

MINUTES OF THE
MARICOPA ASSOCIATION OF GOVERNMENTS
INTELLIGENT TRANSPORTATION SYSTEMS COMMITTEE

November 5, 2003
MAG Cholla Room, 2nd Floor
302 North First Avenue
Phoenix, Arizona

MEMBERS ATTENDING

Jim Book, Glendale	Bruce Dressel, Scottsdale
Alan Sanderson, Mesa	Jim Decker, Tempe
Mike Mah, Chandler	Tim Wolfe, ADOT
Bruce Ward, Gilbert	Scott Nodes, Peoria
Faisal Saleem for Nicolaas Swart, Maricopa County	Michael Valentine for Chuck Hydeman, Goodyear
Bob Steele, Phoenix	Mary Kihl, ASU
Bob Ciotti, RPTA	Alan Hansen, FHWA
Iven Wooten for Terry Conner, DPS	*Dennis Murphy, Phoenix Aviation
Bob Maki, Surprise	*Michael Smith, Avondale
Carrol Reynolds, Buckeye	

OTHERS PRESENT

Anne MacCracken, Valley Metro	Xiao Qin, MAG
Pierre Pretorius, Kimley-Horn Associates	Brent Crowther, Kimley-Horn Associates
Sarath Joshua, MAG	

* Not present or represented by proxy

1. Call to Order

Chairman Jim Book called the meeting to order at 10:04 AM.

2. Approval of October 1, 2003 Meeting Minutes & Welcome of New Member

Alan Sanderson moved and Bruce Dressel seconded, and it was unanimously carried to approve the minutes of the October 1, 2003 ITS Committee meeting. Chairman Book welcomed new committee member Carrol Reynolds representing the Town of Buckeye and requested self-introductions from all members.

3. Call to Audience

Chairman Book made a call to the audience providing an opportunity to members of the public to address the ITS Committee. There was no comment from the audience.

4. Program Managers Report

The following is a summary of the report to the committee provided by Sarath Joshua:

- Since the October committee meeting the Memorandum of Understanding on a Regional Concept of Transportation Operations was presented to the Mesa Transportation Advisory Board, MAG Management Committee and the Regional Council. MAG Regional Council approved it unanimously on October 22, 2003. This was noted as the first such agreement in the region. The contract with Kimley-Horn and Associates has been extended to ensure completion of all project deliverables. Pierre Pretorius provided a brief report on the project status. The Final Report is expected to be delivered at the December meeting. Instead of the Executive Summary the project will now produce a poster depicting the project goals and objectives. Due to several changes that were made to earlier technical documents on the projects addendums will be added. Members were asked for their opinions on the title for what was earlier called Operations Manual. The new title was agreed as Guidelines for Regional Transportation Operations.

5. Traffic Signal Synchronization Program

The committee was briefed on progress of the team led by Mike Mah that is developing the project criteria and application guidelines. During the discussion there were many comments indicating that the term “synchronization” may be confusing to the general public. It was unanimously agreed that the name of the program should be changed to Traffic Signal Optimization Program to better reflect the intent of the program. The maximum cost for each project was set at \$25,000. Chairman Book asked if hardware improvements will be included as part of these projects. Mike Mah explained that as a minimum all signals need a clock to accommodate time of day traffic variations. Alan Sanderson commented that care must be taken to ensure that this project does stray from its original intent, which was to provide resources for performing timing. Sarath Joshua responded that the only hardware that the Team has considered to be within project scope was the adding a card for the clock.

6. Use of AZTech System Detectors

Sarath Joshua stated that this topic was included as a result of a field visit and discussion he had with Jim Decker on traffic data collection. He stated that the original premise for installing system detectors under AZTech was to stream data back to the AZTech server so that color coded speed maps could be produced for arterials. This has not happened so far due to many reasons. Jim Decker stated that AZTech 1 gathered detector data via traffic signals via contact loops and the plan was to send streaming data back to the server to create a color map. There were many issues and problems such as network reliability. Another option is to data capture locally and assemble them offline. He questioned the value of installing detectors under AZTech 2 and felt that it would be better to allocate those resources solve the peer-to-peer connections and additional modifications needed to make Toolbox work to bring data back to local systems.

