

MEETING MINUTES
MARICOPA ASSOCIATION OF GOVERNMENTS
TRANSIT COMMITTEE

June 9, 2011

Regional Public Transportation Authority/Valley Metro Office
101 North First Avenue, Suite 1000, Lake Powell Conference Room
Phoenix, Arizona

MEMBERS ATTENDING

Phoenix: Debbie Cotton, Chair	*Paradise Valley: William Mead
*ADOT: Mike Normand	Peoria: Maher Hazine
#Avondale: Rogene Hill	*Queen Creek: Tom Condit
#Buckeye: Sean Banda for Andrea Marquez	Scottsdale: Madeline Clemann
Chandler: Dan Cook for RJ Zeder	Surprise: David Kohlbeck
*El Mirage: Leah Hubbard	Tempe: Greg Jordan for Jyme Sue McLaren
#Gilbert: Ken Maruyama	*Tolleson: Chris Hagen
Glendale: Cathy Colbath	Valley Metro Rail: Wulf Grote
Goodyear: Cato Esquivel	Youngtown: Grant Anderson
Maricopa County: Mitch Wagner	Regional Public Transportation Authority:
Mesa: Jeff Martin for Mike James	Carol Ketcherside

*Members neither present nor represented by proxy. + - Attended by Videoconference
- Attended by Audioconference

OTHERS PRESENT

Kevin Wallace, MAG	Jenna Goad, Glendale
Marc Pearsall, MAG	Abhishek Dayal, METRO
Alice Chen, MAG	John Farry, METRO
Jami Garrison, MAG	David Moody, Peoria
Nathan Pryor, MAG	Jorie Bresnahan, Phoenix
Eileen Yazzie, MAG	Ken Kessler, Phoenix
	Bob Antila, Valley Metro-RPTA
	Janet Strauss, Valley Metro-RPTA
	Mike Sabatini, Michael Baker Company
	Trent Thatcher, Wilson & Company

1. Call to Order

The meeting was called to order at 10:07a.m. by Chair Debbie Cotton. Chair Cotton welcomed everyone in attendance and announced that a quorum was present. She noted that three members were participating via teleconference, Mr. Sean Banda, Ms. Andrea Marquez and Mr. Ken Maruyama. Chair Cotton asked if there were any public comment cards, and there being none, proceeded to the next item on the agenda.

2. Approval of Draft April 14, 2010 Minutes

Chair Cotton asked if there were any comments or corrections to the Draft April 14, 2010 meeting minutes. Hearing no comments or corrections to the meeting minutes, Chair Cotton called for a motion to approve the draft meeting minutes. Mr. Greg Jordan moved to approve the motion. Ms. Carol Ketcherside seconded, and the motion passed unanimously.

3. Call to the Audience

Chair Cotton stated that she had not received any request to speak cards from the audience and moved onto the next item on the agenda.

4. Transit Program Manager's Report

Mr. Kevin Wallace noted that he had a few items to present to the Committee. He explained that on June 2nd 2011, there was a public and business forum for the Sustainable Transportation and Land Use Integration Study hosted by Urban Land Institute and MAG. He mentioned that for those who were unable to attend, additional information may be obtained at the website www.bqaz.org. He said that over 110 attended and that it featured a well-received guest speaker panel with such notables as current Mayor Scott Smith, former Suncor CEO Steve Betts, renowned architect Will Bruder, and former Phoenix Mayor Paul Johnson, amongst others.

He added that representatives from local, private sector business disciplines from banking, commercial and residential development were also present, underscoring the theme of the forum. The purposed was to engage and receive input, dialogue, and market-based ideas from the private sector before any decisions or recommendations were made in regards to planning and land use. He noted that great discussions were had with the panel regarding obstacles and opportunities in moving forward with the development of the MAG Region's transit future. He explained that it was the first of two forums and that the panel would reconvene later in 2011 to further review the progress and strategies within the study, and that the stakeholders group would not meet again until late summer or early fall.

Mr. Wallace also mentioned that he had attended the May 17th RPTA Regional Transit

Advisory Group (RTAG) meeting. He noted that there was discussion regarding the proposed Short Range Transit Plan, in regards to its relation and link to the TIP. MAG had been informally asked by the RTAG to consider developing a new Short Range Transit Plan, in order to be an intermediate linkage between the the transit performance report, TLCP and the short range transit program. MAG plans to bring the item forward for some further discussion to see if there is interest by the Transit Committee.

Chair Cotton thanked Mr. Wallace for his report and asked if there were any further questions or comments. Hearing none, Chair Cotton proceeded to the next item on the agenda.

