



## Executive Director's Report

We often take time out to recognize the cooperation that occurs within our region. But it is also important for us to recognize the valuable partnerships that extend beyond our county borders, between regions. That is why I would like to take this opportunity to thank Pinal County and the Central Arizona Association of Governments (CAAG) for their recent support of MAG regarding the proposed boundary for the new eight-hour ozone standard.

Both agencies provided information and letters to the Governor's Office in support of the MAG boundary. Representatives took the time to attend a Management Committee meeting and offer testimony in support of our process.

Such partnerships are not forged overnight, nor over a single issue. While we have enjoyed good communication with Pinal County and CAAG for many years, the partnership was recently strengthened through the joint MAG/CAAG Southeast Maricopa/Northern Pinal County Area Transportation Study, which examined common transportation concerns of the two counties. CAAG worked with MAG to facilitate meetings with all of the cities in Pinal County, to gather information from the cities regarding their master plans and to develop a master list of development projects. This list was used to develop projections of future development patterns, population growth and employment trends, in order to determine future transportation needs. Both of our regions are committed to quality planning that serves the needs on both sides of the county line.

Out of the discussions on regional development, another relationship was forged with the State Land Department, which is now working with both regions to develop a preliminary sketch plan for urbanized development – just one more example of how effective partnerships lead to other effective partnerships.

That's how partnerships work – the more you are together, the more together you are.

**For more information, please contact Dennis Smith, Executive Director, (602) 254-6300.**



## Regional Council Meeting Report for July 23, 2003

### Eight-Hour Ozone Nonattainment Area Boundary

An update was provided to the Regional Council on the governor's recommendation for the eight-hour Ozone boundary. Governor Janet Napolitano has recommended that the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) designate a portion of Maricopa County as the nonattainment area for the federal government's new eight-hour standard for ozone pollution. The governor's proposed boundary keeps the nonattainment area within Maricopa County. It is substantially smaller than the original boundary proposals presented by the Arizona Department of Environmental Quality.

The governor's recommendation includes Phoenix, parts of western Maricopa County, and all of eastern Maricopa County, where high ozone levels have been recorded. It does not include any tribal lands in Arizona, which are regulated separately.

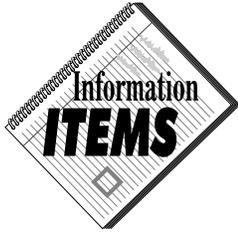
The governor made her recommendation July 15, 2003, the date required by federal law for states to propose their nonattainment area boundaries. EPA has until April 15, 2004 to designate nonattainment areas nationwide that will be subject to air pollution controls. Regional Council members volunteered to encourage the EPA to accept the Governor's boundary.

**For more information, please contact Lindy Bauer, MAG Environmental Director, (602) 254-6300.**

### Closeout Projects Approved

The Regional Council approved Final Closeout and Amendments to the FY 2003-2007 MAG Transportation Improvement Program, which included \$100,000 for design of a multi-use underpass in Peoria and an additional \$800,000 for the final design phase of the light rail project, as part of the last remaining interim closeout funds. Approval was also given for \$400,000 in additional funds for the Maricopa County, Gilbert Road and McDowell Road project as a final closeout contingency project, with any remaining final closeout funds going to the light rail final design project. Several changes to transit projects were also approved at the request of Valley Metro.

**For more information, please contact Paul Ward, MAG Transportation Programming Manager, (602) 254-6300.**



## Information Items

### Transportation Policy Committee Update

Regional Council members were provided an update on the development of a Regional Transportation Plan. On July 22<sup>nd</sup>, the Transportation Policy Committee adopted a Final Draft Stage of the Regional Transportation Plan containing more than \$16 billion in freeway, street, and transit projects. Committee members decided to move the plan forward so that the broad scope of projects could undergo computer modeling to determine how various projects perform.

Under the adopted plan, approximately 59 percent of the total funds would go for freeway projects, 32 percent for transit projects, seven percent for streets, and about two percent for other programs, such as bicycle and pedestrian projects designed to improve air quality and reduce vehicle travel.

The Transportation Policy Committee will actively be seeking public comment on the draft plan and asking for guidance from Valley citizens on their transportation priorities. A series of public meetings have been scheduled in August and September to collect input on the Plan (see dates under Upcoming Events below). The draft plan has also been sent to the Arizona Department of Transportation, Valley Metro/RPTA and Maricopa County for a 30-day review.

