

5G. Sierra Vista Metropolitan Planning Organization Loan Request

The MAG Regional Council, by consent, approved entering into a loan agreement with the Sierra Vista Metropolitan Planning Organization (SVMPO) in the amount of \$542,934 in Federal Fiscal Year (FFY) 2016 Federal Highway Administration obligation authority to be utilized in MAG Arterial Life Cycle Program, and for repayment by MAG to the SVMPO in FFY 2018. The SVMPO has requested that MAG enter into a loan agreement to assist them with Federal Highway Administration obligation authority that they cannot utilize due to project delays. A loan agreement between MAG and SVMPO in the amount of \$1,163,448 for FFY 2017 was recommended for approval on April 13, 2016, by the MAG Management Committee. Since the MAG Management Committee met, SVMPO has reassessed their ledger and they are requesting to loan MAG \$542,934 in obligation authority in FFY 2016 with

repayment by MAG to SVMPO of the \$542,934 of obligation authority in FFY 2018. The proposed loan would have no negative impacts to the MAG region.

5H. Appointment of Vice Mayor Bridget Binsbacher, City of Peoria, to Serve on the Transportation Policy Committee

The MAG Regional Council, by consent, approved the appointment of Vice Mayor Bridget Binsbacher, City of Peoria, to the Transportation Policy Committee. The composition of the Transportation Policy Committee (TPC), established by the MAG Regional Council on April 24, 2002, includes elected officials from the seven largest cities/towns. This includes the City of Peoria. Mayor Cathy Carlat, the current Peoria representative on the TPC, is requesting that Vice Mayor Bridget Binsbacher be appointed as the City of Peoria representative on the TPC.

5I. Regionally Supported Grant Application for Buses and Bus Facilities Program

The MAG Regional Council, by consent, approved supporting the regional application for 5339(b) Buses and Bus Facilities grant application. On Tuesday, March 29, 2016, the Federal Transit Administration issued a Notice of Funding Opportunity (NOFO) for two grants: 5339(b) Buses and Bus Facilities and 5339(c) Low or No Emission programs. Approximately \$211 million is available for Section 5339(b) grants and \$55 million for 5339(c) grants for Federal Fiscal Year 2016. A regional application for 5339(b) funding is being prepared for submission by May 13, 2016. Among other criteria, applications must demonstrate consistency with local and regional long-range priorities and goals. On April 19, 2016, a presentation was provided to the MAG Transit Committee.

5J. Status of Remaining MAG Approved PM-10 Certified Street Sweeper Projects That Have Not Requested Reimbursement

A status report was provided on the remaining PM-10 certified street sweeper projects that have received approval, but have not requested reimbursement. To address new Federal Highway Administration procedures to minimize inactive obligations and to assist MAG in reducing the amount of obligated federal funds carried forward in the MAG Unified Planning Work Program and Annual Budget, we are requesting that street sweeper projects for be purchased and reimbursement requests be submitted to MAG within one year from the date of the MAG authorization letter. This item was on the agenda for information and discussion.

5K. 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 an Arizona Department of Transportation federally funded railroad grade crossing safety project. 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. This item was on the agenda for consultation.

5L. Consultation on Potentially Regionally Significant Projects for the Draft FY 2017-2021 MAG Transportation Improvement Program

Federal and state conformity regulations require that MAG consult with federal, state, and local air quality and transportation agencies on which transportation projects will be considered "regionally significant" for the purposes of regional emissions analysis. Regionally significant projects are subject to conformity requirements. A list of potentially regionally significant projects for the Draft FY 2017-2021 MAG Transportation Improvement Program has been prepared. Comments regarding the list were requested by April 22, 2016. This item was on the agenda for consultation.

5M. Appointment of the MAG Economic Development Committee Arizona Department of Transportation Representative

The MAG Regional Council, by consent, approved the appointment of Floyd P. Roehrich, Executive Officer of the Arizona Department of Transportation (ADOT), as the ADOT representative on the MAG Economic Development Committee (EDC). In June 2015, the MAG Regional Council approved changes to the composition of the MAG EDC. The composition includes 20 MAG member agency representatives, including ADOT, that have one-year terms with possible reappointment by recommendation of the Executive Committee and approval of the Regional Council. On March 29, 2016, a letter was received from the ADOT Director recommending Floyd Roehrich, Executive Officer, serve as the ADOT representative on the EDC. The Executive Committee is requested to recommend Floyd Roehrich as the ADOT EDC member. On April 18, 2016, the MAG Regional Council Executive Committee recommended approval of the appointment of Mr. Roehrich.

