

**MINUTES OF THE
MARICOPA ASSOCIATION OF GOVERNMENTS
TRANSPORTATION POLICY COMMITTEE MEETING**

May 26, 2004
MAG Office, Saguaro Room
Phoenix, Arizona

MEMBERS ATTENDING

Mayor Neil Giuliano, Tempe, Chair	Mayor Boyd Dunn, Chandler
Mayor Elaine Scruggs, Glendale, Vice Chair	Rusty Gant, ADOT
Benito Almanza, Bank of America Arizona	Mayor Keno Hawker, Mesa
* F. Rockne Arnett, Citizens Transportation Oversight Committee	*Eneas Kane, DMB Associates
Mayor Steven Berman, Gilbert	*Mayor Mary Manross, Scottsdale
* Dave Berry, Swift Transportation	Mayor Lon McDermott, Wickenburg
Jed S. Billings, FNF Construction	Diane Scherer, Phoenix Association of Realtors
Vice Mayor Peggy Bilsten, Phoenix	Vice Mayor Daniel Schweiker, Paradise Valley
Mayor James Cavanaugh, Goodyear	Martin Shultz, Pinnacle West Capital Corp.
Councilmember Pat Dennis, Peoria	*Supervisor Don Stapley, Maricopa County
Mayor Ron Drake, Avondale	Mayor J. Woodfin Thomas, Litchfield Park

* Not present

Participated by telephone conference call

+ Participated by videoconference call

1. Call to Order

The meeting of the Transportation Policy Committee (TPC) was called to order by Chairman Neil Giuliano at 4:02 p.m.

2. Pledge of Allegiance

The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

Chairman Giuliano announced that transit tickets were available for those who used transit to come to the meeting. Validation was available from MAG staff for those who parked in the parking garage. Chairman Giuliano stated that material for agenda item #5 was at each place.

Chairman Giuliano noted that this was the last TPC meeting for Mayor Lon McDermott. He thanked Mayor McDermott for his service on the Transportation Policy Committee. Mayor McDermott stated that it has been an honor and a pleasure to work with the members of the TPC. He said that the TPC has done a tremendous job for the citizens of the region.

Chairman Giuliano noted that Wickenburg's Mayor-Elect, Ron Badowski, was joining the meeting via videoconference call. Mayor-Elect Badowski expressed his thanks to Mayor McDermott for all he has accomplished for Wickenburg. He expressed that it has been a pleasure to have served with Mayor McDermott.

3. Call to the Audience

Chairman Giuliano stated that an opportunity is provided to the public to address the Transportation Policy Committee on items that are not on the agenda that are within the jurisdiction of MAG, or non-action agenda items that are on the agenda for discussion or information only. Citizens will be requested not to exceed a three minute time period for their comments. He noted that an opportunity is provided to comment on agenda items posted for action at the time the item is heard.

Chairman Giuliano recognized public comment from Diane Barker, who mentioned the posted public hearing on June 1, 2004 at 5:00 p.m. Ms. Barker commented that at a CTOC meeting, it was stated that the Committee could not discuss light rail; however, they can discuss corridors. She said that she may need to go to the Attorney General on this. Ms. Barker stated that light rail does not have a congestion management rating and is not a Transportation Control Measure. She asked what light rail is in the pollution bucket. Ms. Barker stated that it is beneficial for the public to be informed about what is in the Regional Transportation Plan, but there is a fine line between educating and advocating. Ms. Barker spoke about unfunded mandates. She said that Phoenix spent \$17 million at Sky Harbor Airport for federally-mandated security, but was reimbursed only \$7 million by the federal government. Chairman Giuliano thanked Ms. Barker for her comments.

Chairman Giuliano recognized public comment from Joseph Ryan, who said that he appreciated hearing others' viewpoints. He welcomed telephone calls and correspondence to discuss issues. Mr. Ryan said that his contact information was on the material he handed out at the meeting. This material was made part of the permanent record. Mr. Ryan spoke about a presentation on Loop 303 given on May 19th in the City of Surprise by the Maricopa Department of Transportation. Mr. Ryan expressed concern for the safety of a traffic interchange design. He said that he had not heard the TPC discuss the plan presented by the Maricopa Department of Transportation. Mr. Ryan spoke about having policies in place that reduce the costs to taxpayers. Chairman Giuliano thanked Mr. Ryan for his comments.

4. Approval of Consent Agenda

Chairman Giuliano stated that any member of the committee can request that an item be removed from the consent agenda and considered individually. Chairman Giuliano stated that agenda items #4A, #4B, #4C, #4D, and #4E were on the consent agenda. He noted that no public comment cards had been turned in on the consent agenda. No comments from the Committee were noted.

Mayor Thomas moved to approve consent agenda items #4A, #4B, #4C, #4D, and #4E. Mayor Cavanaugh seconded, and the motion carried unanimously.

4A. Approval of April 28, 2004 Meeting Minutes

The Transportation Policy Committee, by consent, approved the April 28, 2004 meeting minutes.

