

MINUTES OF THE
MARICOPA ASSOCIATION OF GOVERNMENTS
TRANSPORTATION REVIEW COMMITTEE

June 25, 2002

Maricopa Association of Governments Office
302 North First Avenue, Suite 200, Saguaro Room
Phoenix, Arizona

MEMBERS ATTENDING

*Wickenburg: Fred Carpenter, Chair
Phoenix: Jack Tevlin, Vice-Chair
ADOT: Chuck Eaton
Avondale: Dave Fitzhugh
Buckeye: Joe Blanton
Chandler: Brian Latte for Patrice Kraus
Fountain Hills: Randy Harrell
*Gila Bend: Shane Dille
Gilbert: Tami Ryall
Glendale: Jim Book
Goodyear: Grant Anderson

Guadalupe, Antonio Figueroa Arteaga
*Litchfield Park: Mike Cartsonis
Maricopa County: Chris Plumb for Tom
Buick
Mesa: Jeff Martin for Ron Krosting
*Paradise Valley: Robert M. Cicarelli
Peoria: Burton Charron for David Moody
RPTA: Ken Driggs
Scottsdale: Michelle Korf
Surprise: Miryam Gutier
Tempe: Robert Yabes for Mary O'Connor

EX-OFFICIO MEMBERS ATTENDING

*Regional Bicycle Task Force: Pat
McDermott, Chandler
*Street Committee: Don Herp, Phoenix
ITS Committee: Jim Book

Pedestrian Working Group: Reed
Kempton, Maricopa County Dept of
Transportation
Telecommunications Advisory Group:
Jim Hull

* Members neither present nor represented by proxy.

OTHERS PRESENT

Eric Anderson, MAG
Ken Hall, MAG
Paul Ward, MAG
Bob Antilla, RPTA
Steve Tate, MAG
John Dugan, PHAROS Corporation
Dawn Coomer, MAG
Roger Herzog, MAG
Jim Dickey, RPTA
Kwi-Sung Kang, ADOT

Andy Smith, ADOT
John Ashley, Arizona Cement Association
Bryan Jungwirth, RPTA
Sarath Joshua, MAG
Terry Johnson, City of Glendale
Lynn Timmons, City of Phoenix
Amber Wakeman, City of Tempe
Peggy Carpenter, City of Scottsdale
Karen Calliham, MAG
Ali Makarachi, City of Phoenix

1. Call to Order

In the absence of Mr. Fred Carpenter, Chairman, and Mr. Jack Tevlin, Vice-Chairman, Mr.

Ken Driggs called the meeting to order at 10:05 a.m.

2. Approval of May 21, 2002 Minutes

Addressing the first order of business, Mr. Driggs asked if there were any changes or amendments to the meeting minutes. Mr. Jim Book addressed Agenda Item Number 10 of the May 21, 2002 minutes and asked for clarification on the motion to accept the Draft Project List for FY 2002 closeout allocations. Mr. Book stated that the item in the final paragraph should have reflected an "amended" motion. Discussion followed, and Mr. Eric Anderson, MAG Transportation Manager, informed members of the Committee that MAG Staff would amend the minutes to reflect the change as addressed by Mr. Book. Mr. Jim Book moved to approve the minutes as presented, to include the updated language regarding the "amended" motion. Mr. Grant Anderson seconded the motion, and the minutes were subsequently approved by unanimous voice vote.

3. Call to the Audience

Mr. Driggs noted that he had not received any request to speak cards from the audience, and moved to the next item on the Agenda.

4/5. Transportation Manager's Report/Report on the MAG Regional Freeway Program

Mr. Ken Driggs introduced MAG Transportation Manager, Mr. Eric Anderson, who gave the Transportation Manager's report. Mr. Anderson called the Committee's attention to the screen at the front of the room, and informed those in attendance of upcoming items that would be presented at the Regional Council Meeting scheduled for June 26, 2002. Mr. Anderson stated that recommendations on consultant selections for three studies would be forwarded to the Regional Council. These included a Travel Speed Study conducted by Carter Burgess; a Traffic Volume Survey conducted by Traffic Research and Analysis; and a Modeling Study conducted by Parsons Brinckerhoff.

Mr. Anderson informed the Committee of the fact that the appointment of Mr. Dennis Smith as Interim Executive Director would be ratified by the Regional Council, and that the MAG Bylaws were in the process of being amended by the Regional Council in order to accommodate membership for the City of Apache Junction. Mr. Anderson said that the MAG Regional Council approved the City of Apache Junction as an official member agency at the May 2002 meeting. Mr. Anderson then addressed the closeout recommendation that was made by the TRC at the last meeting regarding allocated funding of 11.0 million for light rail, the Grand Avenue MIS, the Peoria Traffic Signal System, and the carryover of 2002 reserve funds from the region, and stated that the recommendation for funding would be brought before the Regional Council. Also, Mr. Anderson stated that the Transportation Policy Committee would be approved by the Regional Council at the upcoming meeting, and that the Committee would consist of approximately 25 or 26 members. Mr. Anderson

said that a Chairperson for the Committee would be appointed next month. He informed the Committee that aside from these transportation issues, the Regional Council Meeting would also contain the annual Desert Peaks awards ceremony. Following this section of Mr. Anderson's presentation, Vice-Chairperson Jack Tevlin arrived at the meeting and assumed the position of chairing the rest of the meeting for the Committee.

