

MEETING MINUTES
MARICOPA ASSOCIATION OF GOVERNMENTS
TRANSIT COMMITTEE

March 14, 2013
Maricopa Association of Governments; Ironwood Room;
302 N. 1st Avenue, Suite 200
Phoenix, Arizona

MEMBERS ATTENDING

ADOT: Nicole Patrick	*Paradise Valley: Jeremy Knapp
Avondale: Rogene Hill	#Peoria: Maher Hazine
#Buckeye: Andrea Marquez	Phoenix: Neal Young
Chandler: Dan Cook for RJ Zeder	*Queen Creek: Chris Anaradian
El Mirage: Sue McDermott	#Scottsdale: Madeline Clemann, Vice Chair
Gilbert: Leslie Hart	Surprise: David Kohlbeck
Glendale: Matthew Dudley for Cathy Colbath, Chair	Tempe: Robert Yabes for Greg Jordan
*Goodyear: Cato Esquivel	*Tolleson: Chris Hagen
*Maricopa County DOT: Mitch Wagner	Valley Metro: Wulf Grote
Mesa: Jeff Martin for Jodi Sorrell	*Youngtown: Grant Anderson

*Members neither present nor represented by proxy. + - Attended by Videoconference
- Attended by Audioconference

OTHERS PRESENT

Eileen Yazzie, MAG	Janice Simpson, Avondale
Marc Pearsall, MAG	Ken Kessler, Phoenix
Alice Chen, MAG	Ted Mariscal, Phoenix
Margaret Boone, MAG	Wendy Miller, Phoenix
Teri Kennedy, MAG	Ben Limmer, Valley Metro
Jorge Luna, MAG	Deron Lozano, Valley Metro
	Carlos Lopez, ADOT
	Abigail Cooksy-Williams, State of Arizona
	Mark Wavering, Gannett Fleming
	Scott Miller, HDR
	Jennifer Pyne, URS

1. Call to Order

The meeting was called to order at 10:03 a.m. by Vice Chair Madeline Clemann. She welcomed everyone in attendance and announced that a quorum was present. She noted that two members were also joining the meeting by teleconference; Andrea Marquez of Buckeye and Maher Hazine of Peoria. Vice Chair Clemann asked if there were any public comment cards, and there being none, proceeded to the next item on the agenda.

2. Approval of Draft February 14, 2012 Minutes

Vice Chair Clemann asked if there were any comments or corrections to the Draft February 14, 2012 meeting minutes. Hearing none, she called for a motion to approve the draft meeting minutes. Mr. Robert Yabes moved to approve the motion, Mr. Neal Young seconded, and the motion passed unanimously.

3. Call to the Audience

Vice Chair Clemann stated that she had not received any request to speak cards from the audience and moved onto the next item on the agenda.

4. Transit Program Manager's Report

Vice Chair Clemann invited Ms. Eileen Yazzie to brief the Committee with the Transit Program Manager's Report.

Ms. Yazzie presented a few brief items and completed her report. Vice Chair Clemann thanked Ms. Yazzie for her report and moved onto the next item on the agenda.

CONSENT AGENDA ITEMS

*5A. Federal Funds Regional Competitive Project Application

*5B. Transportation Improvement Program (TIP)

Vice Chair Clemann requested that the Transit Committee proceed through the two consent agenda items regarding Federal Funds Regional CPA and the TIP. After brief discussion and clarification for members from Scottsdale, Mesa, and Valley Metro, she called for a motion to approve the consent agenda items. Mr. Robert Yabes moved to approve the motion, Mr. Jeff Martin seconded, and the motion passed unanimously.

6. Designing Transit Accessible Communities Study Update

Vice Chair Clemann requested that Alice Chen of MAG present and update on the MAG Designing Transit Accessible Communities Study.

