

January 5, 2012

TO: Members of the MAG Transit Committee

FROM: Cathy Colbath, City of Phoenix, Chair

SUBJECT: MEETING NOTICE AND TRANSMITTAL OF TENTATIVE AGENDA

Thursday, January 12, 2012 – 10:00 a.m.
MAG Office, Suite 200, Ironwood Room
302 North 1st Avenue, Suite 200
Phoenix, AZ. 85003

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 Eileen Yazzie at (602) 254-6300 if you have any questions or need additional information.

TENTATIVE AGENDA

1. Call to Order

2. Approval of Draft December 8, 2011 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. Federal Transit Discretionary Grants

In Fiscal Year 2011, the Federal Transit Administration made available four (4) Notice of Funding Availabilities (NOFA) for competitive transit and transit related grants. The MAG region submitted a total of six (6) regionally collaborative applications in response to the NOFAs. The projects were proposed during a Technical Working Group meeting attended by jurisdictions that had transit service in the MAG region. The applications were completed as a coordinated effort between City of Phoenix, RPTA, and MAG. City of Phoenix, as the regions designated grant recipients submitted the final grants. MAG staff will lead the coordination effort with RPTA and City of Phoenix in anticipation of additional funding opportunities for FY 2012 in

COMMITTEE ACTION REQUESTED

2. Approve Draft minutes of the December 8, 2011 meeting.

3. For information and discussion.

4. For information and discussion.

5. For information and discussion.

the next few months. A handout is forthcoming and will be available at the meeting.

6. Sustainable Transportation Land Use Integration Study Update

The Sustainable Transportation Land Use Integration Study was launched in 2010. It includes a market analysis research, spatial and economic analysis of the region, best practices of sustainable transportation strategies, creating a menu of transit-supportive 'Place Types,' analyzing different transit networks and land-use related to a sustainable productive transit system, and creating regional and local planning tools and policies. MAG staff will provide an update on completed tasks, and upcoming analysis and planning activities.

7. 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.

8. Next Meeting Date

The next regular Transit Committee meeting is scheduled for Thursday, February 9, 2012, at 10:00 a.m. in the MAG Office, Ironwood Room.

Adjournment

6. For information and discussion.

7. For information and discussion.

8. For information and discussion.

DRAFT MEETING MINUTES
MARICOPA ASSOCIATION OF GOVERNMENTS
TRANSIT COMMITTEE

December 8, 2011
Maricopa Association of Governments; Saguaro Room;
302 N. 1st Avenue, Suite 200
Phoenix, Arizona

MEMBERS ATTENDING

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

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

OTHERS PRESENT

Eileen Yazzie, MAG	Joe Bowar, Phoenix
Marc Pearsall, MAG	Jorie Bresnahan, Phoenix
Alice Chen, MAG	Ken Kessler, Phoenix
Jorge Luna, MAG	Karl Matzinger, Phoenix
DeDe Gaisthea, MAG	Wendy Miller, Phoenix
David Moody, Peoria	Tom Remes, Phoenix

1. Call to Order

The meeting was called to order at 1:03 p.m. by Chair Cathy Colbath. Chair Colbath welcomed everyone in attendance and announced that a quorum was present. She noted that this was her first meeting as the new Chair after the departure of former Chair Debbie Cotton. She introduced the new Vice Chair Mike James of Mesa and noted that the following members were joining the meeting by teleconference, Mr. Lance Calvert of the City of El Mirage, and Mr. Kurt Sharp of the Town of Gilbert. Chair Colbath asked if there were any public comment cards, and there being none, proceeded to the next item on the agenda.

2. Approval of Draft September 8, 2011 Minutes

Chair Colbath asked if there were any comments or corrections to the Draft September 8, 2011 meeting minutes. Hearing no comments or corrections to the meeting minutes, Chair Colbath called for a motion to approve the draft meeting minutes. Mr. Grant Anderson of Youngtown moved to approve the motion. Mr. Mike James of Mesa seconded, and the motion passed unanimously.

3. Call to the Audience

Chair Colbath 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

Chair Colbath introduced Ms. Eileen Yazzie who presented her Transit Program Manager's Report.

