

**MINUTES OF THE
MARICOPA ASSOCIATION OF GOVERNMENTS
REGIONAL COUNCIL MEETING**

July 23, 2003
MAG Office, Saguaro Room
Phoenix, Arizona

MEMBERS ATTENDING

Vice Mayor Lisa Coletto-Cohen for Mayor
Wendy Feldman-Kerr, Queen Creek
Mayor Keno Hawker, Mesa, Vice Chair
* Mayor Douglas Coleman, Apache Junction
* Mayor Ron Drake, Avondale
Vice Mayor Alan Newberry for Mayor
Dusty Hull, Buckeye
Mayor Edward Morgan, Carefree
Vice Mayor Ralph Mozilo, Cave Creek
* Mayor Boyd Dunn, Chandler
* Mayor Robert Robles, El Mirage
Mayor Wally Nichols, Fountain Hills
Mayor Chris Riggs, Gila Bend
* Governor Richard Narcia, Gila River Indian
Community
Mayor Steven Berman, Gilbert
* Mayor Elaine Scruggs, Glendale
Mayor James Cavanaugh, Goodyear
Mayor Vinicio Alvarez, Guadalupe

Mayor J. Woodfin Thomas, Litchfield Park
*Supervisor Max W. Wilson, Maricopa County
*Mayor Edward Lowry, Paradise Valley
Vice Mayor Bob Barrett for Mayor John
Keegan, Peoria
*Mayor Skip Rimsza, Phoenix
*President Joni Ramos, Salt River
Pima-Maricopa Indian Community
*Mayor Mary Manross, Scottsdale
Mayor Joan Shafer, Surprise
Councilmember Dennis Cahill for Mayor Neil
Giuliano, Tempe
*Mayor Adolfo Gamez, Tolleson
Mayor Lon McDermott, Wickenburg
*Mayor Bryan Hackbarth, Youngtown
Rusty Gant, ADOT
Joe Lane, ADOT
F. Rockne Arnett, Citizens Transportation
Oversight Committee

* Those members neither present nor represented by proxy.
Attended by videoconference or by telephone conference call.

1. Call to Order

The meeting of the Regional Council was called to order by Regional Council Vice Chair Keno Hawker at 5:05 p.m.

2. Pledge of Allegiance

The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

Vice Chair Hawker introduced new Regional Council member Mayor Wally Nichols from the Town of Fountain Hills and presented him with his membership certificate.

Vice Chair Hawker introduced as proxies Vice Mayor Alan Newberry for Mayor Dusty Hull, Buckeye; Vice Mayor Bob Barrett for Mayor John Keegan, Peoria; Vice Mayor Lisa Coletto-Cohen for Mayor Wendy Feldman-Kerr, Queen Creek; and Councilmember Dennis Cahill for Mayor Neil Giuliano, Tempe.

Vice Chair Hawker stated that the RPTA has agreed to provide transit tickets for those who used transit to come to the meeting. He stated that garage parking validation was available from staff.

Vice Chair Hawker stated that due to the room's acoustics, audience conversations carry over to the Council table, making it difficult to hear presentations. He requested that the audience keep conversations to a minimum during the meeting.

Vice Chair Hawker stated that MAG staff seated at each end of the entryways to the Regional Council table on both sides of the room are available to assist members of the public in turning in their public comment cards.

Vice Chair Hawker stated that for agenda items #5C, a revised summary transmittal was at each place. The attached table has been revised to include requests from three member agencies and the action taken referred to the revised table.

3. Call to the Audience

Vice Chair Hawker stated that according to MAG's public comment process, members of the audience who wish to speak are requested to fill out the cards, which are available on the tables adjacent to the doorways inside the meeting room. He noted that there is a three minute time limit. Public comment is provided at the beginning of the meeting for non-agenda items.

