

March 15, 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, March 23, 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
March 23, 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 February 16, 2011, Meeting Minutes</u>	4A. Review and approval of the February 16, 2011, meeting minutes.
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ITEMS PROPOSED TO BE HEARD

5.	<u>Phoenix West Alternatives Analysis Update and Operating Plan</u> An update will be provided on the METRO Project team preliminary staff recommendations for the	5. Information and discussion.
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Phoenix West Alternatives Analysis study. Please refer to the enclosed material.

6. Transit Policy and Programming in the Region

Last month, the Transportation Policy Committee was presented information that outlined gaps and inconsistencies between the MAG Regional Transportation Plan (RTP), the status of the regional transit system, and current funding needs. From that discussion, MAG staff has compiled information about the definition of preventive maintenance, baseline information on operating and preventive maintenance budgets and funding, and an overview of what other regions are doing with federal funds and supporting preventive maintenance. MAG staff is seeking policy direction from the Transportation Policy Committee (TPC) how funding for preventive maintenance is integrated into the RTP and the five year Transportation Improvement Program. Please refer to the enclosed material.

7. Regional Freeway and Highway Program Update

In October 2009, the Transportation Policy Committee recommended the MAG Regional Council approve a Tentative Scenario to balance the Regional Freeway and Highway Program and to incorporate it into the Regional Transportation Plan 2010 Update and the FY 2011-2015 MAG Transportation Improvement Program, with the understanding that due to the present cost and revenue uncertainties that this represents a placeholder and the program would be reevaluated in 18 months. The MAG Regional Council approved the Tentative Scenario at its October 2009 meeting. As this 18 month period approaches its conclusion, the Transportation Policy Committee will be provided an update on work efforts and accomplishments in delivering the Regional Freeway and Highway Program, as well as a presentation about current cost and revenue projections for the program and the potential need for additional rebalancing.

6. Information, discussion and possible action.

7. Information, discussion, and possible action.

8. 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, 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.

9. 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

8. Information and discussion.

9. Information, discussion, and input regarding 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.

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 regarding the *Don't Trash Arizona* Litter Prevention and Education program is requested. Please refer to the enclosed material.

10. 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 fall 2011 timeframe. MAG staff is currently compiling estimates of travel costs and is seeking direction on whether or not to proceed with the request for a tour.

11. Legislative Update

An update will be provided on legislative issues of interest.

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

11. Information, discussion, and possible action.

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

12. Information and discussion.

13. Information.