

MINUTES OF THE MAG MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE MEETING

October 13, 2021

This meeting was conducted virtually via Zoom.

A link to a video recording of the meeting [can be found here](#).

MEMBERS ATTENDING

#Tempe: Andrew Ching, Chair #ADOT: Jodi Rooney as proxy for John Halikowski #Apache Junction: Matt Busby as proxy for Bryant Powell #Avondale: Charles Montoya #Buckeye: Roger Klingler *Carefree: Gary Neiss *Cave Creek: Carrie Dyrek #Chandler: Joshua Wright #El Mirage: Crystal Dyches #Florence: Brent Billingsley *Fort McDowell Yavapai Nation: Phil Dorchester #Fountain Hills: Grady Miller *Gila Bend: Kathy Valenzuela *Gila River Indian Community: Kathyleen Curley #Gilbert: Patrick Banger	*Glendale: Kevin Phelps #Goodyear: Julie Karins #Guadalupe: Jeff Kulaga #Litchfield Park: Matthew Williams *City of Maricopa: Rick Horst *Maricopa County: Joy Rich #Mesa: Christopher Brady #Paradise Valley: Jill Keimach #Peoria: Jeff Tyne #Phoenix: Jeffrey Barton *Pinal County: Leo Lew #Queen Creek: John Kross #Salt River Pima-Maricopa Indian Community: Jennifer Jack *Scottsdale: Jim Thompson #Surprise: Mike Frazier *Tolleson: Reyes Medrano, Jr. #Valley Metro/RPTA: Scott Smith *Wickenburg: Chief Les Brown *Youngtown: Jeanne Blackman
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* Those members neither present nor represented by proxy.

Participated virtually/telephone conference call.

1. Call to Order

The meeting of the MAG Management Committee was called to order by Chair Andrew Ching at 12:00 p.m. Roll call was taken to confirm a quorum of members was present. Chair Ching provided the committee with additional meeting instructions.

Chair Ching welcomed new members Jeffrey Barton, City of Phoenix Manager, to the meeting.

2. Call to the Audience

An opportunity was provided to members of the public to provide input through written comment

to the Management Committee on items that are not on the agenda that are within the jurisdiction of MAG, or on items on the agenda for discussion but not for action. Members of the public were asked to submit written comments related to this meeting through the MAG website at azmag.gov/comment, and indicate for which meeting the comment is intended. Comments may be sent at any time leading up to the meeting, but must be received at least one hour prior to the posted start time for the meeting.

Chair Ching asked if MAG staff had received any public comment.

MAG staff responded no public comment had been received for the meeting.

3. Executive Director's Report

MAG Executive Director Eric Anderson reported on items of general interest in the MAG region. Mr. Anderson reported the See Me AZ New Enforcement Phase began in the region. The education and enforcement program aims at reducing bike and pedestrian crashes. He reminded the committee the region experienced more than 150 pedestrian and bicyclist deaths in 2020. During first phase of enforcement, four cities recorded more than 1,500 contacts and over 1,100 citations. Phoenix and Chandler completed efforts in late September; Glendale begins its efforts in mid-October and Tempe in the first week of November. The heightened enforcement periods last about two weeks.

Mr. Anderson highlighted the Association of Metropolitan Planning Organizations (AMPO) Annual Conference hosted by MAG earlier this month. The conference was held between October 4-8, 2021, at the Embassy Suites by Hilton Scottsdale Resort. The MAG policy team helped to plan and host the national conference for approximately 300 participants. He thanked the MAG Policy Team for their work on the conference and also thanked Scottsdale Mayor David Ortega for welcoming the group to his city. The AMPO program included several mobile tours at different locations in the Valley, an Arizona MPO director's panel and ADOT/US DOT Roundtable. Keynote speaker Grady Gammage spoke about Arizona's sustainability. Mr. Anderson displayed photos taken at the event.

Chair Ching asked members to contact Mr. Anderson after the meeting with any questions.

4. Approval of Consent Agenda

Chair Ching stated that agenda items 4A through 4G were on the Consent Agenda. He asked if any member of the Management Committee had questions or would like a presentation on any of the Consent Agenda items. None were noted.

