

Minutes of the
Maricopa Association of Governments
Regional Council Executive Committee
January 22, 2024

This meeting was conducted virtually via Zoom

[Video recording of the meeting](#)

MEMBERS	ATTENDANCE
Avondale: Mayor Kenneth Weise, Past Chair	Virtual
Buckeye: Mayor Eric Orsborn	Virtual
Chandler: Mayor Kevin Hartke, Vice Chair	Virtual
El Mirage: Mayor Alexis Hermosillo, Treasurer	Not in Attendance
Gilbert: Mayor Brigette Peterson	Virtual
Mesa: Mayor John Giles	Virtual
Phoenix: Mayor Kate Gallego, Chair	Not in Attendance

1. Call to Order

The meeting of the Regional Council Executive Committee was called to order by Vice Chair Hartke at 12:11 p.m. Roll call was taken to confirm a quorum of members was present.

2. Call to the Audience

MAG staff indicated that one online written public comment for the Call to the Audience was received prior to the deadline and was provided to the members for consideration. Please see the attached report.

3. Informational Items

Vice Chair Hartke indicated that there were no items on the agenda for information only.

4. Approval of Consent Agenda

Vice Chair Hartke stated that agenda items 4A through 4J were on the Consent Agenda.

He asked if any members had questions or would like a presentation on any of the Consent Agenda items. None were noted.

MAG staff indicated that one written public comment for the Consent Agenda was received prior to the deadline and was provided to the members for consideration. Please see the attached report.

Vice Chair Hartke requested a motion to approve the agenda item. Mayor Weise moved to approve the Consent Agenda for items 4A through 4J, and Mayor Giles seconded the motion.

The motion passed with the following members voting in favor: Mayor Giles, Vice Chair Hartke, Mayor Orsborn, Mayor Peterson and Mayor Weise.

4A. Approval of the November 13, 2023, Meeting Minutes

The Regional Council Executive Committee, by consent, approved the November 13, 2023, meeting minutes.

4B. Amendment to the MAG FY 2024-2025 Biennial Unified Planning Work Program and Budget to Include \$500,000 from the JP Morgan Chase Foundation in support of Affordable Housing Technical Assistance

The Regional Council Executive Committee, by consent, approved an amendment to the MAG FY 2024-2025 Biennial Unified Planning Work Program and Budget to include \$500,000 from the JP Morgan Chase Foundation in support of affordable housing technical assistance for local and tribal governments.

The MAG Fiscal Year (FY) 2024-2025 Biennial Unified Planning Work Program and Budget was approved by MAG Regional Council on May 24, 2023. On December 4, 2023, the JP Morgan Chase Foundation notified MAG of a \$500,000 grant award to Regional Community Partners in support of a new affordable housing technical assistance initiative, Housing Opportunities in Mentorship and Education (HOME). The purpose of HOME is to provide customized training for local and tribal governments that focuses on how to build and preserve affordable housing. The topics for the training will be identified and prioritized by local and tribal governments. Expert consultants will be identified through a competitive solicitation.

Communities throughout the region and the country are facing a housing crisis as the supply of affordable rents and mortgages decreases dramatically. Communities are responding to this crisis in ways that align with their capacity and resources. Through HOME, local and tribal governments will be invited to indicate what support they would like to receive. Assistance will be given on a one-on-one basis, in small groups, or regionwide trainings depending on the preference of the local and tribal governments over the two years of this grant. The HOME initiative aligns with Pathways Home, the Regional Homelessness Action Plan for Local and Tribal Governments. One of the three main goals in the plan is to increase safe housing options. Input will be sought from the MAG Human Services Community Initiatives Committee and the MAG Human Services Technical Committee.

4C. Amendment to the MAG FY2024-2025 Biennial Unified Planning Work Program and Budget to Include \$10,000 from the Arizona Housing Coalition to Support Regional Homeless Trainings

The Regional Council Executive Committee, by consent, approved an amendment to the MAG FY 2024-2025 Biennial Unified Planning Work Program and Budget to include \$10,000 from the Arizona Housing Coalition to be spent on homeless service provider trainings in FY 2024.

