

MINUTES OF THE
MARICOPA ASSOCIATION OF GOVERNMENTS
MAG REGIONAL COUNCIL EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE
April 13, 2020
Web Conference

MEMBERS ATTENDING

#Mayor Mark Mitchell, Tempe: Chair #Mayor Jerry Weiers, Glendale, Vice Chair #Mayor Kate Gallego, Phoenix #Mayor John Giles, Mesa: Treasurer	*Mayor Anna Tovar, Tolleson #Mayor Kenneth Weise #Mayor Gail Barney, Queen Creek: Past Chair
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* Not Present

Participated by telephone conference call

1. Call to Order

Chair Mark Mitchell called the teleconference meeting of the Executive Committee to order at 12:12 p.m. Also joining the meeting via teleconference were Mayor Gail Barney, Mayor Kate Gallego, Mayor John Giles, Mayor Jerry Weiers, and Mayor Kenn Weise.

2. Pledge of Allegiance

The Pledge of Allegiance was recited. There also was a moment of silence for those affected by the COVID-19 pandemic.

3. Approval of Consent Agenda

Mayor Mitchell removed item 3B, Avondale-Goodyear Transit Feasibility Study Consultant Selection, prior to the vote on the consent agenda. He told the committee that items 3C and 3D were recommended for approval by the MAG Management Committee at the April 8, 2020, meeting.

Mayor Barney moved approval of the consent agenda. Mayor Gallego seconded the motion and the motion carried unanimously with Mayor Barney, Mayor Gallego, Mayor Mitchell, Mayor Weiers, and Mayor Weise voting in favor of the motion via telephone conference.

*3A. Approval of March 16, 2020, Meeting Minutes

The MAG Executive Committee, by consent, approved of the March 16, 2020, meeting minutes.

*3B. Avondale-Goodyear Transit Feasibility Study Consultant Selection

This item was removed from the consent agenda.

*3C. Consultant Selection for FY 2020 Meeting and Office Space Safety Assessment

The MAG Executive Committee, by consent, approved of the selection of Triad Consulting and System Design Group, LLC to serve as the consultant for the FY 2020 Meeting and Office Space Safety Assessment for a total not to exceed \$25,000.

MAG takes its responsibility to maintain a safe while accessible meeting and office space very seriously. With hundreds of open meetings each year, safety is a key concern. To ensure the safety of MAG committee members, the public and staff, an assessment of the meeting and office space will be conducted. On August 20, 2018, the MAG Regional Council Executive Committee approved an amendment to the FY 2019 MAG Unified Planning Work Program and Annual Budget to use \$25,000 to competitively secure a consultant to develop a meeting space and office safety plan for the MAG building at 302 North 1st Avenue in Phoenix. The Arizona office of the Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) approved the use of federal transportation funding for this activity as an eligible cost under 2 CFR 200.457 Plant and Security Costs. The FY 2020 MAG Unified Planning Work Program and Annual Budget approved by MAG Regional Council on May 22, 2019, includes this activity.

On February 13, 2020, MAG released a Request for Proposals to competitively secure a consultant to support this work. By March 19, 2020, a total of two proposals were received by the deadline of 2:00 p.m. All proposals met threshold requirements. On March 27, 2020, an evaluation team met to review and score the proposals. Based on the scoring and evaluation criteria listed in the Request for Proposals, the team is recommending the selection of Triad Consulting and System Design Group, LLC to serve as the consultant for the FY 2020 Meeting and Office Space Safety Assessment.

*3D. Amendment to the Fiscal Year (FY) 2020 Unified Planning Work Program to Enter Into an Agreement with STRAVA Metro to Obtain Access to Bicycle and Pedestrian Data

The MAG Executive Committee, by consent, approved of an amendment to the FY 2020 Unified Planning Work Program to enter into an agreement with STRAVA Metro for \$127,138 to obtain access to bicycle and pedestrian data.

