

MINUTES OF
MARICOPA ASSOCIATION OF GOVERNMENTS
TRANSPORTATION SAFETY COMMITTEE MEETING

September 22, 2015
Maricopa Association of Governments
Ironwood Room, Suite 200
302 N. 1st Ave,
Phoenix, AZ 85003

MEMBERS ATTENDING

- * Cristy Robinson, AAA Arizona
Tom Burch, AARP
- * Kohinoor Kar, ADOT
Shane Kiesow, City of Apache Junction
- * Robert Gray, ASU
Paul Lopez, City of Avondale
- * Vacant, City of Buckeye
Dana Alvidrez for Martin Johnson,
City of Chandler
- * Vacant, City of El Mirage
Kelly LaRosa, FHWA
Leslie Bubke for Erik Guderian,
Town of Gilbert
Kiran Guntupalli, City of Glendale
- * Alberto Gutier, GOHS
- # Hugh Bigalk, City of Goodyear
Mike Gillespie for Woodrow Scoutten,
Litchfield Park
Mazen Muradvich for 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
Dana Owsiany, City of Surprise
Julian Dresang, City of Tempe
- # Sam Diggins for Adrian Ruiz, RPTA

OTHERS PRESENT

- Mike Sabatini, Michael Baker
- Doug McCants, Harrocks
- Natalie Carrick, Michael Baker
- Daina Mann, Michael Baker
- Sherry Ryan, Chen-Ryan Associates
- Alice Chen, MAG
- Sarath Joshua, MAG
- Margaret Boone, MAG
- Eric Nava, MAG
- Micah Henry, MAG
- Steve Tate, MAG
- Martin Lucero, City of Surprise
- Stephen Chang, City of Surprise
- Andrew Kwasniack, Tatum Group
- Eric Boyles, ADOT LPA
- Anita Johari, ASJ
- Aaron Williams, FHWA
- #Tracey Feijt, TSSG, Banner Childrens
- Mike Blankenship, AMEC
- Mike Kuzel, 4M-Safety

- * 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 9:30 a.m.

2. Approval of July 21, 2015 Meeting Minutes

Chair Renate Ehm called for a motion to approve the July 21, 2015 meeting minutes. Shane Kiesow made a motion to approve, Kerry Wilcoxon 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

Chair Renate Ehm requested Sarath Joshua to report on the items included in the Program Manager's Report.

- Road Safety Assessment Program: Sarath Joshua reported that MAG is in the process of starting the next round of road safety assessments and project assessments. There are a total of seven RSAs and two PAs. Field reviews for RSAs are due to begin in the next week and kick-off meetings for the PAs have already been held with anticipation of completion of all RSA and PAs before the end of 2015.
- City of Avondale's Strategic Transportation Safety Plan: This project was requested by the City of Avondale and is being administered by MAG through the on-call contracts at the request of ADOT. Mr. Joshua asked Margaret Boone to provide the Committee a status on this project. Margaret Boone reported that a kick-off meeting was held in August with the City of Avondale and the consultant team led by Michael Baker. The Consultant is in the process of analyzing the crash data for this Avondale project for the period of 2010 through 2014. Ms. Boone introduced Paul Lopez as the new project manager for Avondale as the previous project manager has left the City to continue her career with the City of Chandler. Ms. Boone continued to outline the 12-month project schedule toward the goal of approval of the Plan by Avondale Council in August of 2016. Paul Lopez noted that the City of Avondale is in the process of filling their traffic engineer position and that he will act as the project manager for the Avondale STSP in the interim.
- Approved Road Safety (HSIP) projects in FY2016 through FY2018: Sarath Joshua reported that the list of projects recommended by the Committee has been forwarded to ADOT which will include the Glendale Flashing Yellow Arrow project and the Tempe spot improvement project at Southern Avenue and Rural Road, the Glendale application for Emergency Vehicle Pre-emption was deemed ineligible during the ADOT review process. Mr. Joshua noted that the Tempe project went through the process from an RSA to a PA and then to a successful HSIP application. There will be further discussion with the Committee in the future to come up with a strategy for nominating road safety projects in the region to fit within the updated HSIP guidance provided by ADOT.
- Approved Safe Routes to School (TA) projects in FY2016 and FY2017: Sarath Joshua reported that six projects are now going through the TIP programming process as recommended by the Committee. Mr. Joshua notes that there were funds left available in FY2016, and therefore a second call for FY2017 SRTS projects was

