

MINUTES OF THE
MARICOPA ASSOCIATION OF GOVERNMENTS
TRANSPORTATION REVIEW COMMITTEE

May 23, 2000

Maricopa Association of Governments Office
302 North First Avenue, Suite 200, Saguaro Room,
Phoenix, Arizona

MEMBERS ATTENDING

Gary Brown, Tempe, Chairman	Maricopa County: Chuck Williams for Tom Buick
Wickenburg: Fred Carpenter, Vice-Chair	Mesa: Jeff Martin
ADOT: Steve Jimenez for Dan Lance	Paradise Valley: Bob Ciccarelli for Tom Martinsen
Avondale: Debbie Kohn for William Bates	Peoria: David Moody
Buckeye: Joe Blanton	Phoenix: Don Herp for Tom Callow
Chandler: Dan Cook	RPTA: Ken Driggs
Gilbert: Tami Ryall	Scottsdale: John C. Little
*Glendale: Jim Book	Surprise: Ellis Perl
Goodyear: Andrew Cooper for Jerene Watson	
Litchfield Park: Mike Cartsonis	

EX-OFFICIO MEMBERS ATTENDING

*Regional Bicycle Task Force: Eric Iwersen, Tempe	*Pedestrian Advisory Group: Reed Kempton, Maricopa County Dept of Transportation
*Street Committee: Grant Anderson, Glendale	Telecommunications Advisory Group: Debbie Kohn, Avondale
*ITS Committee: Steve Hogan	

* Members neither present nor represented by proxy.

OTHERS PRESENT

Shannon Diamond, MAG	Terry Johnson, MAG
Stuart Boggs, MAG	Suzanne Quigley, MAG
Shawn Dralle, ADOT	Chris Voigt, MAG
Kwi-sung Kang, ADOT	Paul Ward, MAG
Bob Antila, RPTA	Bill Hayden, ADOT
Peggy Carpenter, Scottsdale	Henry Wall, Kimley-Horn
George Wallace, ADOT	William C. "Blue" Crowley, Public

1. Call to Order

Gary Brown, Chairman, called the meeting to order at 10:08 a.m.

2. Approval of the February 22, 2000 Meeting Minutes

Ken Driggs moved and David Moody seconded approval of the minutes. The minutes were approved unanimously.

3. Call to the Audience

Chairman Brown asked if there were any member of the public present who would like to make a comment. There being no response the Chairman turned to the next item on the agenda, the Transportation Managers Report.

4. Transportation Manager's Report

Terry Johnson briefed the Committee on the status of conformity analysis. Mr. Johnson also referred to the addendum to agenda #8 ADOT's revised noise abatement policy. The addendum changed this to an item for information, discussion and possible action. As originally incorporated into the budget it was just for information and discussion.

5. Approval of Consent Agenda

No action taken by the Committee.

6. Availability of Transportation Enhancement Funds

No action taken by the Committee.

7. Report on the MAG Freeway Program

Eric Anderson of MAG told the Committee that actual revenues from the sales tax had exceeded projections. He briefed the Committee on the proposed changes to the tentative MAG Freeway Program. Mr. Anderson then introduced Chuck Eaton of ADOT who gave a presentation on the specifics of the changes to the tentative program.

Mr. Eaton described the changes to the program such as adding Grant Anticipation NOTE (GAN) repayment with programmed funds including system share of interest, redefining landscape project limits for better efficiency and rescheduling landscape projects to provide better coordination with roadway construction projects. Mr. Eaton told the Committee that the final program would be recommended for approval by the Regional Council in June.

8. ADOT Revised Noise Abatement Policy

Eric Anderson of MAG briefed the Committee on ADOT's revised noise abatement policy. He noted that the previous policy was adopted by ADOT in 1996. Mr. Anderson pointed out the significant changes from the 1996 policy. These included a change from peak hour to noisiest hour. This change recognized that night time hours might be noisier than rush hour due to the large number of truck shipments that occur at night. Another change involved a shift from posted speed to anticipated speed for sound modeling since the majority of traffic tends to exceed the posted limits.

Mr. Anderson told the Committee that he had not calculated the magnitude of cost impacts that would result from mitigation. He was attempting to come up with a ball park estimate working with ADOT. Jeff Martin noted that the revisions made sense. He asked if Mr. Anderson was looking for Committee approval of the revisions? Mr. Anderson replied that any action was up to the Committee. Tom Callow asked if the revisions only applied to new construction. Mr. Anderson replied that they were not limited to new construction. Dan

Lance of ADOT told the Committee that the revisions applied to all significant change. Referring to the residential land use policy Bryan Patterson of Chandler took issue with using the issuance of a building permit as the point at which a development is “planned, designed and programmed.” He felt that the point at which a subdivision or zoning approval has been issued would make more sense. Mr. Patterson was especially concerned that the Cities would be stuck with building the walls if a subdivision was approved prior to the date of public knowledge but the building permits were not issued until after the date of public knowledge.

