

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

October 22, 2003
MAG Office, Saguaro Room
Phoenix, Arizona

MEMBERS ATTENDING

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| Mayor Wendy Feldman-Kerr, Queen Creek, Chair | Mayor J. Woodfin Thomas, Litchfield Park |
| Mayor Keno Hawker, Mesa, Vice Chair | Supervisor Max W. Wilson, Maricopa County |
| * Mayor Douglas Coleman, Apache Junction | * Mayor Edward Lowry, Paradise Valley |
| Mayor Ron Drake, Avondale | Mayor John Keegan, Peoria |
| Vice Mayor Alan Newberry for | Councilmember Peggy Bilsten for |
| Mayor Dusty Hull, Buckeye | Mayor Skip Rimsza, Phoenix |
| Mayor Edward Morgan, Carefree | * President Joni Ramos, Salt River |
| * Vice Mayor Ralph Mozilo, Cave Creek | Pima-Maricopa Indian Community |
| Mayor Boyd Dunn, Chandler | Mayor Mary Manross, Scottsdale |
| Mayor Robert Robles, El Mirage | * Mayor Joan Shafer, Surprise |
| * Mayor Wally Nichols, Fountain Hills | Mayor Neil Giuliano, Tempe |
| * Mayor Chris Riggs, Gila Bend | * Mayor Adolfo Gamez, Tolleson |
| * Governor Richard Narcia, Gila River Indian | Mayor Lon McDermott, Wickenburg |
| Community | * Mayor Bryan Hackbarth, Youngtown |
| Mayor Steven Berman, Gilbert | Rusty Gant, ADOT |
| Mayor Elaine Scruggs, Glendale | Joe Lane, ADOT |
| Mayor James Cavanaugh, Goodyear | F. Rockne Arnett, Citizens Transportation |
| Mayor Vinicio Alvarez, Guadalupe | 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 Chair Wendy Feldman-Kerr at 5:10 p.m.

2. Pledge of Allegiance

The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

Chair Feldman-Kerr introduced as proxies Vice Mayor Alan Newberry for Mayor Dusty Hull, Buckeye, and Councilmember Peggy Bilsten for Mayor Skip Rimsza, Phoenix.

Chair Feldman-Kerr stated that the RPTA has agreed to provide transit tickets for those who used transit to come to the meeting. She stated that garage parking validation was available from staff.

Chair Feldman-Kerr noted that materials for agenda items #5C and #11 were at each place.

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

Chair Feldman-Kerr presented Councilmember Peggy Bilsten and Gene D'Adamo with Resolutions of Appreciation for their work on MAG Domestic Violence committees. She announced a Resolution of Appreciation had also been prepared for Tracy Bame, who was unable to attend the meeting.

3. Call to the Audience

Chair Feldman-Kerr noted 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. She stated that there is a three minute time limit. Public comment is provided at the beginning of the meeting for non-agenda items.

Chair Feldman-Kerr recognized public comment from Becky Fenger, who commented on the DART junket. She stated that she will probably not see figures on the DART project. Ms. Fenger commented that DART has lost market share and commuters between 1990 and 2000, according to the US Census. The system has cut light rail construction and bus service, increased fares, and has applied to the FTA for subsidies to keep operating. Ms. Fenger referred to a press release she sent out saying that Washington is getting cold feet about light rail projects. She noted that the House Transportation Appropriations Subcommittee pulled out \$500 million from the Seattle light rail project. Ms. Fenger reported that Senator John McCain has issued a statement saying that Phoenix has a highly recommended rating. Ms. Fenger commented that so did Seattle. Ms. Fenger urged caution on proceeding with light rail. Chair Feldman-Kerr thanked Ms. Fenger for her comments.