Mr. Miller moved to recommend approval of Consent Agenda items 4A through 4G. Mr. Klingler seconded the motion. Mr. Banger, Mr. Barton, Mr. Billingsley, Mr. Brady, Mr. Busby, Chair Ching, Ms. Dyches, Mr. Frazier, Ms. Jack, Ms. Karins, Ms. Keimach, Mr. Klingler, Mr. Kross, Mr. Kulaga, Mr. Miller, Mr. Montoya, Ms. Rooney, Mr. Smith, Mr. Tyne, Mr. Williams, and Mr. Wright voted in favor of the motion, which carried unanimously.

4A. Approval of the September 8, 2021, Meeting Minutes

The MAG Management Committee, by consent, approved the September 8, 2021, meeting minutes.

4B. Conformity Consultation

The Maricopa Association of Governments is conducting consultation on a conformity assessment for an amendment and administrative modification to the FY 2020-2024 MAG Transportation Improvement Program and 2040 Regional Transportation Plan Update. The amendment and administrative modification involve changes to several projects, including Freeway Life Cycle Program projects, General Roadway projects, and Arterial Life Cycle Program 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.

This item was on the agenda for consultation.

4C. Transportation Improvement Program Project Changes

The MAG Management Committee, by consent, recommended approval of amendments and administrative modifications to the Fiscal Year 2020-2024 MAG TIP, 2040 MAG RTP Update, and as appropriate, the Draft FY 2022-2025 TIP and Draft MOMENTUM 2050 MAG RTP.

The Fiscal Year (FY) 2020-2024 MAG Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) and the 2040 MAG Regional Transportation Plan (RTP) Update were approved by the Regional Council on February 26, 2020, and have since been amended 17 times.

Since approval of the last amendment, additional changes and modifications are needed.

4D. Amendment to the Fiscal Year 2022-2023 MAG Unified Planning Work Program and Biennial Budget to Accept Funding from the City of Phoenix to Support Homelessness Planning

The MAG Management Committee, by consent, recommended approval to accept \$200,000 from the City of Phoenix and amend the FY 2022-2023 MAG Unified Planning Work Program and Biennial Budget to support an evaluation and change implementation of the Coordinated Entry System.

On May 26, 2021, the MAG Regional Council approved the FY 2022-2023 MAG Unified Planning Work Program and Biennial Budget. On October 6, 2021, the City of Phoenix Council approved the allocation of \$200,000 in federal Community Development Block Grant funding to the Maricopa Association of Governments in support of an evaluation and change implementation to the Coordinated Entry System (CES).

This system is a federally mandated program to screen people experiencing homelessness to determine eligibility for homeless assistance programs. The need to conduct this evaluation was determined by the Maricopa Regional Continuum of Care and is included as one of the main areas

of focus in the Racial Equity Plan. The Regional Homelessness Strategy Portfolio that was adopted by the MAG Regional Council in May 2021 also identified the need to evaluate and enhance the Coordinated Entry System.

The funding will be used to competitively select an experienced consultant to conduct the evaluation with input from the lead agencies within the Coordinated Entry System, the Maricopa Regional Continuum of Care, and other stakeholders such as nonprofit providers. The analysis will include an assessment of impacts of COVID-19 on the Coordinated Entry System and the disproportionate impacts of the pandemic on Black and indigenous people, and people of color. It is necessary to accept this funding and amend the budget.

4E. On-Call Consulting Services Selection for Fiscal Year 2022 MAG Transportation Performance On-Call

The MAG Management Committee, by consent, recommended approval of the proposed list of qualified consultants for the FY 2022 MAG Transportation Performance On-Call.

The Fiscal Year (FY) 2022-2023 MAG Unified Work Program and Annual Budget, approved by the MAG Regional Council in May 2021, includes \$250,000 for On-Call Consulting Services for the FY 2022 MAG Transportation Performance On-Call. A request for qualifications (RFQ) was advertised on July 23, 2021. Eleven proposals were received by the August 20, 2021, deadline. On September 3, 2021, a MAG evaluation team met and recommended MAG approve a list of qualified consultants.

4F. Regional Bus Rapid Transit Feasibility Study

The MAG Management Committee, by consent, recommended acceptance of the Regional Bus Rapid Transit Feasibility Study.

