

Congress Designates Interstate 11

Move Follows Years of Regional Efforts



Elected officials and transportation planners in Arizona and Nevada are applauding the designation of the Interstate 11 (I-11) corridor as part of the recent federal transportation bill. The move means the corridor would be eligible for federal funding and is a significant step forward in efforts to link Phoenix and Las Vegas with an interstate highway. The cities, which have been among the fastest-growing cities over the past decade, are the two largest neighboring cities in America not currently connected by an interstate.



Avondale Mayor Marie Lopez Rogers was seated in the front row at a White House ceremony on July 13 when she captured this photograph of President Obama signing into law the MAP-21 transportation bill, which included the designation of Interstate 11. Mayor Scott Smith of Mesa was also in the front row at the signing ceremony.

Although initially envisioned to connect Phoenix and Las Vegas, the potential exists to replace U.S. 93 and extend the corridor north and south to the Canadian and Mexican borders, essentially becoming the new CANAMEX corridor through the Intermountain West. Such a corridor would connect communities, national and international economies, existing and future domestic and international deepwater ports, and would intersect with transcontinental roadways and railroad corridors.

The federal designation came after years of effort from the two states. What many don't know is that the idea for the freeway corridor had its origins at the Maricopa Association of Governments.

"The concept for I-11 had its beginnings right here at MAG," noted Buckeye Mayor Jackie Meck, vice chair of the MAG Transportation Policy Committee and a member of the I-11 Corridor Coalition. "Going back to the CANAMEX corridor efforts, followed by the Interstate 10 Hassayampa Valley Roadway Framework Study, this concept was

brought about through MAG studies of how to establish a network of transportation facilities to meet the buildout travel demand in our region."

During the Hassayampa framework study and a second study known as the Interstates 8 and 10 Hidden Valley Framework Study, MAG began exploring the need for a 152-mile freeway corridor west and south of Phoenix, connecting Casa Grande to Wickenburg.

"This corridor crossed through some large areas of planned development," recalls MAG Senior Engineering Project Manager Bob Hazlett. In one particular meeting in 2008, developers and stakeholders were discussing the corridor. Hazlett mentioned that the best way to advance a freeway corridor would be to seek interstate designation.

"Among the people in the room was a lobbyist who worked for the Las Vegas Chamber of Commerce, and he recognized that a designated freeway corridor would help connect not only communities, but major trade hubs. So from that very first meeting, the designation



Continued on page 11

INSIDE
this issue

Message From the Chair	2	Desert Peaks Awards	6
Voices from the Council	3	Sun Corridor Event	9
Reverse 9-1-1 Capability	3	Transit Projects Get Rolling	10
Regional Profile: Mayor Solarez	4	I-11 Designation (continued)	11
Heat Relief Efforts Help Homeless	5	Calendar	12



Message From the Chair



Mayor Marie Lopez Rogers
City of Avondale



I am honored to serve as the new MAG chair. Having served on the Regional Council for six years, I have been fortunate to see how cooperative efforts result in better service delivery for our residents. I am excited to lead the organization at a time that we have many opportunities before us.

Our economy is improving. Our five-year Transportation Improvement Program contains about seven billion dollars worth of projects that mean jobs and economic vitality for our region. Through the efforts of our Economic Development Committee and the Joint Planning Advisory Council, we will continue to work together to foster a successful and viable mega-region known as the Sun Corridor. One important priority will be for us to identify the corridor's key economic drivers and find ways to grow those opportunities.



One key area of focus for me will be working to improve our trade relations with Mexico and Canada and enhancing the flow of commerce into Arizona. I was fortunate to meet recently with President Obama's executive team about the need for

investment in border transportation infrastructure, to help us compete with other border states like Texas that are far outpacing Arizona in trade relations. The president's team assured me of the administration's desire to work with Arizona leaders and our southern neighbors in a positive and proactive way. With our border serving as the gateway for \$26 billion worth of imports and exports, I am honored to be able to help in that capacity in my role as chair.

Many additional important issues face our region, and we have some big jobs ahead. Major projects include building the South Mountain Freeway, which has been identified by the Regional Council as a priority project, and continuing our efforts to address dust pollution. We are completing a number of major studies, such as the Freight Transportation Framework Study and a study to assess the feasibility of managed lanes for this region. We will continue our impressive work in these areas, as well as in the human services arena where we continue to tackle difficult issues such as domestic violence and homelessness.

I am confident that we, as MAG, have the desire, the drive and the talent to accomplish these tasks in ways that will make all of us proud.

