



Executive Director's Report

At the September Regional Council, it was refreshing to see the interest of the Regional Council in the item discussing aging in place, the village concept, and how a nonprofit based service could be used to provide transportation. The discussion was a reminder that MAG is a council of governments with a very broad mission. Due to MAG's success with the regional freeway system, it is often overlooked that MAG was established to address many topics, not just transportation.

MAG needs to be nimble to address the future. Last year, the MAG Executive Committee amended the work program and budget to include \$150,000 from Grantmakers in Aging and the Pfizer Foundation as part of a national initiative to help older adults "age in place." Places today can be physical places or digital places using technology. This means finding ways to connect adults aged 60 and over with resources to ensure that they don't become isolated as they age. These resources can include connecting individuals with transportation resources, social opportunities, health care, and more.

In partnership with several organizations, MAG implemented the Regional Aging in Place Network to connect those aged 60 plus to meaningful opportunities in their communities. Already we have seen the development of an interactive website, www.Connect60Plus.com, and the creation of three pilot projects. Two of the projects are implementing "villages," which focus on providing resources and information to target residents within a specific geographic area. The third pilot project is implementing an Independent Transportation Network affiliate to meet the transportation needs of older adults in the Northwest Valley.

We are living in a fast-paced environment. Solutions that worked before may not be appropriate for the future. The aging in place initiative is a great example of how we need to adapt to the future. Thanks to the support of our Regional Council and our nonprofit partners, MAG is leading the way in this and other areas.

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

Meeting Report for Wednesday, September 25, 2013

Action Items



Appointments of the New MAG Economic Development Committee Member Positions

The Regional Council approved appointments of the new Economic Development Committee (EDC) member positions. In August, the Regional Council approved changes

to the MAG Committee Operating Policies and Procedures that included changes to the composition of the EDC. These included adding additional West Valley, East Valley and Pinal County member agency elected official seats to the MAG EDC. The Council also approved adding Arizona State University as a business member position under education. The approved appointments include Glendale Mayor Jerry Weiers for the West Valley seat; Fountain Hills Mayor Linda Kavanagh for the East Valley seat; Maricopa Mayor Christian Price for the Pinal County seat; and Assistant Vice President for Community Relations at Arizona State University Angela Creedon for the business seat under education.

For more information, please contact Denise McClafferty, Regional Program Manager, (602) 254-6300.

Request for Deferral of the Dove Valley Paving Project

The Regional Council approved a request from the city of Surprise for a second deferral of the construction phase of the Dove Valley Paving Project. The MAG Federal Fund Programming Guidelines and Procedures requires that if a project is deferred more than once, it must be heard and approved by the MAG policy committees. The Dove Valley project was delayed due to right-of-way issues outside of the agency's control.

For more information, please contact Teri Kennedy, MAG Transportation Improvement Program Manager, (602) 254-6300.

Sustainable Transportation Land Use Integration Study

The Regional Council was provided an update on the Sustainable Transportation Land Use Integration Study. The study was undertaken from 2011 to 2013 to examine the potential for moving the region toward greater use of sustainable transportation modes—transit, walking and biking. The study was completed in three phases: research and analysis, scenario planning and modeling, and the development of local and regional tools. The study was complemented by nine stakeholder activities, including two business/public forums coordinated by the Arizona Chapter of the Urban Land Institute.

By a wide margin, transit trips make up the largest group of commute trips. The study found that the most transit-supportive employment industry groups are government, "knowledge-based," and entertainment groups. The study also found that the downtown Phoenix, downtown Tempe and Camelback corridors have the greatest near-term potential to attract transit-oriented commercial development.

The study found that demand for transit oriented development is supported in some areas by demographic shifts and employment trends, and that compact walkable design is achievable in different parts of the region. By including a mix of light rail transit, upgraded bus service and corridor modifications, an increase in transit use and productivity would be realized. The key recommendation from the study was to provide a high quality, productive transit system supported by compact walkable and transit-oriented places.

The Regional Council voted to accept the recommendations of the Sustainable Transportation Land Use Integration Study, its key findings, and tools to be considered in future planning efforts, and to be consistent with the Federal Transit Administration evaluation criteria and process, as appropriate.

For more information, please contact Eileen Yazzie, Transportation Planning Program Manager, (602) 254-6300.



Information Items

Domestic Violence Awareness Month

The Regional Council was provided an update on opportunities for engaging in Domestic Violence Awareness Month activities during the month of October. Staff thanked members who have already coordinated activities in their cities and towns to help raise awareness about domestic violence, and volunteered to help those without planned events to coordinate free speakers, provide free resources, and promote activities.

