

DRAFT MINUTES OF THE  
MARICOPA ASSOCIATION OF GOVERNMENTS  
TRANSPORTATION REVIEW COMMITTEE

May 24, 2007

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

MEMBERS ATTENDING

- |  |   |
|--|---|
| *Maricopa County: John Hauskins<br>ADOT: Dan Lance<br>Avondale: David Fitzhugh | *Litchfield Park: Mike Cartsonis<br>Mesa: Jim Huling                    |
| *Buckeye: Scott Lowe<br>Chandler: Patrice Kraus                                | *Paradise Valley: Robert M. Cicarelli<br>Peoria: David Moody            |
| *El Mirage: B.J. Cornwall<br>*Fountain Hills: Randy Harrel                     | Phoenix: Don Herp for Tom Callow<br>Queen Creek: Mark Young             |
| *Gila Bend: Lynn Farmer<br>Gilbert: Stephanie Prybyl for Tami Ryall            | RPTA: Bryan Jungwirth<br>Scottsdale: Dave Meinhart for<br>Mary O'Connor |
| Glendale: Terry Johnson<br>Goodyear: Cato Esquivel                             | Surprise: Michael Celaya for<br>Randy Overmyer                          |
| Guadalupe: Jim Ricker  | Tempe: Carlos De Leon<br>Valley Metro Rail: John Farry                  |

EX-OFFICIO MEMBERS ATTENDING

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

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

OTHERS PRESENT

- |  |   |
|--|---|
| Eric Anderson, MAG<br>Ken Hall, MAG<br>Roger Herzog, MAG<br>Bob Hazlett, MAG<br>Kevin Wallace, MAG<br>Bob Antila, Valley Metro RPTA<br>Steve Tate, MAG | Lynn Timmons, City of Phoenix<br>Matt Clark, MAG<br>Dean Giles, MAG<br>Kwi-Sung Kang, ADOT<br>Dana Tranberg, City of Glendale<br>Jonathan Lindsey, Fennemore Craig<br>Paul Ward, Olsson Associates<br>Jim Creedon, Landry and Creedon |
|--|---|

1. Call to Order

In the absence of Chairperson Tom Callow, Mr. David Moody called the meeting to order at 10:03 a.m.

2. Approval of March 29, 2007 Draft Minutes

Addressing the first order of business, Mr. Moody asked if there were any changes or amendments to the meeting minutes. Mr. Jim Huling addressed the Committee, and informed those in attendance that the March 29, 2007, minutes were incorrect. Mr. Huling said that the Draft Minutes identified him as the proxy for Mr. Mike James, when in fact he is the official representative for the City of Mesa. Mr. Moody noted that this change would be reflected by MAG Staff in the corrected minutes, prior to the next meeting of the Committee. Mr. Mark Young moved to approve the minutes as presented, with the understanding that the requested correction by Mr. Huling would be reflected. Mr. Bryan Jungwirth 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. Eric Anderson, MAG Transportation Planning 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 April of 2007 were up by 6.8 percent over the previous year, and that Year-to-Date (YTD) revenues were up by 7.4 percent. Mr. Anderson said that according to projections, there would be an 8.0 percent increase in revenues over the previous fiscal year. Mr. Anderson then informed those in attendance that the Arizona Department of Transportation (ADOT) is in the process of submitting a total of four material cost changes to adjust the MAG Regional Freeway Program. He stated that the cost changes are currently going through the internal ADOT committee review process, and that the changes would be ready for approval by the MAG Regional Council during June.

Mr. Anderson then informed the Committee that MAG would conduct a public hearing on the Draft FY 2008-2012 MAG Transportation Improvement Program, the Draft MAG Regional Transportation Plan - 2007 Update, and the Draft MAG Conformity Analysis on June 18, 2007, in the MAG Saguaro Conference Room. He noted that the purpose of the meeting is intended to receive public comments. Mr. Anderson also informed the Committee that MAG, in cooperation with the Federal Highway Administration (FHWA), is conducting a workshop on intersection design and the parkway concept on August 9, 2007. Mr. Anderson said that as a result of the *Interstate 10 - Hassayampa Roadway Framework Study*, there are findings that support the construction of parkways throughout areas of western Maricopa County, which are

based on the Michigan Median U-Turn Intersection concept. Mr. Anderson said that FHWA has recently issued a report on median u-turn intersections. Discussion followed, and Mr. Anderson said that MAG Staff would send out information on the meeting once the materials are completed.

