



MAG Graffiti Stakeholders
Meeting Notes
Tuesday, August 16, 2011
1:30 a.m.
Burton Barr Central Library, Phoenix

1. Welcome and Introductions

- The group went around the room and introduced themselves
- City of Phoenix brought this issue to the attention of MAG at the June MAG Management Committee
- One main point for the stakeholders group is to share ideas and best practices in addressing graffiti, particularly on transportation facilities and signage
- Shirley Gunther, Avondale, shared that she would like to see state legislative approaches considered in addressing the graffiti issue

2. ADOT Overview

- Mark Schalliol provided a presentation on ADOT's efforts to address graffiti
 - This presentation was also provided at the June 2011 MAG Management Committee meeting
- Some of the biggest challenges in removing graffiti are overhead signs, sign structures and overpasses
- Phoenix has a joint planning agreement with ADOT; provided \$50K to focus on underpasses and structures

3. Sharing Local Efforts to Control Graffiti

- Phoenix
 - Has had the Graffiti Busters program in place for 20 years
 - Using smartphone app reporting
 - Receives approximately 40K calls/year; last year addressed 70K sites
 - Three crews are working with a \$2M annual budget
 - Have tried using flash cameras as a deterrent
 - Training individuals in neighborhoods to use sprayers, rollers and paint to cover graffiti
 - Use the Blight Buster training program
 - Graffiti removal
 - Remove illegal signs
 - Using a hotline and reward service for citizens to report graffiti and offenders
 - A paint color matching system is being used on trucks to match colors to cover graffiti
- Chandler
 - Has one full time painter
 - Graffiti has not been a problem historically
 - Used to address graffiti through a volunteer program
 - Had issues with graffiti being covered with paint that didn't match
 - The city experiences about 2000 instances of graffiti per year
 - 3 out of 4 are called in by citizens
 - 1 out of 4 known by painter before called in

- The annual paint budget to cover graffiti is \$16K
- Mesa
 - Use a third party contractor: Graffiti Protective Coating
 - Have a web based program called My Mesa; using a smartphone app to alert
 - Strive for a 24 hour response time to address graffiti
 - The city pays the contractor 18 cents/ square foot to cover/remove graffiti
 - Spent \$140K last year
 - \$200K budgeted this year
 - City staff believes the number of graffiti instances is declining
 - A more recent issue is the use of felt marker pens (Sharpies) for graffiti
- Avondale
 - Use a third party contractor: Graffiti Protective Coating
 - Using a smartphone app for citizens to alert city staff
- Litchfield Park
 - Usually the police department is alerted by citizens when graffiti is identified
 - The town public works department addresses graffiti removal/covering
- Apache Junction
 - Has a full time crew addressing graffiti
 - Budgeted \$45K annually, including salaries
 - A prior goal was to address the graffiti in three days; the town is beating this goal
 - The town distributes door hangers to let citizens know how to notify town staff
- 4. Best Practices for Graffiti Enforcement
 - Cameras
 - Used to detract would be offenders
 - However this may just move offenders to other places
 - Pictures have limited affect for prosecution; need witnesses for effective prosecution
 - Law Enforcement and Prosecution
 - The group agreed that presentations and discussion with input from law enforcement officials and prosecutors would be good to have at the next stakeholders meeting
- 5. Other Issues & Next Steps
 - Alternatives were discussed, including providing places for graffiti artists to practice
 - Explore positive examples, opportunities and/or outlets; consider providing canvas, boards and a safe space for artists