

February 18, 2016

TO: Members of the MAG Regional Council Executive Committee

FROM: Mayor W.J. "Jim" Lane, City of Scottsdale, Chair

SUBJECT: **TELEPHONE CONFERENCE CALL MEETING NOTIFICATION AND TRANSMITTAL OF TENTATIVE AGENDA FOR A SPECIAL MAG REGIONAL COUNCIL EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETING**

Monday, February 22, 2016 - 10:00 a.m.
MAG Office, Suite 300 - Mesquite Room
302 North 1st Avenue, Phoenix

A special teleconference call meeting of the MAG Regional Council Executive Committee has been scheduled for the time and place noted above. Members of the Committee may attend the meeting either in person or by telephone conference call.

Please park in the garage under the building. Bring your ticket to the meeting, parking will be validated. For those using transit, the Regional Public Transportation Authority will provide transit tickets for your trip. For those using bicycles, please lock your bicycle in the bike rack in the garage.

Pursuant to Title II of the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA), MAG does not discriminate on the basis of disability in admissions to or participation in its public meetings. Persons with a disability may request a reasonable accommodation, such as a sign language interpreter, by contacting Denise McClafferty at the MAG office. Requests should be made as early as possible to allow time to arrange the accommodation.

If you have any questions regarding the Executive Committee agenda items, please contact Dennis Smith, MAG Executive Director, or Denise McClafferty, MAG Regional Program Manager, at (602) 254-6300.

**MAG EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE
TENTATIVE AGENDA
FEBRUARY 22, 2016**

COMMITTEE ACTION REQUESTED

1. Call to Order

The meeting of the Executive Committee will be called to order.

2. Call to the Audience

An opportunity will be provided to members of the public to address the Executive Committee on items not scheduled on the agenda THAT FALL UNDER THE JURISDICTION OF MAG, or on items on the agenda for discussion but not for action. Members of the public will be requested not to exceed a three-minute time period for their comments. A total of 15 minutes will be provided for the Call to the Audience agenda item, unless the Executive Committee requests an exception to this limit. Please note that those wishing to comment on action agenda items will be given an opportunity at the time the item is heard.

2. Information and discussion.

ITEMS PROPOSED TO BE HEARD

3. Interstate 11: Request for Administrative Action

On February 27, 2008, the MAG Regional Council accepted adding the proposed freeways identified in the MAG Hassayampa Framework Study into the MAG Regional Transportation Plan (RTP) as illustrative corridors. One of the illustrative corridors is the Hassayampa Freeway, which now has been identified in federal legislation as the future Interstate 11 (I-11) corridor between Interstate 10 and Wickenburg. On July 28, 2010, the MAG Regional Council approved the 2010 Regional Transportation Plan Update, which included those illustrative corridors. Illustrative projects are classified by the Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) as not currently having funding available for the project. The landowners along this future I-11 corridor have been working with the Arizona Department of Transportation (ADOT) and MAG to donate portions of the

3. Approval for MAG to provide a letter of support for the Federal Highway Administration to take administrative action to have the financial constraint provision waived by the Federal Highway Administration for the portion of the I-11 project between Wickenburg and Interstate 10 to allow for a TIER II Environmental Statement that will provide a centerline for the proposed new freeway and allow for the negotiations for the right-of-way donations to proceed.

right-of-way for this corridor. Although the preliminary corridor was identified by MAG in the Hassayampa Framework Study, in order for the exact centerline of the new freeway to be identified, a Tier II Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) must be conducted. According to the FHWA, for a Tier II EIS to be conducted, MAG is required to show funding for at least one phase of the project in the MAG Transportation Improvement Program and funding for the remaining phases in the MAG Regional Transportation Plan. With the funding not presently identified, ADOT is proceeding with a TIER I Statement throughout Arizona for I-11 but this process will not lead to a centerline being identified, thus any right-of-way donation cannot proceed. In an attempt to move forward with a TIER II EIS without the required financial commitment in the TIP and RTP, MAG staff, working with ADOT attempted to have the financial commitment waived in the reauthorization of the federal surface transportation legislation. This attempt was late in the reauthorization process and was unsuccessful. Now, MAG has been notified that proceeding with an administrative action by FHWA relieving the financial requirement may be possible. Conducting a TIER II EIS would provide the centerline for the proposed new freeway between Wickenburg and Interstate 10 and allow the negotiations for the right-of-way donation to proceed. Due to the timing of this issue, the Executive Committee is being requested to provide a letter of support for the FHWA to take administrative action to have the financial constraint provision waived by the FHWA for the portion of the I-11 project between Wickenburg and Interstate 10 to allow for a TIER II EIS that will provide a centerline for the proposed new freeway and allow for the negotiations for the right-of-way donations to proceed.

Adjournment