Jim Book asked what is being done with the data. Jim Decker answered that nothing is being done unless individual cities are using the data from AZTech detectors. Sarath

Joshua stated that his visit to Tempe was to get a good understanding of the flow of data from the loops all the way to the server. He indicated he is working on a MAG project that will set up a system to gather traffic data. Bob Steele indicated that Phoenix does not gather data from system detectors. Sarath Joshua stated that the Phoenix has a separate system of detectors for traffic counts. He asked members if any of the agencies represented have a traffic count program like Phoenix. Alan Sanderson indicated that Mesa would like to have such a system.

There was general agreement that streaming data was of little value at the present time.

Faisal Saleem commented that it was important to have streaming data from arterial detection locations to support traveler information. Bob Steele stated it remains to be seen if travel time is a useful piece of information. Faisal Saleem informed that Mobility Technologies have funds to install new detectors and have recently started discussions with MCDOT. Sarath stated that initial discussions between Mobility Technologies and ADOT were to instrument freeways and he asked if they are now looking to instrument arterials.

Jim Decker suggested that the problems related to gathering data via the TransCore and Icons systems be addressed so that both streaming data and traffic count data needs can be met. Scottsdale and Phoenix both have TransCore Signal Systems and they both need some work before existing system detectors can record traffic volume data.

A number of on-going AZTech projects are continuing to install system detectors under the original premises of the AZTech project. Alan Sanderson stated that it did not seem like the mid block detectors are really useful. Faisal Saleem disagreed by stating that some kind of speed map would provide valuable traveler information. Mike Mah agreed that it is a desirable goal however the current configuration of mid-block system detectors may be insufficient to generate realistic speed maps. Alan Sanderson stated that it seemed like there really was no current need for realtime streaming data. Carrol Reynolds asked if there is a team investigating a possible solution such as a neural network that can be taught to interpret data from system detectors. Bob Steele stated there are many questions on how we should present arterial information to the public. Bruce Dressel and Mike Mah described how their cities plan to use camera views of intersections to show the level of congestion.

7. Status Reports by Committee Members

Faisal Saleem reported that the ATIS workshop was a success and was well attended including some from the media. Pankaj Gupte reported on the upcoming ADOT project to develop a Design Concept Report for the Regional Community Network. He also commented on the discussion between ADOT and Mobility Technologies where ADOT decided it was not beneficial to pursue an agreement with them. Bruce Dressel informed that the on a Scottsdale a Synchro map for 30 intersections cost \$ 35000. Jim Decker described the ADOT video switch project and the Camera Chameleon. He indicated that when that work is completed it would provide cities with access to ADOT cameras. Bruce Ward reported that he is working on center-to-center communications project with Kimley-Horn and a Master Plan for Communications with Computran. Gilbert is experiences 1000 new people a month, and has 20 signals under construction and 19 under design. Most of the major projects are being done as Construction Manager at

Risk. On December 1st he will go to council for approval for a \$100,000 video wall. Bob Steel reported that the Downtown traffic management system is Fiber optic backbone project is being reviewed by the ADOT local government section. Mary Kihl reported that the ITS and Older Driver project is going well with Focus Groups coming up in Peoria. She thanked everyone for assistance and contributions with facilities. Alan Sanderson reported that the Mesa TMC project is going well, with the video wall installed. Mesa is also working on the scope of a real-time adaptive control project. Sarah Joshua commented that this particular Mesa project is being split into two separate projects as design and construction. He said that MAG is encouraging agencies to split projects if that will help obligate them on time.

9. Next Meeting Date

Next meeting date was announced as 10:00 AM on Wednesday December 3, 2003.

10. Adjournment

Acting Chairman Alan Sanderson adjourned the meeting at 11:25 AM.