Chair Feldman-Kerr recognized public comment from DD Barker, who stated that she had received transit tickets for her chosen mode of travel to the meeting. Ms. Barker reported that she is awaiting MAG's response to 14 recommendations put forth by the public. She assured the Regional Council that she is in good shape because she uses multimodal transportation, and she demonstrates that with her cartwheels. Ms. Barker mentioned that two representatives from a Sun City homeowners association were present at the meeting. She mentioned that they say the pollution solution is commuter rail. Ms. Barker stated that Bob McKnight, a citizen, has indicated that his solution is better use of Intelligent Transportation Systems. She expressed her agreement with Ms. Fenger that at grade light rail is a polluting, congestion creating mechanism, and it was true that Seattle had its funding taken away. Ms. Barker stated that light rail operating costs are unknown. She commented on plans Phoenix has for bonding for light rail. In addition, they have indicated that the bonding was authorized by the citizens in Transit 2000. Ms. Barker indicated that she was unaware bonding was mentioned in the ballot. She stated that any good business has a business plan, and both citizens and business want to know the costs.

Ms. Barker stated that multimodal feels good. Chair Feldman-Kerr thanked Ms. Barker for her comments.

4. Executive Director's Report

Dennis Smith reported that on September 30, President Bush signed into law two bills: the five-month Surface Transportation Extension Act of 2003 and a one-month "Continuing Resolution" extending fiscal year 2003 appropriations into the first month of fiscal year 2004. The five month extension provides more than \$14 billion in contract authority to the states to continue the federal highway program and more than \$3 billion to continue grants to transit agencies around the county. Mr. Smith stated that this extension allows time through February 2004 to work out reauthorization.

Mr. Smith stated that MAG received a letter from the Governor regarding the Transportation Reauthorization Summit on May 28, 2003 and the adopted transportation priorities for Arizona. He noted that the Regional Council adopted a Reauthorization Resolution on February 26, 2003 supporting Arizona's Priorities for Transportation.

Mr. Smith stated that the MAG Executive Committee approved entering into an agreement to provide sponsorship for a 10-month participant from Americorps to work on homeless issues and domestic violence issues in the MAG region. He mentioned that he would be introducing the staff person later in his report.

Mr. Smith introduced new MAG staff. Haidong Zhu joined MAG in July 2003 as a Transportation Engineer II. He attended the University of Illinois in Chicago; received a master's degree in urban planning and policy, specializing in transportation. Mr. Zhu holds a Bachelor's in transportation and traffic engineering from Southeast University, Nanjing, China, and was a Student Intern at the Chicago Transit Authority and Research Assistant for the Urban Transportation Center. Mr. Smith introduced Teresa Franquiz, the volunteer staff person from Americorps that MAG is sponsoring to work on Homeless and Domestic Violence issues in the MAG region Ms. Franquiz is working toward her master's degree in public administration at Arizona State University. She spent one year as a teacher in Japan. Mr. Smith introduced Sheryl Rabin, Human Services Planner II. Ms. Rabin has received her Juris Doctor from the University of Arizona College of Law and bachelor of arts in communications, with a minor in sociology and literature, from the University of California, San Diego. Ms. Rabin previously worked for the Arizona State Senate Research Staff as Committee Analyst, the County of San Diego in the office of Strategy and Intergovernmental Affairs as an Analyst, and also with the Arizona Coalition Against Domestic Violence. Ms. Rabin is also a member of the State Bar of Arizona. Chair Feldman-Kerr thanked Mr. Smith for his report.

5. Approval of Consent Agenda

Chair Feldman-Kerr 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. Chair Feldman-Kerr stated that agenda items #5A through #5D were on the consent agenda.

Chair Feldman-Kerr recognized public comment from Ms. Fenger, who commented on agenda item #5C. She mentioned that she had provided material to the Regional Council. This material was entered into the permanent record. Ms. Fenger stated that from Valley Metro's own reports, the figures from the Central Valley/East Valley Light Rail Project Final EIS report show that light rail will slightly increase congestion and pollution. She stated that she has been told for the past few years that any amount of money is worth the investment if it goes toward reducing pollution. How we are told by the Valley Metro report that light rail will increase pollution. Ms. Fenger asked members to look deep within themselves if they really want to allocate 16 percent of the RTP money to light rail. She explained that out of 12 monitoring stations near the rail line, only three would show that building light rail would lessen pollution. In addition, because light rail will be at-grade, congestion will increase. Ms. Fenger made a plea to the Regional Council not to do this to the region—please drop light rail. Chair Feldman-Kerr thanked Ms. Fenger for her comments.

