

**MINUTES OF THE  
MARICOPA ASSOCIATION OF GOVERNMENTS  
REGIONAL COUNCIL MEETING**

March 25, 1998  
MAG Office  
302 North 1<sup>st</sup> Avenue, Suite 200  
Phoenix, Arizona

**MEMBERS ATTENDING**

Mayor Wayne Brown, Mesa, Acting Chairman	Mayor Richard Vasiloff, Litchfield Park
*Mayor Elaine Scruggs, Glendale, Chairman	Supervisor Jan Brewer, Maricopa County
Councilmember Al Carroll for Mayor Tom Morales, Avondale	Councilmember Sara Moya, Paradise Valley
Vice Mayor John Hawley for Mayor Mike Baker, Buckeye	Mayor John Keegan, Peoria
Mayor Hugh Stevens, Carefree	Councilmember Doug Lingner for Mayor Skip Rimsza, Phoenix
Mayor Tom Aughterton, Cave Creek	*Mayor Mark Schnepf, Queen Creek
Councilmember Martin Sepulveda for Mayor Jay Tibshraeny, Chandler	*President Ivan Makil, Salt River Pima-Maricopa Indian Community
*Mayor Maggie Reese, El Mirage	Councilmember Mary Manross for Mayor Sam Campana, Scottsdale
*Mayor Jerold Miles, Fountain Hills	Mayor Joan Shafer, Surprise
*Mayor Chuck Turner, Gila Bend	*Mayor Neil Giuliano, Tempe
*Governor Mary Thomas, Gila River Indian Community	*Mayor Adolfo Gamez, Tolleson
Mayor Cynthia Dunham, Gilbert	*Mayor Dallas Gant, Wickenburg
Mayor Bill Arnold, Goodyear	Mayor William Kosanovich, Youngtown
Mayor Frances Osuna, Guadalupe	F. Rockne Arnett, ADOT
	Chuck Coughlin, Citizens Transportation Oversight Committee

\*Those members neither present nor represented by proxy.

1. Call to Order

The meeting of the Regional Council was called to order by Acting Chairman Wayne Brown at 5:07 p.m.

Acting Chairman Brown introduced the proxies for tonight's meeting. Councilmember Al Carroll for Mayor Thomas Morales from the City of Avondale, Vice Mayor John Hawley for Mayor Mike Baker from the Town of Buckeye, Councilmember Martin Sepulveda for Mayor Jay Tibshraeny from the City of Chandler, Councilmember Doug Lingner for Mayor Skip Rimsza from the City of Phoenix, and Councilmember Mary Manross for Mayor Sam Campana from the City of Scottsdale.

Acting Chairman Brown announced that parking validation is available for the Norwest Bank garage only following the meeting from the MAG staff. Acting Chairman Brown announced that RPTA has generously agreed to provide transit tickets for individuals who use the bus to get to the Regional Council meeting. He stated that tickets are available following the meeting from Ken Driggs of RPTA.

Acting Chairman Brown announced that agenda item number 20 has been pulled because Mayor Rimsza could not be in attendance. He stated that public comment would be accepted on this item even though it will not be considered at this meeting.

2. Pledge of Allegiance
3. Approval of February 25, 1998 Meeting Minutes

Mayor Neil Giuliano moved, Mayor Joan Shafer seconded, and it was unanimously carried to approve the February 25, 1998 meeting minutes.

4. Call to the Audience

Acting Chairman Brown recognized public comment on non agenda items.

Jane White stated that she would like to address the proposed changes to the public comment process. She noted that this process would further remove the MAG Regional Council members from information outside of the normal channels. Ms. White stated that she believes the main reason the freeway system crashed and burned is that the Regional Council was totally dependent on information given to them by staff.

Ms. White stated that the idea of giving public comment to staff before the meeting and having them filter it to the Regional Council is precisely the way things used to be done. She noted that five minutes total for public comment to members of the Regional Council on an issue is not sufficient time.

Ms. White noted that a public comment period following the meeting to staff and one or two councilmembers has the same flaws. It effectively removes MAG members from hearing unfiltered opinions.

