

January 11, 2000

TO: Members of the MAG Regional Council

FROM: Mayor Neil G. Giuliano, Tempe, Chairman

SUBJECT: MEETING NOTIFICATION AND TRANSMITTAL OF TENTATIVE AGENDA

Meeting - 5:00 p.m.

Wednesday, January 19, 2000

MAG Office, Suite 200 - Saguaro Room
302 North 1st Avenue, Phoenix

Dinner - 6:30 p.m.

MAG Office, Suite 300

Please park in the garage under the Arizona Bank Building. Parking places will be reserved for Regional Council members on the first and second levels of the garage. Bring your ticket to the meeting, parking will be validated. For those using transit, the Regional Public Transportation Authority will provide transit tickets for your trip. For those using bicycles, please lock your bicycle in the bike rack in the garage.

Pursuant to Title II of the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA), MAG does not discriminate on the basis of disability in admissions to or participation in its public meetings. Persons with a disability may request a reasonable accommodation, such as a sign language interpreter, by contacting Valerie Day at the MAG office. Requests should be made as early as possible to allow time to arrange the accommodation.

The next Regional Council meeting will be held at the MAG offices at the time and place noted above. Members who wish to remove any items from the Consent Agenda are requested to contact the MAG office. MAG will host a progressive dinner/reception for the Regional Council members following the meeting in the MAG offices on the 3rd floor. Supporting information is enclosed for your review.

If you have any questions, please call the MAG office.

**MAG REGIONAL COUNCIL
TENTATIVE AGENDA
January 19, 2000**

COUNCIL ACTION REQUESTED

1. <u>Call to Order</u>	
2. <u>Pledge of Allegiance</u>	
3. <u>Approval of December 8, 1999 Meeting Minutes</u>	3. Review and approve December 8, 1999 meeting minutes.
4. <u>Call to the Audience</u>	4. For information.
<p>An opportunity will be provided to members of the public to address the Regional Council for items that are not included on the agenda. Citizens will be requested not to exceed a three minute time period for their comments. A total of 15 minutes will be provided for the Call to the Audience agenda item, unless the Regional Council requests an exception to this limit.</p>	
5. <u>Executive Director's Report</u>	5. For information and discussion.
<p>The MAG Executive Director will provide a report to the Regional Council on activities of general interest.</p>	
6. <u>Approval of Consent Agenda</u>	6. For information, discussion and approval of the Consent Agenda.
<p>Prior to action on the consent agenda, members of the audience will be provided an opportunity to comment on consent items that are being presented for action. Following the comment period, Council members may request that an item be removed from the consent agenda. Consent items are marked with an asterisk.</p>	

ITEMS PROPOSED FOR CONSENT

TRANSPORTATION ITEMS

<u>Formation of South Mountain Parkway Agency Stakeholders Group</u>	
<p>The South Mountain Parkway is part of the MAG Long Range Transportation Plan and portions are funded in the ADOT Life Cycle Program. In June,</p>	<p>For information, discussion and approval to form a South Mountain Agency Stakeholders Group to review the approved alignment and develop an implementation plan for the South Mountain Parkway alignment between 19th Avenue and the Papago Freeway, in order that an environmental</p>

MAG received notice of a planned residential subdivision in the South Mountain Parkway alignment near Broadway Road and 59th Avenue. The City of Phoenix requested that action be taken on this red letter notification. The Transportation Review Committee TRC reviewed this red letter notification and recommended that a South Mountain Agency Stakeholders Group be formed to review the approved alignment and develop an implementation plan for the South Mountain alignment between 19th Avenue and the Papago Freeway, in order that an environmental assessment can be completed in time to start final design on central portions of this corridor no later than February 2002. It is anticipated that MAG will be convening the stakeholder group, including the Gila River Indian Community, ADOT, the City of Phoenix and Maricopa County. The Management Committee recommended approval of the formation of the stakeholders group, to include a West Valley representative. Please refer to the enclosed material.

assessment can be completed in time to start final design on central portions of this corridor no later than February 2002. Also, that the South Mountain Agency Stakeholders Group include a West Valley representative.