MAG Regional Council Members

Executive Committee Members

-  **Mayor Marie Lopez Rogers**
Avondale, *Chair* 
- Mayor Scott Smith**
Mesa, *Vice Chair*
- Mayor Michael LeVault**
Youngtown, *Treasurer* 
- Mayor Thomas Schoaf**
Litchfield Park, *At-Large Member* 
- Mayor Greg Stanton**
Phoenix, *At-Large Member*
- Mayor Gail Barney**
Queen Creek, *At-Large Member* 
- Mayor W. J. "Jim" Lane**
Scottsdale, *At-Large Member* 
- Councilmember Robin Barker**
Apache Junction 
- Mayor Jackie Meck**
Buckeye 
- Mayor David Schwan**
Carefree 
- Councilmember Dick Esser**
Cave Creek 
- Mayor Jay Tibshraeny**
Chandler 
- Mayor Lana Mook**
El Mirage 
- President Clinton Pattea**
Fort McDowell Yavapai Nation 
- Mayor Linda M. Kavanagh**
Fountain Hills 
- Mayor Ron Henry**
Gila Bend 
- Governor Gregory Mendoza**
Gila River Indian Community 
- Mayor John Lewis**
Gilbert 
- Mayor Elaine M. Scruggs**
Glendale 
- Mayor Georgia Lord**
Goodyear 
- Mayor Yolanda Solarez**
Guadalupe 
- Supervisor Max Wilson**
Maricopa County 
- Mayor Scott LeMarr**
Paradise Valley 
- Mayor Bob Barrett**
Peoria 
- President Diane Enos**
Salt River Pima-Maricopa Indian Community 
- Mayor Sharon Wolcott**
Surprise 
- Mayor Mark Mitchell**
Tempe 
- Mayor Adolfo Gamez**
Tolleson 
- Councilmember Rui Pereira**
Wickenburg 
-  **Victor Flores & Joseph E. La Rue**
Arizona Department of Transportation
- F. Rockne Arnett**
Citizens Transportation Oversight Committee 

Visit www.azmag.gov and click on Regional Council.



MAGAZine is a quarterly newsletter of the Maricopa Association of Governments. It focuses on the issues and concerns of the cities, towns and tribal communities of Maricopa County. If you know of a friend or colleague who would like to receive MAGAZine, please call the MAG office, (602) 254-6300.

- Marie Lopez Rogers**
Mayor, City of Avondale, Regional Council Chair
- Dennis Smith**, Executive Director
- Rachel Brito, Bob Hazlett, Brande Mead, Eileen Yazzie**, Contributors
- Kelly Taft**, Editor
- Gordon Tyus**, Graphic Design



The Town of Gilbert is very excited about the dynamic growth taking place in our community. Our focus on economic development, with a primary emphasis on the Bio-Med/Life Sciences, is steadily coming to fruition and new high-wage jobs are providing even more opportunity for residents of Gilbert and the East Valley. This success is due in large part to our local and regional partnerships—I am thankful to work with great regional leaders who understand that when it comes to promoting our respective communities, we are truly all in this together!

—Gilbert Mayor John Lewis

Maricopa County residents are fortunate to be able to enjoy the outdoors virtually year-round with a variety of fitness choices. In Chandler, I have launched Health Connect this month to promote healthier lifestyles with a three-pronged approach that addresses physical, mental and financial well-being. A healthy city means greater engagement and pride in community.

—Chandler Mayor Jay Tibshraeny



Fountain Hills has been working with Scottsdale to plan and develop the McDowell Mountain Preserve Trail Connection, a trail connection between the Fountain Hills Preserve and the Scottsdale Preserve. Excellent cooperation and planning will result in the connection of 56 miles of trails for the benefit of not only Fountain Hills and Scottsdale residents, but the many hikers and mountain bikers in the Valley. This will also be an additional draw for visitors from around the nation. With mutual goals, it is amazing what can be accomplished for the benefit of all communities involved. Hike on!

—Fountain Hills Mayor Linda M. Kavanagh

The excitement is building in the northwest Valley as a solution to the Grand and Bell intersection gets closer. Firm leadership and the partnerships MAG and others facilitate mean the busiest surface intersection in Arizona will be treated like the regional and interstate linchpin it really is. Media and public are noticing!

—Surprise Mayor Sharon Wolcott



As a long-time West Valley resident and staunch supporter of Luke Air Force Base, I'm very concerned about the mandatory, across the board budget cuts scheduled for January 2013, because a recently released report by the Aerospace Industries Association noted that the cuts could mean 49,000 Arizonans could lose their defense-related jobs. I'd like to applaud Arizona's Senator John McCain for understanding the urgency of this issue, taking the initiative to offer several solutions over the past several months and for having committed to continuing to offer solutions until the issue is resolved.

—Maricopa County Supervisor Max Wilson

Cell Phone Users Encouraged to Take Advantage of Reverse 9-1-1 Capability

Maricopa County residents who have discontinued their landlines for a cell phone may not be notified when there is an emergency in their neighborhood, unless they take the time to register their cell phone number online at 911AlertsYou.com. With approximately 30 percent of households in Maricopa County being cell phone only, and another 20 percent receiving most of their calls on their mobile phone, increasing cell phone registration is important.

"When emergencies happen in a specific neighborhood, public safety agencies can use the 9-1-1 database to call residents and let them know the nature of the emergency and what to do. But residents who have cell phones are not automatically contacted," said City of Phoenix 9-1-1 Administrator Liz Graeber. "Instead, they must go online and register their cell phone to receive such emergency notifications."

The Reverse 9-1-1 system is a rapid emergency notification system that utilizes the 9-1-1 database to contact homes or businesses in a specific geographic area during times of emergency, informing them of the nature of the emergency and what steps to take to address it. Reverse 9-1-1 can only be

activated by public agencies for defined emergencies, such as fires, public safety threats, flash floods, hazardous material spills, police incidents, and endangered children or elderly persons.

