



## Executive Director's Report

The May 23rd Regional Council meeting was a meeting that will be remembered not only for the length of time on one topic, but also for the perseverance of the Regional Council in dealing with a very difficult issue – PM-10 pollution. It was evident during the discussion that, despite the 42 significant measures already approved by the Council, the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) was indicating a plan disapproval unless more measures were placed in the plan. The Regional Council needed to act, and they did.

What was also running in the background was displeasure by EPA and others with the MAG process in allowing industry to have a voice on the MAG Air Quality Technical Advisory Committee. We were hearing that this is not the way it is done in other places. In those states, the air quality agencies propose measures, have hearings and then decide. I believe our process is stronger by having the industry representatives at the table. The MAG Air Quality Technical Advisory Committee did a yeoman's job in recommending the 42 measures approved by the Regional Council. With a possible plan disapproval by EPA and time running out, the Management Committee recommended additional measures and the Regional Council made the final decision. That is how the process worked in this case.

Now it is up to the implementing agencies to make the MAG measures a reality. We are confident that the cities, towns, Maricopa County and the Arizona Legislature will take the measures seriously and send back meaningful commitments to MAG to be placed into the plan.

We are also counting on Maricopa County to strongly enforce the regional dust control rules. For the plan to be effective, the rules, which cover a wide variety of sources, need to be enforced.

We commend the MAG Regional Council for its leadership in improving the region's air quality, public health, and economic vitality.

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

**Regional Council Meeting Report for Wednesday, May 23, 2007****Action Items****PM-10 Measures Approved**

As noted above, the Regional Council approved 13 additional measures for the Suggested List of Measures to Reduce PM-10 Particulate Matter, bringing to 55 the number of measures suggested for implementation. The Regional Council action included amendments to several of the measures based on input received. A few of the additional measures include eliminating visible emissions across property lines, reducing the tolerance of trackout from 50 to 25 feet, providing funding for the hiring of four agricultural dust-compliance officers, prohibiting new dirt roads with lot splits, and reducing the amount of time between the period when construction projects are graded and when they are permanently stabilized. For the complete list of measures, please visit [www.mag.maricopa.gov/detail.cms?item=7298](http://www.mag.maricopa.gov/detail.cms?item=7298).

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

**Major Amendment to Regional Transportation Plan Approved**

The Regional Council approved entering the consultation process on a proposed major amendment to delete State Route (SR) 153 from the MAG Regional Transportation Plan. The City of Phoenix and the Arizona Department of Transportation have been working with MAG to analyze the impact of removing SR 153 (Sky Harbor Expressway) from the plan and using the available funding for improvements to SR 143 instead. State Route 153 has been part of the regional freeway system since 1985 and was included in the Regional Transportation Plan as part of Proposition 400. Since that time, substantial studies have been conducted related to the improvement of the I-10 collector distributor road system and access to the airport. The studies found that SR 153 would no longer be an effective facility in terms of the connection with I-10 at 40th Street and in providing access to Sky Harbor Airport. In addition, the current egress from Sky Harbor does not have a connection to SR 143, causing concern for travelers exiting the airport who want to access I-10 and the Southeast Valley. The proposed change is a major amendment and requires that the statutory consultation process be followed.

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

### **Approval of Work Program and Annual Budget**

The Regional Council approved a resolution adopting the FY 2008 MAG Unified Planning Work Program and Annual Budget, along with the member dues and assessments, with the dues and assessments using the final 2005 Census Survey numbers. The estimated \$35.4 million budget represents a decrease of more than 11 percent over the current year's budget. The decrease is due mainly to the conclusion of the Census Survey project and the depletion of funding for the Community Emergency Notification System project.

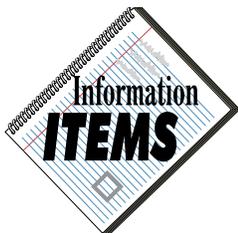
**For more information, please contact Becky Kimbrough, MAG Fiscal Services Manager, (602) 254-6300.**

### **Human Services Coordination Transportation Plan Approved**

In order to coordinate human services transportation programs to improve efficiency and serve more people, the MAG Regional Council approved the MAG Human Services Coordination Transportation Plan. The plan was developed by a stakeholders group comprising MAG member agencies and community partners, and is designed to comply with regulations included in recent transportation legislation known as SAFETEA-LU (Safe, Accountable, Flexible, Efficient Transportation Equity Act: a Legacy for Users). Elderly, people with disabilities, and people with low incomes can be significantly impacted by human services transportation. Coordinating services can improve the quality of life people experience when they have access to medical care, employment, and support systems, and in the end can result in better utilization of existing services. A copy of the plan can be found at [www.mag.maricopa.gov/detail.cms?item=7467](http://www.mag.maricopa.gov/detail.cms?item=7467).

