

DRAFT MINUTES OF MARICOPA ASSOCIATION OF GOVERNMENTS
TRANSPORTATION SAFETY COMMITTEE

January 26, 2010
MAG Cholla Room, 2nd Floor
302 North First Avenue
Phoenix, Arizona

MEMBERS ATTENDING

Roxanne Bravo for Linda Gorman, AAA
Arizona
Tom Burch, AARP
Kohinoor Kar for Reed Henry, ADOT
Shane Kiesow, City of Apache Junction
Brooke Neuman for Robert Gray,
Arizona State University
Margaret Boone-Pixley, City of
Avondale
*Martin Johnson, City of Chandler
* Lt. Jenna Mitchell, AZDPS
Jorge Gastelum, City of El Mirage
Karen King, FHWA
Kurt Sharp, Town of Gilbert
Chris Lemka, City of Glendale

Hugh Bigalk, City of Goodyear
*Chris Plumb, Maricopa County
Renate Ehm, City of Mesa
*William Mead, Paradise Valley
Jamal Rahimi, City of Peoria
Kerry Wilcoxon, City of Phoenix
George Williams for Paul Porell, City of
Scottsdale
Tracy Eberlein for John Abraham, City of
Surprise
Julian Dresang, City of Tempe (Chair)
Gardner Tabon, RPTA

OTHERS PRESENT

+Sanja Grujakovic, City of Mesa
Lazaro Veitia, City of Glendale
Jeff Boyd, ADOT
Mike Blankenship, ADOT
Lauren Neu, Stand Associates
Emmanuel Nelson, Kimley Horn
Associates

Richard Weeks, AECOM
Allen Barakovic, Jacobs
Sarath Joshua, MAG
Leo Luo, MAG
Kiran Guntupalli, MAG

+Teleconference

*Not present or represented by proxy

1. Call to Order

Chairman Julian Dresang called the meeting to order at 10:00 AM

2. Approval of October 27, 2009 Meeting Minutes

Kerry Wilcoxon moved and Margaret Boone-Pixley seconded and it was unanimously carried to approve the minutes of the meeting held on October 27, 2009.

3. Call to Audience

Chairman Julian Dresang made a call to the audience providing an opportunity to members of the public to address the Transportation Safety Committee. No public comments were received.

4. Program Manager's Report

Sarath Joshua reported on the following items:

- Preview of Highway Safety Manual
 - The Highway Safety Manual(HSM) is scheduled to be released later this year
 - Purpose of the HSM is to provide practitioners with information and tools to facilitate roadway design and operational decisions based on explicit consideration on their safety consequences.
 - The HSM is anticipated to be an effective resource to quantify and predict the safety performance of the variety of elements considered in road planning, design, maintenance, construction, and operation
- Meeting Schedule for 2010
 - Jan 26, 2010 10:00 A.M.
 - Mar 23, 2010 10:00 A.M.
 - May 25, 2010 10:00 A.M.
 - July 27, 2010 10:00 A.M.
 - Sept 28, 2010 10:00 A.M.
 - Nov 23, 2010 10:00 A.M.

5. Safe Routes to School Project Review

Sarath Joshua reported that in response to a statewide call for projects announced by the Arizona DOT's Safe Routes to School (SRTS) Program, public and non-profit agencies in the MAG region have submitted a total of ten project proposals. Seven of these proposals are for infrastructure projects and two for non-infrastructure projects and one from MAG, for materials and regional support program project. A complete set of these proposals were sent to each committee member for their review and ranking of proposals. Individual rankings from this review were combined to generate three composite committee rankings for the three project categories. The complete list of SRTS projects and the draft final outcome of ranking were shown on Attachment Three. Sarath Joshua also reported that per the State SRTS Advisory Committee's project selection process the MAG recommendation will be considered in making the final selection. The members of the committee felt that the composite rankings were adequate to make the recommendation to ADOT. **Renate Ehm from City of Mesa moved to recommend the three ranked lists of project as shown in Attachment Three: (1) SRT Infrastructure Projects; (2) SRTS Non-Infrastructure Projects; and (3) SRTS Material and Regional Support Projects, from the MAG region. Kerry Wilcoxon from City of Phoenix seconded and it was unanimously carried to approve motion.**

6. Programming of HSIP Allocation to MAG Region

Sarath Joshua reported that \$1million of Highway Safety Improvement Program (HSIP) funds for FY 2010 has been allocated to be used for safety improvement projects in the MAG region. Projects using these funds will be funded at the federal reimbursement rate of 94.3 percent, with the remaining 5.7 percent to be the local match. ADOT has provided further clarification and indicated that MPOs should begin programming FY2010 and future year projects in the TIP assuming that \$1million per year will continue. Mr. Joshua suggested that member agencies could perform the network screening and use ADOT Road Safety Assessments (RSA's) identifying and implementing the low cost Safety improvements and request ADOT for funding from ADOT for major improvements.