8. F 2001-2005 Short Range Transit Plan

The Short Range Transit Plan SRTP is prepared and updated annually by the Regional Public Transportation Authority on behalf of the Maricopa Association of Governments MAG . In addition to providing recommendations for transit improvements over the next five years, the plan also includes a summary of the regional transit system s operating characteristics from Fiscal ear 1998-99. The Plan was developed using input from MAG member agencies and citizen participation efforts that are normally conducted throughout the year. The SRTP is intended to provide public sector decision-makers, federal government officials and citizens with a summary of local and regional planned transit system improvements. The document is not intended to bind any one municipality or collective municipalities to the contents with the Plan, but rather to provide a guide in which to develop and enhance transit services. The Transportation Review Committee recommended approval of the Plan. The Management Committee recommended approval of the F 2001-2005 Short Range Transit Plan for public review and comment. Please refer to the enclosed material.

8. For information, discussion and approval of the F 2001-2005 Short Range Transit Plan for public review and comment.

9. Proposed Administrative Adjustment and Amendment to the F 2000-2004 MAG Transportation Improvement Program

The F 2000-2004 MAG Transportation Improvement Program was approved by the MAG Regional Council on June 9, 1999. As a result of additional funding opportunities within the F 2000 Federal Transportation Appropriations Bill, the Regional Public Transportation Authority RPTA has requested an administrative adjustment to 40 transit projects and an amendment adding eight new projects to the F 2000-2004 MAG Transportation Improvement Program. Proposed administrative adjustments to the TIP include twelve project advancements, five project deferrals, and twenty-three project scope changes, all of which may be categorized as minor project revisions. The proposed eight new transit projects, which require a TIP amendment for programming in F 2000, may be categorized as exempt. The new projects are funded by Section 530 , Section 5309, and Arizona Department of Transportation ADOT Surface Transportation Program STP flex funds. Consultation is required for the corresponding conformity assessment on the proposed administrative adjustment and amendment. The Transportation Review Committee recommended amending the TIP to include the proposed transit projects for STP funding. The Management Committee recommended approval of the administrative adjustment and amendment to the F 2000-2004 MAG Transportation Improvement Program. Please refer to the enclosed material.

10. Transportation Enhancement Review Committee Recommendations

The Regional Council unanimously approved forwarding a ranked list of proposed enhancement fund projects to the Arizona Department of Transportation Enhancement Review Committee TERC at its September, 1999 meeting. This year, eight enhancement fund applications were recommended by the TERC to the State Transportation Board for 3.4 million. A total of 11.8 million in state transportation enhancement funds was recommended by the TERC: .5 million in local projects and 4.3 in state projects. The MAG region received 39 percent of local funds, and 10 percent of state funds -- a total of 29

9. For information, discussion and approval of the administrative adjustment and amendment to the F 2000-2004 MAG Transportation Improvement Program.

10. For information.

percent of all funds awarded. Please refer to the enclosed material.

11. Submission of Applications for the Transportation and Community and System Preservation Pilot Program

The Transportation Equity Act for the 21st Century authorized the Transportation and Community and System Preservation Pilot Program TCSP . The purpose of the TCSP is to provide funding for planning and implementation grants, as well as research to investigate and address the relationship between transportation and community system preservation. The Federal Highway Administration FWA has requested grant applications for F 2001 funding by January 21, 2000. Applicants proposing construction activities will need their projects included in the MAG Transportation Improvement Program. Non-construction activities funded by TCSP should be supported or endorsed by the Metropolitan Planning Organization MPO . According to FWA guidelines, TCSP funded activities are to demonstrate coordination with the MPO to ensure consistency with the regional planning process. Please refer to the enclosed material.