6. Regionally Supported Projects for USDOT TIGER (Round 8) Grants and Update on FASTLANE Grant

Ms. Audra Koester Thomas, MAG staff, stated that TIGER is a competitive discretionary grant. She said that MAG issued a call for projects and Valley Metro vetted transit projects. Ms. Thomas stated that MAG received two requests for support of regional project applications. One project submission was received from Valley Metro for bus-only ramps connecting I-10 and I-17. She noted that the total project cost is estimated at \$18.8 million with an anticipated construction date of 2018. She presented a diagram of the ramps. Ms. Thomas noted that this project was included as part of last year's urban grant application for the Interstate 10/17/Spine project. She stated that the project is anticipated to provide a more direct route for transit riders to downtown Phoenix saving an anticipated 15 minutes on their commute.

Ms. Thomas stated that the second urban project submission was received from the Town of Guadalupe for reconstruction of Avenida del Yaqui, which is the alignment of Priest Road as it passes through Guadalupe. Ms. Thomas stated that the intent is to reconstruct a deteriorated street and also to modernize it, utilizing Complete Streets concepts and improving pedestrian and bicycle access and safety. Ms. Thomas stated that this project emphasizes connections to education and employment as envisioned in the Ladders of Opportunity initiative targeting historically disadvantaged populations. She noted that two parcels adjacent to the project could serve as economic development opportunities if the project is implemented. Ms. Thomas stated that this project has the support of the Pascua Yaqui Tribe and the City of Tempe.

Ms. Thomas presented a comparison of the two projects and noted the costs could be adjusted as the projects proceed. She noted that the local match for the bus ramps is approximately 50 percent and 20 percent for the Avenida del Yaqui. Ms. Thomas stated that both of the projects meet much of the selection criteria of safety, state of good repair, economic competitiveness, quality of life, environmental sustainability, innovation, and partnership.

Ms. Thomas noted that MAG has also received requests for support for two projects of statewide significance. One project is for a northbound flyover ramp to Interstate 19 from SR-189 in Nogales, an approximate \$64 million project in which ADOT is requesting \$25 million in TIGER funding. Ms. Thomas noted that in 2014, the MAG Regional Council, along with other Arizona COGs and MPOs, signed a resolution of support for the acceleration of SR-189 improvements. Ms. Thomas stated that MAG also received a request for support for the Interstate 10 and Kortsen Road traffic interchange in Casa Grande, an approximate \$30 million project for which Casa Grande is requesting \$10 million in TIGER funding. She noted that this project has economic development implications and would be the east-west connector to the potential North-South Corridor and commuter rail.

Ms. Thomas stated that ADOT is pursuing a FASTLANE grant, a new grant created as part of the FAST Act, for improvements to the I-10 corridor from Phoenix to Tucson. She noted that MAG submitted a letter of support and she added that ADOT submitted the application earlier this month.

Ms. Thomas reported that the Transportation Review Committee and the Management Committee recommended regional support for the two local urban projects, the Valley Metro I-10/I-17 bus ramps and the Town of Guadalupe Avenida del Yaqui, and support for the two projects of statewide significance, SR-189 and the I-10/Kortsen Road traffic interchange.

Chair Lane thanked Ms. Thomas for her report and asked if there were questions.

Mr. Dennis Smith introduced Mr. Farhad Moghimi, Executive Director of the Pima Association of Governments, who brought forward the request to MAG for support of SR-189.

Mr. Joe La Rue moved approval to support Round 8 of the FFY 2016 TIGER grant requests. Councilmember Mike Farrar seconded, and the motion passed unanimously.

Chair Lane noted that a press conference regarding the SR-189 TIGER application will take place after the Regional Council meeting. He encouraged attendance by Regional Council members to attend and show their support.

7. Ozone Boundary Designations

Ms. Lindy Bauer, MAG staff, noted that last month, the Regional Council discussed the ozone nonattainment area boundary designation process being conducted by the Arizona Department of Environmental Quality (ADEQ) to address the new strengthened 2015 ozone standard. She displayed a map of the current Maricopa eight-hour ozone nonattainment area overlaid by the MAG metropolitan planning organization (MPO) boundary. She pointed out that the MPO boundary covers the Maricopa eight-hour ozone nonattainment area. Ms. Bauer noted that state law indicates that if the nonattainment

area includes an MPO. that agency shall be certified by the Governor to develop the plan for that area.

