

Public Participation Plan



Maricopa Association of Governments

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION PLAN

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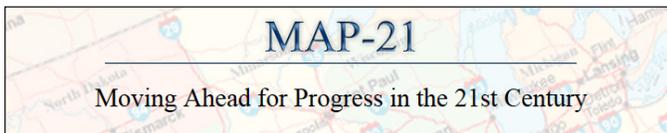


302 North 1st Avenue, Suite 300, Phoenix, Arizona 85003

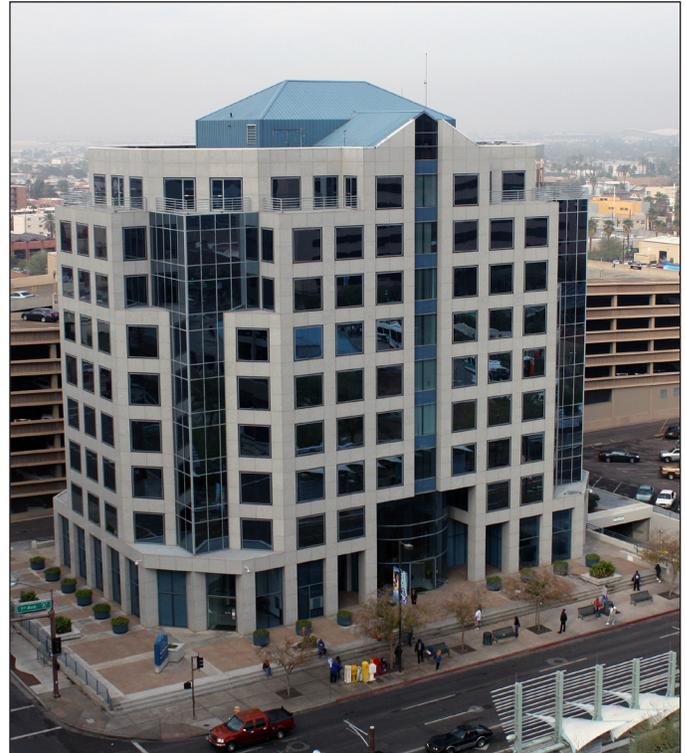
The Maricopa Association of Governments (MAG) hereby gives public notice that it is the policy of the agency to assure full compliance with Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964, the Civil Rights Restoration Act of 1987, Executive Order 12898 on Environmental Justice, and related statutes and regulations in all programs and activities. Title VI requires that no person in the United States of America shall, on the grounds of race, color, or national origin, be excluded from the participation in, be denied the benefits of, or be otherwise subjected to discrimination under any program or activity for which MAG receives federal financial assistance. Additional protections are provided in other federal and state statutes for religion, sex, disability, and age. Any person who believes they have experienced discrimination under Title VI has a right to file a formal complaint with MAG. Any such complaint must be filed with MAG's Title VI Coordinator within 180 days following the date of the alleged discriminatory occurrence. For more information, or to file a complaint, please contact the Title VI Coordinator at (602) 254-6300.

INTRODUCTION

The Maricopa Association of Governments (MAG) believes that public participation is a critical and necessary part of the transportation planning process. The involvement of the public helps MAG make better transportation decisions that meet the needs of all people, and to plan transportation facilities that fit more harmoniously into communities. In 1994, MAG adopted a public involvement plan designed to provide complete information on transportation plans, timely public notice, full public access to key decisions, and opportunities for early and continuing involvement in the process for all segments of the region's population, including Title VI and Environmental Justice communities. In December of 2006, MAG adopted an updated public participation plan in response to federal transportation legislation known as the Safe Accountable Flexible Efficient Transportation Equity Act – A Legacy for Users (SAFETEA-LU).



New transportation authorization was passed in July of 2012. The new enabling legislation, Moving Ahead for Progress in the 21st Century (MAP-21), continues to emphasize public involvement in transportation planning. MAP-21 requires that the metropolitan planning organization work cooperatively with the state department of transportation and the regional transit operator to provide citizens, affected public agencies, representatives of public transportation employees, freight shippers, providers of freight transportation services, private providers of transportation, representatives of users of public



transportation, representatives of users of pedestrian walkways and bicycle transportation facilities, representatives of the disabled, and other interested parties a reasonable opportunity to comment on proposed transportation plans and programs. MAG will continue to adhere to the federal requirements for public involvement, in addition to finding new ways of engaging Valley residents in the transportation planning and programming process.

BACKGROUND

Federal law requires that each state designate a Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO) for urbanized areas with 50,000 or more population. MAG was designated as the MPO for the Maricopa region in 1973, and undergoes federal certification as outlined in transportation regulations.

