

**MINUTES OF THE
MARICOPA ASSOCIATION OF GOVERNMENTS
REGIONAL GOVERNANCE TASK FORCE MEETING**

June 11, 2001
MAG Office, Mesquite Room
Phoenix, Arizona

MEMBERS ATTENDING

Mayor Skip Rimsza, Phoenix, Chairman	Mayor Keno Hawker, Mesa
Mayor Ron Drake, Avondale	Tom Martinsen, Paradise Valley
Mayor Roy Delgado, El Mirage	Mayor Wendy Feldman-Kerr, Queen Creek
Ed Beasley, Glendale	Jan Dolan, Scottsdale
Stephen Cleveland, Goodyear	* Bill Pupo, Surprise
Mayor J. Woodfin Thomas, Litchfield Park	

*Not present.

1. Call to Order

The meeting of the Regional Governance Task Force was called to order by Chairman Skip Rimsza at 1:35 p.m. Self introductions followed.

2. Review Purpose of the Task Force

3. Formation of an Advisory Group

Chairman Rimsza welcomed all to the first meeting of the Governance Task Force. He stated that the Task Force was established to study the issues of governance, the role and responsibilities of MAG, including transit planning, and MAG membership, including voting membership. Chairman Rimsza expressed the concern that if MAG does not evolve, the management of funds, especially transportation funds, might be challenged. Chairman Rimsza reviewed federal requirements for managing federal funding. He stated that Supervisor Don Stapley had written an editorial in *The Arizona Republic* that expressed that there may be a better way to plan transportation. The County has indicated they want to control Roads of Regional Significance. Chairman Rimsza stated that MAG has made good decisions in the past, notably the freeway system and meeting revenue shortfalls. He stated that by evolving, MAG could maintain control.

Mayor Hawker commented on the need to define whether the sales tax extension would be a state or county tax. He stated that MAG does not have representation from the Legislature. Bringing them into the discussion could assist in getting legislation written for a statewide tax. Mayor Hawker asked for clarification of the Tucson sales tax vote. Chairman Rimsza stated that the Mayor of Tucson indicated that Tucson will pursue their own half-cent sales tax in May 2002. The Tucson Mayor indicated that he would not object to his sales tax being replaced with the statewide tax if his projects would be completed. Chairman Rimsza noted that this would also create a transportation improvement district for the Tucson region.

Mayor Hawker stated that a project rating system is needed. Chairman Rimsza stated that projects and timeline would be identified first, prior to the sales tax election. Mayor Hawker mentioned the sunset of RPTA in 2005. He commented on the management of RPTA and transit if the sales tax is extended. Chairman Rimsza stated that the Legislature would be involved in this decision.

Mayor Thomas expressed his concern about membership by non-elected entities. Mayor Feldman-Kerr commented on how business would be defined. Those currently on the MAG Board are elected or have been appointed by an elected official.

Chairman Rimsza stated that the County is attempting to assume control of Roads of Regional Significance. MAG needs to be more inclusive, or control could be taken away. He stated that by adding three geographical representatives, MAG would be proactive in seeking input. Chairman Rimsza stated that the business community is needed as a partner.

Jeff Martin, Mesa, stated that the Legislature regrets granting MAG power 25 years ago. This would be a good opportunity to add a legislative representative to an advisory committee.

Chairman Rimsza stated that he is an advocate of adding three geographic representatives. He commented that adding three votes would not be a great impact and what they bring to the table could be of value. Chairman Rimsza stated that MAG has weighted voting, which has not been utilized because the Council works through issues. The voting power of three additional votes is overrated in comparison to their input. Chairman Rimsza stated that the three representatives could be the elected chairs of the East Valley Partnership, Westmarc and the Phoenix Chamber of Commerce.

Ms. Dolan commented on needing the involvement of business, especially in transportation and transportation funding. She stated that a focus is needed whether their involvement would be on just transportation or on other issues, such as land use or social services. Chairman Rimsza clarified that CTOC only votes on transportation issues. Ms. Dolan asked for clarification on the voting status of the three new members. Chairman Rimsza replied that he preferred they have full voting membership, to provide ownership to the business community. He asked for input on the suggestion that has been made to add them only to the Regional Council Transportation Subcommittee. Ms. Dolan commented on studying transportation models in other parts of the country.

Chairman Rimsza stated that the question is whether MAG will be managing the half cent sales tax if it is extended past 2005. The Supervisor Stapley letter and the recommendations of the Governor's Vision 21 Task Force have galvanized the position that MAG needs the representation of the business community. He stated that the Legislature contends that MAG does not represent the business community.

Mr. Martinsen stated that MAG does pay attention to the business community because of the economic impact. A good argument could be made to include the business community in the sales tax election.

Mayor Drake questioned whether adding three business representatives would be satisfactory to the Board of Supervisors. He commented on addressing first those issues on which MAG is being attacked. Chairman Rimsza stated that MAG is criticized because there is a perception that MAG is a Mayor's Club. Mayor Drake commented that this could be creating another club and creating a

different position for this organization. Chairman Rimsza commented on the value of giving the business community ownership.

Chairman Rimsza stated that a Blue Ribbon Board could be established to manage the sales tax revenue. Ms. Dolan asked about models in other parts of the country. Mr. Bourey responded that there are many combinations around the country, some include elected officials.

Mr. Beasley expressed his concern with unintended consequences. He stated that there are different levels of maturity in different parts of the Valley. Mr. Beasley commented on mayors who serve on other boards. He stated that clearly defined roles are needed.