Ms. Bauer stated that at issue are two monitors located just outside the Maricopa eight-hour ozone nonattainment area. One of the monitors is the Tonto National Monument monitor in the Tonto National Forest. Ms. Bauer noted that natural sources, which include vegetation, are the biggest contributor to volatile organic compounds, which contribute to ozone and this monitor is located within a forest. Ms. Bauer stated that this monitor slightly exceeds the new ozone standard of 0.070 parts per million (ppm) at 0.071 ppm.

Ms. Bauer stated that the other monitor of concern is the Queen Valley monitor in Pinal County, and is on the border of the Tonto National Forest. Ms. Bauer stated that this monitor slightly exceeds the new ozone standard of 0.070 ppm at 0.071 ppm. She noted that 13 of the 20 monitors in the Maricopa eight-hour ozone nonattainment area do not meet the standard.

Ms. Bauer reported that MAG staff provided information to ADEQ showing a downward trend in the concentrations at the two monitors. Due to the downward trend and that the monitors are only slightly over the standard, MAG staff indicated to ADEQ that the Maricopa ozone nonattainment area should not be expanded at this time. Ms. Bauer noted that expansion could result in the MAG region will need to meet additional requirements and this can be a deterrent to economic development.

Ms. Bauer stated that by October 1, 2016, the Governor is required to submit designation recommendations for nonattainment/attainment to the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA). Ms. Bauer stated that monitor data from the 2016 ozone season should be evaluated first to determine if the monitors have met the standard or if it is necessary to expand the boundary.

Ms. Bauer stated that on April 14, 2016, ADEQ conducted a stakeholder meeting and proposed an expansion of the Maricopa eight-hour ozone nonattainment area to include the Tonto National Monument and Queen Valley monitors. Ms. Bauer stated that ADEQ is willing to look at the 2016 monitor data to see if the numbers come down, but after the recommendation is made for the Maricopa eight-hour ozone nonattainment area to be expanded. They would then revise the boundary if the monitors come in clean. Ms. Bauer stated that MAG staff requested ADEQ do the opposite -- keep the boundary the same and change it only if the data show the monitors continue to violate the standard.

Ms. Bauer stated that the issue of expanding the boundary has also raised the issue of MAG's planning authority. She indicated that MAG staff has been working with ADEQ to reaffirm MAG's role as the regional air quality planning agency. MAG and the Sun Corridor MPO have transportation projects located in the Pinal County PM-2.5 and PM-10 nonattainment areas. To assist the Sun Corridor MPO and member agencies, MAG has been preparing the conformity analysis for those two nonattainment areas in Pinal County. To further assist Sun Corridor MPO, there has been discussion that MAG might prepare their PM plans for their nonattainment areas in Pinal County in the future. Ms. Bauer stated that Pinal County and Sun Corridor MPO supported this informally. Ms. Bauer stated that if the Governor certifies MAG in this capacity, the MAG Regional Council will be notified.

Ms. Bauer stated that the ADEQ Director testified in Washington, D.C., regarding the difficulties in addressing interstate and international ozone transport. Ms. Bauer noted that this agenda item was listed on the agenda for possible action and she noted that a letter could be sent to ADEQ from MAG urging that the boundary remain the same at this time.

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

Mayor Michael LeVault moved to approve sending a letter to ADEQ requesting that the Maricopa ozone boundary not be expanded at this time, since the Queen Valley and Tonto National Monument monitors only slightly exceed the standard and there is a downward trend at the monitors. Monitor data from the 2016 ozone season should be evaluated first to determine if the monitors have met the standard or if it is necessary to revise the boundary recommendation. Vice Mayor Robin Barker seconded, and the motion passed unanimously.

Mr. Dennis Smith expressed his appreciation to the Arizona Department of Transportation for providing State Planning and Research funds to MAG to support their work on the air quality conformity analysis. He indicated that people will continue to move here and more transportation projects will be needed to accommodate them. Mr. Smith stated that air quality planning and the air quality conformity analysis are quite complex and it would be difficult to conduct them without the support of ADOT.

Chair Lane thanked ADOT for their support.

