



**DATE:** January 31, 2024  
**TIME:** 6:00 p.m.  
**LOCATION:** 2540 W. Apache Trail, Suite 108; Apache Junction, AZ 85120

## I. CALL TO ORDER

Chairman Micah Powell called the meeting to order at 6:00 PM.

## II. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Chairman Powell led the Regional Council, guests, and CAG staff in the Pledge of Allegiance.

## III. ROLL CALL AND INTRODUCTIONS

**Members Present:** Micah Powell, Al Gameros, Robin Benning, Jon Thompson, Tim Humphrey, Anita Hinojos, Angel Medina, Belle McDaniel, Vanessa Navarrette

**Members Absent:** Dean Hetrick, Vince Manfredi, Bob Huddleston, Chris Higgins, Jeff Serdy, Robert Schroeder, Tara Walter, Curtis Stacy

**Staff:** Andrea Robles, Yvonne Tackett, Angela Gotto, Zeena Gagnon, Travis Ashbaugh, Stephanie Maack

**Guests:** Paul Jepson, Rick Miller, Gloria Ruiz, Alan Branson, Bill Lawson, Kevin Adam, Luis, Louisa Medina, Ryan McDonald, James Menlove

## IV. CALL TO THE PUBLIC

No one answered the Call to the Public

## V. LEGISLATIVE UPDATE

Kevin Adam, RTAC, provided the Legislative Update.

## VI. CONSENT ITEMS

Councilmember Robin Benning, Town of Queen Creek, made a motion to approve the consent agenda items as presented. Mayor Angel Medina, Town of Miami, seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

### A. Approval of the September 27, 2023 Regional Council Meeting Minutes

The September 27, 2023 Regional Council Meetings minutes were approved under Consent Agenda Item VI-A.

## VII. NEW BUSINESS

### A. Title VI Presentation

Mr. Travis Ashbaugh informed the Council that Title VI Training is provided on an annual basis to ensure that compliance is met per federal requirements. He stated that as a recipient of federal funds through the Arizona Department of Transportation (ADOT), CAG is held to a standard of non-discrimination as described within the CAG

Title VI Plan. Mr. Ashbaugh provided a presentation on what Title VI is and what the responsibilities are as well as the process for filing a complaint. Questions, comments, and discussion followed. This was an information item.

**B. Presentation of July 1, 2023, Population Estimates**

Ms. Angela Gotto presented the July 1, 2023, Population Estimates that were approved by the State Demographer's Office. She stated that CAG works in coordination with MAG to collect residential completions data twice a year and that is the data reported to the State to develop the annual population estimates. Ms. Gotto stated that the July 1 population estimates are the numbers that are used to develop the membership dues that Ms. Tackett will be presenting later. She stated that some members received a significant increase in population such as Coolidge, Eloy and Queen Creek and Florence had just a little over a 5% decline due to the reduction in group quarters population. Questions, comments, and discussion followed. This was an information item.

**C. Financial Report**

Ms. Yvonne Tackett presented the November 2023 financial report. She stated that at 42% of the fiscal year, revenues are at 35.10% and total expenditures are 32.57%. Ms. Tackett stated that now included in the packet is a funding worksheet that includes new funding sources that staff have become aware of or that has come in as a new contract. She stated that this includes the STBG funding, the MAG contract and a couple of new WIFA projects. Ms. Andrea Robles stated that at the last meeting there was a discussion regarding membership dues and that she has made contact with San Carlos Apache Tribe and was informed that the check was processed and should be in the mail. She stated that she would keep the Council informed. Questions, comments, and discussion followed. Councilmember Robin Benning, Town of Queen Creek, made a motion to approve the November 2023 financial report as presented. Mayor Angel Medina, Town of Miami, seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

**D. FY 25 Membership Dues and RTAC Assessment**

Ms. Yvonne Tackett informed the council that the FY 25 membership dues have been developed from the July 1, 2023, population numbers. She stated that there have been updates to the population estimates resulting in some minor increases and decreases within the communities and counties. Ms. Tackett stated that the FY 25 member dues and the RTAC Assessment will remain the same as they have for the previous two years. She stated that these were being brought forward early to help facilitate the communities and CAG's budgets being completed. Questions, comments, and discussion followed. Mayor Jon Thompson, City of Coolidge, made a motion to approve the FY 25 Membership Dues and RTAC Assessment as presented. Mayor Angel Medina, Town of Miami, seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

**E. Resolution No. 2024-01 authorizing CAG to apply for a United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) Rural Business Development Grant (RBDG) designating the CAG Region as a Bioeconomy Development Opportunity (BDO) Zone**

