

DRAFT MINUTES OF
MARICOPA ASSOCIATION OF GOVERNMENTS
TRANSPORTATION SAFETY COMMITTEE MEETING

July 22, 2014
Maricopa Association of Governments
Ironwood Room, Suite 200
302 N. 1st Ave,
Phoenix, AZ 85003

MEMBERS ATTENDING

Michael Duhamel for Linda Gorman,
AAA Arizona
*Tom Burch, AARP
Kohinoor Kar, ADOT
*Shane Kiesow, City of Apache Junction
Dana Chamberlin, City of Avondale
Chris Lemka, City of Buckeye
*Martin Johnson, City of Chandler
Bob Senita, City of El Mirage
*Kelly LaRosa, FHWA
Erik Guderian, Town of Gilbert
Kiran Guntupalli, City of Glendale

*Alberto Gutier, GOHS
#Luke Albert for Hugh Bigalk,
City of Goodyear
*Nicolaas Swart, Maricopa County
Renate Ehm (Chair), City of Mesa
*Jeremy Knapp, Town of Paradise Valley
#Mannar Tamirisa for Jamal Rahimi,
City of Peoria
Kerry Wilcoxon, City of Phoenix
#George Williams, City of Scottsdale
Mike Mecham, City of Surprise
Julian Dresang, City of Tempe
*Sam Diggins, RPTA

OTHERS PRESENT

Sarath Joshua, MAG
Margaret Boone, MAG
Eric Nava, MAG
Micah Henry, MAG
Teri Kennedy, MAG
Alex Oreschak, MAG
Monique de los Rios-Urban, MAG
BriAnne Turpin, Baker
Stephen Chang, City of Surprise
Janeen Gaskins, City of Surprise
Chelsea Erickson, MCDPH

Dawn Coomer, Valley Metro
Anissa Janovich, Valley Metro
Jothan Samuelson, Wilson
Mike Blankenship, AMEC
Jeff Bagdade, Atkins
Doug McCants, Atkins
Jim Lee, Lee Engineering
Anita Johari, ASJ Engineering
Shanthi Krishnan, Jacobs
Ray Yparraguirre, KHA
Skye Gentile, Parsons Brinkerhoff

- * Not present or represented by proxy
- # Participated by teleconference
- + Participated by videoconference

1. Call to Order
Chair Renate Ehm called the meeting to order at 9:31 a.m.
2. Approval of April 9, 2014 Meeting Minutes
Chair Renate Ehm called for a motion to approve the May 27, 2014 minutes noting a correction from Dana Chamberlin for the minutes to reflect her attendance at the May 27th meeting. Kerry Wilcoxon made a motion to approve the amended minutes, Eric Guderian seconded and the motion passed unanimously.
3. Call to Audience
Chair Renate Ehm made a call to the audience providing an opportunity to members of the public to address the Transportation Safety Committee. None requested.
4. Program Manager's Report
 - Status of RSA and PA projects: Sarath Joshua provided information for each proposed RSA site including the schedule for six RSAs to be conducted in September, two in October and one in November and noted one RSA in the City of Glendale has been deferred to the next RSA cycle by the local agency. Mr. Joshua stated that one PA for the City of Tempe would have an August to November development schedule and two others for the City of Phoenix and Avondale would have a September to January development schedule. MAG anticipates a call for RSA projects in January 2015 to be carried out later in the fall of that year. Mr. Joshua also reported on the RSA Workshop hosted by MAG on June 4th the included two hands-on field observations and conducting a mini RSA resulting in some recommendations to the City of Phoenix. The Workshop was attended by 35 local agency and consultant staff.
 - 2014 School Crossing Guard Workshops: Sarath Joshua reported the schedule for the upcoming workshops in partnership with various local agencies; July 29th in Phoenix at Washington High School, July 31st at the Mesa Convention Center and August 7th at the Rio Vista Community Center in Peoria noting the anticipated attendance for the workshops based on registrations to date is 388. Sarath asked Margaret Boone to report on the revised crossing guard video which has been requested by agencies all over the country. Ms. Boone reported that the process started back in February to revise the script to include white crosswalks, stutter flash crossings, HAWKS, and pedestrian signal crossings and thanked Don Cross from the City of Phoenix, Ray Parmigiani and Dale Brunk from the City of Mesa, and Brandon Forrey from the City of Peoria for participating in all the hard work done to product the updated "Guardians of the Future" video that will be shown at the upcoming workshops and available for viewing on the MAG website at <http://srts.azmag.gov>.
 - 2015 HSIP Projects: Sarath Joshua reported HSIP funding has been programmed through 2017 for the funding allocated to Arizona MPOs and COGs. A request was forwarded from the MAG TIP programming manager, Teri Kennedy, to reach out to local agencies for projects that could advance FY2016 or FY2017 projects to FY2015 in the amount of approximately \$143,000. There is an opportunity to facilitate this through a loan from another COG that is not able to program the funding. The funding would have to be forwarded to the other COG in FY2017. Mr. Joshua