Among the events reported on was a Domestic Violence Awareness Month press conference, which was held October 3rd. The press conference included remarks from Youngtown Mayor Michael LeVault and Phoenix Councilmember Thelda Williams. The press conference, themed "From Bystander to Stand By Her," focused on how to provide support to victims who may have difficulty escaping the abusive situation. On average, it takes seven times for a victim to flee her abuser. The event included a local survivor of domestic violence who discussed the importance of family and friends standing by the victim through the process, and shared the progression and devastation of the abuse she experienced for nine years before successfully escaping her situation.

Staff noted that safety plan brochures, shoe cards, and coloring books are available for distribution, and events can be added to the regional Domestic Violence Awareness Month calendar. Staff also asked for assistance in spreading the word about resources available in our region to connect victims with the help they need. MAG has produced an interactive web map with information about victim advocate services, which is now easier to access on computer or smartphone by going to www.FindDVservices.com.

For more information, please contact Renae Tenney, MAG Human Services Planner II, (602) 254-6300.

Regional Aging in Place Network Update

Providing meaningful resources and connections for adults aged 60 and over is the focus of MAG's Regional Aging in Place Network. MAG implemented the Regional Aging in Place Network in partnership with Virginia G. Piper Charitable Trust, Grantmakers in Aging, and the Pfizer Foundation as part of Community AGenda, a national initiative to

help communities become more age friendly. An update on activities associated with the network was provided to the Regional Council.

The network includes pilot projects in Phoenix, Tempe and the Northwest Valley to connect older adults in specific geographic areas. Phoenix and Tempe are implementing “villages.” Villages can provide information and referral services, social networking opportunities, volunteering or time exchanges. The Phoenix village (Central Village) includes a “time bank,” which allows residents to exchange volunteer services. When a member spends an hour doing something for somebody in the time bank, the hour is recorded as a time token. The resident can then use that time token to have someone do something for them in return. The Tempe Village (Tempe Neighbors Helping Neighbors) currently provides landscaping services for older adults with low incomes or disabilities. They will be expanding this focus to include a broad range of services for all older adults within the city of Tempe. The Northwest Valley is implementing an Independent Transportation Network, which utilizes volunteers to drive older adults to their appointments. Volunteers may earn free rides for themselves, which they can use in the future or for a loved one here or with another ITN affiliate elsewhere in the country.

Staff reported that other key projects include the development of an interactive website, www.Connect60Plus.com, and an outreach video, “[Connecting to Community: Empowered Choices for Older Adults](#).” The website includes calendar listings to regionwide events, blogs, and informational links to resources and services. Staff encouraged member agencies to access and promote the website and outreach video.

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

Update on the MAG 2012 Five Percent Plan for PM-10 and Exceptional Events

The Regional Council received an update on several key air quality issues, including the MAG 2012 Five Percent Plan for PM-10 and MAG input into the Exceptional Events Rule. In August, the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) published a proposed consent decree to address a lawsuit filed by the Arizona Center for Law In the Public Interest. The lawsuit was against EPA for failure to take action on the MAG Five Percent Plan by the mandatory deadline of February 14, 2013. According to the consent decree, EPA would publish a notice of proposed action by January 14, 2014, to either approve the plan, put a federal implementation plan in place, or approve the plan in part with a partial federal implementation plan. EPA would publish the notice of final action by June 2, 2014. In addition, on August 23, 2013, EPA proposed approval of additional statutes for measures in the Five Percent Plan for PM-10—another step toward the Plan’s approval.

Staff reported that U.S. Senator Jeff Flake hosted a meeting on September 6, 2013, at the Arizona Chamber of Commerce and Industry to raise the awareness that EPA will be revising the Exceptional Events Rule and to hear concerns from business and industry.

MAG was in attendance. In general, business and industry expressed many of the same concerns that MAG has had with the rule.

Staff reported that Senator Flake had arranged for an Arizona-only listening session with EPA on October 1st, which would provide the opportunity to provide input directly to EPA before the agency proposes draft revisions to its Exceptional Events Rule. MAG still believes more needs to be done to streamline the process for documenting exceptional events. Previously, MAG had proposed an exceptional events form that could be used. In its written response to EPA, MAG also commented that deference needs to be given to states and that the rule needs to recognize and accommodate the differences in regional climates and conditions.

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

Next Meeting

The next meeting of the MAG Regional Council will be Wednesday, October 23, 2013, at 11:30 a.m. at the MAG offices, 302 N. 1st Avenue, Phoenix, second floor, Saguaro Room. Agenda items will include an update on the FY 2014 Mid-Phase Public Input Opportunity and Approval of the Draft MAG 2035 Regional Transportation Plan and Draft FY 2014-2018 MAG Transportation Improvement Program for Air Quality Conformity Analysis. Additional agenda items are pending.

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