

July 12, 2005

TO: Members of the Transportation Policy Committee

FROM: Mayor Elaine M. Scruggs, Glendale, Chair

SUBJECT: MEETING NOTIFICATION AND TRANSMITTAL OF TENTATIVE AGENDA

Wednesday, July 20, 2005 - 4:00 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 snack will be provided. If you have any questions, please contact me at (623) 930-2262, or Dennis Smith, MAG Executive Director, at (602) 254-6300.

**TRANSPORTATION POLICY COMMITTEE
TENTATIVE AGENDA
July 20, 2005**

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 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.

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 June 22, 2005 Meeting Minutes

4A. Review and approve the June 22, 2005 meeting minutes.

*4B. Draft FY 2007-2011 MAG Transportation Improvement Program Guidance Report

4B. Recommend acceptance of the Draft FY 2007-2011 MAG TIP Guidance Report.

MAG is starting the process to develop the FY 2007-2011 Transportation Improvement Program (TIP), which is tentatively targeted for approval in July 2006. The first step in the TIP process is the distribution of the TIP Guidance Report (TGR), which was developed to act as a guide to decision

makers to facilitate the programming of transportation projects in the region. The TGR contains the application forms for MAG Federal funds and represents the formal request for projects for addition to the FY 2007-2011 MAG TIP. The Transportation Review Committee (TRC) recommended acceptance of the TGR. This item is on the July 13, 2005 Management Committee agenda. An update will be provided on action taken by the committee. Please refer to the enclosed material.

*4C. Proposed Amendment to the FY 2004-2007 Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) for Highway and Transit Projects

Following approval of the FY 2004-2007 MAG TIP on November 25, 2003, a project has been identified that needs to be added to the TIP to allow it to proceed during the current fiscal year. A multi-use path project on the Consolidated Canal: 8th St to Lindsay Rd in Mesa was awarded Transportation Enhancement funds in a prior year but was inadvertently declared as being underway in a previous TIP. The project is now ready to proceed, but needs to be re-added to the current TIP. It also is necessary to either amend the TIP or to carry out some Administrative Adjustments to incorporate several changes to existing transit projects. All of the proposed changes may be categorized as exempt projects or minor project revisions for which an air quality conformity analysis is not required. Consultation on the conformity assessment for the proposed changes is currently underway. The TRC recommended approval of the project changes described above. This item is on the July 13, 2005 Management Committee agenda. An update will be provided on action taken by the committee. Please refer to the enclosed material.

*4D. Federal Fiscal Year 2005 MAG Federal Funds Final Closeout and Amendment/Adjustments to the FY 2004-2007 MAG Transportation Improvement Program

On June 29, 2005, the MAG Regional Council approved a list of 20 projects to utilize approximately \$20 million in projects for the funds expected to be available for the FFY 2005

4C. Recommend approval of an Amendment and/or Administrative Adjustment to the FY 2004-2007 MAG Transportation Improvement Program to add one new Enhancement Funded Mesa project and several new transit projects, plus make several changes to existing transit projects as shown in the attached tables.

4D. Recommend approval of changes to the interim closeout and approval of the final closeout of Federal FY 2005, and to recommend amending/adjusting the FY 2004-2007 MAG TIP to allow the projects to proceed.

Closeout, including the funds released by deferred projects. Three of the projects recommended include Valley Metro Rail studies and all three were listed as needing to be transferred from Federal Highway to Federal Transit Administration (FTA) funds. One of these studies has already been included in the MAG Unified Planning Work Program (UPWP) with existing funds and should therefore be deleted from the Closeout process. The remaining two projects will not be transferred to FTA funds, but will be authorized through the MAG UPWP and the description of the funds need to be changed from STP-MAG-Flex to STP-MAG. In addition, the Regional Council also approved approximately \$6.4 million in contingency projects. These projects are for any additional, supplemental or redistributed obligation authority that may be received. Since that time, three other projects, totaling \$2.7 million, have requested to be deferred, which has effectively reduced the list of contingency projects to five, totaling \$3.7 million. At their June 30, 2005 meeting, the TRC recommended adding two ADOT projects to the list of contingency projects. This item is on the July 13, 2005 Management Committee agenda. An update will be provided on action taken by the committee. Please refer to the enclosed material.

