



Executive Director's Report

The April 25th Regional Council meeting provided a rare opportunity to consider just what makes this organization special. It was a night that we reflected on the 40th anniversary of MAG, with many of our prior officers in attendance. One former officer asked, "What happened, that it took us 40 years to celebrate?" It is a great question, and says that we should spend more time thanking those who have gone before us who have made this a great organization.

When MAG was formed on April 12, 1967, it was an unknown type of agency. Arizona is steeped in local control, and there were many concerns about how this new regional agency would function. From the beginning, MAG has worked to ensure that control of the regional planning process is vested in the member agencies and that we do our work collaboratively through the committee process. The goal has always been to have a process that harnesses the strength and creativity of the member agencies to arrive at great regional decisions. MAG has remained true to those beginnings.

Among those attending the celebration was former Glendale Mayor Max Klass, who was a charter member of MAG and attended the very first meeting that set out MAG's mission. Other familiar faces and former MAG officers who attended the event included former Chandler Mayors Jerry Brooks, Jim Patterson and Ken Thomas; former Litchfield Park Mayor Woody Thomas; former Maricopa County Supervisor Fred Koory; former Mesa Mayor Peggy Rubach; former Phoenix Mayor John Driggs and former Phoenix Councilmember Ken O'Dell; former Queen Creek Mayor Wendy Feldman-Kerr; and former Scottsdale Mayor William Jenkins. Current Regional Council officers also participated in the event.

It was rewarding to see so many former and current officers eager to participate in the celebration and honor MAG's achievements. The numerous plans and documents that lined the display tables at the event would never have been completed without the vision and commitment of these elected officials.

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

Regional Council Meeting Report for Wednesday, April 25, 2007**Action Items****Regional Council Approves TIP and Plan for Air Quality Analysis**

In separate actions, the MAG Regional Council approved the Draft MAG Regional Transportation Plan (Plan) 2007 Update and the Draft FY 2008-2012 MAG Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) for air quality conformity analyses.

The 1990 Clean Air Act Amendments require that the TIP and Plan be in conformance with the applicable air quality plans. To comply with this requirement, approval was granted for the TIP and Plan to each undergo an air quality conformity analysis.

The draft TIP contains more than 1,700 transportation projects totaling almost \$7.2 billion. It identifies federally funded projects, Arizona Department of Transportation projects, transit projects (including light rail), and all regionally significant projects within the region.

The Regional Transportation Plan 2007 Update is structured to comply with the regional transportation planning requirements for the Federal Safe, Accountable, Flexible, Efficient, Transportation Equity Act - a Legacy for Users (SAFETEA-LU). The Plan Update addresses several new topics to respond to SAFETEA-LU, including consultation on environmental mitigation and resource conservation, transportation security, and an updated public participation process. It also includes revised revenue estimates and updated life cycle programs for freeways/highways, arterial streets, and transit.

Prior to the approval of the draft TIP and Plan for conformity analysis, the Regional Council received information regarding citizen input on the transportation plans. Under MAG's adopted public involvement process, members of the public are provided the opportunity to provide input on plans and programs during four phases: Early Phase, Mid-Phase, Final Phase and Continuous Involvement. The Mid-Phase Public Input Opportunity was conducted from February 2007 through March 2007. Input opportunities included meetings of MAG policy committees, several special events and a Joint Transportation Open House and Public Hearing. Events and opportunities were held in conjunction with the Arizona Department of Transportation, Valley Metro

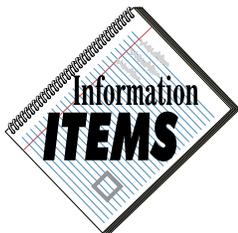
and METRO when possible. To review the FY 2007 MAG Mid-Phase Public Input Opportunity Report, which includes comments and staff responses to comments, please visit www.mag.maricopa.gov.

For more information, please contact Eric Anderson, MAG Transportation Director, (602) 254-6300.