Ms. Yazzie began her report by noting that she had a few items for the committee. She noted that the ADOT forecast for the regional ½ cent sales tax had been completed and in general the numbers were down slightly, as growth did not occur where it was originally projected by the experts. She added that the overall deficit and impact to the programs in Prop 400 were estimated at approximately \$200 million, which would cause all three ALCP programs (arterial, freeways, transit) to re-balance again. She continued with a brief update on the Sustainable Transportation Land Use Integration Study and added that she would be back in January 2012 with a more robust report. She added that the study was currently gathering information and input for the high capacity corridor modeling and that MAG staff and the study consultants had met with over half-a-dozen stakeholders to answer their questions and comments on the methodology. She said that she would be releasing a first round of questions and answers back to the stakeholders within a day and then another set of questions and answers the following week, the contents of which reflect the continuing interaction between MAG and the member agencies for the study. She finalized her report by mentioned the Fiscal Year 2012 federal funds update. She noted that in Fall 2011, the Federal Transit Administration authorized funds for transportation through March 2012, where the funds remained at 2011 levels, unchanged. Ms. Yazzie stated that MAG would begin discussing the 2012 Program of Projects with the Transit Committee in the January or February and it will be based upon an estimate of a full-year of 2011 apportionments. She completed her report.

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

5. 2012 MAG Transit Committee Meeting Schedule

Chair Colbath introduced Mr. Marc Pearsall of MAG to brief the committee on an update regarding the upcoming 2012 MAG Transit Committee Meeting Schedule. Mr. Pearsall gave a short explanation and noted that the proposed 2012 schedule was included in the agenda packets for review, suggestions and discussion.

Mr. Colbath added that the proposed schedule was on the agenda for potential action and asked if there were any comments or questions from the Committee. Hearing none, Chair Colbath called for a motion to approve the 2012 MAG Transit Committee Meeting Schedule. Mr. Mike James of Mesa moved to approve the motion. Mr. Dan Cook of Chandler seconded, and the motion passed unanimously.

Chair Colbath asked if there were any further questions or comments. Hearing no further comments or questions, Chair Colbath proceeded to the next item on the agenda.

6. Designing Transit Accessible Communities Study Update

Chair Colbath introduced Ms. Alice Chen of MAG to present an update on the Designing Transit Accessible Communities Study.

Ms. Chen welcomed the Committee and noted that she was presenting the new MAG Designing Transit Accessible Communities study that was to proceed in the coming weeks and was expected to last one year. She mentioned that the study was relevant to many of the issues the Transit Committee worked, as well as benefitting from the institutional expertise and experience represented by the members of the committee.

Ms. Chen then referred to her presentation, which defined a “problem” so to speak, with regional accessibility to transit. She added that the American Public Transit Association defined Transit Accessibility with the following three points: 1) to identify the challenges that are faced by transit users in the region when accessing transit; 2) recommend improvements, policies, and guidelines that are applicable in the MAG region; and 3) provide a cost analysis and a framework for funding options and prioritization.

She referred to Access and Comfort Inventory: with the classifications of Low, Moderate, High, and Transit Center Park & Ride. She highlighted a graphic courtesy of her consultant. She said that the graphic was a good representation of the study concept as it categorized stops into four levels of utilization from low to high and the highest being as expected park and rides and transit centers and does an initial inventory of the amenities. She further explained some examples of the ranked categories within the study. Low inventory featured: narrow sidewalks, walled subdivisions, wide streets and no street crossings. A Moderate inventory featured: no mid block crossings. A High inventory featured a location nearer to a stop light. She clarified that not all bus stops in the region were expected to look like a first-class transit center, but that they were good examples that could provide guiding principles in ensuring that all transit stops offered a baseline of good amenities and access.

Ms. Chen then gave a brief reviewed of the project scope, the Technical Working Group, and a project time-line. She noted that the year-long project commenced in November 2011 and would be completed in November 2012. The Technical Working Group was expected to meet five times, and the Stakeholders Group was expected to hold three meetings for the duration of the study. The final report would be brought before the Regional Council for final approval.

Chair Colbath thanked Ms. Chen for her presentation and asked if there were any questions or comments from the Committee. Ms. Madeline Clemann of Scottsdale asked if the study applied to a particular geographic area of the MAG Region, or if it was valley-wide in scale. Ms. Chen replied that the Designing Transit Accessible Communities Study was regional in scope and its study-area included the entire MAG Region, and that a variety of five accessibility issues from throughout the region would be reviewed as sample prototype cases for the aforementioned Access and Comfort Inventory. Mr. James asked if the document would be used for any future improvements to the region. Ms. Chen replied that in order for the improvements identified within the final report to be implemented, new regional funding would be needed. However, she noted that since the FTA and FHWA were moving towards a performance based metric for discretionary funding options, then the final study report would provide guidelines and a play book for allocating funding to projects. Mr. James stated that recently, the region engaged in an overall bus stop improvement program and asked that the document be reviewed and included in the new study. Discussion followed.

Chair Colbath again thanked Ms. Chen for her presentation. Hearing no further comments or questions, Chair Colbath proceeded to the next item on the agenda.

7. Local Transit System Studies Update

Chair Colbath noted that the next agenda item would be given in two parts. She then introduced Mr. Jorge Luna of MAG to present an update on the Southwest Valley Local Transit System Study.

