

November 9, 2010

TO: Members of the Transportation Policy Committee

FROM: Mayor Scott Smith, Mesa, Chair

SUBJECT: NOTIFICATION OF MEETING AND TRANSMITTAL OF TENTATIVE AGENDA

Meeting - 5:00 p.m. - PLEASE NOTE MEETING TIME CHANGE

Wednesday, November 17, 2010

MAG Office, Suite 200 - Saguaro Room

302 N. First Avenue, Phoenix

A meeting of the Transportation Policy Committee is scheduled for the time and place noted above. Members of the Committee may attend the meeting either in person, by videoconference, or by telephone conference call. As determined at the first meeting of the Committee, proxies are not allowed. Members who are not able to attend the meeting are encouraged to submit their comments in writing, so that their view is always a part of the process.

For those attending in person, please park in the garage under the building. Bring your ticket to the meeting, parking will be validated. For those using transit, the Regional Public Transportation Authority will provide transit tickets for your trip. For those using bicycles, please lock your bicycle in the bike rack in the garage.

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

Refreshments and a light snack will be provided. If you have any questions, please contact Eric Anderson, MAG Transportation Director, or Dennis Smith, MAG Executive Director, at (602) 254-6300.

c: MAG Regional Council
MAG Management Committee

**TRANSPORTATION POLICY COMMITTEE
TENTATIVE AGENDA
November 17, 2010**

		<u>COMMITTEE ACTION REQUESTED</u>
<p>1. <u>Call to Order</u></p>		
<p>2. <u>Pledge of Allegiance</u></p>		
<p>3. <u>Call to the Audience</u></p> <p>An opportunity will be provided to members of the public to address the Transportation Policy 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 Transportation Policy Committee requests an exception to this limit. Please note that those wishing to comment on agenda items posted for action will be provided the opportunity at the time the item is heard.</p>		<p>3. Information.</p>
<p>4. <u>Approval of Consent Agenda</u></p> <p>Prior to action on the consent agenda, members of the audience will be provided an opportunity to comment on consent items that are being presented for action. Following the comment period, Committee members may request that an item be removed from the consent agenda. Consent items are marked with an asterisk (*).</p>		<p>4. Recommend approval of the Consent Agenda.</p>

ITEMS PROPOSED FOR CONSENT*

<p>*4A. <u>Approval of the October 20, 2010, Meeting Minutes</u></p>		<p>4A. Review and approval of the October 20, 2010, meeting minutes.</p>
<p>*4B. <u>Arterial Life Cycle Program Status Report</u></p> <p>The Arterial Life Cycle Program (ALCP) addresses ALCP project work, the remaining Fiscal Year 2011 ALCP schedule and program deadlines as well as revenues, and finances for the period between April 2010 and September 2010. Please refer to the enclosed material.</p>		<p>4B. Information.</p>

*4C. Project Changes – Amendments and Administrative Modifications to the FY 2011-2015 MAG Transportation Improvement Program

On June 22, 2010, the MAG Transit Committee approved the FY 2009 and FY 2010 Program of Projects, and Regional Council took action on these changes on June 30, 2010. It is requested that eight earmark/high priority projects that were identified in the FY 2010 Federal Register be included in the FY 2011-2015 MAG Transportation Improvement Program (TIP). The Arizona Department of Transportation has also requested to include new utility projects, an advancement and repayment for Williams Gateway Freeway, and delete one project since it is complete. Maricopa County is requesting that a federal aid project is moved from 2010 to 2011, and the City of Tempe is requesting to modify a project description. This item is on the November 10, 2010, Management Committee agenda. An update will be provided on action taken by the Committee. Please refer to the enclosed material.

4C. Recommend approval of amendments and administrative modifications to the FY 2011-2015 MAG Transportation Improvement Program, as appropriate, to the Regional Transportation Plan 2010 Update, and the FY 2009 and FY 2010 Program of Projects.

