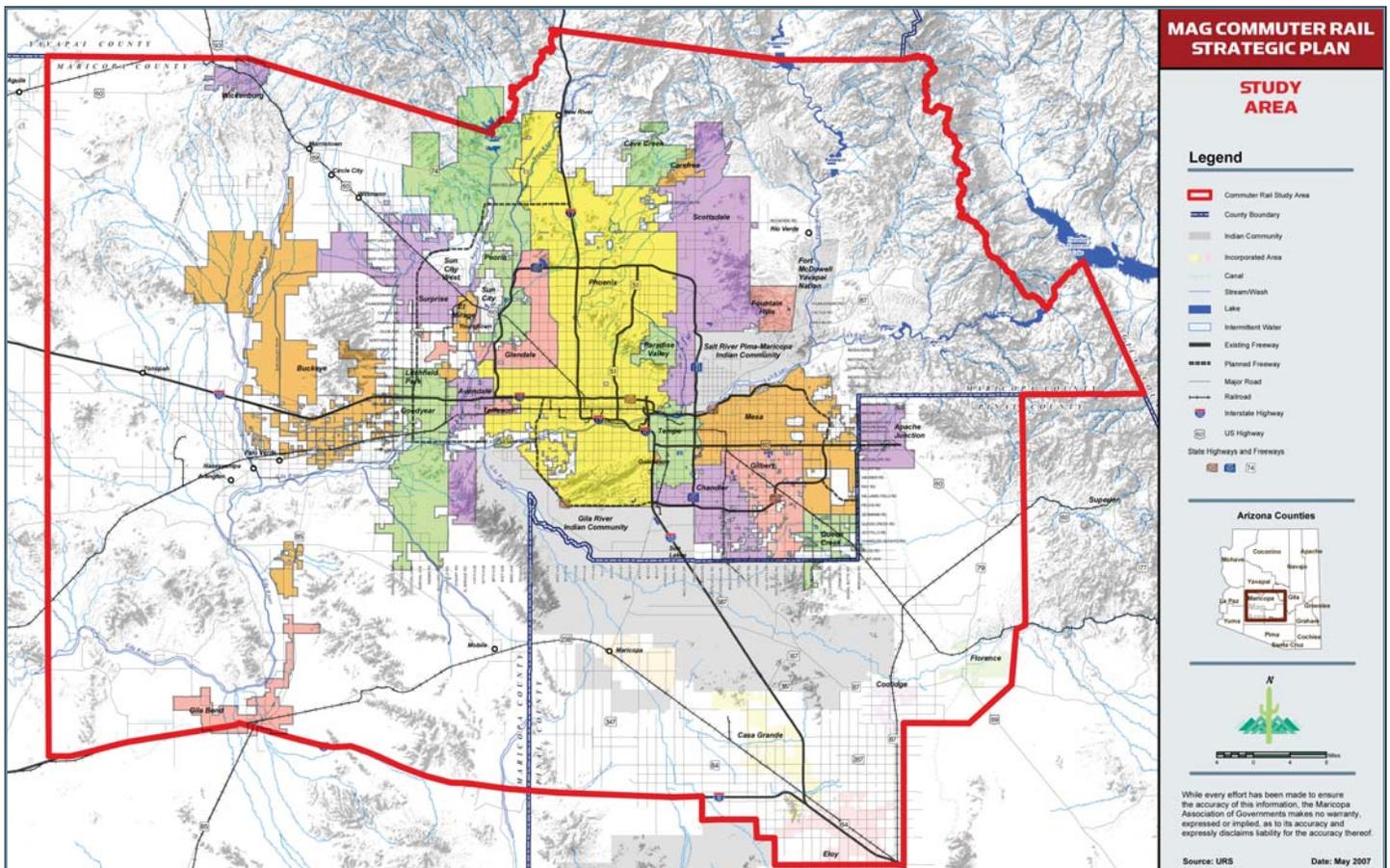


MAG COMMUTER RAIL Newsletter #1

JUNE 2007

MAG COMMUTER RAIL STRATEGIC PLAN

The Maricopa Association of Governments is conducting the Commuter Rail Strategic Plan (CRSP) for Maricopa County and northern Pinal County.



What Are the Project's Goals?

- ⇒ Assess local and regional support for commuter rail.
- ⇒ Identify and evaluate issues related to implementation, such as funding, governance and administration, environmental issues, land use and sprawl, capacity constraints, and other issues.
- ⇒ Develop a methodology for evaluating potential commuter rail corridors.
- ⇒ Establish and gain consensus for an implementation strategy and plan.



What Are the Project's Objectives?

