

MINUTES OF THE  
MARICOPA ASSOCIATION OF GOVERNMENTS  
TELECOMMUNICATIONS ADVISORY GROUP

October 26, 2000  
MAG Office  
302 North First Avenue  
Phoenix, Arizona

MEMBERS ATTENDING

**Jim Hull, Mesa, Chair	*Cary Parker, Maricopa County
*Betsy Wise, Carefree	Duncan Miller, Paradise Valley
**Debbie Higuera for Alan Deloera, Chandler	**Ralph Spencer for Sandy Teetsel, Peoria
*Peter Putterman, Fountain Hills	*Greg Binder, Phoenix
*Shawn Woolley, Gilbert	**John Laue, Tempe
Jerry Wightman, Glendale	Rosemarie Martinez-Booth for
*John Imig, Goodyear	Ralph Velez, Tolleson
**Lynn Dunn, Litchfield Park	Craig Stender, ADOT
Debbie Kohn, Scottsdale	*Randi Alcott, RPTA

\*Members neither present nor represented by proxy  
\*\* Participated via telephone conference call.

OTHERS PRESENT

Councilman Richard Gregory, Youngtown	**Tracy Corman, Queen Creek
Heidi Pahl, MAG	**Joe La Fortune, Queen Creek
Rita Walton, MAG	**Hung Sa Kloeng, Queen Creek
Tiffany Lopez Powell, MAG	Mark Goldstein, International Research
Audrey Skidmore, MAG	Council
Karen Brown, Qwest	

\*\* Participated via telephone conference call.

1. Call to Order

The meeting was called to order at 10:06 a.m. by Chairman, Jim Hull. Ralph Spencer, Lynn Dunn, John Laue, Jim Hull and Debbie Higuera participated in the meeting via telephone conference call.

2. MAG Regional Videoconferencing System Project

Rita Walton informed that the representative from Intellisys Group, Howard Steele, would not be present at the TAG meeting to provide an update. Ms. Walton indicated that several attempts were made to reach Mr. Steele using various methods, but no response was received. Ms. Walton recapped several events detailing the status with Intellisys Group stating that the company had closed the Tempe office. In the process of the closing, a few Intellisys staff members had been offered a chance to stay on to finish the MAG project although none of those people accepted the offer. MAG was assured by the Intellisys Denver office that full support would

continue and that it would be “business as usual.”

Rita Walton explained that Intellisys Group was subsequently bought out by MCSi and Intellisys Group filed for Chapter 11 bankruptcy. Ms. Walton noted that a new project manager, Dave Romer, had been assigned to complete the MAG videoconferencing project. Ms. Walton noted that Mr. Romer began working on the MAG project. Unfortunately, Mr. Romer turned in his resignation just a few days ago and MAG has been assured by Mr. Steele that he will personally handle the MAG videoconferencing project from this point forward.

Rita Walton stated that Intellisys Group has not followed through on their commitments and that MAG was not pleased with the current status. Ms. Walton pointed out that she had been in contact with MAG Legal Counsel to discuss possible breach of contract and assured MAGTAG that MAG would be working hard to seek resolution and implementation of the rest of the system.

Heidi Pahl mentioned that nine videoconferencing units had not been delivered and installed. Ms. Walton stated that MAG was working with Intellisys to get those units installed as soon as possible.

Jim Hull asked if there was anything MAGTAG members could do to help the process move forward. Ms. Walton responded that site coordinators could begin developing a list of trouble issues. Ms. Walton pointed out, as an example, that the equipment at MAG did not have the SmartTrak software installed. Ms. Walton asked that each site examine their videoconferencing equipment for items that should have been included in their units. Heidi Pahl stated that MAG will create a list of items that site coordinators should look for to be sure that all components were received.

Jim Hull inquired whether Ms. Pahl could perform test calls with each site to determine functionality of the systems. Ms. Pahl informed that the MAG Saguaro room videoconferencing system is not working and the Palo Verde room videoconferencing system is currently not working properly, as the best connection is at 128 kbps and connections last for a maximum of two minutes.

Jim Hull asked whether there was any other news to report on the system. Heidi Pahl informed that Goodyear and Queen Creek received ISDN BRI network connections earlier than expected and thanked Karen Brown of Qwest for her help.

