

October 13, 2010

TO: Members of the MAG Transit Committee

FROM: Debbie Cotton, City of Phoenix, Chair

SUBJECT: REVISED: Thursday, October 14, 2010 MAG Transit Committee Agenda

Thursday, October 14, 1:30 p.m.  
MAG Office, Suite 200, Saguaro Room  
302 North 1st Avenue, Phoenix

The October 14, 2010, Transit Committee agenda has been revised to provide additional information and an update to the Committee Action Requested for Agenda Item # 10: Tempe South Locally Preferred Alternative (LPA).

A meeting of the MAG Transit Committee will be held at the time and place noted above. Please park in the garage under the building. Bring your ticket to the meeting as parking will be validated. Bicycles can be locked in the rack at the entrance to the parking garage. Committee members or their proxies may attend in person, via videoconference or by telephone conference call. Those attending video conference must notify the MAG site three business days prior to the meeting. Those attending by telephone conference call please contact MAG offices for conference call instructions.

Pursuant to Title II of the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA), MAG does not discriminate on the basis of disability in admissions to or participation in its public meetings. Persons with a disability may request a reasonable accommodation, such as a sign language interpreter, by contacting Marc Pearsall or Jason Stephens at the MAG Office. Requests should be made as early as possible to allow time to arrange the accommodation.

Please be advised that under procedures adopted by the MAG Regional Council on June 26, 1996, all MAG committees need to have a quorum in order to conduct business. A quorum is a simple majority of the membership or twelve people for the MAG Transit Committee. If the Transit Committee does not meet the quorum requirement, members who have arrived at the meeting will be instructed a legal meeting cannot occur and subsequently be dismissed. Your attendance at the meeting is strongly encouraged. If you are unable to attend the meeting, please make arrangements for a proxy from your jurisdiction to represent you. Please contact Kevin Wallace at (602) 254-6300 if you have any questions or need additional information.

## REVISED TENTATIVE AGENDA

1. Call to Order

2. Approval of Draft August 12, 2010 Minutes

3. Call to the Audience

An opportunity will be provided to members of the public to address the Transit Committee on items not scheduled on the agenda that fall under the jurisdiction of MAG, or on items on the agenda for discussion but not for action. Citizens will be requested not to exceed a three minute time period for their comments. A total of 15 minutes will be provided for the Call to the Audience agenda item, unless the Transit Committee requests an exception to this limit.

4. Transit Program Manager's Report

The MAG Transit Program Manager will review recent transit planning activities and upcoming agenda items for other MAG committees.

5. Recommendation to Reappoint Chair and Vice Chair Transit Committee Positions

The MAG Committee Operating Policies and Procedures specify that Chair and Vice Chair positions for technical committees have one-year terms, with possible reappointment to serve up to one additional term, by consent of the respective committee.

At the meeting, members will be requested to either: (1) recommend reappointment of the current chair and vice chair to serve a second one-year term, or 2) have the vice chair ascend to the chair position and have a new vice chair appointed by the Regional Council Executive Committee. Should the Committee choose the second option, letters of interest for the vice chair position would be due by Monday, November 1, 2010.

### COMMITTEE ACTION REQUESTED

2. Approve Draft minutes of the August 12, 2010 meeting.

3. For information and discussion.

4. For information and discussion.

5. Possible action to recommend either: (1) to reappoint of the current chair and vice chair to serve a second one-year term, or (2) to request that the vice chair ascend to the chair position and have a new vice chair appointed by the Regional Council Executive Committee.

6. Update on Transit Operations Research and Data Collection

MAG staff is currently collecting information from peer regions and local transit operators to support the development of transit prioritization guidelines. To this end, MAG staff met with an informal working group of transit operators on September 21, 2010. The group is intended to provide MAG with region wide data for transit operations, ADA service, and preventive maintenance expenses. At September 21 meeting, the group discussed ADA transit service funding and tracking, transit data inputs to the National Transit Database, preventative maintenance expenditures, budgetary concerns, and impacts of funding sources. The group is expected to meet approximately twice a year to refine and update transit operating costs and assumptions. The next meeting will likely occur in Spring 2011.

7. Project Change Request to the Federal Fiscal Year 2009 and 2010 Program of Projects

On June 22, 2010 the Transit Committee approved the FY2009 and FY2010 Program of Projects, and Regional Council took action on these changes on June 30, 2010. It is requested that the earmark/high priority projects that were identified in the FY 2010 federal register be included in the FY2011-2015 MAG TIP. Please see Attachment One for more information.

8. Programming 5307 and 5309 - Fixed Rail and Guideway Modernization Funds in FY2010 and 2011

On June 22, 2010 the Transit Committee approved the FY2010 Program of Projects, and the Regional Council took action on these changes on June 30, 2010. Since then, the Executive Committee took action on September 13, 2010 to remove \$1,517,999 of FY2010 5309 Fixed Rail and Guideway Modernization (FGM) federal transit funds from two Mesa park

6. For information and discussion.

7. For information, discussion and possible action to recommend approval to modify/amend the FY 2011-2015 MAG TIP and the FY2009 & FY2010 Program of Projects.

