

DRAFT MINUTES OF THE
MARICOPA ASSOCIATION OF GOVERNMENTS
TRANSPORTATION REVIEW COMMITTEE

December 14, 2006

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

MEMBERS ATTENDING

Maricopa County: Chris Plumb for Mike Ellegood, Chairperson	*Litchfield Park: Mike Cartsonis
ADOT: Floyd Roehrlich for Dan Lance	Mesa: Jim Huling
Avondale: Shirley Gunther for David Fitzhugh	*Paradise Valley: Robert M. Cicarelli
*Buckeye: Scott Lowe	Peoria: David Moody
Chandler: Mike Normand for Patrice Kraus	Phoenix: Don Herp for Tom Callow
*El Mirage: B.J. Cornwall	#Queen Creek: Mark Young
Fountain Hills: Randy Harrel	*RPTA: Bryan Jungwirth
*Gila Bend: Lynn Farmer	Scottsdale: Dave Meinhart for Mary O'Connor
Gilbert: Tami Ryall	Surprise: Randy Overmyer
Glendale: Terry Johnson	*Tempe: Carlos De Leon
*Goodyear: Cato Esquivel	*Wickenburg: Shane Dille
Guadalupe: Jim Ricker	Valley Metro Rail: John Farry

EX-OFFICIO MEMBERS ATTENDING

*Regional Bicycle Task Force: Randi Alcott, RPTA	*Pedestrian Working Group: Eric Iwersen, City of Tempe
*Street Committee: Darryl Crossman, City of Litchfield Park	*ITS Committee: Alan Sanderson

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

OTHERS PRESENT

Roger Herzog, MAG	Lynn Timmons, City of Phoenix
Ken Hall, MAG	Matt Clark, MAG
Paul Ward, MAG	Michelle Lehman, City of Surprise
Kevin Wallace, MAG	Kwi-Sung Kang, ADOT
Eileen Yazzie, MAG	Melissa Keckler, Goodman Schwartz
Mark Pearsall, ADOT	Bob Bohannon, Lima & Associates, Inc.
Scott Friedson, ADOT	Ken Withers, R.L. Banks & Associates
Jim Creedon, Landry/Creedon Associates	

1. Call to Order

In the absence of Chairperson Mike Ellegood, Mr. David Moody called the meeting to order at 10:13 a.m.

2. Approval of October 26, 2006 Draft Minutes

Addressing the first order of business, Mr. Moody asked if there were any changes or amendments to the meeting minutes. Mr. Randy Overmyer moved to approve the minutes as presented. Mr. Jim Huling seconded, and the minutes were subsequently approved by unanimous voice vote of the Committee.

3. Call to the Audience

Mr. Moody 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. Moody introduced Mr. Roger Herzog, MAG Senior Project Manager, to provide the Transportation Director's report. Mr. Herzog informed the Committee that Mr. Eric Anderson, MAG Transportation Director, was at a meeting in Tucson to discuss Statewide Transportation Acceleration Need (STAN) account projects. Mr. Herzog said that Mr. Anderson would provide the next Director's report at the January 2007 meeting of the TRC. Mr. Herzog informed those in attendance that the Regional Council approved a set of projects to be funded from the STAN account at their meeting on December 13, 2006, which will be forwarded to the State Transportation Board for approval. Mr. Herzog stated that these recommended projects by the MAG Regional Council included High Occupancy Vehicle (HOV) lanes on the Loop 101, from Baseline Road to L202; the construction of a partial interchange at Bell Road and the Loop 303; the construction of bridge structures at Cactus and Wadell Roads on the Loop 303; HOV lanes on the Loop 101 Pima Freeway from Tatum to Princess Drive; the purchase of Right-of-Way on the Williams Gateway Freeway from the Loop 202 Santan Freeway at Meridian Road; general purpose lanes on I-10 in the West Valley from Verrado Way to Sarival Road; and the addition of general purpose lanes on I-17 from Anthem to the Carefree Highway. There were no questions, and this concluded Mr. Herzog's report to the Committee.