included in the recent TIP call for projects. This recent call for project applications resulted in five project applications being submitted in the amount of \$190 thousand dollars. Margaret Boone stated that the Committee will be notified by e-mail when the applications are available for download on the MAG modal TIP application webpage. The e-mail will include a link to the TIP webpage noting that it is different than the SRTS webpage where the applications have been made available in the past. In addition, an e-mail was sent out this morning which included the evaluation sheets to be used by Committee members. A schedule for the evaluation process was provided to the Committee; evaluation scores are requested to be forwarded to MAG by October 22nd, questions included in the evaluation sheets will be forwarded the applicants that same day, local agency applicants will have an opportunity to present their projects to the Committee for discussion and to facilitate generating final evaluation scores by Committee members at the November 17th meeting to be held at 10:00 a.m. Sarath Joshua noted that the schedule outlined by Margaret was provided to initiate participation by Committee members for evaluation of the five projects in order to generate a recommendation of the list of projects at the November 17th meeting.

- Nominations for Chair and Vice Chair: Sarath Joshua stated that with the vacancy at the Vice Chair position left by Dana Alvidrez going to the City of Chandler, and Chair Renate Ehm's term as Chair ending in January 2016, nominations are being requested for both the Chair and Vice Chair positions. Nominations should be sent to MAG addressed to the MAG Regional Council Executive Chair, Mayor Jim Lane, by October 2nd. This deadline is provided in order to get the nominations on the next Regional Council Executive Committee agenda in mid-October for approval.
- FHWA Systemic Safety Implementation Peer Exchange: Sarath Joshua invited Kelly LaRosa to report on this item. Kelly LaRosa from FHWA stated that the Peer Exchange is part of the Federal Highways Every Day Counts initiative and will focus on systemic safety improvement identification and implementation. Ms. LaRosa stated that there is a contingent of about five people from nine states attending, including Arizona. In addition, there will be a training event provided by ADOT in early 2016 for local agencies. This training will specifically address developing systemic improvement applications.

5. Strategic Transportation Safety Plan 2016-2025

Chair Renate Ehm requested that Sarath Joshua provide an update on this item. Sarath Joshua stated this project started in 2013 and that MAG is now in the final stages toward approval of the Plan. Changes have been made to the implementation portion of the plan and prepared for the Committee for discussion at today's meeting. Margaret Boone outlined the changes to the implementation plan due to the newly released 2015 ADOT HSIP approval process. Ms. Boone first recognized the Committee as well as the members of the extended TSSG for their participation in this process. Ms. Boone then referred Committee members to the handout provided of the revised implementation plan portion of the STSP draft final document. The text now indicates that the implementation plan will include working with ADOT to fully understand the new guidance as well as working within that with regard to how the implementation plan can be funded. The plan will now state the known funding as "through FY2018" as this will be the last year there will be an HSIP sub-allocation to the MAG region. The proposed final document also includes the direction from the Regional Council for MAG to work cooperatively with

ADOT to achieve the crash reduction targets. Ms. Boone went on to describe the added wording which includes a proposed strategy for the region to come up with a list of good projects that will be eligible under the new ADOT HSIP guidance in order for the appropriate amount of HSIP dollars to be spent where the majority of the crashes occur in the MAG region. Sarath Joshua noted that when implementing a data driven process, it is estimated that about 50 percent of the state's annual HSIP allocation, or \$21M, would need to be allocated to qualifying road safety projects in the MAG region. This assumes that, for each fiscal year, MAG recommends a sufficient number of successful projects, about 42 applications at an average project cost of \$500,000. This is just an estimation to show what would be necessary. The generation of HSIP project applications may be challenging for some member agencies, despite having sites with road fatalities and serious injuries. Mr. Joshua suggested, consistent with the revised implementation portion of the Plan, that it may be necessary to establish a new MAG program that would provide assistance to local agencies in preparing successful project applications through on-call consultants. A recommendation by the Committee with this revised language would provide the opportunity to get funding into the MAG work program to identify projects based on a data driven region wide screening process, work with local agencies and generate HSIP applications. Shane Kiesow inquired as to if the MAG on-call consultants would be utilized for the work to generate projects or if it would be done by MAG staff. Mr. Joshua stated that the on-call consultants would definitely be utilized but that since MAG has access to the ALISS crash data, that MAG staff could provide the resources for crash data for some of the local agencies that may not have this resource. Kelly LaRosa asked if ADOT has had the chance to review the Implementation Plan and what if any feedback was received from them. Mr. Joshua answered that ADOT has not provided any feedback and it was anticipated that this feedback would be provided at this meeting along with that of the rest of the Committee. However, there are no inconsistencies between the State SHSP and HSIP guidance and the revisions to the Implementation Plan, only the MAG approach to working within that guidance. Mr. Joshua stated that the new HSIP guidance seems to be a fair process with the assumption that there would be a statistically sufficient number of applications generated to address safety issues in the MAG region. Kiran Guntupalli stated that, as a local agency having recently submitted applications for HSIP, he feels that it is a good solution for MAG to provide this assistance in identifying projects and generating applications. Leslie Bubke asked if this strategy addresses the funding shortfall or the sub-allocation of HSIP funding to the MAG region. Mr. Joshua stated that the strategy would fully address the regions needs if MAG can receive an amount of funding equal to the high crash risk locations. Kiran Guntupalli stated a concern that historically, ADOT has not provided a formal process for submitting project applications and that once a list of projects has been sent to ADOT, some projects have then been omitted. Sarath noted that with the new guidance, and based on discussions with the ADOT Traffic Safety section, ADOT has stated that they will have an annual call for projects. Margaret Boone added that the new guidance outlines a process by which all applications have to go through the COG or MPO and that based on discussions with ADOT, this will most likely still stand as the process moving forward. Mr. Joshua noted that the intent of this strategy is to refine the MAG process and to send ADOT only highly qualified projects from the MAG region. Kerry Wilcoxon asked if MAG can take a snapshot view of where hotspots are to get an idea if there are 42 projects out there. Mr. Joshua stated that this is a very valid point and that there will have to be a very careful network screening. This will be a task for the Committee in upcoming months to discuss

