

January 7, 2003

TO: Members of the Transportation Policy Committee

FROM: Mayor Neil Giuliano, Tempe, Chair

SUBJECT: MEETING NOTIFICATION AND TRANSMITTAL OF TENTATIVE AGENDA

Wednesday, January 15, 2003 - 5:00 p.m.
MAG Office, Suite 200 - Saguaro Room
302 N. First Avenue, Phoenix

A meeting of the Transportation Policy Committee is scheduled for the time and place noted above. Members of the Committee may attend the meeting either in person, by videoconference, or by telephone conference call. As was discussed at the first meeting of the Committee, proxies would not be allowed. Members who are not able to attend the meeting are encouraged to submit their comments in writing, so that their view would always be a part of the process.

Please park in the garage under the Compass Bank Building. Bring your ticket to the meeting, parking will be validated. For those using transit, the Regional Public Transportation Authority will provide transit tickets for your trip. For those using bicycles, please lock your bicycle in the bike rack in the garage.

Pursuant to Title II of the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA), MAG does not discriminate on the basis of disability in admissions to or participation in its public meetings. Persons with a disability may request a reasonable accommodation, such as a sign language interpreter, by contacting Valerie Day at the MAG office. Requests should be made as early as possible to allow time to arrange the accommodation.

Refreshments and a light dinner will be provided. If you have any questions, please contact me at (480) 350-8865, or Dennis Smith, MAG Interim Executive Director, at (602) 254-6300.

**TRANSPORTATION POLICY COMMITTEE
TENTATIVE AGENDA**

COMMITTEE ACTION REQUESTED

1. Call to Order

2. Pledge of Allegiance

3. Call to the Audience

An opportunity will be provided to members of the public to address the Committee regarding items on the agenda. Citizens will be requested not to exceed a three minute time period for their comments.

4. Approval of Consent Agenda

Prior to action on the consent agenda, members of the audience will be provided an opportunity to comment on consent items that are being presented for action. Following the comment period, Committee members may request that an item be removed from the consent agenda. Consent items are marked with an asterisk.

3. Information.

4. Recommend approval of the Consent Agenda.

ITEMS PROPOSED FOR CONSENT*

*4A. Approval of December 18, 2002 Meeting Minutes

4A. Review and approve December 18, 2002 meeting minutes.

*4B. Conformity Consultation

4B. For consultation.

MAG is conducting consultation on a conformity assessment for an amendment to the FY 2003-2007 MAG Transportation Improvement Program. The amendment includes a request from Maricopa County to add a new FY 2003 federal aid bridge rehabilitation project to strengthen the bridge at Maricopa County Route - 85 and the Agua Fria River. Also, the amendment includes the addition of \$34 million for rubberized asphalt paving projects to resurface sections of the freeway system and minor project revisions to existing TIP projects. Please refer to the enclosed material.

*4C. Amendment to the FY 2003-2007 MAG Transportation Improvement Program for Maricopa County Bridge Project

Recently, Maricopa County was notified that it had been awarded \$1 million in Federal Bridge Replacement and Rehabilitation Funds (BR) to make repairs to the bridge on MC-85 at the Agua Fria River. To implement this project, it is necessary to amend the FY 2003-2007 MAG Transportation Improvement Program to include this project in FY 2003 so that it may proceed to construction. Projects involving bridge rehabilitation are generally regarded as exempt for air quality purposes and the consultation for this item is considered as a separate agenda item. On December 10, 2002, the Transportation Review Committee recommended approval of this advancement. This item will be considered by the Management Committee on January 8, 2003. A report on the action of the Management Committee will be provided to the TPC. Please refer to the enclosed material.