MAG is responsible for preparing both short-range and long-range transportation plans, and for seeking citizen input into these plans. For its short-range plan, MAG develops a five-year Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) that includes all transportation projects for the region. All transportation projects must be included, regardless of how they are funded. For its long-range plan, MAG is responsible



for preparing a 20-year Regional Transportation Plan. Federal law requires that these documents be updated at least once every four years. Both plans are typically updated biennially, and both must undergo an air quality conformity analysis to ensure that transportation activities do not contribute to violations of the federal air quality standards.

In 1994, the MAG Regional Council, which serves as the organization's governing body, adopted an aggressive public involvement program designed to provide Valley residents with as many opportunities for comment on MAG transportation plans as possible. This program was enhanced in 1998 and has been improved each year through a variety of methods, including feedback from Valley residents on the effectiveness of the process. In December 2006, the MAG Regional Council adopted an updated MAG

Public Participation Plan in accordance with SAFE-TEA-LU requirements. With the passage of MAP-21, MAG's goal is to continue to provide the region's residents with an open and inclusive process designed to obtain input from all interested parties.

MAG's public involvement process adheres to all federal requirements related to public involvement. MAG has coordinated public involvement processes and activities with the Arizona Department of Transportation (ADOT), the Regional Public Transportation Authority (RPTA/Valley Metro), Valley Metro Rail (METRO) and the City of Phoenix Public Transit Department. This coordination has helped create an efficient and effective public participation process.



MAJOR MILESTONES

Following are a few of the major milestones in the MAG public involvement process.

1991

The Intermodal Surface Transportation Efficiency Act (ISTEA) of 1991 requires that metropolitan planning organizations adopt a formal public involvement process that is proactive, encourages broad public participation, and considers and responds to public input.

June 1992

The Regional Council approves a 15-minute Call to the Audience for its meetings, providing audience members up to three minutes each to present comments.

September 1994

The MAG Process for Public Involvement in Transportation Planning is adopted by the Regional Council, following a 45-day comment period. The adopted process provides the guiding principles for public involvement to meet the requirements established in ISTEA and subsequently reaffirmed in the Transportation Equity Act for the 21st Century (TEA-21). The process includes four phases: Early Phase, Mid-Phase, Final Phase and Continuous Involvement. The phases allow for early and continuing input and encourage public comment during each step of the planning process. The process calls for Input Opportunity Reports to be completed during each phase detailing the comments received. The reports include staff responses



to comments on the Draft Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) and Long-Range Transportation Plan. The 15-minute Call to the Audience is retained for public comment at the beginning of MAG policy committee meetings.

February 1996

The Regional Council approves recommendations to reengineer the MAG policy process. Public comment opportunities are increased for the Regional Council meetings. In addition to the Call to the Audience at the beginning of the meeting, members of the audience are provided the opportunity to comment on the Approval of the Consent Agenda and to speak on each Action Item. Audience members are provided up to three minutes for each public comment opportunity.

July 1998

The Regional Council recommends that the process for programming federal transportation funds be enhanced. These enhancements include a more proactive community outreach process and the development of early guidelines to help select transportation projects within resource limits. This proactive community outreach process leads to an enhanced public involvement process beginning with the fiscal year 1999 public involvement program. The enhanced public involvement process involves transportation stakeholders as outlined in the 1998 TEA-21 legislation and includes input from Title VI stakeholders (minority populations and low-income populations). The input received during the enhanced input opportunity is incorporated in the development of early guidelines to guide project selection for the

Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) and Long-Range Transportation Plan.

2001

MAG contracts with four Community Outreach Associates to provide targeted outreach to the Hispanic, Native American, African American, and Disability communities as part of its dedicated Title VI outreach. In 2002, these associate positions are merged into a full-time Community Outreach Specialist position within MAG to allocate more MAG resources to this effort and to allow for the translation of all major MAG materials into Spanish. The Disability Community Associate continues as a contracted associate.

2001-2004

MAG embarks on an intensive and unprecedented public involvement effort to receive input into the Long-Range Transportation Plan, which is renamed the Regional Transportation Plan (RTP or Plan). Extensive research is conducted, and more than 350 public input opportunities are provided. Expert panel forums are held early in the process featuring topics in demographics and social change, environmental and resource issues, land use and urban development, and transportation and technology. Sixteen subregional focus groups are also held to receive input from transportation stakeholders across the Valley, including focus groups specific to African American and Hispanic communities. A project website, www.LetsKeepMoving.com, is created to provide information and receive feedback on the Plan. The site includes online surveys, maps, meeting notices, copies of studies and presentations, plan drafts and maps, funding information,

feedback links, and calendar listings of public input opportunities. The site is later merged to be incorporated into the main MAG website.