Karen Brown informed that all ISDN BRI lines had been installed with the exception of Guadalupe. She explained that Guadalupe had recently moved into a new town hall building, the entrance cable passed inspection, and the engineering job should be completed in about two weeks. Ms. Brown stated that the order at the Gila River Indian Community was still outstanding. She further explained that the area is served by Gila River Telecommunications and the cut schedule was set for November 3, 2000. Ms. Brown said that the point-to-point T1 should be ready by mid-November, 2000.

Karen Brown stated that all installations that could be done were complete. She explained that the Qwest technicians need someone on-site with the equipment in order to effectively troubleshoot and solve problems. Jim Hull said that the City of Mesa had used their videoconference equipment and the tv monitors were displaying ‘jilted motion.’ Ms. Brown stated that she was not familiar with the operation of the videoconference equipment, had not received training, and was unable to address that issue. Jerry Wightman informed that there is

an on-screen function to determine the transmission rate of a videoconference. Heidi Pahl indicated that the videoconference unit manual most likely specifies how to do determine the transmission rate.

Karen Brown also informed that Qwest has a team of testers in Salt Lake City, Utah who are available with very little notice to help with various network issues and this service has been made available to MAG. Mr. Hull added that he is pleased to see that Qwest has followed through with the installations.

Rita Walton inquired as to whether Qwest would be able to put the charges pertaining to these network lines on hold since the videoconference system is not operational. Karen Brown indicated that although she did not have the authority to respond, she would refer that question to Mr. Bob Bobbett, the Qwest Account Manager for the MAG Regional Videoconferencing System (RVS) Project.

Debbie Kohn asked for an update on the status of videoconferencing training, the marketing plan, and the videoconferencing presentation to the MAG Regional Council. Ms. Walton explained that prior to this meeting she would have hoped for videoconferencing training in the next three weeks, but that the schedule is dependent upon the status with Intellisys Group. Ms. Walton explained that James Bourey, Executive Director of MAG, was fully aware of the situation. Ms. Walton stated that the presentation to MAG Regional Council and the marketing materials are on hold until the RVS at MAG is operational. Ms. Walton stated that when possible, MAG may explore the option of doing a “show-and-tell” videoconference with another region, such as Portland.

Jim Hull asked what the specific problems are with the videoconferencing system at MAG. Heidi Pahl responded by stating the following issues: the Multi-point Conference Server (MCS) has been installed and tested, but is not working to full specifications; the Audio Conference Server (ACS) is operational but the SMTP gateway is not functional nor is the WebPublisher; the custom room is about 75 percent complete with the VTEL equipment, SmartBoard, Touchpanel, VCR, and tabletop microphones as some of the pieces of equipment that are not fully installed; the Palo Verde room videoconferencing equipment is missing software and there are problems with the SmartBoard and network connections.

Debbie Kohn offered thanks to MAG staff for continuing to work on the project and commended their professionalism and perseverance.

Lynn Dunn asked if it would be helpful for legal purposes to document specifics of conversations with Intellisys technicians and contacts. Ms. Dunn explained that the Intellisys technicians made commitments to her and continued to break them, leaving Litchfield Park with no equipment. Ms. Walton responded by stating that although any Intellisys breach of contract only pertains to what was promised in the contract, any information from the member agencies is helpful.

3. Projects for Regional Federal Funding: Draft FY 2002-2006 Transportation Improvement Program (TIP)

Heidi Pahl stated that MAGTAG met via audio conference on October 19, 2000 to discuss and prioritize the telecommunications projects for the TIP FY 2002-2006. Ms. Pahl explained that the TAG identified two sets of priorities: one ranking the Congestion Mitigation Air Quality (CMAQ) projects and the other ranking all three telecommunications projects proposed. She said that since the TIP is for CMAQ funds and there was only one project that could receive CMAQ funding, the TAG’s highest priority was the Regional Community Wide Area Network (WAN) Implementation. She noted that this project went forward with the proviso that upon completion

of the Regional Community WAN Study it would be reviewed for eligibility of CMAQ funds prior to implementation.

Heidi Pahl noted that the Transportation Review Committee meets on October 31, 2000 to review the priorities of the projects recommended for CMAQ funding for inclusion in the TIP 2002-2006.

Mark Goldstein asked when the Regional Community Wide Area Network (WAN) Study RFP would be advertised. Heidi Pahl replied that the Regional Community WAN Study RFP Public Notice was submitted to the paper October 26, 2000 and will appear early next week in the Arizona Republic. She noted that the Proposers Conference is scheduled for Tuesday November 14, 2000 at 11:00 a.m. in the MAG Saguaro room. Proposals are due Thursday, November 30, 2000 at 12 noon. Ms. Pahl noted that this is a draft schedule and is subject to change.

