



Executive Director's Report

Our May agenda included many important topics, including updates on Swine Flu and air quality activities, as well as potential options for controlling costs on the regional freeway system. Working on the many important regional issues at MAG requires support by the MAG Regional Council. In this regard, we appreciate the Regional Council approving the FY 2010 Unified Planning Work Program and Annual Budget.

To assist our member agencies in the current economic climate, MAG reduced the FY 2010 dues and assessments by 50 percent. In addition, no salary increases were included and the overall budget was reduced by 4.27 percent over last year's budget. This belt-tightening comes at the same time MAG is managing the largest transportation program on record, with the current Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) containing more than \$7 billion in projects – including the largest freeway construction program in the nation. In addition, the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act funds provided to this region have greatly increased MAG's responsibilities to implement these projects in a short time frame, to ensure that federal dollars are not at risk.

Again, we would like to thank our Regional Council for supporting us in our mission, and we look forward to earning your ongoing confidence in the year ahead.

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

Regional Council Meeting Report for Wednesday, May 27, 2009

Action Items



Approval of Work Program and Annual Budget

The Regional Council approved a resolution adopting the FY 2010 MAG Unified Planning Work Program and Annual Budget and the member dues and assessments. The budget development begins in January and is approved in May. As noted above, the total dues and assessments for FY 2010 were reduced by 50 percent due to the uncertain economic conditions currently facing MAG members. As adjustments to the budget were made, the draft budget updates were presented to the Management Committee, Regional Council Executive Committee, and Regional Council. The overall budget for FY 2010 represents a 4.27 percent decrease from the FY 2009 budget. In addition to the MAG budget, all regional transportation

planning projects are included in the MAG work program. The total approved budget for FY 2010 is \$32,206,646.

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

Approval to Advance a Portion of Williams Gateway Freeway

The Regional Council approved a Mesa request to advance the design and right of way acquisition of an interim connection of the Williams Gateway Freeway from the Santan Freeway to Ellsworth Road. A request to accelerate the design, right of way and construction of this segment was approved by the MAG Regional Council in January 2009. The State Legislature subsequently swept the funds that had been designated for the interest expense for the accelerated project. In reviewing its options, Mesa determined that it could pursue its own financing, and use funding that had been assigned for advanced acquisition of right of way (usually "hardship" cases) to cover the interest for that financing. In this way, Mesa could acquire all of the needed property at current land values and take advantage of extremely attractive interest rates. The Regional Council approved the change and authorized the MAG Executive Director to enter into an agreement with Mesa and the Arizona Department of Transportation (ADOT).

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

Brookings Intermountain Partnership

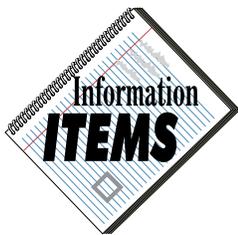
The Brookings Metropolitan Policy Program has proposed a partnership with leading Intermountain West institutions and leaders. The purpose of the partnership is to work out specific collaborative steps among five "megapolitan" areas and their states, to advance prosperity in their regions through the achievement of federal policy reforms. Brookings is seeking approximately \$20,000 each from the Mountain Mega states to convene working groups and conduct research. The Pima Association of Governments and the Central Arizona Association of Governments have agreed to pay their proportional share of the partnership. The MAG Regional Council approved an amendment to the FY 2009 MAG Unified Planning Work Program and Annual Budget to include \$14,902 of MAG federal funds to participate in the partnership.

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

Information Items

Transportation Planning Update

The Regional Council received an update on potential strategies identified by MAG staff to address the funding gap in the Regional Freeway Program. With April sales tax receipts down nearly 18 percent compared to last year, the financial outlook remains uncertain. Under current projections, the deficit for the MAG Freeway Program is estimated at \$6.6 billion. Topics covered at the meeting included an



update on cost saving proposals for the South Mountain Freeway (Loop 202) and the Loop 303 corridors. Options examined include the use of management strategies, value engineering, and deferrals. Staff reported that one positive trend is that construction bids are coming in lower than originally anticipated, which could reduce the program deficit.

For more information, please contact Bob Hazlett, MAG Senior Engineer, (602) 254-6300.

Swine Flu Update

On April 29, 2009, Maricopa County reported its first case of Swine Flu. To assist MAG member agencies in responding to the issue, Dr. Bob England, Director of the Maricopa County Department of Public Health, provided an update on the virus. Dr. England reported that so far, the virus has not been as virulent as first feared, meaning it has not made people sicker than the regular flu, resulting in similar levels of mortality. He reported that the danger is not over, however. Dr. England stated that flu viruses often come in waves, and may come back as more virulent strains. He pointed to the Spanish influenza of 1918 and stated that when that virus first erupted in the spring of 1918, it was fairly mild. However, when it returned in the fall, it was much more deadly. That pandemic lasted for two years, resulting in 600,000 U.S. deaths and up to 100 million deaths worldwide. While no one can predict whether the Swine Flu will come back in a more severe strain, Dr. England cautioned members to prepare for a potential pandemic. He noted that health care and homeland security leaders are developing vaccination strategies. One plan of action supported by the Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices is to vaccinate children 6 months to 18 years old, because they are the main disseminators of the flu. Dr. England noted that communities may want to develop action strategies and communication plans in preparation for a potential pandemic.

For more information, please contact the Swine Flu Hotline at (602) 263-8856 or (800) 352-3792, or visit the Department of Health Web site at www.wearepublichealth.org.

Clean Air Make More Campaign Update

In 2009, Maricopa County launched the "Clean Air - Make More" initiative. The objective of the initiative is to communicate that it will take the efforts of every individual to clean up the air. A Web site has been established, www.CleanAirMakeMore.com, to serve as an educational tool for residents within Maricopa County. Through the Web site, radio advertising, billboard announcements and news releases, Maricopa County reported that it strives to inform the public on current air quality issues and to encourage them to take action to help clean the air we breathe.

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

Next Regional Council Meeting

The next meeting of the MAG Regional Council is the Annual Meeting and is scheduled for Wednesday, June 24, 2009, at 5:00 p.m. in the Saguaro Room, 302 N.

1st Avenue, Phoenix. Agenda items are expected to include the interim closeout of the Federal Fiscal Year 2009 MAG Federally Funded Program; approval of PM-10 paving projects; recommended approval of a new conformity finding for the FY 2008-2012 MAG Transportation Improvement Program and Regional Transportation Plan 2007 Update; a discussion on ways to reduce the amount of MAG federal funds that are being carried forward from prior years; a transportation planning update; and election of officers. Additional agenda items are pending.

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