2005

Congress passes SAFETEA-LU, which requires a documented public participation plan that defines the process for citizen input.

2006

The MAG Regional Council adopts the MAG Public Participation Plan in accordance with SAFETEA-LU requirements.

MAG PUBLIC PARTICIPATION PROCESS

The federal regulations for public involvement in metropolitan planning under MAP-21 are easily incorporated within MAG’s adopted public involvement structure, and specific strategies for addressing the new regulations are included in the final section of this report. As noted above, MAG’s adopted public involvement process is divided into four phases: Early Phase, Mid-Phase, Final Phase and Continuous Involvement. MAG staff receives comments in a variety of ways, including, but not limited to, small group presentations; special events, such as large community festivals; public meetings/hearings; telephone and electronic correspondence; and correspondence through the MAG website.

It is important to note that changes in planning and programming cycles can affect the public involvement process. The following table details the standard phases of the public involvement process and the opportunities for input that exist in each phase. As noted, these are subject to change:

Phase	Public Input Opportunities
Early Phase	<p>A public process for early input into the transportation programming process is held. At this stage, which generally occurs from late summer through early fall, public input is reviewed and considered by MAG policy committees with specific reference to upcoming issues and work topics. Events during this phase may include stakeholders meetings, open houses, booths at special events, and small group presentations. In addition, comments are received during committee meetings. Comments received are summarized and provided to MAG policy committees for review and consideration in the form of an Early Phase Input Opportunity Report. All meetings are widely advertised with appropriate advanced notice. Because projects are not yet programmed, in many ways, the Early Phase represents the best opportunity for members of the public to suggest projects for inclusion in the TIP or Plan.</p>
Mid-Phase	<p>A variety of public outreach methods are used during this phase, which generally occurs from late winter to early spring, to gather input on the initial plan analysis for the Draft TIP and Draft RTP update. The phase generally culminates with a transportation public hearing co-hosted by MAG, the Arizona Department of Transportation (ADOT), the Regional Public Transportation Authority (RPTA) and the City of Phoenix Department of Public Transit. Comments are summarized, receive a written response, and are provided to MAG policy committees for review and consideration (through the Mid-Phase Input Opportunity Report and oral presentations) prior to taking action. All meetings are widely advertised, including major daily and minority newspapers, with appropriate advanced notice.</p>
Final Phase	<p>Several forums are used to obtain input during this phase, which generally occurs from early summer to late summer. The phase generally culminates with a transportation public hearing on the final Draft RTP update and TIP update. The hearing is advertised with a formal public notice and draft reports are also available for 30 days for public review. All comments receive a written response and are provided to MAG policy committees for review and consideration (through the Final Phase Input Opportunity Report and oral presentations) prior to taking action. All meetings are widely advertised, including major daily and minority newspapers, with appropriate advanced notice.</p>
Continuous Involvement	<p>MAG continuously seeks public input and comment beyond the three structured phases above. Outreach is conducted throughout the annual update process and includes activities such as providing presentations to community and civic groups, participating in special events, hosting booths at community gatherings, distributing press releases and newsletters, and coordinating with partnering agencies. MAG provides speakers upon request to make presentations to community and civic groups, within the limits of available resources. The input gleaned during this phase is included in quarterly public involvement progress reports (see appendix C) that are distributed to MAG policy committees for review and consideration.</p>

FEDERAL LAW

The role of public involvement in transportation planning and programming was increased with the passage of the Intermodal Surface Transportation Efficiency Act (ISTEA) of 1991. The Transportation Equity Act for the 21st Century (TEA-21), passed in 1998, continued to emphasize public involvement in the metropolitan transportation planning process. TEA-21 required that the metropolitan planning organization (MPO) work cooperatively with the state department of transportation and the regional transit operator to provide citizens, affected public agencies, representatives of transportation agency employees, freight shippers, private providers of transportation and representatives of users of public transit a reasonable opportunity to comment on proposed transportation plans and programs.

The intent of the public involvement provisions in SAFETEA-LU, passed in 2005, and MAP-21, passed in 2012, is to continue the legacy of TEA-21 when it comes to increasing public awareness and participation in transportation planning and programming, while developing a documented public participation plan that defines the process for citizen input.