*4D. Material Change to the State FY 2003-2007 Highway Construction Program and Amendment to the FY 2003-2007 MAG Transportation Improvement Program for Rubberized Asphalt

In approving the formation of the Transportation Policy Committee, the Regional Council provided that the TPC recommend material cost changes regarding the Regional Freeway System. Recently, MAG member agencies and the Arizona Department of Transportation (ADOT) have proposed changes to the current ADOT 2003-2007 Five Year Highway Construction program to implement a program of paving freeways with rubberized asphalt. The approximate \$34 million in funding will come from unallocated MAG federal funds, deferral of two projects and a reduction in the cost of one project. It is anticipated that the projects deferred and reduced will be allocated funding in future Transportation Improvement Programs. Rubberized asphalt has been determined to be very effective at reducing noise on urban freeways. Existing Loop 101, Loop 202 and SR 51 freeways will be resurfaced and new sections of the Red Mountain, Santan and Sky Harbor Freeways will have rubberized asphalt

4C. Recommend approval of an amendment to the FY 2003-2007 MAG Transportation Improvement Program to add \$1 million in FY 2003, for a Maricopa County Bridge Rehabilitation Project on MC-85 at the Agua Fria River.

4D. Recommend approving the material change to the Regional Freeway Program and amending the FY 2003-2007 MAG Transportation Improvement Program to provide \$34 million to ADOT for rubberized asphalt as shown in the attached tables.

included during the original construction phase. An amendment to the FY 2003-2007 MAG Transportation Improvement Program will be needed to accomplish this change. Air quality conformity consultation on this item will be considered as a separate agenda item. This item will be considered by the Management Committee on January 8, 2003. A report on the action of the Management Committee will be provided to the TPC. Please refer to the enclosed material.

*4E. Grand Avenue Northwest Corridor Study - SR 303L to SR 101L

The Grand Avenue Northwest Corridor Study was initiated in February 2000 to identify potential multi-modal improvements to the section of Grand Avenue between Loops 101 and 303. More than 60 options for potential improvements were considered in the study. Extensive consultation with local agencies and the public was a key element in developing the options and approximately 40 draft recommendations. One of the key elements of the Study was to develop a recommendation for the ultimate concept for this section of the corridor. It is being recommended that this section of Grand Avenue be an enhanced arterial/limited expressway. On December 10, 2002, the Transportation Review Committee recommended accepting the report and its recommendations. This item will be considered by the Management Committee on January 8, 2003. A report on the action of the Management Committee will be provided to the TPC. Please refer to the enclosed material.

4E. Recommend accepting the report and its recommendations, including designation of Grand Avenue between Loop 101 and 303 as an "enhanced arterial/limited expressway," for consideration and analysis as needed in the MAG Northwest Area Transportation Study and the Regional Transportation Plan.

ITEMS PROPOSED TO BE HEARD

5. Discussion of Key Statewide and Regional Policy Issues

At the December 18, 2002 TPC meeting, key statewide and regional policy issues were discussed. Potential action on these policy issues was deferred until the January TPC meeting to allow time to better understand the issues. The policy issues and a summary of the viewpoints expressed has been prepared for review by the Committee. For our discussion, staff will present an overview of the revenues and a strawman list of projects. In

5. Information, discussion and possible action on the policy issues.

addition to these policy issues, Maricopa County requested that the issue of governance be discussed. Information from the County relating to the governance issue will be sent under separate cover. Please refer to the enclosed material.

6. Legislative Strategy

At the December 18th meeting, the policy issues were discussed, including the option of opening a bill folder for the half cent sales tax authorization. Following our discussion of the policy issues at the January 15, 2003 meeting, the TPC members will be requested to provide direction on the legislative strategy. This direction will be included in the draft legislation. It is anticipated that final direction will be received on issues such as the length of the tax and the planning mechanism.

7. Regional Transportation Plan Draft Goals and Objectives

In Phase One of the Regional Transportation Plan, draft goals and objectives were developed. Discussion of these goals and objectives is requested, with possible approval at the February TPC meeting, following receiving input from the members of the TPC. Please refer to the enclosed material.

8. Future Agenda Items

At the February 19, 2003 TPC meeting, we anticipate discussing the following items:

- Legislative Strategy
- Evaluation Methodology
- Sub-Area Study Results

6. Information, discussion and direction on legislative strategy for inclusion in the draft legislation.

7. Information, discussion and input on the draft goals and objectives.

8. Information and discussion.