Ms. White stated that one idea she has heard in the past, is that the public should participate in the committee process. She noted that those who follow MAG, do so on their own time, with their own money, and with no recompense. Ms. White stated that there is no Transportation Committee worthy of the name. She noted that responsibility is strewn all over the place, PPC, CTOC, State Transportation Board, MAG Management Committee and Regional Council. She indicated that it would be impossible to attend all of them.

Vivian Valle stated that she was frustrated that the public would not be heard. She noted that the public gets involved on its own time and its own money. Ms. Valle agreed with Ms. White that the public should stick to agenda issues. She noted that two minutes is not enough time to voice an opinion.

Blue Crowley stated that public comment should not be limited. He noted that he did not get the chance to speak at the last meeting regarding the Executive Director's salary adjustment. Mr. Crowley stated that two minutes is not enough time to express public opinion.

Bill Bowling stated that time is immaterial. He noted the issue is that there is no response to public comments.

Acting Chairman Brown recognized a MAG staff member, Roger Herzog, who is retiring. He thanked Roger for his dedicated service to MAG and ADOT over the last 20 years. Acting Chairman Brown read a resolution to recognize Roger's contributions to MAG, which was followed by a standing ovation.

The MAG Regional Council unanimously approved the resolution to recognize Roger Herzog's many years of dedicated service and contribution to MAG.

5. Showcased Agency Introduction

Acting Chairman Brown introduced the showcase agency, the City of Surprise. He introduced Mayor Joan Shafer who shared information about her community.

Mayor Shafer thanked the Regional Council for the opportunity to showcase the City of Surprise. She noted that Surprise is a beautiful, 68 square mile diversified community off of Grand Avenue and is just 25 minutes west of downtown Phoenix. Mayor Shafer stated that what once was a small farming village now encompasses more than 65 square miles. She noted that Surprise faces growth problems along with other areas and that she is very proud of the City.

Mayor Shafer introduced Assistant City Manager, Mike Branham who presented a video about the City and its economic development. The video was produced at a cost of \$24,000, and \$12,000 was raised from the community. Mr. Branham stated that people will enjoy the ethnic diversity in this community. The video introduced the Surprise Economic Development corporation (SEDCo) and explained the future need for water and the massive water recharge project in the City.

Mayor Shafer complimented the City of Phoenix for cooperatively working with Surprise on issues involving the Luke Air Force Base Auxiliary Field 3 property. The property, owned by Phoenix, is no longer used by the Air Force and is located within the corporate limits of Surprise. The property will provide a city cemetery and Surprise anticipates competing for CDBG funding among Maricopa County cities smaller than 50,000 population. Mayor Shafer invited everyone to visit the City and thanked members for their time.

6. Executive Director's Report

James M. Bourey updated the Regional Council on HB 2564, Regional Transportation Administration, which would remove freeway decision-making from MAG for the sales tax-funded freeway program and give it to a seven-member board appointed by the Maricopa County Board of Supervisors. Mr. Bourey noted that the bill passed the State House and was sent to the State Senate where it has been assigned to the Senate Transportation Committee. No hearing has been scheduled at this time. Mr. Bourey noted that he will keep the Regional Council informed.

Mr. Bourey updated the members on ISTEA which expired on September 30, 1997. To maintain the flow of federal dollars, Congress extended the existing version of the bill until May 1, 1998. Mr. Bourey stated that the Senate recently agreed on a multi year reauthorization of ISTEA which would include an increase in funding of more than 50% per year for Arizona's highways. He noted that the legislation would include significant additional funding for transit. Mr. Bourey stated that the House passed its version of the bill on April 1. The House and Senate will now form a conference committee to work out the differences between the two bills. He noted that it is now conceivable that a bill reauthorizing ISTEA could be signed by the President before the May 1, 1998 deadline.