Jeff Martin made a motion that MAG work with ADOT to address the Committees concerns regarding the noise policy and then bring the policy back in June for consideration and action by the Committee. Brian Patterson seconded the motion. Eric Anderson noted that ADOT’s project budgets contain a standard noise wall value. Jim Book took issue with the definition which was only concerned with the 1st floor. Dan Lance pointed out that this was a FHWA standard. Mitigating noise impacts to upper floors would require noise walls that were 30 to 25 feet high. Walls of that size would be visually intrusive and would create a bigger adverse impact than the noise they were designed to block. There being no further discussion, Chairman Brown called for the vote which was unanimous in favor of the motion.

9. MAG Regional Transportation Plan

Chairman Brown introduced Stuart Boggs of MAG who briefed the Committee on the proposed Regional Transportation Plan. Referring to two flow charts, Mr. Boggs told the Committee that the plan would be developed in two phases. The first phase would identify issues and needs affecting the region, develop a vision for the future, and a policy framework that would guide the selection of transportation projects to carry forward the objectives of the plan. Mr. Boggs informed the Committee that he would be making presentations on the plan to the MAG modal and technical committees in June. He would then bring a revised scope back to the TRC for review and comment before making a presentation to the Transportation Subcommittee in July. Brian Patterson asked what the Transportation Subcommittee was. Mr. Boggs replied that the Transportation Subcommittee was a subcommittee of the Regional Council.

Terry Johnson reminded the Committee that they had expressed an interest in undergoing a policy discussion in the next couple of months. Jeff Martin observed that the top goal for several years has been to complete the regional freeway plan and associated HOV projects. He applauded MAG for moving forward with this process. Mr. Martin felt that other priorities needed to be looking at including relieving traffic congestion, improving mobility and air quality. Chairman Brown asked if the plan would be developed by MAG staff or with consultant support. Mr. Boggs replied that a consultant would be hired to assist in development of the plan.

Dan Lance of ADOT noted that his agency was developing a 20 year statewide plan. He felt that MAG’s and ADOT’s efforts should be a cooperative process. Terry Johnson noted that MAG has been working with ADOT on the statewide transportation plan. Mike Cartsonis of Litchfield Park observed that the process seemed to be focused on transportation. Would the plan include a broad vision or would it be limited to transportation issues? Mr. Boggs replied that the Regional Transportation Plan process will include land use, the environment

and quality of life concerns as well as transportation needs in the dialogue.

Jim Book of Glendale indicated that he wanted a discussion of when Growing Smarter would begin to impact the Cities, Towns and MAG. He felt that moving ahead with the Regional Transportation Plan before knowing the full implications of Growing Smarter could be a mistake. Tami Ryall of Gilbert asked when the Regional Transportation Plan proposal would go to the Management Committee and the Regional Council. Mr. Johnson replied that the plan proposal would be presented to the MAG Modal and Technical Committees in June for their input. From there it would come back to the TRC and then be presented to the Transportation Subcommittee in July.

10. FY 2001 Community Outreach Process

Stuart Boggs of MAG briefed the Committee on the proposed public outreach process that will be used in FY 2001. He noted that there would be a greater emphasis on outreach to Title VI and Environmental Justice populations. Among the techniques used would be outreach to major contacts. These contacts would be associated with the various social service agencies that provide services to low income, minority and ADA populations in the region. Mr. Boggs detailed the activities that would occur during the early, mid and final phase public involvement process.

11. I-10 Design Concept Study and Environmental Study Status

Mike Keyes, Consultant to ADOT, briefed the Committee on the status of the Design Concept Report and Environmental Study for the widening of I-10 from Maricopa Road south to the I-8 junction. Widening of the corridor between Chandler Boulevard and Riggs Road is part of the MAG Long Range Transportation Plan. Mr. Keyes discussed the traffic analysis for the corridor including projected traffic growth and anticipated level of service for both build and no build options. Mr. Keyes also briefed the Committee on related studies including the Riggs Road Corridor Study, the Truck Bypass Study, and the Intelligent Express Lanes Study. Asked if the study would look at other transportation modes, Mr. Keyes replied that the focus of this effort was to add mainline capacity to I-10.

Mr. Keyes noted that a big issue affecting this corridor was growth. He noted that 14,000 dwelling units were planned for Copper Mountain Ranch and 9,000 dwelling units were planned for Sun Lakes. Other proposed developments in the corridor could add another 6,000 dwelling units. Assuming a 2.5 percent annual growth rate, Mr. Keyes projected 250,000 ADT at Maricopa Road by 2025.

Terry Johnson of MAG then discussed the ADOT Life Cycle Program and noted the number of projects in the region that needed to be carried forward in order to address existing and projected traffic demands in the county. Jeff Martin observed that MAG needed to develop criteria to evaluate these transportation projects to insure that infrastructure investments were made wisely. Mr. Martin wondered if funding “gateway” projects instead of projects dealing with internal transportation capacity made sense. Mike Cartsonis of Litchfield Park felt that a stronger connection was needed between land use and transportation planning. Mr. Cartsonis noted that the Governor’s Transportation Vision 21 Task Force had recently been discussing this challenge.

Next Meeting Date

The next meeting will be held on June 27th at 10:00 a.m. in the Saguaro Room, 2nd floor, MAG offices.

The meeting adjourned at 11:47 a.m.