4B. Amendment to the FY 2004-2007 MAG Transportation Improvement Program for ADOT Highway Projects and a Maricopa County Job Access and Reverse Commute Project

The Transportation Policy Committee, by consent, recommended approval of an amendment to the FY 2004-2007 MAG TIP to accelerate \$2,829,000 in NHS funds to acquire right-of-way for the Wickenburg By-pass project from FY 2005 to FY 2004, and to add a new phase of the Maricopa County Job Access and Reverse Commute (JARC) program with \$3,234,705 in JARC funds in FY 2004. The FY 2004-

2007 MAG Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) was approved by the Regional Council on November 25, 2003. Since that time, ADOT has requested to accelerate \$2,829,000 in National Highway System (NHS) funds from their FY 2005 Wickenburg By-pass project to acquire right-of-way in FY 2004. In addition, Maricopa County has been awarded \$3,234,705 in Job Access and Reverse Commute funds to continue their program already in progress. It is necessary to amend the TIP to include these projects so that they may proceed to construction. All of the changes are regarded as exempt projects or are regarded as minor project revisions for which no air quality conformity is required and the consultation for this item is considered as a separate agenda item. The Transportation Review Committee and the Management Committee recommended approval of a TIP amendment for these projects.

4C. Request to Change the Federal Functional Classification of a Town of Gila Bend Roadway and Amendment to the FY 2004-2007 MAG TIP to Reprogram MAG Federal Funds on a Gila Bend Project

The Transportation Policy Committee, by consent, recommended approval that Martin Avenue between Old Main Street and Stout Street in the Town of Gila Bend be recognized as a federally functionally classified Rural Major Collector Street. In addition, to recommend that the funds programmed for improvements to the Watermelon Road intersection be reprogrammed onto the Martin Avenue, Old Main Street to Stout Street Pedestrian Improvements project and approve an Amendment to the FY 2004-2007 MAG TIP to accomplish this change. The Town of Gila Bend has requested to recognize Martin Avenue, Old Main Street to Stout Street as a federally functionally classified Rural Major Collector Street. MAG approval is required in order for ADOT to proceed with classification of the facility. In addition, the Town of Gila Bend has requested to reprogram its Watermelon Road project, so that the \$188,600 in STP funding allocated to it is used to complete pedestrian improvements on Martin Avenue, Old Main Street to Stout Street. An amendment to the FY 2004-2007 MAG TIP is needed to accomplish this reprogramming. This change is regarded as an exempt project or is regarded as a minor project revision for which no air quality conformity is required and the consultation for this item is considered as a separate agenda item. The Transportation Review Committee and the Management Committee recommended approval of the change in functional classification and approval of a TIP amendment for this project.

4D. Citizen's Transportation Oversight Committee 2003 Annual Report

The Citizen's Transportation Oversight Committee (CTOC) 2003 Annual Report includes a summary of issues of special interest or concern to CTOC members, a summary of the statutory responsibilities that were carried out by CTOC in 2003, and an overview of the transportation programs that were reviewed and monitored by CTOC in 2003. This item was on the agenda for information.

4E. Conformity Consultation

MAG is conducting consultation on a conformity assessment for an amendment to the FY 2004-2007 MAG Transportation Improvement Program. The amendment includes an Arizona Department of Transportation request for a new right-of-way acquisition project for State Route 93 (Wickenburg By-pass) in FY 2004, and the addition of new federal Job Access and Reverse Commute funds for continuing a Maricopa County transit project in FY 2004. In addition, the Town of Gila Bend has requested a new pedestrian improvement project on Martin Avenue, Old Main Street to Stout Street in FY 2005. The amendment includes new projects that may be categorized as exempt from conformity

determinations and a minor project revision that does not require a conformity determination. This item was on the agenda for consultation.

5. Proposed Changes to the Regional Transportation Plan

Chairman Giuliano stated that changes to the budget and schedule for completion of the light rail system were requested by Valley Metro. These requested changes were submitted to the Regional Public Transportation Authority, the Arizona Department of Transportation, Maricopa County, Indian communities and cities and towns for comment. Chairman Giuliano stated that as prescribed in A.R.S. 28-6308, the TPC would approve, disapprove or further modify each proposed modification to the changes requested by Valley Metro Rail, based on the comments submitted by the agencies consulted. Also, the TPC is requested to direct staff to provide to each entity that has submitted comments on the requested changes, a written response within thirty days of this date, based on the discussions and vote by the TPC. Chairman Giuliano stated that written comments on the requested changes were included in the packet at each place.

Eric Anderson stated that legislation provides that proposed changes to the Regional Transportation Plan through December 31, 2005 must follow the same consultation process used to develop the Plan. As instructed by the TPC, the proposed changes were submitted to the consulting agencies for comment. He reported that written responses were received from Maricopa County, Goodyear, Phoenix, and Surprise. These responses were transmitted to the TPC and were at each place. Mr. Anderson said that the written comments provided by the consulting agencies supported the requested changes to the Regional Transportation Plan. He noted that staff would reply to the comments provided on the requested changes, if directed by the TPC. Mr. Anderson said that if the TPC approved the proposed changes requested by Valley Metro Rail, the next step would be requesting that the TPC recommend approval of the amended TIP and RTP to the Regional Council in June. Hearing no discussion, Chairman Giuliano requested a motion.

Vice Mayor Bilsten moved to approve the proposed changes requested by Valley Metro Rail, based on the comments submitted by the agencies consulted, as prescribed in A.R.S. 28-6308. Also, to direct staff to provide to each entity that has submitted comments on the requested changes, a written response within thirty days of this date, based on the discussions and vote by the TPC. Ms. Scherer seconded, and the motion carried unanimously.

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 4:15 p.m.

Chairman

Secretary