Interim Closeout of MAG Federal Funds

The Regional Council approved the list of projects to be carried forward from Federal Fiscal Year (FFY) 2007 to FFY 2008 or later. Projects totaling approximately \$39.2 million were deferred. With the requested deferrals, the amount of funds remaining to be obligated is \$22.1 million. MAG staff recommended that \$19.1 million of that amount be preserved and carried forward to FFY 2008 to fiscally balance the Arterial Life Cycle Program, leaving approximately \$2.3 million available during the interim closeout. Member agencies had until April 26, 2007, to submit requests for projects that can utilize these funds.

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



Information Items

Homeless Street Count Results

The MAG Continuum of Care Regional Committee on Homelessness coordinated a countywide homeless street count on January 30, 2007, in an annual effort to identify the number of homeless individuals and families in the region. The street count indicates there are 2,853 people living on the streets, under bridges, in doorways, parks, or simply without a home in Maricopa County.

The street count was organized by MAG with support from coordinators in 25 cities and towns across the region. Nearly 400 volunteers—including currently homeless individuals, police officers, service providers, homeless outreach teams, parks and recreation staff, members of the business community and city officials—conducted the count, which serves as a snapshot of the homeless population living on the streets on a given day.

Twenty families, including 32 children, were included in the count. Men made up the majority of homeless people, 2,246, while there were 435 homeless women. The count also included 114 youth living on their own.

While the count for Maricopa County represents an increase of 790 homeless people (38 percent) over the previous year, the increase may actually be reflective of a more comprehensive counting method, including a significant

increase in the volunteer base. The count represents only those living on the street and does not include the 5,000 or more other homeless persons currently residing in emergency shelters or transitional housing.

The count plays a critical role in helping to secure about \$20 million in homeless funding grants from the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) each year. This is the sixth year MAG has organized the count. The MAG Continuum of Care Regional Committee on Homelessness is responsible for developing an annual consolidated application for federal funding for homeless services, which has brought in more than \$120 million to the region in the past six years.

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

Nominating Committee Appointed

Each April, the Chair of the Regional Council appoints a five-member Nominating Committee from the Regional Council to nominate officers for the coming year. The committee develops a slate of seven candidates, including a Chair, Vice Chair, Treasurer, the Past Chair, and three members-at-large. The committee is required to provide a balanced slate of officers. Nominating Committee members appointed are: Chair, Mayor Keno Hawker, City of Mesa; Mayor Bobby Bryant, Town of Buckeye; Vice Mayor Dick Esser, Town of Cave Creek; Mayor Boyd Dunn, City of Chandler; Mayor Bob Barrett, City of Peoria.

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

Update on Development of the Draft MAG FY 2008 Unified Planning Work Program and Annual Budget

The Regional Council received one of the last remaining updates prior to action on the FY 2008 MAG Unified Planning Work Program and Annual Budget. Each year, the MAG Unified Planning Work Program and Annual Budget is developed in conjunction with member agency and public input. The work program is reviewed each year by the federal agencies in the spring and scheduled for approval by the Regional Council in May.

An updated draft of the work program and budget was presented. Several project requests have been revised, including an increase in a Household Survey project, which was revised upward by \$250,000 to \$750,000, while a Traffic Count project was revised downward by \$100,000 to \$150,000. The

Interstate 17 and US-93/New River Roadway Framework Study was deleted from the list of proposed projects, because of a need for higher priority studies and funding issues faced by one of MAG's partnering agencies.

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

Next Regional Council Meeting

The next meeting of the MAG Regional Council is scheduled for Wednesday, May 23, 2007, at the MAG Offices, 302 N. 1st Avenue, Suite 200, Phoenix. Agenda items are expected to include, among others, recommended approvals for the following: the Draft FY 2008 MAG Unified Planning Work Program and Annual Budget; the Municipal Planning Areas and 2007 MAG Socioeconomic Projections; MAG Management Committee Recommendation for Additional PM-10 Measures; consultation on proposed major amendment to delete State Route 153 from the MAG Regional Transportation Plan; and the MAG Human Services Coordination Transportation Plan.

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