Ms. Angela Gotto informed the council that CAG is applying for a USDA RBDG grant in partnership with EcoStrat to designate the CAG Region as a BDO Zone. She stated that this is similar to the opportunity zones that exist in certain parts of the region and serves as an attraction model for new businesses. Ms. Gotto stated that the grant requires a focal point to incorporate as much of the CAG Region as possible within a 75-mile radius. She stated that several communities within the region were tested, and the Town of Superior was chosen as the focal point as it encompassed the majority of Gila and Pinal Counties within that radius. Ms. Gotto stated that the CEDS and Management Committees recommended approval of the resolution. Questions, comments, and discussion followed. Councilmember Robin Benning, Town of Queen Creek, made a motion to approve Resolution No. 2024-01 authorizing CAG to apply for a USDA RBDG grant designating the CAG Region as a BDO Zone. Mayor Angel Medina, Town of Miami, seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

**F. CAG/SCMPO Human Services Transportation Coordination Plan 2024 Update**

Ms. Zeena Gagnon provided an overview of the 2024 Human Services Transportation Coordination Plan 2024 update. She stated that the purpose of the plan is to identify the transportation needs of individuals with disabilities, older adults, and provide strategies to meet their needs as well as prioritizing transportation services for funding and implementation throughout the region. She stated that CAG provides mobility management services for the CAG Region and the Sun Corridor MPO Region. Ms. Gagnon stated that the Gila-Pinal Rides Committee meets every other month and is a forum to identify regional needs, gaps in services, an opportunity to coordinate services and discuss any challenges they may face. She stated that the region currently has five 5310 providers, four 5311 providers, and one 5307 provider in Casa Grande. Ms. Gagnon stated that the committee develops goals and objectives that they would like to achieve each year.

Ms. Gagnon stated that the plan includes updated demographic information such as geographies, disabilities, and access to transportation to determine and identify the areas of population within the region that need services. She stated that the plan includes input from the Gila-Pinal Rides Committee, the CAG TTAC, the Sun Corridor MPO TAC and Executive Board. Ms. Gagnon stated that there is also a public comment period, however no comments were received. She stated that the FTA requires any entity applying for 5310 program funds to be identified in the coordination plan. Questions, comments, and discussion followed. Mayor Angel Medina, Town of Miami, made a motion to approve the CAG/SCMPO Human Services Transportation Coordination Plan 2024 Update as presented. Mayor Jon Thompson, City of Coolidge, seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

**G. CAG FY2024 – FY2029 Transportation Improvement Program (TIP)**

Mr. Travis Ashbaugh informed the committee that there was a call for projects in October and that the TTAC made recommendations in December for which projects to move forward. He stated that there was approximately \$1.1 million that needed to be re-programmed within the six-year span of the TIP. Mr. Ashbaugh stated that the two projects for consideration are \$35,000 of supplemental funding toward the ADOT CAG Work Program and the Main Street paving and striping construction project in the Town of Superior. He stated that the TTAC and the Management Committee have recommended approval of these amendments. Questions, comments, and discussion followed. Supervisor Tim Humphrey, Gila County, made a motion to approve the CAG FY2024 – FY2029 TIP as presented. Mayor Angel Medina, Town of Miami, seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

**H. Rural Transportation Advocacy Council (RTAC) Representative and Alternate**

Ms. Andrea Robles stated that every year CAG submits the representative and alternate to the RTAC. She stated that currently the Representative is Councilmember Vince Manfredi, City of Maricopa, and Alternate Mayor Al Gameros, City of Globe. Ms. Robles stated that she had reached out to both, and they had stated if the council wishes to keep them, they would be happy to continue to serve on the RTAC. Councilmember Robin Benning, Town of Queen Creek, made a motion to keep Councilmember Vince Manfredi as the Representative and Mayor Al Gameros as the Alternate to RTAC. Mayor Angel Medina, Town of Miami, seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

**I. Election of Officers**

Ms. Andrea Robles thanked the current officers and the Executive Committee for serving throughout the year and the additional time that they put forth for CAG. She stated that the election of officers takes place every year in January and that each of the officers can serve up to two consecutive years in the same position. Ms. Robles stated that everyone in their current position is in the first year of their term and all are willing to continue for a second year. Vice-Mayor Anita Hinojos, Town of Winkelman, made a motion to keep the current officers in place for another year. Councilmember Robin Benning, Town of Queen Creek, seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

## VIII. INFORMATION ITEMS

### A. CAG Legislative Day

Ms. Andrea Robles stated that she would like to thank everyone that attended the Legislative Day held on January 18<sup>th</sup>. She stated that this year we reached peak numbers with nearly 100 in attendance along with eight Legislators. Ms. Robles stated that CAG is looking to continue partnering with Sun Corridor and NACOG for future Legislative Day events. Questions, comments, and discussion followed. This was an information item.

