



Executive Director's Report

In 1999, the City of Phoenix urged MAG to create a Regional Domestic Violence Council to address domestic violence on a regional scale. Since that time, the council has worked on numerous issues. These include developing safety plans for victims, assembling workplace policies for employers, developing standard procedures for how hospitals screen patients for signs of abuse, and more. Most recently, the Council has worked on developing best practices, or protocols, for law enforcement to use when responding to domestic violence calls. These practices are an important tool to keep officers and victims safe, while holding abusers accountable.

At our February meeting, the Regional Council approved an update of these guidelines, known as the MAG Regional Misdemeanor Domestic Violence Protocol Model. Creating this single model has streamlined the number of policies being implemented across the region from 106 to just 34 key strategies. Maricopa Police Chief Steve Stahl provided compelling, firsthand evidence of how these guidelines have dramatically reduced the number of repeat domestic violence calls in that city. The City of Maricopa also has increased the number of contacts that victim advocates have with survivors by 4,000 percent.

Domestic violence takes a tragic toll in the lives of our residents. It also takes a toll on municipalities and law enforcement. These calls are some of the most dangerous and expensive calls to police. As our region grows, this can cause strain on city, regional, and state resources. By successfully prosecuting offenders, we save victims and reduce repeat calls by law enforcement.

One way we hope to evaluate our progress is through an implementation survey. The survey will evaluate how well the protocol model is implemented and what resources are still needed. This survey will identify ways to improve this process and make it more effective. The result will be swift consequences for those who abuse and better protection for the victims, as well as the officers who put their lives on the line when responding to these calls.

With the assistance of MAG member agencies in implementing the model, we will save lives, time, and resources that can be invested to create stronger, safer communities. A regional protocol depends on support from each community. Our Regional Council members are valued partners in this effort. Together, we can improve the way we are pursuing justice for victims of domestic violence and holding their abusers accountable.

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

Meeting Report for Wednesday, February 24, 2016

Action Items



Approval of MAG Regional Misdemeanor Domestic Violence Protocol Model

The MAG Regional Council voted to approve the update of the MAG Misdemeanor Domestic Violence Protocol Model. The model was created through a collaborative effort of field matter experts across law enforcement, prosecution and victim advocacy. As noted above, the model was developed to improve the way domestic violence offenders are arrested across the region. The protocol is updated each year through a collaborative process. Current protocols were evaluated and research was conducted of local and national promising practices. The model provides a list of recommendations. The goal is to increase offender accountability while maintaining victim and officer safety.

Staff noted that a survey is being distributed to better determine how the model is being implemented regionwide. The survey will also help identify what barriers may exist for implementation and resources needed. Training to help with implementation of the enhancements will be provided through a series of free brown bag trainings.

For more information, please contact Amy Robinson, MAG Human Services Planner, (602) 254-6300.

Programming for Bicycle and Pedestrian Projects

MAG is developing a new Fiscal Year (FY) 2017-2021 Transportation Improvement Program. The MAG Regional Transportation Plan allocates MAG Federal Congestion Mitigation and Air Quality Improvement Program (CMAQ) and Transportation Alternatives (TAP-MAG) Infrastructure Program funds to specific modes. Specific projects are recommended for the funds. A Call for Projects was announced in August 2015. Thirty-seven applications were received for the combined CMAQ and TAP funded bicycle-pedestrian program. An evaluation process was conducted, including air quality rankings. Nineteen projects were recommended for federal CMAQ funding and eight with TAP funding, for a combined total of \$36.5 million. The Regional Council approved the bicycle and pedestrian project recommendations.

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

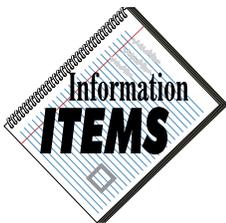
Federal Fiscal Year 2016 Closeout Programming

The Regional Council approved a recommendation for an approach to using Federal Highway Administration suballocated funding. The funding is available through the “closeout” process. Closeout funding is available when projects budgeted in

the program are not yet ready to proceed, are withdrawn, or when cost savings are realized. In December, MAG announced that it would accept project advancements, current year work phase engineering cost updates, and design work phase requests for funding consideration.

Eligible requests received total \$7.2 million. These included a variety of eligible projects, including five advances, seven increases to current year project work phases, and 16 design requests. The MAG Transportation Review Committee determined that all eligible requests could be funded and were recommended to move forward. Since that time, it was determined one project could not make the advancement schedule after all. Additional funding also was identified based on updated federal funding allocations. Two options were developed for consideration for funding through the closeout process. The Transportation Review Committee and Management Committee recommended Option Two, which funds all eligible requests. The option noted that an estimated \$1.5 million is available for a second request for design work phase projects. That outstanding funding will be addressed next month.

