

DRAFT MINUTES OF THE  
MARICOPA ASSOCIATION OF GOVERNMENTS  
TRANSPORTATION REVIEW COMMITTEE

January 27, 2005

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

MEMBERS ATTENDING

Scottsdale: Jan Dolan, Chairperson	*Litchfield Park: Mike Cartsonis
ADOT: Bill Hayden for Dan Lance	Maricopa County: Chris Plumb for Mike Ellegood
*Avondale: David Fitzhugh	Mesa: Jeff Martin
Chandler: Mike Normand for Patrice Kraus	*Paradise Valley: Robert M. Cicarelli
*Fountain Hills: Randy Harrel	Peoria: David Moody
+Gila Bend: Lynn Farmer	Phoenix: Don Herp for Tom Callow
Gilbert: Tami Ryall	RPTA: Ken Driggs for Bryan Jungwirth
Glendale: Terry Johnson for Jim Book	Surprise: Randy Overmyer
Goodyear: Grant Anderson	Tempe: Carlos De Leon
*Guadalupe, Antonio Figueroa - Iturralda	*Wickenburg: Shane Dille

EX-OFFICIO MEMBERS ATTENDING

*Regional Bicycle Task Force: Randi Alcott, RPTA	*Pedestrian Working Group: Eric Iwersen, City of Tempe
Street Committee: Don Herp, Phoenix	*Telecommunications Advisory Group:
*ITS Committee: Jim Book	
* Members neither present nor represented by proxy.	+ - Video Conference

OTHERS PRESENT

Eric Anderson, MAG	Ali Makarachi, City of Phoenix
Ken Hall, MAG	Lynn Timmons, City of Phoenix
Paul Ward, MAG	John Dugan, SWLG
Steve Tate, MAG	Sarath Joshua, MAG
Kwi-Sung Kang, ADOT	Steve Gross, MAG
Roger Herzog, MAG	Chris Voigt, MAG
Qing Xia, MAG	Mary O'Connor, City of Scottsdale
Bob Antila, RPTA	Peggy Carpenter, City of Scottsdale
Tom Remes, MAG	Steven Wilcox, DMJM and Harris
Mark Young, Town of Queen Creek	

1. Call to Order

In the absence of Chairperson Jan Dolan, Mr. Jeff Martin called the meeting to order at 10:07 a.m.

2. Approval of December 16, 2004 Draft Minutes

Addressing the first order of business, Mr. Jeff Martin asked if there were any changes or amendments to the meeting minutes. Mr. Grant Anderson moved to approve the minutes as presented. Mr. David Moody seconded, and the minutes were subsequently approved by unanimous voice vote of the Committee.

3. Call to the Audience

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

4. Transportation Director's Report

Mr. Martin introduced Mr. Eric Anderson, MAG Transportation Director, to provide the Transportation Director's report. Mr. Anderson provided an update of the regional half-cent sales tax, and informed the Committee that collections for December of 2004 were up by 8.6 percent over the previous year. Mr. Anderson then spoke about the upcoming 20-year regional half-cent sales tax extension, and stated that ADOT had recently completed an upgrade of the new revenue projections. Mr. Anderson said the recent ADOT revenue projections were in line with the figures as originally reported in the MAG Regional Transportation Plan, which was good news for the upcoming planning and project development process.

Mr. Anderson then informed the Committee that the Federal Transit Administration recently signed a Full Funding Grant Agreement with Valley Metro Rail to award \$587 million to the region. This money will be used to build the 20-mile minimum operating system as specified in the MAG Regional Transportation Plan, and will provide light rail service to the cities of Phoenix, Mesa and Tempe. Mr. Anderson then informed the Committee that on Tuesday MAG hosted an event for the new *MAG Regional Report* document. He held up a copy of the report, which was a 52-page multi-color document addressing areas of regional growth, economic quality, urban form, regional transportation, air quality, and regional social well-being. He then distributed several copies to members in attendance for their review, and informed those in attendance that the City of Mesa also assisted in the development of a 26 minute video on the *MAG Regional Report*.