what that process should be. Andrew Kwasniak requested, and was provided the opportunity to address the Committee on this agenda item. Mr. Kwasniak stated that he believes there needs to be advanced techniques used for this screening and emphasized that there may be a number of issues that can be identified outside of just looking at locations where there are fatal and incapacitating injury crashes. Mr. Kwasniak asked if MAG had identified these advanced screening techniques. Mr. Joshua stated that MAG, through this Committee has adopted the NSM-I which was recently updated during the STSP process. The equation in the RTSIMS software was revised in order address the new weighting system, but that there still needs to be a lot of work by MAG and the Committee to identify and refine a screening process for this effort. Kiran Guntupalli added that HSIP dollars can only be used to address fatal and serious injury crashes and that the MAG region should also come up with a strategy to address the education and enforcement elements not traditionally eligible for this funding source. Julian Dresang stated that in order to pursue HSIP funding that there needs to be a better process for identifying locations that will be eligible, noting that just because an location is ranked high based on the number of fatal and incapacitating injury crashes, does not necessarily mean that it will compete well for HSIP. Mr. Joshua agreed and stated that the screening method needs to be consistent with this goal. Kiran Guntupalli noted that the MAG NSM-I is weighted heavier for crash severity and also collision manners that result in the more severe injury crashes. Chair Renate Ehm stated that the overall discussion seems to indicate that the Committee is in alignment with the revisions made to the Implementation Plan for the approach spending of safety funding and requested a motion to **recommend the approval of the MAG STSP with the revisions to the Implementation Plan as noted by Sarath Joshua.** Kerry Wilcoxon made a motion, Shane Kiesow seconded, and the recommendation passed unanimously.

6. Multi-modal Level of Service Study (MMLOS)

Chair Renate Ehm introduced this item for information and discussion on the MAG Multi-Modal Level of Service (MMLOS) study and noted the upcoming workshop to be held on October 13th. Sarath Joshua invited Alice Chen of MAG to present this item. Ms. Chen introduced herself and began by providing an overview of the study goal to introduce a concept widely used throughout the country for level of service to include bicyclists, pedestrians and transit with safety as an overarching theme. Ms. Chen introduced Sherry Ryan from Chen/Ryan Associates to present the status of the study. Sherry Ryan noted that the MMLOS study measured how street design and operations met the needs of all modes of travel and that, where the non-vehicle modes are concerned, is really more of a measure of the users quality of experience as opposed to a measure of capacity. Another goal of the study and the toolkit is to provide local agencies with the analysis tools to implement MMLOS at the planning level. Ms. Ryan provided examples of how other areas of the country have benefited economically from investments in improving multimodal level of service; one community has seen an increase in merchant sales, increases in residents shopping locally, and that on average, two out of three merchants attribute improved business to an increased level of walking and biking in the area. The study is mindful of the challenges; balancing the needs of multiple modes in limited space, that aggressive improvements can be costly, and that there may be some resistance from local business owners or residents. Detail was provided on the identification of multimodal focus pilot sites with a flowchart outlining corridors with high active transportation propensity, high quality existing/planned multimodal network features

(canals & LRT alignments), corridors identified in currently adopted local planning documents, and how member agency input would contribute to the pilot MMLOS analysis sites. Ms. Ryan invited Committee members to attend the workshop to be held at MAG on October 13th. Sarath Joshua noted that the analysis requires a lot of data collection that is a large task for some local agencies and inquired as to how other agencies have done this with the lack of resources available. Ms. Ryan stated that the analysis is more applicable to a corridor as opposed to a community wide network and that agencies have found it easier to collect the data for the concentrated corridors. Kerry Wilcoxon asked when the analysis would be complete. Alice Chen stated that it would be completed in the February-March (2016) timeframe. Renate Ehm thanked Alice and Sherry for their presentation and stated that she is looking forward to attending the October workshop.