Vice Chair Hawker recognized public comment from DD Barker, who mentioned a quote from Helen Keller on tolerance. As you tolerate citizen comments, the citizens have to tolerate MAG laws. Ms. Barker stated that she was submitting public requests on two items per A.R.S. laws. She commented that she had no problem with any specific person at MAG, just the systemic lack of uniformity in the process. Ms. Barker stated that when citizens ask for information, they expect to receive a response. Traditionally, she has had no problem with MAG, but lately has and that has to do with rules. Ms. Barker commented that the Chair at the last Regional Council meeting stated that Mr. Crowley needed to observe the rules. The problem is there are no comprehensive rules. Ms. Barker stated that she witnessed Mr. Crowley not being able to input at committee level because committees operate at their discretion. She stated she did not want to get to anarchy, we need to be civilized. Ms. Barker stated that she was told she was breaking the rules by doing cartwheels, but had never seen anything in the rules about cartwheels. She stated that she performed to show the benefits of multimodalism. Ms. Barker stated that she hoped to get answers from her two submittals. Vice Chair Hawker thanked Ms. Barker for her comments.

Vice Chair Hawker recognized public comment from Blue Crowley, who stated that it is hard to be positive when there has been an ozone warning issued for the day. If MAG had done the job in the past, would the ozone warning be there? Mr. Crowley commented that it was hot when he grew up here, is still hot and will continue to be hot. The biggest variable in ozone is the weather. He stated that he cannot comment on non-action items according to the speaking rules. Mr. Crowley stated that he was

worried about the process because all of the action items are on consent and comment is limited to three minutes. He stated that he needed MAG to be more proactive. He commented that he cannot say thanks for the outreach, even though Mr. Smith, Ms. Taft, and Mr. Stephens have made improvements, because there is still no public comment on non-action items. Mr. Crowley stated that a one cent sales tax is needed, not a half cent, so all can get a part of the revenue. Unless you are addressing roadways in the plan, you are not getting the job done. Mr. Crowley commented that all of the light rail included in the draft hybrid, except for three miles, is within Phoenix, and that is not a regional plan. Mr. Crowley stated that the one cent tax needs to be divided one third to freeway and light rail, one third to bus and heavy rail, and one third for roadways. Vice Chair Hawker thanked Mr. Crowley for his comments.

4. Executive Director's Report

Dennis Smith stated that MAG applied to the Governor's Office for Children, Youth and Families for funds to provide outreach services in the West Valley. He explained that this program would be early intervention and prevention services to screen and support families and children who have experienced domestic violence. MAG has been requested to be the Fiscal Agent for potential Domestic Violence STOP funds in the amount of \$75,642, which would allow for funds to be utilized for the West Valley Domestic Violence activities. Cities involved in this effort include Goodyear, Surprise, Glendale, and Sun City.

Mr. Smith stated that MAG is planning on applying for the Governor's Innovation Domestic Violence Prevention Grant to carry out initiatives from the Regional Domestic Violence Plan.

Mr. Smith stated that a Human Services Advance was held recently, attended by 65 elected officials, DES representatives, county and municipal representatives and human services providers. The Chair of the Human Service Coordinating Committee, Tempe Councilmember Dennis Cahill, stated that the Advance was very educational and productive. Outcomes of the Advance included: discussion of concepts for developing an 18-month plan regarding SSBG funding; discussion of some of the innovative projects in Human Services at this time; and using a process of ranking and rating to develop a focus for MAG's involvement in human services issues for the next 18 months.

Mr. Smith announced that public meetings on the draft transportation plan have been scheduled. He added that a business meeting will precede each workshop so that information can be provided to the business leaders and major employers. Mr. Smith stated that a transcript of comments and responses to those comments will be provided at the September 17th TPC meeting. The public meetings will be held from 5:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m. at the following dates and locations: August 19th at the Burton Barr Central Library, August 20th at the Avondale Public Safety Building, August 21st at the Midwestern University, September 3rd at the Mesa Centennial Center, September 10th at the Community Design Studio in Scottsdale

Mr. Smith stated that security was being provided at the meetings and thanked the Phoenix Police Department. Vice Chair Hawker noted that their presence was appropriate after the incident in New York City that day. Vice Chair Hawker thanked Mr. Smith for his report.