Mr. Moody then informed the Committee that Agenda item #11 (Revised Table of Proposed PM-10 Paving of Unpaved Road Projects for FY 2008 and 2009 CMAQ Funding) would not be heard at today's meeting. Mr. Moody stated that this item would be heard at the upcoming TRC meeting, which is scheduled to occur on January 25, 2007.

5. Approval of Consent Agenda

Addressing the next order of business, Mr. Moody addressed Agenda item #6 (Draft Public Participation Plan), Agenda item #7 (Proposed Amendment/Administrative Adjustment to the FY 2007-2010 MAG Transportation Improvement Program and FY 2007 Unified Planning Work Program for Transit and Elderly Mobility Projects), Agenda item #8 (Proposed Amendment/Administrative Adjustment to the FY 2007-2010 MAG Transportation Improvement Program for Highway and Transit Projects), Agenda item #9 (Proposed Administrative Adjustment to the FY 2007-2010 MAG Transportation Improvement Program for Arterial Life Cycle Program Projects), and asked whether any members in attendance had questions concerning these items. Mr. Randy Overmyer then moved to recommend approval of the Consent Agenda, consisting of items #6, #7, #8 and #9. Mr. David Meinhart seconded, and the motion was approved by subsequent voice vote of the Committee.

10. Programming of Projects for MAG Federal Funding in the 2008-2012 MAG Transportation Improvement Program

Addressing the next order of business, Mr. Moody introduced Mr. Paul Ward, who provided an update on the programming of projects for MAG Federal funding in the 2008-2012 Transportation Improvement Program (TIP). Mr. Ward called the Committee's attention to Attachment Five, and the updated table that was distributed to committee members prior to the meeting. Mr. Ward informed the Committee that by September 1, 2006, MAG had received a total of 66 project requests, which amounted to approximately \$66 million in funding. Of this amount, there was a total of approximately \$40 million in requests for federal funding, with only \$30 million in availability. Mr. Ward informed the Committee that the projects in the attachment were approved by each of the MAG Technical Advisory Committees, and consisted of Air Quality, Transportation Demand Management, ITS, bicycle and pedestrian projects. Mr. Ward stated that cumulatively, the Technical Advisory Committees recommended a total of 51 projects for the 2008-2012 MAG TIP.

Mr. Ward also called the Committee's attention to the revised table for Attachment Five, which replaces a City of Mesa ITS project in the amount of \$1.547 million with another Mesa ITS project for \$2.603 million in recommended funding. Mr. Ward also stated that there was a minor difference with two City of Scottsdale projects, which were not updated because the difference was only a very minimal amount of \$671. Discussion followed, and Mr. Jim Huling said that he would be interested in receiving a breakdown of the projects by mode. Mr. Huling asked Mr. Ward whether he noticed a modal shift over time in the amount and types of projects that were recommended for funding. Mr. Ward addressed the Committee, and stated that he had not noticed a difference, but could conduct an analysis of this information for the Committee at a future meeting. Mr. Huling requested such a breakdown for a future meeting. More discussion followed, and Mr. Terry Johnson moved to recommend the list of projects to be added to the FY 2008 to 2012 MAG Federally funded program. Mr. David Meinhardt seconded, and the motion was approved by subsequent voice vote of the Committee. This concluded Mr. Ward's report to the Committee.

12. Proposed Transfer of CMAQ Funds from a Peoria Intersection Improvement Project to a Bicycle/Pedestrian Project.

Addressing the next order of business, Mr. Moody introduced Mr. Paul Ward, MAG Transportation Programming Manager, to provide an update on the transfer of CMAQ (Congestion Mitigation and Air Quality) funding from a Peoria intersection project to a bicycle/pedestrian project. Mr. Ward informed the Committee that the City of Peoria has a CMAQ-funded project programmed in FY 2006 to improve the intersection of 83rd Avenue and Union Hills Drive. He said that the project was the second phase of an improvement that was originally started in FY 2004 and completed with local funding. Mr. Ward said that the City of Peoria covered the expense of the original project with their own funds, and is now requesting that the funds originally targeted for the second phase of the FY 2004 project be reallocated in order to continue improvements to a segment of the New River Multi-use Path, including two grade separations at Olive and Peoria Avenues. He noted that the multi-use path is part of the Agua Fria improvements, and that the city wants to exchange the funds to complete the New River path.