requested that local agencies look at their FY2016 and FY2017 projects to see if it would be feasible to advance projects and obligate in the 2015 fiscal year.

- Vice Chair Nominations: Sarath Joshua reported that the Vice Chair position has become vacant due to the current Vice Chair Chris Lemka leaving employment at the City of Glendale. MAG sent a memo out with a deadline of July 31st for nominations for Vice Chair.

5. MAG Transportation Alternatives Program: Non-Infrastructure - Second Call for Projects
Sarath Joshua stated that MAG was allocated \$400,000 to be programmed in FY2015-2017. Three projects were submitted in the 1st call for projects; two from the Maricopa County Health Department for \$45,000 in each program year for a total request of \$135,000 and one project in the City of Surprise for \$24,500 noting a project limit of \$45,000 for the first call for projects. This resulted in recommendation and approval of \$114,500 to be programmed in FY2015 and \$90,000 each in FY2016 and FY2017. A second call for projects was issued based on criteria discussed at previous meetings. The committee discussed allowing approved projects to advance to FY2015, increase the maximum project amount to \$135,000. Margaret Boone referred the committee to the attachment provided an explained that the \$285,500 that was issued with the second call included the City of Surprise \$24,500 already approved and that with the additional \$180,000 resulting from the advancement of the Maricopa County projects to FY2015 reduced the available amount to \$105,500. Ms. Boone noted that the committee is considering the amended scope for the City of Surprise Schools in the amount of \$48,000, the Glendale Cityscape project in the amount of \$128,000 and the Valley Metro Be Bright project in the amount of \$124,315. The total for the second call for projects is over \$300,315 for the available amount to be programmed of \$105,500 and opened the item up for discussion by the committee. Sarath noted that due to the complexity of programing these funds with the first and second project calls and advancements that MAG would be happy to further explain the process based on any questions by the committee. Kerry Wilcoxon asked if there are any projects that could be funded partially. Kiran Guntupalli explained that if the amount awarded to the City of Glendale project was less than \$80,000 it would be difficult to justify the amount of staff resources required to complete the project that would involve a survey of all elementary schools within the City of Glendale and ensure that existing SRTS maps are updated, and assess the condition of and adequacy of existing striping. Janeen Gaskins stated that the City of Surprise amended their original project to increase for the one school and added studies for two additional schools and noted that it could be feasible to defer the study for one of the schools if a reduced amount of funding was awarded. Dawn Coomer stated that the Valley Metro project includes staff and materials highlighted in the application and that it would be difficult to decide which schools they could not be able to work with if a reduced amount of funding were to be awarded. Chris Lemka asked Valley Metro if there had been any coordination with the Glendale school in their application which seems to be in overlap with the Glendale project submitted for funding. Ms. Coomer stated that Valley Metro would be happy to work with the City of Glendale in any way that is deemed appropriate and that her understanding of the Glendale project is that it is a mapping project where the Valley Metro project is an education and encouragement project. Kerry Wilcoxon asked what amount would be rolled over into future fiscal years and if some of the funding from any of the three were delayed into the future fiscal years would it would adversely affect the proposed projects. Kiran Guntupalli clarified that Glendale would not wish to change the