Historically, the system was limited to the ability to notify only hardwired phones listed in the 9-1-1 database. In 2010, a self-registration web page was developed to enable residents to register their cell phones for notifications with a physical address of the user's choosing.

"Typically, this address would be your home address," says Graeber. "The address you provide would be linked to your cell phone number, and any Reverse 9-1-1 call made to your home neighborhood would automatically be routed to your cell phone, regardless of where you are," she said. "This means that people without traditional 'land lines' can now receive the same emergency notifications as their neighbors."

Residents may register up to three devices per e-mail address at 911AlertsYou.com. 

Regional Profile: Mayor Yolanda Solarez



Mayor Yolanda Solarez, Town of Guadalupe



Guadalupe Mayor Has Strong Ties to Community

Her roots in Guadalupe go deep. Or, as Guadalupe Mayor Yolanda Solarez puts it, she is a “fourth-generation Guadalupano.”

“My family was one of the founders of Guadalupe. They started off with a little grocery store back in the late 1800s,” states Mayor Solarez, who became the town’s first-ever elected mayor in 2011, when the town moved from having the Town Council appoint its mayor to a direct election. She was first elected as a councilmember in 2007, and appointed for an earlier term as mayor in 2009.

While her roots in politics don’t go quite as far back as her family history, they do go back one generation to her father, Jose Solarez, who served at various times as a town manager, town clerk, and judge in the community. His daughter learned politics at his knee.

“As a child growing up, I would attend a lot of the meetings with him when he couldn’t find a babysitter, so I started getting involved when I was very young. Then, one day out of the blue, I walked in and they told me that there were positions open for (Town) Council, and it would be great if I joined because of the history I had in Guadalupe. So I gave it a shot and I was elected. My big influence was my father,” says Solarez. Because she started so young, many are surprised to learn Solarez is serving her second term as mayor while still in her thirties.

One primary focus for Solarez is to help low-income residents in Guadalupe secure housing through grants and other town-assisted programs.

“What’s different with Guadalupe is residents want to stay in Guadalupe. They don’t want to go out and look in (neighboring communities), they want to stay in town. But what is hard is getting them qualified,” she says.

Another focus is attracting economic development, with current talks geared toward development of a grocery store specializing in traditional Mexican staples such as an on-site specialty meat department and tortilleria.



Mayor Solarez (center) joins Congressman Ed Pastor (right) and Guadalupe staff member Gino Turrubiarres for the dedication of a senior center in honor of the congressman on Cinco de Mayo.

In her spare time, Mayor Solarez enjoys spending time with her family and extended family of nieces and second cousins. Her home often becomes the gathering place....perhaps because Solarez’s hobby is baking cakes.

“That is something I do on the side, for birthday parties, weddings, and holidays. Where I currently work they always say that I make the best Tres Leches cake—it’s a three milk cake—that’s one of the cakes that I do,” she says.

Solarez says the aspects she enjoys most about being mayor are working with her fellow councilmembers, and more importantly, the town itself, which has all of the closeness of a small community.

“Everybody basically knowing everybody and everyone is always there to help somebody—your neighbor is always there to help you,” says Solarez, who also deeply treasures the culture in Guadalupe. The town’s residents are primarily Mexican American and members of the Pascua Yaqui Tribe. The most important occasions for the Yaqui in Guadalupe are the Lent and Easter ceremonies that feature deer dances, pascola dances and other ceremonies that had their origins in Mexico in the early 1600s. The community opens some parts of these ceremonies to the public, and all are invited. However, people must observe and respect the Yaquis’ wishes that no photos be taken and that no drawings or recordings be made.

Solarez says she will remain in public office “as long as God is willing,” and that her vision for Guadalupe is “a better tomorrow, not only for our community but for our surrounding communities.”



Mayor Yolanda Solarez, Councilmember Gloria Cota, Congressman Ed Pastor, and Vice Mayor Laura Valencia participate in a housing dedication.

Heat Relief Efforts Help Homeless Water Donations Make a Difference

Fifty-three year old Dana McGlothen has been struggling to make ends meet since moving to Arizona 16 years ago. She became homeless after losing her job with a credit card company. Today she works as a volunteer at the Lodestar Day Resource Center (LDRC). One of her jobs is passing out water to hundreds of other vulnerable people who share her homeless experience.

“I can tell when they really need it, because they’re all beet red,” says Dana. “I get a lot of the same ones coming every day.”

Dana and those she serves are among thousands of vulnerable Valley residents for whom extreme heat poses a significant threat. So far this year, there have been 15 heat-caused or heat-related deaths in Maricopa County, with another 53 deaths under investigation.

The heat can affect anyone, but persons who are homeless are at increased risk. In an effort to provide resources to those in need, the Maricopa Association of Governments (MAG) partners each summer with municipalities, nonprofit organizations, and the faith-based community to coordinate the Heat Relief Network. The Heat Relief Network includes 90 partners who help provide hydration/refuge sites and donation sites throughout the region. MAG coordinates the regional network and provides maps of the 82 hydration/refuge sites and 69 donation locations throughout the Valley.

The LDRC, located on the Maricopa County Human Services Campus, is one member of the Heat Relief Network. Its goal is to secure 500,000 of bottles of water each summer. Unfortunately, this year, donations have fallen off.



