

DRAFT MINUTES OF THE
MARICOPA ASSOCIATION OF GOVERNMENTS
TRANSPORTATION REVIEW COMMITTEE

August 25, 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	Maricopa County: Clem Ligocki for John Hauskins
ADOT: Tim Wolfe for Floyd Roehrich	Mesa: Mike James for Scott Butler
*Avondale: David Fitzhugh	*Paradise Valley: Bill Mead
Buckeye: Scott Lowe	Phoenix: Rick Naimark
Chandler: Dan Cook for Patrice Kraus	#Queen Creek: Kevin Johnson for Tom Condit
El Mirage: Lance Calvert	RPTA: Bryan Jungwirth
*Fountain Hills: Randy Harrel	Scottsdale: Dave Meinhart
*Gila Bend: Eric Fitzer	Surprise: Bob Beckley
*Gila River: Doug Torres	*Tempe: Chad Heinrich
Gilbert: Ken Maruyama for Tami Ryll	Valley Metro Rail: John Farry
Glendale: Bob Darr for Terry Johnson	Wickenburg: Rick Austin
Goodyear: Cato Esquivel	Youngtown: Grant Anderson for Lloyce Robinson
*Guadalupe: Gino Turrubiarres	
Litchfield Park: Paul Ward for Woody Scoutten	

EX-OFFICIO MEMBERS ATTENDING

Street Committee:	*Bicycle/Pedestrian Committee: Katherine Coles, City of Phoenix
* ITS Committee: Nicolaas Swart, Maricopa County	*Transportation Safety Committee: Julian Dresang, City of Tempe

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

OTHERS PRESENT

Christina Hopes, MAG	Kurt Sharp, Gilbert
Maureen DeCindis, MAG	U. Lynn Sugiyama, ADOT
Roger Herzog, MAG	Kwi-Sung Kang, ADOT
Marc Pearsall, MAG	Jeff Martin, Mesa
Nathan Pryor, MAG	Andy Granger, Peoria
Steve Tate, MAG	Robert Reiss, Gannett Fleming
Eileen Yazzie, MAG	Art Brooks, Strand Assoc.

1. Call to Order

Chairman David Moody from the City of Peoria called the meeting to order at 10:03 a.m.

2. Approval of Draft June 30, 2011 Minutes

Chairman Moody asked if there were any changes or amendments to the June 30, 2011 meeting minutes, and there were none. Mr. David Meinhart from City of Scottsdale motioned to approve the minutes. Mr. Bryan Jungwirth from RPTA/Valley Metro 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 asked if there was a Transportation Director's Report. Mr. Roger Herzog from Maricopa Association of Governments replied that there was no report for the month, and Chairman Moody moved onto the next agenda item.

10. Pedestrian and Bicycle Facilities Design Assistance Program

Chairman Moody noted that the next agenda item number ten regarding the Pedestrian and Bicycle Facilities Design Assistance Program was an addendum to the agenda and would be heard out of order. He invited Ms. Maureen DeCindis of MAG to present the item.

Ms. DeCindis explained that the FY 2012 MAG Unified Planning Work Program and Annual Budget, approved by the MAG Regional Council in May 2011, included \$300,000 for the MAG Design Assistance Program for Bicycle and Pedestrian Facilities. She added that there was also \$164,999 in carry-over funding. She explained that the Design Assistance Program allowed MAG member agencies to apply for funding for the preliminary design portion of a bicycle or pedestrian project.

She also added that at the August 16, 2011 meeting, the Bicycle and Pedestrian Committee reviewed and ranked applications for project funding where eight applications requesting \$655,280 in funding were originally submitted for consideration, and two jurisdictions subsequently pulled their applications. She said that the Committee voted to approve six projects for \$464,999 and referred the Committee to the memorandum in Attachment Two for additional information. She added that the item was on the agenda for information, discussion and possible recommendation to approve the projects for the Design Assistance Program and

completed her presentation. Chairman Moody inquired if the members had any questions or comments.

Mr. Lance Calvert from the City of El Mirage asked of the viability of the program and Mr. Dan Cook from the City of Chandler asked if the communities would need to repay the funds should the program not proceed. Ms. DeCindis replied that as per the FHWA (Federal Highway Administration) guidelines, the communities had ten years to complete the project. Discussion followed.