Mayor Keegan moved to approve consent agenda items #5A, #5B, #5C, and #5D. Mayor Thomas seconded, and the motion passed unanimously.

5A. Approval of September 24, 2003 Meeting Minutes

The Regional Council, by consent, approved the September 24, 2003 meeting minutes.

5B. Red Letter Notification

The Regional Council approved the Red Letter Process in 1996 to provide early notification of potential development in planned freeway alignments. Development activities include actions on plans, zoning, and permits. Key elements of the process include: Notifications: 1) ADOT will periodically forward Red Letter notifications to MAG. 2) Notifications will be placed on the consent agenda for information and discussion at the Transportation Review Committee, Management Committee, and Regional Council meetings. 3) If a member wishes to take action on a notification, the item can be removed from the consent agenda for further discussion. The item could then be placed on the agenda of a subsequent meeting for action. Advance acquisitions: 1) ADOT is authorized to proceed with advance right-of-way acquisitions up to \$2 million [per year] in funded corridors. 2) Any change in funding limits for advance right-of-way acquisitions constitutes a material cost change as well as a change in freeway priorities and therefore would have to be reviewed by MAG and would require Regional Council action. 3) In June 1999, the Regional Council allocated \$5 million per year through FY 2003 for advance acquisition requests where needed to prevent development in freeway alignments. For information, the ADOT Advance Acquisition policy allows the expenditure of funds to obtain right-of-way where needed to address hardship cases (residential only), forestall development (typical Red Letter case), respond to advantageous offers or, with remaining funds, acquire properties in the construction sequence for which right-of-way acquisition has not already been funded. In addition to forestalling development within freeway corridors, ADOT under the Red Letter Process works with developers on projects adjacent to or close to existing and proposed routes that may have a potential impact on drainage, noise mitigation, and/or access. This is now a focal point of the ADOT program. For this purpose, ADOT needs to be informed of all zoning and development activity within one-half mile of any existing and planned facility. Without ADOT input on development plans adjacent to or near existing and planned facilities, there is a potential for increased costs to the local jurisdiction, the region and/or ADOT. ADOT received

257 Red Letter notifications in the first six months of 2003, of which 59 notices impacted the Regional Freeway System. In the same period in 2002, ADOT received only 62 notices of which 3 were in or potentially in freeway right-of-way. The reasons for the increase in number of notices appear to be two fold: 1) as a result of more activity along existing and planned freeways, and 2) as a result of increased communication by ADOT with local jurisdictions by telephone, e-mail, and attendance at local staff meetings to inform zoning and planning staff members of the importance of the process. Of the 59 notices received in 2003 for development in or potentially in freeway right-of-way, three were from the City of Avondale, one from the Town of Buckeye, four from the City of Chandler, one from the Town of El Mirage, ten from the Town of Gilbert, two from the City of Glendale, seven from the City of Mesa, five from the City of Peoria, twelve from the City of Phoenix, one from the City of Scottsdale, five from the City of Surprise, two from the City of Tempe, and four from Maricopa County. As a result of zoning changes that would put future developments in or close to freeway right-of-way, thirty-eight notices were distributed by ADOT to advise that they reserved rights to review all plans as they become available.