11. For information and discussion.

AIR QUALITY ITEM

12. Consultation on Conformity Assessment for Proposed Administrative Adjustment and Amendment to the F 2000-2004 MAG Transportation Improvement Program

The Regional Public Transportation Authority has requested that the Maricopa Association of Governments MAG make an administrative adjustment to 40 transit projects and add eight new transit projects to the F 2000-2004 MAG Transportation Improvement Program TIP . The eight new transit projects require a TIP amendment. MAG has reviewed the proposed projects for compliance with the federal conformity rule 40 CFR Parts 51 and 93 and found that the project changes require consultation on the conformity assessment. The proposed 40 minor project revisions may be characterized as administrative adjustments for which a conformity determination is not required. The proposed eight new transit projects may be categorized as exempt, for which conformity determinations are not

12. For information, discussion and consultation.

required. The current conformity finding of the TIP and the associated Long Range Transportation Plan Summary that was made jointly by the Federal Highway Administration and Federal Transit Administration in a letter dated June 10, 1999, would be unchanged by this action. The Transportation Review Committee recommended amending the TIP to include the proposed transit projects. Please refer to the enclosed material.

ITEMS PROPOSED TO BE HEARD

VALLEY VISION 2025 UPDATE

13. Valley Vision 2025 Update

An update on the activities of the Valley Vision 2025 Committee will be provided to the members of the Regional Council.

13. For information and discussion.

TRANSPORTATION ITEMS

14A. Tentative FY 2001-2005 Program for MAG Federal Funds

Each year, as part of development of the Transportation Improvement Program (TIP), MAG updates its program for MAG federal funds. This year, approximately 34.1 million in Surface Transportation Program (STP) funds are expected to be available for freeway projects in FY 2005 and approximately 80 million in uncommitted Congestion Mitigation and Air Quality Improvement Program (CMAQ) funds for other projects. The majority of the CMAQ funds are expected to be available in the latter three years of the program, with smaller amounts available during earlier years. New project requests were received totaling 411 million. These projects were rated by MAG modal technical advisory committees and on December 1, 1999, the TRC reviewed the ratings and recommended a tentative program of MAG Federally funded projects for public review and comment. The Management Committee recommended to approve the list of projects from the TRC. They also recommended that the issue of allocating additional allocation authority to transit receive additional consideration by the TRC. Please refer to the enclosed material.

14A. For information, discussion and approval of the list of projects recommended by the Transportation Review Committee in the tentative MAG Federally funded program for public review and comment.

I4B. Tentative F 2001-2005 MAG Regional Transit Federal Program

Each year, in addition to programming ADOT and MAG Federal funds, MAG develops, in conjunction with the Regional Public Transportation Authority RPTA, a Transit Federal Program. In general, Transit Federal funds may only be used for capital projects including maintenance while the local matching funds are predominantly used to operate the transit services. In accord with federal requirements to develop a fiscally constrained list of projects as part of the F 2001-2005 Transportation Improvement Program TIP, the RPTA has developed a Tentative F 2001-2005 Regional Transit Federal Program. This program includes expected Statewide-flexed Surface Transportation Program funds committed to transit projects STP-FLE. The Transportation Review Committee and the Management Committee recommended the Regional Transit Federal Program for public comment. Please refer to the enclosed material.

I4C. ADOT Tentative Life Cycle Program for the MAG Regional Freeway System

Each year, the Arizona Department of Transportation prepares the Tentative Life Cycle Program for the MAG Regional Freeway System and releases it for public review and comment. The Program provides the detailed plan for the design and construction of the MAG Freeway Plan for the period F 2001 through F 200 given available resources. The Tentative Life Cycle Program incorporates updated revenue projections and cost estimates to reflect the latest information available. The sequence of projects reflects the adopted priorities and the accelerated schedule to complete the Regional Freeway Program in 200.