The Lodestar Day Resource Center, which functions as a refuge location, provides respite for up to 170 people per day.

“We haven’t been getting as many water donations as we did last year,” states LDRC Community Resource Manager Laura DiTroia. “We go through about 2,000 bottles a day onsite between us, our shelter and health care clinic. That doesn’t include our outreach team that is out on the street giving out water,” she says. The center also serves as a refuge location where people can come in out of the heat to rest. On days when extreme heat warnings are issued, the center often opens as an emergency shelter.

Dana says she worries when she sees the water supplies dwindling, and lets people in line know when supplies are almost out. “Especially if they don’t look too good, I always tell them, fill up your bottle at the drinking fountain, because we’re running low, and you need water,” says Dana.

“The Phoenix area averages 110 days of temperatures above 100 degrees,” says Goodyear Vice Mayor Joanne Osborne, chair of the MAG Continuum of Care Regional Committee on Homelessness. “These prolonged days of extreme heat can take a significant toll on people who are on the streets. To prevent further loss of life, we continue to ask the community for help. Readers can help by donating water at one of the donation sites listed on the heat relief map, or by checking on elderly neighbors who may be at risk,” she says. 🏞️



Dana McGlothen, who is herself homeless, says she enjoys helping people at the center.

The maps of drop-off locations and hydration stations are available on the MAG website at www.azmag.gov. In addition, the maps are being distributed throughout the community. There are many ways to help.

- Donate bottled water to one of the regional water donation sites.
- Join the Heat Relief Network and become a water donation site, a hydration station, or a refuge location.
- Help to get the word out about the Heat Relief Network by linking to the maps on the MAG website at www.azmag.gov, or help distribute the maps within the community.
- Learn the signs of heat-related illness at www.maricopa.gov/publichealth/programs/heat. Call for help if you or someone else needs assistance.
- Talk to others about the dangers of extreme heat and let them know that there are resources available in the community.

For more information, contact Brande Mead, 602-254-6300.

Desert Peaks Awards Honor Regional Efforts



During a ceremony attended by nearly 300 people, the Maricopa Association of Governments honored nine partnerships and individuals in seven categories who were selected to receive the 2012 Desert Peaks Awards. The awards are presented to those agencies and individuals who have demonstrated a commitment to promoting, recognizing, and attaining the ideals of regionalism.

2012 DESERT PEAKS AWARDS RECIPIENTS

Lifetime Achievement Award for Regional Planning



Recipient: *Mayor Elaine M. Scruggs, City of Glendale*

Glendale Mayor Elaine Scruggs was awarded the first-ever MAG Lifetime Achievement Award for Regional Planning. First elected to the Glendale City Council in 1990, Mayor Scruggs has served as mayor since 1993. She is credited with transforming Glendale's historic downtown from a blighted, crime-ridden area into a tourism destination and thriving business community. Today, Glendale is a nationally recognized sports and entertainment destination that attracts more than four million people annually.

"Even before she took office, Mayor Scruggs was involved in the 'get out the vote' campaign for proposition 300, which implemented the half-cent sales tax that built the regional freeway system we are driving on today," stated former MAG chair and Tempe mayor Hugh Hallman in conferring the award. "She was a charter member and driving force in creating the Transportation Policy Committee and a primary champion of Proposition 400 to extend the tax another 20 years. She was instrumental in accelerating the regional freeway system completion by seven years. Mayor Scruggs continues to work closely with citizens, and is noted for being visible, accessible and approachable," he said.

Mayor Scruggs served as MAG chair in 1997 and 1998, during which time she led the way in reprioritizing the regional freeway system, adding \$500 million and vital freeway elements back into the system. She led the "re-engineer the policy process" for MAG that ensures transparency in the decision-making process, a process still used today.



Public Partnership Award recipients for the Regional Emergency Transportation Service.

Public Partnership

Recipient: *Regional Emergency Transportation Service*
Apache Junction, Gilbert, Mesa and Queen Creek worked together to establish a Regional Emergency Transportation Services contract for ambulance services. Prior to the regional agreement, each community managed separate emergency transportation contracts. This was problematic on border calls or incidents where the ambulance closest to the call was not the provider for service in that community. The communities solved the problem by erasing all boundaries to allow the closest unit to be dispatched to efficiently respond to distress calls. While similar approaches have been taken with fire departments, the agreement for ambulance services is the first of its kind in Arizona.

Partnering Agencies: *City of Apache Junction; Town of Gilbert; City of Mesa; Town of Queen Creek.*

Public-Private Partnership

Recipient: *Gangplank Avondale*

In August 2011, the city of Avondale entered into a professional services agreement with Gangplank Collective to manage a collaborative workspace for technology-focused small businesses, entrepreneurs and creative companies. Gangplank Avondale helps entrepreneurs, startups, small businesses and



Gangplank Avondale recipients, including Mayor Marie Lopez Rogers (left), who also received a Regional Excellence Award.

freelancers achieve success by providing collaborative workspace, mentoring, and education, as well as connections to talent, funding sources and experienced entrepreneurs. Operating in the city's former City Hall, Gangplank Avondale is home to six West Valley businesses and entrepreneurs, three of whom have committed to being anchor tenants. The purpose of Gangplank is to provide infrastructure and resources for a community of companies with the end goals of connected community; successful, exportable products; job creation; talent retention; tax revenues; and the attraction of new sectors to the region and state.

