

MINUTES OF THE
MARICOPA ASSOCIATION OF GOVERNMENTS
TRANSPORTATION REVIEW COMMITTEE

February 25, 2010

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

MEMBERS ATTENDING

Peoria: Andy Granger for David Moody
ADOT: Steve Hull for Floyd Roehrich
Avondale: David Fitzhugh
Buckeye: Scott Lowe
Chandler: RJ Zeder for Patrice Kraus
#El Mirage: Pat Dennis for Lance Calvert
Fountain Hills: Randy Harrel
*Gila Bend: Eric Fitzer
Gila River: Sreedevi Samudrala for Doug
Torres
Gilbert: Michelle Gramley for Tami Ryall
Glendale: Terry Johnson
Goodyear: Cato Esquivel
Guadalupe: Gino Turrubiarres
Litchfield Park: Paul Ward for Woody
Scoutten

Maricopa County: Mike Sabatini for John
Hauskins
Mesa: Jeff Martin for Scott Butler
Paradise Valley: Bill Mead
Phoenix: Wylie Bearup for Ed Zuercher
*Queen Creek: Wendy Kaserman
RPTA: Bob Antilla for Bryan Jungwirth
Scottsdale: Dave Meinhart
Surprise: Bob Beckley for vacant
Tempe: Jyme Sue McClaren for
Chris Salomone
Valley Metro Rail: Wulf Grote for John
Farry
*Wickenburg: Rick Austin
Youngtown: Grant Anderson for Lloyce
Robinson

EX-OFFICIO MEMBERS ATTENDING

Street Committee: Dan Cook, City of
Chandler
*ITS Committee: Debbie Albert

Bicycle/Pedestrian Committee: Peggy
Rubach, RPTA
*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
Alice Chen, MAG
Maureen DeCindis, MAG
Roger Herzog, MAG
Tim Strow, MAG
Kevin Wallace, MAG
Steve Tate, MAG
Bob Hazlett, MAG
Patty Camacho, MAG
Monique de los Rios Urban, MAG
Roger Roy, MAG

Ed Stillings, FHWA
Kerri Morey, ADOT
Scott Miller, HDR
Clemenc Ligocki, MCDOT
Ray Dovalina, Phoenix
Dawn Coomer, Tempe
Jeanne Sapon, Sundt
Jenna Goad, Glendale
Charles Griffith, Ritoch-Powell
Rosa Olivas, Ritock-Powell

1. Call to Order

Vice-Chairman David Meinhart from the City of Scottsdale called the meeting to order at 10:00 a.m.

2. Approval of Draft January 28, 2010 Minutes

Vice-Chairman Meinhart asked if there were any changes or amendments to the January 28, 2010 meeting minutes, and there were none. Mr. Mike Sabatini from Maricopa County moved to approve the minutes. Mr. Gino Turrubiarres from the Town of Guadalupe seconded the motion, and the minutes were subsequently approved by unanimous voice vote of the Committee.

3. Call to the Audience

Vice-Chairman Meinhart stated that he had not received any request to speak cards from the audience and moved onto the next item on the agenda.

4. Transportation Director's Report

Next, Vice-Chairman Meinhart invited Mr. Eric Anderson to provide the MAG Transportation Director's Report. Mr. Anderson informed the Committee that January revenues for the Regional Area Road Fund (RARF) has decreased 10.1 percent from the previous fiscal year (FY) and that year-to-date revenues were down 12 percent. He reported that the RARF revenues continued to decline and had been down every month since October 2007.

Mr. Anderson recapped the MAG Regional Council meeting from the previous evening. He announced that the Regional Council had discussed the Transit Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) and the companion Senate Bill 1416, which the Regional Council recommended to move forward. He stated the Transit MOU was subject to the approval of the Valley Metro/Regional Public Transportation Authority (RPTA) and METRO Boards, which would hold the meetings on March 3, 2010. Mr. Anderson stated the MOU may be taken up for possible adoption by MAG in March.

Next, Mr. Anderson informed the Committee that the Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) had obligated the last projects in the MAG Region funded by the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (ARRA). Mr. Anderson thanked member agencies for their hard work. He stated that MAG and Arizona Department of Transportation (ADOT) would now focus on ARRA project bid savings. Mr. Anderson cautioned that because projects go out to bid regularly that it would be a challenge to ascertain bid savings as they occur.

Vice-Chairman Meinhart 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 item of business, Vice-Chairman Meinhart directed the Committee's attention to the consent agenda. He asked the Committee if there were any questions or comments regarding the consent agenda items: (5a) ADOT Red Letter Process or (5b) the ARRA Status Report.

