



Executive Director's Report

The May Regional Council meeting was extraordinary in many ways. We welcomed two new members to MAG—the first new members to be added to the Regional Council in over a decade. The City of Maricopa and Town of Florence were approved as members, and in June we anticipate that Pinal County will also join MAG. This was made possible through the support of Governor Brewer, whose office worked in cooperation with MAG to define a new Metropolitan Planning Area Boundary that includes portions of Pinal County.

The action came as the result of a need to comply with federal transportation regulations, following the release of census figures showing newly urbanized areas. At the same time, it provides an important opportunity to work more closely with our partners in the Sun Corridor to make Maricopa and Pinal counties more globally competitive through cooperative planning.

In fact, we cannot take the need for great planning for granted. MAG has a history of responsible planning—from the 1985 transportation plan under Proposition 300 that laid out our current Regional Freeway System, to the Regional Transportation Plan under Proposition 400 that we are implementing today, it is crucial that we look well into the future in developing our transportation vision. While we are more than a decade away from the end of the funding extension that voters approved through Proposition 400, MAG staff has already begun the planning process for the next generation of transportation improvements. Implementation of the “NexGen” Plan will depend on this region’s ability to identify the next source of transportation funding. This will take collaboration among local governments, the private sector and the public.

It will also take trust. That is why MAG was rewarded to see the results of a recent performance survey. As noted in the summary below, MAG scored high throughout the survey and on numerous critical factors, such as whether we are assuming an appropriate role in the region, our professionalism and our responsiveness. The relationship we have with our member agencies—who understand that they are MAG—is the glue that holds this region together. This collaborative relationship takes more time, but in the end leads to momentous results.

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

Meeting Report for Wednesday, May 22, 2013

Action Items



Metropolitan Planning Area Boundary

The MAG Regional Council voted to amend the MAG By-Laws in order to recognize a new Metropolitan Planning Area (MPA) Boundary and to provide for new members to join MAG.

On May 9, 2013, Governor Brewer requested that the new MPA Boundary for MAG be approved. The new boundary is in accordance with federal regulations and comes as a result of new census numbers showing newly urbanized areas. The boundary includes portions of Pinal County. During the meeting, the City of Maricopa and the Town of Florence were accepted as new members and received their membership certificates. Pinal County has also expressed interest in joining MAG, and the Gila River Indian Community has sent a letter to MAG recommending that the Community remain in MAG and that the portions of Community land in Pinal County now be included in the MAG MPA.

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

Work Program and Annual Budget Approved

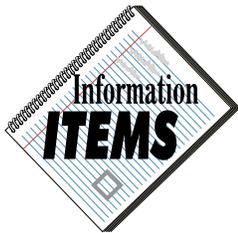
The MAG Regional Council approved the draft FY 2014 MAG Unified Planning Work Program and Annual Budget, with an amendment to the proposed Member Dues and Assessments.

Each year, MAG develops a work program and annual budget to guide the agency's programs and projects for the coming year. Draft budget presentations were held each month and incremental information on the budget was presented beginning in January 2013 to the MAG Management Committee, Executive Committee and Regional Council. In addition, the document was reviewed and discussed by state and federal agencies at the April 3, 2013, Intermodal Planning Group meeting.

Due to the impact of the recession on municipalities, in 2009 MAG reduced the amount of member dues and assessments to 50 percent. Under the original budget proposal, the dues for FY 2014 were to be increased by 25 percent, to 75 percent of the regular amount. However, due to ongoing budget struggles within some member agencies, the Regional Council voted to move the dues and assessments amount back to 50 percent for another year. In passing the motion, the Regional Council voiced an understanding that it will not be prudent for MAG to continue to delve into its reserves in the future, and next year the budget would need to be taken back to the 100 percent level.

The MAG budget, including carry-forward estimates, is \$29,538,203, an overall increase of 5.26 percent.

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



Information Items

Update on MAG Socioeconomic Projections

Under an executive order, MAG is charged with preparing the official subregional socioeconomic projections. These projections are used as input to the transportation and air quality models and utilize census numbers as well as the Maricopa County projections that are prepared by the Arizona Department of Administration. Working with the MAG Population Technical Advisory Committee, MAG staff has prepared draft socioeconomic projections for housing, population and employment for July 1 2010, 2020, 2030 and 2040.

Staff reported that the population was approximately 3.8 million in 2010 and is projected to be 6.1 million in 2040. Employment was 1.7 million in 2010 and is projected to be 3.1 million in 2040. Staff noted that this is a decrease from the last set of projections done in 2007 and represents approximately a decade lost from previous projections.

Projections were divided into three subregional zones: Central, East, and West. Staff stated that the biggest change in terms of total population is the West Valley, amounting to approximately 1.1 million over 30 years. Buildout in the East Valley is expected to be reached around the year 2030, with most of the growth after that likely attributed to redevelopment projects. A large part of growth in the Central Valley also is attributed to redevelopment.

In terms of the share of resident county population, the current West subregional share is about 24 percent, East is 37 percent, and Central is 39 percent. The 2040 projection points to a fairly evenly split distribution of 32 percent West, 32 percent East, and 36 percent Central.

For employment change, staff reported that the East will see more jobs, at approximately 490,000, Central at about 450,000, and West also at 450,000. In terms of employment share, the East and Central regions remain the largest, but the West does increase its share from 14 percent to 22 percent, with the East and Central Valleys losing some share.

Staff reported the projections will be finalized and brought back to the Regional Council in June.

For more information, please contact Anubhav Bagley, MAG Information Services Manager, (602) 254-6300.

MAG Performance Review

The Regional Council received an update on the results of an agency questionnaire to provide input on the performance of MAG as an agency. The survey was sent to 829 stakeholders, including member agencies, other councils of governments, federal agencies, and organizations. The survey receiving 370 full or partial responses.

Staff provided an update on the findings of the survey. Key highlights included highly favorable responses in terms of organizational effectiveness, including a belief that MAG exercises an appropriate role and function in the region and is apolitical. MAG also received exceedingly high marks for its receptiveness to new ideas and its responsiveness to requests for assistance from member agencies. Although respondents ranked MAG's communication activities highly, respondents indicated a need for a better understanding in the community of MAG and the role it serves. Respondents indicated that MAG has earned a positive reputation as an important partner in regional issues, that it provides high quality data, and that it has a highly professional and competent staff. Overall, respondents felt MAG takes an appropriate level of initiative in becoming involved in new issues and in developing new programs and services. Most felt MAG is program driven, followed by board driven. The leadership of MAG as an organization was rated good to excellent by more than three-quarters of respondents.

For more information, please contact Audrey Skidmore, MAG Information Technology Manager, (602) 254-6300.

Next Meeting

Please note that the date, time and location of the next meeting of the MAG Regional Council have changed from the original schedule. The next meeting of the MAG Regional Council will be the Annual Meeting on **Wednesday, June 19, 2013, at 5:00 p.m. at the Downtown Phoenix Sheraton, 340 N. 3rd Street, Phoenix**. Parking will be validated and vouchers provided for purchased transit tickets. The meeting will be followed by a networking reception and Passing of the Gavel Ceremony. Those planning to attend the reception and ceremony are asked to RSVP online by **June 10, 2013**. Agenda items are expected to include election of officers and approval of the MAG socioeconomic projections. Additional agenda items are pending.

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