Partnering Agencies: City of Avondale; Gangplank Collective.

Professional Service

Recipients (Two recipients were selected in this category)

Ed Beasley

Ed Beasley served as city manager of the city of Glendale from January 2002 to June 2012. He was responsible for the internal operations of the city, which including managing a nearly \$1 billion budget and more than 2,500 employees. Throughout his career, he has played a significant role in regional leadership and regional cooperation, including serving as chair of the MAG Management Committee from 2006 to 2007 and serving as a member of the MAG Governance Task Force, which led to the formation of the Transportation Policy Committee.



As city manager, Beasley provided the critical vision and leadership that has made the city of Glendale home to the region's first sports and entertainment district. In addition, He was instrumental in developing a regional proposal to secure the 2008 and 2015 Super Bowls in the city of Glendale, generating hundreds of

millions of dollars in economic activity for the region and the state.

David R. Smith

David Smith served as Maricopa County manager from 1994 to 2012. When Smith arrived in Arizona in 1994, Maricopa County faced a \$66 million deficit. Called a fiscal "turnaround artist," he was able to reverse that trend, and Standard and Poor's just recently conferred Maricopa County a Triple A rating. *Governing Magazine* named him as "Public Official of the Year." During his tenure as manager, Smith initiated several preventative health care programs at the county level, including establishing an integrative health clinic for county employees and creating a pilot research study to compare results. Additionally, he worked to develop a far-reaching network of crime prevention programs designed to reduce recidivism among prison parolees, probationers and juvenile offenders.



Regional Partnership

Recipients (Two recipients were selected in this category)

Domestic Violence Protocol

Evaluation Project

The Domestic Violence Protocol Evaluation Project was developed to provide a more



consistent regional response to domestic violence. The project was designed to assess the protocols used by law enforcement, prosecutors, and victim advocates when handling domestic violence cases at the misdemeanor level. The project has included the development of a regional set of guidelines for police and prosecutors to follow, with a goal of keeping victims safe and holding abusers accountable. The partnering agencies worked with more than 500 community stakeholders in developing the practices. The model will create a more consistent response to misdemeanor domestic violence crimes, resulting in more successful arrests and prosecutions, and increasing the safety of victims and families.

Domestic Violence Protocol Evaluation Project recipients.

Partnering Agencies: City of Apache Junction; City of Avondale; Town of Buckeye; City of El Mirage; Town of Gilbert; City of Glendale; City of Goodyear; Maricopa Association of Governments; Maricopa County; City of Mesa; City of Peoria; City of Phoenix; City of Scottsdale; City of Tolleson.

Continued on page 8

2012 Desert Peaks Awards (continued)

Regional Wireless Cooperative/Topaz Regional Wireless Cooperative

Effective radio communication is vital to helping police officers and firefighters safely respond to incidents, conduct life-saving operations, fight blazes, and exchange information between emergency medical personnel and hospitals.



Regional Wireless Cooperative/Topaz Regional Wireless Cooperative recipients.

For many years, cities were utilizing older technology that had reached available capacity, and the need to replace existing radio systems became clear. To address this need, the Regional Wireless Cooperative and Topaz Regional Wireless Cooperative

committed to work together to provide regionwide, seamless, effective radio communications for first responders

across the region. The agencies adopted a joint resolution that establishes that the systems will share capabilities to avoid costly overbuilding of infrastructure, saving taxpayer dollars. The partnership has resulted in higher levels of service at a lower cost.

Partnering Agencies: *City of Apache Junction; City of Avondale; Town of Buckeye; City of Chandler; City of El Mirage; Town of Gilbert; City of Glendale; City of Goodyear; Town of Guadalupe; City of Mesa; City of Peoria; City of Phoenix; Town of Queen Creek; City of Scottsdale; City of Surprise; City of Tempe; City of Tolleson.*

Regional Excellence

Recipients (Two recipients were selected in this category):

Mayor Marie Lopez Rogers, City of Avondale

Marie Lopez Rogers was elected as Avondale's first Latina mayor in January 2006, after serving on the Avondale City Council for 14 years. Today, she is guiding the transformation of not only Avondale but the entire region through her direct engagement in supporting economic, social and cultural vitality. She has taken on both national and regional leadership roles, as the incoming president of the National League of Cities and as the new chair of the MAG Regional Council. In 2011, Mayor Lopez Rogers formed the Southwest Valley Rail Partnership, a collaborative effort among West Valley communities, the Southwest Valley Chamber of Commerce, and business leaders, to expand multimodal transportation options. Mayor Lopez Rogers has worked to build support to advance rail options that can greatly improve the economic outlook of the region.