ITEMS PROPOSED TO BE HEARD

5. Tempe South Locally Preferred Alternative

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

5. Recommend approval of: (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 to be incorporated into the MAG FY 2011 to FY 2015 Transportation Improvement Program and the Regional Transportation Plan 2010 Update for an air quality conformity analysis; (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) Without modifying priorities in the Regional Transportation Plan, consider increased service levels and capital improvements for Rural Road BRT, per the description provided herein, 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

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 was approved by the Tempe City Council on October 21, 2010, recommended for approval by the MAG Transit Committee on October 14, 2010, and by the MAG Transportation Review Committee on October 28, 2010. The METRO Board will consider the LPA for acceptance on November 17, 2010. This item is on the November 10, 2010, Management Committee agenda. An update will be provided on action taken by the Committee. Please refer to the enclosed material.

6. Revised Sales Tax and Highway User Revenue Fund Projections

Revised projections of the transportation sales tax and the Arizona Highway User Revenue Fund (HURF) have been released. The sales tax projections from FY 2011 to FY 2026 are approximately \$2.2 billion lower than the projections for the same period that were made a year ago. The lower sales tax projections mean a significant loss of revenue for the highway, transit and arterial street life cycle programs. The highway program share of the loss is \$1.241 billion, the transit loss is \$735.5 million and the arterial program loss is \$231.9 million. In addition, the lower sales tax revenues result in lower future bonding capacity for all three program. The Arizona Department of Transportation estimates that the loss in bonding capacity for the highway program is approximately \$925 million. HURF revenues for the period FY 2011 to FY 2020 are also lower than the projections made last year. Cumulative HURF revenues for the ten year period are approximately \$1.13 billion lower than last year.

7. Transit Prioritization Guidelines for Federal Funds

In the past year, the region has reduced transit service, and is likely to continue reductions due to

regional transportation system planning process; and (5) Without modifying priorities in the Regional Transportation Plan, consider future commuter rail service along the Tempe Branch of the Union Pacific Railroad, through the regional transportation system planning process, and pending results from the Arizona Department of Transportation's Phoenix-Tucson Intercity Rail Alternatives Analysis.

6. Information and discussion.

7. Information and discussion.

lower revenues. As service reductions are implemented, the need for capital/procurement projects (bus replacement, purchasing new buses for expansion, building park and rides, expansions of routes/rail lines, etc.) shrinks. This results with unprogrammed federal funds. Currently, MAG does not have an approved set of transit prioritization guidelines for programming federal funds. MAG staff has used the framework of previous prioritization guidelines used in the region and has created different scenarios that use transit demand metrics for evaluation. MAG staff will explain these scenarios and would like the Transportation Policy Committee's input and will then work with the MAG Transit Committee for further refinement. Supporting material will follow in a separate mailing.

8. Input on Business Representatives on the Transportation Policy Committee

With the passage of Proposition 400 on November 2, 2004, the President of the Senate and the Speaker of the House of Representatives were authorized to appoint six business members to the Transportation Policy Committee (TPC). State law also provides that the Chairman of the Regional Planning Agency may submit names to the President and Speaker for consideration. On December 31, 2010, the terms of two of the TPC business members will expire. On October 8, 2010, a memorandum was sent to Regional Council members requesting names for the business representatives. One of the six business members must represent transit interests. This is defined in state law as "an individual with demonstrated interest and experience with public transportation." The other business member would represent regionwide business. The law defines regionwide business as "a company that provides goods or services throughout the county." State law provides that members serve six-year terms of office. Input from TPC members is requested. It is anticipated that the Regional Council may make a recommendation on the business members at its December 8, 2010, meeting. Please refer to the enclosed material.

8. Information, discussion and input.

9. Legislative Update
An update will be provided on legislative issues of interest.

10. Request for Future Agenda Items
Topics or issues of interest that the Transportation Policy Committee would like to have considered for discussion at a future meeting will be requested.

11. Comments from the Committee
An opportunity will be provided for Transportation Policy Committee members to present a brief summary of current events. The Transportation Policy Committee 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.

Adjournment

9. Information and discussion.

10. Information and discussion.

11. Information.