

MINUTES OF THE
MARICOPA ASSOCIATION OF GOVERNMENTS
AIR QUALITY TECHNICAL ADVISORY COMMITTEE MEETING

Thursday, July 5, 2001
MAG Office
Phoenix, Arizona

MEMBERS PRESENT

Stephen Cleveland, City of Goodyear, Chairman
*Scottsdale: Larry Person
Chandler: Cynthia Young for Jim Weiss
Gilbert: Tami Ryall for Danielle Typinski
*Glendale: Doug Kukino
Mesa: Christine Zielonka
Phoenix: Joe Gibbs for Gaye Knight
Tempe: Tom Moore
*Citizen Representative: Walter Bouchard
Arizona Lung Association: David Feuerherd
*Salt River Project: Greg Witherspoon
Southwest Gas Corporation: Brian O' Donnell
*Arizona Public Service Company: Scott Davis
*Western States Petroleum Association: Gina Grey
Regional Public Transportation Authority: Randi
Alcott for Bryan Jungwirth
*Arizona Motor Transport Association: Dave Berry
Maricopa County Farm Bureau: Jeannette Fish
*Arizona Rock Products Association: Samuel
Aubrey

*Associated General Contractors: David Martin
*Homebuilders Association of Central Arizona:
Connie Wilhelm-Garcia
American Institute of Architects- Central Arizona:
H. Maynard Blumer
Valley Forward: Peter Allard
*University of Arizona - Cooperative Extension:
Monica Pastor
Arizona Department of Transportation: Pat Cupell
Arizona Department of Environmental Quality:
Theresa Rigney for Peter Hyde
Maricopa County Environmental Services
Department: Bob Downing for Jo Crumbaker
*Arizona Department of Weights and Measures: Mark
Ellery
Federal Highway Administration: Dennis Mittelstedt
Arizona State University: Judi Nelson
Salt River Pima-Maricopa Indian Community:
Stan Belone for B. Bobby Ramirez
Citizen Representative: David Rueckert
Phoenix Chamber of Commerce: Ian Calkins

*Those members were neither present nor represented by proxy.

OTHERS PRESENT

Doug Collins, Maricopa Association of
Governments
Bill Buck, Arizona Auto Hobbyist Council
Cathy Arthur, Maricopa Association of
Governments
Dean Giles, Maricopa Association of
Governments
Judy Wood, Arizona State Land - Dust Abatement

Lindy Bauer, Maricopa Association of Governments
Sherri Zendri, Arizona Department of Environmental
Quality
Kelly McMullen, Maricopa County Department of
Transportation
Kale Walch, Pinal County Air Quality Control
District

1. Call to Order

A meeting of the MAG Air Quality Technical Advisory Committee was conducted on Thursday, July 5, 2001. Stephen Cleveland, City of Goodyear, Chairman, began a discussion of the agenda items at 1:30 p.m. since a quorum was not present.

4. Draft Revised Methodology for Evaluating Congestion Mitigation and Air Quality Improvement Projects

Dean Giles, MAG, presented an overview of the Draft Revised Methodology for evaluating Congestion Mitigation and Air Quality Improvement (CMAQ) projects. He mentioned that the Federal Highway Administration issued final federal guidance for the Congestion Mitigation and Air Quality Improvement Program, effective April 28, 1999. The guidance encourages States, metropolitan planning organizations, and transit agencies, in consultation with air quality agencies to cooperatively develop evaluation criteria. In accordance with the guidance, MAG developed the CMAQ Methodology in June 2000 through consultation and the modal and technical committee review process.

Mr. Giles noted that the MAG Air Quality Technical Advisory Committee reviewed and commented on the CMAQ Methodology in June, 2000 and provided several comments. Following that comment period several revisions to the CMAQ Methodology were made. He mentioned that further revisions have now been made to the CMAQ Methodology based on previous comments received. A summary of the major changes to the CMAQ Methodology included the addition of the “cost-effectiveness of the total project cost”. This is in addition to the “cost-effectiveness for CMAQ funds”. Also as part of the methodology for Intersection Improvements, an example has been included to estimate the emission benefits for roundabout projects. The example is provided on page 34 of the Draft Revised CMAQ Methodology.

In addition, to address comments received from the Committee, several Air Quality and Transportation Demand Management methods have been added, including: Rideshare Programs, Trip Reduction Program, Ozone Education Program, Telework Program, Teleconferencing, and High Occupancy Vehicle facilities. These projects generally include marketing and promotional programs to encourage participation in the use of alternative transportation modes and alternate work schedules and result in reduced vehicle miles traveled. He noted further that the CMAQ Methodology would be used as an evaluation tool, in addition to other evaluation criteria adopted by MAG such as the Congestion Management System, for the selection of projects for development of the FY 2003-2007 MAG Transportation Improvement Program.