Mr. Grant Anderson from the Town of Youngtown motioned to remove the ADOT Red Letter Process from consent. Vice-Chairman Meinhart acknowledged the motion and inquired if there were any concerns about the ARRA Status Report. Mr. Turrubiarres questioned what ARRA funds were addressed in the status report. Mr. Eric Anderson replied that the status report addressed ARRA funds approved by the US Congress in 2009.

Vice-Chairman Meinhart invited Mr. Grant Anderson to address his concerns about the ADOT Red Letter Process. Mr. Grant Anderson expressed concerns on why MAG would conduct the process for jurisdictions outside of the MAG Region, why the Red Letter Notifications were submitted to MAG, and what the approval meant. He and requested more information be made available regarding what actions ADOT had taken in response to the Red Letter Notifications. The Committee failed to second the motion to remove the item from consent and the motion failed.

Mr. Eric Anderson explained the agenda item was not for action, but for information and discussion. He stated the ADOT Red Letter Process was intended to provide early notification to MAG of potential development conflicts in corridors identified in the freeway program. Mr. Eric Anderson explained that if a potential conflict was identified that ADOT coordinated with the developer or entity to resolve the conflict.

Mr. Eric Anderson stated that the report was submitted semi-annually to MAG as indication of how well the process was working. Mr. Grant Anderson inquired if the process was working citing the report did not provide sufficient information as to ADOT's efforts when conflicts arose. Mr. Grant Anderson requested that a presentation be made to the Committee on the process. Mr. Eric Anderson replied that MAG would request ADOT provide the Committee with an update on what actions had be taken due to the Red Letter Notifications.

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

Vice-Chairman Meinhart invited Mr. Roger Herzog, MAG Senior Transportation Planner, to present project changes to the FY 2008-2012 MAG Transportation Improvement Program (TIP). Mr. Herzog announced that MAG had received requests to amend the FY2008-2012 TIP for freeway projects and a park-and-ride project. He explained the amendment was needed for these projects to proceed in FY 2010.

Mr. Jeff Martin from the City of Mesa motioned to approve the project changes to the FY 2008-2012 MAG TIP as presented. Mr. Sabatini seconded the motion, and the motion was

approved by a unanimous voice vote of the Committee. Before proceeding to the next agenda item, Vice-Chairman Meinhart acknowledged that Ms. Pat Dennis from the City of El Mirage has joined the meeting via audio conference.

7. Regional Transit Framework Study

Next, Vice-Chairman Meinhart invited Mr. Kevin Wallace from MAG to present the Regional Transit Framework Study (Framework). Mr. Wallace announced that the item was on the agenda for information, discussion, and possible action adding that the MAG Transit Committee had recommended the Framework for approval earlier in the month.

Mr. Wallace stated that MAG has developed a Regional Transit Framework cooperatively with MAG Member Agencies, RPTA, and METRO. He explained the intent of the Framework was to identify regional transit needs beyond the Regional Transportation Plan (RTP) time frame. Mr. Wallace stated that the Framework was a technical document, not a policy document, and as such, would act as a tool to guide policymakers. He reported that the Framework would provide decision-makers with a comprehensive perspective on the costs, schedules, trade-offs, impacts, and policy implications of three distinct transit investment scenarios for year 2030 adding that the Framework also defined more conceptual transit needs for year 2050.

Then, Mr. Wallace summarized the three scenarios analyzed in the Framework. He stated that Scenario 1 reviewed current funding levels to 2030, but did not address deficiencies in the transit system. Mr. Wallace explained that Scenario 2 focused on high capacity transit options in the central region with express bus service connecting the outer region. He stated that Scenario 2 was comparable to the average investment of peer cities and would address most existing deficiencies; however, the scenario would not address future/growth deficiencies. Mr. Wallace informed the Committee that Scenario 3 would aggressively expand bus and high capacity transit options throughout the region in a way that was comparable to City of Seattle's level of investment in transit stating that under the scenario most deficiencies would be addressed.

Next, Mr. Wallace discussed future planning actions identified in the Framework. He stated the Framework identified the need to (1) establish a regional transit foundation; (2) develop a Regional Transit Implementation Plan; (3) identify regional transit revenue opportunities; (4) conduct a Regional Park-and-Ride Opportunities Study; (5) conduct a Regional Operations and Maintenance Facilities Study; (6) perform additional transit corridor studies; and (7) focus on alternative land use scenarios and Transit Oriented Development (TOD).