Mr. Anderson then informed the Committee that the next Arterial Life Cycle Program Workshop would be held on February 23, 2005, at 10 a.m. in the MAG Saguaro Room. He stated that the Workshop would specifically address the development of policies and

procedures. Mr. Anderson said that MAG staff wanted to follow this workshop with a formal presentation to the MAG Transportation Policy Committee in March, followed by formal adoption by the MAG Regional Council in April of 2005.

Mr. Anderson then addressed the status of the Travel Demand Modeling Section of the MAG Transportation Division. Mr. Anderson said that at present, the transportation model takes approximately 72 hours to run the 2030 target year projections. In addition, he said that there are many demands on the division for modeling requests, and that the division would have to be in a better position to adequately accommodate the future modeling demands associated with Proposition 400. Mr. Anderson said that in order to meet such needs, MAG is in the process of hiring three new employees over the next several months. He stated that one candidate has been selected to start within several weeks, and that two others will start shortly thereafter. There were no questions, and this concluded Mr. Anderson's report to the Committee.

5. Approval of Consent Agenda

Addressing the next order of business, Mr. Martin addressed Agenda item #6 (ADOT Red Letter Process), and asked members in attendance if they would like to entertain a motion to approve the item as presented, or to remove the item for discussion. Mr. Grant Anderson addressed the Committee, and asked ADOT for clarification on correspondence that was sent to the City of Goodyear, pertaining to the fact that the Loop 303 was being constructed by Maricopa County. Mr. Bill Hayden explained that jurisdictional transfer is underway, and that the entry in the Memorandum for Goodyear was based on old data. Discussion followed, and Mr. Hayden stated that he would have this information updated, prior to future mailings. Mr. Grant Anderson then moved to recommend approval of Consent Agenda. Ms. Tami Ryall seconded, and the motion was unanimously approved by subsequent voice vote of the Committee.

7. Draft FY 2006-2010 MAG Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) (Interim List of Projects)

Addressing the next order of business, Mr. Martin introduced Mr. Paul Ward, MAG Transportation Programming Manager, to provide an update on the Draft FY 2006-2010 MAG TIP, interim list of projects. Mr. Ward distributed a handout, entitled *FY 2006-2010 Initial Draft Highway TIP (Listing of Projects)*, to those in attendance. He stressed the fact that the list was just for review and information purposes. Mr. Ward then informed the Committee of the fact that the list did not include ADOT projects, regional arterial projects and transit projects. He noted that he was not able to get all of the necessary information confirmed at this time, but would be forwarding out the projects as separate items to member agencies over the next several days.

Mr. Ward then asked the Committee to take the project lists back to their respective communities, in an effort to allow for professional and transportation staff review. Mr. Ward informed the Committee that after reviewing the list, and considering local needs, they

should notify him as soon as possible with regard to any changes or project additions that needed to be made at the local level. Mr. Ward said that once he received completed project lists from each member agency, he would move them forward for action to approve at the February TRC meeting as part of the Draft FY 2006-2010 MAG TIP, and have them ready to undergo an air quality conformity analysis. Discussion followed pertaining to project categories on the handout. Mr. Ward informed those in attendance that when he includes projects on the list in the future, a “regional” category will be included, which will account for the future half-cent sales tax extension. There were no questions, and this concluded Mr. Ward’s presentation to the Committee. At this time, Chairperson Jan Dolan arrived and assumed the position of chairing the meeting.

8. Draft FY 2006-2010 Transit Element of the MAG Regional Transportation Improvement Program (TIP)

Addressing the next order of business, Chairperson Jan Dolan introduced Mr. Bob Antila, Senior Planner from the Regional Public Transportation Authority (RPTA), to provide an update on the Draft FY 2006-2010 Transit Element of the MAG Regional Transportation Improvement Program (TIP). Mr. Antila called the Committee’s attention to the table in Attachment Two of the Agenda Packet. He informed the Committee that over the last several months, a transit TIP Working Group, comprised of staff from Valley Metro and cities and agencies throughout the region, met to review transit prioritization guidelines and to consider all of the transit projects requesting federal transit funds through FY 2010.

