

MINUTES OF THE
MARICOPA ASSOCIATION OF GOVERNMENTS
MAG REGIONAL COUNCIL EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE
May 14, 2018
MAG Offices, Ironwood Room
302 N. 1st Avenue, Phoenix, Arizona

MEMBERS ATTENDING

Mayor Jackie Meck, Buckeye, Chair	Mayor John Giles, Mesa
#Mayor Gail Barney, Queen Creek, Vice Chair	#Mayor Mark Mitchell, Tempe
Mayor Lana Mook, El Mirage, Treasurer	Mayor Greg Stanton, Phoenix, Past Chair
	Mayor Jerry Weiers, Glendale

* Not Present

Participated by video or telephone conference call

1. Call to Order

The Executive Committee meeting was called to order by Chair Jackie Meck at 12:00 p.m.

2. Pledge of Allegiance

The pledge of allegiance was recited.

3. Call to the Audience

Instructions for Call to the Audience were read. No public comment cards were received.

4. Approval of the Consent Agenda

Chair Meck stated that agenda items 4A through 4C were on the consent agenda. Chair Meck asked if any member of the committee would like to remove an item for discussion. Mayor Mook moved to approve the consent items 4A through 4C. Mayor Giles seconded the motion, and the motion carried unanimously.

4A. Approval of the April 16, 2018, Executive Committee Meeting Minutes

The Regional Council Executive Committee, by consent approved the April 16, 2018, Executive Committee meeting minutes.

4B. Consultant Selection for Transportation Public Opinion Research

The Regional Council Executive Committee, by consent approved the selection of Envision Utah to conduct the Transportation Public Opinion Research project for an amount not to exceed \$250,000, and if negotiations with Envision Utah are not successful, that MAG pursue negotiations with its second choice, WestGroup Research, LLC.

The fiscal year (FY) 2018 MAG Unified Planning Work Program and Annual Budget, approved by the MAG Regional Council in May 2017, includes \$250,000 for conducting public opinion research. Research results will be used to gain a better understanding of public attitudes regarding regional transportation needs and investment priorities. Results will help inform the development of the next Regional Transportation Plan (RTP), Imagine, and will contribute to framing potential strategies and determining timing related to the extension of Proposition 400. A request for proposals was published on February 28, 2018, and seven proposals were received by the March 28, 2018, deadline. On April 11, 2018, the evaluation team met and reviewed the proposals and recommended to MAG the selection of Envision Utah to conduct the Transportation Public Opinion Research project for an amount not to exceed \$250,000. In addition, the evaluation team recommended that if negotiations with Envision Utah are not successful, that MAG pursue negotiations with its second choice, WestGroup Research, LLC.

4C. Amendment to the FY 2018 MAG Unified Planning Work Program and Annual Budget and the Burgess & Niple, Inc., Contract for the US-60/Grand Avenue - Sun City Implementation Study

Regional Council Executive Committee, by consent, approved to amend the FY 2018 MAG Unified Planning Work Program and Annual Budget and increasing the Burgess & Niple, Inc., contract by \$11,792.34 to conduct the additional work for the US-60/Grand Avenue - Sun City Implementation Study.

The fiscal year (FY) 2018 MAG Unified Planning Work Program and Annual Budget, approved by the MAG Regional Council in May 2017, includes \$150,000 to conduct the US-60/Grand Avenue - Sun City Implementation Study. This study is an update to a roadway segment identified in the US-60/Grand Avenue Corridor Optimization, Access Management Plan, and System Study (COMPASS) that was completed in 2015. The amendment will include an additional task to collect current traffic counts and refine the traffic forecast for the corridor. The funds

needed for this additional preparation and refinement of traffic forecasts task are \$11,792.34. There is no schedule extension requested.

5. Approval of the Draft FY 2019 MAG Unified Planning Work Program and Annual Budget and the Member Dues and Assessments

MAG Fiscal Services Manager, Veronica Martinez provided a report to the committee regarding the approval of the Draft FY 2019 MAG Unified Planning Work Program and Annual Budget and the member dues assessments.

Ms. Martinez stated that this item is on the agenda today for action. She noted that in the agenda packets is the final draft budget, and MAG is requesting a recommendation to approve the resolution to adopt the FY 2019 MAG Unified Planning Work Program and Annual Budget, and the member dues and assessments.