project scope and would rather cover the additional funds with the local match. If Glendale would not be awarded at least the \$80,000 they would consider submitting their application for the January 2015 call for projects. Janeen Gaskins stated that the City of Surprise would be grateful for any funding awarded at this time and would apply again in January and asked that they would be able to at least complete the study for at least one school. Dawn Coomer stated that Valley Metro would reapply next year but that staff funding is included in the application and that Valley Metro does not receive any funding from any external agencies that there would be challenges to keep staff with cycle to cycle funding. Margaret Boone suggested that any additional evaluation scores be submitted at that time in order to be able to display the evaluation scores for further committee discussion. Julian Dresang asked for clarification on the available funding amount and if the Valley Metro project could definitely not move forward with a reduced amount of funding. Dawn Coomer stated that the majority of the requested funds would be for staff to administer the project. Julian Dresang suggested that if the Valley Metro project could not be funded with the available \$105,500 and the City of Surprise project could reduce their request by amending project scope, the committee might want to consider the Surprise project. Chris Lemka asked Valley Metro to explain about the personnel included in the application and if this person be 100 percent dedicated the project as written in the application. Dawn Coomer stated that staff costs included oversight, administration and the safety education coordinator, and which includes fringe and overhead. She said that this person is already employed at Valley Metro but the position is currently funded under the ADOT administered Transportation Enhancement funding source that was replaced with the Transportation Alternatives funding source. If Valley Metro does not receive the requested funding, the current funding will run out although there is enough to fund the position if their request is not met for FY2015. Kerry Wilcoxon asked if the committee were to recommend to funding the minimum amount of \$80,000 for the Glendale project leaving \$25,500 would the City of Surprise be able to utilize those funds. Janeen Gaskins stated that they would be able to utilize the reduced amount of funding. Margaret Boone requested any additional evaluation scores to be submitted at that time. Julian Dresang stated that he did not see value in reviewing evaluation scores if the Valley Metro project could not be funded in full. George Williams stated that he would like to see the final evaluation scores in order to get a feel for where the committee stands on each project. Renate Ehm added that the City of Surprise project came out ahead of the other projects in her evaluation and that she would be reluctant to cut short the funding they have requested and that her second choice was the Valley Metro project which could be funded with the remaining amount as it sounded as if they could utilize the reduced amount to fund at least two projects. Bob Senita asked if the Maricopa County Health Department (MCHD) had been asked if they would be willing to rescind their request to advance their funding so that other projects could be funded in FY2015. Sarath Joshua noted that the MAG call for projects included allowing projects to be advanced to FY2015. The MCHD by their request to MAG made known their intentions of advancing all of the funding. Otherwise the funds would have remained in FY2016 and FY2017. Julian Dresang requested if Valley Metro could verify if they could do their project with the lower funding amount with a 'yes' or 'no' answer. Dawn Coomer said that she would look at funding the staff first and then the materials but could not offer information on what that amount would be at this time. Sarath Joshua reminded the committee of the previous recommendation by the committee to allow the advancement of the FY2016 and FY2017 projects as well as the committee's desire to

focus first on the development of the Safe Route to School maps for schools across the region through this and future calls for projects. Margaret Boone reported after tallying the final evaluation scores that there were 10 evaluations and that the Surprise, Valley Metro, and Glendale projects ranked as the first, second and third respectively. Renate Ehm suggested that the amounts be placed in the scoring matrix with a reduced amount for the Surprise project to show what would be left. George Williams and Chris Lemka both stated that they were in favor of fully funding the Surprise project and offering Valley Metro the remaining as ranked second in the evaluation. George Williams stated that he was not comfortable offering a project \$57,000 if it was not certain that the funding would benefit the project and asked what other options there were for the remaining funds outside of another call for projects. Margaret Boone stated that the remaining amount could be loaned to a future year based on information received from Teri Kennedy. **George Williams made a motion to 1) accept the advancement of the Maricopa County Health Department funding request to FY2015, 2) fully fund the City of Surprise project and 3) to forward the remaining funds to the January call for projects for programming in a future year. Kerry Wilcoxon seconded and the motion passed unanimously.** Kiran Guntupalli commented the application process required a fairly significant effort and that MAG should consider simplifying the application process to match available funds.

6. 2014 Corridor Safety Management Plan – Pilot Project

Chair Renate Ehm stated that in the interest of time that agenda item number six would be moved to the end of the agenda. Sarath Joshua outlined the new project in the MAG work program in the amount of \$200,000 to carry out the pilot project and that a working group will still need to be formed to refine a scope for the project. Mr. Joshua went on to state that before the scope is refined there needs to be an agreement based on input from the committee on the corridor and length to be included in the study. Background information was sent out to the committee with the agenda including a report on synthesis study on the effectiveness of safety corridor programs. Kerry Wilcoxon suggested that the City of Phoenix has the best opportunity for a contiguous corridor offering the corridor of west Indian School Road between 43rd and 75th Avenue to capture two of the top twenty ranking in the MAG Top 100 high crash locations. Sarath stated that the working group would come back to the committee at the November meeting with a draft scope, there would be a call for proposals within the on-call consultant list, and that a February of 2015 kick-off anticipated. Sarath stated that this would be an extended RSA for a corridor but may also look at a possible law enforcement initiative or education campaign for the corridor. Eric Guderian stated that we the scoping should be cautious of the extensive data required if there are a lot of access points between the intersections. Kohinoor Kar suggested that the word “plan” should be removed from the title if the pilot project will not produce a full blown plan for the entire Indian School Road corridor. Sarath Joshua stated that there will be no evaluation component or implementation plan and suggested that the name cannot change in the work program but that the working title could be changed. **Julian Dresang made a motion to include the Indian School Road corridor from 51st Avenue to 75th Avenue for the pilot project as it fits within the work program budget, seconded by Chris Lemka and the motion passed unanimously.**