5C. Approval of the Draft Special FY 2004-2007 MAG Transportation Improvement Program for an Air Quality Conformity Analysis

The Regional Council, by consent, approved the Draft Special FY 2004-2007 MAG Transportation Improvement Program for an air quality conformity analysis. The 1990 Clean Air Act Amendments require that the MAG Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) be in conformance with the applicable air quality plans. This Special TIP serves as a four-year regional guide for the preservation, management and expansion of public transportation services, including highways, ridesharing, transit facilities and various congestion mitigation and air quality improvement projects. The Transportation Review Committee and Management Committee recommended approval of the Draft Special FY 2004-2007 MAG TIP, including the respective errata sheets, for an air quality conformity analysis. On October 15, 2003, the Transportation Policy Committee recommended approval.

5D. Approval of the Draft July 1, 2003 Maricopa County and Municipality Resident Population Updates

The Regional Council, by consent, approved the Draft July 1, 2003 Maricopa County and Municipality Resident Population Updates provided that the final update is within one percent of 3.4 million people. On September 23, 2003, the MAG Population Technical Advisory Committee (POPTAC) recommended approval of the July 1, 2003 Maricopa County and Municipality Resident Population Updates. The Maricopa County Resident Population Update using the Housing Unit Method was prepared by the Department of Economic Security (DES) staff, using Census 2000 data as the base and housing unit and group quarters data supplied and verified by MAG member agencies. The Municipality Resident Population Updates were prepared by MAG staff, using the same data. The Updates are used to allocate \$23 million in lottery funds to local jurisdictions, and to set expenditure limitations where appropriate. The Management Committee recommended approval of the Updates. The State Population Technical Advisory Committee will consider these updates on October 24, 2003 and November 21, 2003.

6. Regional Transportation Plan Update

Mayor Giuliano, Chair of the Transportation Policy Committee, updated members on the Committee's recent activities. He noted that the TPC discussed draft policies, but did not take action at the October 15th meeting. Mayor Giuliano stated that for the five-year audit requirements, the TPC discussed what criteria would be used in the evaluation, for example, already established federal criteria would be used for the light rail project. He noted that the TPC would make recommendations on the audit to the Regional Council.

Mayor Giuliano stated that the TPC discussed the definitions and policies for major and minor amendments. He stated that if it was determined that a certain mode would not work in a corridor, the TPC recognized that a policy is needed that funding would need to remain in the corridor to address mobility. Mayor Giuliano stated that major amendments to the Plan would also need to follow the MAG public involvement process.

Mayor Giuliano stated that the maintenance resolution was recommended for approval. He explained that \$279 million would be dedicated to landscape maintenance, sweeping, and litter pick up, and would report in the MAG Annual Report on the Regional Freeway System. Mayor Giuliano stated that he was pleased to report that the State Transportation Board unanimously recommended support of the RTP at their meeting October 17th. He noted that a copy of the resolution was at each place.

Mayor Giuliano expressed his thanks to Mr. Lane and Mr. Gant for their continued support, which was key throughout the TPC process. He stated that the resolution is supportive of the overall Plan and transit component, and signifies support for a multimodal approach. Mayor Giuliano stated that the resolution directs that the Pinal County transportation projects identified in the MAG/CAAG joint study would be considered by ADOT in the ADOT Long Range Plan. He expressed his appreciation to Mr. Arnett, Representative Gary Pierce, and Mr. Patterson, with whom he carpooled to the State Transportation Board meeting in Wickenburg.

Mayor Giuliano stated that staff is meeting on educational efforts with key legislators. He noted that staff met with the Speaker and heard that the Plan was well received. In addition, staff has been involved in many informational efforts to share the Plan and enlist support, among them at Goodyear, Glendale, Peoria, Scottsdale, SRP, AGC, and the Phoenix Chamber of Commerce Public Policy Committee.

Mayor Giuliano stated that the air quality conformity analysis, the draft Special 2004-2007 TIP, and the draft RTP will be available for a 30-day public review. The public hearing will be held November 21, 2003 at 5:00 p.m. at the MAG office. Chair Feldman-Kerr thanked Mayor Giuliano for his report. No questions were noted.

