

**DRAFT MINUTES OF THE  
MARICOPA ASSOCIATION OF GOVERNMENTS  
INTELLIGENT TRANSPORTATION SYSTEMS COMMITTEE**

October 6, 2004  
MAG Cholla Room, 2nd Floor  
302 North First Avenue  
Phoenix, Arizona

**MEMBERS ATTENDING**

Jim Book, City of Glendale  
Alan Sanderson, City of Mesa  
Mike Mah, City of Chandler  
Bruce Ward, Town of Gilbert  
Nicolaas Swart, Maricopa County  
Bob Steele, City of Phoenix  
Mike Nevarez for Bob Ciotti, RPTA  
Iven Wooten for Terry Conner, DPS  
Nick Mascia, City of Surprise  
\*Carrol Reynolds, Town of Buckeye

Bruce Dressel, City of Scottsdale  
Jim Decker, City of Tempe  
Pankaj Gupte for Tim Wolfe, ADOT  
Scott Nodes, City of Peoria  
\*Don French, City of Goodyear  
Mary Kihl, ASU  
\*Alan Hansen, FHWA  
\*Dennis Murphy, Phoenix Aviation  
Michael Smith, City of Avondale

**OTHERS PRESENT**

Ron Amaya, City of Peoria  
Mike Nevarez, Phoenix Transit  
Mike Marum, TransCore  
Faisal Saleem, Maricopa County  
Brent Crowther, Kimley Horn Assoc.

Debbie Burdette, City of Glendale  
Bill Birdwell, Town of Gilbert  
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 September 1, 2004 Meeting Minutes & Introductions**

Bruce Ward moved and Bob Steele seconded, and it was unanimously carried to approve the amended minutes of the September 1, 2004 ITS Committee meeting. Chairman Book then requested all members to introduce themselves for the benefit of new 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. Mike Nevarez announced that the annual meeting of ITS Arizona will be held on October 27<sup>th</sup> at the Black Canyon Conference Center. Bob Steele mentioned that there will be a booth at this conference for local agencies to share information on their various ITS and transit projects and programs with conference attendees and with the vendors.

4. Program Managers Report

The following is a summary of the report provided by Program Manager, Sarath Joshua:

TSOP Program Update – All 11 signal timing projects are underway and some are close to completion. The two ITS Evaluation projects involving a “Before” Vs “After” comparison are now on hold until the signal timings are implemented for the “After” period before data collection can take place.

The ITS Outreach project with DKS has resulted in a first draft for brochures. The writing needs some fixing up. When we have a good draft they will be brought to the committee for review.

On October 27<sup>th</sup> there will be a web-based seminar on operations. Sarath Joshua will be presenting the MAG Concept of Operations as one of four featured presentations at this seminar.

Federal Highway Administration has recently developed a draft guidelines document on linking planning and operations. The concept of operations that the committee helped develop is featured in that document as a national example.

Filling the position left vacant by MAG staff person Xiao Qin, who left for University of Wisconsin, has been fast tracked at MAG and an interview will be held on October 7<sup>th</sup>. He has also made a request for a student intern to help with program activities. That request goes before the MAG Executive Committee later this month.

On October 20<sup>th</sup> a group MPO folks will be visiting the Phoenix area to learn about Light Rail and ITS. Arrangements have been made for tours of the Transit OCC and ADOT TOC, and an overview presentation on regional ITS.

5. Consistency in Regional Traveler Information – Freeway Segments and Interchange Names

Faisal Saleem briefed the committee on the product from the work of AZTech ATIS working group. This map was produced as a result of a request from local media who wanted maps showing: (1) Freeway Numbers, (2) Freeway Names, and (3) Interchange Names. Originally, the Group had produced three maps that were later combined into one integrated map. The idea was to provide a way for reports to be consistent. The committee did not devise anything new but brought a lot of information together in one document. New names for locations such as Super-Red-Tan have been clearly defined. Alan Sanderson complimented the ATIS committee for doing a great job on this document. He asked if State Route 87 has been defined through Mesa. He indicated that Country Club Drive from Mesa’s north city limit to south city limit is not an ADOT facility. Pankaj Gupte will check on the designation of this segment. Mike Mah indicated that Chandler owns Arizona Avenue up to Ocotillo and is now negotiating with ADOT for the route from there down to Hunt Highway. Jim Book pointed out that brown signs were specifically meant for the MAG freeway system. He also pointed out that Route 74 had the wrong symbol. In response to a question on how this will be distributed Faisal Saleem indicated that ADOT and County PIOs are working on a press release on this. Mike Smith pointed out the signing for MC85 and asked where is MC 85. He said it is called Main St and Buckeye in places and there is no consistent signing for MC 85. There was a general discussion on the inconsistencies of how routes such as SR 87 and

MC85 are signed. Jim Book stated that ADOT is engaged in a study on abandonment, which he felt had the answers to these issues. Faisal Saleem also shared a second document on ATIS data collection, that will be produced as a monthly report in the future. Sarath Joshua indicated that this document was an excellent start and showed how this information can be posted for everyone to see.