5A. Approval of June 25, 2003 Meeting Minutes

Vice Chair Hawker asked for a motion to approve the June 25, 2003 meeting minutes. Mayor Berman moved, Mayor Thomas seconded, and the motion carried unanimously.

5. Approval of Consent Agenda

Vice Chair Hawker acknowledged that he had erred in taking separate action on the minutes as they were part of the consent agenda.

Vice Chair Hawker recognized public comment from Ms. Barker who commented on her A.R.S. public request. She stated that the Chair of the Management Committee requested that staff investigate Valley Metro contracts to see if FTA would allow an extension on a Valley Metro Rail contract from which MAG is receiving traffic data, ridership data, and public outreach. Ms. Barker stated that MAG dropped the ball. Staff told her the contract was not MAG's contract, but since MAG receives the information, Ms. Barker felt it was their responsibility to research it. Ms. Barker stated that an FTA attorney told her that an attempt to add an additional five years to a contract would be out of the scope and forbidden. Ms. Barker stated that MAG staff followed up on the issue and presented a letter written in 2002 by the FTA Administrator that lifted the conditions in extending contracts. Ms. Barker stated that according to the FTA attorney, this position was not true. She stated that someone needs to look into this. Ms. Barker commented on the Town Hall report. Most of the participants have incomes of \$100,000, drive single occupant vehicles to work, and live in the Southeast Valley. Most of the money they allocated went to light rail transit. She stated that she needed to see if the conclusions are propaganda or real. Vice Chair Hawker thanked Ms. Barker for her comments.

Mr. Smith noted that staff did research the matter on the contract extensions, as the Chair of the Management Committee requested. He added that staff was present to answer any questions.

Vice Chair Hawker recognized public comment from Mr. Crowley, who asked if he saluted the police or the board? He commented that he did not know he was in a police state and found having security in meetings insulting and inflammatory. Mr. Crowley stated that he was denied comment at the committee level on the federal funds closeout agenda item. Then, the TRC meeting minutes reporting the incident were inflammatory. Mr. Crowley stated that Vice Chair Hawker was in violation when he took action on the minutes. He questioned whether he was living in Iraq or 1939 Germany. Mr. Crowley stated that A.R.S. rules say that Mr. Arnett cannot be compensated or reimbursed for any activities on the CTOC Board. When he eats dinner after the Regional Council meeting, he is being compensated because he does not have to pay the \$25 charge for dinner.

Vice Chair Hawker commented that it was his error on action taken on the minutes. He offered Mr. Crowley time to comment on the minutes. Mr. Crowley stated that he had not discussed the dispute with attorneys. He brought up that federal regulations, which he has submitted to the Board, says you are to be proactive and upgrade your process so more people will participate. Mr. Crowley stated that he wanted the process to work. He requested that MAG please get the job done right, have a uniform process throughout, and allow the public to address non-action items. Mr. Crowley stated that this process was agreed to by Mayor Giuliano and Stephen Cleveland. He said he sat down with them and discussed how the process could be improved. Mr. Crowley expressed appreciation that they opened up the process, and to Kelly Taft and Jason Stephens for their outreach. Mr. Crowley suggested taking

the process across the street to let them know there is a process they need to be aware of. Vice Chair Hawker thanked Mr. Crowley for his comments. He apologized for taking the item outside the consent agenda.

Vice Chair Hawker stated that public comment is provided for consent items. Each speaker is provided with a total of three minutes to comment on the consent agenda. After hearing public comments, any member of the committee can request that an item be removed from the consent agenda and considered individually. No requests were noted.

Mayor Thomas moved to approve consent agenda items #5B, #5C, #5D, and #5E. Mayor Shafer seconded, and the motion carried unanimously.

