

DRAFT MINUTES OF THE  
MARICOPA ASSOCIATION OF GOVERNMENTS  
TRANSPORTATION REVIEW COMMITTEE

April 27, 2006

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

MEMBERS ATTENDING

Maricopa County: Mike Ellegood,  
Chairperson

ADOT: Dan Lance

#Avondale: David Fitzhugh

Chandler: Patrice Kraus

\*El Mirage: B.J. Cornwall

Fountain Hills: Randy Harrel

\*Gila Bend: Lynn Farmer

Gilbert: Tami Ryall

Glendale: Terry Johnson

Goodyear: Cato Esquivel

\*Guadalupe: Jim Ricker

Litchfield Park: Mike Cartsonis

Mesa: Patrick Pittenger for Jim Huling

\*Paradise Valley: Robert M. Cicarelli

Peoria: Chris Kmotty for David Moody

Phoenix: Tom Callow

\*Queen Creek: Mark Young

RPTA: Bob Antila for Bryan Jungwirth

\*Scottsdale: Mary O'Connor

Surprise: Randy Overmyer

\*Tempe: Carlos De Leon

+Wickenburg: Shane Dille

Valley Metro Rail: John Farry

EX-OFFICIO MEMBERS ATTENDING

\*Regional Bicycle Task Force: Randi Alcott,  
RPTA

\*Street Committee: Darryl Crossman, City  
of Litchfield Park

\*Pedestrian Working Group: Eric Iwersen,  
City of Tempe

\*ITS Committee: Alan Sanderson

\* Members neither present nor represented by proxy. + - Attended by Videoconference  
# - Attended by Audioconference

OTHERS PRESENT

Eric Anderson, MAG

Ken Hall, MAG

Paul Ward, MAG

Roger Herzog, MAG

Eileen O'Connell, MAG

Steve Tate, MAG

Bob Hazlett, MAG

Sarath Joshua, MAG

Jeff Romaine, MAG

Clemenc Ligoeki, MCDOT

Bob Maki, City of Surprise

Kwi-Kang Sung, ADOT

Joe Hughes, AGC

Tom Remes, City of Phoenix

Darry Crossman, City of El Mirage

Doug McCants, PBS&J

Mike Connors, HDR

John Pein, ADOT

1. Call to Order

Chairperson Mike Ellegood called the meeting to order at 10:00 a.m.

2. Approval of March 23, 2006 Draft Minutes

Addressing the first order of business, Mr. Ellegood asked if there were any changes or amendments to the meeting minutes. Mr. Dan Lance moved to approve the minutes as presented. Mr. Patrick Pittenger seconded, and the minutes were subsequently approved by unanimous voice vote of the Committee.

3. Call to the Audience

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

4. Transportation Director's Report

Mr. Ellegood introduced Mr. Eric Anderson, MAG Transportation Director, to provide the Transportation Director's report. Mr. Anderson addressed the Committee and informed those in attendance that sales tax revenues for March of 2006 were up by 15.5 percent, compared with March of 2005. He also stated that the total year-to-date growth rate in tax collections increased to 16.8 percent, which is a figure approximately 8.0 percent higher than what was originally forecast. Mr. Anderson said that the region was experiencing an ongoing 15-month trend in steady sales tax collections.

Mr. Anderson then provided a brief overview of the South Mountain Loop 202 Freeway, and stated that ADOT was in the process of identifying a preferred alignment. He noted that the Citizen Advisory's Group for the South Mountain Corridor Study would be forwarding a formal recommendation for the preferred alignment. Mr. Anderson also informed the Committee that the proposal to accelerate the widening of I-10 from Loop 101 to Loop 303 in the West Valley was approved last night by the MAG Regional Council.

Mr. Anderson then informed the Committee that MAG had recently sent a letter to ADOT to express their concern over a possible decision which would allow hybrid vehicles to operate legally within freeway High Occupancy Vehicle (HOV) lanes during periods of peak hour traffic. Mr. Anderson said that this was not a good idea to allow exceptions for certain types of vehicles, and was concerned over the concept of allowing a non-car pool vehicle in a HOV lane. He stated that many HOV lanes on the regional freeway system are currently operating at Level of Service (LOS) E and F, and that HOV lanes are intended to promote car pooling, and to alleviate regional freeway congestion during peak hour traffic periods.

