

MINUTES OF THE
TRANSPORTATION POLICY COMMITTEE
FREEWAY MAINTENANCE/NOISE MITIGATION SUBCOMMITTEE MEETING
May 25, 2005
MAG Offices
302 North 1st Avenue, Phoenix, Arizona

MEMBERS ATTENDING

Councilwoman Peggy Bilsten, Phoenix, Chair
Mayor James M. Cavanaugh, Goodyear
Mayor Hugh Hallman, Tempe

Vice Mayor Pat Dennis, Peoria
Councilmember Dan Schweiker,
Paradise Valley

* Not present

Participated by videoconference or telephone conference call

1. Call to Order

The Transportation Policy Committee Freeway Maintenance/Noise Mitigation Subcommittee meeting was called to order by Chair Peggy Bilsten at 3:30 p.m.

Chair Bilsten stated that transit tickets were available from Valley Metro/RPTA for those using transit to come to the meeting. Parking validation was available from MAG staff for those who parked in the parking garage.

2. Call to the Audience

Chair Bilsten noted that according to MAG's public comment process, members of the audience who wish to speak are requested to fill out the public comment cards. She stated that there is a three minute time limit. Public comment is provided at the beginning of the meeting for 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. Chair Bilsten stated that there were no public comment cards received.

3. Update on the Role of the Freeway Maintenance/Noise Mitigation Subcommittee

_____ Tom Remes reviewed the memorandum on the Role of the Freeway Maintenance/Noise Mitigation Subcommittee. He stated the members requested that staff report on the scope of use of the \$279 million for freeway maintenance; the scope of use of the \$75 million for freeway noise mitigation; and MAG's legal authority over the Regional Transportation Plan (RTP) funds. He explained that MAG's ability to make decisions on the use of RTP funds is derived from both federal and state legislation. Federal law required that the Governor of the state designate the agency to serve as the Metropolitan Planning Organization(MPO). As the MPO, MAG has specific transportation related responsibilities which include preparing a five-year TIP that includes all regionally significant transportation projects in the region. Mr. Remes noted that state law gives other examples of how

MAG has the authority to make decisions on the use of regional funds. A General Counsel opinion (R-46-125) by the Arizona Legislative Council in October 2004, reconfirmed that MAG is responsible for transportation planning in the region.

Mr. Remes reported on the scope of use of the \$279 million for freeway maintenance. He stated that there are two general components under freeway maintenance - landscaping and litter. Mr. Remes reviewed the options regarding landscaping and litter, including litter pick-up, sweeping and prevention and education. Mr. Remes noted that ADOT is coordinating a statewide litter prevention and education program. He stated that the concept of combining a Request for Proposals (RFP) will be discussed under the next agenda item.

Mr. Remes reported on the scope of use of the \$75 million for noise mitigation. He noted that improvements have been made to lessen the impact of freeway noise with "quiet pavement" and sound walls. Mr. Remes stated that the subcommittee, working with ADOT, may address how the noise mitigation projects will be funded and how they can be scheduled. Vice Mayor Dennis asked what contributes to the decibel level that impacts freeway noise. Shannon Wilhelmsen replied that ADOT has drafted a noise policy that can be distributed to the members for comment. Mr. Anderson added that this policy sets guidelines on when ADOT is required to do noise mitigation. Vice Mayor Dennis stated that is what she wants to know. Mr. Anderson noted that this is what this money is set aside to cover.

Chair Bilsten recognized public comment from Steve Dreiseszun. Mr. Dreiseszun stated that he lives in the FQ Story historic district in Phoenix. He noted that rubberized asphalt is great for noise mitigation, but that is not the only tool available. He stated that another solution is to eliminate traffic. Chair Bilsten thanked Mr. Dreiseszun for his comments.