In closing, Mr. Wallace reiterated the Regional Transit Framework was on the agenda for approval. He offered to address any questions regarding the Framework and requested the Committee:

1. Accept the findings of the Regional Transit Framework as the public transportation framework for the MAG region;
2. Accept the Illustrative Transit Corridors Map for inclusion as unfunded regional transit illustrative corridors in the Regional Transportation Plan; and,
3. Recommend future planning actions identified in the study for consideration through the MAG Unified Planning Work Program process.

Vice-Chairman Meinhart acknowledged the efforts of MAG Staff and others in conducting the Framework. He inquired if there were any questions about the agenda item. Mr. Grant Anderson asked if there were any metrics for the existing transit framework and transportation system in the region. Specifically, Mr. Grant Anderson expressed interest in congestion reduction and enhanced economic development.

Mr. Wallace replied that the RPTA Transit Life Cycle Program (TLCP) did address some metrics acknowledging that additional work could be done in the future. Discussion followed regarding existing light rail ridership statistics, transit investments compared to peer cities, and transit outreach to elected officials.

Ms. Jymie Sue McClaren from the City of Tempe suggested that the Framework's illustrative corridors map be clarified to indicate funded versus non-funded corridors. Mr. Turrubiarres harkened back to Mr. Grant Anderson's comments on metrics. Mr. Turrubiarres inquired what data was available to the Committee regarding how effective the Framework would be to implement as well as available data that would support the continuation of the Framework as a viable project. Mr. Turrubiarres also expressed concerns about the process for conveying to the elected and public officials the amount of funds allocated to these types of studies and projects. Discussion followed.

Mr. Martin motioned to approve the findings and recommendations identified in the Regional Transit Framework Study, which included accepting the findings of the Regional Transit Framework as the public transportation framework for the MAG region; accepting the Illustrative Transit Corridors Map for inclusion as unfunded regional transit illustrative corridors in the Regional Transportation Plan; and, recommending future planning actions identified in the study for consideration through the MAG Unified Planning Work Program process.. Mr. Wulf Grote seconded the motion.

Ms. McClaren requested the motion be modified to request the Framework's illustrative corridors map be revised to indicate funded versus non-funded corridors in the region. Mr. Martin agreed to modified the motion as requested, and Mr. Grote concurred. Vice-Chairman Meinhart requested a vote on the modified motion, and the motion was passed by a unanimous voice vote of the Committee.

8. Draft MAG Regional Transportation Plan (RTP) - 2010 Update

Moving on, Vice-Chairman Meinhart invited Mr. Roger Herzog, MAG Senior Transportation Planner, to present the Draft MAG Regional Transportation Plan (RTP) 2010 Update. Mr. Herzog reported that a 2010 Update has been prepared, as part of the continuing regional transportation planning process for the MAG Region.

Mr. Herzog stated that historically MAG had published updates to the RTP on an annual basis. Then, he acknowledged that MAG had not approved an official update to the RTP since 2007. Mr. Herzog attributed to the delay in updating the RTP on annual basis to the "Great Recession." He cited several factors including declining revenue collection, decreasing revenue forecasts, the passage of the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009 as

well as uncertainties in the future of the federal transportation program, which would be addressed in a later agenda item.

Mr. Herzog informed the Committee the 2010 RTP Update extended through Fiscal Year (FY) 2031 and included regional plans for freeways/highways, arterials, transit, as well as information on plans for other transportation modes in the region. He stated the 2010 RTP Update also discussed regional development patterns, revenue estimates, public involvement activities, system operations and safety, and other transportation programs.

Mr. Herzog announced that a public workshop and hearing would be conducted at MAG on March 19, 2010. He stated the workshop and hearing would allow the public to review and comment on the Draft 2010 RTP Update and the Draft FY 2011-2015 TIP before MAG Staff requested approval, contingent on the air quality conformity findings, later in the fiscal year.

Vice-Chairman Meinhart asked if there were any questions about the agenda item. Mr. Terry Johnson from the City of Glendale commented that additional attention should be paid to financial overview of the arterial component of the RTP. Mr. Herzog replied that a financial overview of the arterial street system was a component included in the RTP Update conceding that forecasting future revenues over a 20-year period was challenging. Mr. Herzog explained that the update focused on reasonably available funding sources in the future.

Vice-Chairman Meinhart inquired if Mr. Johnson's concerns pertaining the local funding sources. Mr. Johnson replied his concerns focused on all types of funding sources as well as meeting the federal financial plan requirements. Mr. Eric Anderson replied that the federal government had reviewed the financial components of the RTP, including capital and operational expenditures. Discussion followed.