Mr. Anderson then answered several questions from the Committee pertaining to the HOV lanes. Discussion followed pertaining to the widening of I-10 in the West Valley. Mr. Ellegood stated that the passage of the I-10 acceleration project in the West Valley was the direct result of outstanding regional cooperation, coordination and leadership, and recognized the tremendous level of support throughout the region. There were no additional questions or comments, and this concluded Mr. Anderson's report to the Committee.

5. Proposed Amendment and Administrative Adjustment to the FY 2006-2010 Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) for Highway Projects

Addressing the next order of business, Mr. Ellegood introduced Mr. Paul Ward, MAG Transportation Programming Manager, to provide an update of the Proposed Amendment and Administrative Adjustment to the FY 2006-2010 TIP for highway projects. Mr. Ward stated that a Revised Agenda for Item #5 had been sent out to members of the Committee on April 25, 2006, in the form of a Memorandum, which included the most current revisions. Mr. Ward stated that the old agenda item, included in the packet that was mailed to the Committee, called for an “Administrative Adjustment” only; whereas the revised item calls for both an “Administrative Adjustment” and an “Amendment.”

Mr. Ward then called the Committee’s attention to revised Tables One and Two, and stated that the Arizona Department of Transportation (ADOT) has requested funding changes to four freeway interchange construction projects. Mr. Ward said that ADOT is combining two of the four projects, which will result in a total of three projects. He informed the Committee that an amendment would not be required, and that this change would instead only require an adjustment. Mr. Ward stated that this was primarily due to the fact that the four construction projects were already listed within the FY 2006-2010 TIP, and that any material cost changes have already been approved by the MAG Regional Council. He also stated that air quality conformity would not be affected.

Mr. Ward also informed the Committee that the Federal Highway Administration (FHWA), through ADOT, has requested the addition of two environmental studies along I-10, which are located between Loop 101 (Aqua Fria Freeway) and Loop 303, and between Loop 303 and State Route 85. Mr. Ward said that the environmental studies were programmed for FY 2006.

Mr. Ward called the Committee’s attention to Table One, and stated that the I-10 Loop 101 to 303 Environmental Study for \$1.0 million, and the I-10 Loop 303 to SR 85 Environmental Study for \$2.5 million, were both listed in the “Local Cost” column, when in fact they should be moved to the “Regional Cost” column.

Discussion followed, and Mr. Ward informed the Committee that the suggested action for this agenda item would include a TIP Amendment to add the two environmental studies as requested by ADOT, and also include an Administrative Adjustment to change the funding on the four FY 2006 and FY 2007 ADOT freeway interchange projects. Discussion followed, and Mr. Ward answered several questions from members of the Committee. Mr. Tom Callow then moved to recommend approval of the Proposed Amendment and Administrative Adjustment to the FY 2006-2010 TIP for Highway Projects, to change the funding on the four FY 2006 and FY 2007 ADOT freeway interchange construction projects, to be combined into a total of three projects, and to add both environmental studies along I-10 as an Administrative Adjustment. Mr. Dan Lance seconded, and the motion was passed by unanimous voice vote of the Committee. There was no further discussion on this item, and this concluded Mr. Ward’s presentation to the Committee.

6. MAG Transportation Safety Committee and Safety Planning Program

Addressing the next order of business, Mr. Ellegood introduced Mr. Bob Maki, MAG Transportation Safety Committee Chair, to address the Committee and provide an overview of the MAG Transportation Safety Committee and Safety Planning Program. Mr. Maki informed those in attendance that during January of 2006 he attended the Transportation Research Board annual meeting in D.C., where MAG's efforts in safety planning were well recognized by experts and national leaders. Mr. Maki also said that while he was at the meeting he talked to many different representatives from other agencies who acknowledged that they don't have a program like the MAG Transportation Safety Planning Program. Mr. Maki said that the MAG Transportation Safety Planning Program is one of the leading programs in the nation, and is extremely proactive in creating a culture that strongly supports safety in Maricopa County.