Alice Chen noted that in December 2011, MAG initiated a study to help provide member agencies with additional tools and guidelines to provide better transit accessibility for pedestrians and bicyclists. The project would ultimately provide a set of documents that would serve as a pathway for MAG member agencies to build livable and multi-modal neighborhoods. A workshop was held in April to train and familiarize participants with the tool kit and implementation strategies.

Ms. Chen also noted that the purpose of the presentation was to provide an overview on the “Transit Accessibility Toolkit” element of the study, which contained information on lighting, information signage, wayfinding, seating, shelter, shade, adjacent land use, bicycle access and parking, pedestrian crossings, and sidewalks. For each of these elements, Ms. Chen presented visual examples, costs and appropriate applications, and planning/policy guidelines. She highlighted specific recommendations and findings in her presentation; and Site bus stops and bus shelters to take advantage of overflow lighting from existing street lights. She observed that 64% of transit riders said they would ride the bus more often if adequate schedule information was provided, and seating may also be incorporated into the design of the adjacent development including designing street walls along the property line to be at a height that allows passengers to use the wall as seating.

She further explained that bus shelters should be designed with a southern climate in mind, including conducting sun exposure studies. She also noted that 68% of transit riders said they would ride the bus more often if additional shade was provided, while 22% of riders said they arrived by bicycle. When asked if certain improvements would increase their use of transit, 52% of riders indicated adding a bicycle lane would increase their use of the transit system. She said that bus stops at mid-block could be located based on an evaluation of ridership and crossing opportunities and should not be determined by the ¼ mile spacing distance as it is currently. Through collaboration with the community, the local jurisdiction may be able to determine alternative options for bus stop placement or they may determine that the identified location is a critical need location.

Vice Chair Clemann thanked Ms. Chen for her presentation and asked if there were any questions or comments. After brief discussion, she thanked the Committee for their dialogue. Vice Chair Clemann then proceeded to the next item on the agenda.

7. Job Access Reverse Commute/5310 Elderly and Persons with Disability Program Update

Vice Chair Clemann requested that Alice Chen continue to present and update on the Job Access Reverse Commute/5310 Elderly and Persons with Disability Program Update.

She noted that under SAFETEA-LU, the MAG region was allocated \$1.8 million in FY 2012 specifically for JARC (Job Access Reverse Commute) eligible projects. With the passage of MAP-21, JARC dedicated funding was repealed. However, JARC projects are eligible under 5307

formula funds. In February 2013, MAG Regional Council approved City of Phoenix assume the role of Designated Recipient (DR) for the 5310 program previously held by the Arizona Department of Transportation. Under Section 703 of the Federal Formula Transit Programming Guidelines recommended for approval by Transit Committee on February 14, 2013, it was recommended that City of Phoenix coordinate both programs. Schedule, roles and responsibilities would be reviewed.

Ms. Chen also explained that MAP-21 went into full effect October 1, 2012, authorizing programs through 2014, but there were revisions, namely New Freedom 5317 (projects beyond ADA services) were repealed and now consolidated as an eligible program under Enhanced Mobility of Seniors and Individuals with Disabilities (5310). She added that there was no longer a single 5310 apportionment to the state; but now apportionments specifically for large urbanized, small urbanized and rural areas. DR's needed to be officially designated in large Urbanized Areas, 200,000 in population and funds could not be awarded until DR is on file with the FTA regional office, and as required by FTA guideline as the MPO, MAG initiated the process for a DR for the region.

She reiterated that 5310 – Mobility of Seniors and Individuals with Disabilities Program, and 5317 New Freedom eligible projects consolidated in program; JARC was repealed, project eligible under 5307 formula funds; New Freedom 5317 (projects beyond ADA services) were repealed now and consolidated as an eligible program under Section 5310 newly named, the Enhanced Mobility of Seniors and Individuals with Disabilities. She further noted that under SAFETEA-LU, the MAG region was allocated \$1.8 million in FY 2012 specifically for JARC eligible projects. With the passage of MAP-21, JARC dedicated funding was repealed, however, JARC projects were eligible under 5307 formula funds.