Vice-Chairman Meinhart asked if there were any additional questions or comments about the agenda item, and there were none. The Vice Chair then announced that the Committee would hear agenda item #14 at this time, which was an action item and addendum to original agenda mailing.

14. Proposed Federal Economic Stimulus Legislation

Then, Vice-Chairman Meinhart invited Ms. Alice Chen, MAG Transportation Planner, to present on the proposed federal economic stimulus legislation. Ms. Chen informed the Committee that on December 16, 2009, the US House of Representative approved House Bill (HB) 2847, which would provide additional funding for infrastructure improvements to stimulate the economy. She stated that to-date, the US Senate had not taken up the bill, but was expected to do so in the immediate future.

Ms. Chen reported the timeline and likelihood of the bill passing was still unknown. She stated that if the bill did pass, the expectation was for a shorter time frame for spending funds compared to the provisions established by the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (ARRA). Ms. Chen explained that the new bill would likely require projects to be under contract within a 90-day period.

Ms. Chen stated that HB 2847 allocated \$27.5 billion to highways and \$8.5 billion to public

transit, which was similar to ARRA. She informed the Committee that the Senate version was anticipated to allocated approximately \$750 million less in funding than HB 2847 or ARRA.

Ms. Chen announced that MAG Staff had provided a presentation to the MAG Transit Committee regarding the proposed federal legislation. She explained that due to the proposed requirement that all projects be under contract with 90 days, MAG Staff was recommending to allocate proposed transit funding towards transit operations, preventative maintenance, ADA operations, and ADA preventative maintenance.

Ms. Chen recommended that the funding allocation methodology should follow the principles outlined by RPTA for applying project savings from ARRA, which would allocate the maximum amount towards operations. She continued, explaining the recommendation would divide operational funds according to costs and would allocate 13 percent toward rail and 87 percent towards bus operations. Ms. Chen also recommended that for allocation within each system that funds be distributed to rail based on track miles and to bus by revenue miles.

In conclusion, Ms. Chen reiterated the requested action, which recommended that upon passage of the proposed federal legislation and contingent on the 90-day under contract provision that all funds be allocated towards transit operations, up to maximum allowable; then towards ADA operations and preventative maintenance, up to 10 percent; and then preventative maintenance by applying the principles outlined by RPTA for project savings from ARRA funds; and to amend the FY 2008-2012 MAG TIP, as appropriate.

Mr. Turrubiarres expressed concerns about the agenda item. He stated that there were several jurisdictions in the region with viable projects that could meet the 90 day deadline and questioned why the action did permit viable non-transit projects. Mr. Turrubiarres stated that the Town of Guadalupe currently had shovel-ready projects available.

Vice-Chairman Meinhart requested clarification on whether the funds in question could be used on all modes or must be allocated to transit. Mr. Eric Anderson clarified that the requested action applied to transit funds included in the proposed legislation. He added that the highway funds in the proposed legislation has already been acted upon by the MAG Regional Council. Discussion followed.

Vice-Chairman Meinhart asked if there were any additional question or comments, and there were none. Mr. Jeff Martin motioned to approve the motion as presented, and Mr. RJ Zeder from the City of Chandler seconded the motion. Mr. Turrubiarres expressed additional concerns regarding the 90-day time frame. Mr. Grant Anderson suggested adding a caveat to the motion in the event that a 90-day under contract provision was not included in the approved legislation. He also questioned if any metrics were used when determining that funds should be allocated for operations by track/revenue miles. Discussion ensued.

Mr. Eric Anderson clarified for the Committee that a caveat was built-in to the proposed action before the Committee. Mr. Johnson and Mr. Grant Anderson voiced support for the motion as presented. Vice-Chair Meinhart reminded the Committee that a motion was before the Committee and called for a vote. The motion was approved by a voice vote of the Committee, with one no vote from Mr. Turrubiarres on behalf of the Town of Guadalupe.

9. Draft FY 2011-2015 MAG Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) - Interim Listing of

Projects

Moving on, Vice-Chairman Meinhart returned to the next item on the agenda and invited Mr. Roger Herzog to present the MAG Draft FY2011-2015 MAG Transportation Improvement Program (TIP). Mr. Herzog explained the current agenda item was a companion to the agenda item on the Draft RTP 2010 Update. He stated that the Draft TIP also would be subject to the workshop and public hearing scheduled for March 19, 2010.

Mr. Herzog reported that MAG Staff continued to refine the Draft TIP and encouraged member agencies that had not submitted project update to do so. Ms. Peggy Rubach, the representative from the Bicycle/Pedestrian Committee, inquired about the absence of bicycle and pedestrian projects in the Draft TIP project listing. Mr. Herzog replied that the final draft of the TIP would include bicycle and pedestrian enhancement projects.