In describing the background of the MAG Transportation Safety Committee, Mr. Maki stated that it was formed in September of 2004, and that the current membership consists of 24 members. Mr. Maki said that the Transportation Safety Committee meetings were held bi-monthly, and then described the Committee's roles and responsibilities. He said that the Transportation Safety Committee was responsible for incorporating safety into the planning process, and was also responsible for recommending and prioritizing projects and programs for limited federal funds. Mr. Maki then introduced and invited Mr. Sarath Joshua, MAG ITS and Safety Program Manager, to the podium to address the Committee.

Mr. Joshua thanked Mr. Maki for his comments, and informed the Committee that the Safety Planning Program at MAG is considered a model program for Metropolitan Planning Organizations.

Mr. Joshua spoke about the MAG Transportation Safety Planning Program and Transportation Safety Committee, and then provided a brief overview of safety projects and programs, which included a Regional School Crossing Guard Training in 2004, cosponsored with the City of Phoenix; a Safe Routes to School Workshop in 2005, cosponsored with the City of Phoenix; and a Regional School Crossing Guard Training, which is planned for the summer of 2006. Mr. Joshua informed the Committee of a recent significant accomplishment, which involved the development of the region's first Strategic Transportation Safety Plan. Mr. Joshua stated that this plan was officially adopted by the MAG Regional Council during October of 2005. He also highlighted a number of future projects and activities, which included the development of a Regional Transportation Safety Information Management System; the recommendation of safety projects by the Transportation Safety Committee for the MAG Region; initiatives and projects to improve elder mobility and safety; and safer access to schools and ITS applications to improve road safety. This concluded Mr. Joshua's comments to the Committee, and he asked those in attendance if they had any questions pertaining to the MAG Safety Planning Program, or questions pertaining to the MAG Transportation Safety Committee.

Mr. Michael Cartsonis of Litchfield Park commented that he was glad to see the issues of elder mobility, pedestrians, and bicycles being addressed by the Transportation Safety Committee. He emphasized the need for regional guidance on best practices for good neighborhood planning that would lead to a network of pathways that encourage walking and bicycling for trips of less than three miles.

Mr. Eric Anderson addressed the *Safe Routes to School* Program, and asked Mr. Joshua if there was discussion pertaining to the concept of future site planning for schools. Mr. Joshua informed the Committee that this is one of the criteria that is currently being discussed, and that one of the recommendations coming from the Draft Plan will address this very issue. He acknowledged the fact that when developers submit plans for the locations of schools, that they are not always the best place for them to be located. Discussion then followed concerning the locations of schools, and the process of planning sites for future educational facilities in the region. Mr. Joshua then addressed a number of questions pertaining to the criteria for recommending safety projects for the MAG Region. There were also questions regarding how the MAG Region would receive new SAFETEA-LU funding allocations for safety. Mr. Joshua informed the Committee that the region contains approximately 40 percent of all Arizona fatalities, and the MAG Region is estimated to receive about \$10 million for transportation safety improvements. There was no further discussion on this item, and this concluded Mr. Joshua's presentation to the Committee.

#### 7. Arterial Life Cycle Program (ALCP) Status Report

Addressing the next order of business, Mr. Ellegood introduced Ms. Eileen O'Connell, MAG Transportation Planner, to provide an update on the Arterial Life Cycle Program (ALCP). Ms. O'Connell called the Committee's attention to Attachment Two of the TRC Agenda Packet, which contained the ALCP Status Report. Ms. O'Connell also informed the Committee of the fact that she distributed a handout to those in attendance prior to the meeting. She stated that the handout was not mailed out as part of the Agenda Packet, and that it provided a detailed overview of ALCP financial information associated with the program. Ms. O'Connell stated that once every three months, MAG staff will address the Committee in order to present an overview of the ALCP Program. She said this would be done in order to provide updated information on recent changes to the ALCP, to provide information on the ongoing status of projects, and to also provide periodic updates on ALCP revenues and expenditures.