Councilmember Shana Ellis, City of Tempe

Tempe Councilmember Shana Ellis has become a key regional leader in transportation, serving as a member of the Regional Public Transportation Authority (RPTA/ Valley Metro) Board of Directors and the METRO Light Rail Board of Directors. As former chair of the RPTA Board of Directors, she provided leadership



as the agency navigated through a challenging year of transit funding deficits. Councilmember Ellis spent more than a year leading the board working group that resulted in a milestone decision of having a single leader for both transit agencies. She enhanced regional transit partnerships among member agencies, including the opening of the Valley Metro Mobility Center and the approval of the new paratransit service delivery model, leading to greater efficiencies and savings in the East Valley. She serves on the MAG Transportation Policy Committee and has served as chair of the MAG Continuum of Care Regional Committee on Homelessness.

Outstanding Economic Development Champion

Recipient: The Flinn Foundation

Through its advocacy and philanthropic efforts, the Flinn Foundation has been at the forefront of supporting initiatives to improve the quality of life and regional economic development in Arizona. Since 2001, the Foundation has commissioned *Arizona's Bioscience Roadmap*, a template to advance Arizona to bioscience prominence. The Foundation mobilized the state, county, cities and key community stakeholders to support the biosciences. The Foundation's efforts have driven new economic and job growth, improved access and quality in health care, and made the region competitive in the bioscience market. The Foundation also sponsors the Flinn Scholars program, an undergraduate study program that provides study abroad and mentorship to talented students. 



Region Examines How to Seize Economic Opportunities

“The world is changing and it doesn’t wait for people to react. New patterns are taking shape, and the Sun Corridor must seize the opportunities or risk being left behind.”

Those words from Michael Gallis in June helped open a presentation and discussion called *The Sun Corridor Economic Region in the 21st Century Global Network*. Gallis is one of the country’s leading experts in large-scale metropolitan regional development strategies and made his comments before approximately 200 elected officials, economic development experts, and business leaders.

Gallis discussed the shift of social and economic forces that are reshaping the world, and examined the current status and future opportunities for our region from the perspective of transportation/infrastructure, the economy and the environment. He said these three elements must become more integrated and interactive.

“The Sun Corridor has built a remarkable foundation for the future. The region has a lot of advantages, assets and initiatives. The challenge is to prioritize, align, and link these assets and initiatives together to generate greater synergies. By putting the pieces together, they can form the framework for a leading-edge global region,” he said.

Gallis stated that this is the period of the “Global Revolution.” Similar to the Industrial Revolution, “advanced technologies are redefining all aspects of our economy and our lives.” Gallis called our region

a transportation hub, but said there are opportunities to make it a stronger global trade hub. He noted that emerging technologies are built over a traditional economy, but there is an opportunity to make a transition to a full technical economy. Finally, he added that the Sun Corridor has a relatively clean environment, but faces challenges with dispersed patterns of development.



Gallis told the audience he believes these challenges can be overcome, especially because of the interest demonstrated by Valley leaders.

“I’ve been extremely impressed by the level of leadership—engaged leadership, dynamic leadership—that exists in this region,” stated Gallis.

“People are really interested in this region, really love this place, really want to make a difference.”

Following the presentation, a “reactor panel” of economic and industry experts provided insight on how they see this region within the global economy. They discussed the region’s opportunities and assets and how to work together through partnerships to be competitive both nationally and globally.

Litchfield Park Mayor Thomas Schoaf, who chairs the MAG Economic Development Committee, said there were several major takeaways from the presentation.

“The big issue that was presented is to decide if the Sun Corridor wants to compete as a ‘big picture’ global region or as a more limited regional center,” he said. “Achieving a global vision will require a more integrated approach and regional alignment and cooperation. It will require thinking of the region as a product in the global marketplace, competing on a worldwide basis,” said Mayor Schoaf.

Members of the MAG Economic Development Committee suggested creating a process to build a more comprehensive regional vision for long-term growth, along with a strategy for implementation. A retreat is being planned to continue the discussions. 



Michael Gallis



Mayor Thomas Schoaf

Transit Projects Get Rolling

Thanks to a more stable economy, ongoing coordination, and the acquisition of federal funding, a number of transit projects are underway that will soon mean more alternative transportation options for Valley residents.



If all goes as planned, nearly nine new miles of light rail and streetcar service will open by 2016. In addition, a decision has been made on the location of 11 miles of light rail transit along Interstate 10. Finally, transit riders can now take advantage of a new tool that provides real-time arrival times for their next ride.

“We are back on track in delivering critical transit infrastructure that benefits the entire region,” said Mesa Mayor Scott Smith, who recently celebrated the groundbreaking of the light rail extension in Mesa. “These voter-

approved investments will help to connect residents with jobs and enhance economic development opportunities.”

Here is a snapshot of some of the recent developments in the transit arena.

Central Mesa Extension

On May 30, 2012, a groundbreaking ceremony was held in Mesa for the extension of the light rail line through downtown Mesa along Main Street. The extension will lengthen the system from its current eastern terminus at Sycamore to Mesa Drive. The project will be built using a mix of regional Proposition 400 funds and federal grant dollars. The city of Mesa is responsible for the operating funds.

Northwest Phoenix Extension

In June, the Phoenix City Council approved an acceleration plan for the 3.2-mile Phase I of the Northwest light rail extension that

will extend the system north on 19th Avenue from Montebello to Dunlap Road. Although originally scheduled to open in 2012, in 2009, declining sales tax revenues pushed the estimated deadline for completion to 2023. Under the acceleration plan, the extended line will now open in late 2015/early 2016, seven years earlier than expected. Capital funding comes from regional Proposition 400 funds as well as Transit 2000. Operations costs are the responsibility of the city of Phoenix.

