

MINUTES OF THE  
MARICOPA ASSOCIATION OF GOVERNMENTS  
REGIONAL COUNCIL EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETING  
September 15, 2003  
MAG Offices  
302 North 1st Avenue, Phoenix, Arizona

MEMBERS ATTENDING

Mayor Wendy Feldman-Kerr, Queen Creek,  
Chair  
Mayor Keno Hawker, Mesa, Vice Chair  
Mayor John Keegan, Peoria, Treasurer

Mayor Mary Manross, Scottsdale  
\* Mayor Skip Rimsza, Phoenix  
Mayor Joan Shafer, Surprise  
\* Mayor Woody Thomas, Litchfield Park

\* Not present

# Participated by videoconference or telephone conference call

1. Call to Order

The Executive Committee meeting was called to order by Chair Wendy Feldman-Kerr at 12:10 p.m.

2. Approval of the August 18, 2003 Executive Committee Meeting Minutes

Mayor John Keegan moved to approve the minutes of the August 18, 2003 Executive Committee meeting. Mayor Keno Hawker seconded, and the motion carried unanimously.

3. Regional Transportation Plan Update

Dennis Smith discussed the scheduling and policy portion of the Transportation Plan update. He stated that the next TPC meeting will be held on Wednesday, September 17<sup>th</sup> at 2:00 p.m. Mr. Smith stated that the Plan and the public involvement document are out, and all the public hearings have been completed. He noted that a memorandum from Mayor Neil Giuliano was mailed on Friday, September 12<sup>th</sup> that discussed the results of the Committee's hard work so far, the upcoming September 17<sup>th</sup> meeting, and the importance of adopting a final Plan at the meeting. Mr. Smith explained that the law indicates that the TPC must take action by approving, disapproving or modifying member agencies comments on the Plan. He stated that the Regional Council action is scheduled for September 24, 2003. If the Plan is not approved at the September 17<sup>th</sup> TPC meeting, a special TPC meeting will need to be called on September 29<sup>th</sup>, and a special Regional Council meeting will need to be called on September 30<sup>th</sup>. This would eliminate any buffer in the air quality conformity schedule. Mr. Smith stated that the air quality conformity analysis would follow the approval of the Plan. He noted that final Regional

Council action would be needed by November 30, 2003. Mr. Smith stated that the work on this Plan began three years ago, and the TPC has been working on it for a year. He recognized that there are some issues that need to be resolved, but is confident that all the information is out there for action on September 17<sup>th</sup>.

Mr. Smith reviewed the concepts for consideration. He explained that the concept to review the Plan every five years gives the opportunity to look at the performance and operation, and make any necessary changes. Mayor Manross asked if Mr. Steve Dreiseszun's noise mitigation concerns regarding the FQ Story neighborhood are addressed in the current budget amount. Mr. Smith confirmed that they are addressed. He stated that there was discussion of additional noise mitigation, such as higher noise walls. Mr. Smith stated that we have set aside over \$400 million of ADOT Funds. Mayor Shafer asked if Jomax was included in the Plan. Mr. Smith stated that it is included as an item for consideration by the TPC. Mayor Hawker asked what happens if a project comes in under budget. Mr. Smith responded that the money would stay in that particular firewall fund. Mayor Hawker asked what happens if light rail does not perform and if the money would be proportioned back out. Mr. Smith responded the draft has two major lines, I-10 west and to Paradise Valley Mall. The County has tentatively recommended that these be BRT. Mayor Shafer asked about the Grand Avenue 101 to 303 project. Mr. Anderson stated that he would need to look up that information. Mr. Smith stated that a plan adjustment would be up to the TPC. Chair Wendy Feldman-Kerr asked how often the TPC would meet. Mr. Smith stated that TIP amendments need to go through the TPC.

Mayor Hawker asked why have the five year review when that is being done in the Life Cycle Program. Mr. Smith responded that the Life Cycle Program makes sure the projects and Plan are on budget, but does not measure performance. Mayor Hawker asked if the \$1 billion for I-17 would go through TPC and then the MAG Regional Council. Mr. Smith responded that Plan adjustments would go through TPC and Regional Council, with comments from RPTA, ADOT and the County. Mayor Hawker asked what constitutes a Plan adjustment. Mr. Smith stated that the definitions have not been developed yet. Mayor Hawker asked if there are firewalls on categories and projects. He stated that he was concerned that those projects that were decreased in cost will be a material cost change later. Mayor Hawker referenced the 303 cost change. He also asked if a project is taken out, will that city lose its regional contribution.

Chair Feldman-Kerr stated that the review process would be similar to the General Plan review process every five years. She agreed that there needs to be clarification on what is a major plan adjustment. Mayor Manross stated that the details could be finalized after the vote.

Mayor Shafer asked if Mr. Anderson found the information on Grand Avenue. Mr. Anderson stated that Grand Avenue is slated for a small phase one widening project and the Surprise section is in phase two.

Mr. Anderson addressed that plan adjustment issue and stated there is a commitment to voters and this needs to be thought through before the election. Mayor Hawker stated that the population growth in five or 10 years may be in places that were not predicted. Mr. Smith

agreed that there is a commitment to the voters. He noted the next step is for the TPC to approve the projects so that air quality modeling can begin.