4. Regional Connections

Heidi Pahl updated the TAG on the status of the Regional Connections project. She stated that there had been some issues with the phone lines for the end sites. Ms. Pahl informed that the color inkjet printers and hubs had arrived at MAG and were insured. Mr. Putterman, Mr. Woolley volunteered with Ms. Skidmore, and Ms. Pahl to deliver the equipment to the sites to allow member agencies to begin using the equipment. Ms. Pahl thanked Mr. Putterman and Mr. Woolley for their help and patience. Mr. Hull seconded that by thanking them for their time to help other communities.

5. Regional Community Wide Area Network (WAN) Study

Heidi Pahl informed that the RFP for the WAN Study has been written and that the recommendation of a consultant for the study would go to the Regional Council in January, 2001. She stated that members interested in a copy of the proposal when it is released should contact either herself or Mr. Wolfe at MAG. Ms. Pahl reviewed the elements included in the RFP.

Jim Hull inquired as to the timeline for the Public Notice and due dates. Ms. Pahl explained that the Public Notice will appear in the Arizona Republic early in the week of October 30, 2000; proposals must be in November 30, 2000; and the proposers interviews will occur on December 13, 2000 if necessary. Ms. Pahl stated that she was referring to a draft timeline that is subject to change.

Debbie Kohn asked if MAG was looking for members of the MAGTAG to review the proposals. Ms. Pahl stated that a review group had been set up with volunteers from MAGTAG and Intelligent Transportation Systems (ITS) Committee, but any additional people desiring to serve on the review committee should contact either Ms. Walton or Mr. Wolfe.

6 Announcements and Public Input

Jim Hull asked for input from the committee on conducting MAGTAG meetings via audio conference. Mr. Spencer, Ms. Dunn and Mr. Laue all stated that the option of audio conferencing saved them a great deal of traveling time and they preferred the option. Mr. Hull asked if there were any concerns with conducting meetings in this manner. Debbie Kohn stated that she thought it would be favorable to meet in person to discuss sensitive issues or for strategic planning and perhaps a quarterly face-to-face meeting could be established.

Heidi Pahl noted that audio conferencing could remain an option until the videoconferencing system was operational and the issue could be revisited at that time. Ms. Pahl also stated that MAG provides a meeting room for every MAGTAG meeting that is audio conferenced. Jim Hull stated that audio conferencing would remain an option or members could come to MAG if they wish.

Craig Stender stated that ADOT was going through the process of issuing an RFP for Shared Resources for Telecommunications. He stated that proposals are due November 30, 2000 at 3:00 p.m. Mr. Stender noted that ADOT is soliciting proposals from the telecommunications industry and qualified telecommunications developers to furnish telecommunications infrastructure to ADOT in exchange for access to Controlled Access Roadway throughout the state. He said that the purpose of this project is to improve the state highway system, provide enhanced transportation management, and increase quality traffic information to ADOT management and the traveling public while continuing to advance public safety. Mr. Stender offered to provide an update at the next MAGTAG meeting.

Mark Goldstein provided an update of the progress of Arizona Partnership for the New Economy (APNE). He stated that APNE has given their recommendations to the Governor.

Mark Goldstein announced that the City of Phoenix has passed a plan to presell a portion of vacant conduit in the I-17 corridor if they can get industry interest. The conduit will be sold at a much lower price in an effort to bring fiberbuild to the area. He stated that the City of Phoenix is in the process of creating the RFP and must presell a certain portion in order to proceed.

Mr. Kloeng inquired about the status of the Arizona Technology Atlas funding. Mr. Goldstein informed that the legislature had approved the funding. He went on to state that a grant application was pending approval by the Department of Commerce and he expects that approval in the next four months.

Jim Hull questioned whether there was currently a clearinghouse for citizens to determine what telecommunications services, such as DSL or Cox@home, were available in their area. Mr. Goldstein informed him that the ATLAS would provide that information. He cited that the website [www.dslreports.com](http://www.dslreports.com) does provide information on local telecommunications services. He also cited that [www.point.com](http://www.point.com) can provide consumers with information on cellular services in their area.

Debbie Kohn was interested in the recommendations of APNE group and requested that Greg Binder provide an update at the next MAGTAG meeting.

7. Date of Next Meetings

JimHull informed the TAG that the next meeting would be held November 30, 2000 at the MAG offices in the Saguaro Room and audio conferencing will be available.

The meeting was adjourned at 11:06 a.m.