

Minutes of the  
Maricopa Association of Governments  
Management Committee  
April 8, 2026

This meeting was conducted in person and virtually via Zoom  
[Video recording of the meeting](#)

MEMBERS	ATTENDANCE
Apache Junction: Bryant Powell	In Person
Arizona Department of Transportation: Jennifer Toth	In Person
Avondale: Kim Moon as proxy for Ron Corbin	Virtual
Buckeye: Doug Sandstrom	In Person
Carefree: Kristen Krey	Not in Attendance
Cave Creek: Grady Miller	Virtual
Chandler: John Pombier	In Person
El Mirage: Crystal Dyches	In Person
Florence: Bruce Walls	Virtual
Fort McDowell Yavapai Nation: Calvin Pilcher Jr.	Not in Attendance
Fountain Hills: Rachael Goodwin	Virtual
Gila Bend: Kathy Valenzuela	Not in Attendance
Gila River Indian Community: Suzanne Jones	Not in Attendance
Gilbert: Dawn Prince	In Person
Glendale: Patrick Banger	In Person
Goodyear: Kini Knudson	In Person
Guadalupe: Jeff Kulaga	In Person
Litchfield Park: Matthew Williams	Virtual
Maricopa County: Jen Pokorski	Not in Attendance
Maricopa: Ben Bitter	In Person
Mesa: Scott Butler	In Person
Paradise Valley: Andrew Ching	Virtual
Peoria: Mike Faust	Virtual
Phoenix: Ed Zuercher	In Person
Pinal County: Leo Lew	Virtual
Queen Creek: Bruce Gardner	In Person
Salt River Pima-Maricopa Indian Community: Bryan Meyers	Not in Attendance
Scottsdale: Greg Caton	In Person
Surprise: Andrea Davis	In Person
Tempe: Rosa Inchausti, Vice Chair	In Person
Tolleson: Reyes Medrano, Chair	Not in Attendance
Valley Metro/RPTA: Jessica Mefford-Miller	In Person
Wickenburg: Troy Smith	Not in Attendance
Youngtown: Brian Stutsman	Not in Attendance

## **1. Call to Order**

The meeting of the Management Committee was called to order by Vice Chair Inchausti at 12:00 p.m. Roll call was taken to confirm a quorum of members was present.

## **2. Pledge of Allegiance**

Vice Chair Inchausti led the Committee in the Pledge of Allegiance.

## **3. Call to the Audience**

Vice Chair Inchausti indicated that one request to speak was received for the Call to the Audience.

Ms. Barker stated that she advocates for accessibility for all, with a particular emphasis on individuals with disabilities. She recommended that MAG consider adopting a public comment model similar to the City of Phoenix, including a virtual option for individuals to provide input on agenda items. Ms. Barker also expressed support for funding fast, safe express bus services to improve the efficient movement of people.

MAG staff indicated that no written public comments were received online for the Call to the Audience.

## **4. Informational Items**

Vice Chair Inchausti indicated that items 4A through 4C were on the agenda for information only.

She asked if any members had questions or comments regarding these items. None was noted.

## **4A. Update on the Development of the Draft FY 2027 Proposition 479 Freeway Life Cycle Program**

This item was on the agenda for information only.

On June 23, 2021, the MAG Regional Council approved the Regional Strategic Transportation Infrastructure Investment Plan (RSTIIP) to guide investments funded through Maricopa County's dedicated half-cent sales tax for transportation, which was extended by voters through Prop 479. Management of the freeway and highway projects in the RSTIIP occurs through the Prop 479 Freeway Life Cycle Program (FLCP). On May 28, 2025, the MAG Regional Council approved the Fiscal Year (FY) 2026 Prop 479 FLCP.

Every year, the FLCP is updated with new revenue projections, updated cost estimates, and changes to projects and project scopes. Changes to projects and project scopes are a result of ongoing planning and engineering work. This agenda item represents an overview of proposed changes to support development of the draft FY 2027 Prop 479 FLCP.

#### **4B. Proposition 400 Arterial Life Cycle Program Status Report: July-December 2025**

This item was on the agenda for information only.