Mr. Cleveland stated that documentation of criticism is important so that all fully appreciate the reasons why certain actions were taken, such as the establishment of CTOC. He indicated that MAG needs to evolve. Seek out organizations that represent the greater group of businesses. Mr. Cleveland stated that the Legislature does not like local government domination. He stated that those involved will ultimately drive transportation. He referred to the 2040 analysis that was discussed at the Retreats. If the projections are accurate, businesses could be leaving because of congestion. Mr. Cleveland stated that ownership is important for the business community. He commented that this is an important process and MAG needs to arrive at a common ownership.

Mr. Martinsen expressed concern with non-electeds having the same voting power as elected officials. He stated that the business community needs to be involved in the expenditure of the sales tax. He stated that discussion is needed on determining the business representatives. Ms. Dolan stated that she agreed with involving business somewhat in the expenditure of sales tax. She stated that studying models would be helpful.

Chairman Rimsza asked the Intergovernmental Representatives for comment. Kevin Adam, Mesa, expressed concern for non-elected officials serving on the Regional Council. He commented on needing the business community to buy into decisions of governance and revenue. Mr. Adam commented on adding business representation at another level, such as a task force. Chairman Rimsza questioned whether the Legislature would be satisfied by adding representation at a task force level. He commented on the possibility that if representation is not at a higher level, the Legislature could form a Blue Ribbon Board to manage the revenue.

Mr. Bourey explained that MAG was created by cities and towns. MAG was designated by the Governor, because of a federal requirement, as the MPO for transportation in the MAG region. Mr. Martin stated that the Legislature questions MAG's authority. Measures to include the business community and others would be positive.

Steve Olson, Scottsdale, stated that the newspapers say MAG is parochial and fragmented in their processes. Mr. Olson stated that there is a perception of too many hierarchies managing transportation modes such as RPTA, light rail and city bus lines. The Legislature would prefer streamlining this to a 5 to 7 member committee with more planning functions.

Amy Rudibaugh Duffy, Glendale, stated that more outreach to the Legislature is needed. Spending more time with them to educate them about MAG is also needed. She noted that business community representation on the Regional Council could be helpful in the election.

Chairman Rimsza stated that adding the business community to the Transportation Subcommittee could be viewed as tokenism. He noted that Governor Hull will not be pursuing the governance issue, which will be considered by the next Governor. Mr. Olson stated that the focus should be what the business community could accomplish. Chairman Rimsza stated that a message was sent when the Governor did not appoint any elected official to the Vision 21 Task Force. He stated that the addition of the business community as members of MAG could be communicated to the public in 2002.

Bridget Schwartz-Manock, Phoenix, expressed her agreement that educating the Legislature would be helpful in dealing with misperceptions about MAG. A meaningful way to involve the business community is needed. If an advisory capacity is insufficient, then voting membership may be warranted. Ms. Schwartz-Manock commented that other groups will also want to join MAG.

Chairman Rimsza stated that *The Arizona Republic* is an advocate for regional governance. They like the ideas from Vision 21, but have not provided a practical application. Ms. Dolan stated that if transportation is the issue, focus on that and leave other regional governance issues for later discussion. Mayor Feldman-Kerr stated that membership as a whole needs to be studied.

John Schell, Avondale, stated that more time with Legislators is needed. Ask them their problems and help them with solutions. Mr. Schell noted that the Regional Council action provided for consulting services. Outside consultants could provide a professional understanding. He noted that ownership is the issue—What level would make the business community feel they have ownership? If only three votes are given, would they realize that is not much power? Chairman Rimsza stated that giving them membership would bring them into the process and they would gain an understanding of how the process works. He noted that there have been no decisions made at MAG that the business community would vote against. Chairman Rimsza stated that new members would see the mechanics that get things done. He commented that establishing a separate governing authority for Roads of Regional Significance is not practical. Chairman Rimsza stated discussed potential liability issues and consideration of small business owners along those roads.

Mr. Bourey stated that the perception among legislators is that mayors represent cities. Unless they sit with the mayors, they do not believe or understand the process. Mr. Cleveland stated that when something is unknown, the worst is presumed. Mayor Thomas commented that joining the regional discussion is beneficial.

Chairman Rimsza indicated that the consensus seemed to be that the focus should be on representatives that vote on transportation.

Mr. Martinsen asked the percent of the MAG budget allocated to transportation. Mr. Bourey replied that more than 50 percent is allocated to transportation. Including Air Quality, an integral part to transportation, the allocation is approximately 75 percent. Mr. Bourey stated that *The Arizona Republic* has indicated that representation is needed on more than transportation.

Mayor Thomas stated that the impact of growth was discussed at the Retreat. Knowledge could be gained by including more at the table. He questioned whether MAG could be subject to more criticism if additional representation is added later. Chairman Rimsza stated that small steps are acceptable. He noted the immediacy of the transportation issue. He expressed that the mayors have made good transportation decisions. Mr. Beasley commented on ensuring that those included as members have a vested financial or philosophical interest or commitment. Ms. Dolan commented on bifurcating the

two issues. If the focus is on transportation, examine all models, not just study the addition of three members.

Mayor Delgado commented on special interest groups expressing their interest in seeking membership. Mayor Feldman-Kerr commented on identifying the areas MAG works on and representation in those areas. Mr. Cleveland stated that a report could be provided documenting matters to Regional Council by category and dollars. This report would show the magnitude of each program. Chairman Rimsza asked Mr. Bourey to draft a report that showed the breakout of issues and budgeted dollars, including air quality into transportation.

Mayor Drake stated that press articles on the perception of MAG would be helpful. Chairman Rimsza requested that Kelly Taft, MAG Communications Manager, compile published articles and editorials about MAG's decisions.

4. Review Schedule of the Task Force

Chairman Rimsza thanked all for attending the meeting. The next scheduled meeting is Monday, June 18, 2001 at 1:30 p.m.

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 3:00 p.m.

Chairman

Secretary