The Regional Bus Rapid Transit (BRT) Feasibility Study was undertaken to better understand the interest in and feasibility of implementing BRT in the MAG region. The study identified a set of eight BRT corridors with the highest potential for implementation, as well as additional long-term extensions that could be viable in completing a regional network in the future. As part of the study, a set of Regional Performance and Design Standards was developed to create a shared understanding of important characteristics needed to make BRT an attractive and time-competitive mode. Commissioned in part to inform the development of the new Regional Transportation Plan, MOMENTUM, three of the corridors recommended as part of the study were included for regional support in the June 23, 2021, unanimously-approved RTP investment plan.

4G. On-Call Consulting Services Selection for FY 2022-2023 Behavioral Model Updates

The MAG Management Committee, by consent, recommended approval of the list of qualified consultants for the FY 2022-2023 Behavioral Model Updates On-Call Consulting Services.

The Fiscal Year (FY) 2022-2023 Biennial Unified Planning Work Program and Budget, approved by the MAG Regional Council in May 2021, includes on-call consulting services for FY 2022-2023 Behavioral Model Updates. The total budgeted amount available for this project is \$650,000. The

main purpose of this five-year project is to perform the necessary updates, recalibration and improvements to the MAG transportation models. This includes updates due to short and long-term changes in activity and travel behavior in transportation models due to the pandemic, updates to regional mesoscopic models, and the development of supporting tools for modeling data analysis. A request for qualifications was advertised on August 9, 2021, for technical assistance in two areas of expertise: (A) specification, estimation, calibration, validation and replication of advanced activity-based transportation models and the four-step model; updates to dynamic traffic assignment models and microsimulation models maintained by MAG, and (B) data collection, analysis, visualization. Twelve proposals were received by the September 14, 2021, deadline. On September 27, 2021, the multi-agency evaluation team met and recommended consultants to MAG to perform the technical assistance.

5. 2021 Call for Projects – Pinal County Regional Priority Projects

MAG Transportation Improvement Program Supervisor Patrick Stone provided an overview of the 2021 Call for Projects, Pinal County regional priority projects. Earlier this summer, the Rural Transportation Advisory Committee (RTAC) asked MAG for assistance in developing a list of projects for member agencies located in Pinal County. The request is part of a larger initiative, totaling \$50 million, that will be presented to the state legislature in calendar year 2022.

Mr. Stone indicated \$8.7 million in funding was available for projects for Pinal County. He said the process followed previously established Pinal County Arterial-Bridge guidelines. MAG received three applications totaling just under \$11 million. The MAG Street Committee reviewed and approved project ranking on September 28, 2021. He displayed a list of the three projects that were submitted from Apache Junction, Queen Creek and Pinal County, ranked in order using a combination of quantitative data and member agency scoring.

Mr. Klingler asked if potential funding for these projects would come from the legislature.

Mr. Stone replied that funding would be part of an initiative submitted by RTAC to the legislature for state general funding for the 2022 budget year.

Mr. Klingler clarified that the funds would not come from Proposition 400 or Proposition 400 extension money.

Mr. Stone said that was correct.

Mr. Klingler moved to recommend approval of the prioritized listing of 2021 Pinal County Regional Priority Project applications. Mr. Kross seconded the motion. Mr. Banger, Mr. Barton, Mr. Billingsley, Mr. Brady, Mr. Busby, Chair Ching, Ms. Dyches, Mr. Frazier, Ms. Jack, Ms. Karins, Ms. Keimach, Mr. Klingler, Mr. Kross, Mr. Kulaga, Mr. Miller, Mr. Montoya, Ms. Rooney, Mr. Smith, Mr. Tyne, Mr. Williams, and Mr. Wright voted in favor of the motion, which carried unanimously.

6. Draft MAG Policy Principles

MAG Policy Planner Sapna Gupta provided an update on changes proposed to the draft MAG Policy Principles document. The policy principles document MAG's policy approaches to a wide range of its work, from specific legislative items to the broader roles and responsibilities. The document was first developed several years ago and has since been updated annually by approval through the MAG committee policy committee process. The full document is available to view on MAG's website.

Ms. Gupta indicated the policy principles are currently formatted as a trifold brochure that MAG can leave behind after meetings with state legislators or in congressional offices and are a way to share the goals and the mission of the organization with the public and stakeholders. They also serve as an approved set of policy principles the agency can draw upon when needed.