Mr. Calvert motioned to approve the item and Mr. Cook seconded, and the motion passed by a unanimous voice vote of the Committee. Chairman Moody thanked Ms. DeCindis for her presentation and moved onto the next agenda item.

5. Draft Fiscal Year (FY) 2012 Arterial Life Cycle Program (ALCP)

Chairman Moody invited Ms. Christina Hopes, MAG Transportation Planner, to present on the Draft Fiscal Year (FY) 2012 Arterial Life Cycle Program (ALCP). Ms. Hopes explained that her presentation would address updated revenue streams, the deficit of program funds, coordination efforts on rebalancing the program, and proposed significant project changes. Ms. Hopes stated that the ALCP was the arterial component of the 2003 MAG Regional Transportation Plan (RTP), which identified 94 arterial capacity and intersection improvements. She stated that funding for the ALCP was comprised of three revenue sources: Congestion Mitigation and Air Quality (CMAQ) funds, Surface Transportation Program (STP) funds, and Regional Area Road Funds (RARF) commonly referred to as the half-cent transportation sales tax from Proposition 400.

Ms. Hopes informed the Committee that due to a significant decline in forecasted program revenues that the ALCP faced a deficit of program funds. She stated the initial shortfall was estimated at \$245 million. Ms. Hopes explained that Section 270 of the ALCP Policies and Procedures addressed a deficit of program funds. She stated that under the current policy, the majority of projects programmed in Phase IV of the ALCP would be pushed out of the program in order to balance the program. She explained that applying the policy would have had a disproportionate impact on Lead Agencies the program.

Ms. Hopes announced that MAG Staff had requested guidance in February 2011 from the MAG Transportation Policy Committee (TPC) to address the deficit of funds. She reported that at the meeting, the TPC had recommended a proportional reduction of remaining reimbursements in the ALCP based on each agency's original allocation of regional funds and emphasized that no new projects be added to the program until funding was restored to existing projects in the same manner as funds were removed.

Ms. Hopes reported that MAG had coordinated extensively with Lead Agency Staff on reprioritizing projects in the program during the rebalancing efforts. She stated that agencies were given the opportunity to delete, consolidate, and/or reprioritize programmed reimbursements in order to meet the required reduction necessary to balance the program. Ms.

Hopes announced that through agency coordination and additional analysis that MAG Staff had determined that \$50 million funding could be restored to the program. She directed the Committee's attention to attachments 1-B and 1-C, which listed the revised funding reductions and the project funding impacted by the reductions.

Moving on, Ms. Hopes addressed significant project changes. She explained that project changes, such as deletion, substitutions, and scope changes, were addressed in Section 220 of the ALCP Policies and Procedures. Ms. Hopes reported that four significant projects changes were presented to the MAG Street Committee for a technical review and recommendation for approval.

Ms. Hopes summarized the project changes presented to the Streets Committee for review and approval. She announced that the Town of Gilbert had requested to a one-mile reduction in project scope of Queen Creek Road from Lindsay Road to Higley Road. She explained that developers had completed one-mile of improvements on the corridor and that the revised project scope would include improvements on Queen Creek Road between Val Vista Drive and Higley Road.

Next, Ms. Hopes summarized two sets of project changes in the airpark area requested by the City of Scottsdale. She reported that the project changes in the airpark area were based on the results of the Phase I Airpark Area Study. She stated that the City had requested to increase the CAP Canal project scope to include two additional frontage roads in the area. She explained the changes were needed to address congestion in the area.

Ms. Hopes noted that the City also had requested to delete improvements on Hayden Road between Redfield Road and Raintree Drive. She stated that the Study indicated were not required because other improvements in the area were anticipated to address congestion in the immediate area. She stated that the City had requested to substitute the project with three intersections improvements on Frank Lloyd Wright Boulevard. She noted that the substitute intersection improvements were included in the Study as well as the City's Transportation Master Plan.

Next, Ms. Hopes addressing the change in project scope for the El Mirage Road corridor between Northern Avenue and Bell Road. She stated that Maricopa County had requested to change the project scope and modify the alignment based on the result of the completed Design Concept Report. Ms. Hopes displayed a map of the revised alignment. She noted that the project planning partners were in agreement on the revised scope and alignment.

Ms. Hopes reported that the MAG Street Committee had heard each project change separately at the Committee meeting in June 2011. She stated that the Street Committee had voted to recommend the approval of each project change for inclusion in the Draft FY 2012 ALCP.

