

MINUTES OF THE
MARICOPA ASSOCIATION OF GOVERNMENTS
MAG REGIONAL COUNCIL EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE
January 14, 2008
MAG Offices, Cholla Room
302 N. 1st Avenue, Phoenix, Arizona

MEMBERS ATTENDING

Mayor James M. Cavanaugh, Goodyear, Chair	Mayor Keno Hawker, Mesa
Mayor Mary Manross, Scottsdale, Vice Chair	Mayor Thomas L. Schoaf, Litchfield Park
* Vice Mayor Peggy Neely, Treasurer	Mayor Marie Lopez Rogers, Avondale
Mayor Steven M. Berman, Gilbert	

* Not present

Participated by video or telephone conference call

1. Call to Order

The Executive Committee meeting was called to order by Chair James M. Cavanaugh at 10:12 a.m. Chair Cavanaugh stated that public comment cards were available for those members of the public who wish to comment. He noted that transit tickets were available from Valley Metro for those using transit to come to the meeting. Parking validation was available from MAG staff for those who parked in the parking garage.

2. Call to the Audience

Chair Cavanaugh noted that, according to the MAG public comment process, members of the audience who wish to speak are requested to fill out the public comment cards and stated that there is a three-minute time limit. Public comment is provided at the beginning of the meeting for items that are not on the agenda that are within the jurisdiction of MAG, or non-action agenda items that are on the agenda for discussion or information only. He noted that no public comment cards had been received.

3. Approval of Executive Committee Consent Agenda

Chair Cavanaugh noted that prior to action on the consent agenda, members of the audience are provided an opportunity to comment on consent items that are being presented for action. Following the comment period, Committee members may request that an item be removed from the consent agenda. There were no public comment cards received.

3A. Approval of the December 10, 2007 Executive Committee Meeting Minutes

The Regional Council Executive Committee, by consent, approved the December 10, 2007 Executive Committee meeting minutes.

3B. Consultant Selection for the Performance Measurement Framework and Congestion Management Update

The Regional Council Executive Committee, by consent, approved the selection of PBS & J to conduct the Performance Measurement Framework and Congestion Management Update for an amount no to exceed \$550,000. The FY 2008 MAG Unified Planning Work Program and Annual Budget, approved by the MAG Regional Council in May 2007, includes the Performance Measurements Framework and Congestion Management Update. The Framework and Update will provide the MAG region with reports, strategies and planning tools that measure performance and congestion of the transportation system at various levels. A request for proposals (RFP) was advertised in November 2007. Three proposals were received and reviewed by a multi-agency proposal evaluation team. On December 17, 2007, the evaluation team interviewed firms and recommended to MAG the selection of PBS&J to conduct the Framework and Update for an amount not to exceed \$500,000.

3C. Discussion of the Development of the FY 2009 MAG Unified Planning Work Program and Annual Budget

Each year, the MAG Unified Planning Work Program and Annual Budget is developed in conjunction with member agency and public input. The Work Program is reviewed each year by the federal agencies in the spring and approved by the Regional Council in May. This overview of MAG's draft Dues and Assessments for FY 2009 provides an opportunity for early input into the development of the Work Program and Budget. This item was for information and discussion.

4. MAG Draft FY 2009 Goal/Work Emphasis Areas and 2008 Results

Each year, as part of the Executive Director's evaluation, the goals/work emphasis areas proposed for the coming year and results for the past year are included. The Executive Committee was requested to provide input on the regional goals/work emphasis areas for FY 2008-2009.

Dennis Smith, MAG Executive Director, stated that he will briefly inform the Regional Council Executive Committee of MAG has achieved over the past year.

Mr. Smith provided an overview of major accomplishments beginning with the implementation of the Regional Transportation Plan. Staff have been hard at work implementing Proposition 400, including the three life cycle programs. The life cycle programs include freeway, transit, and arterial streets. He added that there has been more involvement with the Regional Partners, which was one of the prior recommendations from

the committee. MAG staff is also getting ready for a performance audit and will hire a consultant to assist with this effort.

Mr. Smith continued by stating that MAG staff have worked closely with ADOT and the Arizona Chapter of Associated General Contractors to monitor the construction costs for freeways. This partnership with the local agencies is conducive to a better understanding of the risk and gives insight in rising construction costs within Maricopa County.

Mr. Smith stated Socioeconomic Planning is an important component of planning at MAG. MAG will continue to work with the Arizona Councils of Government, Metropolitan Planning Organizations, the Arizona Department of Transportation, the Arizona State Land Department, and the Arizona Department of Commerce to create a common socioeconomic modeling suite. This model will assist most planning agencies that need socioeconomic projections. MAG has been proactive in the long term effort.

