

DRAFT MINUTES OF THE
MARICOPA ASSOCIATION OF GOVERNMENTS
TRANSPORTATION REVIEW COMMITTEE

June 30, 2011

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

MEMBERS ATTENDING

Peoria: David Moody
ADOT: Kwi-Sung Kang
Avondale: Shirley Gunther for David
Fitzhugh
#Buckeye: Scott Lowe
Chandler: Dan Cook for Patrice Kraus
*El Mirage: Lance Calvert
Fountain Hills: Randy Harrel
Gila Bend: Eric Fitzer
*Gila River: Doug Torres
*Gilbert: Tami Ryall
Glendale: Bob Darr for Terry Johnson
Goodyear: Cato Esquivel
#Guadalupe: Gino Turrubiarres
Litchfield Park: Paul Ward for Woody
Scoutten

Maricopa County: Clem Ligocki for John
Hauskins
Mesa: Jeff Martin for Scott Butler
Paradise Valley: Bill Mead
Phoenix: John Siefert for Rick Naimark
#Queen Creek: Kevin Johnson for Tom
Condit
RPTA: Bryan Jungwirth
Scottsdale: Dave Meinhart
Surprise: Bob Beckley
Tempe: Chad Heinrich
Valley Metro Rail: John Farry
*Wickenburg: Rick Austin
Youngtown: Grant Anderson for Lloyce
Robinson

EX-OFFICIO MEMBERS ATTENDING

Street Committee:
*ITS Committee: Nicolaas Swart, Maricopa
County

*Bicycle/Pedestrian Committee: Katherine
Coles, City of Phoenix
*Transportation Safety Committee: Julian
Dresang, City of Tempe

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

OTHERS PRESENT

Eric Anderson, MAG
Amy St. Peter, MAG
Eileen Yazzie, MAG
Tim Wolfe, ADOT
Bob Antilla, Valley Metro/RPTA
Tom Remes, Phoenix

Jeanne Sapon, Austin Bridge and Road
Mike Sabatini, Michael Baker
Dan Pottinger, RBF
Greg Haggerty, Dibble Eng.
Michael Marietti, Parsons
Robert Reiss, Gannett Fleming

1. Call to Order

Chairman David Moody from the City of Peoria called the meeting to order at 10:01 a.m.

2. Approval of Draft May 26, 2011 Minutes

Chairman Moody asked if there were any changes or amendments to the May 26, 2011 meeting minutes, and there were none. Mr. David Meinhart from City of Scottsdale motioned to approve the minutes. Mr. Jeff Martin from the City of Mesa seconded, and the motion passed by a unanimous voice vote of the Committee.

3. Call to the Audience

Chairman Moody announced that he had not received any cards requesting to speak and moved on to the next item on the agenda.

4. Transportation Director's Report

Chairman Moody invited Mr. Eric Anderson to present the Transportation Director's Report. Mr. Anderson announced that Mayor Lyn Truitt from the City of Surprise had been selected to serve as Chair of the Transportation Policy Committee (TPC). Mr. Anderson also announced that Mayor Jim Lane from the City of Scottsdale had been selected to serve as Vice-Chair of the TPC.

Next, Mr. Anderson informed the Committee that MAG was beginning to scope a major study on Grand Avenue that would be led by MAG Staff in conjunction with the Arizona Department of Transportation (ADOT). He explained the purpose of the study was to develop an development and operations plan for the Grand Avenue Corridor.

Mr. Anderson invited Ms. Eileen Yazzie, MAG Transportation Programming Manager, to discuss transit grant opportunities. Ms. Yazzie announced that to-date five Notice of Funding Availability (NOFAs) had been released in the Federal Register for discretionary grants for transit. Ms. Yazzie explained that five categories of discretionary transit grants were available under the Federal Transit Administration (FTA) umbrella. Ms. Yazzie summarized the available grant amount by categories, which included:

- State of Good Repair - \$750 million
- Clean Fuels - \$51 million
- TIGGER II - \$50 million
- Bus Livability - \$150 million
- Alternatives Analysis - \$25 million.