5. Federal Fiscal Year 2011 Program of Projects for FTA Funds

Chair Cotton introduced Ms. Eileen Yazzie of MAG to brief the committee on Federal Fiscal Year 2011 Program of Projects for FTA Funds. Ms. Yazzie noted that she had no formal presentation for the Committee, but requested that the members please refer to their attachments within the Agenda packet.

Ms. Yazzie mentioned that there was more funding available for the MAG Region. She added that on May 20, 2011, the Federal Transit Administration (FTA) published the FY2011 Apportionments, Allocations, and Program Information. She explained that the FFY 2011 apportionments for 5307 Urbanized Area were higher than expected for the Phoenix-Mesa UZA, and slightly lower for the Avondale UZA. She noted that the FFY2011 apportionment for 5309 Fixed Guideway Modernization (FGM) was lower than expected, and the Surface Transportation Program (STP) funds that were flexed from the DOT to MAG for transit are slightly higher than what was programmed. Additionally, she said that there were three projects requested to be deleted, mainly related to the ample stock of fleet within the region.

Ms. Yazzie further noted that after reconciling the lower amount available for 5309-FGM, there was an additional \$3.7 million of 5307 funds. She said that it was recommended to program these funds for preventative maintenance based on the previously MAG approved formula for distributing funds for FY2011. She also referred members back to the attachments for reference, specifically Attachment Two that explained the change in the increase of funds for preventive maintenance in 2011. She noted that she had no other information to present and that she would be please to take any questions from the Committee. Mr. Anderson requested some clarification and was referred to the attachment for additional details.

Hearing no further comments or questions, Chair Cotton noted that the item was on the agenda for information and discussion and possible action. She called for a motion to approve agenda item #5. Mr. Greg Jordan moved to approve the motion. Ms. Carol Ketcherside seconded, and the motion passed unanimously.

6. Amendment of the FY 2012 Unified Planning Work Program and Annual Budget to Provide Funding for a Northwest Valley Local Transit System Study

Chair Cotton noted that the item had been pulled from the agenda and proceeded to the next item on the agenda.

7. Update on the 2010 Census

Chair Cotton introduced Ms. Jami Garrison of MAG to brief the committee with an update on the 2010 Census. Ms. Garrison thanked the Committee for the opportunity to give a thorough presentation and overview on the Census 2010 Update, especially in regards to its effects on future planning and funding allocations for the MAG Region.

She began by explaining two important area that were covered by the presentation, specifically redistricting data and demographic profiles. She referred to the PowerPoint presentation and reviewed the 2010 Census "PL 94-1717" Redistricting Data was the first release of Census 2010 data for local-level population and housing counts. The data was available down to the block level (basically the size of a neighborhood 'block') for a variety of categories, total population, the population 18 years and over by 63 race categories. Total housing unit counts by occupied and vacant units was also another category.

Ms. Garrison noted that in December 2010, the 2010 Census counted 6,392,017 people residing in the state of Arizona. The recently released local-level counts reported that Maricopa County had a resident population of 3,817,117 as of April 1, 2010. She explained that as a share of the total state population, the chart showed that the county did not gain any as far as the total share of the state population. For the past three decades approximately 60% of the state's population have resided in Maricopa County, she added. She further noted that the racial/ethnic distribution of the population in the MAG region from the 2000 Census had changed. In 2010, Hispanics, Blacks (African Americans) and Asians increased their proportion of the population, while White (not Hispanic) decreased in proportion. The demographic profiles released in May provided MAG with the first look at more detailed statistics about our population. For instance, the median age of the population in Maricopa county increased from 33 years in 2000 to 34.6 as of Census Day 2010.

Ms. Garrison added that the within the incorporated cities in Maricopa County, the youngest population was found in Tolleson. Tolleson recorded the youngest median age at 26.6, down from its 2000 level of 29.4. At the other end of the spectrum – the city with the oldest (or more mature) population, was Carefree. Carefree held the honor with a median age of the city's population at 60.2. In 2000 the median age for Carefree was 55.2, with the a five percent rise over the decade. It was noted that the statistics from the two communities, Tolleson and Carefree, had surprised some experts' conventional wisdom on age trends within the Valley.