The Proposition 400 Arterial Life Cycle Program (ALCP) is the financial management tool for the arterial street component of the Regional Strategic Transportation Infrastructure Investment Plan. To provide frequent, updated information on all project requirements and financial information, the Proposition 400 ALCP Policies and Procedures require a Status Report to be provided to MAG committee members semiannually. The July-December 2025 Status Report is the first report for Fiscal Year (FY) 2026 and provides information on projects programmed to receive reimbursements in FY 2026.

#### **4C. Proposition 479 Arterial Life Cycle Program Status Report: July-December 2025**

This item was on the agenda for information only.

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#### **\*5. Approval of Consent Agenda**

Vice Chair Inchausti stated that agenda items 5A through 5H were on the Consent Agenda.

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

Vice Chair Inchausti indicated that no requests to speak were received for the Consent Agenda.

MAG staff indicated that no written public comments were received online for the Consent Agenda.

Vice Chair Inchausti requested a motion to approve the agenda item. Mr. Zuercher moved to approve the Consent Agenda for items 5A through 5H, and Mr. Butler seconded the motion.

The motion passed with the following members voting in favor: Patrick Banger, Ben Bitter, Scott Butler, Greg Caton, Andrew Ching, Kim Moon proxy for Ron Corbin, Andrea Davis, Crystal Dyches, Mike Faust, Bruce Gardner, Rachael Goodwin, Rosa Inchausti, Kini Knudson, Jeff Kulaga, Leo Lew, Jessica Mefford-Miller, Grady Miller, John Pombier, Bryant Powell, Dawn Prince, Doug Sandstrom, Jennifer Toth, Bruce Walls, Matthew Williams, Ed Zuercher.

#### **\*5A. Approval of the March 11, 2026, Meeting Minutes**

The Management Committee, by consent, approved the March 11, 2026, meeting minutes.

#### **\*5B. Conformity Consultation**

This item was on the agenda for consultation.

The Maricopa Association of Governments is conducting consultation on a conformity assessment for an amendment and administrative modification to the Fiscal Year 2026-2030 MAG Transportation Improvement Program and MOMENTUM 2050 Regional Transportation Plan Update. The amendment and administrative modification involve changes to several projects, including Freeway Life Cycle Program projects, General Roadway projects, Arterial Life Cycle Program projects, Transit projects, and 2026 Arterial Life Cycle Program Federal Fund Advancement projects. The amendment includes projects that may be categorized as exempt from conformity determinations. The administrative modification includes minor project revisions that do not require a conformity determination.

#### **\*5C. Transportation Improvement Program Project Changes**

The Management Committee, by consent, recommended approval of amendments and administrative modifications to the FY 2026-2030 MAG TIP, RSTIIP, and MOMENTUM 2050 MAG RTP Update.

The FY 2026-2030 MAG TIP and the MOMENTUM 2050 MAG RTP Update were approved by the MAG Regional Council on December 3, 2025, and the RSTIIP was approved by the MAG Regional Council on September 27, 2023. Since the approval of the TIP, additional changes and modifications are necessary.

#### **\*5D. Fiscal Year 2026 Proposition 400 Arterial Life Cycle Program: Federal Fund Advancement**

The Management Committee, by consent, recommended approval of the proposed FY 2026 Federal Fund Advancement funding scenario and associated amendments to the FY 2026-2030 MAG Transportation Improvement Program, Regional Strategic Transportation Infrastructure Investment Plan, and MOMENTUM 2050 MAG Regional Transportation Plan Update.

The Arterial Life Cycle Program (ALCP) Federal Fund Advancement process, approved by the MAG Regional Council on October 25, 2023, and incorporated into the Proposition 400 ALCP Policies and Procedures, provides an opportunity for member agencies to bring federal funds back into the program from the unfunded Phase V of the Proposition 400 ALCP. Under the policy, a project or project segment must be federally eligible and able to obligate the funds in the current fiscal year to be submitted for advancement. Further, only funds available in Phase V are eligible for advancement.

On February 10, 2026, MAG issued a memorandum announcing the availability of Federal Fund Advancement for Fiscal Year 2026. One request was received prior to the March 12, 2026, deadline; funding is available to accommodate the request.

