

MARICOPA ASSOCIATION OF GOVERNMENTS

INFORMATION SUMMARY... for your review

DATE:

December 9, 2015

SUBJECT:

Regional Community Network (RCN) Roles and Responsibilities

SUMMARY:

The Regional Community Network (RCN) has become the primary path for network communication between the Transportation Departments within the MAG region. The RCN provides a private, fast and reliable network for MAG member agencies to share various transportation applications. Since its creation, it has drastically reduced the amount of spending that the agencies were using for center to center communication. Every year the RCN continues to expand to agencies not yet connected with the hopes of one day connecting all the MAG member agencies. These key fiber links are made possible through the planning and support of the local agencies as they continue to expand their conduit and fiber infrastructure. The RCN is also exploring newer technologies with high-speed wireless point to point radios with the hopes to bridge those last mile hops until a dedicated fiber path becomes available. In addition to the physical network communication between MAG member agencies, the RCN also provides critical paths for several applications for transportation, information technology and public safety. The approved applications are also increasing as the transportation departments continue to promote the use of the RCN to their local departments.

MAG recently received a request from Arizona State University (ASU), with sponsorship from the City of Tempe, to obtain a connection to the RCN fiber optic communications backbone. This connection would enable the ASU Traffic Engineering Laboratory to get access to traffic data from a partnering local agency for research purposes.

MAG approval is required for providing such a connection, based on recommendations from both the MAG ITS Committee and the MAG Technology Advisory Group (TAG). This request was discussed at a Working Group, ITS and TAG and steps necessary to address member agency concerns were noted. The RCN Roles and Responsibilities document has been revised, based on this discussion, and changes have been incorporated as necessary, to accommodate this and similar requests in the future from academic institutions (See Attachment Four). A draft letter of authorization is also provided (See Attachment Four).

PUBLIC INPUT:

None.

PROS & CONS:

PROS: The revisions to the RCN Roles and Responsibilities document will allow Non-Governing Partners (such as academic institutions) to obtain a connection to the RCN providing member agencies with an additional future pool of qualified transportation engineers and opportunities for collaborative research.

CONS: None.

TECHNICAL & POLICY IMPLICATIONS:

TECHNICAL: Technical decisions about network management will be made in accordance with policy set by the Regional Council and will occur in a timely manner. This will include an application process and the provisioning of additional network devices to restrict access by Non-Governing Partners.

POLICY: This document invests some additional decision making authority in the MAG Technology Advisory Group and the MAG Intelligent Transportation Systems Committee. These committees will act cooperatively and the authority will be limited by policies set by the Regional Council.

ACTION NEEDED:

Recommend approval of the revisions to the Regional Community Network Roles and Responsibilities document.

PRIOR COMMITTEE ACTIONS:

The following actions were taken at a joint meeting of the MAG Technology Advisory Group and the MAG ITS Committee, held on December 2, 2015.

MAG Technology Advisory Group: The MAG Technology Advisory Group recommended approval of the revised RCN Roles and Responsibilities document.

MEMBERS ATTENDING

#David L. Stevens, Maricopa County, *Chair*
#Rob Lloyd, Avondale, *Vice Chair*
*Greg Platacz, Buckeye
#Jim Keen, Carefree
#Brian Poore, Cave Creek
#Patrick Hait, Chandler
#Pat Timlin, El Mirage
#Mike Ciccarone, Fountain Hills
*Mark Kramer, Gilbert
#David Atchison, Glendale
#Dan Cotterman, Goodyear

*Pat O’Keefe, Mesa
#Joseph Curtis, Paradise Valley
#Tim Smothers for John Imig, Peoria
#Debbie Cotton, Phoenix
*Kim Clark, Queen Creek
#Brad Hartig, Scottsdale
#Tracy Mills, Surprise
#Dave Heck, Tempe
#William Tsuei, Valley Metro

* Those members neither present nor represented by proxy.
Attended by telephone conference call.

MAG Intelligent Transportation Systems Committee: The MAG Intelligent Transportation Systems Committee recommended approval of the revised RCN Roles and Responsibilities document.

MEMBERS ATTENDING

Marshall Riegel, Phoenix, *Chair*
Chris Hamilton, Avondale, *Vice Chair*
Farzana Yasmin for Reza Karimvand, ADOT
*Yingyan Lou, ASU
Mike Mah, Chandler
Captain Burley Copeland, DPS

Bryce Christo, El Mirage
*Toni Whitfield, FHWA
Leslie Bubke, Gilbert
Allan Galicia for Debbie Albert, Glendale
#Hugh Bigalk for Luke Albert, Goodyear
Barbara Houser for Nicolaas Swart,

Maricopa County
Avery Rhodes, Mesa
Steve McKenzie, Peoria
*Steve Ramsey, Scottsdale

Albert Garcia, City of Surprise
#David Lucas, City of Tempe
*Abhishek Dayal, Valley Metro

* Those members neither present nor represented by proxy.
Attended by telephone conference call.

CONTACT PERSON:

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