7. Bicycle and Pedestrian Pathway/Railroad Crossing Recommendations

Sarath Joshua introduced MAG Bike and Ped coordinator Alex Oreschak to present this item. Mr. Oreschak provided some background stating the expansion of the regional pathway system as well as more usage of canal pathways focused on private canal and UPRR crossings in the East Valley agencies of Chandler, Gilbert and Tempe which may be transferrable to other situations. The project team included SRP, ADOT, ACC, and Operation Lifesaver and was initiated to address gaps where pathways meet railroad tracks, pathway users illegally crossing and safety/liability concerns. Mr. Oreschak reviewed the recommendations to implement grade-separated crossings where feasible, work with railroad to create action plan for implementing safe at-grade crossings and address crossings on a case-by-case basis and went over a few possible design considerations included in the final report. Erik Guderian asked what SRPs reaction to closing one side of the canal since they require once side of the canal to be reserved for maintenance. Alex noted that SRP put forward a recommendation to put a prefabricated bridge across in order to maintain access to one or the other side of the canal.

8. Update on Strategic Transportation Safety Plan (STSP) & Adoption of Network Screening Recommendation

Margaret Boone reported that STSP Tech Memo#3 has been completed and available at the MAG website <http://stsp.azmag.gov>. Ms. Boone also reported that Task 5 and 6 is currently underway and involves exploring incorporation of safety in the Regional Transportation Plan and all projects programmed in the TIP. As a subset activity of this task, a Working Group was convened in partnership with the Safety, Transit & Bike/Ped Committees with a goal of recommending regional practice(s) for addressing ped/bike safety issues accessing transit stops/stations and gave an example of one of the practices developed by the Working Group: Develop evaluation criteria that would facilitate the incorporation of safety features in all TIP project application categories. Draft Tech Memo #5 is available for review with a deadline for comments by EOB July 24, 2014. Sarath Joshua reported on the recommendation in Tech Memo #4 for modifications to the current Network Screening reviewed as part of Task 4 in the development of the STSP. Mr. Joshua stated the basis of the recommendation, which is included in the Draft Final Tech Memo #4, included that the intent of a good methodology is to outline an approach that minimizes known biases towards intersections with low and high volumes. In addition, use of the crash rate factor infers that the relationship between number of crashes and volume are linear when in fact recent safety research indicates more of a curve. The recommendation is to remove crash rates in the ISS equation. Since the methodology was adopted by the Safety Committee this agenda item is for discussion and possible action by the committee to adopt a revised methodology consistent with the recommendations as well as MAP-21 requirements. Members of the committee discussed the recommendation and how that would affect the MAG Top 100 list of high crash risk locations noting that the City of Scottsdale and City of Phoenix have reservations about excluding the crash rate unless it could be demonstrated that it is simply a re-shuffling of the location rankings and that it did not have a larger effect in drastically propelling or demoting intersections in the ranking. Chris Lemka recommended that this item be brought back at the September meeting once committee members could be provided information on the STSP consultants recommendation as well as the a data set provided with the three and four factor rankings

for review. Sarath noted that MAG would provide the data set and Margaret Boone noted that the Tech Memo #4 which includes the requested information is available for review on the STSP webpage. Chair Renate Ehm noted the deference of this item and encouraged the committee to review the Tech Memo #5.

9. Reports by Committee Members on Transportation Safety Activities

Chair Renate Ehm requested to defer this item to the next meeting. No objections heard.

10. Request for Future Agenda Items

Chair Renate Ehm requested to defer this item to the next meeting. No objections heard.

11. Next Meeting

Chair Renate Ehm stated that the next meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, September 23rd, 2014 at 9:30 a.m. in the Ironwood Room.

12. Adjournment

Chair Renate Ehm adjourned the meeting at 11:39 a.m.