Ms. Yazzie informed the Committee that MAG Staff was coordinating with the MAG Transit Committee and regional transit operators on collaborative grant applications. She announced

that a Working Group meeting on the grant applications would be held next Wednesday. She stated that at the Working Group meeting participants would discuss opportunities to submit regional applications in lieu of individual applications per member agency.

Ms. Yazzie also announced that a NOFA for TIGER III grants would be released tomorrow. She reported that \$527 million in funding would be available, but noted that \$140 million of the \$527 million was allocated for rural transit projects.

Ms. Yazzie stated that the TIGER III grant process would be similar to TIGER I and II, but that TIGER III grants would place a greater emphasis on construction projects. She reported that design and engineering would not be funded under TIGER III. Ms. Yazzie stated that TIGER III -application requirements would be due in 90 days and that grant application would need to be submitted within 120 days for funding consideration.

Ms. Yazzie informed the Committee that previous TIGER grant awards ranged between \$1 million and \$50 million per project. She noted that currently MAG did not have a ranking process for TIGER grants.

Ms. Shirley Gunther from Avondale inquiring how FTA defined rural versus urban areas. Ms. Yazzie replied that most likely FTA compared the project location to Urbanized Area (UZA) boundaries.

Mr. Grant Anderson from the Town of Youngtown inquired if Mr. Eric Anderson would be providing an update to the Committee on Highway User Revenue Fund (HURF) and Regional Area Road Fund (RARF) collections. Mr. Eric Anderson replied that he did not have that information available at this time.

Mr. Bob Beckley from the City of Surprise and Mr. Randy Harrel from the Town of Fountain Hills joined the meeting.

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

Chairman Moody invited Ms. Yazzie to present on the Federal Fiscal Year (FFY) 2011 Program of Projects for Federal Transit Administration (FTA) Funds. She announced that FFY2011 transit projects had been ranked and programmed in the MAG FY 2011-2015 TIP. She stated that once MAG received the annual apportionments from FTA that the funding amounts for those projects needed to be reconciled.

Ms. Yazzie reported that funds allocated to four fleet replacement projects needed to be deleted due to the amount of fleet currently available in the region. She announced that due to the apportionment amount and the project deletions that all transit projects for FY 2011 were funded and that the remaining apportionment of \$2-3 million would be reallocated to preventive maintenance per the approved FY 2011 distribution methodology.

Ms. Yazzie explained that an administrative modification and amendment to the MAG FY 2011

- 2015 was needed to reflect the project deletions and allocation of the apportionments to the FY 2011 transit projects and preventive maintenance (PM) expenditures. Mr. Meinhart from the City of Scottsdale motioned to approve the amendments and administrative modifications to the FY 2011-2015 MAG TIP for projects to be funded with federal transit funds in 2011 for the 2011 Program of Projects.

Mr. Bryan Jungwirth from Valley Metro/RPTA reported that the region had cut 10 percent of the bus system last July due to the funding shortfall. He stated the Valley Metro/RPTA was in the process of cutting an additional six to eight percent of bus service due to the continued decline of revenues. He emphasized the need to flex as much funding as possible from formula funding to PM in order to keep service on the streets.

Ms. Yazzie inquired if Mr. Jungwirth knew if the additional PM funds were making a difference with operations and keeping additional service on the street. Mr. Jungwirth replied that funding would make difference. He stated that Valley Metro/RPTA had not quantified the impact yet and was in the process of programming the funds in the Transit Life Cycle Program. He explained the reallocation would have a trickle down affect because the funds would go to the operators and would be passed down to the cities that were buying bus service. A brief discussion followed.

Chairman Moody stated that a motion was on the floor. Mr. Martin seconded the motion, and the motion passed by a unanimous voice vote of the Committee.