Mr. Luna explained that the purpose of the study was to identify opportunities and strategies for improving the existing transit service in the southwest valley. It included developing a short, mid, and long range local transit plan that effectively provides circulation within the southwest valley and also connects to the regional Valley Metro transit system.

He added that the need for the study was due to the fact that the southwest valley had experienced explosive population growth, as now confirmed in the 2010 US Census. In addition, he said that the study area has also seen sizable employment growth. However, due to the economic downturn, certain bus routes have reduced levels of service, others have been suspended, and planned regional services may be significantly delayed. Mr. Luna referred to his presentation and noted that within the Study Area, the participating members and participating agencies were the cities of Avondale, Buckeye, Goodyear, Litchfield Park, Maricopa County, Phoenix, Tolleson, the RPTA, METRO, and MAG.

Mr. Luna further explained that the project tasks included 1.) refining the scope and schedule; 2.) A public involvement plan (PIP); 3.) data collection, analysis and evaluation; 4.)

efficiency/effectiveness analysis of current service; 5.) short-, mid- and long-term needs assessment and alternatives development; 6.) a financial analysis; and 7.) a local transit system and implementation plan. He also detailed the Task Overview of the study, which included the establishment of a PMT (Project Management Team) which would help review documents and provide input from their respective communities. Further tasks include an online survey, which focuses on data collection to collect, evaluate and summarize existing and future data necessary to determine the market need for the subarea's short, mid and long range transit options.

He said that the PIP would coordinate with ongoing transit studies as well as adjacent communities. He praised one of the study area's highlight successes, Avondale's Zoom circulator, which had far exceeded its ridership projections. He concluded that the local transit plan is very important since the data indicates that there is a great need for internal mobility, as currently witnessed by the ZOOM's success.

Mr. Luna also explained the studies' efficiency analysis, which would look at the existing and planned transit service to make sure that it is hitting the right markets and if minor, or cost-neutral, modifications could result in greater efficiency and/or increased ridership. A needs assessment and alternatives development would analyze market-based needs with the financial analysis and realities. The financial analysis would refine the costs of the proposed service plan (capital and operating) as well as proposed the types of funding strategies needed to implement the plan (local taxes, PPP, grants, etc.). He noted that all of the elements would be included in the final transit plan, which would list the steps needed to implement the plan.

He concluded by explaining that it was a 12 month study and that the PMT, consultant team and MAG staff would hold the project kickoff meeting on December 14th at MAG.

Chair Colbath thanked Mr. Luna and inquired if there were any questions or comments. Hearing none, she then introduced Mr. Pearsall of MAG to present an update on the Northwest Valley Local Transit System Study.

Mr. Pearsall began by noting that the Northwest Valley Local Transit System Study was very similar in spirit and purpose to the aforementioned Southwest Valley Study. He noted that the origins and demand for the study actually came via a group of concerned citizens and the private community service agency, Benevilla, which displayed great empathy over the well-being of seniors in the Northwest Valley since the demise of Sun Cities Area Transit (SCAT). He explained that after 25 years of service, SCAT and Maricopa County Special Transportation Services (STS) were eliminated by December 31, 2010 due to liability issues, a lack of dedicated funding and a dwindling volunteer base.

He further explained that with no viable public transit viable options for residents in the Sun City and Northwest Valley area, an informal group has been meeting at Benevilla for a year to identify transportation/mobility strategies for the Sun Cities area. He said that MAG was invited in summer 2011 to help initiate a new study that would help identify short and long term transit needs for paratransit, local routes, and circulators, and the Northwest Valley Local Transit System Study is a culmination of those efforts.

Mr. Pearsall referred to his presentation and noted that within the study area, the participating members and agencies for the Project Management Team were: City of El Mirage, City of Glendale, City of Peoria, Sun Cities/Maricopa County, City of Surprise, Town of Youngtown, Valley Metro/RPTA and MAG. He said that MAG approved funding for the study and RFP process for NW Valley Local Transit System Study during August and September 2011 and that the project was recommended for approval to amend the FY 2012 MAG Unified Planning Work Program and Annual Budget to include \$238,000 for the study. \$160,000 of the funding came from through ADOT, with the remaining \$78,000 provided by MAG.

Mr. Pearsall concluded by explaining that the Draft RFP was complete, and that ADOT presented MAG with FTA 5305 funding grant for study in November 2011. MAG expects to issue an Request for Proposal (RFP) in January 2012 with an expected project kickoff no later than April 1, 2012.

Chair Colbath again thanked Mr. Pearsall and Mr. Luna for their presentations and asked if there were any further questions or comments. Hearing no further comments or questions, Chair Colbath proceeded to the next item on the agenda.