#### **\*5E. Revisions to the Proposition 400 Arterial Life Cycle Program Policies and Procedures**

The Management Committee, by consent, recommended approval of the proposed revisions to the Proposition 400 Arterial Life Cycle Program Policies and Procedures.

The Proposition 400 Arterial Life Cycle Program (ALCP) provides funding for major arterial streets and intersections and serves as the financial management tool for the arterial street component of the Regional Strategic Transportation Infrastructure Investment Plan. Management of the Proposition 400 ALCP is guided by the Proposition 400 ALCP Policies and Procedures (Policies), which were last approved by the MAG Regional Council on June 26, 2024. Since that time, a need to update the Policies has been identified to ensure that lead agencies are not losing out on programmed regional funding due to project delays outside of their control. To that end, the ALCP Working Group held a meeting on March 16th, 2026, to develop proposed revisions.

#### **\*5F. Consultant Selection for the FY 2026-2027 Transportation Data Collection On-Call**

The Management Committee, by consent, recommended approval of the proposed list of qualified consultants for the FY 2026-2027 Transportation Data Collection On-Call.

The MAG Fiscal Years (FYs) 2026-2027 Biennial Unified Planning Work Program (UPWP) and Budget includes \$1,500,000 for the Transportation Data Collection On-Call. The objective of this project is to collect and analyze multimodal transportation data, including traffic volumes, vehicle classification, nonmotorized traffic counts, and other related traffic data. Additionally, this project aims to manage data using cloud-based analytics platforms and related applications. A request for qualifications (RFQ) was advertised, with a total of

21 proposals received by the February 11, 2026, deadline. On February 23, 2026, an evaluation team comprised of MAG staff met and recommended the selection of a list of qualified consultants.

#### **\*5G. Consultant Selection for the US 60 East Corridor Study: Ironwood Drive to Kings Ranch Road**

The Management Committee, by consent, recommended approval of AECOM for the US 60 East Corridor Study: Ironwood Drive to Kings Ranch Road, and if negotiations are not successful, that MAG pursue negotiations with its second choice, Wilson & Co.

The MAG Fiscal Years (FYs) 2026-2027 Biennial Unified Planning Work Program (UPWP) and Budget includes \$375,000 for a corridor study of US 60 between Ironwood Drive and Superstition Mountain Drive. The study area was expanded eastward to Kings Ranch Road at the request of the City of Apache Junction. The purpose of the corridor study is to provide a coordinated transportation vision in this corridor, including strategies to address existing and forecasted congestion, safety, and mobility challenges. A request for proposals was advertised, with a total of six proposals received by the February 18, 2026, deadline. On March 11, 2026, an evaluation team comprised of the City of Apache Junction and MAG met and recommended the selection of AECOM. Additionally, the evaluation team recommended that if negotiations with AECOM are not successful, MAG pursue negotiations with the second-highest-scoring consultant, Wilson & Co.

#### **\*5H. Freeway Life Cycle Program Minor Improvement Funding Request: State Route 85 Pima Street Improvements**

The Management Committee, by consent, recommended approval to program \$3.2 million from the Freeway Life Cycle Program minor improvements allocation to the SR 85 Pima Street Improvements.

The Freeway Life Cycle Program (FLCP) includes funding for minor improvements on the regional freeway and highway system. On June 25, 2025, the MAG Regional Council approved the Fiscal Year (FY) 2026 Prop 400 FLCP, which included \$10 million for minor improvements in FY 2026. This agenda item represents a request to allocate \$3.2 million of the FY 2026 funding for improvements to the SR 85 Pima Street Improvements. This is the second minor improvement request this fiscal year.

#### **\*6. Meridian Road Corridor Study Acceptance**

Vice Chair Inchausti requested Tim Strow, major projects manager, to present this item. This item was on the agenda for action.

Mr. Strow provided an overview of the project, noting that the study will establish a vision for future improvements to address anticipated travel needs for residents and businesses,

improve connectivity, and enhance safety for drivers, bicyclists, and pedestrians. He emphasized the importance of identifying the ultimate roadway alignment and coordinating future ownership and maintenance responsibilities in collaboration with stakeholders and the public.