Mr. Bourey discussed HB 2361, Growing Smarter, and a private growth management initiative. He noted that HB 2361 has three main elements: General/comprehensive plans and rezoning, urban watercourse and urban trust lands, and creation of a Growing Smarter Commission and advisory committee. The Citizens for Growth Management is circulating petitions. They need 113,000 signatures to set a Citizens Growth Management Act initiative on the ballot. Mr. Bourey stated that this initiative would require municipalities with a population of 2,500 or more to adopt growth management plans, to set urban growth boundaries, limit development and new city services outside the boundaries, require developers to pay for roads and schools to serve their new developments, and require projected air quality standards.

Mr. Bourey commented on the draft copy of the MAG 1998-1999 Budget and Unified Planning Work Program (UPWP). He reported that it has been very well received so far and will be reviewed further in April or May.

Mr. Bourey reported that the Region 2025 Vision process is moving forward. Each month, a one-hour briefing on its progress is given prior to the Management Committee. Currently the staff is actively establishing collaborative groups to provide input to the Region 2025 Vision Committee, and is creating an environmental scan to describe what we are like now and what we would like to be in the future.

Mr. Bourey stated that the Region 2025 Vision Summit is being scheduled for early June and could be attended by 1,000 or more people. This process will include citizens' view of the future.

Mr. Bourey reported that the Regional Council Activity Report has been sent out. He requested any feedback from members.

Mr. Bourey stated that the Census 2000 is progressing, noting that the update of local addresses is current issue. Each city and town should be participating by this time. Mr. Bourey stated that the local address update should be complete by October 1998. He urged that each member agency notify the Census Bureau of a contact person for its jurisdiction if they have not already done so.

Mr. Bourey introduced a new MAG air quality employee, Chris Voigt. Mr. Voigt is from British Columbia and adds to MAG's growing international contingent. Mr. Bourey noted that Mr. Voigt brings excellent experience in air quality.

Mr. Bourey thanked the members for their time.

7. Approval of Consent Agenda

Acting Chairman Brown stated that agenda items number 8, 9, 10, 11, 12, 13 and 14 are listed on the consent agenda. He asked if any member wished to remove any consent item. No member responded.

Acting Chairman Brown recognized public comment on the consent agenda items.

Pete Corpstein, former State legislator and former County Assessor, distributed information regarding agenda item number 8, Administrative Adjustments to the FY 1998-2002 MAG Transportation Improvement Program. Mr. Corpstein noted that there is a serious problem with money. He quoted costs per mile for various transportation modes pointing out that light and heavy rail are very expensive. He commented that the fixed rail may not be the answer and asked that everyone review this information. He noted that things always cost more than a study predicts. Mr. Corpstein thanked the Regional Council members for their time.

Dianne Barker stated that she is opposed to the TIP. She noted that there is no money for rail. Ms. Barker stated that decisions are made by the MAG managers from recommendations of the Transportation Review Committee. She noted that the citizens should have a voice in these decisions and expressed concern that this could drain bus system resources. Ms. Barker stated that these problems are regional and affect everyone.

Blue Crowley distributed a transportation newsletter to members. He noted that only one-third of the bus service is available on Saturdays. Mr. Crowley commented that when lanes are added to roadways that shoulder work should be considered for bikeways. He noted that the 51st Avenue bus route is not functioning. He expressed displeasure that the deck park was prepared for future rail.

Martin Sepulveda suggested modifying the motion to include agenda items 15, 16 and 17 on the consent agenda. Mayor Vasiloff moved, Roc Arnett seconded, and it was carried to approve items 8, 9, 10, 11, 12, 13, 14, 15, 16 and 17 on the consent agenda with Chuck Coughlin not voting.

Acting Chairman Brown recognized public comment on agenda items 15, 16 and 17.

Dianne Barker stated that there is a need for more dedicated funding in the future. She noted that citizen input is very important and that everyone needs to work together because we all breathe the same air.

Blue Crowley stated that the 15 to 30-day time frame applies to all phases of public input. He noted that MAG and its member agencies need to reach out for public comment and work together. He also stated that transportation needs should be focused on multi modal options.

