

June 8, 2004

TO: Members of the Transportation Policy Committee

FROM: Mayor Neil Giuliano, Tempe, Chair

SUBJECT: MEETING NOTIFICATION AND TRANSMITTAL OF TENTATIVE AGENDA

Wednesday, June 16, 2004 - 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 dinner will be provided. If you have any questions, please contact me at (480) 350-8865, or Dennis Smith, MAG Executive Director, at (602) 254-6300.

**TRANSPORTATION POLICY COMMITTEE  
TENTATIVE AGENDA  
June 16, 2004**

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>Committee members may request that an item be removed from the consent agenda. Prior to action on the consent agenda, members of the audience will be provided an opportunity to comment on consent items. Consent items are marked with an asterisk.</p>		<p>4. Recommend approval of the Consent Agenda.</p>

**ITEMS PROPOSED FOR CONSENT\***

**MINUTES**

<p>*4A. <u>Approval of May 26, 2004 Meeting Minutes</u></p>		<p>4A. Review and approve the May 26, 2004 meeting minutes.</p>
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**AIR QUALITY ITEMS**

<p>*4B. <u>Conformity Consultation</u></p> <p>MAG is conducting consultation on a conformity assessment for an amendment to the FY 2004-2007 MAG Transportation Improvement Program (TIP). The amendment includes a request from Maricopa County to add a new</p>		<p>4B. For consultation.</p>
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Design Concept Report and Environmental Assessment Project for Loop 303 from I-10 to US 60 (Grand Avenue) to FY 2004. The proposed amendment also includes new transit projects and changes to existing transit projects from Valley Metro to ensure that the Federal Transit Administration Grant Application and the TIP are in conformance. In addition, as part of the Federal FY 2004 Interim Year End Closeout, the proposed amendment includes new projects and changes to existing projects in the FY 2004-2007 MAG TIP. The amendment includes new projects that may be categorized as exempt to determine conformity and minor project revisions that do not require a conformity determination. Please refer to the enclosed material.

**TRANSPORTATION ITEMS**

- \*4C. Proposed Amendment and Administrative Adjustments to the FY 2004-2007 MAG Transportation Improvement Program for Transit Projects

Each year, when the Federal Transit Appropriations are released, the Regional Public Transportation Authority (RPTA) reviews the Federal Transit Administration (FTA) Grant Application that is under development and adjusts the projects listed in the Grant and the TIP to ensure that the two programs are in conformance. It is necessary to either amend the TIP or to carry out some Administrative Adjustments to incorporate several changes to existing transit projects. These changes include the deletion of four projects, adjustments to 12 projects, the deferral of six projects and the addition of 19 new projects. Other projects have had the scopes and funding sources changed, increased and/or reduced. 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 considered under a separate agenda item. The Transportation Review Committee recommended approval of a list of project changes. This item is on the June 9, 2004 Management Committee agenda. An update will

- 4C. Recommend approval of an Amendment and Administrative Adjustments to the FY 2004-2007 MAG TIP for transit projects submitted by RPTA as shown in the Attached Table One.

be provided on action taken by the committee. Please refer to the enclosed material.

\*4D. Amendment of the FY 2004-2007 MAG Transportation Improvement Program for ADOT Highway Projects and a Maricopa County Design Concept Report and Environmental Assessment

On November 25, 2003, the FY 2004-2007 MAG Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) was approved by the MAG Regional Council. Since that time, ADOT has notified MAG that it is making several changes to the improvements scheduled on State Route 85, between Buckeye and Gila Bend. In addition, ADOT is adding a State funded District Minor project on Loop 101 (Agua Fria Freeway) to FY 2004. Maricopa County has requested the addition of a Design Concept Report for Loop 303, from I-10 to US-60 (Grand Avenue). All of these projects require an amendment to the TIP to be able to proceed. On May 27, 2004, the Transportation Review Committee recommended approval of an amendment to the TIP. This item is on the June 9, 2004 Management Committee agenda. An update will be provided on action taken by the committee. Please refer to the enclosed material.

\*4E. Federal Fiscal Year 2004 MAG Federal Funds Interim Closeout and Amendment/Adjustments to the FY 2004-2007 MAG Transportation Improvement Program and FY 2004 and FY 2005 Unified Planning Work Programs and Annual Budgets

In this phase of the closeout process, approximately \$23.3 million is available for the interim closeout, plus a possible \$1.5 million in redistributed Obligation Authority. Approximately \$36 million in project requests have been received for the funds available. On March 25, 2004, the Transportation Review Committee (TRC) recommended allowing 19 projects, totaling \$18.4 million, to defer from FFY 2004 to later years. This is in addition to \$4.9 million in uncommitted funds. To utilize the available funds, on May 27, 2004, the TRC recommended 17 projects, totaling \$23.9 million, plus an additional \$1.3 million in contingency projects if any further funds become available or if any projects

4D. Recommend approval of an Amendment of the FY 2004-2007 Transportation Improvement Program to advance a State Route 85 project from FY 2007 to FY 2004; to add a new project on Loop 101 (Agua Fria Freeway) between 31st Avenue and 51st Avenue to FY 2004; and to add a Design Concept Report and Environmental Assessment for Loop 303, from I-10 to US-60 (Grand Avenue), to FY 2004, contingent upon a finding of air quality conformity.