Ms. Chen explained the roles and responsibilities of the process, specifically that City of Phoenix Public Transit Division was the DR, and administers of the program, management of grants, and quarterly reporting on each project. They would also procure capital items and contracts Ensuring all compliance, Federal GAO, and FTA regulations and certifications and assurances. She further noted with some background that in February 2013, the MAG Regional Council approved City of Phoenix assume the role of DR for the 5310 program previously held by the Arizona Department of Transportation. Under Section 703 of the Federal Formula Transit Programming Guidelines recommended for approval by Transit Committee on February 14, 2013, it was recommended that City of Phoenix coordinate both programs.

She noted that City of Phoenix would lead the JARC evaluation process coordinating with the MAG Human Services Division. Applications would be a coordinated effort between MAG Human Services Division and the City of Phoenix with final approval from MAG Regional Council. Then, the MAG Human Services Transportation - Coordination Staff, would coordinate the application and review process, with regional focus, MAG committee process, and ensure inclusion into the TIP/STIP. She then reviewed 2 maps of the region, and explained the tentative time-line schedule, for April through November.

Vice Chair Clemann asked if there were any further questions. After brief comment, Vice Chair Clemann then proceeded to the next item on the agenda.

8. ADOT Passenger Rail Study; Tucson to Phoenix

Vice Chair Clemann requested that Mike Kies of ADOT present and update on the ADOT Passenger Rail Study; Tucson to Phoenix.

Mr. Kies noted that the ADOT Passenger Rail Study had concluded a public outreach effort pertaining to several alternatives for alternative transportation modes between Tucson and Metro Phoenix. He explained the rationale for the study in that it originally came from the Passenger Rail Vision within BQAZ (Building a Quality Arizona) report, and also within the Statewide Transportation Framework Study and State Rail Plan. He noted that Intercity Rail provided a transit backbone option for the Sun Corridor. He also explained that the Passenger Rail Corridor Study Process began in 2011 and would proceed through January 2014, and include an Alternative Analysis (AA), Environmental Impact Statement (Tier 1), and Service Development Plan.

He said that there were seven preliminary alternatives between Phoenix and Tucson (One bus alternative on I-10 (as per FTA) and six rail alternatives) Some of the alternatives were non-Union Pacific mainline, or via I-10, via the proposed N-S Corridor & US60 or a combination of alternatives, such as the UPRR Southeast Branch), UPRR Tempe Branch, or UPRR Chandler Branch. He said the goal was to use the process to refine the seven down to two corridors this summer, then further refining down to one LPA (Locally Preferred Alternative) by fall 2013. Mr. Kies reiterated that ADOT had just completed a massive public outreach campaign, with over 6,600 completed comment forms, and over 30 public meetings and events, over 70 agency and stakeholder meetings along with highly visible social media and print/video media coverage. He noted the schedule and next steps, which included: ongoing coordination and support from local agencies; Spring 2013 - a Final Alternatives for EIS (Environmental Impact Statement); Fall 2013 - a Draft EIS; Fall 2013 - a 45 day public comment period and public hearings; and in Winter 2013 - a Final EIS and final report by early 2014.

Vice Chair Clemann thanked Mr. Kies again for his presentation and asked if there were any further questions. Hearing none, Vice Chair Clemann then proceeded to the next item on the agenda.

9. Request for Future Agenda Items

Vice Chair Clemann asked the Committee members if there were any issues that they would like added as future agenda items. Hearing no comments, she proceeded to the next item on the agenda.

10. Next Meeting Date

Vice Chair Clemann thanked the members and announced that the next meeting of the MAG Transit Committee would be held on Thursday, April 11, 2013 at 10:00 a.m. in the MAG Office, Ironwood Room. There being no further business, Vice Chair Clemann adjourned the meeting at 11:26 a.m.

Adjourn.