The MAG Fiscal Year (FY) 2024-2025 Biennial Unified Planning Work Program and Budget was approved by MAG Regional Council on May 24, 2023. On December 20, 2023, the Arizona Housing Coalition awarded a grant to Regional Community Partners providing \$10,000 toward workforce trainings for the region’s homeless service providers. The funding is part of a capacity building initiative to help nonprofit agencies working within Arizona to address housing instability and homelessness. The trainings will enhance the ability of the agencies to more effectively serve people experiencing homelessness and will make the region’s federal funding application more competitive nationally.

4D. Amendment to the MAG FY 2024-2025 Biennial Unified Planning Work Program and Budget for the Pima Road Corridor Study

The Regional Council Executive Committee, by consent, approved an amendment to the MAG FY 2024-2025 Biennial Unified Planning Work Program and Budget to add the Pima Road Corridor Study totaling \$250,000.

The MAG Fiscal Year (FY) 2024-2025 Biennial Unified Planning Work Program (UPWP) and Budget was approved by the MAG Regional Council on May 24, 2023. Since that time, an amendment is needed to add a new project to conduct a Pima Road Corridor Study in partnership with the City of Scottsdale and Town of Carefree. Funding is available from the allocation of Proposition 400 transportation sales tax revenues for planning and implementation studies. The City of Scottsdale and the Town of Carefree are jointly undertaking two projects funded through the Arterial Life Cycle Program (ALCP) along Pima Road, spanning from Las Piedras to Cave Creek Road. In coordination with both agencies, this study will evaluate roadway improvements that improve capacity, operational efficiency, safety, and develop a synchronized implementation plan that guides future roadway improvements as development progresses along the corridor.

4E. Amendment to the MAG FY 2024-2025 Biennial Unified Planning Work Program and Budget for the Sun Cities Transportation Innovation Study Title

The Regional Council Executive Committee, by consent, approved an amendment to the MAG FY 2024-2025 Biennial Unified Planning Work Program and Budget to accept \$850,000 from the State of Arizona to conduct the Sun Cities Transportation Innovation Study.

The MAG Fiscal Year (FY) 2024-2025 Biennial Unified Planning Work Program (UPWP) and Budget was approved by the MAG Regional Council on May 24, 2023. During the 2023 legislative session, Arizona Senate Bill 1720 was passed by the legislature and signed by the governor; as part of the bill, \$850,000 was appropriated to MAG to conduct the Sun Cities Transportation Innovation Study. As a result, an amendment to the UPWP is needed to add a new project and accept the funding from the state to conduct the requested study.

4F. Amendment to the MAG FY 2024-2025 Biennial Unified Planning Work Program and Budget for the Rio Reimagined Active Transportation Plan

The Regional Council Executive Committee, by consent, approved an amendment to the MAG FY 2024-2025 Biennial Unified Planning Work Program and Budget to add the Rio Reimagined Active Transportation Plan totaling \$400,000.

The MAG Fiscal Year (FY) 2024-2025 Biennial Unified Planning Work Program (UPWP) and Budget was approved by the MAG Regional Council on May 24, 2023. As part of a multi-agency partnership, an effort to revitalize and activate the Salt and Gila rivers is being undertaken. This agenda item represents a request to amend the UPWP to include the Rio Reimagined Active Transportation Plan totaling \$400,000. The effort builds onto past planning efforts, including the State Route 30 Active Transportation Conceptual Plan completed by MAG in 2023. Funding is available through savings from other projects within existing budget authority.

4G. Amendment to the MAG FY 2024-2025 Biennial Unified Planning Work Program and Budget for the Regional Transportation Planning On-Call

The Regional Council Executive Committee, by consent, approved an amendment to the MAG Fiscal Year 2024-2025 Biennial Unified Planning Work Program and Budget to add \$500,000 to the Regional Transportation Planning On-Call.