8. Update on MAG Socioeconomic Projections

Mr. Scott Wilken, MAG staff, reported on the socioeconomic projections being prepared at MAG. He stated that Executive Order 2011-04 states that MAG prepares sub-county socioeconomic projections every three to four years for housing, population, and employment. These projections are based on the County population projections that are prepared by the Arizona State Demographer and are approved by the Regional Council. Mr. Wilken stated that the projections are used as input to the transportation and air quality models.

Mr. Wilken indicated that this time, they are also working on Pinal County projections, in addition to the Maricopa County projections. He displayed graphs of population and employment in Maricopa and Pinal counties. Combined, the projected population of these two areas in 2050 is approximately 7.7 million and employment is 3.6 million. Mr. Wilken stated that the projections developed three years ago were not far off from these projections.

Mr. Wilken reviewed the 2015 population projections for the MAG region: Central area/Phoenix, 36.7 percent; East area, 35.7 percent; West area, 22.1 percent; Pinal County area, 5.4 percent. Mr. Wilken reviewed the 2050 population projections for the MAG region: Central area/Phoenix, 29.7 percent; East area, 28.1 percent; West area, 34.2 percent; Pinal County area, 7.9 percent.

Mr. Wilken reviewed the 2015 employment projections for the MAG region: Central area/Phoenix, 42 percent; East area, 42 percent; West area, 14.3 percent; Pinal County area, 1.7 percent. Mr. Wilken reviewed the 2050 employment projections for the MAG region: Central area/Phoenix, 33.8 percent; East area, 35.9 percent; West area, 26 percent; Pinal County area, 4.3 percent.

Mr. Wilken summarized MAG Population Technical Advisory Committee reviews to date: Review of Base 2014 and Build-Out in September-November 2015; held AZ-SMART Workshop on February 23, 2016; member agency review of Draft One of Maricopa County in March 2016 and Pinal County in April 2016; development and review of Draft Two is currently underway.

Mr. Wilken stated that action on the projections is anticipated in May by the MAG Population Technical Advisory Committee, and in June by the MAG Management Committee and MAG Regional Council. Mr. Wilken noted that Mr. Jesse Ayers, MAG staff, provides work on the technical model.

Chair Lane thanked Mr. Wilken for his report and asked if there were questions.

Mayor John Lewis asked the estimated populations and jobs of Maricopa and Pinal counties today and in 2050.

Mr. Wilken replied that Maricopa County estimated 2015 population is four million with 1.9 million jobs. Maricopa County estimated 2050 population is 6.7 million with 3.2 million jobs. Pinal County estimated 2015 population is 406,000 with 68,000 jobs. Pinal County 2050 estimated population is 1.03 million with 286,000 jobs.

Mr. Dennis Smith stated that the MAG Socioeconomic Projections are important because they are the basis for the air quality and transportation models; if the MAG Socioeconomic Projections are not accurate, neither will be the air quality and transportation models. Mr. Smith stated that member agency staff have been asked to verify the accuracy of the projections and let MAG know if changes are needed.

9. Development of the FY 2017 MAG Unified Planning Work Program and Annual Budget

Ms. Becky Kimbrough, MAG staff, provided a report on the development of the FY 2017 MAG Unified Planning Work Program and Annual Budget, which has been presented incrementally in conjunction with member agency and public input. Ms. Kimbrough stated that in January the dues and assessments were presented and in February proposed new projects were presented.

Ms. Kimbrough stated that this month, the presentation includes a request for three staff positions. 1) An Application Developer I will work with the Application Development Program Manager to assist with the development of internal and external applications. 2) A Human Services Planner I will assist with the Continuum of Care as well as providing assistance in meeting the requirements of the HUD HEARTH Act. Funding from the HEARTH Act is available to fully fund this position. 3) An Accountant I to work 50 percent of the time with the Senior Accountant and 50 percent of the time with the Contracts Officer.

Ms. Kimbrough stated that for FY 2017, MAG is recommending that a proposed three percent increase be included for budgeted salaries and that any increases to individual MAG salaries be performance based. The annual performance evaluation is the basis for any potential salary increases for MAG staff. Each MAG staff has an annual performance evaluation in June and may receive an increase based on this evaluation. The total proposed for increases would not exceed \$250,000.

Ms. Kimbrough noted that the overhead rate of 1.4174 percent was finalized and applied to the budget. She noted that the FY 2017 proposed budget is \$2.7 million less than the FY 2016 budget, due to reductions in pass through and new consultant projects.

Chair Lane thanked Ms. Kimbrough and asked members if they had questions.

Mayor Thomas Schoaf asked how MAG determines it needs additional staff.