Mr. Antila stated that new transit projects for FYs 2008, 2009 and 2010 were initially submitted through the MAG TIP process during September of 2004. Mr. Antila said that in addition to submitting the projects to MAG, the staff of RPTA had asked area transit agencies to submit changes, adjustments, and new project requests for FY 2006 and 2007, in an effort to incorporate projects that were identified in the MAG RTP, which were already included within the TIP for these years. Mr. Antilla also noted that RPTA asked for any changes, adjustments or new projects for 2005, so they could plan for adjustments in 2005.

Mr. Antila informed the Committee that the Transit TIP Working Group reviewed all projects, and has forwarded the list in Attachment Two of the Agenda for consideration. However, he informed the Committee that RPTA would be bringing a “final” list of transit project adjustments for the current TIP for FY 2005 to the TRC Meeting in February for recommended approval. Mr. Antila said that during the RPTA Transit Management Committee’s discussions, the City of Mesa expressed concern that additional funding needed for the bus/light rail transfer station at the end of the line in Mesa was not included on the list for additional federal funds. Discussion followed, and there were several questions from the Committee. Mr. Ken Driggs then made a motion to recommend the submitted projects to be included in the transit element of the FY 2006-2010 MAG Transportation Improvement Program (TIP). Discussion followed, and Mr. Jeff Martin voiced his concerns regarding the Mesa bus/light rail transfer station, and not having the project scheduled due to a lack of funds. Mr. Martin said that he would vote against this item.

Discussion followed, and Mr. Antila said that RPTA expected additional funds, and was confident that the Mesa project would be added to the priority list for funding in the near future. After further discussion, Mr. Antila added that the life cycle program for transit would be completed this Spring, and as additional cost data are developed, changes to each of the years identified in the TIP would need to be identified. He reminded the Committee that the Transit TIP Working Group would review each of the TIP years, and then return to the RPTA Transit Management Committee and the TRC in the future to recommend approval of updated changes.

Discussion followed, and Chairperson Dolan informed the Committee that Mr. Ken Driggs had already made a motion to approve this item as presented, and asked for formal approval. Mr. Mike Normand seconded the motion to recommend the submitted projects to be included in the transit element of the FY 2006-2010 MAG Transportation Improvement Program (TIP). The motion was approved by subsequent voice vote of the Committee, with Mr. Jeff Martin from the City of Mesa voting against the item. This concluded Mr. Antila's presentation to the Committee, and there were no further questions.

9. Federal Functional Classification of Roadways

Addressing the next order of business, Chairperson Dolan introduced Mr. Paul Ward, MAG Transportation Programming Manager, to provide an update on the Federal Functional Classification of roadways. Mr. Ward called the Committee's attention to the Functional Classification map located in Attachment Three of the Agenda packet, and highlighted a number of previously recommended map changes. Mr. Ward also highlighted the recommended changes since the previous TRC meeting which occurred in December of 2004. Mr. Ward noted that the recently recommended classification changes took place in the cities of Goodyear, Glendale and Scottsdale, and then addressed a number of specific questions regarding technical map elements and classification changes on the map.

Mr. Ward stated that over the next several months, MAG staff will also take time to review the functional classification of roadways in the rural areas of Maricopa County. Mr. Ward said that this would be done in an effort to ensure that all rural roadways in the MAG Region are classified for potential funding opportunities in the future. Discussion followed, and Mr. Ward answered several questions pertaining to functional classification. He stated that the purpose of this item on the Agenda was to essentially approve the recent changes, approve last month's changes, and to approve recent federal functional classification changes that were submitted for review.

Mr. Ward informed the Committee that staff would work closely with ADOT and the Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) during the upcoming months, and anticipated FHWA to submit a formal approval as to which roads would be approved by June or July of this year. Discussion followed, and Mr. Jeff Martin moved to recommend concurrence with the changes in Federal Functional Classification as shown on the map in Attachment Three of the TRC Agenda Packet. Mr. David Moody seconded the motion, and the motion was unanimously approved by subsequent voice vote of the Committee. This concluded Mr. Ward's presentation.