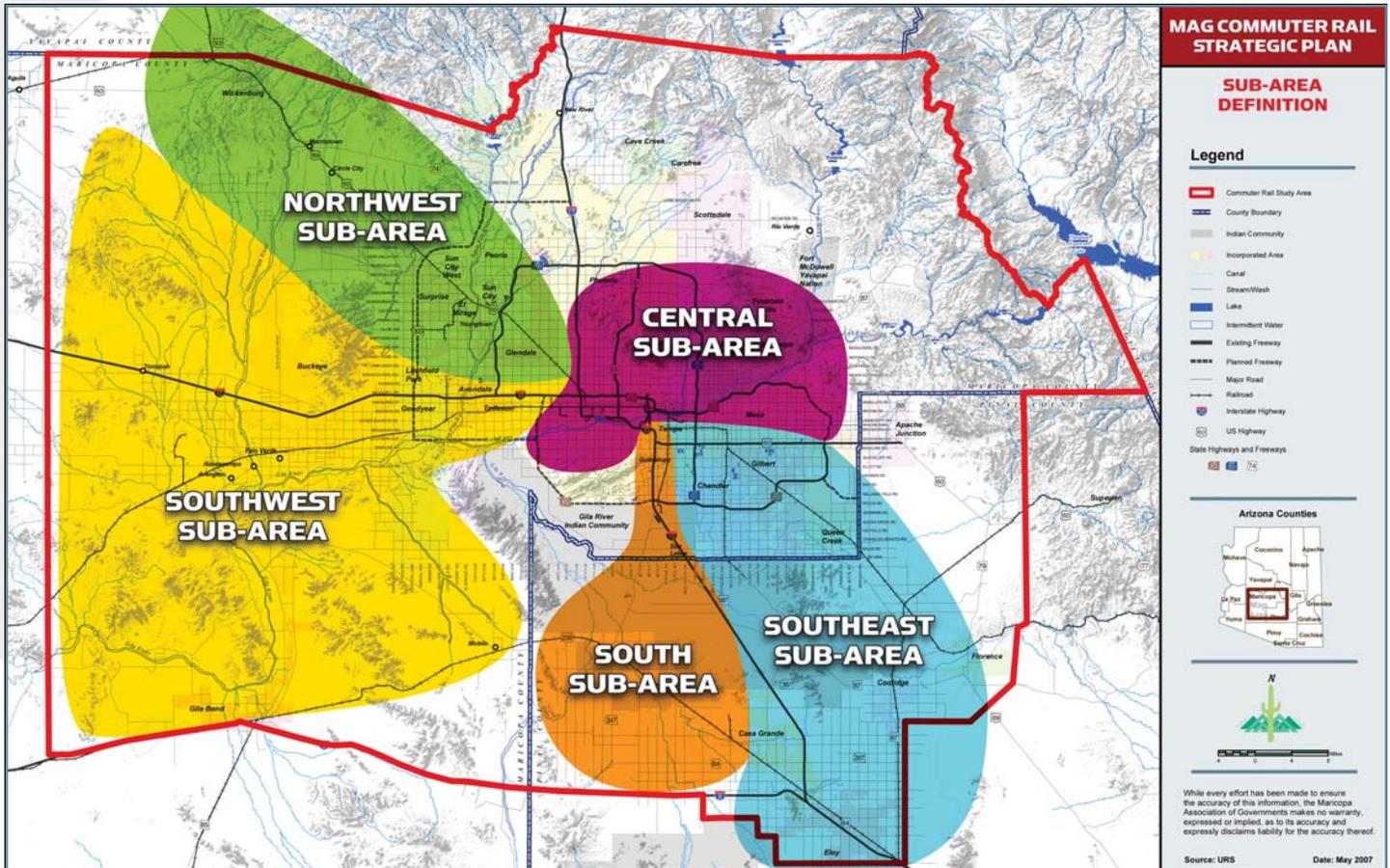
Summarize previous studies - The MAG 2003 High Capacity Transit Study provides a strong foundation for the Strategic Plan. Concepts to consider in the update of the Commuter Rail Strategic Plan will include:

- » The current Regional Transportation Plan and associated socioeconomic projections.
- » The results of the Proposition 400 vote and infrastructure investments.
- » Other system planning efforts for public transit, the highway system, and land development.
- » An assessment of travel demand patterns from MAG forecasts.
- » Identification of other potential rail corridors not included in the Regional Transportation Plan.

Analyze Existing and Planned Transportation Systems

- Information on the existing and planned transportation networks will be collected and documented to develop an initial Opportunities and Constraints Assessment. The assessment will include:

- » Travel demands in primary corridors.
- » Operational considerations.
- » Physical constraints.
- » Development patterns and opportunities.



Collaborate with other agencies - One of the primary elements of the project's public involvement is the work of the Commuter Rail Stakeholders Group (CRSG). The CRSG consists of representatives of public and private agencies and entities involved in past studies and those that should be involved in future activities. The CRSG is scheduled to meet four times throughout the project to provide comments and help shape major recommendations. The CRSG has helped define subareas that will focus stakeholder involvement and create a sense of community building and linkages. The figure above depicts the location of all five subareas.

Conduct SWOT Analyses - A detailed assessment of Strengths, Weaknesses, Opportunities and Threats will be developed for each of the five subareas in the study, allowing stakeholders from every part of the subarea to begin examining major issues from a corridor or localized standpoint. The primary outcome of the SWOT analysis will be a conceptual commuter rail system strategic plan framework that describes:

- » Physical locations, opportunities and constraints.
- » Operational requirements and railroad requirements.
- » Intermodal system interface points such as the highway system, public transit system and freight network.
- » Potential opportunities for new rail corridors.