7. Memorandum of Understanding on a Regional Concept of Transportation Operations

Sarath Joshua addressed members on the Regional Concept of Transportation Operations, which was launched as a 12-month project in September 2002. Dr. Joshua explained that the project's intent is to develop a regional strategy to improve transportation operations utilizing advanced technology-based

ITS applications. Dr. Joshua stated that the vision and mission was developed to have a safe, reliable, efficient and seamless surface transportation system for the MAG region. Dr. Joshua stated that the committee defined performance measures and three and five years goals. The goals pertain to the urban freeway system, arterials, regional transit, incident/emergency management, and traveler information. Dr. Joshua displayed photographs of current traffic management centers at ADOT, Chandler, Scottsdale, Tempe, Phoenix, and Maricopa County. In addition, traffic management centers are being implemented at the transit control center, Mesa, Gilbert, Glendale, Peoria, and Goodyear. Dr. Joshua stated that the final step in this project is to develop a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) to be signed by all the participating agencies, expressing regional support for the initiatives developed through the project. An operations manual will provide detailed information on operations in the region; ten volunteers will serve as local champions to lead initiatives utilizing the existing institutional resources; and the ITS Committee will provide oversight for operations. Dr. Joshua noted that in addition, progress and information to support operations will be posted on the MAG Web site. Chair Feldman-Kerr thanked Dr. Joshua for his presentation. No discussion was noted.

Mayor Giuliano moved to approve the Memorandum of Understanding on a Regional Concept of Transportation Operations for consideration by the MAG member agencies. Mayor Manross seconded, and the motion carried unanimously.

8. Update on Compiling Information on Regionally Significant Development Projects

Jack Tomasik reviewed past approvals on compiling information regionally significant development projects that might create impacts to the transportation system. He explained that specific criteria was developed by the Planners Stakeholders Group and MAG Executive Committee that defined these projects. Mr. Tomasik stated that criteria included: Any project that requires a public hearing and member agency Council action; project is of a size sufficient to create the capacity of a single freeway lane in one direction; building permits. Additionally, the cumulative impact would be reported in the Regional Annual Report.

Mr. Tomasik explained the policy approved in June 2003, that MAG staff would meet with the submitting member agency after compiling the information on regionally significant development projects. Mr. Tomasik noted that the information would be used by the member agency in their own decision making. In addition, a compilation of the cumulative impact of all of the regionally significant development projects would be included in a Regional Annual Report. Mr. Tomasik emphasized that the regionally significant development program is for an 18-month evaluation period. He noted that it is a new policy, so refinements are expected. The program reflects a desire is to create a tool that would be useful and valuable to member agencies in their decision making.

Mr. Tomasik stated that since the approval in June, meetings have taken place with the largest member agencies that might have developments of significant size. A formal criteria sheet and transmittal form were developed for member agency use in submitting their projects. Mr. Tomasik stated that 13 regionally significant development projects have been submitted to date. He noted there was a delay in reports on the projects because information services and transportation modeling staffs were dedicated to the higher priority of the Regional Transportation Plan. Mr. Tomasik displayed a list of the 13

projects submitted, which included projects from Peoria, Phoenix, Surprise, Youngtown, El Mirage, Buckeye, Queen Creek, and Goodyear.

Mr. Tomasik explained the issue that many developments had been approved by their cities prior to the Regional Council approval of the process for projects of regional significance. Mr. Tomasik stated that member agency review was added as part of the process. Mr. Tomasik explained the methodology: the RTP network will be used for analysis; 500 ADT as the cutoff minimum; information on trips and costs will be prepared. He advised that the goal is to catch up on the reviews as quickly as possible. Chair Feldman-Kerr thanked Mr. Tomasik for his presentation.

Mayor Hawker commented that there has been discussion about building permits as criteria. He commented that by the time building permits are approved, MAG enters the process and it is really too late. Mayor Hawker asked for suggestions how MAG could enter into the process earlier. Mr. Tomasik stated that local jurisdictions make land use decisions and enter into negotiations for entitlements. Any method used would depend on that jurisdiction's discretion.