Moving on, Ms. Hopes summarized key points regarding the FY11 ALCP. She stated that \$72.6 million had been programmed for reimbursement in FY2011. She reported of that \$41.3 million of that had been deferred from FY2011 to later year while \$31.3 million was reimbursed to seven Lead Agencies. She stated the \$15.8 million was reimbursed for completed projects

and \$15.5 million was reimbursed for projects underway.

Ms. Hopes reported that 38 project work phases would be underway in FY2012. She noted that 24 of those projects would be under construction. She stated that \$103 million in programmed reimbursements in the next fiscal year.

Chairman Moody inquired if there were any questions or comments regarding the agenda item. Mr. Cook thanked Ms. Hopes and noted an administrative error in Attachment 1-G. Ms. Hopes replied that the error would be corrected by MAG Staff. Mr. Grant Anderson of Youngtown commented that MAG should ensure the program was fiscally balanced. Mr. Dave Meinhart thanked MAG staff for the work that they had done on the task.

Mr. Meinhart motioned to (1) to recommend approval of the Draft FY 2012 Arterial Life Cycle Program, (2) recommend approval of amendments and administrative modifications that are exempt from conformity to the MAG FY2011-2015 Transportation Improvement Program for ALCP projects programmed for work and/or reimbursements in FY2012, and (3) to recommend approval of amendments and administrative modifications to the FY2011-2015 MAG Transportation Improvement Program and to the Regional Transportation Plan 2010 Update, as appropriate, contingent on a new Finding of Conformity. Mr. Calvert seconded the motion, and the motion passed by a unanimous voice vote of the Committee. Chairman Moody thanked Ms. Hopes for her presentation and moved onto the next agenda item.

6. Federal Transportation Funds Outlook

Chairman Moody noted that the next item on the Federal Transportation Funds Outlook would be presented by Mr. Nathan Pryor and Ms. Eileen Yazzie of MAG.

Mr. Pryor provided an update on the current continuing resolution (CR) of the Safe, Accountable, Flexible, Efficient Transportation Equity Act: A Legacy for Users (SAFETEA-LU) for federal transportation funds, noting that it was to expire on September 30, 2011. He added that there was speculation that a continuing resolution to fund transportation through January 2012 would be proposed. He also said that the revenue earned by the Highway Trust Fund (HTF) were projected to be 30 percent less than current levels. He noted that currently there were two bills that had been discussed, one from Rep. John Mica (R-FL) and the other from Senator Boxer (D-CA). The House Bill extended the transportation program for six years and reduced funding by 30 percent, which aligned with the projected revenues. He said that the Senate Bill extended the program for two years and kept funding levels as is in the current version of SAFETEA-LU, but the actual detailed bills had not yet been released. Discussion followed.

Ms. Yazzie explained to the group that due to economic uncertainties, MAG would not be moving forward with its FY2013 TIP. She noted that with a 4-month extension, that gave the region the opportunity to consider leaving things as they were, or conversely looking at prioritizing things. Mr. Cook asked that if there was a hypothetical reduction in funds, would MAG be looking at a formal process for cuts. Ms. Yazzie replied that there should be.

Mr. Meinhart inquired about firewalls and if MAG should be looking holistically and systemwide at cuts, or limiting the cuts to within each transportation mode individually (highways, streets, transit). Mr. Paul Ward from Litchfield Park suggested that MAG and ADOT work collectively to ensure that the Federal contribution to the state was not stymied. Mr. John Farry and Mr. Bryan Jungwirth also discussed issues pertaining to annual appropriations, sales and gas taxes.

Mr. Clem Ligocki recommended that with so much at stake regarding the uncertainty of transit funding, the region should collectively prepare a good defense in order to educate the policy makers on the need of continued funding transportation and the regional importance of a good transportation and transit system.

7. 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.

8. Member Agency Update

Chairman Moody inquired if the member agencies had any updates for the benefit of the Committee. There were none, and Chairman Moody moved onto the next agenda item.

9. Next Meeting Date

Moving on, Chairman Moody informed members in attendance that the next regularly scheduled meeting of the Committee would be held on Thursday September 22, 2011, at MAG. There be no further business, Chairman Moody adjourned the meeting at 10:39 a.m.