FEDERAL REQUIREMENTS AND MAG PUBLIC PARTICIPATION STRATEGIES

1. *Providing adequate public notice of public participation activities and time for public review and comment at key decision points, including, but not limited to, reasonable opportunity to comment on the proposed metropolitan transportation plan and the Transportation Improvement Program.*

MAG provides timely public notice of public participation activities. All public hearings are announced with a formal public notice, generally 30 days in advance of the hearing, as well as through a display advertisement in the largest circulation newspaper and in minority oriented newspapers, usually two weeks prior to the public hearing. MAG maintains a public involvement mailing list that includes interested citizens, affected public agencies, representatives of transportation agency employees, private providers of transportation, advocates for low-income people and minority populations, and representatives of community groups with an interest in transportation. This mailing list is used to announce meetings, distribute newsletters, and for other opportunities for public involvement. Interested individuals are added to the mailing list upon request.

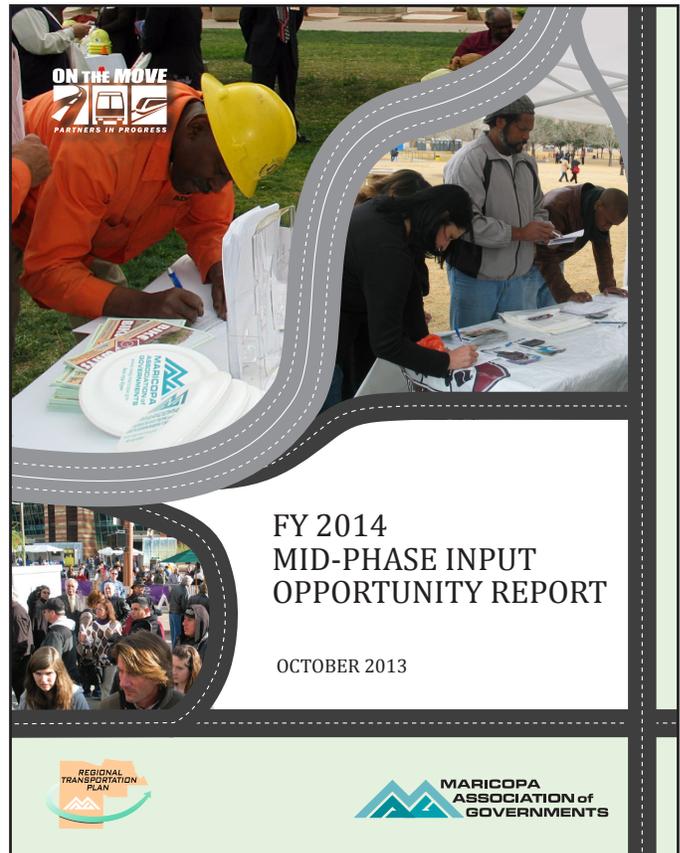
In addition, all MAG public meetings and public input opportunities are posted on the MAG website at www.azmag.gov. A calendar listing major MAG meetings is included on the final page of every issue of *MAGAZine*, MAG's quarterly newsletter. MAG public meetings are also posted 24 hours in advance as required under the Open Meeting Law (*see Appendix A*).

MAG also works closely with the news media to help distribute information about MAG activities. Press releases are prepared and distributed to local media in conjunction with periodic news events and public involvement opportunities. Copies of MAG agendas and other materials are sent to major news publications and to any reporters who request to be included on MAG's mailing lists.



MAG utilizes social media platforms such as Twitter, Facebook and YouTube to inform residents about ongoing activities and to garner public participation in the development of MAG plans and programs. MAG also implements a video outreach program to inform residents of MAG's roles and responsibilities in the region.

Public comment is allowed at all MAG public meetings (*see MAG Public Comment Process, Appendix B*). MAG's four-phase public input process specifically provides opportunities for interested parties to comment at key decision points (and throughout) the development of the TIP and Regional Transportation Plan. For example, Early Phase input opportunities provide the public an opportunity to comment during the initial programming process. The Mid-Phase public hearing provides the opportunity for comment prior to Regional Council action to approve the Draft TIP and Plan to undergo an air quality conformity analysis, and the Final Phase public hearing provides an opportunity for comment prior to approval of the conformity analysis, final TIP, and final



Plan. MAG's public involvement activities and time established for public review and comments on the TIP development process will satisfy the FTA's Program of Projects requirements.

MAG also provides ongoing opportunities for input during its Continuous Involvement activities, such as frequent participation in special events, including hosting booths at large community festivals, and through numerous small group presentations as requested (*see page 10, for additional information*).

Where appropriate, information is provided in a bilingual format or other alternative formats such as large print and Braille.

