



Executive Director's Report

During our January meeting, questions arose regarding the MAG policy process and issues regarding how appointments are made to MAG committees. This discussion served as a reminder that sometimes even a good process can be improved to become more current, relevant and effective.

MAG, like other organizations, operates in cycles. A good example of when MAG was operating at its peak performance was during the policy discussion and development of the Regional Transportation Plan, which was approved by voters as part of Proposition 400 in 2004.

While this was a defining moment at MAG, our growth and transportation challenges continue. We have focused our attention on addressing rising construction costs, as well as working with our neighboring regions and the rest of the state to work on a statewide transportation solution.

To be effective in dealing with our challenges, we also need to constantly refine our internal processes. This renewal is necessary to more clearly explain technical procedures, such as how member agencies apply for federal funds, and administrative functions, such as how members are appointed to committees.

Throughout MAG's 40 year history, member agencies have sent many of their best people to serve on MAG committees. We know that having the best people results in the best regional policies and ensures that MAG members are vested in the policy decisions at MAG. We are committed to working on our processes to make them transparent and easily understood by all of the MAG member agencies.

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

Regional Council Meeting Report for Wednesday, January 30, 2008

Action Items



Regional Council Appoints TPC Representatives

The Regional Council moved to appoint two new members to the Transportation Policy Committee. Mayor Lyn Truitt of Surprise was named to fill the unexpired portion of the term held by former Mayor Joan Shafer of Surprise. The seat is one designated to achieve geographic balance on the committee. The Regional Council

also appointed Phoenix Councilmember Maria Baier as the Central City Elected Official on the committee.

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

MAG 208 Water Quality Management Plan Amendment

The Regional Council approved a MAG 208 Water Quality Management Plan Comprehensive Amendment for the Town of Buckeye. The town requested that MAG approve the amendment to include 18 wastewater treatment facilities to serve the Town of Buckeye Municipal Planning Area (MPA), including five of the six existing facilities, six planned facilities and seven future facilities. The ultimate proposed capacity for the town's MPA would be 241.2 million gallons per day.

For more information, please contact Julie Hoffman, Environmental Planner, (602) 254-6300.



Information Items

Regional Council Receives Update on Federal Funding Process

Members of the MAG Regional Council received an update on the federal funds process that MAG uses to evaluate and recommend projects that utilize Congestion Mitigation and Air Quality (CMAQ) funds. Recently, workshops were convened to help establish a set of programming principles that are transparent, clarify the application and programming process, ensure consistency with federal SAFETEA-LU and CMAQ regulations, comply with the Regional Transportation Plan federal fund allocations, and address issues regarding project deferrals.

The working group meeting held in November discussed six programming principle categories: applying for funds, prioritizing and programming projects, changes in projects, closeout prioritization, closeout deferrals, and reauthorized obligation authority.

During the update, staff noted that a major difference in the federal funding process is the time and commitment it takes to get through the federal process. The process is administered through the Arizona Department of Transportation and usually takes 18-24 months to complete because of the four required federal clearances for design, right of way, utilities, and environmental categories.

Another meeting of the working group is planned in February. The goal for the working group is to establish a set of Programming Principles that the Regional Council can approve.

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

Update on Upcoming Human Services Grant Opportunities

Every year, MAG facilitates two different application processes to support homeless assistance programs as well as agencies that transport older adults and people with disabilities. The Regional Council received an update on upcoming grant opportunities.

The MAG Continuum of Care Regional Committee on Homelessness submits a consolidated application to the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) for Stuart B. McKinney funds to support homeless assistance programs. Recently, HUD awarded \$21.4 million to 50 local homeless programs. This significant funding award will provide housing and services to thousands of individuals and families experiencing homelessness. This award is the largest amount of HUD funding for homeless programs ever received in the region. HUD is expected to release the application for 2008 in spring or summer.

The MAG Elderly and Persons With Disabilities Transportation Program Committee prepares a priority listing of applications for Section 5310 funds through the Arizona Department of Transportation. This funding source provides vans, radio equipment, and software to nonprofit agencies, municipalities and tribes transporting older adults and people with disabilities. Last year, funds were made available for the first time to assist agencies in coordinating programs. The due date for the applications is February 11, 2008.

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

Next Regional Council Meeting

The next meeting of the MAG Regional Council is scheduled for Wednesday, February 27, 2008, at 5:00 p.m. in the Saguaro Room, 302 N. 1st Avenue, Phoenix. Agenda items are expected to include, among others, a project list for ADOT's Safe Routes to School Program; MAG Human Services Coordination Transportation Plan 2008 Update; allocation recommendations for Social Services Block Grant funds; amendments to the FY 2008-2012 MAG Transportation Improvement Program and FY 2008 Arterial Life Cycle Program and material cost changes to the ADOT Program; consultant selection for the Statewide Transportation Survey; recommendations surrounding the Interstate 10-Hassayampa Valley Transportation Framework Study; a draft revised MAG Highway Acceleration Policy; conformity consultation; a report on the efforts of the Incarceration of Municipal Prisoners Working Group; and an update on funding issues for the MAG 911 System.

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