The Tentative Life Cycle Program this year also includes a number of additional elements that either restore the remainder of the features eliminated as part of the 1994 Governor's Plan or are needed for safety or environmental reasons. The elements added include the restoration of the third lanes on the Red Mountain, Santan, and Sky arbor freeways and lighting on all of the remaining segments, which were eliminated as part of the 1994 Governor's Plan. Median barriers and auxiliary lanes are being added. In addition, an

I4B. For information, discussion and approval of the Tentative F 2001-2005 MAG Regional Transit Federal Program for public review and comment.

I4C. For information discussion and approval of the ADOT Tentative Life Cycle Program for the MAG Regional Freeway System for public review and comment.

allowance for noise walls is being included due to federal environmental requirements. The necessary underground conduit for the future installation of the Freeway Management Systems FMS was added as a future cost saving measure. Funds have also been added so that the design for the SR51/Pima TI and the Santan/Price TI can accommodate a future OV ramp. Money to update the South Mountain environmental assessment is also included. The Transportation Review Committee recommended that the proposed new projects be incorporated into a draft tentative life cycle program of freeway projects. The Management Committee recommended approving the draft ADOT Tentative Life Cycle Program for the MAG Regional Freeway System for public review and comment. Please refer to the enclosed material.

14D. ADOT Tentative Five Year Highway Construction Program 2001-2005

Each year, the Arizona Department of Transportation ADOT releases a new Tentative Five Year Highway Construction Program for public review and comment. The ADOT Tentative Five Year Highway Construction Program provides the detailed listing for the design and construction of State Highway system facilities. MAG and ADOT have worked closely with representatives from the other Metropolitan Planning Organizations and Councils of Governments to develop funding estimates as part of the Resource Allocation Advisory Committee RAAC process. Using these RAAC estimates, MAG and ADOT have worked together to develop priorities for projects included in the MAG region for the ADOT Program. The Transportation Review Committee recommended that these priorities for the MAG estimate of funds be incorporated into a draft 5-year program of projects. The Management Committee recommended approval of these changes to the ADOT Tentative Five Year Highway Construction Program for public review and comment. Following the Management Committee meeting, a draft of the ADOT Tentative Program was received, which included the changes recommended by the Management Committee. A public hearing on the tentative program for the

14D. For information, discussion and approval of the ADOT Tentative Five Year Highway Construction Program for public review and comment.

MAG region is targeted for February. Please refer to the enclosed material.

15. Grand Avenue Major Investment Study

In May 1998, the MAG Regional Council approved conducting a Major Investment Study (MIS) for the Grand Avenue corridor. The MIS has just been completed. The Grand Avenue MIS assessed in detail two options: 1 Option 4 - alternating grade separations, and 2 Option 5 - limited expressway. The Arizona Department of Transportation Grand Avenue Steering Committee recommended in the final report that: Option 4 with modifications be implemented in the Grand Avenue Corridor. The modifications to Option 4 are to use the Option 5 concept at the 43rd/Camelback intersection and at the 59th/Glendale intersection. This recommendation allows Grand Avenue to be further upgraded to expressway standards by elimination of access and construction of additional grade separations along Grand Avenue as indicated in the MAG Long-Range Plan. The ADOT 2000-2004 program currently includes \$160 million to improve eight intersections along Grand Avenue. The MIS puts the total cost of its recommended option at \$16.6 million. The Transportation Review Committee and the Management Committee recommended including the Grand Avenue MIS in the Draft MAG LRTP: 2000 Update for a conformity analysis. The MIS concept is for completion by 2006 and the LRTP concept will continue to be a controlled access expressway. Please refer to the enclosed material.

15. For information, discussion and approval to include the Grand Avenue Major Investment Study in the Draft MAG Long Range Transportation Plan: 2000 Update for a conformity analysis, with the MIS concept for completion by 2006, and the Long Range Transportation Plan concept for the facility to be a controlled access expressway.