8. UTA-MAG Multi-modal Transit System Tour Summary

Chair Colbath introduced Mr. Pearsall to provide the committee with a brief summary of the recent Utah Transit Authority - MAG Multi-modal Transit System Tour.

Mr. Pearsall thanked Chair Colbath and proceeded with a brief overview of the Salt Lake City Utah Transit Authority Multi-modal Transit System Tour. Mr. Pearsall stated that about a year ago MAG was requested to look at a peer region that best showcased mixing multi-modal transit modes, while emphasizing the economic development benefit of that transit. He noted they looked into Dallas, Denver, Salt Lake City, Portland, Seattle and San Diego. Salt Lake City rose to the top of the list because the location was relatively close and enabled people to attend the tour and also Salt Lake City has gone to great lengths in the last twelve years expanding their transit service and programs.

Mr. Pearsall noted the October 13-14 tour included a trip from Salt Lake City to Ogden on their front runner commuter rail system, which is a inter-urban system that runs every half hour, all day long. He noted that throughout the tour, six mayors stepped on and told participants what the rail has done for their particular city and community and how it linked all the communities. The Ogden Mayor greeted everyone and gave them a bus tour of downtown Ogden and focused on transit orientated development.

He noted that they discussed the tools to renovate and focus on economic development. These tools included the Utah Redevelopment Agencies legislation (RDA). This limits the use of RDA's only for "blighted" areas. This was the tool most communities used, and then abused, which led to tightening the guidelines and the creation of other project areas knows as EDA's and CDA's. Mr. Pearsall stated another tool was the Economic Development (EDA) legislation, which can only be used for true "economic development" projects that actually produce jobs and careers (no retail).

The Community Development (CDA) legislation was the third tool they used. CDA's can be used for any community/economic development project. The city creating and proposing a CDA must meet individually with each taxing entity and the project area budget is approved entity by entity as both the municipality and the individual taxing entity mutually agree. He stated that these tools really helped redevelop some blighted areas in Salt Lake City and if Arizona can work on something very narrow and focused in manufacturing jobs to diversify our economy, we could be successful.

Mr. Pearsall added that the tour also showcased two light rail lines, from Downtown Salt Lake City to the City of Murray, then another new line to the community of West Jordan Valley and the Daybreak community. The transit oriented development underway along the corridor was impressive and the genuine support of the surrounding neighborhoods was a great benefit.

Mr. Pearsall stated by 2015 Utah Transit Authority will have five light rail lines and two commuter rail lines. He noted the common themes and observations that was seen throughout the UTA team included cooperation, focusing on economic development, unique financing and funding options, centralized operation (one transit provider), energy and technology innovation, policies, land use, and real estate. Mr. Pearsall suggested going to the UTA website (www.rideuta.com) for more information.

Mr. James thanked MAG staff for coordinating the trip and said that it was worthwhile for the elected officials and attendees. He noted that witnessing the trust, partnership and cooperation amongst the various Utah agencies showed that they could accomplish many things in building a dynamic transit system.

Chair Colbath thanked Pearsall for his presentation and asked if there were any comments or questions from the committee. Hearing no further comments or questions, Chair Colbath proceeded to the next item on the agenda.

9. Quarterly Status Report on Federal Grant Activity

Chair Colbath introduced Mr. Ken Kessler of the City of Phoenix Transit Department and noted that he 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 or questions, Chair Colbath thanked Mr. Kessler and proceeded to the next item on the agenda.

10. Request for Future Agenda Items

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

Mr. Maher Hazine of Peoria inquired as to the status of his previous question from September regarding the potential use of reimbursed 5307 Federal Funds for Preventive Maintenance for

Dial-A-Ride/Taxi service vehicles. Mr. Pearsall responded that MAG was fielding the question with the Federal Transit Administration and that an answer was forthcoming before the holidays. Mr Pearsall noted that he would contact Mr. Hazine prior to New Years to discuss the findings, then bring the issue back before the Committee with the January agenda. Mr. Hazine thanked the Chair and Mr. Pearsall.

Mr. Hazine then requested a thank you on behalf of the Transit Committee for Mr. David Moody of Peoria. Mr. Hazine noted that it was Mr. Moody's final day with the City of Peoria and that he had shown great leadership the past few years as a proxy for the Transit Committee and as the Chair of the Transportation Review Committee. Mr. Moody received a round of applause from the Transit Committee members and gallery attendees.

11. Next Meeting Date

Chair Colbath thanked those present for attending the MAG Transit Committee meeting and she announced that the next meeting of the MAG Transit Committee would be held on Thursday, January 12, 2012 at 10:00 a.m. in the new MAG Ironwood Room on the 2nd Floor. There being no further business, Chair Colbath adjourned the meeting at 1:50 p.m.