4E. Recommend approval of the interim closeout of Federal FY 2004, as shown in the attached Tables and recommend amending/adjusting the FY 2004-2007 MAG TIP and the FY 2004 and FY 2005 Unified Planning Work Programs and Annual Budgets to allow the projects to proceed.

unexpectedly drop out. This item is on the June 9, 2004 Management Committee agenda. An update will be provided on action taken by the committee. Please refer to the enclosed material.

**ITEMS PROPOSED TO BE HEARD**

- 5. New Finding of Conformity for the Special FY 2004-2007 MAG Transportation Improvement Program and the Amended Regional Transportation Plan

The conformity assessment on the proposed amendment, which includes a regional emissions analysis, concludes that the FY 2004-2007 MAG Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) and Regional Transportation Plan (RTP) meet all applicable federal conformity requirements and are in conformance with applicable air quality plans. The proposed amendment includes an Arizona Department of Transportation request to advance a State Route 85 project and add a new Loop 101 Agua Fria Freeway auxiliary lane project; an adjustment to the completion date of the light rail transit (LRT) 20-mile minimum operating segment to December 2008; and to the completion date of the LRT five-mile link to Metrocenter to 2012. On June 1, 2004, following a 30-day public review and comment period, a public hearing was held on the proposed amendment to the TIP and RTP, and conformity assessment. On June 3, 2004, the MAG Air Quality Technical Advisory Committee recommended approval of the draft conformity assessment. Please refer to the enclosed material.

- 6. Amendment of the Special FY 2004-2007 MAG Transportation Improvement Program and the Regional Transportation Plan for Light Rail Transit

Valley Metro Rail has requested changes to the budget and schedule for completion of the light rail transit (LRT) system. The changes would modify the Regional Transportation Plan (RTP) and the Special FY 2004-2007 MAG Transportation Improvement Program (TIP). In accordance with State law, the proposed modifications to the RTP have been submitted for consultation to the Regional Public Trans-

- 5. Recommend approval of the new Finding of Conformity for the Special FY 2004-2007 MAG Transportation Improvement Program and the amended Regional Transportation Plan.

- 6. Recommend approval of an Amendment of the Regional Transportation Plan and Special FY 2004-2007 Transportation Improvement Program to reflect the light rail transit changes proposed by Valley Metro Rail, affecting the Minimum Operating Segment and the Metrocenter Link, contingent upon a finding of air quality conformity.

portation Authority, the Arizona Department of Transportation, Maricopa County, Indian communities and to cities and towns. At their meeting on May 26, 2004, the Transportation Policy Committee reviewed and responded to comments received. On May 27, 2004, the Transportation Review Committee recommended approval of an amendment to the RTP and TIP to reflect the LRT changes. The results of an air quality conformity assessment indicate that the proposed transportation action meets the applicable transportation conformity criteria. A public hearing on the conformity analysis was held on June 1, 2004. This item is on the June 9, 2004 Management Committee agenda. An update will be provided on action taken by the committee. Please refer to the enclosed material.

7. Requested Changes to the FY 2004 MAG Regional Freeway Program

The Arizona Department of Transportation has requested two material changes to the FY 2004 MAG Regional Freeway Program. A.R.S. 28-6353 requires that MAG approve any change in priorities, new projects, or requests that materially increase the cost of a project. The first requested change is to add \$1.0 million to the Systemwide Preliminary Engineering project due to the production of a design concept report, extensive hydraulic studies and geotechnical investigations and a change in interchange concepts for a section of the Red Mountain Freeway. ADOT is also requesting that a new project be established for design work necessary for utility relocation in the amount of \$80,000. Both of these changes are required to complete the current Regional Freeway Program in 2007. MAG has examined the need for both of these changes and finds that they are warranted. A review of the net impact of these changes indicates that the cash balances for the MAG Regional Freeway Program are adequate to accommodate the requested changes. This item is on the June 9, 2004 Management Committee agenda. An update will be provided on action taken by the committee. Please refer to the enclosed material.

7. Recommend approval of the requested changes to increase the funding for Systemwide Preliminary Engineering by \$1.0 million and add the new project to provide for utility relocation design work in the amount of \$80,000.