6. Project Changes – Amendment and Administrative Modification to the FY 2011-2015 MAG Transportation Improvement Program

Chairman Moody invited Ms. Eileen Yazzie to present project changes to the MAG Fiscal Year (FY) 2011 - 2015 MAG Transportation Improvement Program (TIP). Ms. Yazzie directed the Committee's attention to a revised handout at their places, which had been emailed to the Committee.

Ms. Yazzie stated that the revised handout included three additional projects. She stated that the first project change was an increase in funds on a Safe Routes to School project in Avondale. She noted that the increase in funds were being added from another federal-aid project. Ms. Yazzie reported that the other two projects were in Peoria. She stated the first change was to correct an administrative error and the other change was to add a project on the New River Pathway between Northern Avenue and Olive. Ms. Yazzie informed the Committee that remaining seven project change requests were new projects submitted by ADOT. She stated that the majority of the ADOT changes pertained to new pavement preservation projects.

Mr. Dan Cook from the City of Chandler motioned to approve of amendments and administrative modifications to the FY 2011-2015 MAG TIP, and as appropriate, to the RTP 2010 Update. Mr. Martin seconded the motion, and the motion passed by a unanimous voice vote of the Committee.

7. MAG Title VI Plan

Chairman Moody invited Ms. Amy St. Peter, MAG Human Services Director, to present on the MAG Title VI Plan (Plan). Ms. St. Peter informed the Committee that MAG had been engaged in Title VI activities for decades. She stated that the Plan identified MAG's Title VI activities and helped to ensure that all people had a voice in the planning process.

Ms. St. Peter reported Title VI and Environmental Justice (EJ) activities were mandated by the federal government to ensure that people of all races, incomes levels, ages, and abilities have an equal voice in the planning process and receive equal benefit from the results of such planning. She stated that MAG was actively engaged in Title VI and Environmental Justice activities as a sub-recipient of federal funding. Ms. St. Peter stated that the Plan was drafted in order to facilitate a thorough understanding of these activities. She noted that the activities listed in the Plan responded directly to guidance provided by the Federal Transit Administration (FTA) in Circular 4702.1A. She explained that the activities ensured that MAG was in compliance with federal regulation and that the Plan would provide MAG with the opportunity to respond to different needs in our region.

Ms. St. Peter stated that under chapter seven of Circular 4702.1A, Metropolitan Planning Organizations (MPO), such as MAG, were charged with:

- developing a demographic profile identifying the locations of Title VI and EJ groups;
- developing a planning process that identified the transportation needs of people with low incomes and minority populations;
- developing an analytical process to (1) identify the benefits and burdens of transportation system investments for different socioeconomic groups, (2) identify imbalances; and,
- responding to the analysis produced.

Ms. St. Peter explained that MAG's Title VI activities could be incorporated into three categories: data, dialog, and decisions. She stated that MAG gathered and analyzed Census data to determine presence of communities of concern. She explained that communities of concern described populations that had been determined by the federal government or the MPO as benefitting from protections to ensure their meaningful involvement in planning and services.

Ms. St Peter reported that vulnerable populations had been identified through the Civil Rights Act of 1964, Executive Orders 12898 and 13166, and the American's with Disabilities Act (ADA). She explained that in the Title VI of the Civil Rights Act identified protected groups by race, color, and national origin and that Executive Order 12898 addressed environmental justice (EJ) and identified additional protected groups as low income and minority populations. She added that ADA sought to end discrimination and to ensure equal access to all federally funded services.

Ms. St. Peter stated that to assist with the identification of Title VI neighborhoods, MAG compared the presence of Title VI populations against the regional average for each community of concern. She stated that for linguistic isolation analysis MAG followed federal guidance at five percent within a census block or 1,000 people or more within a neighborhood.