Mr. Anderson discussed the revenue adjustments and the funding changes. He noted that additional revenues of \$433 million came from adding FY2026 of ADOT revenues and STP funds. He also explained an error in the calculation of net STP funds available was also found that increased net available STP funds. Mr. Anderson explained the ADOT cost reductions of \$450 million from Loop 303 and South Mountain. He stated that the new positive balance is now \$94 million. Mr. Anderson reviewed the phasing periods and the phasing factors. Mayor Shafer expressed the importance of Loop 303 in phase one because of CANAMEX, which is federally mandated. She noted that CANAMEX will hit Grand Avenue and Loop 303, and she is concerned about the traffic in her community and in surrounding communities. Mr. Anderson stated that phase one includes Loop 303 to I-17 as an interim four-lane road. He then reviewed the HOV, arterial, BRT and high capacity corridors maps.

Mr. Anderson stated that the economic benefits of the Plan to this region are tremendous. He noted that this plan represents four times the investment in the Central Arizona Project; industry output will increase 27.6 billion or \$1.3 billion per year; will generate 10,600 jobs annually and will reduce congestion thus improving our economic competitiveness.

Chair Feldman-Kerr suggested that the purpose be defined for Wednesday's TPC meeting and a time line to address other issues. Mr. Smith stated that he appreciates all the cities' hard work and cooperation on the largest public works project in Arizona. Mayor Shafer asked what the County's position is on the Plan. Mr. Smith responded that the County has legitimate concerns. They want to know what "Plan B" is if the light rail does not happen. Mr. Smith explained the review process and that the light rail system would be evaluated on performance and if other modes would be appropriate.

#### 4. Regional Town Hall

Tom Remes stated that the First Regional Town Hall was held on March 28, 2003 at the Black Canyon Conference Center with approximately 100 *Regional Visionaries* participating. He noted that the total cost of the Town Hall was \$1,642 after the sponsorship contributions. Mr. Remes stated that the Town Hall event grew out of the Governance process. He stated that if the Executive Committee wishes to continue the Regional Town Hall on an annual basis, direction is needed so that an event time line can be created. Other considerations include establishing a Steering Committee, choosing a topic and determining an event date.

Chair Feldman-Kerr stated that she does not want to skip the Town Hall in 2004. She suggested holding the Town Hall later in the year around September. Mr. Smith expressed his concern about the topic of the next Town Hall and its impact on the upcoming election. He suggested getting together with elected officials to discuss topics for the next Town Hall and agreed with waiting until after the election to hold the event. He stated that collaborating with Tucson on certain topics could be beneficial. Mayor Keegan asked what the staff time was for this event.

Mr. Remes stated that he would have to get back to Mayor Keegan with that information. He did note that there were a number of volunteers for the event. Mayor Hawker agreed with Mr. Smith that the election is key and we should choose the topic wisely. Mr. Smith suggested an exploratory committee to review the timing, topic and date of the next Town Hall. The Executive Committee agreed.

5. 2004 Desert Peaks Awards

---

Denise McClafferty gave a brief background on the Desert Peaks Awards event. She noted that in the past, the Awards event was held in conjunction with the Regional Council annual meeting in June. Ms. McClafferty explained that the purpose of the Desert Peaks Awards program was to recognize regional efforts and the cooperation of governments, citizens and the private sector. She noted that the program fosters goodwill and serves as a reminder of the many partnerships and achievements in the region.

Ms. McClafferty noted that on February 26, 2003, the Regional Council voted not to hold the Desert Peaks event because of budgetary reasons, and so that jurisdictions could have additional time to develop projects for submission. The First Regional Town Hall was held instead. Ms. McClafferty stated that if the awards ceremony is held in June 2004, staff will need to begin the planning process.

Mayor Hawker stated that the awards event should be scaled down and budget conscience. Mayor Manross agreed and suggested distributing the awards at the annual Regional Council meeting. Chair Feldman-Kerr stated that the awards are a good recognition of regional cooperation. Mr. Smith noted that he has seen the Desert Peaks Award displayed in city halls around the Valley. Mayor Keegan also agreed that the event should be restructured, maybe as a reception. Mr. Smith suggested that a reception be held prior to the annual Regional Council meeting, and the awards be handed out during the annual meeting. This will still provide a function to honor regional projects. The Executive Committee indicated agreement with this concept.

6. Regional Task Force on Arts and Culture

---

Chair Feldman-Kerr stated that The Flinn Foundation, The Virginia G. Piper Charitable Trust, the J.W. Kieckhefer Foundation, and the Margaret T. Morris Foundation have joined together to form a task force to help advance arts and culture regionally, as an important component of new technology-based economic development efforts underway throughout the Valley. The task force consists of 30-members that will conduct a comparative analysis of other technology-based regional economies to outline what the Valley must do to compete with these regions on quality of life measures. Chair Feldman-Kerr explained that the initiative will integrate extensive national research with community input to develop strategies for the future. The Battelle Memorial Institute's Technology Partnership Practice will assist the task force with its work. She noted that this will be a two-year effort by the four collaborating foundations to

strengthen the arts and culture infrastructure in the region. Chair Feldman-Kerr distributed the Community Dialogue Dates.

Mr. Smith stated that the receptionist area on the third floor has an empty wall that needed filled with something that represents the organization. Mr. Smith presented the Executive Committee a framed display of the Regional Council members' photos that will be hung in the receptionist area on the third floor. Mr. Smith stated that the member agencies are MAG, and their photos are the best representation of what MAG is all about – regional cooperation.

7. Adjournment

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 1:16 p.m.

---

Chairman

---

Secretary