GENERAL ITEMS

16. Status Update on the June 30, 1998 Single Audit and Management Letter Comments, MAG's Comprehensive Annual Financial Report (CAFR) and OMB Circular A-133 Reports i.e., Single Audit for the Fiscal Year Ended June 30, 1999 and the Related Management Letter Comments

The public accounting firm of Deloitte Touche LLP has completed the audit of MAG's Comprehensive Annual Financial Report (CAFR) and Single Audit for the fiscal year ended June 30, 1999. An unqualified audit opinion was issued on October 8, 1999 on the General Purpose Financial Statements (GPFS) and on the combining and

16. For information, discussion and approval to accept the MAG Comprehensive Annual Financial Report and Single Audit Report for the year ended June 30, 1999.

individual financial statements in relation to the GPFS. The independent auditors report on compliance with the requirements applicable to major federal award programs, expressed an unqualified opinion on the Single Audit. The Single Audit report indicated there were no reportable conditions in MAG's internal control over financial reporting considered to be material weaknesses, no instances of noncompliance considered to be material and no questioned costs. The Single Audit report provided one procedural finding aimed at improving MAG's financial management. This finding is not considered to be material. Management is currently addressing the finding i.e., Written Procurement Policies and Procedures and anticipates it will be resolved in early January 2000. Management's response to the Single Audit finding is incorporated in the report.

A Management Letter was also issued under separate cover dated October 8, 1999. The letter provides management with six recommendations to strengthen and improve areas of MAG's financial operations. There were no material weaknesses cited in the Management Letter. During FY 1999, management either resolved, or is currently in the process of addressing each of the Management Letter comments. Management's responses to the Management Letter comments are included with the CAFR.

The CAFR financial statements and related footnotes were prepared in accordance with the Government Finance Officers Association's GFOA standards for the Certificate of Achievement for Excellence in Financial Reporting awards program. Management intends to submit the June 30, 1999 CAFR to the GFOA awards program for review. If awarded the certificate for the June 30, 1999 CAFR, this would be the agency's second consecutive award. Additionally, MAG is one of only 14 Councils of Governments COGs currently holding this award out of approximately 500 councils of governments nationwide. The Management Committee recommended approval to accept the MAG Comprehensive Annual Financial Report and Single Audit Report for the year ended June 30, 1999. Please refer to the enclosed material.

I . Follow-up on January , 2000 MAG Regional Council Retreat

On January , 2000, a retreat was held for the MAG Regional Council. The topics at the Retreat included: 1 the new economy and new models in regional leadership and governance 2 review of regional organizational structure models and enhancements to regional governance and membership, 3 a review of the Valley Vision Goals and implementation strategies.

For the membership issue, having the City of Apache Junction and the new State Transportation Board member participate in the Regional Council proceedings was discussed. Proposed action for the State Transportation Board member participating is presented in a separate agenda item.

For Apache Junction, several options were presented delineating how Apache Junction could participate. The consensus of the participants at the retreat was to have Apache Junction participate in a non-voting and non dues paying capacity. According to the MAG General Counsel, this option would not require changing the MAG Bylaws. A report on the retreat discussion will be presented to the members of the Regional Council. Please refer to the enclosed material.

18. ADOT Board Representation on the MAG Regional Council

In the 1999 Legislative session, SB 1201 was passed which provided for two State Transportation Board members to represent Transportation Districts representing a population of 2.2 million or more persons. This resulted in this area receiving an additional State Transportation Board member. At the January , 2000 Regional Council Retreat, the concept of adding the new State Transportation Board member to the Regional Council was discussed. The consensus of the participants at the retreat was to have the issue presented to the Regional Council in two steps. First, the Regional Council would be requested to vote on whether two members should participate on the Regional Council. The second vote would be to prescribe how a single member or members would participate. The MAG staff was directed to prepare options for how the board members could participate. Please refer to the enclosed material.

I . For information and discussion.

18. For information, discussion and possible approval to provide for the additional State Transportation Board member representing Transportation District One to participate on the Regional Council also possible action to prescribe how the new State Transportation Board member would participate.