

MINUTES OF THE
MARICOPA ASSOCIATION OF GOVERNMENTS
TRANSPORTATION REVIEW COMMITTEE

January 28, 2010

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

MEMBERS ATTENDING

Peoria: David Moody	Maricopa County: Clem Ligocki for John Hauskins
ADOT: Kwi-Sung Kang for Floyd Roehrich	Mesa: Scott Butler
*Avondale: David Fitzhugh	Paradise Valley: Bill Mead
Buckeye: Scott Lowe	Phoenix: Wylie Bearup for Ed Zuercher
Chandler: RJ Zeder for Patrice Kraus	Queen Creek: Troy White for Wendy Kaserman
El Mirage: Lance Calvert	RPTA: Bob Antilla for Bryan Jungwirth
*Fountain Hills: Randy Harrel	Scottsdale: Dave Meinhart
Gila Bend: Eric Fitzer for Rick Buss	Surprise: Nick Mascia for Vacant
*Gila River: Sree Samudrala	Tempe: Chris Salomone
*Gilbert: Tami Ryall	Valley Metro Rail: John Farry
Glendale: Terry Johnson	*Wickenburg: Rick Austin
Goodyear: Cato Esquivel	Youngtown: Grant Anderson for Lloyce Robinson
Guadalupe: Gino Turrubiarres	
Litchfield Park: Paul Ward for Woody Scoutten	

EX-OFFICIO MEMBERS ATTENDING

*Street Committee: Darryl Crossman, City of Litchfield Park	#Bicycle/Pedestrian Committee: Peggy Rubach, RPTA
ITS Committee: Debbie Albert, City of Glendale	*Transportation Safety Committee: Kerry Wilcoxon, City of Phoenix

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

OTHERS PRESENT

Eric Anderson, MAG	Ed Stillings, FHWA
Maureen DeCindis, MAG	Paul Ward, Olsson
Monique de los Rios-Urban, MAG	Joe Bowar, Phoenix
Dean Giles, MAG	Jorie Bresnahan, Phoenix
Roger Herzog, MAG	Ray Dovalina, Phoenix
Christina Hopes, MAG	Tom Remes, Phoenix
Nathan Pryor, MAG	Dawn Coomer, Tempe
Eileen Yazzie, MAG	Brad Lundahl, Scottsdale
John Dickson, ADOT	Troy White, Queen Creek
Bill Vachon, FHWA	Art Brooks, Strand Assoc.

1. Call to Order

Chairman David Moody from the City of Peoria called the meeting to order at 10:00 a.m.

2. Approval of Draft December 14, 2009 Minutes

Chairman Moody asked if there were any changes or amendments to the December 14, 2009 meeting minutes, and there were none. Mr. David Meinhart from the City of Scottsdale moved to approve the minutes. Mr. RJ Zeder from City of Chandler seconded the motion, and the minutes were subsequently approved by unanimous voice vote of the Committee.

3. Call to the Audience

Chairman Moody stated that he had not received any request to speak cards from the audience. Before proceeding to the next agenda item, Chairman Moody gave the floor to Mr. Meinhart for some brief remarks. Mr. Meinhart announced that Ms. Mary O'Connor, the former Transportation Director for the City of Scottsdale had passed away.

Mr. Meinhart acknowledged Ms. O'Connor's work ethic and achievements for the cities of Scottsdale and Tempe as well as for the MAG region. He expressed gratitude for Ms. O'Connor as friend and as supporter of transportation efforts in the region. In closing, Mr. Meinhart stated Ms. O'Connor would be sorely missed. Chairman Moody agreed with the sentiment.

4. Transportation Director's Report

Next, Chairman Moody invited Mr. Eric Anderson to provide the MAG Transportation Director's Report. Mr. Anderson informed the Committee that December revenues for the Regional Area Road Fund (RARF) has decreased 8.8 percent from the previous fiscal year (FY), and the year-to-date revenues were down 12.4 percent. He reported that December marked the 26 month of continuous decline in RARF revenues.

Mr. Anderson announced that the RARF revenue forecast for FY2010 was projected at \$315.3 million. He estimated that actual RARF revenue receipts for FY2010 would be closer to \$300 million. Mr. Anderson stated he did not believe that the Arizona Department of Transportation (ADOT) would revise the FY2010 forecast again before the major update in the Fall.

Mr. Anderson reported the Highway User Revenue Fund (HURF) continued to be soft. He stated that gas tax revenues stabilized in December adding that ADOT was optimistic that HURF revenues had stabilized overall. Mr. Anderson cautioned the vehicle license tax revenues, which comprised 20-25 percent of HURF funds, continued to be hammered by the drastic reduction in new car sales. He cited the causes for the decline, which included lower

valuations for older vehicles and a 60 percent decrease in new car sales from the peak a few years ago. Mr. Anderson stated the MAG was still looking for stabilization in revenue sources adding that HURF may start to stabilize, but that RARF revenues would not stabilize until the second half of the year, at the earliest.