Mr. Giles indicated that the schedule included technical and modal committee review during July 2001 and that comments on the Draft Revised CMAQ Methodology are requested by August 10, 2001. Revisions to the CMAQ Methodology may be made following the comment period. Maynard Blumer, American Institute of Architects, presented a letter to the Committee outlining three comments relating to Bus Projects, Traffic Flow Improvements, and Agricultural Best Management Practices. Mr. Cleveland indicated a quorum had been established and proceeded with the agenda.

3. Draft 2001 Conformity Analysis

Mr. Giles presented the Draft 2001 MAG Conformity Analysis for the Draft FY 2002-2006 MAG Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) and Draft MAG Long Range Transportation Plan 2001 Update. He noted that the Draft Conformity Analysis demonstrates that the TIP and Long Range Transportation Plan meet transportation conformity requirements for carbon monoxide, ozone, and particulate matter. Mr. Giles mentioned that the federal transportation conformity rule requires a conformity finding prior to approval of a TIP or Long Range Transportation Plan. The rule also requires that the TIP and Long Range Transportation Plan pass emission tests for each pollutant for which the region is in nonattainment using the latest planning assumptions and emissions models. Emission tests for the 2001 MAG Conformity Analysis were conducted for the years 2006, 2015, and 2021. Mr. Giles reviewed the regional emissions analysis results for carbon monoxide, ozone, and particulate matter. In addition, the funding by category for Transportation Control Measures or TCMs in the Transportation Improvement Program was presented.

Mr. Giles noted that on July 3, 2001, the Draft FY 2002-2006 MAG Transportation Improvement Program, Draft MAG Long Range Transportation Plan 2001 Update, and the 2001 MAG Conformity Analysis were the subject of an open house and public hearing. Over sixteen persons were in attendance and comments received would be included in a response to comments. Mr. Giles presented a summary of the comments received relating to air quality and the conformity analysis.

Bill Buck of the Arizona Auto Hobbyist Council indicated he was disturbed about the term “scrappage” used in the conformity analysis. He mentioned further that there is nothing in the document that refers to the volunteer repair and retrofit program which is the lowest costing measure to reduce pollution in the country. Lindy Bauer, MAG, indicated that on page 5-2 of the 2001 MAG Conformity Analysis, the federal transportation control measure “Program to Encourage Voluntary Removal from Use and the Marketplace of Pre-1980 Model Year Light Duty Vehicles and Pre-1980 Model Light Duty Trucks”, was from the list of transportation control measures in Section 108(f) of the Clean Air Act. Ms. Bauer indicated that she would work with Mr. Buck to address the volunteer repair and retrofit program by describing the program as an alternative approach to the federal measure.

Dennis Mittelstedt, Federal Highway Administration, inquired how many vehicles were retrofitted under the Maricopa County program. Ms. Bauer indicated that approximately 2,000 vehicles had been retrofitted under the program and the legislative intent was to double that amount. Joe Gibbs, City of Phoenix, questioned why an emission reduction test was conducted for PM-10. Ms. Bauer indicated that the emission reduction test was not required since the PM-10 emissions budget has been found to be adequate by EPA; the extra test was performed since the area is still having violations of the PM-10 air quality standard.

Mr. Cleveland inquired if staff had a response to the comment from Bill Beyer, Chairman of the Citizens Transportation Oversight Committee and a panelist from the July 3, 2001 public hearing. Mr. Beyer’s comment concerned why the emissions trend was downward until about 2015, then there was an estimated emissions increase in 2021. Cathy Arthur, MAG, responded that the emissions decline between 2006 and 2015 as the control measures achieve their maximum emission

reduction effectiveness and then increase again in 2021 because the control measures and emission reductions attributable to new vehicle controls are no longer sufficient to offset the continuing growth in vehicle travel and the total emissions begin to rise.

Mr. Gibbs questioned the number of street sweepers assumed in the “Build/No Build” test. Ms. Arthur indicated that the 48 PM-10 efficient street sweepers included as a commitment in the Revised Serious Area Particulate Plan for PM-10 were included in both the “Build” and “No Build” scenarios. The additional 31 street sweepers were included in the “Build” scenario only.

Mr. Mittelstedt indicated that the public hearing was one of the better ones. He indicated there was good dialogue between the panelists and the public and that participants felt they were being listened to. Mr. Cleveland informed the Committee that he served as the hearing officer. He indicated he conducted the hearing in a manner so citizens would feel their messages were being listened to and not ignored because of bureaucratic red tape. Mr. Blumer moved and David Feuerherd, Arizona Lung Association, seconded to make a recommendation for approval of the Draft 2001 Conformity Analysis for the Draft FY 2002-2006 MAG Transportation Improvement Program and Draft MAG Long Range Transportation Plan 2001 Update. Mr. Mittelstedt indicated he would abstain from voting on this issue since his office would be issuing the finding of conformity.