Mr. Strow explained that the corridor presents unique conditions. The north side is more developed, with a focus on roadway widening, sidewalks, bicycle and pedestrian improvements, and addressing challenges associated with the connection at the US 60 (Meridian Road) interchange. The south side of the corridor is focused on addressing the offset at Baseline Road and evaluating alignment alternatives.

Mr. Strow highlighted that the corridor has experienced significant safety concerns, including multiple crashes, and noted that improving safety is a key priority of the project. Mr. Strow further explained that portions of the corridor are in varying stages of development, including a mix of state land, residential units, remnant parcels, and industrial and commercial properties. He stated that the study aims to position the corridor for future growth and development.

Mr. Strow noted that several public meetings were held with strong attendance and that feedback was received on each of the alternatives presented.

Mr. Strow stated that the recommended cross sections include four lanes for the north segment and six lanes for the south segment. He added that the proposed alignment for Meridian Road at Baseline Road and Houston Avenue, which was well-received and determined to be the most feasible, includes a curved alignment through a residential community and an adjacent industrial area.

Mr. Strow concluded by outlining the next steps, including seeking acceptance of the technical document by MAG committees and continuing coordination with member agencies regarding ownership and maintenance.

Vice Chair Inchausti asked if any members had questions or comments regarding the agenda item.

Mr. Butler expressed appreciation for the MAG staff and Mr. Strow for their work on the corridor and for developing solutions.

Mr. Powell also expressed appreciation for the study.

Vice Chair Inchausti requested a motion to approve the agenda item. Mr. Pombier moved to recommend acceptance of the Meridian Road Corridor Study, and Ms. Prince seconded the motion.

The motion passed with the following members voting in favor: Patrick Banger, Ben Bitter, Scott Butler, Greg Caton, Andrew Ching, Kim Moon proxy for Ron Corbin, Andrea Davis,

Crystal Dyches, Mike Faust, Bruce Gardner, Rachael Goodwin, Rosa Inchausti, Kini Knudson, Jeff Kulaga, Leo Lew, Jessica Mefford-Miller, Grady Miller, John Pombier, Bryant Powell, Dawn Prince, Doug Sandstrom, Jennifer Toth, Bruce Walls, Matthew Williams, Ed Zuercher.

**7. Proposition 479 Transit Bus Operations Funding Managers Working Group Update**

Vice Chair Inchausti requested Patrick Banger, Glendale City Manager, to present this item. This item was on the agenda for information and discussion.

Mr. Banger provided an overview of the first working group held on March 27<sup>th</sup>, 2026. This meeting focused on context and background to support further discussion, including an overview of the Prop 479 program and the updated projections for bus operating assistance, express service, ADA service, and regional services support.

During the meeting, members expressed support for updating the calculation of the base allocation using the latest actual data available, including Fiscal Year 2026 contract rates and Fiscal Year 2025 fare recovery amounts. They also requested that future meetings include a discussion of potential cost-saving opportunities related to express bus and regional services support.

The next meeting is scheduled for April 8, 2026, and will focus on a detailed review of the regional services support allocation. Valley Metro has prepared a memorandum and presentation to help with that discussion. Future meetings will include an examination of service delivery and policy considerations related to the ADA service allocation.

Vice Chair Inchausti asked if any members had questions or comments regarding the agenda item. None was noted.

**8. Update on Development of the Proposition 479 Transit Life Cycle Program**

Vice Chair Inchausti requested Patrick Stone, deputy transportation director, to present this item. This item was on the agenda for information and discussion.

Mr. Stone stated that this was the fifth update on the Transit Life Cycle Program (TLCP) and noted that the presentation would focus on high-capacity transit and bus transit capital.

Mr. Stone outlined the nine projects funded through the Regional Strategic Transportation Infrastructure Investment Plan (RSTIIP), organized into four categories: rail improvement projects, critical state of good repair, light rail and streetcar, and bus rapid transit. He noted that the projects are presented as originally approved in base year 2020 dollars and reviewed the policy assumptions included in the RSTIIP.

Mr. Stone described the program management strategies for delivering these projects. He explained that the first approach, used in the Freeway Life Cycle Program, is project-based, in which the region commits to specific projects with defined scopes. Under this approach, any changes to scope or cost must be reviewed and approved by MAG policy committees, with regional funding adjusted accordingly.

