

MARICOPA ASSOCIATION OF GOVERNMENTS

INFORMATION SUMMARY... for your review

DATE:

January 2, 2001

SUBJECT:

Park and Ride Site Selection

SUMMARY:

In January 2000, MAG initiated a project to identify sites near regional freeways for new park and ride lots to support express bus service and car and van pools. KJS Associates of Bellevue, Washington was contracted to conduct this study, which involved a series of eight Agency Forums in the past year to review and comment on working papers as they were developed. The study is now complete. Draft recommendations for programming of ten lots and the draft final project report were reviewed at a combined Agency Forum / Public Meeting held December 11, 2000, and at the Transportation Review Committee (TRC) meeting on December 12, 2000. The recommendation to approve the draft report was unanimously approved by the TRC. The draft final report and its recommendations are on the agenda for recommendation for approval and for addition to the MAG Long Range Transportation Plan.

Sponsorship commitments were requested from each local jurisdiction in which a lot was proposed to be located. Sponsorship requires local jurisdictions to be responsible for matching capital costs (20%), operations and maintenance (including associated costs), and the provision of essential transit service. The City of Peoria declined to sponsor at this time a proposed lot in their jurisdiction. The proposed City of Peoria lot was ranked seventh by the consultant. At the TRC meeting, the City of Tempe requested that a lot in their jurisdiction be advanced from eleventh to seventh in programming, in place of the lot originally proposed for the City of Peoria. This request was unanimously recommended for approval by the Committee. A recommendation for programming reflecting this change was added by the TRC to the recommended action.

The recommendations for programming of near term lots, which now includes the lot in Tempe programmed in the seventh position vacated by the City of Peoria project, are expected to be carried forward into the annual MAG programming process planned for January, and will not require final MAG action until then. The consultant priority list included in the executive summary is not affected by changes to programming. To make a more equitable allocation and stretch the funds available, the recommended programming of the lots assumes a 20% match on capital costs for all lots regardless of funding source.

Two clarifications were made to the executive summary from the version presented to the TRC. The first was to note that the pre-design, design and construction of park-and-ride lots that impact the State Highway System require coordination with ADOT throughout the development process to ensure proper operations and safety. The second clarifies the project recommendation for the final site locations, which may change to some extent from the project recommendations as alternative sites, must be considered in the environmental reviews to be done before the individual lots may be constructed. The project recommendation is to limit the locations of the final sites (and any alternatives considered) to within or near designated target areas.

Copies of project materials are available on the MAG website, located at www.mag.maricopa.gov, under "News and Events." Distribution of the final project report is expected to be limited, due to size, to copies of the project executive summary and a CD-ROM containing the complete final report (over 150 MB). Complete copies of the final report will be provided upon request to MAG member agencies.

PUBLIC INPUT:

A combined Agency Forum and Public Meeting was held on December 11, 2000. Comments were received from one resident who suggested that park and ride lots were needed for outbound commuters, who would travel from the Phoenix city center to surrounding communities. Opportunity for comment was also provided at the December 12, 2000 TRC meeting. No comments were received from the public at the TRC meeting.

PROS & CONS:

PROS: Park and ride lots help promote ridesharing and reduce dependence on single occupant vehicles.

CONS: Funding for park and ride lots competes with funding for other projects.

TECHNICAL & POLICY IMPLICATIONS:

TECHNICAL: The recommended park and ride lots are an integral element of a regional system to promote carpooling and express bus ridership.

POLICY: Approving the MAG Park and Ride Site Selection Study and adding the recommended lots to the MAG Long Range Transportation Plan will allow the region to proceed as expeditiously as possible with implementation of the lots as recommended in the MAG 1994 HOV Plan and the 1998 Express Bus Plan. These plans were reaffirmed in the 2000 update of the MAG Long Range Transportation Plan.

ACTION NEEDED:

Recommend approval of: 1) The draft final project report and recommendations for twenty new park and ride lots for addition to the next update of MAG Long Range Transportation Plan; and 2) The draft program for ten lots with the understanding that the programming for the lot in Tempe, listed as Priority #11 in the draft consultant report, be advanced and programmed seventh, with lots in Phoenix, Mesa and Goodyear programmed eighth, ninth and tenth, respectively, with the final programming for all lots to be done as part of the annual MAG programming process for all projects.

PRIOR COMMITTEE ACTIONS:

Transportation Review Committee: On December 12, 2000, the Transportation Review Committee voted unanimously to recommend approval of: 1) the draft final project report and project recommendations for twenty new park and ride lots for addition to the MAG Long Range Transportation Plan, subject to conformity analysis, and 2) recommend approval of the draft program for ten lots with the understanding that the programming for the lot in Tempe, listed as Priority #11 in the draft consultant report, be advanced and programmed seventh, with lots in Phoenix, Mesa and Goodyear deferred accordingly and programmed eighth, ninth and tenth, respectively, with the final programming for all lots to be done as part of the annual MAG programming process for all projects.

MEMBERS ATTENDING

Wickenburg: Fred Carpenter, Chair
ADOT: Chuck Eaton for Dan Lance
*Avondale: William Bates
Buckeye: Joe Blanton
Chandler: Bryan Patterson
Gilbert: Tami Ryall
Glendale: Jim Book
*Goodyear: Cato Esquivel
Litchfield Park: Mike Cartsonis
Glenn Kephart, Tempe

Maricopa County: Chris Plumb for Tom Buick
*Mesa: Jeff Martin
Paradise Valley: Tom Martinsen
Peoria: David Moody
Phoenix: Jack Tevlin, Vice-Chair
RPTA: Ken Driggs
Scottsdale: Michelle Korf for John C. Little
*Surprise: Ellis Perl

EX-OFFICIO MEMBERS ATTENDING

*Regional Bicycle Task Force: Eric Iwersen, Tempe
*Street Committee: Grant Anderson, Glendale
ITS Committee: Jim Book

Pedestrian Working Group: Reed Kempton, Maricopa County Dept of Transportation
*Telecommunications Advisory Group: Jim Hull

* Members neither present nor represented by proxy.

CONTACT PERSON:

Chris Voigt, MAG, (602) 254-6300