Mr. Anderson then stated that MAG was beginning a solicitation process for noise mitigation projects throughout the region. He informed the Committee that MAG had about \$20.0 million to expend on future projects. Mr. Anderson said that MAG was in the process of identifying various noise mitigation project needs that exist throughout the region, and how to establish methods or procedures on how to move forward in a manner that would expend the existing funds in the most efficient manner. Mr. Anderson also informed those in attendance that at last night's meeting, the MAG Regional Council approved an action to delete SR 153 (Sky Harbor Expressway) from the Regional Transportation Plan (RTP), and to shift the available funding for improvements over to SR 143 (Hohokam Expressway). Mr. Anderson said that since the deletion of SR 153 from the MAG RTP constitutes a major amendment, the proposed change would have follow a statutory consultation process involving the State Transportation Board, the Citizens Transportation Oversight Committee (CTOC), the Maricopa County Board of Supervisors, the Regional Public Transportation Authority (RPTA), the Native American Indian Communities, and cities and towns throughout the region. He noted that materials for the consultation process would be sent out in the mail today. There were no questions, and this concluded Mr. Anderson's report to the Committee.

5. Interim Closeout of the Federal Fiscal Year (FFY) 2007 MAG Federally Funded Program

Mr. Moody introduced Mr. Eric Anderson, MAG Transportation Planning Director, to provide information on the interim closeout of the FFY 2007 MAG federally funded program. Mr. Anderson informed the Committee that Ms. Eileen Yazzie, Transportation Programming Manager, was on vacation and that he was covering this particular item for the meeting. Mr. Anderson called the Committee's attention to several handouts which were distributed to those in attendance prior to the meeting. Mr. Anderson informed the Committee that they received revised tables A and B for the closeout of MAG federal funds, and that they also received a memorandum from the Chairperson of the MAG Air Quality Technical Advisory Committee recommending Congestion Mitigation and Air Quality (CMAQ) projects for the Federal Fiscal Year (FFY) 2007 interim year closeout.

Mr. Anderson said that the items in revised Table A involved changes to projects in the cities of Glendale and Goodyear. He said that the City of Glendale project (#GLN07-310) on 63<sup>rd</sup> Avenue from Olive to Grand Avenue, involving \$316,300 in federal funds for the design and construction of a bicycle lane, was not being deferred. He also informed the Committee that the City of Goodyear requested that their project (#GDY-7-302) on Chandler Heights Road (from Rainbow Valley Road to a location one mile west) involving \$255,600 in federal funds, be deferred to FY 2008. Mr. Anderson said that the only changes occurring in Table B involved the inclusion of a column, which indicated the amount of additional federal funds being requested. Mr. Anderson then informed the Committee that the MAG Regional Council recommended the inclusion of \$5.0 million of MAG Federal funds to pave additional dirt roads and shoulders throughout the region, which were allocated from FFY 2007 unobligated funds.

Mr. Anderson said that MAG received a total of 32 project requests from agencies that wanted to defer their projects from FFY 2007 to FFY 2008 or later, totaling \$42.0 million in federal funding. He also noted that one agency requested the removal of federal funds from a project. Mr. Anderson informed those in attendance that MAG would also carry forward a total of \$19.0 million for the Arterial Life Cycle Program, and a total of \$3.0 million in funding for MAG planning to FFY 2008. Mr. Anderson said that this left a total of approximately \$13.8 million in funds that were available for the closeout. He said that of the closeout funding, there were \$3.5 million in project requests for additional funds; \$2.3 million in requests to accelerate projects; and \$3.5 million in requested federal funds for Valley Metro Rail. Mr. Anderson said that this left a total remaining balance of approximately \$4.4 million, which would be carried over to FFY 2008.

Mr. Terry Johnson addressed the Committee, and made a motion to reduce the City of Glendale's 63<sup>rd</sup> Avenue project at Loop 101 (for the construction of a multi-use overpass over the Loop 101) from \$1.3 million to \$800,000, and to increase Valley Metro Rail's Regionwide project (Construction activities for the Central Phoenix/East Valley METRO light rail transit project) from \$3.5 million to \$4.0 million. Mr. Jim Huling seconded the motion. Discussion followed, and Mr. Bryan Jungwirth noted that the process is out of balance, and that in a few years, the ongoing closeout process could face a substantial deficit in the millions of dollars. Mr. Anderson concurred, and said that by carrying over this year's \$4.4 million into FY 2008, that it would begin to alleviate some of the financial programmatic shortfall that has been building up over the last several years.