10. Proposed FY 2006 Projects for the MAG Transportation Division

Addressing the next order of business, Chairperson Jan Dolan introduced Mr. Eric Anderson, MAG Transportation Director, to provide an update on the proposed FY 2006 projects for the MAG Transportation Division. Mr. Anderson stated that staff was in the process of developing the Transportation Division's Work Program for the upcoming Fiscal Year 2006, which starts on July 1, 2005. He informed the Committee that MAG Transportation staff had prepared draft information sheets on each of the proposed consultant projects, which were included within Attachment Four of the Agenda Packet. Mr. Anderson said that the projects were to be submitted to the MAG Regional Council as part of the FY 2006 Unified Planning Work Program & Annual Budget, and were scheduled to be formally approved by the MAG Regional Council in May. He noted that MAG has not committed to any of the identified projects, and that the projects were still in draft format and could be changed.

Mr. Anderson then called the Committee's attention to the projects that were identified in Attachment Four, and addressed each of the projects in order. He addressed the *2006 Arterial Traffic Volume Survey & Traffic Count Map* project, which is intended to collect traffic volume data and to create a traffic count map on arterial locations in the MAG Urbanized area. He noted that the counts on the proposed project would be completed in 2006, and that more than half of the work on the project would be completed by MAG Staff. He stated that the overall cost of the project was \$110,000.

Next, Mr. Anderson addressed the *2006 Freeway Level of Service (LOS) Study* (\$120,000). Mr. Anderson informed the Committee that the proposed project was needed in an effort to update information on freeway traffic conditions, and to evaluate the freeway Level of Service (LOS) in the MAG Urbanized Area. He then addressed the next project, which was the *Urban Transportation Performance Measures Study* (\$25,000). Mr. Anderson stated that this was MAG's third year of commitment to the study, which is an annual urban modeling report intended to measure traffic mobility and reliability, and provide technical assistance with a number of issues that would help MAG implement the region's traffic monitoring system. Discussion followed, and Mr. Anderson answered several questions from Committee members.

Mr. Anderson then addressed the *Traffic Signal Optimization Program* (\$500,000), and asked Mr. Sarath Joshua, MAG ITS Program Manager to address the Committee. Mr. Joshua informed those in attendance that the intent of the Program was to provide technical assistance to MAG member agencies in improving traffic signal operations within their communities. Mr. Joshua stated that the Program, which was previously funded from \$300,000 in Federal Congestion Mitigation and Air Quality (CMAQ) funds to complete 11 projects for seven member agencies, would further commit money to improve traffic operations in the MAG Region. Mr. Joshua distributed a handout to those in attendance, which highlighted the benefits of the MAG Traffic Signal Optimization Program to the communities. Mr. Joshua informed the Committee that during the previous Fiscal Year, MAG Staff procured a list of "consultants on call," and that the money for the program was utilized to expend on smaller projects, which brought about significant improvements for communities in the region. Mr. Joshua said that there was a significant return on investment, which was calculated at 10 to one. He stated that in the upcoming year, it was anticipated

that MAG could complete up to 20 projects with the requested \$500,000 for the FY 2006 project.

Discussion followed concerning the process followed at the ITS Committee to rank and select projects for completion; the identification process for potential projects; ITS modal allocations as specified in Proposition 400; and the project selection process that would be utilized to expend the \$500,000 in requested funds. Mr. Joshua then answered a number of questions from the Committee. Discussion followed, and Mr. Carlos De Leon asked Mr. Anderson whether the Committee could receive information as to how the proposed studies fit into the amount of planning money that is allocated in the Regional Transportation Plan. Mr. Anderson said that MAG Staff was currently in the process of reviewing this issue, and that he would provide more information at the next meeting in February.

Mr. Sarath Joshua then addressed the *Integrated Corridor Management Systems* project (\$200,000), which was the next item as identified in Attachment Four of the Agenda packet. Mr. Joshua said that the project was intended to complete the necessary ground work to develop a fully integrated corridor traffic management system along a heavily traveled freeway/arterial corridor in the MAG Region. Mr. Joshua explained the concept of an integrated corridor, which involves the coordination of traffic signalization between a freeway corridor and adjacent arterials and paralleling neighborhoods. Mr. Jeff Martin addressed the Committee, and stated that to his knowledge, the City of Mesa was doing something similar to the integrated corridor concept. Mr. Joshua informed the Committee that the Mesa project referred to by Mr. Martin was a smaller application of adaptive traffic signalization.