8. Administrative Adjustment to the FY 1998-2002 MAG Transportation Improvement Program

The Regional Council approved, by consent, the transit administrative adjustments to the FY 1998-2002 MAG Transportation Improvement Program. The FY 1998-2002 MAG Transportation Improvement Program was approved by the Regional Council in October 1997. It is necessary to revise the annual element of the TIP to accelerate 18 projects, amend four projects and defer two projects. The 18 accelerated projects are a result of additional funding opportunities within the FY 1998 Federal

Transportation Appropriations Bill. In addition, two projects are deferred and three projects need to be adjusted as a result of shifts in project funding. These projects do not affect the MAG conformity analysis. The Management Committee recommended approval of the adjustments.

9. Recommendation to Increase the Multimodal Representation on the Transportation Review Committee

The Regional Council approved, by consent, to expand the membership of the TRC to include the chairmen or their representative of the MAG modal committees (Street, Bicycle, Pedestrian, Intelligent Transportation System and Telecommunications) and a freight industry representative as non-voting members for a one-year trial period. In 1994, the Regional Council established the Transportation Review Committee (TRC), which is composed of high level technical advisors from the MAG member agencies. On April 30, 1997, the TRC recommended expanding the membership to include representation of the MAG modal committees (Street, Bicycle, Pedestrian, Intelligent Transportation System and Telecommunications) and a freight industry representative as non-voting members for a one-year trial period. The Management Committee recommended approval of the expansion of the TRC.

10. Recommendations to the Arizona Department of Transportation for the FTA Elderly & Persons with Disabilities Program

The Regional Council approved, by consent, to forward the priority listing of applicants for FTA Elderly & Persons with Disability Transportation Program to the Arizona Department of Transportation. On March 2, 1998, the MAG FTA Elderly and Persons with Disabilities Transportation Ad Hoc Committee ranked applications for the Federal Transit Administration (FTA) Section 5310 funding. FTA provides these funds to the Arizona Department of Transportation for capital assistance to agencies and public bodies that provide transportation services for people who are elderly and for people who have a disability. This year, 17 applications for capital assistance awards were received and considered by the Committee. The ranking provided by MAG is considered by ADOT in determining which applicants are to be awarded. The Management Committee recommended approval of the recommendations.

11. Amendment to MAG Mode Choice Study Contract

The Regional Council approved, by consent, to amend the MAG Mode Choice Study contract with Parsons Brinckerhoff to provide up to an additional \$110,000 for transportation model update assistance, and to authorize the MAG Executive Director to execute the amendment, contingent upon the funding for the amendment being provided by ADOT. On July 24, 1996, the Regional Council approved the selection of Parsons Brinckerhoff to conduct the MAG Mode Choice Study for \$73,000. On January 28, 1998, the Regional Council approved MAG participation with ADOT in a region-wide high occupancy toll lane study. Parsons Brinckerhoff is in the process of updating the MAG Mode Choice Model. The MAG transportation models need to be recalibrated and validated in order to handle evaluation of a variety of high occupancy lane utilization policies, including pricing strategies. This work is interrelated with Mode Choice Study tasks and will enhance the MAG models. Staff is recommending that the Mode Choice Study be expanded to include high occupancy toll lane modeling capabilities. Parsons Brinckerhoff has recently completed Major Investment Studies and toll lane modeling for the Katy Freeway in Houston, I-15 in San Diego, Route 91 in Orange County and Route 101 in Sonoma County. To ensure that the MAG models can be used in the high occupancy toll lane study, it is recommended that the existing MAG contract with Parsons Brinckerhoff be amended to provide an additional \$110,000 of transportation model update assistance. This amendment is contingent upon

funding for the amendment being provided by ADOT. The Management Committee recommended approval of the contract amendment.

12. Interagency Consultation: Processes and Potentially Regionally Significant Projects for the 1998 Conformity Analysis

Arizona conformity rules require a recipient of federal highway or transit funds (e.g., ADOT, RPTA, Maricopa County, cities, towns) to determine whether the transportation project is regionally significant for conformity purposes before approving the project. A listing has been developed by MAG indicating the projects from the Draft FY 1999-2003 Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) that potentially would be considered as regionally significant. Staff reported on additions to the listing at the Management Committee for rail and bus projects. Comments on the list are due to MAG by March 23, 1998.

