

MAG Kick-Off Presentation Summary
January 31, 2002 1:00pm

Challenges:

- Funding, and Funding Coordination
- Relationship with Existing Rail Line Owners
- Right-of-Way Concerns
- Grade Crossings
- Population Increases
- Current Land Use Planning
- Current Legislation on rail corridors
- Lack of rail in East Valley and need for a north eastern corridor
- Making transit attractive to the users even in extreme weather conditions, etc.
- Absence of rural transit and suburban transit, auto oriented areas
- The need to coordinate commuter rail and freight
- The need for feeder/complimentary bus services to access commuter rail
- Need to identify economic development areas as possible opportunities for transit facilities/stations.

What Do Stakeholders Want to Learn from the Study:

- How will different transit modes interconnect and share facilities
- Prioritization of recommendations including modes, corridors, and funding
- Cost effectiveness for each corridor
- Identification of service areas
- Governance Structure of commuter rail
- Recommendations for high-capacity systems in areas that don't have existing tracks
- How new systems will integrate with existing systems
- Examination of the rail operations of the Grand Avenue Corridor
- What is a realistic modal split in the future
- Environmental Benefits
- Noise comparisons between transit and freeways

Identified Corridors or Areas of High Congestions:

- US60
- 202
- Choke point at I-10 and US60
- Choke point at I-17 and L101

Other Comments:

- BNSF will want second track along I-10 from 7th Ave to the west if commuter rail service begins
- Facilities such as park and ride lots are of great importance
- Interest in a possible demonstration project. An planned demo project is in the works from Phoenix-Palo Verde
- During the Needs Assessment Task, costs will be unconstrained, but during the Evaluation Task, cost feasibility will be taken into account.