Ms. Martinez reported that the draft Work Program has been presented incrementally for review beginning in January through April. In January, MAG provided the draft member dues and assessments, and in February, the draft projects. She noted that in March, MAG presented the first draft of the Work Program, which was about 60 percent complete. Ms. Martinez explained that to come up with those estimates, MAG used the indirect rate, which is based on our FY 2017 audit. She stated that beginning in February through April, MAG began working on the line item budget. In April, MAG presented detailed information on recommended performance increases and new positions.

Ms. Martinez noted that MAG is asking for three new positions: a research analyst and two transportation planners. In addition, two projects have been added: a Central Arizona Governments (CAG) Project \$44,000 and the MAG Models Recalibration On-Call for \$400,000. She noted that both are Regional Area Road Fund (RARF) projects.

Ms. Martinez reported that MAG is asking for a 3.5 percent increase in salaries, which will be performance based on each employee's annual review. She reported that the overall budget is showing a 5.02 percent decrease in revenues due to projects being funded by RARF, federal funding is down 20 percent and RARF is up 17 percent. Ms. Martinez stated that other revenue is down due to MAG not receiving the Governor's Grant on Domestic Violence. She noted that total overhead costs are up by 7.76 percent and this is mainly due to a 3.5 percent increase in salaries and a 4 percent increase in benefits. Capital is also increased

due to the 7th floor remodel. The overall FY 2019 draft budget is \$35.9 million compared to last year's budget of \$33.9 million. This is an overall increase of 5.37 percent.

Chair Meck asked if the Committee had any questions or comments.

There were no questions or comments from the committee. Mayor Weiers moved to approve the Draft FY 2019 MAG Unified Planning Work Program and Annual Budget and the member dues and assessments. Mayor Mook seconded the motion, and the motion carried unanimously.

6. Update on the Joint Planning Advisory Council Discussion

MAG Regional Program Manager, Denise McClafferty stated that on April 26th, the Joint Planning Advisory Council (JPAC) and Sun Corridor EDGE (Economic Development for the Global Economy) event took place at the Wild Horse Pass Hotel and Casino. She noted that the JPAC portion of the event consisted of the JPAC partners discussing trends and opportunities in their regions.

Ms. McClafferty stated that staff gave an update on the activities and key focus areas in each agency, followed by the Chairs participating in a panel discussion regarding opportunities in their region. During that panel discussion, it was suggested that the regional planning agencies sign a resolution that focuses on key initiatives in the Sun Corridor. She noted that the original resolution forming the JPAC is a high-level resolution that focuses on jointly coordinating planning efforts, such as air quality, transportation, and technical assistance. In addition, the original resolution was executed in 2009 prior to the creation of the Sun Corridor Metropolitan Planning Organization (SCMPO). Ms. McClafferty noted that the new resolution would be more focused in terms of the coordinated efforts of the Sun Corridor. This includes collaborating on the creation of a unified vision or message for the Sun Corridor that addresses shared regional challenges and opportunities, such as infrastructure funding, technology innovation, and growing a broader and stronger economy. Ms. McClafferty stated that it also includes supporting the continuation of the Sun Corridor EDGE event to grow exports, continue the coordination of the freight planning within the regions, and continue the collaboration on data sharing and analysis. She stated that this resolution would also allow the SCMPO to officially sign a resolution as a JPAC member and provide continuity for the JPAC leadership.

Ms. McClafferty shared that following the JPAC meeting, MAG was contacted by the Director of the Central Yavapai Metropolitan Planning Organization (CYMPO) who inquired about joining the JPAC. MAG checked with the JPAC partners and they all agreed that it would be a benefit to JPAC if the CYMPO were a member. The Director of CYMPO is meeting with his Board Chair this week. She stated that MAG should know more about their official request by the end of the week. Ms. McClafferty noted that this report is an introduction to the suggestion for a new resolution and membership. MAG will bring the draft resolution back to the Executive Committee and the Regional Council for approval. Ms. McClafferty asked for feedback and guidance on this information.

Chair Meck asked if there were questions or comments from the Executive Committee.

Mayor Mook asked who was included in the member list of this group.

Ms. McClafferty stated that the JPAC group includes CAG, MAG, Pima Association of Governments (PAG), and the SCMPO.

Chair Meck asked if there were other comments or questions.

MAG Executive Director, Eric Anderson stated that the regional resolution, which was signed in 2009, was the first time MAG had anything in writing committing these three entities to a joint planning effort. This time MAG can be more specific, such as freight planning, a unified vision concept, working together on funding and other issues. He stated that this was a good time to update the resolution. He said that if MAG gets a positive response from CYMPO that would be good. Mr. Anderson noted that how the Sun Corridor is defined is subjective. The JPAC group started with the three entities in Central Arizona, and now it makes sense to look in the Yavapai, Prescott area. Adding Santa Cruz County in the future may also make sense.