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



Information Items

Development of the FY 2017 MAG Unified Planning Work Program and Annual Budget

Each year, MAG staff provides updates beginning in January of the development of the MAG Unified Planning Work Program and Annual Budget. The information is provided incrementally in order to provide opportunities for early input and review. Staff noted that this month's presentation included the final draft of the proposed dues and assessments, the budget process timeline and the newly proposed projects for the FY 2017 budget. Staff noted that dues are based on the Consumer Price Index for All Urban Consumers (CPI-U). The final average CPI-U for 2015 was posted on January 20, 2016, and is 2.33 percent.

Staff provided a budget timeline that outlines the formal budget development process starting in January and ending in May each year. The Intermodal Planning Group meeting, which includes a review of the budget by federal and state planning partners, has been set for March 11, 2016. A budget webinar opportunity was provided February 18, 2016, to answer questions about the budget.

Staff provided cost estimates for newly proposed projects for FY 2017. There are eight proposed new projects and the focus of the proposed projects is to update existing plans, implement best practices and update databases. There

are nine projects and associates listed that have been ongoing at MAG, such as the continuation of the Traffic Signal Optimization Program and the Pedestrian and Bicycle Facilities Design Assistance program. The ongoing programs are run by MAG for the benefit of members. In addition, MAG utilizes contract workers (known as associates), to conduct project work. Information and detail about the projects and associates were included in further detail in the agenda materials, which are available on the MAG website.

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

Legislative Update

MAG staff provided an update on legislative issues of interest. Staff noted that in the past few years MAG has been supporting a Tourism and Shopping Initiative. The initiative would allow pre-screened visitors from Mexico who hold Border Crossing Cards to travel throughout Arizona. Currently, these visitors can only travel 75 miles from the Mexican border, about as far as Tucson. MAG commissioned the University of Arizona to conduct a study on the economic impact of the initiative. The study found that extending the travel zone would generate up to \$181 million in estimated spending in 2016, bringing the total projected spending of Mexican visitors to Arizona to nearly \$3.1 billion. This is a total jobs impact of nearly 32,000 jobs. Staff noted the initiative has received support from regional planning agencies across the state as well as from the Inter Tribal Council of Arizona. Staff noted that, with the Administration in its final year, it is time to see if this can be accomplished. MAG has hired former Congressman Jim Kolbe, now with Capitol Strategies, to explore the feasibility of the administrative and legislative options. Congressman Kolbe was successful in the prior effort that extended the border zone from 25 to 75 miles.

Staff reported on developments regarding Interstate 11. On February 22, 2016, the MAG Regional Council Executive Committee took action to appeal to the U.S. Department of Transportation (USDOT) to allow the Federal Highway Administration to remove the fiscal constraint burden for the I-11 project. Fiscal constraint requires that reasonable funding for a project be available before a Tier II Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) can be performed. Although the I-11 project does not yet have a dedicated funding source, the EIS is necessary so that a centerline can be determined for the portion of I-11 between Buckeye and Wickenburg. The appeal to USDOT is being done in coordination with the Arizona Department of Transportation (ADOT).

Staff noted that ADOT has a Tier I Environmental Impact Statement underway for the whole length of I-11 from Nogales to Nevada, but a more in-depth Tier II EIS is needed to determine a centerline. To conduct a Tier II EIS, the project needs to show reasonable funding availability in the MAG Transportation Improvement Program and Regional Transportation Plan. Currently, I-11 is an illustrative project with no

funding identified. A number of landowners are prepared to donate right-of-way, but this cannot be done until a centerline for the roadway is established. MAG is looking for an exemption to the normal funding requirement so that a Tier II EIS can move forward.

Staff also reported on House Bill 2157. If enacted, this would prevent future employees of MAG from being enrolled in the Arizona State Retirement System (ASRS). This also would include other councils of governments, metropolitan planning organizations around the state, as well as the League of Arizona Cities and Towns, county associations, the Arizona Municipal Water Users Association, and others. One issue with the legislation would be MAG's ability to recruit and retain employees, as well as the issue of "portability." Many of the employees of MAG come from cities, towns, state agencies, or other associations where they have been enrolled in ASRS. The bill is pending a Third Read in the House. Although the Executive Committee approved MAG monitoring and opposing the bill, members of the MAG Regional Council suggested that a more in-depth discussion is needed on the issue in the future.

For more information, please contact Nathan Pryor, MAG Government Relations Manager, (602) 254-6300.

Next Meeting

Please note that the next meeting of the MAG Regional Council will be held on Wednesday, March 23, 2016, at 11:30 a.m. at the MAG offices, 302 N. 1st Avenue, Phoenix, second floor, Saguaro Room. Agenda items are expected to include an update on the development of the FY 2017 MAG Unified Planning Work Program and Annual Budget and round two of the Federal Fiscal Year 2016 closeout programming. Additional agenda items are pending.