Mr. Anderson then informed the Committee of a series of upcoming meetings that were taking place during the months of June and July. The meetings that Mr. Anderson highlighted were as follows: the Southwest Area Transportation Study, to be held in the City of Goodyear on June 26th at 10:00 a.m.; the Northwest Area Transportation Study, to be held in the City of Glendale on July 1st at 1:30 p.m.; the Southeast Area/NE Pinal County Study, to be held in the Town of Queen Creek on July 2nd at 9:30 p.m.; the Pedestrian Working Group, to be held in the MAG Cholla Conference Room on July 16th at 1:30 p.m.; the High Capacity Transit Agency Meeting, to be held in the MAG Saguaro Conference Room on July 25th at 1:30 p.m.; and the CMAQ Process Work Group, to be held in the MAG Cholla Conference Room on July 26th at 1:30 p.m.

Mr. Anderson then provided members in attendance with an update of the Regional Transportation Plan. Mr. Anderson stated that four growth scenarios were being analyzed, which included a base case, polycentric development pattern; an infill, urban revitalization pattern; an activity center development pattern; and a suburban, urban fringe growth scenario. He said that the model runs for the growth scenarios were taking longer than anticipated, but are almost complete. He informed the Committee that MAG is presently utilizing a EMME/2 program for regional transportation modeling purposes, and that delays associated with the project were the direct result of the program exceeding its storage capacity. The vendor has recently adjusted the database in an effort to accommodate additional space, which would allow MAG to run the model for each of the four growth scenarios associated with the Regional Transportation Plan. Mr. Anderson also noted that there were additional modeling issues associated with trying to run the model based on a population base of 8.5 million people.

Mr. Anderson informed the Committee that MAG Staff was in the process of finalizing a set of Draft values, goals and objectives associated with the plan that would be ready for review and comment in the near future. Mr. Anderson then addressed Phase II of the MAG Regional Transportation Plan and said that a Draft RFP for the project was in the process of being completed soon. He also discussed preliminary revenue projections for the extension of a regional sales tax.

Addressing other topics of interest, Mr. Anderson informed those in attendance that the Northwest Grand Avenue Study was originally going to be discussed at the meeting. However, he said that there were a number of issues to reconcile and that the item would be heard at an upcoming meeting of the TRC. He also provided a brief overview of progress associated with the East-West Mobility Study, and informed those in attendance that Mr. Roger Herzog, MAG Senior Project Manager, was overseeing the project.

Mr. Anderson then addressed the ADOT Resource Allocation Advisory Committee (RAAC), and discussed their intent of determining how much funding will be available in FY 2008. He said that the RAAC consisted of membership from each of the Councils of Governments and Metropolitan Planning Organizations located throughout the State of Arizona, in addition to representation from ADOT. Mr. Anderson said that the RAAC would provide a recommendation on how much FY 2008 funding would be available for the MAG Region during September or October of 2002. Mr. Anderson then addressed the Regional Area Road Fund (RARF) and stated that the total revenues for the month of May were down by 1.6 percent from the previous year, and that the year-to-date was up by about 1.3 percent, opposed to an original forecast of 5.6 percent. Mr. Anderson then addressed the Committee about the recent *2002 Urban Mobility Study* that was released by the Texas Transportation Institute, which specifically addressed congestion issues in America's top urban areas between the years of 1982 and 2002. He provided those in attendance with a web site address of the Institute, and answered several questions from members in attendance with regard to the study. Mr. Anderson stated that he would provide a handout of congestion data, which was generated from the Texas Transportation Institute's study, prior to the end of the meeting. Mr. Anderson concluded his report by informing the Committee that a Draft of the Grand Avenue Major Investment Study (MIS) was in the process of being completed, and would be circulated in the near future for comment.

Discussion followed regarding the anticipated completion of the Regional Transportation Plan, and Mr. Anderson addressed several questions from the Committee. Mr. Anderson said that there were a number of uncertainties associated with the existing projections, and that part of the process involves the development of accurate employment and population figures. He informed the Committee that MAG Staff anticipated having updated projections in September of 2002, and at that time the modeling would be redone. Mr. Grant Anderson addressed the proposed 2004 public vote on the half-cent sales tax extension, and wanted to know if the first maps from the Regional Transportation Plan would be ready at that time. Mr. Eric Anderson said that the initial maps based on the newest projections and modeling scenarios would more than likely be available during early 2003.

