

September 15, 2009

TO: Members of the Transportation Policy Committee

FROM: Mayor Marie Lopez Rogers, Avondale, Chair

SUBJECT: NOTIFICATION OF MEETING AND TRANSMITTAL OF TENTATIVE AGENDA

Meeting - 4:00 p.m.
Wednesday, September 23, 2009
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 determined at the first meeting of the Committee, proxies are not allowed. Members who are not able to attend the meeting are encouraged to submit their comments in writing, so that their view is always a part of the process.

For those attending in person, please park in the garage under the 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 admission 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 snack will be provided. If you have any questions, please contact Eric Anderson, MAG Transportation Director, or Dennis Smith, MAG Executive Director, at (602) 254-6300.

c: MAG Regional Council
MAG Management Committee

**TRANSPORTATION POLICY COMMITTEE
TENTATIVE AGENDA
September 23, 2009**

COMMITTEE ACTION REQUESTED

<p>1. <u>Call to Order</u></p>	
<p>2. <u>Pledge of Allegiance</u></p>	
<p>3. <u>Call to the Audience</u></p> <p>An opportunity will be provided to members of the public to address the Transportation Policy Committee on items not scheduled on the agenda that fall under the jurisdiction of MAG, or on items on the agenda for discussion but not for action. Citizens will be requested not to exceed a three minute time period for their comments. A total of 15 minutes will be provided for the Call to the Audience agenda item, unless the Transportation Policy Committee requests an exception to this limit. Please note that those wishing to comment on agenda items posted for action will be provided the opportunity at the time the item is heard.</p>	<p>3. Information.</p>
<p>4. <u>Approval of Consent Agenda</u></p> <p>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 (*).</p>	<p>4. Recommend approval of the Consent Agenda.</p>

ITEMS PROPOSED FOR CONSENT*

<p>*4A. <u>Approval of the July 15, 2009, Meeting Minutes</u></p>	<p>4A. Review and approval of the July 15, 2009, meeting minutes.</p>
<p>*4B. <u>Project Changes – Amendments and Administrative Modifications to the FY 2008-2012 MAG Transportation Improvement Program and FY 2010 Arterial Life Cycle Program</u></p> <p>The fiscal year (FY) 2008-2012 Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) and Regional Transportation Plan 2007 Update were approved by the MAG Regional Council on July 25, 2007, and the FY 2010 Arterial Life Cycle Program</p>	<p>4B. Recommend approval of amendments and administrative modifications to the FY 2008-2012 Transportation Improvement Program, as appropriate, to the Regional Transportation Plan 2007 Update, and the FY 2010 Arterial Life Cycle Program.</p>

(ALCP) was approved on June 24, 2009. Since that time, there have been requests from member agencies to modify projects in the program. The project change requests related to ADOT projects include new sign and pavement preservation projects, and financial adjustments to American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (ARRA) funded projects. The majority of local projects being amended or modified into the FY 2008-2012 TIP are paving dirt road projects. These projects were previously approved by the Regional Council to be amended into a draft TIP. Project changes are needed for local projects in the FY 2010 ALCP to align with the FY 2008-2012 TIP. Due to the timing of producing the FY 2011-2015 TIP, it is necessary to amend/modify the paving and ALCP projects in the current TIP for projects to begin. The Transportation Review Committee recommended approval of the requested changes. This item is on the September 16, 2009, Management Committee agenda. An update will be provided on action taken by the Committee. Please refer to the enclosed material.

*4C. Central Mesa Light Rail Transit Locally Preferred Alternative

On June 17, 2009, the METRO Board of Directors approved a locally preferred alternative (LPA) resulting from the alternatives analysis on the technology and alignment to extend high capacity transit improvements in the Central Mesa corridor. The LPA included a light rail transit (LRT) extension on Main Street east to an interim end-of-the-line east of Mesa Drive as Phase I. In addition, METRO also approved forwarding Phase II recommendations to MAG for future funding consideration, which included a future extension of the LRT corridor on Main Street to approximately Gilbert Road and to improve service frequency on the Main Street LINK Bus Rapid Transit to match LRT. The Mesa City Council approved these recommendations on May 18, 2009. The MAG Transportation Review Committee recommended approval. This item is on the September 16, 2009, Management Committee agenda. An update will be provided on action taken by the Committee. Please refer to the enclosed material.

4C. Recommend approval of the Central Mesa locally preferred alternative as Phase I, which includes light rail transit on a Main Street alignment to the east side of Mesa Drive in accordance with the Regional Transportation Plan (RTP) and the consideration of the Phase II recommendations for future funding consideration as an "illustrative project" in the next RTP update.