Next, Mr. Anderson recapped the MAG Regional Council meeting from the previous evening. He announced that the Regional Council approved amendments and administrative modifications to the MAG Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) contingent on air quality conformity analysis and available funding from “ARRA II.” Mr. Anderson stated he would address “ARRA II” in a later agenda item. He added that President Obama referenced the “ARRA II” legislation in the State of the Union Address.

Mr. Anderson informed the Committee that federal grants for high speed rail had been announced. He reported the only grants awards in the western region were awarded to California and the Pacific Northwest and that a small amount of planning funds were awarded to New Mexico. Mr. Anderson stated that the Las Vegas to Los Angeles rail line did not receive any funding. He announced that the Western High Speed Rail Alliance, which MAG was a member, would continue their lobbying efforts on the subject.

Chairman Moody asked if there were any questions or comments about this agenda item. There were none, and this concluded the Transportation Director’s Report.

5. Consent Agenda

Addressing the next order of business, Chairman Moody directed the Committee’s attention to the consent agenda. He inquired if there were any questions or comments about the consent agenda item on the Regional Community Network Roles and Responsibilities. There were none. Mr. Zeder motioned to approve the consent agenda. Mr. Clem Ligocki from Maricopa County seconded the motion, and the consent agenda was approved by a unanimous voice vote of the Committee.

6. Project Changes – Amendments and Administrative Modifications to the FY 2008-2012 MAG Transportation Improvement Program

Chairman Moody invited Ms. Eileen Yazzie, MAG Transportation Programming Manager, to present project changes to the FY 2008-2012 MAG Transportation Improvement Program (TIP). Ms. Yazzie announced that a handout was at their places for review. She stated the project changes listed included four projects from ADOT and two projects from the City of Peoria.

Ms. Yazzie stated the two changes for Peoria were for projects programmed in the MAG Arterial Life Cycle Program (ALCP). She explained the modifications were fiscal adjustments that did not violate the ALCP Policies and Procedures or disturb the fiscal balance of the program. She added that MAG Staff had verified the fiscal constraint of the ADOT projects.

Mr. Eric Anderson clarified that the first two projects listed had been approved by the MAG Regional Council the previous evening. He stated that MAG Staff was currently running

conformity analysis on the projects.

Lance Calvert from the City of El Mirage motioned to approve the project changes, amendments and administrative modifications to the FY 2008-2012 MAG TIP as presented. Mr. Ligocki seconded the motion, and the motion was approved by a unanimous voice vote of the Committee.

7. Programming of Projects for MAG Federal Congestion Mitigation and Air Quality (CMAQ) Funding in the Draft FY 2011-2015 MAG Transportation Improvement Program

Chairman Moody invited Ms. Yazzie to present on the programming of projects for MAG Federal Congestion Mitigation and Air Quality (CMAQ) funding in the Draft FY 2011-2015 Transportation Improvement Program. Ms. Yazzie directed the Committee's attention to a series of handouts at their places, which included a memorandum and a five-page chart.

Ms. Yazzie recapped the Committee's actions from the previous meeting, which included approving a list of bicycle and pedestrian projects to receive CMAQ funding in the draft TIP. She stated the recommendation included an amendment to swap funds from Grand Canal Path at Thomas Rd with the Grand Canal Path at Indian School Rd, per the request of the City of Phoenix. Ms. Yazzie announced the amendment had been reflected in the revised handouts.

Ms. Yazzie reported that second amendment to the recommendation for Intelligent Transportation Systems (ITS) projects had also been updated in the revised handout. Ms. Yazzie recounted that the amendment was to fund all ITS projects proposed for the consideration, but to reduce the funding level from 70 percent to 62 percent to meet the amount of funds available. She explained that agencies were given the opportunity to either increase the local match to 38 percent or to reduce project scopes to meet the available funding levels.

According to Ms. Yazzie a third amendment to the recommendation was to fully fund the first eight paving of unpaved road projects with partial funding the ninth project located in Peoria. Ms. Yazzie announced that upon further analysis of the funds available for Air Quality/Transportation Demand Management projects that MAG Staff determined an additional \$391,000 in funding was available in 2013 for paving unpaved road projects. She explained that the additional funds allowed the ninth project to be fully funded and the tenth project, 67th Avenue in Peoria, to be partially funded.

Ms. Yazzie reported that the MAG Staff had coordinated with the City of Peoria regarding the available funding for the tenth project. She explained that the original request for 67th Avenue was for \$350,000. However, the City had reduced the project scope to meet the \$227,900 of federal funds available.

Next, Ms. Yazzie directed the Committee's attention to a series of handouts that reflected the three recommendations from the previous Committee meeting as well as the revised figures. A few members noted administrative errors in the handouts. Ms. Yazzie apologized for the errors and stated she would submit a corrected version to the Committee via email as soon as possible.