Chair Meck said that this was discussed at the JPAC/Sun Corridor EDGE meeting. It was a suggestion from the Mayor of Oro Valley that MAG pursue this resolution. Chair Meck asked if MAG would come back with a draft resolution.

Ms. McClafferty responded yes and that MAG is working with PAG on an initial draft of the new resolution and will receive feedback from the other JPAC members. She stated that a draft of the resolution would be brought back to this Committee and Regional Council for approval.

Chair Meck asked if approval was needed today. Mr. Anderson stated that approval was not needed and that there was enough guidance provided for MAG to finish the draft and have it to Executive Committee next month for action.

7. Update on the Tourism and Trade Initiative and Early Implementation of Contingency Measures for Air Quality

MAG Government Relations Manager, Nathan Pryor commented that as outlined on the agenda there are two issues: the Tourism Trade Initiative, also known as the Border Crossing Card Initiative, as well as Early Implementation of Contingency Measures for Air Quality. He stated that he would focus on those two issues in the role of Capitol Strategies as a consultant over the past two years. He stated that the Border Crossing Card initiative began in 2013. Five years ago, seeing an opportunity for Mexican visitors who have been screened and vetted who can currently come as far as the Tucson area (about seventy-five miles) with a Border Crossing Card. He added that there is a low risk of overstays and visitors not going back home. He suggested looking at people in the growing middle class in Mexico and their ability to come up north and spend dollars on goods and services. He stated that the opportunity here is expanding the border zone statewide. This would allow Mexican visitors to come up and enjoy this region, including Flagstaff, and all parts of the State. He stated that there is about a \$180 million positive economic impact in the first year if that were to occur.

Mr. Pryor noted that in order to do this it would mean working with the Federal government. He said there are two paths to accomplishing this expansion. One is administratively and the other is legislatively. Since 2013, there has been many grassroots efforts by MAG reaching out to other Council of Governments (COGs), MPOs, Chambers of Commerce and Tribal entities throughout the state getting a groundswell of support for the Border Crossing Card Initiative.

Mr. Pryor stated that in 2016, MAG saw an opportunity to start pushing this through on the Federal front. He stated that MAG brought in Capitol Strategies that was staffed by former Congressman Jim Kolbe, as well as, Jim's business

partner Steve Bloch. He said that this is important, because when Congressman Kolbe was in office, he was instrumental in extending the border zone up to the Tucson area. He noted that Congressman Kolbe was familiar with the issue and some of the prior discussions in Congress to get this through. He commented that this was an administrative initiative in 2016, but it was also right at the time of a Federal election and a new administration coming into office. He noted that this was not ideal timing and there was little support, with an outgoing administration and a new administration coming in. He said that in 2017, MAG switched tracks from the administrative push to a legislative push. MAG had bipartisan majority support from Arizona House Members in 2016, and saw an opportunity to push this through legislatively. That work has been going on to date.

Mr. Pryor said that in March, the broader strategy had been to target a spending bill. He explained there was an Omnibus Appropriations Bill that was identified and that Representative McSally had been a great supporter. He explained there was an attempt to get this initiative tacked onto the Omnibus Appropriations Bill, however that did not happen. He stated that MAG has conducted some assessment since that time and has had conversations with Capitol Strategies, and some of the legislative offices as to what happened and where could this go. Mr. Pryor stated that he heard that there is no good response as to what happened. He said that given we are now in an election cycle, that this initiative all along has been confused as an immigration issue and that is a real challenge in bringing this forward.

Mr. Pryor said that the Capitol Strategies contract has been up for renewal every two to three months since 2016. This contract did expire on April 30, 2018. MAG has had additional conversations internally as to what staff should do with the Border Crossing Card Initiative. He stated that what MAG indicated to Representative McSally's office is that MAG is still supportive of the effort. Recent conversations with the City of Flagstaff is showing that they might push for a League of Arizona Cities and Towns resolution of support on this issue. There is an opportunity to continue supporting this from an in-house level and continued coordination. MAG has been successful at generating conversation and support within the State and will continue to support this effort. However, in terms of timing and pushing more resources into this initiative, MAG is going to take a step back and wait until the timing might be more favorable. He explained that at such

time, MAG could revisit this initiative and perhaps bring Capitol Strategies back on board to push the issue forward when the timing is better.