Mayor Hawker commented that if MAG cannot vote against an interchange that negatively impacts the transportation system, then why vote. He stated that the Regional Council has the option to vote no, but never do, because the developments are considered local decisions. The question is how do we enter into the process and when?

Mr. Tomasik remarked that in the MAG process, 208 and TIP amendments are too late because once those projects reach MAG, they have been entitled by the jurisdiction, up to several years at that point. Mayor Hawker questioned why not scrap the idea and say we are a sprawl city because there is no input we can legitimately give.

Mayor Manross stated that she understood Mayor Hawker's concern. She commented that this is one small step in working regionally, and it raises awareness. We are not ready in the region to come together, although someday we may be. Mayor Manross stated that the review is a step in the right direction to planning well. She stated that she did not think the review should be scrapped because it does not totally create regional planning, but is a step in the right direction.

Mayor Thomas stated that MAG seems to reward bad behavior, as in the case of Anthem, where they are being rewarded with double decking I-17 and other improvements. There was no discussion of impacts or what the regional goal might be. Mayor Thomas stated that when the Regional Council puts its stamp of approval on a project, it is condoning bad behavior.

Mr. Tomasik noted that cost estimate is an important piece of the information for jurisdictions to use in negotiations with the developers. It all comes back to the jurisdictions. Mr. Tomasik stated that to his knowledge, this is the first time there has been reporting of transportation impacts in the Valley. He stated that it is a new process and he felt the review would be of true value to jurisdictions in their negotiations on entitlements.

Mr. Smith stated that MAG has struggled with this issue for more than two years. Our goal is to ask cities how to use the MAG tools to assist them, so when they get a large development, they will come

and ask what tools are available to help them. Mr. Smith suggested continuing to create the MAG tools within the 18-month pilot period so that they are beneficial to cities.

Chair Feldman-Kerr asked how many of the 13 projects are new to communities? Mr. Tomasik replied that the five Peoria projects, King's Ranch in Goodyear, and the General Plan Amendment in Queen Creek have not yet been approved by city councils. Goodyear and Queen Creek. Chair Feldman-Kerr stated that this might be an indication that we are getting into the right part of the process.

Mayor Hawker commented on discussion of disclosures at Executive Committee. This has not yet been resolved, but eventually will need a decision. He stated that the Executive Committee discussed whether the reviews should be shared, due to consideration of open meeting laws and public records. Mayor Hawker stated that the modeling is a tremendous tool, but what if the city does not listen? How do we enter into that mix for not getting it built right?

Mr. Smith stated that if a public record is created, access is provided for that record. He remarked that some cities have indicated they would prefer a staff meeting to discuss the project, and some have indicated they want their reports in writing, to show to developers.

9. Update on Domestic Violence Initiatives

Craig Mills, Affiliated Computer Systems, and Co-chair of the Employers Against Domestic Violence (EADV), addressed the Council on recent activities of the EADV. Mr. Mills stated that EADV is a group of more than 100 public and private employers concerned with the effects of abuse on the workplace. The group focuses on helping organizations develop workplace protocols and policies. Mr. Mills stated that EADV conducts quarterly training forums and sponsors activities such as the annual Walk to End Domestic Violence. Mr. Mills stated that October is Domestic Violence Prevention Month, and reminded members that this is still a growing issue, especially in the workplace. He added that homicide is the leading cause of death in the workplace. At one time in their lives, one-fourth to one-third of females are victims of domestic violence.

JoEllen Lynn, American Express, and Co-chair of EADV, reported on statistics compiled on domestic violence. One in four women nationally and one in three statewide are victims of domestic violence. She stated that employees do not usually report their situations to their employers, many times because the employers do not want to hear about it. Ms. Lynn stated that a clear commitment to violence prevention in the workplace will make victims more likely to report their situations. She stated that victims may need to be provided with cell phones, special parking, relocation, and shift changes. Ms. Lynn stated that one employer even rents an apartment to provide shelter for victims. Ms. Lynn encouraged municipalities to join EADV, because they are employers and their support might assist their employees in seeking and receiving support for domestic violence issues.