In FY 2018, MAG purchased access to STRAVA Metro data for the Maricopa region for the calendar year 2016. In FY 2019, MAG purchased the data for calendar year 2017. The data was utilized extensively by MAG member agencies as part of the Design Assistance and bicycle and pedestrian master plans programs. In addition, the data was used as part of the development of the MAG Active Transportation Plan and utilized by MAG member agencies as part of the submittal process for federally funded bicycle and pedestrian infrastructure projects. The access period for the 2016 and 2017 data ended on July 20, 2019. STRAVA Metro has granted MAG access to the 2016 – 2019 data, for the region and selected areas, for \$127,138. The term of access to all of the data is 39 months. Typically, STRAVA Metro provides a year of access per year of data. However, STRAVA has provided MAG with an extra quarter of access due to the previous working relationship.

4. Coronavirus Update

Mayor Giles joined the meeting.

MAG Executive Director Eric Anderson led the discussion on the effects the novel coronavirus, COVID-19, is having on the region and the measures MAG is taking as an organization. He recalled that at the March meeting he discussed some of the steps MAG was taking to keep employees and members of the public safe and mentioned the committee took action to cancel the March Regional Council meeting. Mr. Anderson explained the next day, MAG took immediate steps to move to telecommuting for employees and to holding meetings electronically. The MAG Management Committee meeting was held last week using Adobe Connect. Mr. Anderson added MAG has updated its public comment process to ensure the public still has the opportunity to weigh in on agenda items. Members of the public can submit chat comments during meetings or submit comments prior to the meeting using the MAG website. He indicated MAG staff has adjusted to working remotely and he recognized the Information Technology (IT) Division staff for making sure the agency's technology infrastructure is adequate to support day to day activities as well as committee meetings.

MAG Deputy Executive Director Amy St. Peter next discussed the agency's outward facing activities associated with the COVID-19 pandemic. She highlighted the Health Asset viewer available on the MAG website and thanked MAG's Regional Analytics team for identifying a need in this public health crisis and working quickly to provide this resource to the community. The viewer features a Vulnerability Index that comprises demographics including age, income, access to medical care and technology. Also included are locations of medical care facilities with contact information and bed capacity. Ms. St. Peter noted the statewide viewer makes available the number of COVID-19 cases by zip code. Legislative and congressional districts were recently added and she asked membership to let staff know if there are other resources or functions they would like to see added to the viewer.

Ms. St. Peter stated MAG is studying the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic on congestion and air quality by looking levels of nitrogen dioxide emissions. She commented it appears there is a positive impact on air quality and added staff will continue to study the data, update it, and make it available to the public.

Ms. St. Peter noted the MAG website has links to member agency websites to feature the great work being done across the region. The website also features links to other websites and resources specific to vulnerable sectors including businesses, older adults, people experiencing domestic violence and people experiencing homelessness. She stated in relation to people experiencing homelessness, MAG will begin heat relief network efforts on May 1st. There are concerns as the start of the campaign nears because many of MAG's partners are either closed or open but concerned about exposure to COVID-19. Ms. St. Peter commented MAG is concerned about keeping people safe from the heat as well as from the novel corona virus.

Ms. St. Peter next called attention to MAG's Thank You campaign, which was launched to express a sincere thank you for all of those working on the front lines fighting the COVID-19 pandemic, including healthcare workers, first responders, state and local government leaders, and to all of the residents of our region who are doing their part to keep themselves and others in the community safe. MAG is using its Facebook and Twitter platforms to compile messages of gratitude for those who are making a difference. Member agencies are encouraged to share messages using the hashtags #MAGgratitude and #thankyou, emailing staff directly, or by submitting a message through azmag.gov/comments.

Ms. St. Peter indicated many of the resources she discussed are available on the MAG website on the "MAG Response to COVID-19 page",

<https://azmag.gov/Programs/Public-Outreach/MAG-Response-to-COVID-19>. She noted MAG is only continuing to hold virtual meetings with time sensitive items on their agendas. Ms. St. Peter asked for committee members to let staff know if there are additional efforts they would like MAG to focus on. She and added that MAG is being mindful to prioritize requests of member agencies to ensure ample time for policymakers to address pressing issues in their communities.

Mr. Anderson added that the heat relief network is critical to making sure that as we head into the summer months our most vulnerable population has access to shade and water. He noted MAG staff have contacted member agencies for volunteers as well as resources.