**For more information, please contact Eric Anderson, MAG Transportation Director, at (602) 254-6300.**

### Working Group on Homeland Security Funding Formed

The Regional Council received an update regarding the Homeland Security Grant, which allocates to Arizona approximately \$11.3 million. MAG was approached by the Arizona Office of Homeland Security to act as the regional point of contact for the urban area, along with the City of Phoenix as the point of contact for the core city and Maricopa County as the point of contact for the core county.

An Urban Area Working Group has been formed and will be responsible for the development and implementation of the grant program. The Working Group includes the State, Maricopa County, Phoenix, Glendale and Mesa. The cities of Glendale and Mesa will be responsible for coordinating meetings with the municipalities and other stakeholders in their subregion. This group

will be working under a tight schedule, with deadlines in September, October and November.

**For more information, please contact Tom Remes, MAG Senior Policy Planner, (602) 254-6300.**

### **Public Surveys Reveal Support for Multimodal Plan**

Members of MAG Regional Council were given the opportunity to learn more about the transportation priorities of thousands of Valley residents during an update on recent public involvement efforts.

In the months of May and June, five public workshops were held in the Central, Northwest, Northeast, Southeast, and Southwest areas of the Valley. During the workshops, citizens participated in a hands-on exercise in which they developed their own transportation plan using a list of 19 major project categories, such as “new freeways,” “bus service capital,” “bottleneck improvements,” etc.

On average, workshop participants devoted 52 percent of their funding to freeways, 32 percent to transit, 14 percent to streets and two percent to other projects such as regional bike paths.

In addition to the public workshops, numerous other special events were held, including freeway openings, MAG at the Mall events, Sunday on Central, Cinco de Mayo, several Black History Month Events and a variety of small group presentations. MAG distributed a “Four-Question Survey” in which respondents were asked how they would distribute \$100 dollars among four major transportation categories. In surveys of about 1,000 participants, respondents indicated they would allocate about \$28 to freeways, \$23 to street/road improvements, \$25 to bus service improvements, and \$26 to light rail.

More detailed information regarding the surveys and MAG’s public involvement efforts can be found in the “Regional Transportation Plan Input Opportunity Report,” which is available on the Web at [www.LetsKeepMoving.com](http://www.LetsKeepMoving.com).

**For more information, please contact Kelly Taft, MAG Communications Manager, (602) 254-6300.**

### **Upcoming Events**

#### **Public Meetings/Hearings Scheduled**

A series of public meetings/hearings are scheduled to collect input on the Final Draft Stage of the Regional Transportation Plan. Meetings will be held



across the Valley at the following dates and places. All meetings are from 5:00 - 7:00 p.m., with a presentation to be given at 5:30 p.m.

<b>Central</b>	Burton Barr Library, Pulliam Auditorium 1221 N. Central Ave Phoenix	August 19, 2003
<b>Southwest</b>	Avondale Public Safety Building 1825 N. 107 <sup>th</sup> Avenue, 2 <sup>nd</sup> floor Avondale	August 20, 2003
<b>Northwest</b>	Midwestern University, Agave Hall 19555 N. 59 <sup>th</sup> Avenue Glendale	August 21, 2003
<b>Surprise/ Sun City</b>	Ashton Ranch Elementary School Multi-Purpose Room 14898 West Acoma Drive Surprise	September 2, 2003
<b>Southeast</b>	Mesa Centennial Center Superstition North Ballroom 263 North Center St. Mesa	September 3, 2003
<b>Northeast</b>	Community Design Studio, Nave Room 7506 E. Indian School Road Scottsdale	September 10, 2003

**For more information, please contact Jason Stephens, MAG Public Involvement Planner, (602) 254-6300.**

### **Next Regional Council Meeting**

The next Regional Council meeting will be held on Wednesday, September 24, 2003 at 5:00 p.m. at the MAG offices, 302 N. 1<sup>st</sup> Avenue, Suite 200, Phoenix. Agenda items are expected to include approval of the Regional Transportation Plan and results of the public meetings listed above. Other agenda items are pending.

**For more information, please contact Dennis Smith, MAG Executive Director, (602) 254-6300.**