Tempe Streetcar

Utility survey work started in April for a proposed streetcar line in Tempe that would run between Rio Salado Parkway and Southern Avenue in the Mill Avenue corridor. The 2.6-mile line is projected to open in 2016. Modern streetcar vehicles operate on tracks, typically mixed with automobile traffic, and are powered by overhead power lines. They differ from light rail vehicles in their single-car operation and typically smaller vehicle size. Stops are also more simple and frequent than light rail. The project will be built using a mix of regional Proposition 400 funds and federal grant dollars. The city of Tempe is responsible for the operating funds.

Phoenix West/I-10 Alignment

In July, MAG policy committees approved a locally preferred alternative for the Phoenix West project, which selected light rail and an alignment along I-10 from 79th Avenue to Interstate 17, southbound along the I-17 southbound frontage road, east along Van Buren Street to 18th Avenue, southbound along 18th Avenue to Jefferson Street, and then east to downtown Phoenix along Jefferson. Improvements will also include construction of a direct access ramp from I-10 to I-17 and expansion of the 79th Avenue park-and-ride. The extension is scheduled to open in 2023. The next step involves conducting the environmental assessment.

Scottsdale/Rural Roads High Capacity Transit Service

The Regional Transportation Plan identified the Scottsdale and Rural Road corridor in Scottsdale and Tempe as a roadway for implementation of high capacity transit. The Bus Rapid Transit (BRT) route could travel from the Rural Road and University Drive light rail station in Tempe to Frank Lloyd Wright Boulevard in Scottsdale, a distance of 15 miles. Similar to the LINK bus routes that connect to the Main Street and Sycamore light rail station in Mesa, this route would connect not only to light rail, but possibly to the Tempe Streetcar. The route is projected to begin service in 2014.

NextRide Travel Tool

Bus and light rail passengers can now access real time arrival information for their next bus or train, thanks to a new tool that utilizes GPS technology to track arrival times. Passengers can retrieve the arrival times instantaneously by accessing the mobile website, texting or calling and providing the station's unique stop number. Instructions for NextRide are posted at each of the Valley's 7,500 bus stops and light rail stations. 



Groundbreaking of light rail extension for Mesa. Pictured from left to right: METRO CEO Steve Banta, Mesa Councilmember Dennis Kavanaugh, Chandler Councilmember Rick Heumann, Mesa Mayor Scott Smith, Tempe Councilmember Shana Ellis, and Dennis Onstott, representing VTC Valley Transit Constructors.

Congress Designates Interstate 11 (continued)



idea quickly grew legs in both Nevada and Arizona,” said Hazlett.

The first concept paper describing the I-11 corridor was published on June 12, 2008. It describes the new alignment as meeting the following needs:

- 1) Provides a bypass route around the core of the Phoenix metropolitan area in Maricopa and Pinal Counties for enhancing interstate travel and freight mobility in the transcontinental Interstate 10 corridor that links Los Angeles and the eastern United States.
- 2) Enhances goods movement and mobility for the Intermountain West by providing a new north-south corridor that links to seaports and commerce in Mexico.
- 3) Adds flexibility and capacity for both east-west and north-south travel in central Arizona to meet the needs of a growing population projected to exceed eight million by 2050.
- 4) Enhances the safety and security for all transportation services in this portion of the country.

Hazlett then began championing the corridor through a series presentations promoting the idea, including the Joint Planning Advisory Council in March 2010, the MAG Regional Council and the Nevada Legislature in April 2010, the Phoenix City Council in May 2010, the Arizona State Transportation Board in September 2010, the West Coast Corridor Coalition in June 2011, and separate presentations to the Nevada Senate and Assembly in April 2011, along with many other technical and policy committees.

Nevada and Arizona lawmakers soon began pitching congressional designation of the corridor, and Senators John McCain and Jon Kyl of Arizona, both Republicans, and Harry Reid of Nevada, a Democrat, asked that it be included as part of the reauthorization of federal transportation legislation, *Moving Ahead for Progress in the 21st Century* (MAP-21).

“The importance of the Interstate 11 designation for Arizona cannot be emphasized enough,” stated Governor Jan Brewer in a statement following approval of MAP-21. “Congressional action to include I-11 in the transportation bill is a significant step in continuing to foster economic development and tourism, build stronger transportation infrastructure for the Intermountain West, and support national and international trade.”

The Arizona and Nevada departments of transportation have embarked on a two-year corridor study that will examine the strategic connections in Northern Nevada and Southern Arizona and include detailed corridor planning for the high-priority segment between the Las Vegas and Phoenix metropolitan areas. 



The proposed Interstate 11 corridor between Phoenix and Las Vegas has been officially designated by Congress.

MAG Moment



More than 100 stakeholders from across the region came together on June 25, 2012, to hear about national best practices and share resources regarding transportation services for underserved populations. These include services for older adults, persons with disabilities, or people with low income. The MAG Transportation Ambassador Program provides an opportunity for discussion and the exchange of information with a network of human services providers, municipalities, and community members from across the region.