Mr. Mills encouraged Regional Council members to participate in the 2nd Annual Walk and Run to End Domestic Violence, which is scheduled for Saturday, April 24, 2004. Chair Feldman-Kerr thanked Mr. Mills and Ms. Lynn for their reports.

10. 2004 Desert Peaks Awards

Denise McClafferty addressed the Council on the Desert Peaks Awards. She stated that the awards were initiated in 1998 to recognize regional efforts and cooperation of governments, citizens, and the private sector. Ms. McClafferty stated that on February 26, 2003, the Regional Council voted not to hold the 2003 Desert Peaks event due to local budget conditions and to allow jurisdictions additional time to develop projects for future submission. On September 15, 2003, the Executive Committee discussed continuing with the 2004 Desert Peaks Awards event and reached a consensus that the awards program is important to the region and that it should be continued.

Ms. McClafferty reviewed the proposed structure for the event. The awards would be held in conjunction with the Regional Council annual meeting in June, and could begin with a reception in place of the dinner. The annual Regional Council meeting would follow with the distribution of the awards. Ms. McClafferty stated that staff believes the event could be held at approximately half the cost of last year's event, with no cost to attendees. She stated that the Management Committee and Executive Committee supported restructuring the event and announcing the award recipients prior to the event. She explained that the Denver Regional Council of Governments and Kansas City's Mid-America Regional Council disclose their award recipients prior to the event, although not publicly. Chair Feldman-Kerr thanked Ms. McClafferty for her report.

Mayor Thomas moved to approve the restructuring of the 2004 Desert Peaks Awards Program, as presented. Mayor McDermott seconded, and the motion carried unanimously.

11. MAG Telecommunications Advisory Group Update

Greg Binder, Phoenix, Chair of the MAG Telecommunications Advisory Group (MAGTAG), said that MAGTAG was formed by the Regional Council in 1994 to encourage the development of telecommunication infrastructure and applications which increase government efficiency, improve access to public information, and expedite delivery of local government services in the region.

Mr. Binder stated that MAGTAG has completed a Regional Connections project to ensure all member agencies have e-mail, internet and a Web presence. He noted that many agencies have expanded their systems and one agency is completely independent of the project now. Mr. Binder stated that the Regional Community Network Study was recently completed and will reduce costs by connecting MAG member agencies. Mr. Binder reported that another project underway is the Digital Oasis, which includes the development, certification, and marketing of wired buildings. He added that this project would encourage telework, promote infrastructure development, and attract business development. Mr. Binder noted that the Regional Videoconferencing System (RVS) has just completed its first year of operation. He stated that the System has saved member agencies 3,823 hours, 24,044 miles, and \$175,985. Mr. Binder added that MAG is also tracking savings on pollution by the system's use. Mr. Binder described the RVS marketing efforts and two RVS success stories.

Mr. Binder stated that to further these goals over the last year, MAGTAG has been planning and conducting a series of informational sessions on various telecommunications issues. Mr. Binder said that the informational sessions thus far have included a Government Information Technology Agency

(GITA) update by GITA Director Chris Cummiskey and a panel discussion on Member Agencies and Public Safety Telecommunications with presentations on the Arizona Department of Transportation Freeway Management System, the Phoenix-Mesa 800 Megahertz Trunked Radio System, the Community Emergency Notification System and the Department of Public Safety Internet protocol. Future scheduled sessions include: Cyber Security, Homeland Security and Wireless. He invited any interested parties to attend the MAGTAG informational sessions. Chair Feldman-Kerr thanked Mr. Binder for his presentation.

12. 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.

Chair Feldman-Kerr asked Vice Mayor Newberry to convey to Mayor Dusty Hull the condolences of the Regional Council on the loss of his father.

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 6:30 p.m.

Chair

Secretary