Ms. Gupta noted the updated policy principles were included in the consent agenda last month for information. She went over some of the changes in this iteration of the document, including new graphics and language.

Ms. Gupta stated the policy principles have been recommended for approval by the MAG Economic Development Committee and are on the October agendas for recommended approval for this committee, Executive Committee and Transportation Policy Committee. They will be presented to the Regional Council for approval on October 27.

There were no questions or comments from membership.

Ms. Karins moved to recommend approval of the draft MAG Policy Principles. Mr. Tyne seconded the motion. Mr. Banger, Mr. Barton, Mr. Billingsley, Mr. Brady, Mr. Busby, Chair Ching, Ms. Dyches, Mr. Frazier, Ms. Jack, Ms. Karins, Ms. Keimach, Mr. Klingler, Mr. Kross, Mr. Kulaga, Mr. Miller, Mr. Montoya, Ms. Rooney, Mr. Tyne, Mr. Williams, and Mr. Wright voted in favor of the motion, which carried unanimously.

7. Regional Homelessness Action Plan 2020 Data and Analysis Update

MAG Deputy Executive Director Amy St. Peter presented an update on regional homelessness efforts and the associated Regional Homelessness Action Plan. She was joined in the presentation by Regional Homelessness Project Manager TJ Reed. This Plan is a starting point that represents the first time local and tribal governments have come together to craft a regional response to homelessness. Ms. St. Peter expressed her appreciation for the committee's partnership in this effort over the past year and stated the purpose for today's discussion is to invite feedback on the draft action Plan, hear how committee members would like to be involved with and contribute to the regional efforts, and to understand any concerns or priorities committee members might have.

Ms. St. Peter noted this month marks one year since MAG has engaged in this work. Since last October, MAG has reached more than 1,500 people through extensive outreach to a number of

sectors. This outreach has been helpful as MAG moves toward the approval of the Plan beginning in November with this committee, then to the Maricopa Regional Continuum of Care Board, and being offered for final approval at a special Regional Council meeting scheduled for December 8. The Regional Council meeting will be the first time a meeting will focus exclusively on homelessness and underscores the importance of this work and regional partnership.

Ms. St. Peter briefly reviewed the feedback received so far and added the team is eager for additional input to be included in the revised action Plan. The Plan will be distributed this Friday in preparation for the Regional Homelessness Coordination team meeting scheduled for next Monday. The team plans to conduct an in-depth review of feedback and prepare the action Plan for a vote next month.

Ms. St. Peter indicated there are two different time elements within the plan. The first is to address the immediate needs of the regional homeless population. In the long-term, the region will need a sustainable foundation for these efforts and to be able to work together for a lasting solution.

Ms. St. Peter went over several action steps developed by the Regional Homeless Coordination team over the summer. The first step is to commit to work regionally to reduce homelessness. The second step is to increase safe housing options with the goal of reducing homelessness by 25 percent by 2027. The third step is to support diverse partnerships to address homelessness in a holistic and comprehensive manner. She again reviewed some of the feedback received to date and discussed the steps the team has taken to respond to this feedback.

Mr. Reed began his portion of the presentation by going over safe housing options. He noted feedback from policymakers is there is interest in having a balanced housing portfolio that incorporates temporary housing, permanent housing, and affordable or workforce housing. MAG is prepared to offer technical assistance to support interested communities. He added that many communities have temporary or permanent housing projects already underway.

Mr. Reed indicated the step toward increasing and maintaining rental units and assessing and enhancing coordinated entry are fully funded and underway. Funding also is available to reduce evictions in the region. He discussed the concept of community courts and noted interest from smaller communities in partnering with each other to offer one shared community court.

Mr. Reed mentioned interest from regional leaders in having outreach teams in each community to make sure those with the highest need are connected to services. He highlighted action toward teams already forming to provide mental health counseling and substance abuse treatment.

Mr. Reed stated in October, staff is offering the draft Regional Homelessness Action Plan for review and comment and will make any needed changes to the document. In November, the Plan will be offered for action to the MAG Management Committee and the Maricopa Regional Continuum of Care. In December, the plan will be offered for action to the MAG Regional Council. In January, implementation of the plan will begin.