7. Corridor Safety Plan Pilot Project

Chair Renate Ehm introduced this item noting that the committee had previously received notification of how to download the Corridor Safety draft plan for review. Sarath Joshua requested that the project manager, Margaret Boone, introduce this item. Margaret Boone stated that this project was identified in the MAG work program for a corridor safety pilot project, and that the Committee recommended the corridor of Indian School Road from 51st Avenue to 75th Avenue. Ms. Boone introduced Natalie Carrick from the consultant team led by Michael Baker to provide the Committee an overview of the draft report and its findings. Natalie Carrick outlined the project goals; prepare an improvement plan that prioritizes and categorizes safety issues with recommended safety improvements and as a pilot project, serve as a template for other agencies in developing similar projects. Ms. Carrick continued that from the Corridor Safety Assessment (CSA) team's perspective the length of the corridor is one of the more important things to keep in mind when selecting the corridor in that it is important to select a corridor that is not too long. The task of identifying the CSA team early is important to ensure the members have time to review data and coordinate schedules so that all team members are able to attend. Having the City of Phoenix staff provide the required project information in such a timely fashion was a huge benefit to the project. The locations to obtain traffic counts including, bikes and pedestrians, were identified and discussed with the City of Phoenix as well as the and pros and cons of collecting traffic counts during special events. It was decided that it would be beneficial for this project that traffic volumes be collected during spring training. Success factors in establishing a field review plan early on included a Tuesday/Wednesday field review schedule which worked well having Thursday and Friday to organize and document the observations and Monday to send out all information packet for the next field review. Splitting the corridor field reviews into manageable segments gives the CSA leader the time to compile and document all the information gathered from the field review and prepare for the next week of field reviews. Mike Blankenship from AMEC Foster Wheeler, Mike Kuzel from 4M Safety, and Daina Mann from Gunn Communications, provided the key elements of the findings in developing the corridor safety plan; establishing a dedicated maintenance corridor, identifying improvements that would require local funds, recommendations that would require additional study, improvement recommendations aligned with crash modification factors with 4 and 5 star ratings to be consistent with current HSIP guidance, and identifying educational and enforcement campaigns with associated funding sources. Natalie Carrick opened the item for any discussion by the Committee. Kerry Wilcoxon thanked the CSA team for providing the corridor safety plan and for remaining safe during field reviews. The City

has started to act on some of the recommendations already and appreciates the opportunity to look at a corridor in this manner. Sarath Joshua asked if there is a recommended length of time for the enforcement campaign. Daina Mann stated that the recommendation is to plan for a concentrated 6 month campaign. This would be a pilot project that could be applied on other corridors to include an overlapping of enforcement and education.

8. Reports by Committee Members on Transportation Safety Activities

Chair Renate Ehm requested reports from committee members on transportation safety related activities at local agencies. Kerry Wilcoxon reported that the City of Phoenix is getting ready to release their 2014 collision summary. In addition, the City of Phoenix is finalizing their safety performance function project and would like to bring the item to the Committee for feedback and discussion on how it could be used in the region. Kelly LaRosa reported an update to the Focus Approach to Safety program, and that new to the program is a focus on bicyclist safety. Ms. LaRosa also stated that the City of Mesa has currently been added as a focus City for pedestrians and bicyclists. Kiran Guntupalli reported that a HAWK has been installed at 68th and Bethany Home Road.

9. Request for Future Agenda Items

Chair Renate Ehm requested future agenda items of interest to Committee members. Julian Dresang asked if MAG could look at doing a pilot project for safety performance functions for the region. Sarath noted that a good starting point would be the Phoenix study which could be brought back to the Committee in November ahead of the process for identifying new projects in the MAG work plan.

10. Next Meeting

Chair Renate Ehm stated that the next regular meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, November 17, 2015 at 10:00 a.m. in the Ironwood Room.

11. Adjournment

Chair Renate Ehm adjourned the meeting at 11:29 a.m.