2. *Providing timely notice and reasonable access to information about transportation issues and processes.*

As outlined above, timely notice of MAG activities is provided through a variety of methods, including formal postings, newspaper ads, direct mail, website postings, calendar listings, press releases, social media posts, and other publications and materials. Similarly, MAG provides information about transportation issues and processes through a number of public involvement and communication strategies.

Prior to the final completion of plans or programs, draft documents are made available to the public for review and comment, so that public concerns can be considered and reflected in the final documents. When draft studies, plans, programs and reports are completed, they are made available for public review. Public comments are received, documented and presented to the Management Committee, Transportation Policy Committee and Regional Council for review prior to action. Documents are available for review in the MAG library at the MAG Offices, 302 N. 1st Avenue, Suite #300, Phoenix. The TIP, Plan, Conformity Analysis and Input Opportunity Reports are distributed to libraries throughout the region as well as to partnering agencies such as the Federal Highway Administration, Federal Transit Administration, Arizona Department of Environmental Quality, Environmental Protection Agency, Arizona Department of Transportation, Regional Public Transportation Authority, Maricopa County, Pinal County, and the Central Arizona Association of Governments.

MAG also provides information about transportation issues and processes through a variety of publications,

First Phase of Northern Parkway Completed

The Maricopa Association of Governments (MAG) joined the Maricopa County Department of Transportation and the communities of El Mirage, Glendale, and Peoria in a December dedication celebration marking the end of Phase I of the Northern Parkway Program—which completed a new interim four-lane roadway from Sarval Avenue to Dysart Road.

The first segment of the Northern Parkway Program broke ground in March 2012 and includes the construction of the eastbound auxiliary lane, westbound auxiliary lane, and two outside travel lanes in each direction. A center concrete barrier and an additional inside lane in each direction will be added in the future to complete the ultimate six-lane Northern Parkway.

"The Parkway will serve as an important roadway for all West Valley residents. Motorists throughout the entire region will see improved travel times, enhanced system reliability, and reductions in crash rates," said MAG Vice Chair Michael LeVault, mayor of Youngtown. "The Parkway will provide quick access to the commercial and employment centers along Loop 303, and also provide a much-needed alternative to Grand Avenue and Bell Road."

During the dedication ceremony, Glendale Mayor Jerry Weiers called it a "great day for the West Valley," noting that the Northern Parkway was an idea developed through Glendale's citizen participation process more than a decade ago.

"In 2001, a 61-member citizens advisory committee envisioned the need for a regional east-west route to improve connectivity," said Mayor Weiers. "The project was then supported by Maricopa County voters through the passage of transportation-related propositions," he said. "With the Parkway's close proximity to rail lines and major freeways—combined with the fact that water and sewer pro-

vider agreements for this area are now in place—Northern Parkway is well-positioned to attract quality development in the coming years."

El Mirage Mayor Lana Mook noted that the project represents one of the largest collaborations of governmental agencies in the state.

"This Parkway will give residents of our communities easy access to the Loop 303, Loop 101, and US 60/Grand Avenue, thus reducing travel time and congestion," said Mayor Mook. "I am thrilled that El Mirage is a partner in this exciting project and look forward to the completion of the next segment."

Peoria Councilmember Cathy Carlat, who serves on the MAG Regional Council, added, "The Northern Parkway will be a wonderful addition to the West Valley. Being able to connect to the Loop 303 through the cities of El Mirage, Glendale and Peoria will not only be a benefit for

Mayor Michael LeVault, Town of Youngtown

Mayor Jerry Weiers, City of Glendale

Mayor Lana Mook, City of El Mirage

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Peoria Councilmember Cathy Carlat, former Maricopa County Supervisor Max Wilson and Glendale Mayor Jerry Weiers cut the ribbon to open the new phase of Northern Parkway. MAG Vice Chair Michael LeVault, Maricopa County Supervisor Clint Hickman, Glendale Councilmember Yvonne Chack and El Mirage Mayor Lana Mook are seen in the second row.

Page 10 MAGAZine

including a quarterly newsletter called *MAGAZine*, a monthly Regional Council Activity Report, a monthly e-newsletter outlining the activities of the Transportation Policy Committee, and project-specific publications such as fliers, brochures and notices. These publications report information of general interest on events and programs at MAG, as well as on specific items such as the TIP or Regional Transportation Plan.

As noted above, all major documents, including news releases, notices of meetings and events, news stories, agendas, minutes, plans and studies are posted online at www.azmag.gov. An interactive calendar listing MAG meetings and events is available on the home page. Historical reference files of all documents are maintained and these reports are also available for public review.