5. Annual Performance Review of the MAG Executive Director

Mayor Weise moved to recess the meeting to conduct an executive session to discuss the MAG Executive Director's performance evaluation. A.R.S. 38-431.03(A)(1). Mayor Giles seconded the motion and the motion carried unanimously with Mayor Barney, Mayor Gallego, Mayor Giles, Mayor Mitchell, Mayor Weiers, and Mayor Weise voting in favor of the motion via teleconference.

The employment agreement entered into with the MAG Executive Director on April 9, 2018, provided that the Executive Committee conduct an annual performance review in consultation with the Regional Council. On November 19, 2018, the Executive Committee suggested that the performance review for the Executive Director take place in April of each year.

On February 25, 2020, the evaluation survey and Major Regional Goals and Results for FY 2019-2020 were sent to members of the Regional Council, Management Committee and other outside agencies to receive their input on the review. The results of the completed surveys were compiled and provided to members of the Executive Committee to review and discuss.

The meeting went into executive session at 12:16 p.m.

6. Possible Action on the Annual Performance Review of the MAG Executive Director

The regular meeting reconvened at 12:50 p.m. to take action regarding the annual performance review of the MAG Executive Director.

Mayor Giles made a motion to discuss the performance review of the MAG Executive Director. Mayor Weise seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously with Mayor Gallego, Mayor Barney, Mayor Giles, Chair Mitchell, Mayor Weiers, and Mayor Weise voting in favor of the motion via teleconference.

Chair Mitchell told Mr. Anderson that his review and performance have been outstanding. He commented that the committee appreciates everything he has done as well as his leadership. In light of the current COVID-19 pandemic and the measures the cities are taking due to the economic downturn, Chair Mitchell called for a motion to revisit Mr. Anderson's compensation package in six months.

Mayor Weise moved to revisit the MAG Executive Director's compensation package in six months. Mayor Gallego seconded the motion.

Chair Mitchell stated Mr. Anderson's salary would remain the same for now and would be reviewed again six months from now to see where the region is financially. He asked if there was any other discussion from the committee.

Mayor Weise stated that the decision not to increase Mr. Anderson's compensation has nothing to do with his performance. He commented he was concerned about the optics of cities having to make budget cuts while increasing Mr. Anderson's salary. Mayor Weise stated the committee's decision to come back and review compensation again in six months is not a reflection of Mr. Anderson's performance or what they believe he deserves.

Mr. Anderson thanked Mayor Weise for his comments.

Chair Mitchell began a roll call vote. Mayor Barney voted in favor of the motion.

Mayor Gallego also voted in favor of the motion and asked to explain her vote. She commented that as a new MAG member, she has enjoyed working with Mr. Anderson and appreciates his vision for building a better Maricopa County. She continued by saying she appreciates Mr. Anderson's strong work and steady leadership in difficult times, thanked him for his service, and said it has been a pleasure to work with him.

Mr. Anderson thanked Mayor Gallego for her comments.

Mayor Giles stated he agreed with the comments from Mayor Weise and Mayor Gallego and voted in favor of the motion.

Mayor Weiers also explained his vote. He stated member agencies are in a bad position and are looking at making staff cuts and this is not an appropriate time to give a pay raise. He added that while he does not support a pay increase right now, he does support Mr. Anderson and the job that he is doing.

Mr. Anderson thanked Mayor Weiers for his comments.

Mayor Weiers voted in favor of the motion.

Chair Mitchell voted in favor of the motion and stated he echoes the comments of his colleagues. He commented it has been a pleasure working with Mr. Anderson and added he appreciates Mr. Anderson's vision, knowledge, and leadership.

Chair Mitchell stated the motion passed six to zero, with Mayor Tovar absent from the vote.

7. Request for Future Agenda Items

Chair Mitchell asked if there were any requests for future agenda items.

There were none.

8. Comments from the Committee

Chair Mitchell asked if there were any comments from the committee.

Chair Mitchell commented that he appreciates the work and leadership of the cities in Maricopa County as well as in the state regarding the COVID-19 pandemic. He indicated that the City of Tempe is launching a campaign called "Buy Now. Save Local" to support local businesses in the city. Chair Mitchell added he hopes this campaign is something that can be emulated in communities across Maricopa County.

Adjournment

A motion was made to adjourn the meeting. With no further business, Chair Mitchell adjourned the meeting at 12:56 p.m.

Chair

Secretary