8. Information, discussion, and possibly:  
1) recommend the amount of total preventative maintenance programmed in FY2011,  
2) recommend a preventative maintenance distribution methodology for 5307 funds,  
3) recommend a preventative maintenance distribution methodology for 5309 funds, and have the methodologies reviewed and updated annually to coincide with the latest National Transit Database information, and modify/amend the FY2011-2015 MAG TIP appropriately.

and ride construction projects. It is suggested to program these funds for preventative maintenance since all other eligible regional priorities from the TLCP are funded in the 2011-2015 TIP. A distribution for preventative maintenance for eligible 5309 activities is needed. Additionally, the MAG Regional Council took action on July 28, 2010 to approve the FY2011-2015 MAG TIP. . .and that the programming of preventive maintenance be reviewed for potential amendments/ administrative modifications no later than December 2010. To ensure that the deadline is met, it is suggested to focus on making amendments/ administrative modifications to preventative maintenance for FY2011. Please see Attachment Two for more detailed information.

9. Transit Prioritization Guidelines for Federal Funds

Currently, the region does not have an approved set of transit prioritization guidelines for programming federal funds. As MAG sets the priorities for the transit element of the Regional Transportation Plan (RTP) and the Regional Transportation Planning Authority (RPTA) is tasked to manage the life cycle for the transit element, known as the Transit Life Cycle Program (TLCP). There is a disconnect in the programming process, which has resulted in about \$30 million of 5307 federal funds in FY2011-2015 MAG Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) that were programmed to preventative maintenance as a placeholder since the region did not have prioritization guidelines in place to apply in programming the funds. Looking specifically at the later years of the TIP, 2012 - 2015, this amounts to almost \$18 million. MAG staff has used the framework of previous prioritization guidelines and has created different scenarios that emphasize: transit customers and existing service, transit customers and expansion of service, passenger enhancements, 'Building the

9. Information and discussion.

Plan:’ funding unfunded projects in the RTP, and other support services. These are emphasis areas are not exhaustive. Please see Attachment Three for additional information.

10. Tempe South Locally Preferred Alternative (LPA)

The MAG Regional Transportation Plan (RTP) identifies future high capacity transit improvements along Rural Road in the City of Tempe. Specifically, the RTP includes two transit projects within the Tempe South study area: 1) a 2-mile high capacity/light rail transit improvement extending south from downtown Tempe; and 2) a Bus Rapid Transit (BRT) corridor on Scottsdale/Rural Road extending from north Scottsdale to Chandler.

In August 2007, Valley Metro Rail (METRO) initiated a federally sponsored Alternatives Analysis in the Tempe South corridor. Both the 2-mile high capacity/light rail transit project and the BRT projects were analyzed as part of this study, but only the BRT segment south from downtown Tempe was evaluated.

The AA process culminates in the creation of a Locally Preferred Alternative (LPA), which defines the transit technology and alignments. METRO staff has proposed a modern streetcar along Mill Avenue for the LPA. The study also confirmed the importance of the Rural Road BRT project, between the Tempe Transit Center and the Chandler Fashion Center.

The Tempe South LPA will be further refined and considered for adoption by the Tempe City Council on October 21, 2010. The METRO Board will consider the LPA for acceptance on November 17, 2010, with final action by the MAG Regional Council in December. Please refer to Attachment Four for additional information.

10. For information, discussion, and recommendation to approve:

1) A Locally Preferred Alternative for the Tempe South project, including a modern streetcar on a Mill Avenue alignment with a one-way loop in downtown Tempe;

2) Inclusion of a potential future phase of modern streetcar east along Southern Avenue to Rural Road as an Illustrative Transit Corridor in the MAG Regional Transportation Plan;

3) Future consideration for increased service levels and capital improvements, per the description provided herein, for Rural Road BRT through the regional transportation system planning process;

4) Future consideration for high capacity transit needs north of downtown Tempe along Rio Salado Parkway and south of Southern Avenue along Rural Road to the vicinity of Chandler Boulevard through the regional transportation system planning process; and

5) Further consideration of commuter rail along the Tempe Branch of the Union Pacific Railroad, through the regional transportation planning process, and pending results from the Arizona Department of Transportation’s (ADOT’s) Phoenix-Tucson Intercity Rail Alternatives Analysis.

11. Request for Future Agenda Items

Topics or issues of interest that the Transit Committee would like to have considered for discussion at a future meeting will be requested.

12. Next Meeting Date

The next regular Transit Committee meeting will be scheduled Tuesday, November 9, 2010 at 1:30 p.m. in the MAG Office, Saguaro Room.

11. For information and discussion.

12. For information.