Discussion followed, and Mr. Jim Huling expressed his concern over moving money between modes, and questioned the type of process that this may establish. Mr. Huling said that he was concerned over this request, and was not prepared to vote on this item at today's meeting. He requested that MAG Staff should develop a set of policies or guidelines on how to proceed with future requests of this nature. Ms. Tami Ryall suggested that the Committee bring this item back for consideration at the January 2007 meeting, and that she would also like to see the closeout process and schedule in detail. Mr. Ward stated that this project was heard by the MAG Street Committee, and that a formal action on this item was not required at today's meeting. Mr. Don Herp stated that the City of Phoenix shared the same concerns expressed by representatives from Mesa and Gilbert. Mr. Huling and Ms. Ryall again questioned the type of precedent that the City of Peoria's request would set should the project be approved, and Mr. David Moody went on the record as saying he would not vote on it due to a conflict of interest. Discussion followed, and it was agreed to defer this particular item to the January 25, 2007 meeting. There was no further discussion, and this concluded Mr. Ward's report to the Committee.

13. Arizona Railroad Inventory and Assessment

Addressing the next order of business, Mr. Moody introduced Mr. Ken Withers, a consultant for the Arizona Department of Transportation (ADOT), to provide an overview of the State of Arizona's Arizona Railroad Inventory and Assessment. Mr. Withers stated that he was with the firm of R.L. Banks and Associates, Inc., which is based out of Washington D.C. Mr. Withers provided an overview of his firm, and then introduced Mr. Marc Pearsall from ADOT, and Mr. Rob Bohannon from Lima & Associates. Mr. Withers stated that the purpose of his presentation was to describe the existing rail network within the MAG commuter rail boundary, and to provide an overview of operations, ownership, track conditions, service frequencies, grade crossing issues, potential commuter rail facilities and present opportunities for shared use.

Mr. Withers stated that the consultant team conducted an inspection of all MAG railroad right-of-way during late May and early June of 2006, and also conducted an analysis of the entire MAG rail network. He then provided a photo tour of the MAG track network, and displayed images from the Burlington Northern and Santa Fe (BNSF) and Union Pacific (UP) Railroad networks, which included track areas, auxiliary infrastructure and facilities. Mr. Withers addressed the suitability of the existing rail infrastructure for the purpose of MAG commuter rail, and addressed issues associated with the need for secondary trackage; current width needs and right-of-way; and issues associated with single-track bridges. Mr. Withers then addressed grade crossing issues; provided an overview of existing passenger rail facilities; addressed the issues and feasibility of shared use between freight and commuter rail; and concluded by providing a list of preparations and mitigation factors that would need to be taken if commuter rail were operated over existing freight railroad facilities.

Discussion followed, and Ms. Tami Ryall indicated that this was the third major study for commuter rail within the MAG Region. Ms. Ryall suggested that MAG staff summarize a one page report for the existing studies, and present these to the Committee in the future. Mr. Withers then answered several questions pertaining to the power of condemnation, and the construction of additional tracks in existing right-of-way. There was no further discussion, and this concluded Mr. Withers' report to the Committee.

14. TRC Meeting Schedule for 2007

Addressing the next order of business, Mr. Moody called the Committee's attention to a listing of TRC meetings in Attachment Seven that were scheduled during 2007. There were no comments.

15. Member Agency Update

Mr. Moody 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. There were no comments.

16. Next Meeting Date

Mr. Moody informed members in attendance that the next meeting of the Committee would be held on January 25, 2007. There being no further business, Mr. Moody adjourned the meeting at 11:14 a.m.