Chair Ching commented on the progress being made at the regional level and said that MAG's work in the homelessness space and the evolution of this work during his time with the Management

Committee has been dramatic and is headed in the right direction. He added the committee is excited to continue to work with MAG to explore permanent solutions being developed for the region. Chair Ching stated that although each community may have a different experience with homelessness, they each have an understanding that working together is the best way to find real lasting solutions.

Mr. Brady asked for clarification on what is being suggested in the report when it identifies the need for 770 units of temporary housing spread throughout the region and for an explanation of the road map on how each community should be participating in the strategy to address homelessness in the region. He asked if that is suggesting the housing units should be spread out proportionally across the region and if each community should be looking at what portion of that 770 units they would be responsible for.

Ms. St. Peter addressed Mr. Brady's question by stating the housing targets are based on current local data and analyzing the flow of people coming through the system. She added there are a number of housing units that will be available soon that are designed specifically for people experiencing homelessness. The team is in the process of creating an inventory of those units and that number will be subtracted from the regional targets. This will allow the team to identify the gap in this housing to be able to circle back with regional leaders to discuss how to address the gap. Ms. St. Peter noted some communities have stepped forward and volunteered to site new units. Other neighboring communities are creating partnerships to talk about how they plan to offer more units.

Ms. St. Peter indicated when the plan references the strategic dispersion of these housing units, it is referring to several elements. One is to ensure there are opportunities for people to access housing shelter and services no matter where they reside in the region. One of the most recent revisions to the Plan that will be shared later this week looks at how the region can support communities in siting new housing units, particularly in areas that currently have low concentrations of temporary and permanent housing.

Mr. Brady stated he appreciates the idea the Plan is acknowledging that homelessness services need to be spread throughout the region versus in a central location. He added if the philosophy is that strategically these services need to be better allocated throughout the region so services are improved without creating a concentration in urban areas, then he applauds it.

Ms. St. Peter said that Maricopa County has released a request for proposals with \$10 million dollars in funding to support new, temporary housing units that gives extra points in the evaluation process to communities that have low or no concentrations of temporary housing units, making them more likely to receive funding. She commented this is just one way the region can incentivize the development of these types of housing units in a more decentralized approach.

There were no further questions or comments from membership. This item was on the agenda for information and discussion.

8. Legislative Update

This item was not heard.

9. Election of Vice Chair

Chair Ching stated that in June of 2021, the Management Committee selected a chair and a vice chair to serve one-year terms. As a result of the retirement of City of Phoenix Manager Ed Zuercher, the vice chair position has become vacant. According to MAG committee operating policies and procedures approved by the MAG Regional Council, the Management Committee chair works with the members to nominate a manager for the vice chair position. He noted that in that capacity, he nominates Jeff Tyne, Manager for the City of Peoria, to serve as vice chair for the remainder of the term.

Mr. Tyne stated he was honored to be nominated for the position and to be able to work with Chair Ching and committee membership in addition to gaining insight and learning from MAG staff. He added that he looks forward to the opportunity to serve as vice chair.

Ms. Karins moved to elect Jeff Tyne, City of Peoria, as vice chair of the MAG Management Committee. Mr. Barton seconded the motion. Mr. Banger, Mr. Barton, Mr. Billingsley, Mr. Brady, Mr. Busby, Chair Ching, Ms. Dyches, Mr. Frazier, Ms. Jack, Ms. Karins, Ms. Keimach, Mr. Klingler, Mr. Kross, Mr. Kulaga, Mr. Miller, Mr. Montoya, Mr. Smith, Mr. Tyne, Mr. Williams, and Mr. Wright voted in favor of the motion, which carried unanimously.

Chair Ching welcomed Mr. Tyne to the position. He commented Mr. Tyne recently served as chair of the MAG Population Technical Advisory Committee (POPTAC) and it was a pleasure to work with him in that capacity. He praised Mr. Tyne and congratulated him on his new role.

10. Request for Future Agenda Items

Topics or issues of interest that the Management Committee would like to have considered for discussion at a future meeting.

None were noted.

11. Comments from the Committee

An opportunity was provided for Management Committee members to present a brief summary of current events. The Management Committee is not allowed to propose, discuss, deliberate or take action at the meeting on any matter in the summary, unless the specific matter is properly noticed for legal action.

No comments were noted.

Adjournment

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 12:50 p.m.

Chair

Secretary