6. Review of ITS Projects Proposed for FY2006-2010 TIP

A handout showing 33 ITS projects seeking federal funds was distributed. He pointed out that at last month's meeting when this topic was discussed, it was not made clear that all future ITS projects require a 30 percent local match. As a result some projects have been submitted with less than this requirement. The options available to local agencies are: (1) increase the local match amount to 30 percent of total project cost, OR (2) reduce the scope of the project so that the proposed match equals 30 percent. The handout provided information on which projects fell short of the 30 percent local match requirement and also showed a tally of the shortfall by MAG agency. He requested those agencies with shortfall to send that information to MAG by October 15<sup>th</sup>. That is also the same deadline for data required for ITS Project Rating System. Chairman Book commented that the \$50 million allocated for ITS was all CMAQ with typically had a 5.7 percent. He stated that he did not read the RTP language that way. In response to a question from Mike Mah, Sarath Joshua indicated that the 30 percent match is self imposed. Jim Book said his recollection was that the 30 percent match was meant mostly for street projects to be funded by the sales tax. Alan Sanderson suggested an action item for November ITS meeting to request TRC to allow ITS projects to match at 5.7 percent. Jim Book stated that Paul Ward stated that any excess funds will all go towards street projects and not ITS. He asked, if that is the case why should ITS projects match at 30 percent. Sarath Joshua indicated that it was his understanding that any excess funds will be divided based on ratio of ITS and street projects right now. Jim Book asked, is the closeout for 2006 different from closeout for 2007? Sarath Joshua stated that 2006 and 2007 closeout funds are still open. It was decided that Alan Sanderson's request for action will be included in the November agenda. In answer to a question from Scott Nodes it was agreed that all agencies will adjust project submissions to reflect a 30 percent local match.

On the ITS Project Rating System, an Excel spreadsheet was sent to everyone and MAG is waiting for response from a few cities. Sarath Joshua showed that the adjusted rating system now reflects the increased local match at 30 percent. He also pointed out that the \$ 1 million maximum is for all projects for each program year. Bob Steele initiated a discussion on the amount of funds available for ITS in the RTP, and commented that considering the needs in Phoenix \$2.6 m per year is inadequate for ITS in the entire MAG region. Jim Book stated that Phoenix had wanted their entire RTP package in the form of LRT funding and has received that in the RTP. In response to a suggestion that he seek funds from the general funds, Bob Steele responded he is looking at developing a Strategic Plan for this very purpose. Alan Sanderson asked if full project descriptions can be made available before the next meeting. It was agreed that the full documents will be scanned and sent to everyone with the help of high speed scanning facilities at the City of Mesa.

7. Status Reports by Committee Members

Scott Nodes thanked the committee for recommending the Peoria traffic signal system for

closeout funds. He informed the committee that he will be meeting with ADOT shortly to discuss contractual arrangements for this procurement. Alan Sanderson mentioned that Mesa has a Citizens Committee looking at the entire city funding situation. They are looking at a local sales tax to support city services including operations. Transportation folks were asked if the funding they requested was enough. Bruce Dressel announced that he met with ITS America on the funding required for the booth. ADOT and Maricopa County has led with funding. A total of \$40,000 is required. He asked municipalities that have not committed so far to come up with about \$1,000 for this task. Nicolaas Swaart reported that the first payment has been made but the next installment is due soon. Bruce Dressel sought ideas on how ITS in Arizona can be displayed in the booth. Mike Mah reported that a fiber project is underway on the critical "miracle mile" segment and all communications are being maintained with wireless Ethernet 15MBps connection. Downtown traffic management system project will be completed this month. Phoenix fiber optic backbone Phase A will start in December or January, with ITS Engineers. Design of Phase B will start at the same time with KHA. Nicolaas Swart updated on the Bell Road ITS project, construction plan at the end of this month. Env by end of Feb start of const Apr 2005. Debbie Burdette reported that Glendale is in the same position as Peoria and is working with ADOT on projects funded with closeout money. They are working on the IGA with ADOT. She also reported on a fiber project and several other ITS projects in Glendale. Bruce Ward asked about an AZTech project in Gilbert that was supposed to have been completed. He indicated that he has not seen any work on that recently. Bruce Ward asked about the usage of "green ball" signing for preemption. He asked if there was a regionally accepted method for this. Jim Decker informed that a standard method for indicating preemption has been discussed. Mike Mah said that what Gilbert fire has requested Gilbert traffic folks seem different from all other neighboring cities.

8. Next Meeting Dates

Next meeting date was announced as 9:00 AM on Wednesday November 3, 2004.

9. Adjournment

Chairman Jim Book adjourned the meeting at 11:40 AM