Mr. Stone then described an allocation-based approach, similar to the methodology used in the Arterial Life Cycle Program, where the region commits to the lesser of a fixed percentage of project costs. He noted that under this approach, scope and cost changes are tracked at a higher level, and as long as projects remain consistent with program intent, policy committee approval is not required.

Mr. Stone also presented a hybrid approach, which combines elements of both methodologies and is based on program and project categories. He noted that, given the wide range of projects within the TLCP, a hybrid approach may be the most effective.

Mr. Stone outlined the next steps for high-capacity transit, including adjusting project phases to reflect current development activities and convening a working group of high-capacity transit agencies to guide updates to the TLCP. He stated that the goal is to finalize updates for approval in June in conjunction with the fiscal year 2027 TLCP.

Mr. Stone then provided an overview of bus transit capital, outlining the core tenets of this component of the TLCP. He noted that, beginning in March, MAG staff-initiated efforts to fully implement RSTIIP policies for bus transit capital, with the goal of developing a 20-year, long-range vision supported by a transparent planning and programming process. He added that MAG staff are currently reviewing existing processes and conducting a peer agency best practices review, which will inform future recommendations.

Mr. Stone further stated that new agreement requirements are being developed to formalize roles and responsibilities among implementing agencies. These agreements will complement the existing 2015 Transit Planning, Programming, and Fund Allocation Agreement. He noted that a planning agreement between MAG, Valley Metro, and the City of Phoenix is anticipated to be brought forward during an upcoming committee cycle.

Vice Chair Inchausti asked if any members had questions or comments regarding the agenda item.

Mr. Zuercher stated that a project-based funding approach is appropriate for items such as transit asset management, while an allocation-based approach may be more suitable for other project types. He added that additional discussion is needed regarding how a second rail operations center will be incorporated and funded within the program.

Ms. Miller stated that a project-based approach is appropriate for capital projects, while an allocation-based or hybrid approach is important for projects such as bus rapid transit

that include both capital and operating components. She noted that the TLCP is distinct from other life cycle programs due to its operating component, which requires projects to be maintained over their life cycle. Ms. Miller also emphasized the importance of clearly identifying funding sources and ensuring consistency with how these programs are presented by Valley Metro and regional cities.

## **9. Overview of Recent Population Change Trends**

Vice Chair Inchausti requested Peter Burnett, socioeconomic data manager, to present this item. This item was on the agenda for information and discussion.

Mr. Burnett stated that understanding population change and trends is critical for long-range projections, planning efforts, and transportation modeling. He noted that the presentation would provide a deeper analysis of these trends.

Mr. Burnett shared that recently released intercensal estimates indicate that population growth and migration in the United States is slowing. He explained that national population growth has declined significantly, with 2025 experiencing approximately half the growth seen in 2024. He noted that key factors influencing these changes include natural population change, international migration, and domestic migration, with international migration representing the most significant contributor to the recent decline.

Mr. Burnett then presented similar data for Arizona, noting that international migration is also the primary driver of recent changes at the state level. He added that, despite these trends, Arizona's population growth has remained more stable compared to national patterns and that the state continues to be a leading growth area in the country.

Mr. Burnett reviewed domestic migration trends into Arizona, including the primary states from which residents are relocating.

Mr. Burnett stated that similar patterns are observed at the Phoenix metropolitan statistical area (MSA) level. He noted that the Phoenix MSA is the 10th largest in the nation by population and ranks fourth in total population growth.

Mr. Burnett then highlighted patterns in Maricopa County and Pinal County. He explained that in Maricopa County, international migration accounts for the most significant change between 2024 and 2025, while in Pinal County, domestic migration is the primary driver of growth.

Mr. Burnett further stated that both Maricopa County and Pinal County are outpacing population growth rates for the state of Arizona and the United States overall. He added that Pinal County ranks among the fastest-growing counties in the nation.

Mr. Burnett concluded that, while population growth has slowed at both the national and state levels, changes in international migration are a key factor influencing recent trends. He emphasized that, despite this slowdown, Arizona and the Phoenix MSA continue to experience strong population growth.

