

MINUTES OF THE
MARICOPA ASSOCIATION OF GOVERNMENTS
TRANSPORTATION REVIEW COMMITTEE

April 27, 1999

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

MEMBERS ATTENDING

Gary Brown, Tempe, Chairman
Victor Mendez, ADOT
Debbie Kohn for William Bates, Avondale
Patrice Kraus, Chandler
*Randy Harrel, Fountain Hills
Tami Ryall, Gilbert
Jim Book, Glendale
Doug Sanders, Goodyear

Mike Cartsonis, Litchfield Park
Chris Plumb for Tom Buick, Maricopa County
Jeff Martin, Mesa
*David Moody, Peoria
Tom Callow, Phoenix
Ken Driggs, RPTA
Peggy Carpenter for Steve Hogan, Scottsdale
*Bill Parrish, Surprise

EX-OFFICIO MEMBERS ATTENDING

*Regional Bicycle Task Force: Patrick
McDermott, Chandler
*Street Committee: Gary Thomas, Gilbert
Pedestrian Working Group: Steve Hancock for
Mike Branham, Surprise

*Intermodal Management System Working
Group: Dave Berry, Swift Transportation
Company
Telecommunication Working Group: Debbie
Kohn, Avondale

* Members neither present nor represented by proxy.

OTHERS PRESENT

Kwi-Sung Kang, ADOT
Dan Cook, Chandler
Eric Anderson, MAG
Dawn Coomer, MAG
Terry Johnson, MAG
Kelly Taft, MAG
Gordon Tyus, MAG

Chris Voigt, MAG
Paul Ward, MAG
Don Herp, Phoenix
Bryan Jungwirth, RPTA
Marc Soronson, RPTA
Peggy Carpenter, Scottsdale
Harvey Friedson, Tempe

1. Call to Order

Ken Driggs called the meeting to order at 10:08 a.m.

2. Approval of Minutes of March 23, 1999

Tom Callow moved to approve the meeting minutes of March 23, 1999. Chris Plumb seconded the motion, and the motion passed unanimously.

3. Call to the Audience

No audience wished to address the committee.

4. Transportation Manager's Report

Terry Johnson provided an overview of recent transportation planning activities and upcoming agenda items for the MAG Management Committee.

5. Approval of Consent Agenda

Consent items are marked with an asterisk. Jeff Martin moved to approve the consent agenda, and Patrice Kraus seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

*6. Update on the MAG Pedestrian Design Assistance Program

In May 1998 the Regional Council approved the Unified Planning Work Program which included \$150,000 for pedestrian design assistance. A Request for Proposals (RFP) was advertised for on-call consulting assistance for the design of pedestrian areas and facilities in February, 1999 and nine consultant proposals were received in response. MAG member agencies were requested to submit projects to receive the design assistance in February, 1999. On March 26, 1999, the MAG Pedestrian Working Group recommended that eight consultants be included on the on-call list as shown in Attachment B. The Working Group also recommended that the following receive design assistance: 1) The Town of Gila Bend - \$10,000 (after discussing concerns that the funding request may not be sufficient for the scope described, the Pedestrian Working Group allowed up to an additional \$15,000 for the Gila Bend project), Central Pedestrian Way; 2) City of Peoria - \$65,000, Pedestrian Crossing at Grand Avenue/Burlington Northern-Santa Fe; 3) City of Phoenix - \$60,000, Laveen Watercourse/Greenbelt Pedestrian Trail.

7. Report on the MAG Freeway Program

Eric Anderson addressed the TRC. He is working with ADOT to refine the financial portion of the Regional Freeway System Program. The finances have many complexities due to eight funding sources. GANs are included in the program, and much of this funding will be used to advance right of way acquisition and design. SIB funds are also included in the program, along with general funds, RARF, HURF and state discretionary funds. The funding plan will be complete in the next month or so.

Jeff Martin asked if funding proposed in state legislation would be adequate to fund the program over the next five years. Eric responded that it was, and that detailed planning was needed due to the number of funding sources.