5B. Federal Fiscal Year 2003 MAG Federal Funds Final Closeout and Amendment to the FY 2003-2007 MAG Transportation Improvement Program

The Regional Council, by consent, approved deferring the City of Peoria, 83rd Avenue at Thunderbird Road project to FY 2004; allocating \$100,000 in FFY 2003 funds for the design of a multi-use underpass in Peoria and an additional \$800,000 for the final design phase of the light rail project as part of the last remaining interim close out funds; Also, to approve \$400,000 additional funds for the Maricopa County, Gilbert Road and McDowell Road project as a final close out contingency project with any remaining final close out funds going to light rail final design project, and authorizing an Amendment to the FY 2003-2007 MAG Transportation Improvement Program for the Peoria design project. During the FFY 2003 Year End Close Out of the MAG federally funded program, approval was given for more than \$13.4 million of FFY 2003 projects. Peoria has recently requested to defer two further construction projects. The Management Committee recommended that \$100,000 should go back to Peoria for a design project; \$400,000 should be used for the Maricopa County, Gilbert Road and McDowell Road project and that any remaining funds should be used for the final design of the light rail project. To allow the Peoria design project to proceed, an amendment to the FY 2003-2007 MAG Transportation Improvement Program is needed, as shown in the attached Table. The Transportation Policy Committee concurred with the Management Committee's recommendation.

5C. Proposed Amendment and Administrative Adjustment to the FY 2003-2007 MAG Transportation Improvement Program for Transit Projects

The Regional Council, by consent, approved an Amendment and Administrative Adjustment to the FY 2003-2007 MAG Transportation Improvement Program for transit projects. As a result of changes in funding within the annual Federal Transportation Appropriations Bill, Valley Metro has reviewed the Federal Transit Administration Grant application that is under development and wishes to adjust the projects in the Annual Grant and in the TIP to ensure that the two programs are in conformance. As a result, Valley Metro has requested a TIP amendment that adds 11 new projects and deletes two and a TIP amendment is needed to accomplish these changes. In addition, Valley Metro has requested to defer four transit projects and to change the scope of 16 others and a TIP administrative adjustment is needed to accomplish these changes. Two MAG agencies have requested changes to their transit projects and one agency has requested to add a new project. These recent requests increase the number of new projects from 11 to 12 and increase the scope of 17 projects in place of the original 16. Since mailing the agenda, a request was received by the City of Phoenix to increase the amount of funds to purchase Computer Software for a Maintenance System from \$203,383 in Federal 5307 funds to \$803,383, with

a related increase to the local share; and a City of Glendale project that had been partially deferred from FY 2003 to FY 2004 has now been fully deferred. Finally, Maricopa County has requested to add a new Job Access and Reverse Commute funded project to FY 2003, in the amount of \$1,832,741, with a similar amount in local match. None of these requested changes affect any other transit projects. 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.

5D. Conformity Consultation

MAG is conducting consultation on a conformity assessment for an amendment and administrative adjustment to the FY 2003-2007 MAG Transportation Improvement Program. The Regional Public Transportation Authority has requested the amendment to add new transit projects and an administrative adjustment to defer, adjust, and delete existing transit projects. In addition, as part of the Federal FY 2003 Year End Final Closeout, an amendment is proposed to add a City of Peoria multi-use underpass design project on New River Road and to increase funding for the final design phase of the light rail project. This item was on the agenda for consultation.

5E. Regional Annual Report Data Collection Consultant Selection

The Regional Council, by consent, approved the selection of Applied Economics to prepare databases for subdivision, nonresidential parks and infill development activity for the Regional Annual Report, for an amount not to exceed \$48,500. In May 2003, the Regional Council approved the table of contents for the development of the Regional Annual Report. In addition, in the FY 2004 Unified Planning Work Program and Annual Budget, the Regional Council approved consultant assistance for the development of the Regional Annual Report. To assist in the data collection for the Report, a Request for Proposals was advertised. A multi-agency review team considered the proposals and reached a consensus that Applied Economics be selected for an amount not to exceed \$48,500. The Management Committee recommended approval of the selection.