Mr. Eric Anderson also stressed the importance of the ongoing transportation studies that he addressed before the Committee as part of his report, and informed the Committee of the fact that collectively, the studies would result in a number of priorities for development and would identify future project needs. Mr. Anderson said that the findings and suggestions of individual planning processes will be incorporated into the Regional Transportation Plan. Discussion followed, and Vice-Chairman Tevlin suggested that the Committee should not wait until the individual studies are completed, but should rather move forward with a number of project recommendations in order to meet the deadlines associated with setting up the public vote for the regional half-cent sales tax extension during 2004. Discussion followed concerning the 2004 public vote, and several members in attendance emphasized the importance of having available project maps for public display purposes prior to the vote. Mr. Anderson said that even though a list of projects could be generated before the vote, all of the identified projects would still have to go through an air conformity analysis process.

Mr. Anderson reminded the Committee of the fact that there was no guarantee of a positive air quality finding. Mr. Jim Book also addressed the fact that we would need to have the required enabling legislation for a public voting process.

Mr. Jeff Martin addressed the Committee, and stressed the importance of waiting for each of the individual studies to be completed prior to establishing a desired list of projects to be included for consideration of a half-cent sales tax extension. Mr. Martin stated how important it was to have the support of the local business community and to have some sort of justification for the planning processes, which would come through the recommendations of individual plans. He concluded by stating the Committee should wait for the completion of the plans. Discussion followed concerning the issue of public participation. Mr. Anderson stated that he anticipates the MAG Phase II Regional Transportation Plan to have a high level of public participation. Also, Mr. Anderson stated that there were a number of potential projects that were identified as part of the sub area transportation plans. Mr. Anderson recommended taking the important transportation projects identified within the individual planning processes and combining them together into “packages” for consideration. There were no additional questions from members of the Committee, and this concluded Mr. Anderson’s report.

6. Draft FY 2003-2007 MAG Transportation Improvement Program

Addressing the next order of business, Vice-Chairperson Tevlin introduced Mr. Paul Ward, MAG Transportation Programming Manager, who provided the Committee with an update of the Draft 2003-2007 MAG Transportation Improvement Program (TIP). Mr. Ward stated that the Draft TIP was being presented for review and approval, and that it was contingent upon a finding of air quality conformity analysis requirements for all included projects. Mr. Ward called the Committee’s attention to Errata Sheet 03-04, which was included within the TRC Packet as Attachment Number Two. Mr. Ward stated that the replacement Errata Sheet 03-04 differed from the original that was mailed with the agenda packet. The revised version included several changes to ADOT projects, which primarily represented funding changes. He also stated that there will be additional changes to the TIP that were forthcoming, and that he anticipated Errata Sheet Number 03-05 to be forwarded to the Regional Council during July of 2002 for review and approval. Mr. Ward stated that there would also be forthcoming changes to several transit projects during the first year of the TIP, which involved Federal Section 5309 funds.

Discussion followed, and Vice-Chairperson Tevlin called the Committee’s attention to Page 2-40 of Volume II of the TIP, and addressed the issue of the Southwest portion of the proposed Loop 202. Vice-Chairperson Tevlin indicated that the map displays an east-west road segment of the Loop 202 programmed along the Pecos road alignment. Vice-Chairperson Tevlin stated that the priority for this project should focus on a north-south section further to the northwest, and asked Mr. Ward for clarification on this particular programming issue. Mr. Ward informed the Committee that MAG Staff would address this

issue further, and would make an appropriate change.

Mr. Ward stated that the Draft TIP would be presented at a public hearing on July 1, 2002, in the MAG Saguaro Conference Room. Mr. Ward informed the Committee that following the public hearing, the Draft TIP would be forwarded to the Management Committee and Regional Council for review and approval. Discussion followed, and Mr. Jim Book moved to approve the FY 2003-2007 TIP contingent on a finding of air quality conformity. Mr. Dave Fitzhugh seconded the motion, which was subsequently approved by unanimous voice vote of the Committee. There were no additional questions from members of the Committee, and this concluded Mr. Ward's presentation.

7. Final Close Out of the Fiscal Year 2002 MAG Federally Funded Program

Addressing the next order of business, Vice-Chairperson Tevlin introduced Mr. Paul Ward, MAG Transportation Programming Manager, who provided the Committee with an update on the Final Close Out of the Fiscal Year 2002 MAG Federally Funded Program. Mr. Ward informed the Committee that there was a total of approximately \$350,000 left over in the MAG account, which can be used for newly identified projects. He reminded members that there is also a possibility that projects, which have been identified to obligate funds, may not move forward, and that there is always a chance of having more money available for other projects. There is also a possibility of receiving redistributed funding. Mr. Ward suggested that it would be appropriate to identify some "contingency" projects that could utilize ad FY 2004 funding that becomes available.