Federal and State conformity regulations also require MAG to consult with federal, State and local air quality and transportation agencies regarding the following processes: selection of modeling methods; identification of exempt projects; ensuring expeditious implementation of transportation control measures; identification of projects which require PM-10 hotspot analysis. Updated information for use in the conformity analysis for the MAG Long Range Transportation Plan (1998 Update) and the FY 1999-2003 MAG Transportation Improvement Program is being transmitted for consultation. The deadline for submittal of written comments to MAG is March 23, 1998.

13. Serious Area Air Quality Plan Consultant Technical Assistance

The Regional Council approved, by consent, to increase the MAG air quality consultant contracts by the following amount: 1) Harding Lawson Associates (\$90,000); 2) Sierra Research (\$150,000); 3) Sonoma Technology (\$30,000); and 4) Systems Applications International (\$75,000) and to authorize the MAG Executive Director to execute the amendments. The Maricopa County area is a Serious Area for carbon monoxide, ozone and particulate matter. Serious Area air quality plans must to be submitted for each of these pollutants during 1998. Air quality plans are comprehensive in coverage, including the assessment of regional environmental conditions, pollutant emission inventories, measures commitments and a demonstration of future attainment status. In addition, measure emission reductions and estimates of future air quality must be developed through a highly complex technical process, involving use of sophisticated computer models.

As approved by the Regional Council on October 29, 1997, the MAG staff was directed to prepare a request for up to a five-year extension of the attainment date (2006). The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency has identified an extensive list of requirements for this request. MAG has been allocating extensive staff resources to these needs and to provide support for the Governor's Air Quality Strategies Task Force. In addition, there are continuing staff demands regarding transportation/air quality conformity and visibility issues.

Given the extensive technical demands involved with preparation of Serious Area plans and other air quality issues, consultant assistance will be a necessity to keep pace with the work load and EPA mandates.

To provide the required consultant technical assistance, staff is recommending that four MAG air quality consultant contracts be amended: 1) Harding Lawson Associates (\$90,000); 2) Sierra Research (\$150,000); 3) Sonoma technology (\$30,000); and 4) Systems Applications International (\$75,000). Funding will be provided by carryover funds from the Federal Highway Administration. The Management Committee recommended approval of the amendments to the consulting contracts.

14. Draft July 1, 1997 Water Service Area Resident Population Updates

The Regional Council approved, by consent, the July 1, 1997 Water Service Area Resident Population Updates. Each year MAG prepares Water Service Area Resident Population Updates on behalf of the Arizona Department of Water Resources (ADWR). The Updates will be used by ADWR in assessing municipal compliance with per capita water use targets. On February 26, 1998, the MAG Population Technical Advisory Committee (POPTAC) recommended approval of the Updates. The Management Committee concurred with the recommendations of the POPTAC.

15. FY 1998 MAG Mid-Phase Public Input Opportunity Report

The Regional Council approved, by consent, the FY 1998 MAG Mid-Phase Public Input Opportunity Report. In February, mid-phase public meetings were sponsored by the Arizona Department of Transportation, the Regional Public Transportation Authority (RPTA), the Citizens Transportation Oversight Committee and the Maricopa Association of Governments. In addition to informational open houses and a transportation fair, a joint public hearing was conducted by representatives from the governing bodies of these agencies on February 24, 1998. The public hearing included a presentation on the MAG Freeway Program Annual Report and an opportunity for citizens to comment on transportation issues. All of the events provided information on the draft 1999-2003 Transportation Improvement Program and various aspects of the Long Range Transportation Plan. The Management Committee recommended acceptance of the Report.