Ms. O'Connell informed the Committee that the ALCP Status Report includes changes to the approved October 26, 2006, ALCP; an update on ALCP projects; an upcoming ALCP schedule; and a Revenue/Financial section, which she handed out to those in attendance. Ms. O'Connell informed those in attendance that she has received several requests from member agencies to include a section within the Status Report that directly addresses construction costs as they relate to ALCP projects. Ms. O'Connell then called the Committee's attention to Status Report, and said that the tables provide a current, detailed update of projects throughout the region. Ms. O'Connell said that when MAG was in the process of developing the ALCP, which included the identification of projects, the cost burden was mainly on regional funds and member agencies had to ensure a local commitment of 30 percent. She noted that the cost commitment for many agencies has changed. While many jurisdictions remain close to a 30 percent local match commitment, in some cases, the percentage of local committed funds has risen to levels anywhere between 40 and 70 percent. Ms. O'Connell stated that MAG is aware of such increases, and is working closely with jurisdictions and the ALCP Working Group.

Ms. O'Connell completed her presentation, and asked if there were any questions from members of the Committee. Discussion followed pertaining to a number of topics concerning

rising construction costs, revenue collections, and revenue allocations between transit, arterials and freeways. Ms. Tami Ryall then addressed the Committee, and acknowledged that managing the Arterial Program has not been an easy task, and complemented Ms. O'Connell for all of her efforts throughout the process. There was no further discussion on this item, and this concluded Ms. O'Connell's presentation to the Committee.

#### 8. AGC Contractor Database

Addressing the next order of business, Mr. Ellegood introduced Mr. Joe Hughes, Senior Vice President of Marketing from the Arizona Chapter of the Associated General Contractors of America (AGC). Mr. Hughes informed the Committee that as a service to their owners and members, the Arizona Chapter of AGC has established a website link dedicated to the listing of highway, heavy and municipal utility construction projects that are currently available throughout Arizona. Mr. Hughes called the Committee's attention to the screen at the front of the room. He then accessed the Internet to a link at [www.bidsacrossarizona.com](http://www.bidsacrossarizona.com), and provided an overview of the site.

Mr. Hughes provided a tutorial on how to access current jobs throughout the state. He navigated through the site, and explained how to register on the service, how to sign in, and how to add, edit, or delete a particular bid. Following his overview of the site, Mr. Hughes answered a number of questions from the Committee. He explained that there was a disclaimer on the website that releases AGC of any liabilities. The Committee agreed that the website was a valuable method of getting more contractors to take a look at available projects, and were very supportive of AGC's efforts. There was no further discussion, and this concluded Mr. Hughes' presentation to the Committee.

#### 9. Member Agency Update

Mr. Ellegood asked members of the Committee whether they would like to provide updates; address any issues or areas of concern regarding transportation at the regional level; and asked whether any members in attendance would like to address recent information that was relevant to transportation within their respective communities. Mr. Patrick Pittenger then asked about the status of the Interim Closeout process of the Federal Fiscal Year 2006 MAG Federally Funded Program that was addressed by Mr. Paul Ward at the March 2006 meeting of the Committee. Mr. Eric Anderson explained that the item would be placed on the TRC agenda again in May of 2006, and that he anticipated the availability of anywhere from \$3.5 to \$4.5 million dollars. Mr. Dave Fitzhugh, via audio conference, stated that he was very happy with the recent decision to accelerate the widening of I-10 in the West Valley, and said that many communities shared the same sentiment. Mr. Ellegood concurred, and said that he has heard overwhelming support for the project and that communities are looking forward to getting the project underway. There were no additional member comments at this time.

10. Next Meeting Date

Mr. Ellegood informed members in attendance that the next meeting of the Committee would be held on May 25, 2006. There being no further business, Mr. Ellegood adjourned the meeting at 10:57 a.m.