6. Regional Transportation Plan Update

Mr. Smith provided an update on the development of the Regional Transportation Plan (RTP) that is being developed by the Transportation Policy Committee (TPC). He stated that the journey to develop the RTP began while Mayor Hawker chaired the Regional Council Transportation Subcommittee. Through the study of governance, that subcommittee became the TPC, which includes business representatives, along with Regional Council members. Mr. Smith stated that the Committee is close to seeing the final product, which is the most significant planning effort ever undertaken by the MAG organization. He stated that HB 2292 passed with significant assistance from the business community, and validated the MAG process. Mr. Smith stated that many meetings have been held and the Committee has worked very hard. He commented that there is much emotion about the plan because it represents a lot of money and is being done for 20 years. Mr. Smith stated that at the TPC meeting on July 22nd, the Committee approved a draft final plan that is not fiscally balanced by approximately \$800 million. He commented that the plan is not far out of balance—approximately two to four percent. Mr. Smith stated that the TPC requested that staff go back and value engineer the projects. The idea is to get the same benefits from projects while spending less money. Mr. Smith indicated that there are some opportunities to do that.

Mr. Smith showed maps of the freeway, street, supergrid, BRT, and LRT systems. He stated that geographic equity was discussed at the meeting. Cities want to be made whole, but none can because there is not enough money. Mr. Smith remarked that citizens will be making a personal transaction. They will look at the plan to see if it is intuitive and if they will be getting something out of it. Mr. Smith stated that the goal is to put together a map that works for all parts of the Valley.

Mr. Smith stated that coding the plan for computer modeling will take 30 to 45 days and the results will be presented at the next TPC meeting. He commented that some projects might need to be cut from the plan. Mr. Smith noted that the maker of the motion at the meeting said that before projects are cut he wanted to see the performance-based information, which will be provided to the TPC. Mr. Smith commented that perhaps funding could be found and no projects will need to be cut.

Mr. Smith stated that in 1985, no money was set aside for maintenance, and now there are maintenance problems. Another issue is that the gas tax has not been increased for 13 years, and it is not anticipated in the draft plan to increase for another 20 years.

Mr. Smith stated that the Regional Transportation Plan is a very important project to MAG. He mentioned that TPC Chairman, Mayor Neil Giuliano, said that all will need to give and take. He added that he had faith that a plan respectable to the region will be finalized.

Mayor Thomas commented that a roadway to assist in relieving truck traffic is needed. He asked what had been communicated to the Congressional delegation about the CANAMEX route. Mr. Smith stated that the Regional Council has gone on record on the CANAMEX corridor, and Canamex is now in the ADOT process. Mr. Smith stated that he understood the federal delegation will be pursuing the federal designation. Mr. Smith stated that a status report on CANAMEX could be given at an upcoming Regional Council meeting. He stated that MAG asked for support of CANAMEX in a letter responding to Representative John Shadegg's questions about SR 85.

Mr. Gant stated that there is not a lot of information other than to say that ADOT's first priority is to complete funding for the Hoover Dam bridge and bypass. He noted that funding is short on completing that project. Mr. Gant noted that SR 85 is planned as a full four-lane highway within a 20-year time frame. He added that the rest of the route is being addressed piecemeal by small projects, but ADOT has not pursued wholesale federal funding of the route until the bridge issue is finished.

Mayor Shafer asked when members would see what projects were left in. Mr. Smith replied that a 30-day public review of the plan is a component of HB 2292. He added that comments from the County, RPTA, and ADOT are also a required component of the legislation. Mr. Smith stated that the plan, which includes maps and descriptions, will be sent to member agencies as well. He noted that member agencies could submit comments.

Mayor Shafer asked about public hearings in the northwest area. She commented that many citizens in that area are very interested in transportation, and the closest hearing was in Glendale. Mr. Smith replied that staff would check on a location in the northwest vicinity.

Mayor Berman commented that the ultimate decision will be made by the voters. He requested a list of who voted in the last gubernatorial election, on a city-by-city basis. Mayor Berman commented that it would be helpful to see who the target audience is.