Mr. Smith stated that the Division Managers discuss with Mr. Smith that new staff is needed. He stated that MAG is limited not only by budget, but by space, so they have to be careful about adding any staff or consultants. Mr. Smith noted that questions were asked at the Management Committee meeting regarding the IT staff position, and it was revealed that MAG has a two-year backlog of projects. Mr. Smith noted that regarding the Human Services Planner, MAG is getting a lot of pressure from the Continuum of Care Committee to add staff because additional monitoring duties have been added to their responsibilities as a result of the HEARTH Act. He noted that MAG received additional funds from the HEARTH Act to cover that position.

Ms. Kimbrough stated that the Accountant position would work 50 percent of the time with the Contracts Officer, who works on contracts, amendments, and grant agreements. She noted that the Contracts Officer has no position backup and they sometimes have had to delay work. Ms. Kimbrough added that the Accountant position would support the Senior Accountant 50 percent of the time. She indicated that MAG has one staff member who does payroll and one who does accounts payable, and needs support for reconciliations, tax forms and with the audit.

Mayor Michael LeVault asked the projections for personnel expenditures compared to the amount budgeted.

Ms. Kimbrough replied that salary and benefits are projected at \$12.4 million, down from \$12.6 million that was budgeted last year. She added that the reason for the decrease is that they were conservative on their estimates due to unknowns on health care costs and an anticipated ASRS increase. Ms. Kimbrough noted that even with the three new positions and the \$250,000 they are under last year's budget by \$105,220.

Mayor Schoaf expressed his concern for adding staff generally. He indicated that he was not saying the staff were not necessary, only that there were not enough data presented to show the three new positions are needed. Mayor Schoaf stated that governments do not have the same limitations as those placed on business. In business if there is more staff and there is no value for that staff, then profits decrease. Mayor Schoaf stated that government growth concerns him and he said he would like to see more data as justification for more staff. He added that his concern was not for a lack of productivity on the part of MAG staff.

Mr. Smith commented that he knew Mayor Schoaf to be a fair person. He stated that he and MAG staff would arrange a meeting with Mayor Schoaf to review the justification.

Mayor LeVault asked the budgetary impact of the three new positions and how much the cost would be covered by grants.

Ms. Kimbrough replied that the Human Services Planner is 100 percent funded by grants. The IT position and the Accountant position are allowable costs and go into the indirect cost plan at the end of the year. She added they are all grant funded.

Mayor Schoaf asked the source of the grants.

Ms. Kimbrough replied that MAG grant and funding sources include Federal Highway Administration planning grants, Federal Transit Administration, HUD, a STOP grant from the Governor's Office, Arizona Department of Environmental Quality, state and regional sales tax, and MAG dues and assessments. She added that revenue also comes from MAGIC and Regional Community Partners for work outside the agency.

Mayor Schoaf remarked that while these funds might be called grants, they are not free -- someone has to pay the cost -- perhaps by diminishing the ability to fund a road or something we get from the federal government, which our grandchildren will need to pay for eventually.

Chair Lane stated that the justification analysis to be prepared is something that should be distributed to all Regional Council members.

Mayor Schoaf stated that he wanted to ensure there was a need for more personnel and not just the natural tendency of some organizations to get larger instead of lean organizations that get smaller.

Mayor Georgia Lord suggested that having a slide as a visual is helpful. She indicated that most cities have slides in their presentations and this makes the information more accessible and the process more transparent to the public.

10. Legislative Update

No report.

11. Nominating Committee

Chair Lane announced his appointments to the 2016 Nominating Committee: Mayor Michael LeVault, Chair, Councilman Dick Esser, Mayor Linda Kavanagh, Mayor Georgia Lord, and Mayor Thomas Schoaf. He noted that the Nominating Committee announcement memorandum was at each place. Chair Lane stated that the Nominating Committee develops a slate of seven candidates to serve on the Executive Committee for the upcoming year. The Nominating Committee is required to provide a balanced slate of officers. The slate of nominations is forwarded to all of the Regional Council members at least two weeks prior to the annual meeting in June. Chair Lane stated that those interested in being nominated by the Committee, to contact the Chair or a member of the Nominating Committee.

12. 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 were noted.

13. 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.

Chair Lane reminded members that the press conference regarding the SR-189 TIGER application will take place after the Regional Council meeting.

Adjournment

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 12:40 p.m.

Secretary

Chair