Mr. Jungwirth said that the Federal Government has been rescinding the Highway Trust Fund, and that it is actually running out of money and available funds for the mass transit account. Mr. Jungwirth stressed the importance on spending as much money as possible on light rail prior to 2009. Discussion followed on the Highway Trust Fund and whether the commitment to fund light rail can be carried out over the next few years. Mr. Anderson said that there are a lot of uncertainties, and believed that the projections for future funding have been somewhat conservative.

Mr. Moody revisited the motion entertained by Mr. Johnson, and addressed the status of the \$4.4 million in unobligated closeout money. Discussion followed, and Mr. Anderson said that it was always possible to carry over the balance, and when MAG received notice of the FFY 2008 Obligation Authority, the numbers could always be adjusted and brought back to the Committee for their consideration at that time. Mr. Moody asked for clarification on the motion, and Mr. Johnson stated that he moved to recommend the deferral of projects from FFY 2007 to FFY 2008 or later, to include the reduction of the City of Glendale's 63<sup>rd</sup> Avenue project at Loop 101 (for the construction of a multi-use overpass over the Loop 101) from \$1.3 million to \$800,000, with this available \$500,000 being used to increase Valley Metro Rail's Regionwide project (Construction activities for the Central Phoenix/East Valley METRO light rail transit project) from \$3.5 million to \$4.0 million. Mr. Huling seconded, and the motion was passed by a unanimous voice vote of the Committee. There was no further discussion, and this concluded Mr. Anderson's presentation to the Committee.

6. Draft FY 2008 Arterial Life Cycle Program

Addressing the next order of business, Mr. Moody introduced Mr. Eric Anderson, who provided an update on the Draft FY 2008 Arterial Life Cycle Program (ALCP). Mr. Anderson called the Committee's attention to Attachment Two at the back of the TRC Agenda packet, which included a Memorandum from Ms. Eileen Yazzie, MAG Transportation Programming Manager; a list of ALCP project changes from FY 2007 to FY 2008; and a table containing the FY 2008 ALCP. Mr. Anderson informed those in attendance that there was still some discussion concerning several East Valley bridge projects that were advanced within the program, but they did not pose an issue of concern. Mr. Anderson recommended that the Draft FY 2008 ALCP should be approved as presented.

Mr. Moody did not request a formal motion on this item, but instead took a formal vote on who was in favor of recommending approval of the Draft FY 2008 ALCP. All of the Committee members present were in unanimous favor of approving the Draft FY 2008 ALCP, and there were no dissenting votes. There was no discussion, and this concluded Mr. Anderson's presentation to the Committee.

7. Update on the Interstate 10-Hassayampa Valley Roadway Framework and Interstates 8 and 10 - Hidden Valley Roadway Framework Studies

Addressing the next order of business, Mr. Moody introduced Mr. Bob Hazlett, MAG Senior Engineer, to provide an update on the status of ongoing roadway framework studies. Mr. Hazlett addressed the Committee, and informed those in attendance that the *I-10 Hassayampa Valley Roadway Framework Study* (Hassayampa Valley Study) was initiated during May of 2006. Mr. Hazlett said that the Hassayampa Valley Study is in the process of being completed over the next several months. Also, he informed the Committee that the *I-8/I-10 Hidden Valley Roadway Framework Study* (Hidden Valley Study) was recently initiated in March of 2007, and is scheduled to be completed during August of 2008.

Mr. Hazlett provided a brief project history of the Hassayampa Valley Study, and said that the I-10 corridor to the west is a major cargo corridor for goods coming into the state from California. He informed those in attendance that the Hassayampa Valley region contained a total of 150 entitled planned communities, and has a projected build out population of approximately 2.5 million people. Mr. Hazlett said that given the increased traffic volumes from southern California, in conjunction with the high levels of current and projected growth in the West Valley, the study was needed to protect and preserve the I-10 corridor; to develop a comprehensive roadway framework for the preservation of future right-of-way; and to establish the location and spacing of transportation interchanges along I-10.

Mr. Hazlett said that the primary outcomes of the study would include the recommendation of future interchanges; the definition of high capacity corridors; the establishment of a principal arterial network; the development of a funding and implementation strategy; and the development of findings on the future role of alternative modes of transportation within the study area.

Mr. Hazlett then displayed a map of the study area, and informed those in attendance that the general study area for the region was bounded by SR 74 to the north, Loop 303 to the east, the Gila River to the south, and 459<sup>th</sup> Avenue to the west. Mr. Hazlett provided a brief overview of freeways, parkways and major arterial roadways throughout the region. He then addressed interchanges along the I-10 Papago Freeway, and stated that it was the study's intent to maintain a two-mile spacing of interchanges along the corridor, where feasible. Discussion followed, and Mr. Hazlett addressed alternative mode recommendations and preliminary network assessment.