The MAG Fiscal Year (FY) 2024-2025 Biennial Unified Planning Work Program (UPWP) and Budget was approved by the MAG Regional Council on May 24, 2023, and included \$750,000 for the FY 2020 Regional Transportation Planning (RTP) On-Call. Since approval of the FY 2024-2025 UPWP, Senate Bill 1102, legislation that authorizes a vote to extend Maricopa County's dedicated half-cent sales tax for transportation, was passed by the legislature and signed by the governor. Following approval of Senate Bill 1102, the Maricopa County Board of Supervisors passed a resolution on November 1, 2023, to place the measure on the November 5, 2024, ballot as Proposition 479. In preparation for the implementation of Proposition 479, which is a major funding source for the RTP, and to continue to be responsive to MAG member agencies, MAG is requesting the RTP On-Call budget be amended to include an additional \$500,000. Funding is available from the allocation of Proposition 400 transportation sales tax revenues for planning and implementation studies as well as the regionwide preliminary engineering allocation in the Proposition 400 Freeway Life Cycle Program.

4H. Amendment to the MAG FY 2024-2025 Biennial Unified Planning Work Program and Budget to Include a Midyear Cost-of-Living Salary Adjustment

The Regional Council Executive Committee, by consent, approved an amendment to the MAG FY 2024-2025 Biennial Unified Planning Work Program and Budget to include a midyear, 2 percent average cost-of-living adjustment for MAG staff effective the first pay date in February 2024.

The MAG Fiscal Year (FY) 2024-2025 Biennial Unified Planning Work Program and Budget approved by the MAG Regional Council on May 23, 2023, included a 1.5 percent increase in salaries for MAG staff. This adjustment was implemented on July 1, 2023. An amendment to the budget to provide a midyear cost-of-living adjustment of an average of 2 percent agencywide is requested. All staff would receive an adjustment on a sliding scale, with staff who have lower salaries receiving a higher percentage adjustment and staff with higher salaries receiving a lower percentage. The goal of the adjustment is to retain and continue to attract employees with a competitive wage. No budget adjustment is required; the request can be accommodated within existing budget authority due to salary savings from vacant positions.

4I. Transportation Policy and Program Visualization Support Contract Extension

The Regional Council Executive Committee, by consent, approved authorization for the Executive Director to execute up to three, one-year extensions with Kittleson & Associates, Inc. for the Transportation Policy and Program Visualization Support Contract, consistent with the solicitation and approved biennial UPWP and budget.

The MAG Fiscal Year (FY) 2024-2025 Biennial Unified Planning Work Program and Budget approved by the MAG Regional Council on May 24, 2023, provides \$400,000 for Transportation Policy and Program Visualization and Support. The Transportation Policy and Program Visualization Support contract enables MAG staff to augment internal MAG resources via a qualified consultant to deliver data visualization, graphic design, and data analytic services. MAG entered into contract with the selected consultant, Kittelson & Associates, Inc., on January 5, 2022, for an initial two-year contract.

4J. Consultant Selection for the US 60 (Grand Avenue): Loop 303 (Estrella Freeway) to SR 74 Corridor Study

The Regional Council Executive Committee, by consent, approved the selection of Jacobs Engineering Group to conduct the study.

The MAG Fiscal Year (FY) 2024-2025 Biennial Unified Planning Work Program and Budget includes \$695,000 for the US 60 (Grand Avenue): Loop 303 (Estrella Freeway) to SR 74 Corridor Study. The purpose of this study is to assess existing and future travel demands on Grand Avenue and the surrounding areas and develop a program of recommended

improvements that can serve these demands, improve safety, and support planned development throughout the coming decades to the year 2050 and possibly beyond. A request for proposals was advertised on October 23, 2023, and three proposals were received prior to the November 22, 2023, deadline. On December 18, 2023, the evaluation team met and recommended the selection of Jacobs Engineering Group to conduct the study.

5. Legislative Update

Vice Chair Hartke requested MAG Chief of Staff Audra Koester Thomas to report on this item. This item was on the agenda for information and discussion. Prior to her report, MAG Executive Director Ed Zuercher addressed the committee to indicate that MAG Environmental Director Tim Franquist accepted a job with the Arizona Chamber of Commerce and Industry and his last day was Friday, February 19. The job has posted, and in the interim, Mr. Zuercher has appointed Matt Poppen, an air quality staff member in MAG's Environmental Division. He indicated Mr. Poppen has worked at MAG for 14 years and, before that, worked at Maricopa County. He indicated Ms. Thomas will be leading the effort to recruit for the director position.