Ms. Garrison then reviewed the recently released housing information. The Census provided data on occupancy, vacancy, and home ownership. For 2010 the vacancy rate in Maricopa County was 13.9%. Reviewing the last 2 decades, the vacancy rate was as high as 15.2% in 1990. She explained that the MAG Region recovered from that over the succeeding 15 years

but the recent economic issues had caused vacancy rates to rise again. She noted that demographic profile information released in May provided a further breakdown of the types of housing, comparing the overall vacancy rate to the non-seasonal vacancy rate. The exercise removed the houses that were used for seasonal purposes only, so that MAG could analyze the vacancy rate on housing units that were used for year-round living. She also displayed Census 2010 data on housing units – a map of the region showing the concentration of vacant units across the region. The darkest brown shades were 1000 or more vacant housing units per square mile. County-wide, there was an average of 24.7 vacant housing units per square mile. She concluded that overall, the county had a 13.9 percent vacancy rate as of Census Day 2010.

Ms. Garrison summarized that as more data is released, MAG will be posting maps, charts and reports to the MAG website as well as on a special new site dedicated to census data: www.magcensus.com. On the website she noted that visitors view maps as well as demographic profiles for each city in the region, similar to the one in the agenda packet for Maricopa County. Tables with rankings and growth rates were also available on the website. She also explained that in the coming month, MAG would be launching a new Demographic Viewer, built on the ArcGIS map server platform and would contain the most recent Census data available. The Demographic Viewer would include interactive maps but also feature charts and reports that link to those maps. She added that it was customizable so custom areas may be selected in order to get a report of Census data for that area. She concluded that if any committee members had an interest in this, MAG would be offering workshops that will go over the details of the viewer and how to use it to enhance individual work flows.

Ms. Garrison then reviewed the next steps for the Census. The Summary File 1 was due out by August, being released on a flow basis by state. This would be the first detailed release of the data that provides information down to the block level, the ACS 2010-American Community Survey, which was an ongoing survey that the Census Bureau conducts. The first release of the ACS data that was benched to the 2010 Census would happen with the 2010 ACS release this fall. She added that the ACS is important because it collected the socioeconomic data that was dropped from the Decennial Census program in the initial review. Data on topics such as income, poverty, educational attainment, modes of transportation to work – past Census was collected these data via the “long form”, which was sent to one in 6 households. The ACS provided that data with its ongoing estimates. She further added that the information may be reviewed on the Census Bureau’s website, at www.census.gov. She also invited attendees to contact her directly with any additional questions.

She said that in regards to Urban and Rural, the Census Bureau was expected to release characteristics of urbanized areas and urban clusters by October 2012. The Census Bureau had developed a draft criteria of what constitutes an urban area. She referred to the hand-out that had a summary of the proposed changes from 2000 to 2010. The draft criteria was published in the Federal Register and comments were accepted through the beginning of 2011. Currently, the Census Bureau staff was working on the program and had indicated that they hoped to have the criteria approved and finalized by the end of Summer. She concluded that once it went through a the current committee process for approvals, it would be made available for review.

Ms Garrison completed her presentation and asked if there were any questions or comments. Ms. Madeline Clemann inquired if the presentation was available online, and staff responded that a version of the PowerPoint was available on the MAG Transit Committee website. Ms. Ketcherside asked if MAG knew which year of federal funding might be affected by the consolidation and change of the former Avondale UZA. Ms. Yazzie replied that it is too early to know and that it might go either way, with FY12 or FY13.

Chair Cotton thanked Ms. Garrison for her presentation and asked if there were any questions or comments. Hearing no further comments, Chair Cotton proceeded to the next item on the agenda.

8. Quarterly Status Report on Federal Grant Activity

Chair Cotton noted that Mr. Ken Kessler of the City of Phoenix Transit Department was present to answer committee questions for the Quarterly Status Report on Federal Grant Activity. She asked if there were any questions or comments on the agenda item. Hearing no further comments, Chair Cotton proceeded to the next item on the agenda.

9. Request for Future Agenda Items

Chair Cotton asked the members of the Committee if there were any issues that they would like added as future agenda items. Hearing no further comments, Chair Cotton proceeded to the next item on the agenda.

10. Next Meeting Date

Chair Cotton thanked those present for attending the MAG Transit Committee meeting. She announced that the next meeting of the MAG Transit Committee would be held on Thursday, July 14, 2011 at 10:00 a.m. at a location to be determined.

Mr. Wallace added that due to the construction at the MAG offices and temporary closure of the meeting rooms, MAG was requesting volunteer cities to perhaps host the Transit Committee meetings for July and August. Mr. Maher Hazine of Peoria responded that Peoria may be able to assist with one of the meeting locations. Mr. Wallace advised those cities interested in helping to contact Marc Pearsall.

There being no further business, Chair Cotton adjourned the meeting at 10:37 a.m.