Mr. Joshua informed the Committee that the MAG Regional Concept of Transportation Operations, approved by the MAG Regional Council in January 2004, set a three-year regional goal to develop one fully integrated freeway-arterial corridor and a five-year goal to develop three such corridors in the region. He also informed those in attendance that the MAG ITS Committee identified three potential corridors in the region that could be potential locations to site a pilot project. These corridors included US-60, I-17 or the Loop 101 Pima Freeway. Mr. Joshua informed the Committee that this was one of nine national initiatives being advocated by the U.S. Department of Transportation, and then distributed a handout on Integrated Corridor Management initiatives from the U.S. Department of Transportation's website. Further discussion followed, and Mr. Joshua informed the Committee that if MAG were to implement a pilot project with the \$200,000 request, then MAG would be in a better position to receive future Federal funds to site future corridors in the region. There were no further questions for Mr. Joshua.

Mr. Anderson then addressed the *Internal Truck Travel Survey* (\$350,000), which would involve a stratified sample survey of employers in an effort to obtain data on truck travel patterns throughout the region. Mr. Anderson stated that at present, the region lacked quality data on internal truck movements. Mr. Anderson said that this project would assist in strengthening the truck component of the regional traffic model, and would also help users of the MAG traffic model to guide their decisions in designing new facilities, and to upgrade existing streets and highways. Discussion followed concerning project methodology; the need to confirm truck routes; whether other communities had done similar studies at a

municipal level; and whether the project as specified was a worthwhile effort.

Mr. Anderson then addressed the next proposed project, which was the *10-Year Strategic Plan for an Elderly Friendly Regional Transportation System* (\$250,000). Mr. Anderson informed the Committee that the purpose for this study was to develop a strategic plan that would make the regional transportation system safer and more accessible for older residents. Discussion followed, and Mr. Sarath Joshua responded to a number of questions pertaining to the tangible benefits that would come from the study; concerns about costs; and examples of other areas around the country that were benefitting from such projects. Mr. Joshua offered examples of ongoing efforts in the states of Florida and Michigan. Further discussion then followed, and Chairperson Dolan suggested that MAG Staff conduct a comprehensive Internet search in order to further investigate the benefits and measurable outcomes of such studies. Mr. Joshua informed the Committee that plans were underway to hold a joint meeting in March of 2005, between the MAG Transportation Safety Committee and the Elderly Mobility Stakeholders Group to discuss the subject. He also stated that arrangements are being made to have someone from the Florida Department of Transportation speak at this meeting via videoconferencing.

Mr. Anderson then addressed the final project in Attachment Four of the MAG Agenda Packet. He addressed the *Arterial Life Cycle Program Database* (\$100,000), which would be utilized to maintain and analyze data for the implementation of the Arterial Life Cycle Program. Mr. Anderson informed those in attendance that this project would be funded from monies collected as part of the half-cent sales tax extension. Mr. Anderson stated that this project may be delayed, but that it was important to have it open for discussion at this time. Mr. Terry Johnson addressed the Committee, and stated that he agreed that this project was necessary, but was concerned over a stated emphasis on Geographic Information Systems. He suggested that it may be necessary to focus more on the financial aspect of the model in order to make it responsive and effective over the course of the 20-year planning horizon.

Mr. Anderson stated that this concluded his presentation on the Work Program and asked those in attendance if they had any more questions, comments or concerns. Mr. Carlos De Leon said that he would like to see a comprehensive study, or ITS plan that assesses all three modes. Mr. Johnson addressed the Committee, and stated that it may be beneficial for MAG Staff to assess the allocations for transit centers and park-and-ride facilities, and to further analyze corridors such as the I-17 and the western section of I-10. Mr. Anderson informed those in attendance that this item can be brought back to the Committee for further discussion in the future. There were no further questions, and this concluded Mr. Anderson's presentation.

11. Next Meeting Date

Chairperson Dolan informed members in attendance that the next meeting of the Committee would be held on February 24, 2005. There being no further business, Chairperson Dolan adjourned the meeting at 11:34 p.m.