Vice-Chairman Meinhart asked the Committee if there were any questions about the agenda item. There were none, and the Vice-Chair proceeded to the next agenda item.

10. Update on Federal Transportation Funding

Vice-Chairman Meinhart invited Mr. Eric Anderson, MAG Transportation Director, to provide an update on the federal transportation funding. Mr. Anderson announced that the US Senate had passed a Senate version of the HB 2847 earlier that week. He stated that additional stimulus funding for the transportation sector was not included in the Senate Bill (SB). Mr. Eric Anderson reported political analysis indicated that Senate intended on dividing the HB into separate pieces of legislation for approval.

Mr. Eric Anderson announced that the draft SB included an extension of the transportation reauthorization until the end of the current calendar year. He stated that current transportation activities were operating under a continuing resolution that was set to expire on February 28, 2010. Mr. Anderson explained that if Congress did not pass a continuing resolution by the end of the month, then FHWA and FTA would be on furlough and all federal funded projects would be halted. He stated that at the national level, some discussion had been held about passing a special bill to appropriate funding through the end of March for several programs, including transportation.

Continuing on, Mr. Anderson reported a provision of the draft Senate Bill would repeal the federal fund rescissions. He explained that in 2009, Congress enacted federal fund rescissions, which repealed portions of the previous appropriations and allocations. Mr. Anderson informed the Committee that ADOT received a rescission notice for \$171 million for federal fiscal year (FFY) 2009. He stated that the FFY 2009 rescission wiped out ADOT's available balances and unobligated authority. Mr. Anderson explained that because current funding was based on continuing resolutions that federal funding was 30 percent lower than it should be. Mr. Eric Anderson explained that if the situation was not resolved by the end of the federal

fiscal year that the State of Arizona would take a \$200 million reduction, if not more, in federal transportation funding. He stated that transportation funding discussions at the national level were getting wrapped up in discussion about the federal deficit.

Next, Mr. Anderson reported that MAG was waiting to obtain federal fund ledgers from ADOT. He stated that historically, MAG had given ADOT obligation authority on unobligated balances in the MAG Region to carry forward the balance of funds to the next FFY for obligation. Mr. Anderson explained that due to the extensive accounting activities at ADOT, the MAG had not received federal fund ledgers that would indicate the MAG Region's federal fund appropriations and obligation authority.

Mr. Anderson stated he would keep the Committee apprised of additional developments. Mr. Steve Hull from ADOT added that the Department was in the process of a final review of the ledgers before submitting the information to MAG. Vice-Chairman Meinhart asked if there were any comments or questions about the agenda item. There were none, and he proceeded to the next agenda item.

11. Request for Future Agenda Items

Vice-Chairman Meinhart 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. Wylie Bearup from the City of Phoenix inquired when the Committee should acknowledge that Mr. Bob Hazlett, MAG Senior Transportation Engineer, had received the Engineer of the Year Award for Arizona. The Committee acknowledged Mr. Hazlett's out-of-the-box thinking and lauded his efforts for the region.

Mr. Eric Anderson reiterated Mr. Grant Anderson's request to hear a presentation on the ADOT Red Letter Process. Vice-Chairman Meinhart asked if anyone else would like to propose a future agenda item. The Committee members did not, and Vice-Chairman Meinhart moved onto the next agenda item.

12. Member Agency Update

Vice-Chairman Meinhart 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.

Ms. Rubach reminded the Committee that April was Bike Month. She suggested that in March that the Committee acknowledge MAG as well as the cities of Goodyear, Phoenix, and Mesa for hosting the Bike Rodeo, the How-to-Helmet-Your-Head campaign as well as the helmets provided by MAG as part of the Safety Awareness Campaign.

Then, Ms. McClaren announced that the City of Tempe had conducted public hearings for the transit service reduction in the City. She stated that Tempe was facing a serious financial

crisis and expressed the likelihood of eliminating up to \$13 million in transit operations funding over the next three years.

13. Next Meeting Date

Vice-Chairman Meinhart informed members in attendance that the next regularly scheduled meeting of the Committee would be held on April 1, 2010. Mr. Grant Anderson requested the Committee change the next meeting date to accommodate individuals attending the Roads and Streets Conference. Mr. Eric Anderson stated that MAG Staff would review possible dates for the next Committee meeting and send out an announcement electronically. There be no further business, Vice-Chairman Meinhart adjourned the meeting at 11:35 p.m.