

MEETING NOTES

MARICOPA ASSOCIATION OF GOVERNMENTS

REGIONAL TRANSIT FRAMEWORK STUDY

Regional Stakeholders Group Meeting #1

Date: February 29, 2008
Time: 1:00 p.m.
Location: MAG Saguaro Room (2nd Floor)
302 N First Ave
Phoenix, AZ 85003

1. Introduction

Kevin Wallace (MAG) stated that this framework study will provide us with a solid technical tool to assist our elected officials.

This framework study will be different in the following ways:

- We will think regionally
- Look longer range than we have in the past
- Establish the detail for further enhancement to the system
- Address sustainability and smart growth

2. Project Process

John McNamara (DMJM + Harris) provided a presentation on the transit framework process and the role of the MAG Regional Transit Framework Study with the on-going Building a Quality Arizona effort.

3. Regional Transit Framework Study Overview

Scott Miller (HDR) provided an overview of the project scope, planning process and development timeline.

4. Transportation Alternatives for a Conceptual Region

A presentation describing transit modes\technologies implemented in other regions and how the different modes\technologies can be integrated into a comprehensive regional transit system was delivered by Scott Miller.

Kevin Wallace facilitated a discussion about the inclusion of other stakeholders, besides the MAG, METRO and RPTA members, in the Regional Stakeholders Group (RSG). Responses included representatives from the following groups, organizations or disciplines:

- Local city economic development personnel
- Groups from the southeast valley
- The railroad industry
- Business community (CB Richard Ellis to study trends)
- Surrounding communities that are dependant on MAG services - Pinal County, Pima County, Yavapai County
- Water and other utility companies
- “non-typical” MAG stakeholders
- Arizona State University, Maricopa Community Colleges
- Involve stakeholders that will engage the community
- TIME Coalition
- Central Arizona Homebuilders
- Associated General Contractors
- Land developers

It was proposed that the additional stakeholders be invited to select meetings that correlate with project milestones.

The group also expressed the following statements and questions:

- What does the model tell us about trips assigned out of the metro area? We need to understand the needs/impacts of these trips.
- Please communicate the knowledge MAG has regarding the railroads and the Commuter Rail Study.
- Please keep FTA in the information loop regarding the study.
- Will you be looking at transit that links with the freeways?
- At the MAG level how will you implement the results of the study?
- At what point do you transfer the work product and move it forward to the state legislature?
- We would like to see different scenarios, socioeconomic, land use, etc
- Do you see a possibility for a bus/bicycle system?
- Transit needs still exist for cities that are land-locked and are already transit-focused.

Scott Miller stated that right now nothing is off the table. The process is set up to look at demand vs. current gaps in the system. Potential operating and capital alternatives will be derived from a customer experience and applicability to regional connectivity.

The next stakeholder group meeting will be held at the end of April, early May; it will be a working meeting.