

MINUTES OF THE
MARICOPA ASSOCIATION OF GOVERNMENTS
STREET COMMITTEE
December 14, 2004
MAG Offices, Saguaro Conference Room
302 North First Avenue, Suite 200
Phoenix, Arizona 85003

MEMBERS ATTENDING

Ray Dovalina for Don Herp, Phoenix, Chairman	* Mike Cartsonis for Horatio Skeet, Litchfield
Randy Allenstein for Andrew Smith, ADOT	Park
Shelise Muldrow for Carnell Thurman, Avondale	Chris Plumb, Maricopa County
* Carroll Reynolds, Buckeye	Mitch Foy for Kevin Wallace, Mesa
* Dan Cook, Chandler	Andrew Cooper, Paradise Valley
Lynn Farmer, Gila Bend	Burton Charron, Peoria
Michael Vinson, Gila River Indian Community	* Elaine Cabrera, Salt River Pima-Maricopa I.C.
* Bruce Ward, Gilbert	* Robert Brown, Scottsdale
Dan Sherwood, Glendale	* Brian Pirooz, Surprise
Ronald Sievwright for Don French, Goodyear	Larry Shobe, Tempe
Jim Ricker, Guadalupe	* Jason Ear, Tolleson
	* Jesse Mendez, Youngtown

*Members neither present nor represented by Proxy

OTHERS PRESENT

Mark Young, Queen Creek	Stephen Tate, MAG
	Paul Ward, MAG

1. Call to Order

The meeting was called to order by Acting Chairman Larry Shobe at 1:39 pm.

2. Approval of the September 14, 2004, Meeting Minutes

The minutes were unanimously approved.

3. Call to the Audience and Stakeholders

There were no requests to speak to the Committee during this part of the agenda.

4. Transportation Programming Manager's Report

Paul Ward briefed the Committee on a number of programming related topics. He indicated that TIP amendments requested by the Town of Apache Junction and the City of Glendale were expected to be approved by the Regional Council at their January meeting. He noted that approximately 100 project requests have been received for MAG federal funding and that the Transportation Review Committee would review and probably recommend federal funding requests at their December meeting. It was noted that local project updates for inclusion in the FY 2006-2010 MAG TIP are

due on January 14, 2005. He went on to indicate that no new information was available on the re-authorization of the federal surface transportation act.

Mr. Ward concluded by discussing the MAG efforts to develop a transportation oriented Geographical Information System (GIS-T). He noted MAG was in the process of contracting with a consultant to develop a GIS-T and that it was intended that the GIS-T would be used to collect data for future TIP submissions by MAG member agencies. He indicated that at future meetings the Committee would be briefed on the project.

5. MAG Federally Funded Locally Sponsored Projects Development Status

Stephen Tate distributed the most recent project status report. He noted that the report did not yet include data from project surveys submitted by MAG member agencies and did not accurately indicate whether a project could be automatically deferred.

Mr. Tate then proceeded to discuss key deadlines for obligating FY 2005 MAG federally funded projects. He noted that the ADOT federal project development process assumed that a typical construction project would require 18-months to complete the process and that, as of the date of the meeting, a design concept report and initial environmental studies should be well underway or near completion. He indicated that **March 1, 2005** is the deadline for MAG member agencies to request to defer 2005 federally funded projects and that FY 2005 construction projects that had not largely completed the environmental review process by that date were unlikely to obligate. Requests to accelerate federal funded projects would occur in April 2005. Effectively, the last opportunity for MAG to make major programming changes to projects would be at the Regional Council meeting on **July 27, 2005**.

By **August 1, 2005**, member agencies should have substantially completed and have approved by ADOT all requirements to obligate a project. These include: a design concept report, 95-percent design and clearances for right-of-way, utilities and environmental issues. The last day ADOT can obligate a project occurs in mid-September 2005 as the Federal Highway Administration requires at least two weeks to closeout the federal fiscal year.

Mr. Ward noted that he and Mr. Tate were prepared to assist member agencies to obligate their projects.

6. Distribution and briefing on the MAG TIP Data Entry System

Mr. Ward provided a brief overview of the TIP programming process and possible modifications due to recent changes in the MAG Regional Transportation Plan (RTP). He noted that federal funding for street projects would primarily be programmed through the Arterial Life-Cycle Program and that projects in this program stemmed directly from the RTP. He noted that separate life-cycle programs were under development for freeway and transit projects.

He noted that MAG had not completed a full TIP development cycle during the previous two years, so some members may be unaware of the details of the process. He noted that as of the date of the meeting, MAG had already initiated the process with the approval of the TIP Guidance Report, that a MAG federally funded program was being reviewed by MAG policy committees and that MAG expected to approve a new TIP for air quality conformity analysis in March with Regional Council adoption of a new TIP in June or July.

Part of the TIP development process includes the submission of non MAG federally funded projects by MAG member agencies and this submission was to be completed by Friday January 14, 2005. MAG member agencies should include in this submission all publically and privately funded regionally significant projects programmed in their areas for FY 2006 through FY 2010.

Mr. Tate then briefed the Committee on the TIP data entry system. He noted that a beta version of the TIP was available on the MAG website and that this version could be used by MAG member agencies to submit their data. He noted that the data entry system was an MS Access application, but that member agencies could export the data to MS Excel or other common software program should they prefer to work with those packages.

He then briefly demonstrated the data entry, reporting, exporting and e-mailing features of the package. He concluded by indicating that members did not have MS Access that he would be could provide them with forms for them to enter the data by hand or other means as appropriate.

7. Federal Functional Classification Update Process and Schedule

Mr. Tate introduced the topic. He noted that the FHWA used the federal functional classification system to categorize data and that this data was used both to prepare reports to the Congress and the public, and to distribute federal transportation funds to the States and MPO's. He went on to note that ADOT had developed a policy to update the federal functional classification in Arizona, but that it had not been effectively implemented in the past.

To address the issue of updating the federal functional classification of roadways in the region, MAG staff is suggesting that MAG member agencies periodically submit their classification requests to MAG and MAG would then combine them and submit them to ADOT for approval. It was suggested that these submissions would occur on a quarterly basis.

A general discussion ensued. Dan Sherwood, along with several other members, indicated that submitting requests on a quarterly basis was too frequent. However, it was agreed that the functional classification system should be updated more frequently than it had been in the past.

Mr. Ward noted that members would not be REQUIRED to ungrade functional classifications, but would have the opportunity to do so if they wished.

8. Regional Arterial Program Update

Mr. Ward reported he was developing a program of arterial street improvements listed in the RTP. This program had been reviewed by the Transportation Review Committee and added as a separate element to the TIP projects being reported by member agencies on January 14.

9. Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 2:31 p.m..