### B. Department Updates

#### Executive Director's Report

Ms. Andrea Robles updated the Council on recent activities and meetings taking place at CAG. She stated that the Town of Kearny's library has been remediated with the assistance of CAG and a grant from ADEQ. Ms. Robles stated that there are new contracts with the Town of Star Valley to provide CDBG project administration, the annual contract with MAG, and several WIFA projects have picked up so staff would be out in the communities to ensure the projects are staying in compliance. She stated that staff continues to work with Pinal County on the transition of the PRTA and that she will continue to keep the Council updated on PRTA Board meetings Ms. Robles stated that Travis Ashbaugh has accepted another position and will be leaving CAG on February 1<sup>st</sup> to join the City of Globe and wanted to thank him for his eight years of service to CAG. She stated that she will be recruiting for his position, and she is going to meet with the other COG directors to do some planning to see what areas they can work together on. Questions, comments, and discussion followed. This was an information item.

#### Community Development Block Grant (CDBG)

Ms. Angela Gotto stated that staff is meeting with the communities that are receiving FY 24 CDBG funding to discuss project concept and the public participation process. She stated that staff has already met with the Town of Hayden and would be meeting with the City of Globe tomorrow. Ms. Gotto stated that the FY 23 applications for Star Valley, Superior and Winkelman had been turned, awarded funding and the environmental reviews for those projects had been completed and approved as well. She stated that there is a pre-bid conference tomorrow for the Superior Lime Street Improvements project and that the Town of Miami selected Rick Engineering as the engineer for the Keystone Stairs Rehabilitation project. Ms. Gotto stated that Fair Housing Training has been scheduled for April 3<sup>rd</sup> from 9AM to 11AM. and that staff will be receiving their invitation. She stated that each attendee will receive a certificate for their attendance. Questions, comments, and discussion followed. This was an information item.

#### Planning Department

Ms. Angela Gotto stated that the annual contract with MAG has been executed for the update and development of the CAG area data and forecast services for Pinal County. She stated that this involves data collection, traffic counts and network reviews and she will be reaching out to members for reviews as necessary. CAG will begin another round of data collection for residential completions which are used for the development of the July 1, 2024 population estimates. She stated that this data is very important as it affects the community's state shared revenue. Questions, comments, and discussion followed. This was an information item.

### **Transportation Department**

Mr. Travis Ashbaugh stated that the North-South Corridor went through the ADOT Route Committee and for planning purposes it has been renamed State Route 505 and will be called that moving forward. He stated that this could change, but he believes it will remain as SR 505. Mr. Ashbaugh stated that there were numerous transportation alternative program applications within our region that were awarded in the last call for projects from ADOT. He stated that Globe, Miami, Gila County, Payson, Superior, San Carlos Apache Tribe, Eloy, and the Sun Corridor MPO were all awarded totally approximately \$2.3 million. Mr. Ashbaugh stated that the calendar year 2024 traffic counts program has begun and that seventeen growth counts will occur between January and March of this year.

Mr. Ashbaugh stated that the first Gila County Intergovernmental Public Transportation Authority (GCIPTA) was formed last May and the first meeting is being scheduled. He stated that the purpose of this meeting is to formulate the documents that will govern the GCIPTA. Mr. Ashbaugh stated that the Pinal County Coordinated Mobility Gap Analysis Study kicked off last week and that AECOM was selected as the consultant for this study. He stated that the purpose of this study is to look at Pinal County and the 5310-like programs and identify all the gaps in these services and what the cost would be to build or expand services within these areas. Questions, comments, and discussion followed. This was an information item.

### **Water Quality Planning**

Mr. Travis Ashbaugh stated that a public hearing was held for the City of Coolidge 208 Plan Amendment. He stated that Tri-City Regional Sanitary District held their last appeals meeting and that they should be receiving a letter of support from the Town of Miami and will be moving forward with their process. Mr. Ashbaugh stated that Mountain Pass Utility Company's first draft has been reviewed and staff are waiting for their revisions. He stated that the Neon Ranch RV Resort would be submitting a revised 208 amendment in the coming weeks. Mr. Ashbaugh stated that the City of Casa Grande had informed him that they are almost ready to submit their first draft so a stakeholder meeting can be held. Questions, comments, and discussion followed. This was an information item.

## **IX. CALL TO THE COUNCIL**

The members present provided updates on their communities.

## **X. UPCOMING MEETINGS & EVENTS**

The next Regional Council Meeting will be held on April 24, 2024.

## **XI. ADJOURN**

Chairman Micah Powel adjourned the meeting at 7:17 PM.