MAG also responds to public inquiries through e-mail, written correspondence, social media, telephone calls, one-on-one meetings, and website feedback. Every attempt is made to respond in a timely manner. A public records request form is available for those requesting MAG documents or public records.

3. Employing visualization techniques to describe metropolitan transportation plans and TIPs.

With the help of its Communications and Information Services staff, MAG utilizes many innovative techniques to help residents better understand what transportation investments are included in its transportation plans, and to help them visually conceive what the investments or projects will look like when completed. Examples include project-specific maps and graphs, digital photography, high resolution graphic displays, Geographical Information Systems (GIS), map overlays, PowerPoint presentations, aerial photography, photo simulations, technical drawings, infographics, charts and graphs. Alternative scenarios, including visual depictions of scenarios, are presented to demonstrate differences among solutions or approaches.



4. Making public information (technical information and meeting notices) available in electronically accessible formats and means, such as the World Wide Web.

MAG maintains a website that provides easy access to information about MAG meetings, agendas, news releases, and electronic publications through timely posting of these materials. The site includes a calendar of events, monthly meeting schedules, committee activities and actions, requests for proposals and employment notices, and electronic versions of nearly 3,000 MAG documents, including plans, reports, agendas, and minutes. The site includes a search function that allows users to link to specific documents or other information using key words. The site includes a Spanish language Web page and has feedback links as well as information on how to contact staff.

Along with the extensive availability of documents, technical information, meeting notices and other information on the website as described above, MAG often e-mails electronic documents to individuals or agencies upon request. MAG documents are also made available in hard copy format through public records requests.



5. *Holding public meetings at convenient and accessible locations and times.*

Understanding that individuals have different perceptions of “convenient,” MAG strives to hold its public involvement activities at various times to accommodate as many members of the public as possible, including business hours, after work hours, evenings, and weekends. All public events are scheduled in venues that are transit accessible and comply with the provisions of the Americans With Disabilities Act. In addition, Spanish language materials, sign language interpretation, and alternative materials such as large print, Braille, and FM/Infrared Listening Devices, are available on request.

MAG understands that often it is difficult for members of the public to attend formal public meetings. Therefore, MAG makes every attempt to be highly visible and accessible to the broader community by providing information and receiving feedback at well-attended public events. These opportunities include such events as community festivals, trade fairs, minority-oriented events, and booths at heavily populated venues such as the state fair. When possible, MAG coordinates outreach activities with the Arizona Department of Transportation, the Regional Public Transportation Authority (Valley Metro), Valley Metro Rail, Inc. (METRO) and the City of Phoenix Public Transit Department to allow members of the public access to a wide range of information across all transportation modes. In addition to special events, MAG often makes presentations to smaller groups, such as Kiwanis and Rotary clubs, college classes, chambers of commerce, professional associations, businesses, and nonprofit groups.



6. *Demonstrating explicit consideration and response to public input received during the development of the metropolitan transportation plan and the TIP.*

MAG demonstrates explicit consideration and response to public input received in a variety of ways. Of primary significance is the publication of Input Opportunity Reports during each of the three key public involvement phases (Early Phase, Mid-Phase, and Final Phase). Each report includes a summary of the activities conducted during the phase and a summary of comments received during the phase. The reports also include a description of the MAG public outreach process, copies of publicity materials such as display ads and public notices, and electronic correspondence received during the phase.



7. *Seeking out and considering the needs of those traditionally underserved by existing transportation systems, such as low-income and minority households, who may face challenges accessing employment and other services.*

The Mid-Phase and Final Phase public hearings are conducted with a court reporter in attendance. A verbatim transcript of each hearing is included in the Mid-Phase and Final Phase Input Opportunity reports, which also include staff responses to all comments received during the phase. Copies of the reports are distributed to MAG policy committees (including Management Committee, Transportation Policy Committee, and Regional Council) in advance of any plan approvals. In addition, an oral presentation is provided at these meetings summarizing the comments received prior to committee action. MAG also provides quarterly public involvement progress reports to MAG policy committee members during the Continuous Involvement Phase. These reports detail the date of the input opportunity, the group and/or activity, a summary of input and the number of people reached during the opportunity.

Another way in which MAG demonstrates explicit consideration of public input can be seen in the addition of specific projects that are included in MAG plans as a result of public input.