4. Litter Prevention and Education Program Request for Proposals

Mr. Remes reviewed the scope of work for a litter prevention and education program for the Regional Freeway System in Maricopa County that was at each member's place. Mr. Remes suggested that ADOT and MAG combine funds and incorporate joint ideas into the Litter Prevention and Education Program Scope of Work. The concepts of the scope could be to contract with MAG, keep bi-lingual, use the media to get the message out, work to develop measurable criteria and have a one year contract with the option to renew. Chair Bilsten stated that it is a great idea to have MAG and ADOT develop a strong message. Mr. Smith agreed that this is the best way to go. Vice Mayor Dennis added that the enforcement aspect is important. She asked the value of the current fines. Ms. Wilhelmsen stated that there is a litter hotline. She noted that there is not a measuring tool in place to know if litter is effected by fines or the hotline. Mr. Anderson stated that he suspects that enforcement on litter is not great because the focus of DPS is on safety and traffic. Subcommittee members that it is important to enforce littering penalties. Is there national best practices for enforcement techniques and programs?

Councilmember Dan Schweiker moved to approve that state funds be combined into the ADOT-MAG contract and a regional RFP be developed and issued through MAG. Mayor Hallman seconded, and the motion carried unanimously.

Vice Mayor Pat Dennis requested that a dollar amount be attached to RFP. Chair Bilsten asked staff to bring back more information.

5. Accountability of the RTP Freeway Maintenance/Noise Mitigation Funds

John Hauskins, Phoenix Maintenance District Engineer, provided a summary of costs with 2006 estimates on roadway and landscaping. He reviewed historical spending for litter/landscape items. Mr. Hauskins explained that landscape maintenance as it is now, maintains the formal landscape along the urban freeways, removes litter and oversees Adopt-a-Highway volunteers. He noted that there are six maintenance organizations in the metro area, 72 full-time maintenance employees and 207 miles (4950 acres) maintained. Mr. Hauskins reviewed the current and proposed funding for RTP items. He noted that additional funding will increase litter crews from two to eight in the metro area, allow pickups in areas not covered and increase number of pickups, increase sweeping on new freeways and existing ones, spraying and removal of weeds valley wide, removal of hazardous or unsightly tree limbs and bushes and reduction of transient camp areas. Mr. Hauskins reviewed the major expenditures, including weeds (45%), litter (25%) and trimming and irrigation (13% and 12% respectively). Chair Bilsten thanked Mr. Hauskins for his report.

Vice Mayor Dennis asked how the level of service is quantified. She stated that landscaping needs to be maintained, which includes replacement. Mayor Cavanaugh noted that he is concerned about how to integrate ADOT's existing budget and the \$279 million from the RTP. Ms. Wilhelmsen suggested these questions be directed to the Chief Financial Officer at ADOT, John McGee. She stated that he could provide the members with an overview and the structure of ADOT's accounting system. Mayor Hallman stated that the outcome is easy, we want to clean up the freeways, county-wide. How this is measured will be more challenging. He suggested to start with where the money is spent now. It is useful to know the current efforts. He noted that ADOT would identify what needs more work and what does not. Mayor Hallman suggested gathering as much information and data on current efforts and then making decisions on future efforts. Councilmember Schweiker agreed that the outcome is easy to identify, but how it is measured will be difficult.

Mayor Cavanaugh asked if ADOT employees picked up litter in the "hot spots" described by Mr. Hauskins. Mr. Hauskins replied that ADOT has contractors pick the litter up. Mayor Cavanaugh asked if there could be more discussion on ADOT policies regarding litter pick up. Committee members requested more information on the frequency of pick ups and existing "hot spots." Additionally, there should be some performance measurements in place to determine if there is progress being made.

6. Information Needed for Next Meeting

Chair Bilsten suggested looking at best practices as part of the education component. She also suggested working with ADOT to gather more information and data on current efforts and suggested future efforts to improve freeway maintenance, noise mitigation and litter control. Chair Bilsten also suggested cancelling the June meeting and waiting to call another meeting until all of the requested information is gathered. She also asked that the agenda and materials be sent to the members at least a one week or more before the meeting date. Mayor Hallman concurred that he

needed more than a couple days to review the information. He requested that all of the supporting material be sent out and not just delivered at the meeting.

7. Adjournment

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 4:17 p.m.

Chair

Secretary