Ms. St. Peter informed the Committee that MAG used U.S. Census Bureau data to determine EJ communities of concern. She explained that Census tract data was used to determine the threshold for each mandated community of concern. The analysis indicated the following thresholds for EJ communities of concern:

- Linguistic isolation: five percent or higher
- Minority population: 41 percent or higher
- Population in poverty: 13.4 percent or higher
- Disability: 18 percent or higher

Moving on, Ms. St. Peter discussed the dialogue component of the MAG Title VI Plan. She stated the MAG supported Title VI through community dialogue activities, such as public outreach activities and through the MAG Committee process. She reported that public outreach activities including public hearings, newsletters, and special events.

Ms. St. Peter informed the Committee that feedback from these events were communicated and considered as the planning activity moves through the MAG Committee process. She stated that typically the feedback was incorporated into the process at the MAG Technical Committee meetings and proceeded through policy Committees with final approval or disapproval by the MAG Regional Council. Ms. St. Peter explained that by incorporating community feedback throughout the MAG Committee process, the concerns and community input would be addressed throughout the planning of the activity and that the impact on the decision-making process would occur in a meaningful way.

Ms. St. Peter announced that to ensure information conveyed by MAG was being understood that MAG used a prescribed Limited English Proficiency 4 factor analysis, which included demography, frequency, importance, and resources. She stated that upon reviewing the analysis, MAG determined that it was important to translate basic materials and to translate other materials upon request or as needed within areas with high concentrations of linguistic isolation. She added that MAG would post public notices and ensure that complaint procedures were made available to resolve any concerns. She explained that the approach would allow MAG to document community impacts on the planning process as items move through the committee process.

Ms. St. Peter informed the Committee that MAG had Title VI liaisons. She stated that as Title VI concerns were raised that the issue was directed to the appropriate staff person at MAG. She announced that MAG was working towards formalizing the process and assigning official Title VI contacts in the future.

Mr. Meinhart inquired how often the MAG Title VI Plan would be updated. Ms. St. Peter replied every two years. Mr. Meinhart noted that some of the data in the Plan was based on 2000 Census data. Ms. St. Peter explained that gathering some data had been challenging because the US Census Bureau had transitioned from the long form to the short form for the 2010 Census. She noted that some data also was not available from the 2000 American Community Survey.

Mr. John Siefert from the City of Phoenix motioned to recommend approval of the MAG Title VI Plan. Mr. Martin seconded the motion. Mr. Grant Anderson inquired if the Committee was voting to accept or approve the Plan. Mr. Eric Anderson replied that motion was to approve the Plan because the adopted Plan would be filed with the FTA as required under federal law.

Mr. Martin emphasized the importance of Title VI activities and encouraged MAG Staff to provide updates on a quarterly basis.

Chairman Moody called for a vote, and the motioned passed by a unanimous voice vote of the Committee.

8. Request for Future Agenda Items

Chairman Moody inquired if the members had any topics or issues of interest they would like to have considered for discussion at a future Committee meeting. There were none, and Chairman Moody moved onto the next agenda item.

9. Member Agency Update

Chairman Moody asked members of the Committee if they would like to provide updates, address any issues or concerns regarding transportation at the regional level, and asked if any members in attendance would like to address recent information that was relevant to transportation within their respective communities. There were none.

Before moving on to the next agenda item, Mr. Eric Anderson reported on the HURF and RARF revenue forecasts as discussed in the Transportation Director's Report. He stated that RARF revenues were up 7.7 percent for the month and were up 3.2 percent year-to-date. He stated that HURF revenues were down 4.1 percent in May and down percent year-to-date. He explained that HURF revenues continued to decline because of the downward trend of the vehicle license tax.

Mr. Eric Anderson announced that the panels were scheduled to meet in August to review the current RARF and HURF revenue forecasts. He stated that the panel meetings may conflict with the ACMA meeting date and time.

10. Next Meeting Date

Moving on, Chairman Moody informed members in attendance that the next regularly scheduled meeting of the Committee would be held on July 28, 2011, in the Lake Powell Room at the Valley Metro/RPTA building. Chairman Moody encouraged the Committee to park at the MAG building for the meeting. There be no further business, Chairman Moody adjourned the meeting at 10:29 a.m.