Mr. Smith transitioned to the Human Services Division. He congratulated Amy St. Peter on the division's achievements. He stated that Human Services has done great work despite working with a small budget. He noted the success of the Youth Empowerment Project kick off and the Continuum of Care luncheon, which is chaired by Mayor Manross. Mr. Smith discussed the Domestic Violence Council, chaired by Mayor Lopez Rogers and recognized all of the new goals they will be working on because of the hard work of staff and the committee. He stated that Mayor Manross and Mayor Lopez-Rogers have led both committees with great leadership and have produced successful outcomes.

Mr. Smith acknowledged the work of Lindy Bauer, Environmental Director, noting that the Environmental Division was hard at work in developing the five percent plan which has been approved. The Environmental Division is also working on the 208 plan which is gaining increased interest because of development occurring near Fort McDowell. This plan will accommodate wastewater treatment needs in a rapidly growing region.

Mr. Smith continued that MAG's video production program has been hard at work, but is in need of more staff. This video production work will inform valley residents of new MAG projects and, will bring a lot more public participation.

Mr. Smith provided an update on the Regional Office Center (ROC). He stated that staff has not only successfully worked with out board, but with two other agency board of directors. He thanked the Regional Council Executive committee for their support and anticipates the project to progress cooperatively with the partnering agencies.

Mr. Smith stated that a collaboration with Arizona Councils of Government and the Metropolitan Planning Organizations would likely develop a stronger regional network in which to discuss statewide transportation issues. He stated that even though ADOT is working on those issues, MAG, as a metropolitan agency, needs to take the initiative. Mr. Smith continued that MAG has always had a great relationship with ADOT. He did

acknowledge that, at the moment, ADOT is in the process of looking for a new director, and this will be a big challenge.

Mayor Berman asked who was looking for a new director at this time.

Mr. Smith stated that ADOT is in the process of hiring a new director.

Mr. Smith stated that MAG will work with the Governor's Office on the Statewide Transportation Study. The Governor's office would like the study to go out for a vote in late 2008. He stated that collaborative effort with MAG could put MAG in a difficult situation, because many similar studies are done by MAG and the public will ask if MAG is behind it. A federal transportation summit could be held in the west valley to further discuss all of the concerns for the study. He stated that the increase in freeway cost and funding deficiency has caused to make the initiative more difficult. The cost for a new freeway was \$45 million and now that price is \$75 to \$100 million for a freeways.

Mayor Berman asked Mr. Smith when the cost for construction of new freeways was \$45 million.

Mr. Smith stated that, this price for new freeway construction was projected one year ago. Unfortunately the price has gone up because of the increase costs for oil and cement.

Chair Cavanaugh asked if that the was price for one mile of a six lane freeway.

Eric Anderson, Transportation Director, stated that Chair Cavanaugh was correct. That was the price for a one mile six lane freeway. Although costs could go up if interchanges or other projects added are to the freeway construction.

Mr. Smith continued with the Fiscal Services Division accomplishments and thanked them for their outstanding job. He stated Rebecca Kimbrough, Fiscal Services Manager, has implemented all accounting policies and ensures all is compliant with governmental accounting standards. He continued by stating that Ms. Kimbrough's staff is hard at work with the work program. Work on the Comprehensive Annual Financial Report (CAFR) is complete and has been awarded a CAFR certificate every year.

Mr. Smith also stated that MAG will hold the Desert Peaks Awards Dinner this year. He stated that because of input from the Executive Committee, early nominations have been sent out. He stated that this project is always a great success and hopes this year is as much success as prior years. He thanked the committee for their input.

Mr. Smith stated that at the current time MAG is working with ADEQ to prohibit new dirt roads from being built. MAG will develop a process to implement the pollution reduction measures and make sure that no new dirt roads are being constructed. In addition MAG, will ask the Governor's office to help with funding for this project.

Mr. Smith stated that employee retention important at MAG. It is very difficult to replace staff. It took one year to hire a new air quality staff. Unfortunately, at the moment, there is no more space for MAG staff to grow. He also stated that security is needed for the two floors we currently have. MAG is looking to expand temporarily to the first floor bank space.

Mr. Smith stated he has had discussions with Mr. Simonetta and Mr. Boggs, and is looking at the possibility of sharing data with these agencies, and others, like ADOT. Such a partnership with these agencies will make for better planning. Mr Smith stated that we need to prepare the region to take charge of a new plan, the same we did with Prop 400.

Mr. Smith informed the committee of the Manager's Forum meeting which will be coming up soon. He is hoping for the a great turnout and believes this event will assist management committee members in determining best practices and competing globally. This forum will take place at the former Phoenix Union High School rehabilitated auditorium.

Mayor Manross asked the date that the Forum will take place?

Mr. Smith responded that Friday, March 14th is the selected date.