Mr. Hazlett stressed the fact that future transportation facilities and connections within the study are only recommendations and subject to change, based on future planning, engineering, and environmental studies. He also noted that the recommendations were not funded, and that current revenue sources will not meet the future needs of the area. He addressed a variety of potential funding sources, or scenarios that could be utilized to pay for facilities in the future, and also informed the Committee that MAG will continue to work with the State Legislature to address future funding needs. Mr. Hazlett informed those in attendance that the study has recently been amended at the request of the Town of Buckeye, in an effort to study the access and geometry along I-10 from Johnson Road to Miller Road. However, he noted that the amendment would not change the project's completion date, which is scheduled for September 28, 2007. He then provided an overview of the public outreach component of the plan, and addressed the next steps to completing and implementing the Hassayampa Valley Study.

Mr. Hazlett then addressed the I-8/I-10 Hidden Valley Study, and displayed a map of the study area. He stated that the general study area was bounded by the Gila River and Gila River Indian Community to the north, I-10 to the east, I-8 to the south, and 459<sup>th</sup> Avenue to the west. He said that the study area included the communities of Buckeye, Goodyear, Avondale, Gila Bend, Maricopa, Casa Grande and Eloy; portions of Maricopa and Pinal counties; and the Native American communities of Ak-Chin, Gila River, and Tohono O'odham. Mr. Hazlett briefly addressed the need for the framework, which was very similar in nature to the Hassayampa Valley Study. He informed those in attendance that the Hidden Valley Study was just underway, and that the study was scheduled for completion by September of 2008. Mr. Hazlett announced a number of meetings associated with the study that have already occurred, and informed those in attendance that there would be a Developer's Forum scheduled for June 7<sup>th</sup> at Central Arizona College, located in the City of Coolidge. Mr. Hazlett then answered a number of questions from Committee members, and concluded his presentation. There was no further discussion on this item.

8. Update on the Building a Quality Arizona: Statewide Intrastate Mobility Reconnaissance Study

Addressing the next order of business, Mr. Moody introduced Mr. Bob Hazlett, MAG Senior Engineer, to provide an update on the *Building a Quality Arizona (BQAZ): Statewide Intrastate Mobility Reconnaissance Study*. Mr. Hazlett addressed the Committee, and informed those in attendance that over the past year, MAG has successfully established an ongoing dialogue with other Councils of Governments throughout the state in an effort to establish a long range transportation framework for Arizona. He again addressed the importance of the *I-10 Hassayampa Valley Roadway Framework Study*, and informed the Committee of how the study

established the groundwork for future framework studies. Mr. Hazlett then displayed a map of potential framework studies throughout Arizona, and briefly addressed MAG's involvement in the ongoing I-10 Hassayampa Valley and I-8/I-10 Hidden Valley roadway framework studies. Mr. Hazlett discussed the link between the existing and future framework studies, and the projected population growth throughout the state.

Mr. Hazlett stated that the primary purpose of the BQAZ Study is intended to identify opportunities and constraints to growth and population; to gather important data throughout the state; to develop a "high level" statewide travel demand modeling tool to identify transportation system infrastructure needs and their priorities; and to formulate a strategic implementation plan consisting of innovative policy recommendations, finance techniques, and project delivery and administration methods. He highlighted statewide cooperation and coordination between the Arizona Department of Transportation (ADOT); key business leaders in Arizona; the Governor's Office; Arizona legislative transportation committees; and the state's Councils of Government and Metropolitan Planning Organizations.

Mr. Hazlett then displayed a conceptual map of what statewide transportation corridors may look like in the future, and stressed the need for different regions to work together in an effort to collectively improve Arizona's quality of life and to assure sustainability. He said that the BQAZ Study is comprised of identifying and prioritizing short and medium-term transportation needs; establishing a strategic statewide implementation program; and developing a long range transportation, land use, and economic development strategy. Mr. Hazlett summarized his presentation by displaying a work schedule of the project, and informed those in attendance that the study would be completed prior to December 31, 2007. He also assessed the project outreach component of the study. There was no discussion, and this concluded Mr. Hazlett's presentation to the Committee.

9. 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.

10. Next Meeting Date

Mr. Moody informed members in attendance that the next meeting of the Committee would be held on June 28, 2007. There being no further business, Mr. Moody adjourned the meeting at 11:20 a.m.