

February 8, 2011

TO: Members of the Transportation Policy Committee

FROM: Mayor Scott Smith, Mesa, Chair

SUBJECT: NOTIFICATION OF MEETING AND TRANSMITTAL OF TENTATIVE AGENDA

Meeting - 4:00 p.m.
Wednesday, February 16, 2011
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
February 16, 2011**

		<u>COMMITTEE ACTION REQUESTED</u>
1.	<u>Call to Order</u>	
2.	<u>Pledge of Allegiance</u>	
3.	<u>Call to the Audience</u> 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.	3. Information.
4.	<u>Approval of Consent Agenda</u> 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 (*).	4. Recommend approval of the Consent Agenda.

ITEMS PROPOSED FOR CONSENT*

*4A.	<u>Approval of the November 17, 2010, Meeting Minutes</u>	4A. Review and approval of the November 17, 2010, meeting minutes.
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ITEMS PROPOSED TO BE HEARD

5.	<u>Arterial Life Cycle Program Deficit and Scenarios for Balancing the Program</u> In November 2010, the Arizona Department of Transportation released a revised Regional Area Road Fund (RARF) projection that indicated a \$232	5. Information, discussion, and possible action to provide direction to follow the Scenario 3 methodology in bridging the \$232 million gap in the ALCP.
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million reduction in forecasted revenues allocated to the Arterial Life Cycle Program (ALCP) for the remainder of the half-cent sales tax. The adopted ALCP Policies and Procedures provide guidance to defer projects in priority order when there is a program deficit. Coordinating with the ALCP Working Group, MAG staff developed two alternative scenarios to balance the ALCP, which would require a change in policy if directed. The ALCP Working Group input favored Scenario III which prorates the reduction proportionally across the Lead Agencies. Each Lead Agency would then work with its partners to determine how individual projects would be impacted. MAG staff will provide an update of the revised RARF revenue forecast, fiscal implications, and reprogramming scenarios to restore fiscal balance to the ALCP. Please refer to the enclosed material that includes a memorandum summarizing the reprogramming scenarios.

6. Transit Policy and Programming in the Region

Last year, MAG assumed the responsibility for programming federal transit funds in the MAG region. Since then, MAG has established a Transit Committee and has worked to develop a programming process for the regional allocation of federal funds that is open, well-documented and transparent. In the course of this work, a number of gaps and inconsistencies between the MAG Regional Transportation Plan (RTP), the status of the regional transit system, and current funding needs were identified. MAG staff is seeking policy direction from the Transportation Policy Committee (TPC) in three areas: clarification on using regional federal funds to support different levels of transit service, how funding for preventive maintenance is integrated into the RTP, and establishing a process to program any unallocated federal funds. Please refer to the attached memorandum that provides background information on the regional transit system and programming along with specific questions for the TPC.

6. Information and discussion.

7. Phoenix West Alternatives Analysis Update and Operating Plan

An update will be provided on the METRO Project team preliminary staff recommendations for the Phoenix West Alternatives Analysis study. Please refer to the enclosed material.

8. Multimodal Transit System Tour - MAG Region Peer Cities

MAG staff have been exploring the possibility of a multimodal transit tour of a MAG Peer Region city. The purpose of the on-site tour would be for MAG region leaders to gather information and investigate the benefits of the connectivity between commuter rail, light rail and bus transit. MAG staff researched the request and the Utah Transit Authority (UTA) appears to be a good fit as an example of daily multimodal connectivity in the Intermountain West. UTA staff has offered to host a tour for MAG region leaders in the April 2011 timeframe. MAG staff is seeking direction from the Management Committee and Transportation Policy Committee on whether or not to proceed with the request for a tour. This item is on the February 9, 2011, Management Committee agenda. An update will be provided.

9. Western High Speed Rail Alliance/State Rail Plan Update

On December 8, 2010, the MAG Regional Council requested that a report be provided on how the State Rail Plan will coordinate with the Western High Speed Rail Alliance (WHSRA) initiatives. Staff will provide an update on the current status of the WHSRA of which MAG is a member. WHSRA members, the Nevada Department of Transportation, and the Regional Transportation Commission of Southern Nevada (Las Vegas) have made progress in working with the Federal Railroad Administration (FRA) on the pending high speed rail studies. Funding had been allocated by the FRA in late 2010 for high speed rail corridor studies between Phoenix, Los Angeles and Las Vegas, also known as the Golden Triangle,

7. Information and discussion.

8. Information, discussion, and input on whether MAG proceeds in arranging a multimodal transit system tour.

9. Information and discussion.

and additional details are forthcoming. MAG is also coordinating with the Arizona Department of Transportation (ADOT) to assist in implementing the MAG region's goals and objectives as identified within the new ADOT/BQAZ State Rail Plan. A completed State Rail Plan is a federal requirement for federal funding participation in state rail studies. The final draft of the State Rail Plan was presented to the State Transportation Board on January 10, 2011, and comments and suggestions from the Board will be incorporated into the document and a final draft will be submitted to the FRA in spring/summer 2011, with a concurrent public release. The FRA has encouraged that the plan be updated and revised annually by ADOT, as it is considered a dynamic, ever-changing document.

10. Don't Trash Arizona Litter Prevention and Education Program

Don't Trash Arizona is a litter prevention and education program conducted cooperatively by the Maricopa Association of Governments and the Arizona Department of Transportation (ADOT) to communicate the environmental, economic, and health impacts of roadway litter in our region. In 2003, MAG and ADOT signed a joint resolution that included a commitment to develop a long-term litter prevention program to help reduce freeway litter and defray pickup costs. Proposition 400, which was approved by voters in 2004, included funding for litter pickup, sweeping, and landscape maintenance, as well as litter education and prevention. *Don't Trash Arizona* was formally implemented in 2006 to change attitudes, awareness, and most importantly, behavior, when it comes to roadway littering. The program has been highly successful in increasing awareness of the litter problem and in reducing the number of motorists who admit to littering. A presentation will be provided on efforts and results to date. The *Don't Trash Arizona* program is included as a project in the Draft MAG FY 2012 Unified Planning Work Program and Annual Budget. Input and guidance is being requested on proceeding with the *Don't Trash Arizona* Litter

10. Information, discussion, and input/guidance to continue the *Don't Trash Arizona* Litter Prevention and Education program for inclusion as a funded project in the FY 2012 MAG Unified Planning Work Program and Annual Budget.

Prevention and Education program. Please refer to the enclosed material.

11. Legislative Update

An update will be provided on legislative issues of interest.

12. 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.

13. 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

11. Information, discussion, and possible action.

12. Information and discussion.

13. Information.