16. Conformity Analysis of the Draft FY 1999-2003 MAG Transportation Improvement Program

The Regional Council approved, by consent, to authorize an air quality conformity analysis of the Draft FY 1999-2003 MAG Transportation Improvement Program. The 1990 Clean Air Act Amendments require that the MAG Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) be in conformance with the applicable air quality plans. The TIP serves as a five-year regional guide for the preservation, management and expansion of public services, including highways, ride sharing, transit facilities and various congestion mitigation and air quality improvement projects. Projects in the TIP are from local, state and federal sources. On February 24, 1998, the Transportation Review Committee (TRC) recommended the projects in the FY 1999-2003 MAG TIP for an air quality conformity analysis, excluding the MAG Freeway Program projects. Since the TRC meeting, the public hearing for the MAG Freeway Program has been held and staff is recommending a conformity analysis on the TIP including the Freeway Program projects.

During the public review and comment period for the Tentative Life Cycle Program for the Regional Freeway Program, the City of Phoenix requested a change to the 56th Street to Scottsdale Road segment of the Pima Freeway. Phoenix requested that the completion of the interim project for the segment be delayed and that the segment be built to its final design in one phase. This project was reviewed at the

Management Committee meeting for inclusion in the FY 1999-2003 MAG TIP for an air quality conformity analysis. The Management Committee recommended approval of the TIP including an errata sheet of proposed changes.

17. Conformity Analysis of the MAG Long Range Transportation Plan: Draft 1998 Addendum

The Regional Council approved, by consent, the MAG Long Range Transportation Plan: Draft 1998 Addendum for an air quality conformity analysis. The 1990 Clean Air Act Amendments require that transportation plans be in conformance with the applicable air quality plans. To comply with this requirement, it is necessary to conduct a conformity analysis on an addendum to the MAG Long Range Transportation Plan. Items addressed in the addendum include: 1) priority changes to the ADOT Life Cycle Program and Long Range Plan for Freeways, 2) extending the time horizon to 2018, 3) incorporation of changes from the FY 1999-2003 Transportation Improvement Program, and 4) incorporating updates to the Long Range Street Plan as submitted by member agencies. On February 24, 1998, the Transportation Review Committee recommended approval of the Addendum for an air quality conformity analysis. The Management Committee recommended approval of the addendum.

18. MAG Intelligent Transportation Systems Committee Update

Terry Johnson stated that in April 1996, the Regional Council approved a strategic plan for Intelligent Transportation Systems (ITS) in the region. He noted that in December 1996 the Regional Council formed the MAG ITS Committee. The roles and responsibilities of the committee include: (1) vision and leadership, (2) long range plans, (3) programming, (4) funding, (5) coordination, (6) education and promotion and (7) data collection and reporting. Mr. Johnson stated that federal demonstration funds and MAG Congestion Mitigation and Air Quality (CMAQ) funds have initiated a significant number of ITS projects, including freeway management system and signal coordination projects. He stated that ADOT has received a \$7.9 million Model Deployment Initiative (MDI) Grant for ITS projects in the region. Mr. Johnson stated that additional funding for ITS may be forthcoming under proposed State and Federal legislation.

Mr. Johnson introduced Steve Hogan, General Manager of Transportation from the City of Scottsdale, and Chairman of the MAG ITS Committee. Mr. Hogan stated that the \$7.9 million grant funds are being coordinated based on past ground work. He noted that the question is how to distribute these funds. Mr. Hogan stated that a process is being developed for the distribution of these funds. Mr. Hogan noted that this agenda item is for information and discussion. He asked if the Regional Council had any questions. No member responded.

19. MAG Homeless Plan Update

Acting Chairman Brown introduced Councilmember Sara Moya, Chairman of the MAG Homeless Task Forces who presented a summary of the Task Force recommendations. He acknowledged that since Councilmember Moya decided not to run for Council again in Paradise Valley, her last Regional Council meeting will be in May. He recognized Councilmember Moya's leadership of the Homeless Task Force since 1987 and the State Homeless Trust Fund Committee since 1991. She also chairs the Federal

Emergency Management Act (FEMA) Board. Acting Chairman Brown stated that we have been fortunate to have Councilmember Moya representing local elected officials in these endeavors.

Councilmember Moya thanked the Chairman and Regional Council. She stated her appreciation of other elected officials who served on the Homeless Working Group: Councilmembers Dennis Cahill of Tempe, Co-Chair, Dennis Kavanaugh of Mesa and Cody Williams of Phoenix.