**For more information, please contact Amy St. Peter, MAG Human Services Manager, (602) 254-6300.**

### **Information Items**



#### **Building a Quality Arizona**

The MAG Regional Council approved a resolution to support the Building a Quality Arizona Project to address statewide transportation needs. The chairs and directors of the Arizona Councils of Governments and Metropolitan Planning Organizations (Arizona COG/MPO Association) have been meeting with business leaders, ADOT, and representatives from the Governor's Office to look at projected growth throughout the state and its impact on transportation. Called "Building a Quality Arizona," the groups are seeking to bring all major stakeholders to the table to consider possible alternatives and solutions to statewide infrastructure needs. The Arizona COG/MPO Association recently agreed to conduct a statewide "reconnaissance study"

to determine the state's short-term transportation needs and to establish an action plan for moving forward. The study will develop a statewide transportation model to project future travel demand and help determine where infrastructure is needed and what it will cost.

Additional framework studies may be needed to produce specific recommendations. The reconnaissance study is expected to be completed in December 2007. In the meantime, the COG/MPO Association will meet in August at the League of Arizona Cities and Towns Annual Conference and will be provided a progress report about the status of the project.

**For more information, contact Bob Hazlett, MAG Senior Engineer, (602) 254-6300.**

## **Corridor of the Future**

The MAG Regional Council approved a resolution that supports designating the Interstate 10 Freight Corridor as a "Corridor of the Future" under the U.S. Department of Transportation's National Strategy to Reduce Congestion on America's Transportation Network. Among the corridors being considered for the program, which seeks to identify three to five Transportation Corridors of the Future, is the I-10 National Freight Corridor. Interstate 10 currently carries about 750,000 freight trucks each year, making it the second highest use transportation corridor in the United States. Achieving Corridor of the Future status for the I-10 corridor would result in additional resources and help address congestion, safety, and national security along one of the nation's vital economic arteries.

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

## **Approval of Subregional Socioeconomic Projections**

As part of its state-designated responsibilities, MAG prepares subregional socioeconomic projections that are used as input to the transportation and air quality models. MAG prepared subregional projections for 2010, 2020 and 2030 in the areas of population, housing units, and employment. The projections were developed using the 2005 Census Survey as the base and county level projections approved by the Regional Council in December 2006. The projections were developed in collaboration with member agency staff, and were prepared by Municipal Planning Area and Regional Analysis Zone. The projections were recommended for approval by the MAG Population Technical Advisory Committee. The Regional Council approved

the projections, which may be found on the MAG Web site at [www.mag.maricopa.gov/detail.cms?item=7331](http://www.mag.maricopa.gov/detail.cms?item=7331). The total county population is projected to be about 4.2 million in 2010, 5.2 million in 2020, and 6.1 million in 2030.

**For more information, please contact Harry Wolfe, MAG Socioeconomic Program Manager, (602) 254-6300.**

### **Nominating Committee Recommends Slate of Officers**

The MAG Nominating Committee recommended a slate of officers to serve on the FY 2008 Executive Committee. Recommendations include:

- ◆ **Chair:** Mayor James Cavanaugh, Goodyear
- ◆ **Vice Chair:** Mayor Mary Manross, Scottsdale
- ◆ **Treasurer:** Councilmember Peggy Neely, Phoenix
- ◆ **At Large Member:** Mayor Steve Berman, Gilbert
- ◆ **At Large Member:** Mayor Tom Schoaf, Litchfield Park
- ◆ **At Large Member:** Mayor Marie Lopez Rogers, Avondale
- ◆ **Past Chair:** Mayor Keno Hawker, Mesa

The Regional Council will vote on whether to approve the slate at its annual meeting June 27, 2007.

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

### **Next Regional Council Meeting**

The next meeting of the MAG Regional Council is the annual meeting scheduled for Wednesday, June 27, 2007, at the MAG Offices, 302 N. 1st Avenue, Suite 200, Phoenix. Agenda items are expected to include, among others, election of MAG officers; requested material changes to the ADOT program; regional year-round shelter funding; recommendation of financial auditor selection; approval of MAG 9-1-1 Five Year Plan 2007 Update; federal funds interim closeout; conformity consultation on an amendment to the FY 2007-2011 Transportation Improvement Program; recommendation to participate in the Urban Land Institute Reality Check Program; and revised allocation recommendations for the FY 2008 Social Service Block Grant funds.

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