

DRAFT MINUTES OF THE
MARICOPA ASSOCIATION OF GOVERNMENTS
REGIONAL BICYCLE TASK FORCE

Tuesday, August 21, 2001
MAG Office Building, Suite 200 - Ocotillo Room
302 North First Avenue, Phoenix

MEMBERS ATTENDING

Patrick McDermott, Chandler, Chair
*Carol Scherbarth, ADOT
Tami Ryall, Gilbert
Debbie Burdette, Glendale
Janeen Holloman, Goodyear
*Mike Cartsonis, Litchfield Park
Reed Kempton, Maricopa County

Brian Feltows, Mesa
Tim Bolton, Peoria
Krisna Fields, Phoenix
*Valent, RPT
*Valent, Glendale
*Ellen Thomas, Tempe

*Members neither present nor represented by proxy.

OTHERS PRESENT

Maureen DeCindis, MAG
Alan Maguire, The Maguire Company
Dawn [unclear], MAG
Dave Kropka, County Parks

1. Call to Order

Chairman Patrick McDermott called the meeting to order at 1:30 p.m.

2. Approval of June 19, 2001 Meeting Minutes of the Regional Bicycle Task Force

Brian Feltows moved to approve the meeting minutes of the Regional Bicycle Task Force and Pedestrian Working Group meeting on June 19, 2001. Tami Ryall seconded the motion, and the motion passed unanimously.

3. Call to the Audience

No one in the audience wished to address the Task Force.

4. Staff Report

[unclear] MAG, addressed the Task Force. She expanded that the deadline for submitting projects for the 2007 is September 12, 2001. Application forms are available on the web site. MAG will submit a project request for \$35,000 to reprint the bike map. The bike map won an award at GIS conference for best cartographic presentation. The West Valley Rivers project is now complete with information on the MAG web site. An update on the project will be given to the Transportation Review Committee (TRC) on

August 28. At the same meeting, Pat McDermott and the other modal chairs will be able to address the TRC.

5. Member Agency Report

Reed Kempton has a copy of the RPTA draft PeD (Pedestrian-oriented Design) guidelines and stated that the document has language that is not bicycle friendly. He suggested that other Task Force members review the document and submit their comments to RPTA.

Brian Fellows announced the APBP (Association Of Pedestrians And Bicyclists Professionals) conference in November and encouraged committee members to register. Brian will attend and bring materials for a display booth but needs signs with the communities names that want to be included. The date is November 15-16, 2001. Brian Fellows will ask for final commitment at the next meeting.

Debbie Burdette announced that Glendale Council has approved a 1% sales tax and 5 bicycle projects. This tax will be presented to voters in November.

6. Update of the Activities of the Transportation Review Committee

Pat McDermott, representative for the Regional Bicycle Task Force, will provide the TRC with an update on what is most important to the Task Force. Reed Kempton prepared a presentation that Pat could also use.

7. Update on Vision 21 Task Force Activities

Alan Maguire, Maguire Company, lead consultant to the 30-member Vision 21 Task Force (TF), gave an update of the preliminary recommendations for the Vision 21 TF. The report on public comment will be finalized at the end of September with a final report scheduled to be published in December.

He explained that the Task Force is sensitive to the modes and looked at broader funding streams than HURF. It is important to have funding in the future for all modes. The projected needs will cost approximately \$1 billion. The state sales tax as revenue stream which would be flexible and can be used for any mode.

Procedures for performance based planning and uniform data collection to verify effectiveness of transportation expenditures should be established. Because uniform and consistent data doesn't currently exist, it is difficult to compare. Therefore, it has been difficult for the Task Force to compare transportation success measures such as capacity and loads. The state needs uniform standards. Tami Ryall suggested that cities and town needs tools such as GIS systems to be funded. Alan responded that the state agrees with giving cities and towns the tools they need.