Mr. Pryor then moved on to the air quality initiative. He commented that the air quality issue was another initiative that Capitol Strategies had worked on. With the Capitol Strategies' contract expiring, MAG is looking at options. He said that arguably, the air quality issue is more central or core to business at MAG, as MAG is doing the air quality planning for the region. He stated that MAG has an ongoing contract with Crowell & Moring out of Washington, DC, and to date MAG relied on them for legal and technical work, including some of the Ninth Circuit efforts in recent years for drafting proposed legislative language and similar provided services. Mr. Pryor stated that current and ongoing contract; lobbying services are listed in the scope. MAG had a discussion with Crowell & Moring as to whether they could provide this air quality government services. Crowell & Moring indicated that they can provide this service and if MAG continues with a similar strategy identifying the appropriations bill, Crowell & Moring indicated they think they can do this work within the current retainer without a cost increase. He noted that if there were hearings involved and more push needed to be made, that may need to be revisited.

Mr. Pryor stated that staff is not seeking any action at this time and can do this work under the current contract with Crowell & Moring. He also noted that MAG would continue to support the Border Crossing Card from an in-house perspective.

Chair Meck asked if there were any questions or comments.

Mayor Mook asked if the better timing would occur in January or February.

Mr. Pryor replied that was correct and that MAG would have more certainty beyond the November elections. MAG will take a survey composition of House and Senate at that time and see where to go from there.

Mayor Mook stated that it would be great if this could be revisited next year after the elections.

Chair Meck asked if there were other questions or comments.

Mayor Mitchell asked Nathan if there was an opportunity for them to do more on MAG's behalf especially with infrastructure opportunities.

Mr. Pryor stated that the nature of Capitol Strategies' contract was sole-sourced due to Congressman Kolbe's prior work with extending the border zone. He noted that Congressman Kolbe is more of an expert having had that previous experience. He said that the broader issue here is MAG might need to look under a more traditional RFP process and go outside of the sole-source opportunity.

There was no additional discussion.

8. Legislative Update

Mr. Pryor said that today he is going to focus on the State Legislature, the session that just concluded on House Bill 2162 and Senate Bill 1147. MAG has been reporting on this legislative effort. He stated that this was a statewide transportation initiative addressing rural county needs, PAG needs, as well as, MAG. MAG was the simplest part of this legislative initiative in terms of seeking the ability to go back to the voters via approval of the County Board of Supervisors. Currently, after the Regional Transportation Plan has been developed, MAG would have to go to the State Legislature for approval of that ballot. He stated that this initiative would give MAG some regional/local control to utilize the County Board of Supervisors to go back to the voters for renewal of a half-cent sales tax.

Mr. Pryor commented that some lessons were learned through this process and could create some opportunities going forward. He reported that the Bill did not succeed, although it did make it far into the final hours of the session. He commented that the major sticking point was light-rail spending levels. He said that there was a lot of conversation amongst legislative members. Mr. Pryor stated that MAG has started mapping out, what would a timeline look like in preparation for the Legislature next year. He commented that MAG is preparing a timeline to share with member agencies and discuss at the Regional Council next week. Mr. Pryor explained that this Bill was born out of conversations that started among the rural counties. MAG was brought on board somewhat late December early January. He commented that this was less than ideal in terms of not a whole lot of conversation with our member agencies as to what MAG was considering around Prop 500 or about the RTP development and even the Bill as it was moving in the

January/February timeframe. Mr. Pryor stated MAG would be prepared for the January 2019 session start.

Mr. Pryor stated that in addition, MAG is going to identify some policy principles. He explained that cities and towns typically have a legislative agenda, similar to the League of Arizona Cities and Towns. MAG is gleaning information from our National Associations about broader policy issues. They can be helpful to somewhat reset MAG's policy table, as well as, having some conversations about what can be agreed upon in terms of policy positions going forward as a region. He said that would be helpful for the member agencies and for when MAG does have conversations with the State Legislature. He explained that this would allow MAG, as an organization, to be clearer about policies for the region.

Mr. Pryor said finally, going back to the timeline about legislation for next year, it's going to be helpful that one of the items in the consent agenda was bringing on a consultant to start doing some of the values mapping. He noted this would include knowing where the voters are at in this region in terms of their attitudes; that will help inform the Prop 500 discussion going forward. MAG should hopefully have some information in the coming months to bring to the Regional Council and Transportation Policy Committee (TPC) to start having a better conversation about Prop 500 going forward. Mr. Pryor added that again, this includes having a better understanding of where this region is in terms of its citizens and voters and their expectations of a Prop 500 plan.