MAG addresses and considers the needs of underserved populations throughout its planning and programming process, and provides outreach in a variety of ways, including the Title VI Community Outreach program, GIS mapping, the Human Services division of MAG, and through programs run by the Regional Public Transportation Authority (RPTA) using MAG funds. Through the MAG public involvement program, MAG's Community Outreach Specialist coordinates with minority communities to solicit input and to serve as a liaison between MAG and the communities. In addition to minority communities, MAG targets and solicits input from persons with disabilities. Through RPTA's Complementary Paratransit Plan, the needs of older adults and people with disabilities are served. In addition, a MAG committee reviews and prioritizes applications for federal assistance under the FTA Section 5310 Enhanced Mobility of Seniors and Individuals with Disabilities Program, which provides capital investments to programs serving older adults and people with disabilities. MAG human services transportation plans and programs are also submitted to the Human Services Coordinating Committee for review. The MAG Transportation Ambassador Program offers community stakeholders a venue to learn about transportation resources and



share best practices to address the needs of older adults, people with disabilities and people with low incomes. Additionally, MAG provides multimodal transportation information for review and comment to the human services planning process. The needs of older adults are further being addressed through MAG’s Human Services Transportation Coordination Plan and the Greater Phoenix Age Friendly Network. These efforts identify and address the changing mobility options that are needed as people age.

8. *Providing an additional opportunity for public comment, if the final metropolitan plan or TIP differs significantly from the version that was initially made available for public comment.*

If the final metropolitan plan or TIP differs significantly from the version initially made available for comment, MAG provides additional opportunities for public comment. MAG prepares a revised draft plan and takes it back through the public involvement and committee approval process.

9. *Coordinating with statewide transportation planning public involvement and consultation processes (as outlined under subpart B of Section 450.316).*

As part of the public involvement process, MAG conducts agency consultation directly with local, state and federal resource agencies. MAG also consults, as appropriate, with agencies and officials responsible for other planning activities within the metropolitan planning area that are affected by transportation. To coordinate the planning functions to the maximum extent practicable, such consultation includes the

comparison of the MAG Regional Transportation Plan and TIP, as they are developed, with the plans, maps, inventories, and planning documents developed by other agencies. This consultation includes, as appropriate, consultations with state, tribal, local and private agencies responsible for planned growth, economic development, environmental protection, airport operations, freight movements, land use management, natural resources, conservation and historic preservation. MAG also seeks input and comment from neighboring counties or planning areas as appropriate.

Additionally, MAG reaches out to federal, state, tribal, regional, local, and private agencies to consult on environmental and resource issues and concerns. Specific topics of interest include: land use management, wildlife, natural resources, environmental protection, conservation, historic preservation, and potential environmental mitigation activities. An important consideration in the consultation process is the recognition that previously adopted projects in the Plan undergo extensive environmental and resource assessment by the implementing agencies, such as the Arizona Department of Transportation, the Regional Public Transportation Authority, cities, towns, and Maricopa and Pinal counties. With these processes already well established, including requirements for input on mitigation and resource issues, the primary goal of the consultation effort is to gain insight regarding concerns that may involve future transportation planning efforts.

To facilitate the agency consultation process and acquisition of resource information, MAG conducts agency consultation workshops. The purpose of these

workshops is to explain the goals of the consultation process, receive input from environmental and resource agencies in attendance, and establish continuing consultation in the regional transportation planning process. In addition, the workshops establish a beginning point for more in-depth discussions with individual agencies as appropriate. Input is sought on the availability of environmental, cultural and natural resource mapping or other information sources, as well as comments on potential environmental mitigation measures, resource issues, and land use concerns. Agencies are also invited to provide written input.

10. Periodically reviewing the effectiveness of the procedures and strategies contained in the participation plan to ensure a full and open participation process.

MAG continually reviews its public participation efforts as part of its communication planning efforts and makes adjustments as warranted. More formal reviews are conducted during the federal certification process every four years, and as directed by transportation legislation such as ISTEPA, TEA-21, SAFETEA-LU and MAP-21. Additionally, MAG ensures that a minimum public comment period of 45 calendar days is provided before any initial or revised participation plan is adopted, in accordance with federal requirements.

APPENDIX A: OPEN MEETINGS

MAG conducts meetings in accordance with the state Open Meeting Law. Meetings of technical and policy committees, including the Management Committee, Transportation Policy Committee, and Regional Council, are open to the public. Notices for these meetings are posted at least 24 hours in advance.

The Open Meeting Law is contained in the Arizona Revised Statutes, A.R.S § 38-431.01. The Open Meeting Law also establishes requirements for the taking of minutes. Minutes of MAG meetings are available by request, and are available on the MAG website, www.azmag.gov.

While MAG makes every attempt to allow for public comment, in rare instances, public comment may be limited based on time availability, based on the discretion of the meeting chair.