*4E. Finding of Conformity for the Draft FY 2006-2010 MAG Transportation Improvement Program and Draft Regional Transportation Plan - 2005 Update

The Draft 2005 Conformity Analysis concludes that the draft Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) and the Regional Transportation Plan - 2005 Update meet all applicable federal conformity requirements and are in conformance with applicable air quality plans. On June 16, 2005, a public hearing was conducted on the draft TIP, Regional Transportation Plan - 2005 Update, and Conformity Analysis. On June 23, 2005, the MAG Air Quality Technical Advisory Committee recommended approval of the Draft 2005 MAG Conformity Analysis for the Draft FY 2006-2010 MAG Transportation Improvement Program and Draft MAG Regional Transportation Plan - 2005 Update. Approval of the conformity finding by the Regional Council is required for MAG adoption of the TIP and RTP. Please refer to the enclosed material.

4E. Information.

ITEMS PROPOSED TO BE HEARD

5A. FY 2005 MAG Final Phase Public Input Opportunity

The Final Phase input opportunity gives members of the public the ability to provide comment on MAG transportation plans and programs. As part of this opportunity, MAG co-sponsored several public input opportunities in May and June 2005 with the Arizona Department of Transportation, Valley Metro and Valley Metro Rail. An open house/public hearing was held June 16, 2005 to provide information and receive comment on the Draft FY 2006-2010 Transportation Improvement Program (TIP), the Regional Transportation Plan - 2005 Update and Draft 2005 MAG Conformity Analysis. Comments received during these input opportunities and staff responses to comments are included in the Final Phase Input Opportunity. This item is on the July 13, 2005 Management Committee agenda. An update will be provided on action taken by the committee. Please refer to the enclosed material.

5B. Approval of the Draft FY 2006-2010 MAG Transportation Improvement Program

Each year MAG updates the Five Year Transportation Improvement Program (TIP), primarily by adding a fifth year. All federally funded projects and regionally significant transportation projects (including city and privately funded projects) must be included in the draft TIP for the purpose of meeting the air quality conformity analysis requirements. The Draft FY 2006-2010 TIP was approved by Regional Council in April 2005 to undergo this analysis, which is now complete. A public hearing on the draft TIP was conducted June 16, 2005. The TRC recommended approval of the Draft TIP, contingent upon a finding of conformity. This item is on the July 13, 2005 Management Committee agenda. An update will be provided on action taken by the committee. Please refer to the enclosed material.

5C. Approval of the Draft MAG Regional Transportation Plan - 2005 Update

5A. Recommend acceptance of the FY 2005 MAG Final Phase Public Input Opportunity.

5B. Recommend approval of the Draft FY 2006-2010 MAG Transportation Improvement Program contingent upon a finding of conformity of the TIP with the applicable state and federal air quality implementation plans.

5C. Recommend approval of the Draft MAG Regional Transportation Plan - 2005 Update contingent upon a finding of conformity of the RTP with the applicable state and federal air quality implementation plans.

As part of the process to update the MAG Regional Transportation Plan (RTP) and develop the MAG Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) for the period FY 2006-10, changes have been proposed regarding the phases in which certain projects in the RTP would be constructed. These changes have been included in the Draft MAG Regional Transportation Plan - 2005 Update and the Draft MAG FY 2006-2010 Transportation Improvement Program, as appropriate. The 1990 Clean Air Act Amendments require that transportation plans and programs be in conformance with applicable air quality plans. To comply with this requirement, a conformity analysis was conducted on the Draft 2005 RTP Update and the Draft FY 2006-2010 TIP. This analysis has demonstrated that the Draft 2005 RTP Update and Draft FY 2006-2010 TIP meet air quality conformity requirements. The TRC recommended approval of the Draft RTP Update, contingent upon a finding of conformity. This item is on the July 13, 2005 Management Committee agenda. An update will be provided on action taken by the committee. Please refer to the enclosed material.

6. Williams Gateway Freeway Preferred Alignment

The Williams Gateway Freeway corridor is an element of the MAG Regional Transportation Plan (RTP), adopted by the MAG Regional Council in November 2003. The RTP calls for construction of the facility during fiscal years 2016-2020. Beginning in November 2004, MAG initiated an Alignment and Environmental Overview Study for the future Williams Gateway Freeway. The study is organized into two phases. Phase I is aimed at developing a recommended preferred alignment for the facility, while Phase 2 will identify the specific characteristics of the preferred alignment. The engineering consultant firm for the MAG study, DMJM+HARRIS, has completed the technical process for Phase I. Alternative 3 - Frye Road is being recommended as the preferred alignment for the Williams Gateway Freeway, to be considered for adoption through the MAG committee and Regional Council review process. This item is on the July 13, 2005 Management Committee agenda. An update will be provided on action taken by the committee. Please refer to the enclosed material.

6. Recommend the selection of Alternative 3 - Frye Road as the preferred alignment for the Williams Gateway Freeway in Maricopa County.