Vice Chair Hawker asked about action on the plan by the Regional Council. Mr. Smith replied that the Regional Council would take action on a final approval of the plan and for a conformity analysis.

7. Eight-Hour Ozone Nonattainment Area Boundary

Lindy Bauer stated that in June 2003, the Regional Council took a position on the eight-hour nonattainment boundary. She added that the MAG boundary was supported by the Central Arizona Association of Governments, Pinal County, and the Arizona Chamber of Commerce. Ms. Bauer stated that on July 15, 2003, the Governor recommended a boundary that included portions of Maricopa County, rather than four counties, as originally proposed by the Arizona Department of Environmental Quality (ADEQ). She noted that the Governor's recommended boundary eliminated MAG's concerns about a boundary that could have greatly complicated matters on transportation conformity. Ms. Bauer pointed out on a map MAG's, ADEQ's, and the Governor's boundaries. Ms. Bauer stated that neither a written report nor rationale has been provided by ADEQ on its boundary. She explained the time line for finalization of the boundary.

Vice Chair Hawker asked how the boundary could affect the RTP. Ms. Bauer explained that conformity will have to be demonstrated in April 2005. Assuming that the voters approve the plan, when we develop the TIP and RTP, demonstrating conformity will be within the attainment area. Vice Chair Hawker stated that he could see only rural bus routes outside the proposed area. Ms. Bauer replied that transportation coming into the nonattainment area must also be taken into account.

Vice Mayor Barrett asked if assistance from member agencies would be helpful in persuading the EPA to accept the Governor's boundary. Ms. Bauer replied that she imagined support would be helpful. Vice Mayor Barrett offered the assistance and coordination from their lobbyist.

Vice Chair Hawker asked members to coordinate sending out appropriate letters with Ms. Bauer.

8. Homeland Security Grant Update

Mr. Remes stated that the U.S. Department of Homeland Security, Office of Domestic Preparedness is providing financial assistance to selected urban areas through the FY2003 Urban Areas Security Initiative Grant Program II. In Arizona, this grant's funding allocation is approximately \$11,033,467 to be used for the benefit of a regional response. He stated that MAG was approached by Arizona's Office of Homeland Security to act as a point of contact for the urban area, along with the City of Phoenix as the point of contact for the core city and Maricopa County as the point of contact for the core county. Mr. Remes noted that the State, Phoenix, and Maricopa County have the final approval in the application process. He stated that MAG was asked to facilitate input from the cities in Maricopa County. This will be accomplished by bringing in the three Metropolitan Medical Response System (MMRS) cities: Phoenix, Mesa, and Glendale to act as an Urban Area Working Group (UAWG). Mr. Remes stated that the UAWG will be responsible for the development and implementation of the grant program. He stated that Glendale will coordinate efforts for the West Valley, and Mesa for the East Valley. Mr. Remes stated that Glendale hosted an event for the West Valley that day to start discussion of procedures and needs. On July 28th, Mesa will be hosting a similar event for the East Valley. Mr. Remes stated that the three agencies—the State, Phoenix, and Maricopa County—will have final approval, but the MAG Management Committee and Regional Council will be able to comment on the application. He noted that the UAWG will be working under tight time frames: September 30 - Urban

Area Assessments are due; October 31 - Strategies are due; and November 30 - Budget details are due to the federal government.

Vice Chair Hawker asked if it was anticipated that the \$11 million in funds would be distributed to the three agencies. Mr. Remes stated that the UAWG would be putting together an application to ensure there was no duplicate effort. He commented that he expected that the MMRS cities could apply for training and may see additional funds, but they will be working with all cities to ensure a regional response network.

Vice Chair Hawker asked if MAG's role was to facilitate dissemination of information about an area-wide response that will be available for mobilization. Mr. Remes replied that was correct.

Mayor Thomas asked if mock incidents were planned. Mr. Remes stated that discussion took place at the Glendale meeting about informing all agencies on training and a future mock incident. He indicated that there would probably be funding available for training through this grant.

