

MAJOR MAG MILESTONES

- April 1967 Maricopa Association of Governments formed through concurrent resolutions from its member agencies to foster regional cooperation and address regional problems.
- 1973 MAG is designated as the Metropolitan Planning Organization for the Maricopa region through the Federal Transportation Act.
- 1975 MAG is designated by the Governor as the Water Quality Planning Agency.
- 1978 MAG is designated by the Governor as the Lead Air Quality Planning Agency.
- 1978 Member agencies place responsibility for developing unified specifications and details for all public works projects with MAG, to ensure consistency across the region.
- 1979 MAG is designated as the Solid Waste Planning Agency.
- 1982 MAG drafts its first plan to address carbon monoxide in the region.
- 1984 MAG drafts its first plan to address ozone pollution in the region.
- July 1984 MAG forms the Outer Loop Financing Task Force to find financing alternatives for building the Outer Loop, Loop 101, also known as the Agua Fria and Pima Freeways.
- July 1985 The MAG Regional Council recommends final elements of the freeway system for the vote for the one-half cent sales tax, which is overwhelmingly approved by voters three months later.
- Sept. 1985 Through MAG, the initial regional emergency 9-1-1 system is implemented. For the first time, Valley citizens no longer have to dial police departments directly.
- 1990 To meet new requirements of the Clean Air Act, MAG begins running all transportation projects through air quality models to ensure that transportation plans or projects do not contribute to air quality violations.
- 1991 The MAG region is designated under the Intermodal Surface Transportation Equity Act as a Transportation Management Area.
- Feb. 1992 The MAG Regional Council votes to allow 50 percent of MAG federal funds for local projects to be allocated for the completion of the MAG Freeway Program. Under this obligation, \$700 million of money that could have been used for local projects is given to the state highway system.
- June 1992 MAG is granted authority under House Bill 2278 to approve any changes in freeway priorities and to approve material cost changes to the Regional Freeway Program. Since these law changes, the Regional Freeway Program has been on schedule and within budget.
- 1996 MAG revises the MAG Freeway Program, which results in the Red Mountain and San Tan freeways to move from the “unfunded” category to be completed by 2014.
- 1998 MAG launches Desert Peaks Awards Program to recognize regional excellence.
- 1998 MAG spearheads an effort for the region to receive its fair share of federal transportation dollars. The increased funding leads MAG to initiate a plan to accelerate construction of the regional freeway system. This means the system will be delivered by 2007, seven years earlier than planned and at about the same time voters were promised in 1985.
- 1998 The MAG Desert Spaces Plan is completed to protect open spaces that are in the path of development. Later, MAG establishes planning guidelines to ensure that lands near conservation areas are also managed in ways that respect our natural resources.
- 2000 MAG furthers its efforts to combat homelessness by creating a year-round planning body. The unified regional effort results in the highest funding ever awarded in homeless housing and services projects— a record \$18.6 million in Homeless Continuum of Care funding awards from the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development.
- Jan. 2000 MAG creates a Domestic Violence Council to develop a coordinated community response to addressing domestic violence in the region.
- 2001 MAG begins work on a new Regional Transportation Plan to serve as the transportation blueprint for the next 30-40 years.
- 2001 MAG approves \$750,000 for the launch of a Freeway Service Patrol program to help stranded motorists and improve system mobility.
- 2001 MAG implements an elderly mobility initiative to look at transportation challenges caused by an aging population.
- Jan. 2002 Under MAG’s leadership, the region marks five years without any violations of the standards for both carbon monoxide and ozone.
- April 2002 Last section of the Loop 101 Freeway is opened, completing a 60-mile freeway loop around the Valley, and fulfilling the vision first promoted by elected officials in 1984.