In addition to the Open Meeting Law, MAG also adheres to the Arizona Public Records Law, A.R.S. § 39-121. Public records may be obtained through submission of a Public Records Request form, which can be obtained through the MAG office, requested electronically, or downloaded from the MAG website.

The image shows a screenshot of a web browser displaying the 'PUBLIC RECORDS REQUEST FORM' from the Maricopa Association of Governments. The form includes fields for 'YOUR NAME', 'PHONE NUMBER', 'ADDRESS', 'CITY', 'STATE', and 'ZIP'. It also contains a certification statement: 'I hereby certify under penalty of perjury that the requested records will not be used for commercial purpose as defined in ARS §39-121.03'. Below this, there are fields for 'YOUR SIGNATURE' and 'DATE'. A section titled 'PLEASE PRINT CLEARLY' asks for the purpose of the request: 'If the record will be used for a commercial purpose, please state that purpose below:'. At the bottom, there are checkboxes for 'Review the requested documents', 'Purchase existing documents', and 'Obtain photocopies of the requested documents'. A final field asks for 'Documents requested (please be as specific as possible)'.

- 2. Time Allotted for Public Comment:** Three opportunities are provided for public comment at MAG meetings, including Call to the Audience, Consent Agenda, and Action Items to be Heard.

Call to the Audience. Members of the public have three minutes to speak on items under MAG’s jurisdiction that are not on the agenda or that are on the agenda for discussion or information only. This comment period takes place at the beginning of the meeting.

Consent Agenda. Members of the public have a total of three minutes, cumulatively, to speak on any or all consent agenda items. Members of the public may determine whether an item is a consent item by looking on the meeting agenda. Consent items will be marked in the first column by an asterisk (*). This comment period usually comes near the beginning of the meeting, after the Executive Director’s Report and prior to approval of the consent agenda by the Council.

Action Items. Members of the public are given three minutes to speak on any action item (three minutes per item). Members of the public may determine whether an item is an action item by looking on the meeting agenda, under the second column, “Committee Action Requested.” Action items will state “for action” or “for possible action.” This comment period usually is provided just prior to a vote on each action item by the Regional Council.



- 3. Speaking Rules and Discretion of the Chair:** The Chair or his/her designee has the power to strictly enforce the above rules and to revoke speaking rights if rules are violated. The Chair or his/her designee has the power to accept additional comments and extend the time of the speaker, or limit public comment based on time availability.

The cards include this statement: *Note: The Chair or his/her designee shall have the power to strictly enforce these rules and to revoke your speaking rights if you violate any of these rules. The Chair may also revoke your rights to speak at the rest of today’s meeting and/or at future meetings if you twice refuse to be silent after being directed to do so. (If you lose your right to speak, you may still present written comments.)*

APPENDIX C: MAG PUBLIC INVOLVEMENT PROGRESS REPORT

(Example of a MAG Public Involvement Progress Report)

The MAG public involvement process adheres to all federal requirements under current federal transportation planning legislation. MAG is dedicated

to providing members of the public with an open and inclusive process designed to obtain input from all interested parties as defined in Section 5303 of Title 49, United States Code. All input received is addressed during the meeting/event/presentation or responded to within 48 hours. For questions/comments/suggestions, please contact MAG public involvement staff at (602) 254-6300.

DATE	ACTIVITY/GROUP	SUMMARY OF INPUT	NUMBER REACHED
11/25/13	Mid-Phase Public Hearing	Members of the public commented on the need for more transit and economic development within the central corridor. In addition, many felt that the Dial-a-Ride system needs to be improved.	20
1/20/14	Staffed information table at MLK Day Celebration in Phoenix	Members of the public questioned MAG staff about ADA eligibility, the South Mountain Freeway completion date and commented on the need for more transit. MAG staff also distributed transportation priority surveys.	500
1/21/14	Staffed information table at Tribes Legislative Day	Native American Indian Community residents from all around the state and Maricopa County questioned MAG staff about its role in the region, the genesis of the organization and obtained information about MAG plans and programs.	200
1/27/14	STAR East Disability Group	Attendees commented on the need for increased transit service, a regional Dial-a-Ride system and had questions about ADA eligibility.	30

CONTACT MAG

Mailing/Physical Address:

Maricopa Association of Governments

302 N. 1st Avenue, Suite #300

Phoenix, AZ 85003

Web Address: www.azmag.gov

E-Mail

General mailbox: mag@azmag.gov

Communications Manager: ktaft@azmag.gov

Public Involvement Planner: jstephens@azmag.gov

Community Outreach Specialist: lgamiz@azmag.gov