

# Planning Partners

## Meeting #4 Summary Notes

**Date:** September 13, 2010

**Location:** MAG Saguaro Room

**Handouts:** Meeting Agenda, Outreach Summary, Forecast Evaluation Techniques/Purpose of Effort, MAG Performance Measures Study: Regional Commutes, Regionally Significant Population Concentrations, Regionally Significant Economic Activity Centers, Inner Loop Traffic Operations Model Update

**Participants:** Nathan Banks, Federal Highway Administration; Steve Beasley, ADOT; Eric Buskirk, City of Phoenix; Rob Cox, City of Phoenix; Jason Crampton, City of Chandler; Robert Darr, City of Glendale; Wulf Grote, Metro Light Rail; Teresa Huish, City of Scottsdale; Georgi Jasenovec, Federal Highway Administration; Carol Johnson, City of Phoenix; Terry Johnson, City of Glendale; Paul Katsenes, City of Phoenix; Carol Ketcherside, Valley Metro RPTA; Chris Kowalsky, City of Phoenix; David Meinhart, City of Scottsdale; Mark Melnychenko, City of Phoenix; David Moody, City of Peoria; Scott Omer, ADOT; Robert Yabes, City of Tempe

*MAG Staff and Consultants Present: Monique de los Rios-Urban, Bob Hazlett, Micah Henry, Tim Strow, and Kevin Wallace, Maricopa Association of Governments; Peggy Fiandaca and Audra Koester Thomas, Partners for Strategic Action, Inc; Amy Moran and Dan Marum, Wilson & Company, Inc.*

**Meeting convened at 1:05 p.m.**

### **I. Introductions and Project Update**

Bob Hazlett, MAG's Central Phoenix Transportation Framework Study (CPHX) project manager, welcomed all in attendance and participants were introduced.

**Southeast Corridor MIS Update** – Mr. Hazlett noted that the study is currently in the data collection phase. The next meeting for this study is scheduled for September 24, and the project charrette is anticipated in late October (tentatively October 20-22). The study recommendation is expected by the end of the year.

**I-17 Corridor Update** – Steve Beasley, ADOT's project manager, noted that the team has narrowed its alternatives from 16 to ten, including a viaduct alternative. Alternatives, Mr. Beasley noted, wouldn't preclude transit. The team expects to have a purpose and need by the end of the month while the design concept report is anticipated next fall.

**Inner Loop Traffic Operations Model Update** – Micah Henry, project manager, updated participants on the progress of the model development noting that the vast majority of the system has been coded. Light rail and bus lines will also be included in the model. Mr. Henry thanked members for their continued support in the project.

**MAG Sustainable Transportation and Land Use Integration Study Update** – Kevin Wallace, project manager, reported that the project would review alternative land use scenarios and “best practice corridors”. Anticipated to be an 18-month project, Mr. Wallace noted that MAG was in the process of awarding the contract and anticipated initiating the project shortly.

## **II. Existing Conditions Working Paper**

Dan Marum with Wilson & Company reminded participants that a link to Working Paper #1 (Existing Conditions) had been distributed to all Planning Partners. Because some Planning Partners indicated having trouble accessing ProjectWise and Wilson & Company’s FTP site, CDs of Working Paper #1 were made available. Mr. Hazlett noted that future use of MAG’s FTP site for document sharing may be used in an attempt to eliminate reported access problems.

Mr. Marum encouraged participants to review Working Paper #1 and to ***submit comments to Tim Strow (tstrow@azmag.gov) no later than October 15, 2010***. Revisions or edits of information contained in Working Paper #1 would be reflected in the final project report.

## **III. Outreach Efforts**

Audra Koester Thomas, public outreach task member, provided an overview of the Outreach Efforts to Date.

**Summary of Meetings Conducted to Date** – Ms. Thomas reviewed the Outreach Summary (see handout), correcting the total number of participants to “210”. She noted the list of outreach activities will be updated as CPHX meetings and events occur.

**Feedback Overview** – Ms. Thomas provided an overview of feedback received. She noted that routine themes heard from outreach include: support for the integrated planning approach, including support for multimodal analysis and integrated land use/transportation/economic development planning; specific planning concepts, including “complete streets”; support for redevelopment and infill; and desire for more east-west connections, especially in the northern portion of the study area.

Emphasis on governance and on a regional solution was also routinely noted, with participants encouraging identification of new transportation funding sources or a shift in philosophy as to how transportation is funded in the region.

Mr. Hazlett added that many have acknowledged that the Phoenix region, while still ‘young’, has a great framework from which to build. Mr. Marum continued, noting that many stakeholders indicated enthusiasm for the opportunity to test land use scenarios as part of

Phase II, and the potential role the CPHX framework could contribute to member agency development and planning efforts.

Ms. Thomas noted that a summary report containing the feedback received from the outreach events was being assembled.

#### IV. Forecast Evaluation Techniques

Mr. Marum indicated that as part of the forecast evaluation, key activity areas and defined origin-destination (O-D) pairs would be identified to represent a range of travel activities within the study area. As noted on the handout, the six trip-purpose categories being considered for CPHX are: commuter, retail, entertainment, commercial, institutional (hospital, education, etc.) and airport.

Monique de los Rios-Urban from MAG reviewed the key O-D pairs that were used as part of the Performance Measures Study (see handout) and indicated that these pairs could serve as a starting point for CPHX.

Robert Yabes, City of Tempe, asked how the O-D pairs were determined. Ms. Rios-Urban responded that the study looked at regional level data, using population, employment, activity center and freeway management system information to capture movements related to entertainment, retail, commute, etc.

David Moody, City of Peoria, suggested that CPHX evaluate a framework that considers existing activity centers and a separate exercise for future activity centers. Mr. Marum indicated that as part of the Working Paper, a listing of activity centers (based on municipal general plan information) is included and that consideration for future activity centers—not just existing nodes—will be important in this long-range transportation study.

Mr. Hazlett introduced a map that depicted 21 initial activity centers as defined through the initial outreach efforts of CPHX. As a group, participants reviewed the locations of the 21 initial nodes, and added others that depicted existing or emerging activity centers. Mr. Marum indicated that this exercise would help the team when formalizing the “travel ends” or destinations for modeling. [The adjacent graphic depicts the 21 initial activity centers (light blue, numbered dots) as well as the additional activity centers Planning Partners identified (in navy).]



During the exercise, several members offered comments. Mr. Yabes encouraged the team to define the minimum characteristics for an activity center for purposes of the CPHX study. David Mienhart, City of Scottsdale, indicated that the activity center “dots” or “nodes” as reflected on the graphic were not geographically-relevant; Mr. Marum acknowledged that the exercise was simply to indicate general location and that the study team would indeed specify the scope and geography of each activity center as part of the modeling process.

Terry Johnson, City of Glendale, noted some concern that the study would focus on one buildout (land use) model, and that the long-term reality of “buildout” could change, leading to divergent transportation needs. Mr. Hazlett acknowledged the concern, and noted that as part of Phase II, different land use scenarios will be tested. Carol Johnson, City of Phoenix, noted that Phoenix is continuing its general plan update process with a particular desire to update its land use plan which has not occurred in three decades.

Wulf Grote, Metro Light Rail, concluded the discussion by requesting that the team add light rail lines and bus routes to the base mapping, noting that the current CPHX maps focus principally on the streets and freeway network.

#### **V. Next Steps**

Mr. Hazlett noted that the October Planning Partners meeting would be canceled and that the next meeting would be November 8, 2010 at 1 p.m.

**Meeting adjourned at 2:35 p.m.**