Chairman Moody asked if there were any questions about the agenda item. There were none. Mr. Calvert motioned to approve the funding as previously agreed upon by the Committee and subject to the technical corrections to the table by MAG Staff. Mr. Eric Anderson stated that MAG Staff would make the necessary technical corrections and email a revised version to the Committee. Mr. Meinhart seconded the motion, and the motion was passed by a unanimous voice vote of the Committee.

8. American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (ARRA) Monthly Status Report and Update on the Jobs for Main Street Bill

Chairman Moody invited Mr. Eric Anderson to present on the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (ARRA) Status Report and to provide an update on the Jobs for Main Street Bill. Mr. Anderson directed the Committee's attention to an ARRA Status Report handout at their places. He stated the report covered the status of ARRA funded projects as of January 19, 2010. Mr. Anderson announced that the majority of the projects had obligated and that ADOT had informed MAG Staff that the remaining project would obligate by the established deadlines.

Mr. Zeder inquired about the requirements for bid documentation. He stated that City Staff had received conflicting information from ADOT and FHWA regarding the requirements. Mr. Zeder added that the confusion had caused delays in the obligation of project. Mr. Anderson asked Mr. Ed Stillings from FHWA to address Mr. Zeder's concerns. Mr. Stillings stated that Mr. Bill Vachon at FHWA would be a better individual to address these concerns. A brief discussion followed. Mr. Anderson stated that MAG Staff would coordinate with Mr. Vachon on the issues presented.

Moving on, Mr. Anderson provided a summary of US House of Representative Bill (HB) 2487, unofficially referred to as ARRA II. Mr. Anderson stated that HB 2487, named the Jobs for Main Street Bill, was slated to appear before the US Senate in the next few weeks. He informed the Committee that President Obama had referenced the bill during his first State of the Union address the previous evening. Mr. Anderson stated the during the address, President Obama encouraged the US Senate to move quickly and approve the bill for signature. Mr. Anderson stated there was a lot of pressure on the US Congress to approve the bill to stimulate the economy prior to the midterm elections.

Mr. Anderson reported that HB 2487 passed by a voted of 217 to 212 and was similar to the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (ARRA). He stated the HB allocated \$27.5 billion in funding for highways and streets and allocated \$8.4 billion in funding for transit. Mr. Anderson explained the reporting requirements for HB 2487 were consistent with the current ARRA requirements.

Mr. Anderson announced that the spending time frame for HB 2487 differed from ARRA. He stated that 50 percent of all funds must be under contract within 90 days, regardless of mode. He contrasted the spending time frame with ARRA, which required 50 percent of State Highway funds to obligate within 120 days and 50 percent of transit funds to obligate within 180 days. He reported that project eligibility was consistent between HB 2487 and ARRA.

Mr. Anderson informed the Committee that the funding allocation in the HB and Senate version differed. According to Mr. Anderson, the funding allocations in the Senate version were roughly half of the allocations proposed in the House version. He emphasized the key difference between ARRA and the draft bill, which required projects to be under contract within 90 days. Mr. Anderson stated he believed that the allocations to the MAG region would likely follow suit with the ARRA funding. He expressed concerns about the State Transportation Board not allocating sufficient funds to the MAG region.

Next, Mr. Anderson announced that MAG Staff had been coordinating with ADOT on potential highway projects for consideration if the bill was enacted. Mr. Anderson stated that the previous evening, the MAG Regional Council had approved to amend the MAG TIP to include two Proposition 400 projects to receive the funds contingent on approval of the bill and air quality conformity. He explained the projects included a design-build project on the Santan Freeway from I-10 to approximately Gilbert Road, including the ramp connections at I-10 and L101 (\$146 million), and a design-build project for L101 to complete the HOV lanes and other improvements from Tatum Boulevard to the junction with I-10 (\$139.5 million). A brief discussion followed.

Chairman Moody asked if there were any additional questions or comments. There were none, and this concluded the agenda item.

9. Request for Future Agenda Items

Chairman Moody inquired if the members had any topics or issues of interest they would like to have considered for discussion at a future Committee meeting. Mr. Scott Lowe from the Town of Buckeye requested a presentation from the MAG Air Quality Staff regarding progress in the region. Mr. Meinhart expressed concerns about the implementation of ITS measures, such as ramp metering during holidays, which did not experience the same level of congestion as peak hour performance on traditional work days. He requested that the MAG Staff add an item either to the TRC agenda or request that MAG Staff add the item to a future meeting of the ITS Committee.

10. Member Agency Update

Chairman Moody asked members of the Committee if they would like to provide updates, address any issues or concerns regarding transportation at the regional level, and asked if any members in attendance would like to address recent information that was relevant to transportation within their respective communities. There were none.

11. Next Meeting Date

Chairman Moody informed members in attendance that the next regularly scheduled meeting of the Committee would be held on February 25, 2010. There be no further business, Chairman Moody adjourned the meeting at 10:35 p.m.