Tami Ryall asked if these recommendations will change. Alan Maguire said the recommendations will only change a little bit, they already received 500 comments and TF will take these and focus groups will be held. Focus groups were demographically representative of the community as a whole. Forty people in groups ranked their comments. In Pima County, for example, they ranked increased capacity on city streets as number one along with bigger development fees. The Task Force is looking for modification to recommendations and better ideas.

Reed Kempton referred to page 25 and stated that this language of separating bicyclists from the roadway should be changed. Alan Maguire responded that the TF felt its main role was to be responsive to future development rather than directing future needs. Planners should not attempt to shape land use through transportation investments.

Tami Ryall asked how the Task Force linked transportation and land use. Alan Maguire felt that the TF was not charged with land use decisions but sent a letter to Growing Smarter commission with some of their ideas. Their main goal is relieve congestion for commuters.

Reed Kempton suggested that if the Task Force wants to solve congestion, they shouldn't take bicycles off the road. Bikes lanes don't cause congestion. Alan Maguire responded that they don't believe there will be a major shift of commuters out of cars. People don't take buses unless they are forced. The TF is concerned about safety of bikes on roads of regional significance. The objective is to design a system for bicycles.

When asked by the committee, Alan confirmed that it is too late for comments to change the final outcome of the recommendations. Reed Kempton replied that he has submitted comments to the TF prior to this date on this particular issue and that keeping this policy in the document does not create an effective bicycle transportation system.

Tami Ryall said that TEA-21 requires an inclusive process with all partners. The report states that only ADOT will be involved in this new planning process.

8. Update on the Maricopa County Trails Commission

Dave Konopka., staff from Maricopa County Parks and Recreation, gave a presentation on the status of the county trails system. On February 14, 2000 the Board of Supervisors announced the formation of the Maricopa County Trail Commission and the plans to form a Regional Trail System. The goal of the program is to connect the county park system and recreational corridors around the Valley and help preserve open space in the community. The plan will capitalize on existing right-of-ways such as canals, parks, corridors and transit control projects.

An implementation plan was developed when the master plan was done. Currently, a County grants writer is planning applying for funding to implement the plan. The first section of the trail system will be a connection from the Wildcat to the Pleasant to Anthem to Cave Creek and Spur Ranch. The County will plan the facility in-house so when development occurs the developer can pay for the trail or, at the very least, make a connection from their development to the trail. The trail needs to be clearly defined and then adopted by cities and towns. A meeting of all county department heads is set for September to determine how to implement this plan in-house.

Patrick McDermott asked what legal considerations the County is considering in dealing with cities and towns. Will the plan be an enforceable document? Dave Konopka said that the County can only recommend and compliance to the plan will be voluntary. In some sections, the cities may set certain restrictions. Cave Creek, for example, may only allow equestrians on their trails. The County will encourage all trails to be multi-modal and non-motorized.. Tami Ryall suggested that this document should go into the County general plan.

9. Trails Operations and Maintenance

This item was deferred to the next meeting.

10. Regional Bicycle Education

The MAG FY 2002 Unified Planning Work Program and Annual Budget includes \$80,000 in Congestion Mitigation and Air Quality (CMAQ) funds to promote the message of “ride to ease the flow of traffic” on bicycle facilities to help increase the safety of bicyclists. Maureen Cindis gave an overview of the budget and the elements of the educational program that will be funded. Committee members were asked to provide any comments to Maureen. MAG staff will be working with MPTA to finalize the program and contract for this project.

11. Next Meeting

The Regional Bicycle Task Force may meet on **Tuesday, September 11, 2001 at 1:30 p.m.** in the MAG Ocotillo Room.

There will be two meetings of the Task Force in October to review adequate provision of bicycle and shared-use path/trail projects submitted for federal transportation funding. Please mark your calendars for **Monday, October 8, 2001 at 1:30 p.m.** in the Saguaro Room, and **Monday, October 22, 2001 at 1:30 p.m.** in the Saguaro Room.

The meeting adjourned at 3:25 p.m.