Visit our website:
www.azmag.gov



Follow us on Twitter at:
<http://twitter.com/MAGregion>



Watch MAG videos on YouTube:
youtube.com/magcommunications



Search for the Maricopa Association
of Governments on **Facebook**.



A Quarterly Newsletter Focusing on Regional Excellence

August 2012 - October 2012  Vol. 17: No. 3

Fall 2012 Calendar

August 2012

- 1st 10:00 a.m. Intelligent Transportation Systems Committee (Ironwood)
- 1st 1:30 p.m. Standard Specifications and Details Committee (Ironwood)
- 2nd 2:00 p.m. Domestic Violence Council (Saguaro)
- 9th 10:00 a.m. Transit Committee (Ironwood)
- 9th 1:00 p.m. Human Services Technical Committee (Chaparral)
- 13th 2:00 p.m. Continuum of Care Planning Subcommittee (Chaparral)
- 14th 1:30 p.m. Street Committee (Chaparral)
- 15th 2:00 p.m. Building Codes Committee (Ironwood)
- 16th 10:00 a.m. Solid Waste Advisory Committee (Saguaro)
- 21st 1:30 p.m. Bicycle & Pedestrian Committee (Ironwood)
- 23rd 10:00 a.m. Transportation Review Committee (Saguaro)
- 23rd 1:30 p.m. Air Quality Technical Advisory Committee (Saguaro)
- 28th 10:00 a.m. Population Technical Advisory Committee (Chaparral)
- 28th 10:30 a.m. 3-1-1 Business Plan Committee (Ironwood)

All meetings, unless indicated otherwise, will be held in the conference rooms located in the MAG office on the 2nd floor of the building, 302 N. 1st Ave., Phoenix.

Parking is available under the building. Please ask for parking validation at the meeting. Transit tickets will be provided for those using transit to attend meetings. Bike racks are available at the entrance to the parking garage.

The newsletter is available in electronic format at www.azmag.gov. Click on the MAG Publications link and then MAGAZine Newsletter link.

September 2012

- 5th 10:00 a.m. Intelligent Transportation Systems Committee (Ironwood)
- 5th 1:30 p.m. Standard Specifications and Details Committee (Ironwood)
- 10th 2:00 p.m. Continuum of Care Planning Subcommittee (Chaparral)
- 11th 11:30 a.m. Economic Development Committee (Saguaro)
- 11th 1:30 p.m. Street Committee (Chaparral)
- 12th 12:00 p.m. Management Committee (Saguaro)
- 13th 10:00 a.m. Transit Committee (Saguaro)
- 13th 1:00 p.m. Human Services Technical Committee (Chaparral)
- 17th 12:00 p.m. Regional Council Executive Committee (Ironwood)
- 18th 1:30 p.m. Bicycle & Pedestrian Committee (Ironwood)
- 19th 2:00 p.m. Building Codes Committee (Ironwood)
- 19th 12:00 p.m. Transportation Policy Committee (Saguaro)
- 20th 1:30 p.m. Air Quality Technical Advisory Committee (Saguaro)
- 24th 2:00 p.m. Continuum of Care Regional Committee on Homelessness (Saguaro)
- 25th 10:00 a.m. Population Technical Advisory Committee (Chaparral)
- 25th 10:00 a.m. Transportation Safety Committee (Ironwood)
- 26th 11:30 a.m. Regional Council (Saguaro)
- 27th 9:30 a.m. Transportation Review Committee (Saguaro)

The dates, times and locations of all meetings may change. Other committees not listed here may meet during these months. For confirmation, call (602) 254-6300, or visit the website: www.azmag.gov/Events/

October 2012

- 2nd 11:30 a.m. Economic Development Committee (Saguaro)
- 3rd 10:00 a.m. Intelligent Transportation Systems Committee (Ironwood)
- 3rd 12:00 p.m. Management Committee (Saguaro)
- 3rd 1:30 p.m. Standard Specifications and Details Committee - if required (Ironwood)
- 4th 2:00 p.m. Domestic Violence Council (Saguaro)
- 9th 1:30 p.m. Street Committee (Chaparral)
- 11th 9:00 a.m. PSAP Managers Group (Ironwood)
- 11th 10:00 a.m. Transit Committee (Ironwood)
- 11th 1:00 p.m. Human Services Technical Committee (Chaparral)
- 15th 12:00 p.m. Regional Council Executive Committee (Ironwood)
- 15th 2:00 p.m. Continuum of Care Planning Subcommittee (Chaparral)
- 16th 1:30 p.m. Bicycle & Pedestrian Committee (Ironwood)
- 16th 1:30 p.m. Planners Stakeholders Group (Chaparral)
- 17th 12:00 p.m. Transportation Policy Committee (Saguaro)
- 17th 2:00 p.m. Building Codes Committee (Ironwood)
- 18th 10:00 a.m. Solid Waste Advisory Committee (Saguaro)
- 23rd 10:00 a.m. Population Technical Advisory Committee (Chaparral)
- 24th 1:00 p.m. Human Services Coordinating Committee (Chaparral)
- 24th 11:30 a.m. Regional Council (Saguaro)
- 25th 10:00 a.m. Transportation Review Committee (Saguaro)
- 25th 1:30 p.m. Air Quality Technical Advisory Committee