



Executive Director's Report

At our annual June meeting, we held the election of officers for fiscal year 2010. Once again, we are fortunate to have an abundance of qualified leaders willing to step forward to serve our region by giving of their time and expertise. Along with their specific roles as officers, these individuals are often called to serve MAG by attendance at public events throughout the year and accommodating requests from stakeholders, the media and the public.

We are pleased to announce that Phoenix Councilwoman Peggy Neely has been reelected to lead the organization in the upcoming year. Councilwoman Neely has served as Chair since January 2009 and we look forward to a new year under her leadership. As Chair, she will also preside over the MAG Executive Committee, which serves as MAG's finance committee.

We are additionally pleased to announce that Litchfield Park Mayor Tom Schoaf was reelected Vice Chair and Tempe Mayor Hugh Hallman was again chosen to serve as Treasurer. Elected as at-large members of the Executive Committee were Avondale Mayor Marie Lopez Rogers, Mesa Mayor Scott Smith and Scottsdale Mayor Jim Lane. Goodyear Mayor James Cavanaugh remains on the Executive Committee as Past Chair.

The Regional Council also appointed new officers for the MAG Transportation Policy Committee (TPC). Avondale Mayor Marie Lopez Rogers was elected to serve as TPC Chair, with Mesa Mayor Scott Smith as Vice Chair. The TPC is responsible for making policy recommendations to the Regional Council on transportation issues, including the Regional Transportation Plan and Transportation Improvement Program. *(For more TPC appointments, see page 3.)*

The Maricopa region is often recognized for having many of the best-run cities in the nation. As a metropolitan planning organization, we have the unique advantage of being able to tap into the extraordinary talent within our communities to lead our region. During this challenging time, effective leadership is crucial, and we look forward to the year ahead.

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

Regional Council Meeting Report for Wednesday, June 24, 2009**Action Items****Interim Closeout for FFY 2009**

Each year projects are delayed or deferred for various reasons, resulting in “unobligated” money that can be used to fund or advance other projects. The interim closeout process has established the availability of \$28.7 million in unobligated MAG federal funds for the current federal fiscal year (FFY). Member agencies have submitted project requests for the unobligated balance totaling \$79.6 million. The MAG Transportation Review Committee (TRC) met in early June to prioritize the list of projects and recommended projects to be funded through the FFY 2009 MAG Closeout. That list was recommended for approval by the Management Committee. The Regional Council approved the deferred projects and the list of prioritized projects.

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

Approval of the Draft FY 2010 Arterial Life Cycle Program

The Regional Transportation Plan (RTP) identifies 94 arterial street projects to receive funding from Proposition 400 (half-cent sales tax) and from MAG federal funds. The Arterial Life Cycle Program (ALCP) provides information for 93 of the original 94 projects spanning a 20-year life cycle. Information contained in the ALCP includes project location, funding, fiscal year of work, type of work, status of the projects, and the lead agency.

The projects follow the priorities established in the Regional Transportation Plan (RTP). In some cases, projects are advanced, deleted/substituted, deferred, or exchanged per the ALCP Policies and Procedures. The ALCP is a fiscally balanced program.

The Regional Council approved the FY 2010 Arterial Life Cycle Program contingent on a new finding of air quality conformity for the RTP 2010 Update and FY 2010-2014 MAG Transportation Improvement Program, which will be finalized in January 2010.

For more information, please contact Christina Hopes, MAG Transportation Planner, at (602) 254-6300.

Paving Projects Approved

The MAG Regional Council approved a list of PM-10 projects to pave unpaved roads utilizing Congestion Mitigation and Air Quality funds in 2011 and 2012, and voted to include the projects in the FY 2010-2014 MAG Transportation Improvement Program.

Thirty-nine applications were submitted for possible funding. The projects were

reviewed for estimated emission reductions and corresponding cost-effectiveness by the MAG Air Quality Technical Advisory Committee (AQTAC) and a ranking of proposed PM-10 paving projects was forwarded to the Transportation Review Committee (TRC). The TRC reviewed the ranked project lists from the AQTAC and recommended a project listing that included seven FY 2011 and seven FY 2012 PM-10 Pave Unpaved Road Projects. The list was later recommended for approval by the MAG Management Committee.

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

Appointments to Transportation Policy Committee

The Regional Council approved two appointments to fill vacancies on the Transportation Policy Committee (TPC). Phoenix Councilwoman Peggy Neely was tapped to fill the Phoenix seat, while Mayor John Lewis was appointed to serve for the Town of Gilbert.

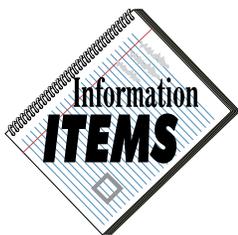
For more information, please contact Dennis Smith, MAG Executive Director, (602) 254-6300.

Finding of Conformity for TIP and Plan

The MAG Regional Council approved a new Finding of Conformity for the FY 2008-2012 MAG Transportation Improvement Program and Regional Transportation Plan 2007 Update, as amended. In April, the Regional Council approved a proposed amendment to add Stage One of the Phoenix Sky Harbor Automated Train System (Sky Train) to the TIP and Plan update for the necessary air quality conformity analysis. MAG conducted a regional emissions analysis for the proposed amendment. The results of the regional emissions analysis for the proposed amendment, when considered together with the TIP and Plan as a whole, indicate that the transportation projects will not contribute to violations of federal air quality standards.

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

Information Items



Transportation Planning Update - Proposition 400 Regional Freeway Program

Staff reported that the revenue picture continues to be grim for highway projects funded through Proposition 400. Sales tax revenues for the month of May were 18.2 percent below the same period last year. Also experiencing declines were the Highway User Revenue Fund, which is funded by the gas tax, and the vehicle license tax. Staff presented a variety of options for closing the \$6.6 billion deficit in the highway portion of the program. Under the scenarios presented, \$1.6 billion in savings would come through value engineering/planning recommendations; \$4 billion would come by deferring projects beyond the current 20-year plan horizon (from the current four phases into a new, nonfunded "Phase V" extending into fiscal years 2027-2030); \$502 million would come through lower right-of-way contingency

and construction costs; and \$438 million in savings would come through a reduction of system-wide costs. The Transportation Policy Committee will consider possible action to provide direction in bridging the \$6.6 billion gap in the Regional Freeway and Highway Program. A report on the TPC's recommendations will be provided to the Regional Council in July.

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

Next Regional Council Meeting

The next meeting of the MAG Regional Council is scheduled for Wednesday, July 22, 2009, at 5:00 p.m. in the Saguardo Room, 302 N. 1st Avenue, Phoenix. Agenda items are expected to include, among others, final closeout for federal fiscal year 2009 and recommended updates to the MAG TIP and Plan; additional funding for sweepers on the approved prioritized list of proposed PM-10 certified street sweeper projects for FY 2009 CMAQ funding; a transportation public involvement report; a transportation planning update and potential recommendations for bridging a \$6 billion funding gap; and a presentation of the framework recommendation for the Interstates 8 and 10 Hidden Valley Transportation Framework Study.

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