9. Public Involvement Update

Theresa Gunn, Gunn Communications, gave a presentation summarizing recent public outreach and the results of five public workshops. She stated that the purpose of the public outreach is to provide early input into the Regional Transportation Plan process, determine the funding priorities of the general public, and to present these priorities to the TPC. Ms. Gunn stated that three survey instruments were used and included a telephone poll, a funding priorities survey, and a four-question survey. Ms. Gunn addressed the results from the funding priorities survey that showed support for new freeways, but at lower funding levels; support for improving the existing system; minimal support for HOV lanes; and strong support for freeway maintenance. She summarized the transit funding findings. She noted that support was strong for commuter rail, with respondents allocating more than allowed for this mode. Ms. Gunn reviewed the priorities by community organizations that included Valley Citizens League, Glendale Citizens Transportation Oversight Committee, Phoenix Surface Transportation Advisory Committee, environmental leaders, and Sun City Grand neighborhood representatives. She provided a breakdown of the preferences by geographic area. Ms. Gunn noted that all results indicated a preference for a multimodal system.

Kelly Taft continued the presentation on additional public involvement special events that included freeway openings, MAG at the Mall, MAG Regional Town Hall, Sunday on Central, and presentations to Title VI communities and numerous groups. Ms. Taft provided a review of the results of the four-question survey. Question One: What is the single most important thing that can be done to improve the Valley's transportation system? Ms. Taft stated that the combined results from 12 categories showed bus service as the number one answer, followed by freeways and rail. Question Two: If it was your job to decide how to distribute our tax dollars on transportation improvements and you had a total of \$100 of tax money to distribute, how would you distribute it among the following four areas—freeways, bus service, light rail, and streets and roads? Ms. Taft stated that the responses showed an almost equal distribution among the modes, which shows a preference for a multimodal plan. Question Three: In 1985, Valley voters passed Proposition 300, a 20-year, one half cent sales tax to improve the transportation system in Maricopa County. Were you aware or unaware that this tax would expire in 2005? Ms. Taft noted that 60 percent of respondents were unaware of this. Question Four: From what you have read, seen, or heard, would you say the funds provided from Proposition 300 have

had a major impact, a minor impact or no impact on improving the transportation system in Maricopa County? Ms. Taft stated that highest response was that the tax had a major impact. Vice Chair Hawker thanked Ms. Gunn and Ms. Taft for their reports.

Mayor Thomas stated that the public has commented favorably throughout the RTP process on both commuter rail and light rail. He stated that more than buses are needed in the plan.

10. Comments from the Council

An opportunity was provided for Regional Council members to present a brief summary of current events. The Regional Council is not allowed to propose, discuss, deliberate or take action at the meeting on any matter in the summary, unless the specific matter is properly noticed for legal action.

Mayor Thomas stated that Mayor Shafer would be appearing on the Horizon television show at 7:00 p.m. on July 24th. He acknowledged Mayor Shafer's efforts to maintain the mission of Luke Air Force Base.

Mayor Shafer indicated that there were matters she could not discuss publicly that could have been clarified through a phone call. She commented that the Base is now happy with City of Surprise. Mayor Shafer stated that she was sorry she lost the chance to be Chair of the Regional Council, but Vice Chair Hawker would be a good Chair in the future.

Mayor Alvarez asked about MAG's status with the Arizona State Retirement System (ASRS). Mr. Smith explained that at the last meeting, MAG had received an informal opinion from the Attorney General on eligibility that did not allow MAG to join. The ASRS requested a formal opinion from the Attorney General. Mr. Smith stated that MAG General Counsel prepared a letter stating MAG's case that was sent to the Attorney General last week. He noted that staff anticipates a decision in four to six weeks. Mr. Smith stated that we indicated to them that if legislative action was needed, we had received an offer from the Guadalupe Town Manager, Tom Morales, to spearhead that effort through the League resolution process. He stated that MAG may need to ask for assistance with Guadalupe leading the effort. Mr. Smith noted that other organizations may potentially want to join if MAG is successful.

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 6:20 p.m.

Chair

Secretary