Chairman Meck asked if there were any questions or comments.

Mayor Stanton asked on the issue of having a legislative agenda, is the idea that the MAG Regional Council will have a MAG legislative agenda that would guide MAG's actions at the legislature. Mayor Stanton asked how that would impacted the Prop 500 discussion at the Legislature.

Mr. Pryor stated that it would be helpful to have some policy principles for the region. He noted that MAG often reports on challenges of federal and state funding for transportation. He stated that it would be helpful for staff and member agencies if MAG started outlining some of those broad policy points to help communicate MAG's policy positions in a unified voice. To date, MAG has never had that in writing. He said that it would be helpful to have something that informs the member agencies and others about this region.

Mayor Stanton asked if this policy position would be on transportation or on a broader base of issues.

Mr. Pryor said that it could be on a broader base including such topics as air quality and issues of homelessness and domestic violence. MAG would canvas all areas of MAG and the issue areas that staff works in to develop policy principles for the region to consider.

Mayor Stanton stated that based on experience, it is important to set a broad legislative agenda to allow for maximum nimbleness of the legislative team. He stated that the City of Phoenix legislative team understands they are not going to have a detailed policy position on every issue, but instead use good judgement based upon broad principles. Mayor Stanton stated that would be his advice to MAG on this issue. He suggested that MAG keep it as broad as possible to give maximum flexibility.

Mayor Mook asked how staff plans to get the information to MAG. Mr. Pryor replied that referring to the values mapping effort there is going to be focus groups involved.

Mr. Anderson stated that these focus groups would be very detailed and would be aimed at an in-depth understanding about where the citizens are relative to the region's transportation system and how they see the needs moving forward.

Mr. Anderson said that in Prop 400, this was extremely important to the development of the Plan. He noted that one of the things we heard repeatedly was that MAG needed to make more of an investment in regional transit services in particular, and obviously, there is a light-rail component. He said that was critical in going to the Legislature in terms of sharing what the citizens really wanted. Mr. Anderson noted that the conversations MAG had this legislative session with the leadership in the Legislature included making sure MAG develops a plan that works for the voters. He noted that this is not for the planners or the politicians, this is really about the citizens and understanding how they see this region's transportation system. Mr. Anderson noted that the other focus would be on vocabulary that people use to describe their transportation systems. He explained that this is useful in terms of planning efforts and how we communicate back to

the citizens about what MAG is trying to accomplish. He stated those are the two primary areas that MAG is going to emphasize. Mr. Anderson commented that staff should have results the first quarter of next year to share with the Executive Committee. He noted that this would be extremely important to have as a foundation for planning work moving forward.

Chair Meck asked if there were other questions or comments.

Mayor Giles commented that the legislative policy agenda seems like a great idea. He asked if MAG has done something similar in the past or was it just on an issue-by-issue basis. He commented that this seems like a great idea, but it is also a field ripe for disagreement and controversy if not handled with much finesse.

Mr. Anderson stated that if there is going to be disagreement on some fundamental policy points, then it should happen at MAG and get resolved. He commented that when MAG did Prop 400, there was a lot of discussion and disagreement, but at the end of the day after those issues were fully vetted, everybody came together and supported the effort. He stated that the other thing that MAG wants to do is to take what staff heard from the Legislature this year and bring that back to our policymakers. He added that MAG also wants to have some quite discussions with representatives from the Governor's Office as well as legislative leadership. He commented that rather than trying to do this during the heat of the legislative session working on a specific bill, it is probably better to have these conversations without any bill being drafted. He stated that way MAG can talk about what it is trying to accomplish in the region and try to address any issues or concerns that need to be brought to our policymakers. He said that is something MAG has not done in the past and this is important in terms of bridging some of the communication gaps with members of the Legislature.

Mayor Giles stated that he liked the idea particularly on transportation issues. He noted that Prop 500 consensus would be easy to reach on many of those issues. He said that at times on legislative issues they are going to come up. Mayor Giles stated that MAS has never really anticipated the obvious and rallied the troops before the session to come up with some broad statements that would be useful during the session. He agreed that this is a great idea, but also thought MAG should be careful that it does not get out of control and lead to in fighting.

There was no further comments. Chair Meck thanked Nathan for his report.

9. Request for Future Agenda Items

There were no requests for future agenda items.

10. Comments from the Committee

There were no requests from the Executive Committee.

Adjournment

There being no further business, Mayor Giles made a motion to adjourn the Executive Committee meeting. Mayor Mook seconded the motion. The meeting adjourned at 12:33 p.m.