2. Approval of the May 31, 2001 Meeting Minutes

This item was presented out of order since a quorum was not present earlier. The Committee reviewed the minutes from the May 31, 2001 meeting. Brian O’Donnell, Southwest Gas Corporation, requested that the May 31, 2001 meeting minutes be corrected under agenda item three, Arizona Power Plants, with the revised language provided. Mr. Feuerherd, moved, and David Rueckert, citizen representative, seconded, and it was unanimously carried to approve the minutes as corrected from the May 31, 2001 meeting.

5. Agricultural Best Management Practices

Ms. Arthur presented a status report on Agricultural Best Management Practices (BMPs). She provided background on the MAG Moderate Area PM-10 Plan and the reclassification of the PM-10 nonattainment area to Serious. The Environmental Protection Agency published a Final Moderate Area PM-10 Federal Implementation Plan in August, 1998 to address the deficiencies found in part of the microscale plan to demonstrate attainment for the 24-hour PM-10 air quality standard at the Gilbert and West Chandler monitoring sites. Ms. Arthur mentioned that in response, Senate Bill 1427 was enacted in May, 1998 and established an Agricultural Best Management Practices Committee that was comprised of farmers, the Arizona Department of Environmental Quality (ADEQ), Arizona Department of Agriculture, Natural Resources Conservation Service, and the University of Arizona.

Ms. Arthur also indicated that the 1999 Serious Area Particulate Plan for PM-10 for the Maricopa County Nonattainment Area was submitted to the Environmental Protection Agency in February, 2000. The Environmental Protection Agency proposed to approve the annual attainment demonstration in the Serious Area Plan and the five-year extension request on April 13, 2000.

However, no action was taken on the 24-hour attainment demonstration because quantification of emission reductions for agricultural best management practices was not complete. On May 12, 2000 the Agricultural Best Management Practices general permit became effective by rule and the Arizona Department of Environmental Quality submitted the Agricultural Best Management Practices rule to the Environmental Protection Agency on July 11, 2000. A State Implementation Plan revision was submitted by the Arizona Department of Environmental Quality to the EPA on June 13, 2001. The EPA proposed approval of the Agricultural BMPs general permit rule as meeting reasonably available control measure (RACM) requirements on June 29, 2001.

The Agricultural Best Management Practices permit requirements apply to farms exceeding ten acres in size that are located in the PM-10 nonattainment area. Of the 34 best management practices, farmers must implement one BMP for each of the following three categories of emission sources: tillage and harvest, non-cropland, and cropland. Farmers must comply by the end of 2001 or face violations which range from submission of plans to the Natural Resource Conservation District and Arizona Department of Environmental Quality to revocation of the general permit. Ms. Arthur provided example BMPs for each of the categories of emission sources. For example, for tillage and harvesting, potential BMPs include limiting activity during a high-wind event or growing a multi-year crop. In addition, she mentioned that a public education program initiated in Summer 2000 received assistance from the Maricopa County Farm Bureau, Natural Resources Conservation Service/Natural Resources Conservation District, and the University of Arizona. A detailed BMP guide was produced for farmers and public workshops were conducted in February and March, 2001. Future plans include annual workshops and other continuing outreach efforts. Ms. Arthur also expressed appreciation for the high caliber of the work by the Arizona Department of Environmental Quality on this project.

Mr. Blumer indicated he was disappointed that the Committee did not have an opportunity to comment on this project as it was being developed. He mentioned the program had two major flaws: the boundaries were too narrowly drawn, and grazing was never mentioned. Ms. Arthur indicated that grazing was regulated by Maricopa County Rule 310. Jeanette Fish, Maricopa County Farm Bureau, indicated the program was intended to address cropland and to also minimize financial hardships to farmers. Mr. Mittelstedt inquired if the Environmental Protection Agency was paying for the brochure and the funding of the Agricultural BMP Committee. Ms. Fish indicated that the Agriculture BMP Committee served without pay and was only reimbursed for expenses. However, ADEQ received a grant from EPA for the education portion.

Mr. O'Donnell asked that if this was a construction or agricultural problem, and why not target the East Valley for this program. Ms. Arthur mentioned that the Environmental Protection Agency indicated that the program could not be targeted just for areas near monitors. Mr. Cleveland inquired how to ensure issues like this get brought before the Committee for consideration, and why a status report on Agricultural BMPs was not previously brought before the Committee. Ms. Arthur noted that she was the MAG representative for the project which has lasted for several years and that other briefings on the process had been provided to the Committee. Mr. Buck noted that a natural humus-based nutrient and fertilizer helps to prevent the soil from drying out and therefore assists in reducing windblown particulate matter. He mentioned that the product, ironite, will percolate the soil and retain soil moisture.

6. Call to the Public

An opportunity was provided to members of the public to address the Air Quality Technical Advisory Committee. No comments were presented.

7. Next Committee Meeting

Mr. Cleveland announced that the July 12, 2001 meeting of the AQTAC has been canceled and the next meeting is tentatively scheduled for August 31, 2001. With no further business, the meeting was adjourned.