Kerry Wilcoxon from city of Phoenix suggested forming a working group to identify a detailed procedure and bring it to the Safety Committee for action at the next meeting. Chairman Julian Dresang requested volunteers from the committee to perform this task. Kerry Wilcoxon, Julian Dresang, Renate Ehm, Shane Kiesow and Karen King volunteered to serve in the Working Group. **The Committee agreed to table the action on this item until next meeting.**

7. Network Screening Methodology to Identify Potential High Risk Intersection Sites for Safety Improvements

Kiran Guntupalli reported that at the committee meeting held on October 27, 2009, a methodology that is currently being used by the Wisconsin DOT was presented. This methodology used Crash Frequency, Crash Severity and Crash Type factors in prioritizing the intersections. The committee suggested that identifying the top 100 crash locations in the region, using the Wisconsin DOT methodology should be modified to also include Crash Rates. A modified network screening methodology was developed that included crash rates and was applied ONLY to the Top 100 intersections that were previously identified using the Wisconsin DOT methodology. This analysis was performed for intersections crash data for the period 2006-2008. Attachment One explains the procedure in greater detail. **Renate Ehm from City of Mesa moved to recommend adoption of the proposed network screening methodology for identifying potential high risk intersections for safety improvements. Margaret Boone-Pixley seconded and it was unanimously carried to approve motion.**

8. Regional Transportation Safety Information Management System Phase-II Software Demo

Kiran Guntupalli demonstrated RTSIMS software user interface and the capabilities of the RTSIMS software. This software is currently be used only at MAG for performing various road safety analyses. This software utilizes the ALISS crash database for the MAG region. The next phase of this project will result in each MAG member agencies having on-line access to RTSIMS for performing various safety analyses using ALISS crash data pertinent to their jurisdiction. A user's manual and training on how to use RTSIMS for safety analyses will be provided by MAG.

9. Elderly Mobility Sign Evaluation Project

Sarath Joshua reported that a team of researchers at the Arizona State University (ASU) was hired by MAG to perform an evaluation of the safety impacts of Safety and Elderly Mobility sign project. Project staff person from ASU, Brooke Neuman, was introduced and she report on the results of this evaluation. Ms. Neuman explained the procedures used in evaluation process. She also presented the following study conclusions:

- Consistent with previous research on Clearview font signage there is improvement in recognition distance
- Consistent improvement on measures of driving performance and safety
 - Fewer turn errors
 - Changed lanes earlier
 - Drove closer to speed limit
- As accurate bloming effects were not simulated no consistent differences

between day and night driving was noticed when using the Clearview font.

- Measured improvements in driving safety are much greater than one might predict from making a passive judgment about the signs.

The study concludes that there are significant improvements to be gained in driving safety and mobility by using Clearview fonts on street name signs.

10. Road Safety Assessments (RSA)

The topic of RSA was introduced by Sarath Joshua and he stated that RSAs are a very useful tool in identifying safety improvements at priority locations. He stated that RSAs could be performed at no expense to the agency except for staff time. He then introduced Michael Blankenship ADOT's RSA Program Manager to the committee. Michael Blankenship made a presentation on ADOT RSA Program, RSA projects completed by ADOT and future intent of this program. Michael also passed around RSA applications to the committee members and explained the process of applying for RSA's in their jurisdiction.

11. Reports by the Committee Members on Transportation Safety Activities

Kohinoor Kar from ADOT reported that Reed Henry was transferred from Safety Section to Roadway Design section. Roxanne Bravo from AAA Arizona reported that they are working with elected legislators to introduce primary seatbelt law and strengthen child booster seat law. Karen King asked the committee members to email her if they are interested in attending NHI course of intersection safety which is offered for free to all focus states and cities. Shane Kiesow from Apache Junction reported that during holiday season batteries in the flashing lights near school zone got stolen. He advised the committee members to mount the batteries high enough that people can't reach them just by standing on the bed of their trucks. Chair, Julian Dresang, reported that the City of Tempe is installing two HAWK signals.

12. Request for Future Agenda Items

No agenda item requests were received from committee members.

13. Next Meeting

The next Transportation Safety Committee meeting is scheduled to be held on March 23, 2010 at 10:00 a.m. in the Cholla Room at MAG.

14. Adjournment

Chairman Julian Dresang adjourned the meeting at 11:55 PM.