*4D. Acceptance of the Interstates 8 and 10-Hidden Valley Transportation Framework Study

As a follow-up to the Interstate 10-Hassayampa Valley Framework Study, MAG and its funding partners, the Arizona Department of Transportation, the Maricopa County Department of Transportation, Pinal County Public Works, the Town of Buckeye, and the Cities of Goodyear and Maricopa, recognized the need to extend framework planning into southwestern Maricopa County and western Pinal County. Beginning in May 2007, a consultant team began framework planning efforts for a 3,200 square mile study area bounded by Gila River on the north, SR-87 and Overfield Road on the east in Pinal County, the Tohono O'Odham Indian Community and Barry Goldwater Range on the south, and 459th Avenue on the west in Maricopa County. This study is the second framework effort in the MAG region since the conception of the regional freeway network in 1960 and the Hassayampa Study in 2008, to establish a network of transportation facilities to meet the buildout travel demand. The Transportation Review Committee, MAG Management Committee, Transportation Policy Committee, and MAG Regional Council received a briefing on the project's framework recommendation for the Hidden Valley study area. Acceptance of the study recommendations is requested. This item is on the September 16, 2009, Management Committee agenda. An update will be provided on action taken by the Committee. Please refer to the enclosed material.

4D. Recommendation to (1) accept the findings of the Interstates 8 and 10-Hidden Valley Transportation Framework Study as the surface and public transportation framework for the Hidden Valley area of the MAG region that is bounded by the Gila River on the north, SR-87 and Pinal County on the east, the Tohono O'Odham Indian Community and the Barry Goldwater Range on the south, and 459th Avenue on the west; (2) adopt a two-mile traffic interchange spacing policy for new freeway facilities within the Hidden Valley area with appropriate planning for non-access crossing of the freeway facilities to facilitate local transportation improvements; (3) accept the findings and implementation strategies as described in the study for inclusion as long-range unfunded illustrative corridors in the Regional Transportation Plan; (4) recommend the affected jurisdictions within the Hidden Valley study area incorporate the study's recommendations into future updates of their general plans; and (5) coordinate this acceptance with the tribal councils of the Gila River and AK Chin Indian Communities.

ITEMS PROPOSED TO BE HEARD

5. Update on the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009: Reallocation of Unused Funds – Policy Options

The American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (ARRA) of 2009 was signed by President Obama on February 17, 2009. The ARRA directs transportation infrastructure funds to both highways and transit agencies in states and metropolitan planning organizations. In February 2009, the MAG Regional Council prioritized Highway projects, including a backup list, to be programmed with ARRA funding and approved specific projects to be funded with ARRA transit

5. Information, discussion and possible recommendation to reprioritize the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (ARRA) Highway project list based on the ability to obligate, and recommend additional policy direction for reprogramming unobligated Local ARRA funds due to unmet obligation deadlines or construction bids under estimate.

funds. On March 25, 2009, the MAG Regional Council established a deadline of November 30, 2009, for the ARRA funds designated to the MAG region for local projects to be obligated. It was noted in the action approved by the Regional Council that funds from projects that are not obligated will be reprogrammed to meet the federal obligation date of March 2, 2010, in order for Arizona to be eligible to receive funding from other states that are unable to obligate their funds.

Subsequent to these actions, MAG staff and member agencies worked together to program all ARRA funds for the region. Per federal regulations, projects are required to undergo a set of federal clearances prior to obligation and advertisement. Bids for initial ARRA funded projects have come in 20 percent to 50 percent below original estimates, and it is anticipated that future bids will follow this trend. This will result in unobligated ARRA funding available for additional projects in Highway, Transit, and Local categories. The September 2009 status report is still undergoing updates and will be sent to committee members prior to the TPC meeting. Policy options for allocation of unused ARRA Highway funds are presented in the attached memorandum and table. This item was on the August agenda of the Transportation Review Committee for information and discussion. This item is on the September 16, 2009, Management Committee agenda. An update will be provided on action taken by the Committee.

6. Building a Quality Arizona Update

The Arizona Department of Transportation (ADOT) has been conducting the Building a Quality Arizona (BQAZ) process throughout Arizona. ADOT representatives will provide an update on these activities and will highlight the statewide recommendations that are related to Maricopa County. It is anticipated that the current MAG planning efforts, including the Regional Transportation Plan and its updates, the Hassayampa Valley, the Hidden Valley, and Regional Transit framework studies will be incorporated into this planning effort. This item is on the September 16, 2009, Management

6. Information and discussion.

Committee agenda for information and discussion.

7. Legislative Update

An update will be provided on legislative issues of interest.

8. Don't Trash Arizona Litter Prevention and Education Update

The Regional Transportation Plan includes \$279 million for the freeway maintenance program, including litter control and prevention. In November 2003, MAG and the Arizona Department of Transportation signed a joint resolution that included a commitment to develop a long-term litter prevention program to help reduce freeway litter and defray pickup costs. The *Don't Trash Arizona* program was implemented in 2006 by MAG in cooperation with the Arizona Department of Transportation.

In September 2008, the MAG Regional Council approved the selection of RIESTER as the consultant to design and implement the FY 2009 Litter Prevention and Education Program in conjunction with MAG. The *Don't Trash Arizona* program recently received a national award for strategic and innovative public relations programs. An update on the program efforts and the findings of a recent evaluation survey will be provided. Please refer to the enclosed material.

9. Request for Future Agenda Items

Topics or issues of interest that the Transportation Policy Committee would like to have considered for discussion at a future meeting will be requested.

10. Adjournment

7. Information, discussion and possible action.

8. Information and discussion.

9. Information and discussion.