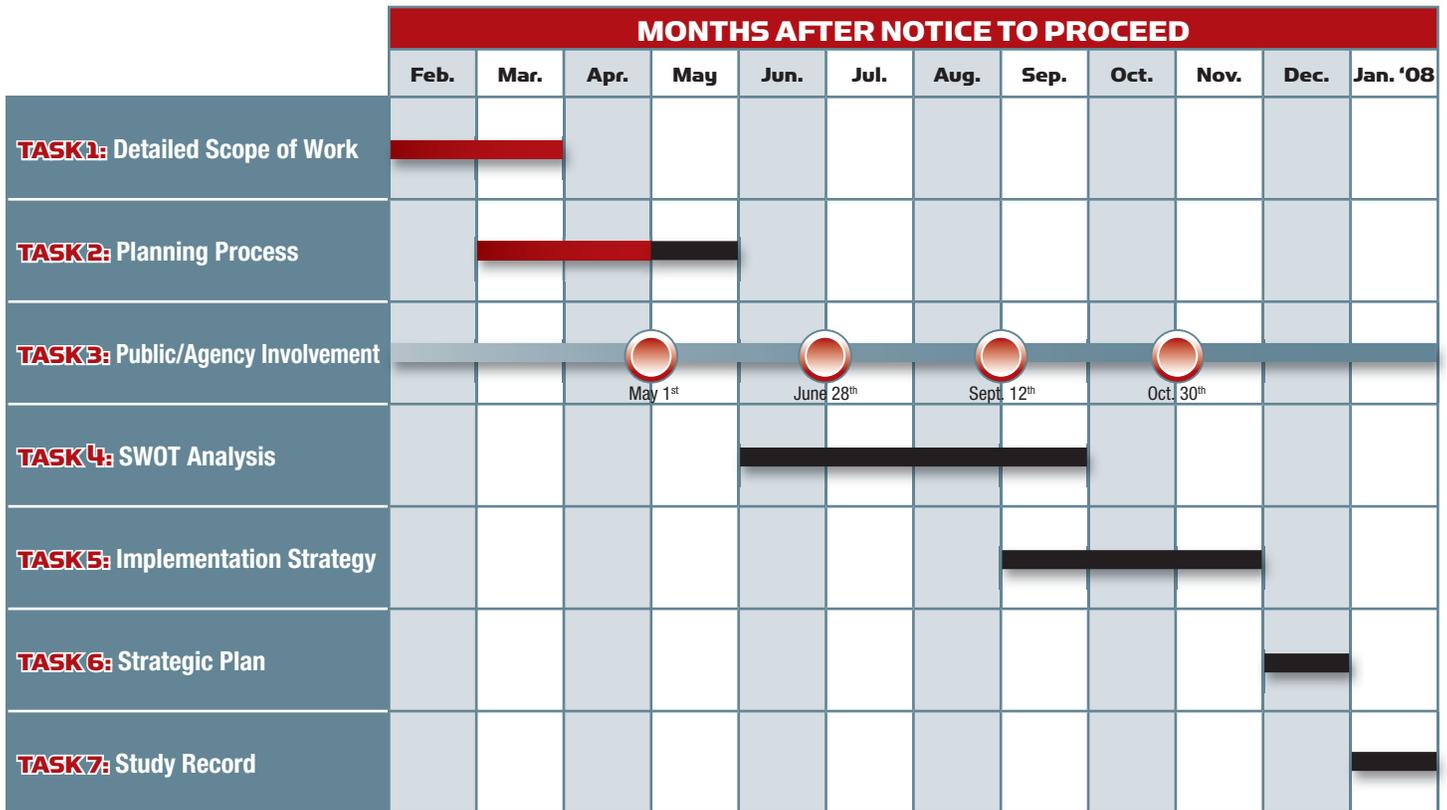
Strategic Plan Development - The results of the CRSG workshops and related Working Papers will be synthesized into a comprehensive plan document that can be used for presentations to the MAG Regional Council and other participating entities. These products will consist of:

- » Draft and Final Commuter Rail Strategic Plan document.
- » Commuter Rail Plan Executive Summary in pamphlet format.
- » CD of each of the Plan documents.
- » Presentation to MAG Regional Council for adoption.

What Is the Project's Schedule?

The Commuter Rail Strategic Plan process started in February 2007, and will conclude in January 2008. Throughout this process there will be four CRSG meetings.

- CRSG Meeting #1** - Identify Key Issues.
- CRSG Meeting #2** - Analyze Strengths, Weaknesses, Opportunities, and Threats (SWOT) issues.
- CRSG Meeting #3** - Prioritize key issues and translate SWOT analysis into an action plan.
- CRSG Meeting #4** - Develop an implementation strategy.



○ Commuter Rail Stakeholder Group