Ms. Thomas reported that the second session of the 56th legislature has convened and that Governor Hobbs released her executive budget. The executive budget is seen largely as a policy-setting document and notable in the budget are solutions for addressing the two-year deficit, estimates which range from \$1.4 billion in the executive budget to recent Joint Legislative Budget Committee of over \$1.7 billion. She indicated several one-time funding appropriations for transportation projects in the region have been identified as part of proposed cuts and that MAG staff is tracking them closely. MAG is also tracking several dozen bills affecting housing, environmental quality and transportation and will continue to brief the committee on legislative updates.

Ms. Thomas also reported MAG was invited to present about the region's transportation plan development process at the Arizona House of Representatives' Appropriation Subcommittee on Fiscal Accountability on Thursday morning. The topic for that meeting is the Highway User Revenue fund, or HURF, and highway funding for the state. Additionally, Ms. Thomas provided an update on the Climate Pollution Reduction Grant planning process. MAG was awarded the planning grant to facilitate the development of a primary climate action plan that, when complete, will allow member agencies to apply for over \$4 billion in discretionary grant funding to implement climate pollution reduction solutions at the local level. MAG remains on track to deliver the plan and detailed technical analysis that accompanies it by March 1.

Vice Chair Hartke thanked Ms. Thomas and asked for an update on Proposition 479. Ms. Thomas indicated MAG is focused on getting over the finish line with the extension of the dedicated half-cent sales tax that has been placed by the Maricopa County Board of Supervisors on the November general election ballot. She reported that the planning activities and associated development processes that have to occur in advance of, and

to prepare for the potential success, are underway at MAG together with its implementing partners. She indicated that MAG Chief Transportation Officer John Bullen will present an update at the February Transportation Policy Committee meeting on activities and the associated timeline.

6. Request for Future Agenda Items

Vice Chair Hartke asked members if there were any requests for future agenda items. None were noted.

7. Comments from the Committee

Vice Chair Hartke asked the members if there were any comments. None were noted. Vice Chair Hartke invited the committee members to the City of Mesa for Mayor Giles' state of the city address on February 13 and extended an invitation to join him at the City of Chandler's state of the city address on February 15. He indicated he is going to make a concerted effort to attend as many as possible this year, such as the Town of Queen Creek the evening of February 13.

Adjournment

Vice Chair Hartke indicated that the next meeting of the Regional Council Executive Committee would take place on February 20, 2024. There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 12:21 p.m.

Regional Council Executive Committee

PUBLIC COMMENT REPORT

Comments Received From: November 13, 2023 **to** January 22, 2024

Date Received: 1/22/2024 9:30:55 AM

Name: Gretchen Petersen

City/State:

Comment: Agenda Item 2
Maricopa County Association of Governments is an unelected body & not a real government entity; Mag members are appointed not elected. MAG should be a traditional nonprofit. Stop implementing Road Diets, expanding Bus Rapid Transit, and expanding Light Rail. These policies put small businesses out of business, increase crashes and serious injuries, increase traffic and pollution. Valley Metro's revenue from ridership is only 16%. 81% comes from Member Cities and Federal Funding. Public Transit is failing, and MAG needs to stop propping up failing industries. These policies do not generate the results Maricopa County residents want to see. The Mayor of Phoenix, Chair of this Body, also promised to not implement banning meat or dairy products. Do not implement policies that add to reducing meat and dairy consumption.

Date Received: 1/22/2024 9:40:17 AM

Name: Gretchen Petersen

City/State:

Comment: Agenda Item 4B:
MAG should not be the middle man for grants. It would be less expensive for these grants to directly fund the entities instead of having to go through MAG. Furthermore, MAG should not be accepting money or doing business with any entity that has been punished for doing business with a known pedophile or Jeffrey Epstein.

Agenda Item 4F:
The Rio Reimagined project currently includes a major road diet. As the number of residents in Phoenix continues to grow, this (Road Diet) plan should exclude anything that has an objective of reducing travel lanes or removing vehicles on the roads.

Report Parameters

Date Generated: 1/22/2024 11:22:05 AM
Committee: Regional Council Executive Committee
Meeting Date: 1/22/2024 12:00 PM
Excluded Before: 11/13/2023 10:00 AM