Vice Chair Inchausti asked if any members had questions or comments regarding the agenda item. None was noted.

## **10. Executive Director's Report**

Vice Chair Inchausti requested Executive Director Audra Koester Thomas to speak to this item. This item was on the agenda for information only.

Ms. Koester Thomas reported that Brad Williams and John Bullen presented the results of the US 60 Corridor Study to the Surprise City Council. She expressed appreciation for the collaboration among the city and regional stakeholders in advancing solutions to address traffic concerns in the northwest Valley.

Ms. Koester Thomas noted that April is Autism Awareness Month and shared that the Town of Gila Bend is hosting an awareness event in recognition. She also highlighted recent community events, including Fountain Hills' St. Patrick's Day celebration featuring the traditional greening of the fountain, and the City of Chandler's 36th annual Ostrich Festival.

Ms. Koester Thomas congratulated the City of Phoenix on hosting the NCAA Women's Final Four.

Ms. Koester Thomas also recognized recent award recipients at the WTS gala. She noted that Valley Metro and the City of Phoenix received the Innovative Project Solutions Award for the South Central Extension/Downtown Hub, adding that the project has also received recognition from Arizona Forward and the American Council of Engineering Companies through its Engineering Excellence awards. She further noted that the City of Tempe was named Employer of the Year.

## **11. Legislative Update**

Vice Chair Inchausti requested John Kelly from TriAdvocates to report on this item. This item was on the agenda for information and discussion.

Mr. Kelly reported that the legislative session is on day 87 and noted that activity at the Capitol has slowed as discussions focus on the state budget. He added that several concurrent resolutions are under consideration, which would be referred to the ballot rather than the Governor's office.

Mr. Kelly stated that the Governor has vetoed several bills and noted that affordability remains a primary issue at the Legislature. He explained that fuel formulation policy is one component of broader affordability discussions.

Mr. Kelly reported that House Bill 2955 was amended as a strike-everything amendment and would require the Arizona Department of Environmental Quality (ADEQ) to submit waivers related to summer fuel formulations. He noted that Arizona currently utilizes a unique summer fuel formulation and that MAG has supported this approach from both technical and air quality perspectives.

Mr. Kelly also discussed a concurrent resolution that would impose a five-year moratorium on local government tax and fee increases. He noted that the measure did not advance out of the House and was later introduced as a strike-everything amendment in the Senate. He added that, while this item is considered a lower-level risk, it will continue to be monitored.

Mr. Kelly further reported that the Arizona Department of Administration's 911 Office announced a projected funding shortfall due to declining revenues from excise taxes on telecommunications services. As a result, distributions to local governments for 911 call handling are expected to be reduced by approximately 35 percent in the upcoming fiscal year. He noted that the Governor's Office has indicated a commitment to restoring this funding and that it will be addressed as part of ongoing budget discussions. Mr. Kelly added that TriAdvocates will continue coordinating with legislators and agency staff, noting the significant short- and long-term implications for the 911 system.

Mr. Zuercher asked whether there was an explanation for the projected 35 percent reduction. Mr. Kelly responded that, according to analysis by the Department of Revenue, revenues have generally increased in proportion to population growth, while costs have increased at a faster rate.

Mr. Zuercher also inquired about potential air quality impacts if fuel formulation legislation were to pass. Ms. Koester Thomas responded that there are currently no active fuel formulation bills, and that the remaining proposal relates only to waiver requests. She noted that analysis is ongoing regarding potential impacts and stated that any implications to air quality are expected to be minimal. She added that MAG staff will continue to provide technical information and remain available to support the Legislature.

## **12. Request for Future Agenda Items**

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

## **13. Comments from the Committee**

Vice Chair Inchausti asked the members if there were any comments.

Ms. Davis expressed appreciation to Brad Williams and John Bullen for presenting at the Surprise City Council meeting. She also thanked MAG staff and committee members for their continued commitment to the US 60 Corridor Study and for advancing planned improvements along US 60 and Loop 303.

### **Adjournment**

The next meeting of the Management Committee will take place on May 13, 2026. There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 12:54 p.m.

\* Matters for which the Arizona Department of Transportation and Valley Metro Regional Public Transportation Authority ex officio members may vote.