Discussion followed, and several members of the Committee addressed the issue of utilizing the existing funding in an effort to complete the City of Peoria's citywide, interconnected traffic signal system project. Mr. Ward then addressed a number of possible projects, and handed out a sheet that he had recently received from ADOT that listed two projects on US 60 at Stapley Drive and Val Vista Drive as possible options. He also suggested "rolling over" funding, or initiating the "exchange mechanism" with ADOT. Discussion arose over the concept of advancing design on two intersection projects along US 60 in the City of Mesa, or possibly using any existing money that is left over toward the light rail project.

Mr. Jeff Martin addressed the Committee, and stated that the City of Mesa would like to see the Stapley Drive and Val Vista Drive intersections along the US 60 advanced. Mr. Martin said that these projects are needed in order to facilitate the traffic flows along these intersections, and that the City of Mesa was working with ADOT to work out potential financing options. Mr. Chuck Eaton also addressed the Gilbert Road design project as a potential candidate for the expenditure of FY 2003 funding. Discussion followed, and Mr. Jim Book said that the Committee should seriously look at funding the second part of the Peoria traffic signalization project. Mr. Grant Anderson agreed, and emphasized that a commitment to the City of Peoria for the completion of this project is extremely important. Mr. Burton Charron addressed the Committee on various aspects of the Peoria project, and

stressed the city's crucial need for funding the project.

Discussion followed, and Mr. Chuck Eaton made a motion to prioritize, in order, the Peoria citywide, interconnected traffic signal system project; the US 60 and Stapley Drive Intersection project; and the US 60 and Val Vista Drive Intersection project as contingency projects to utilize any funds that may become available during the remaining months of the Federal fiscal year, including any redistributed obligation authority that may become available. Then if any more was available, to authorize MAG Staff to "loan" the funds to ADOT for repayment next year. This motion was seconded by Mr. Dave Fitzhugh, and subsequently approved by unanimous voice vote of the Committee. There were no additional questions from members of the Committee, and this concluded Mr. Ward's presentation.

8. Draft FY 2004-2008 MAG TIP Guidance Report

Addressing the next order of business, Vice-Chairperson Tevlin introduced Mr. Paul Ward, who provided the Committee with an overview of the Draft FY 2004-2008 MAG TIP Guidance Report (TGR). Mr. Ward informed the Committee that the report was intended to guide decision makers with facilitating the programming of transportation projects in the region. He then addressed the six transportation management systems, and stated that the penalty for failing to complete reports for all six of the systems has been removed. However, Mr. Ward stated that the region is still required to submit a Congestion Management System report on a regular basis.

Mr. Ward said that the maps in the TGR were being updated to include Census 2000 data, and that these maps would be available by the end of the week. Mr. Ward informed the Committee that the upcoming TIP Guidance Report would not include the application forms for FY 2008, which is the 5th year of the program.

Mr. Eric Anderson addressed the Committee, and recommended that the Committee should consider not programming Congestion Mitigation and Air Quality (CMAQ) and Surface Transportation Program (STP) funds for FY 2008. Mr. Anderson stated that considering the framework for re-authorization of the Transportation Equity Act for the 21st Century (TEA 21), and the recent budgetary considerations, that there are a lot of the things "in motion" and it is not necessary to program funds at this time. Discussion followed.

Mr. Jeff Martin made a motion to accept the Draft FY 2004-2008 MAG TIP Guidance Report, and to defer the programming of any projects for FY 2008 until next year. Mr. Grant Anderson seconded the motion, which was subsequently approved by unanimous voice vote of the Committee. There were no further questions from the Committee, and this concluded Mr. Ward's presentation.

9. Update on the Ad Hoc STP/CMAQ Process Improvement Work Group

Addressing the next order of business, Vice-Chairperson Tevlin introduced Mr. Eric Anderson of MAG, who informed the Committee of previous meetings held by the Ad Hoc STP/CMAQ Process Improvement Work Group. Mr. Anderson stated that the next meeting of the group would take place at the MAG offices on July 26th, 2002, at 1:30 p.m. Mr. Anderson reminded the Committee that he had handouts of summary mobility data tables from the *2002 Urban Mobility Study* released by the Texas Transportation Institute, which he addressed as part of Agenda Item Number 5. There were no questions from the Committee, and this concluded Mr. Anderson's report.

10. Next Meeting Date

Vice-Chairperson Tevlin informed members in attendance that the next meeting of the Committee would be conducted on July 23, 2002. There being no further business, the Vice-Chairman adjourned the meeting at 11:08 p.m.