Councilmember Moya stated that the Task Force updated the 1991 Regional Homeless Plan. She noted that the update process was very inclusive and resulted in concentrated participation by more than 100 individuals representing MAG member agencies, as well as service providers, state agency representatives, advocates and individual citizens.

Councilmember Moya highlighted key points of the plan, stating that homelessness has not gone away, and is even more of a regional issue than before. The 6,542 homeless people counted in the 1995 Special Census are scattered across the County with only 54% found in Phoenix. She indicated that emergency and transitional shelters should be placed across the Valley.

Councilmember Moya reported that the lack of behavioral health services for homeless people is alarming, especially for homeless people with chemical addictions. She commented that these people are often seen in our neighborhoods and downtowns, and there is little, if any, treatment for them.

The Task Force found that more shelters are needed, including a low demand facility, designed for treatment resistant people. These facilities provide shelter and some very basic services only and are not politically popular. However, the alternative would be to allow treatment resistant people to remain on the streets, often as a danger to themselves. Councilmember Moya stated that siting of facilities remains a problem both for cities and the providers who want to offer services.

Councilmember Moya noted that many women who are living on the street are victims of domestic violence. She stated that domestic violence shelters are always full and have been for 15 years. Additional bed space is needed for these women and their children and would require capital funding. Councilmember Moya reported that many cities have capital funds available through entitlement monies, and others have them available through the County.

Councilmember Moya stated that most of the funding for homeless programs comes from the federal McKinney Act. These funds are competitive grants that our region has been very successful in acquiring. She noted that \$19.5 million of the McKinney Act Funds expire in 1999. Almost 550 units of housing for seriously mentally ill (SMI) homeless persons are funded with these monies, and unless a way is found to develop a local funding plan, this region may take a giant step backward. More SMI homeless people could lose their housing and be forced back to city streets.

Councilmember Moya reported that there have been several local discussions on this topic. The Task Force recommends that a request be made to the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) for modification of the new grant application process to allow requests for one year's funding, instead of five years. Councilmember Moya noted that the Governor's Office has committed to request state funds during the next legislative session for homeless people with SMI.

Councilmember Moya reported that the Management Committee suggested a draft letter be given to the Regional Council as a sample letter that could be sent from each jurisdiction to HUD.

Councilmember Moya stated that we clearly have made significant progress implementing the MAG Regional Homeless Plan. She noted that when this homeless planning process began many years ago, we thought homelessness was going to be a short-lived condition. Approximately 12 years later, and with a good economy, people still are without homes.

Councilmember Moya thanked the members for their time.

Councilmember Lingner asked why there seems to be zero funding for construction or acquisition of housing for SMI's. Carol Kratz stated that there have been some concerns raised regarding the use of McKinney funds for only rental vouchers and no acquisition of property for SMI homeless people.

Carol Kratz explained that SMI funds are awarded on a competitive basis. She noted that if the funds become block grants, the City of Phoenix, the City of Mesa and Maricopa County would receive fewer dollars. Supervisor Brewer commented that this will change how grant money is dispersed. Ms. Kratz noted that block grants are unlikely this year, but may be implemented next year.

Supervisor Brewer complimented the informative report and agreed that the need is great. She also stated that there is a need to deliver services not just provide bricks and mortar.

Councilmember Moya suggested that MAG send a letter to HUD in addition to letters from each jurisdiction. She encouraged each Regional Council member to ask his/her city or town to send a letter to HUD.

Supervisor Brewer moved, Mayor Stevens seconded, and it was unanimously carried to approve the MAG Homeless Plan Update and have the MAG members send a letter to the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development urging them to permit applications for one-year funding for the seriously mentally ill housing to allow us to address the federal funding at the local level.

Acting Chairman Brown announced that a progressive dinner would be held in Suite 300 for members of the Regional Council and their staff who confirmed their dinner reservations. A floor plan was provided describing the different food stations that have been set up.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 6:45 p.m.

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Chairman

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Secretary