Eric added that MAG is working with a right-of-way stakeholders group. The goal is to obtain right-of-way, especially along the Red Mountain and the Santan, more quickly. The group will hopefully develop some long-term strategies. Terry Johnson added that meetings are being scheduled with planning directors and other staff in these corridors.

Cost estimates are also being developed for other items not in the program, including additional lanes along US 60 from Arizona Avenue to Gilbert, a screenwall policy and Freeway Management System infrastructure.

8. Status Report on Central Phoenix/East Valley Light Rail Transit Project

Marc Soronson, RPTA, provided an update of this project. He reviewed the federal development process and the status of the current schedule. The project is now in the preliminary engineering/draft environmental impact statement (PE/DEIS) stage. He showed a map of the 25-mile system, which is part of the 39-mile system in the MAG Long Range Transportation Plan. He showed photos of light rail systems and described the service which would be provided.

Marc continued by describing key components of the PE/DEIS, and a description of the alignment options in the Tempe, Phoenix, airport and Mesa sub-areas. Gary Brown asked if the rail line would connect to Rio Salado Crossing, and Doug Sanders asked about the cost of the system. Marc responded by describing the responsibilities of the project, and funding sources. Ken Driggs added that operating costs are generally \$4.50 per revenue mile. Marc added that the DEIS will provide better cost estimates.

Jim Book asked about assumptions of farebox recovery and whether CMAQ funds could be used for operations. Marc replied that CMAQ can be used. Jeff Martin noted that stopping every ½ mile is too much. Marc agreed that a balance between increasing ridership and maintaining speed is needed. Mike Cartsonis asked about the role of feeder bus service and walk access to rail stops. Marc noted that about 1/3 access rail by park and ride, 1/3 by bus and 1/3 by walking. This data may vary by location. Chris Plumb added that parking is needed throughout the day at park and rides.

Patrice Kraus asked about the advantage of rail over an expanded bus system. Marc responded that rail is faster, can carry more people and has a lower operating cost than bus service. Ken added that rail can spur economic development. Mike asked how local land use plans were related to the project. Marc responded that local land use policies are needed to meet the Federal New Starts Criteria. Cost savings in infrastructure cost due to reduced sprawl, and transit oriented policies as a component of local codes also need to be addressed in the New Starts Report. Ken added that a range of options is open to all cities, and that different corridors will need different types of transit. Terry Johnson described the elements of the transit plan in the MAG LRTP.

9. Advance Design of Bicycle Projects

Dawn Coomer provided an overview of this item, and noted that no action was taken by the Regional Bicycle Task Force at their last meeting.

10. Related Information on the Close-Out of the MAG Federally Funded Program

Paul Ward provided an overview. He noted that approximately \$3 million was available to advance projects. This agenda item could require action at next month's TRC.

11. MAG Park-and-Ride Study

Chris Voigt provided an overview of this item. He explained goals and objectives of the study, reviewed the budget and project schedule, and noted that stakeholders would be meeting to discuss the project. The next steps are to finalized the stakeholders group and to issue the Request for Proposals (RFP). Patrice Krause asked why the study would cost \$700,000. Terry noted that the costs may seem high, but are justified due to the study including four major work items (1) identify 10 near term sites, 10 long term sites, survey of park-and-ride and HOV users and environmental assessments for two sites. Chris Plumb noted that the cost may still be too high. Ken Driggs asked when the stakeholders would meet, and their role in the RFP. Terry noted that the stakeholders would be asked to review the RFP before advertising. Harvey Friedson noted that city transit department staff should be included in the stakeholders group. Debbie Kohn expressed concern about the cost, and asked for a definition of long-term and short-term. Chris Voigt responded that RPTA had been involved in developing the cost estimate of the study. He added that short-term would be defined as five years, and long-term would be defined as 20 years. Chris Plumb added that city input be included. Harvey noted that the purpose of the stakeholders was to involve all people early in the process. Gary Brown asked for additional information on the stakeholders at the next meeting.

12. Proposed ADOT Scoping Projects

Paul Ward provided a brief overview of this item.

13. Legislative Report

Jeff Martin provided an update of current activities at the State Legislature.

14. Next Meeting Dates

The next meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, May 25, 1999 at 10:00 a.m. in the MAG Office, Saguario Room.