Mr. Smith discussed the review by staff of the committee process. He stated that every committee should have a chair and vice chair to ensure that the proper process is followed. He does understand that finding people that have the time to serve on these committees is difficult, but we need that cooperation. At the moment, not all committees have a vice chair, and it makes it more difficult at times to serve on the committee.

Chair Cavanaugh asked the Executive Committee if there are any comments or questions from the committee.

Mayor Hawker stated that he agreed we need to work with the Native American Indian communities to improve work on transportation corridors with the state transportation. We need to understand how the votes take place, and how those votes will be included on types of issues.

Mr. Smith stated that President Raphael Bear invited MAG staff to the Intertribal Council and that they are assisting staff in completing the study. Also included in these communications are the Salt River Pima-Maricopa Indian Community.

Mayor Hawker asked if this study will include land use and water since these issues will be important for MAG to consider. He stated that once the state grows, so will the costs. Mayor Hawker also stated that state trust land should be accounted for in state transportation planning. It is important to coordinate changes statewide, but we also need support from the public. The Governor's office will also need support in getting the study done, and MAG intends to give that support.

Mr. Smith stated that including trust land in transportation planning has in the past been challenging and that focusing on the transportation piece is very critical. Some of those issues include who will be paying for the study and will open space be accounted for. A Request for Proposals for a public opinion poll consultant will be done to seek additional public input. This consultant will take polls, and we may have the information we need. Mr. Smith asked whether the study results would be ready for the voters in 2009. He noted that those are just some of the issues MAG is working on now, but he is sure more questions will need to be addressed.

Mayor Hawker asked if there is a possibility of consolidating services, or share staff, to make this study more effective. Maybe now is the time to start consolidating services. With the new building coming in the future, it may make it easier for MAG to consolidate IT, graphics, the copy room and maybe human resources.

Mayor Manross asked when the building is supposed to open.

Mr. Smith replied that the estimated date of completion of the ROC is the fall of 2010. At the moment, MAG is looking into opportunities to consolidate with other agencies.

Mayor Lopez Rogers stated that she would like to thank the MAG staff, especially the socioeconomic group, for doing such a wonderful job. Most cities are going through major budget cuts, but MAG is always there to give support. Improving the relationship with the Native American Indian Communities is crucial because they also need to be included in all of the transportation efforts. Continued work is needed with all members to ensure policies, are agreed on and no abuse of power. She noted that all need to work together to get these studies done.

Mr. Smith stated that this is why the Manager's Forum is so important. Jan Dolan, Chair, MAG Management Committee, stated that we need to talk about the changes that we need to make to address regional issues.

Mayor Lopez Rogers stated that she agreed all Managers need to get together and talk about all of the changes and the direction for planning.

Mayor Manross stated that she understood that working together in the region is very important. Unfortunately, some issues take more attention than others, but it is still important to work with those programs because they are important for the entire region.

Chair Cavanaugh stated that he feels there is much cooperation within the MAG members. He stated that some changes should be made. Some members would like to implement a vote on population, but others do not. Even though there are some disagreements, in the end, all members come together. Chair Cavanaugh stated that we need to know how to implement a weighted vote, if necessary. Framework studies will help bring this region together and it will be important to know how it will affect us. We also need to understand

how such studies will be implemented. Another important factor is funding. The public wants and needs to know how projects will get paid for.

Mayor Manross stated that she agreed with Chair Cavanaugh, but that we should also work with the state legislature. It is important that we know what the Governor's office really needs. She stated that the MAG region must determine how to complete those studies, and how we can work together to get a better understanding of the needs of the region.

Chair Cavanaugh thanked the committee for all of their comments.

5. Executive Director's Annual Performance Evaluation

The employment agreement entered into with the MAG Executive Director in January 2003, provided that the Executive Committee conduct an annual performance review in consultation with the Regional Council. On November 19, 2007 the Executive Committee agreed to move forward with the evaluation survey for the MAG Executive Director's performance review.

On November 29, 2007, the survey was sent to members of the Regional Council to receive their input on the review. A survey was also sent to the members of the Executive Committee. The result of the completed surveys were summarized and were discussed by the members of the Executive Committee.

The Executive Committee voted to recess the meeting and go into executive session to discuss personnel matters relating to the MAG Executive Director's review and salary. The authority for such an executive session is A.R.S. § 38-431.03(A)(3) and (7). The Regional Council Executive Committee reconvened regular session. Chair Cavanaugh stated that Mayor Berman will state the results of the executive session. Mayor Berman stated that with the board's review, Dennis Smith, Executive Director of MAG will get a \$10,000 increase for lifestyle and quality of life, and for his outstanding job in the leadership of MAG. That increase will be effective January 1st of 2008.

6. Adjournment

There being no further business, the Executive Committee adjourned at 11:36 a.m.

Chair

Secretary