

MAG Celebrates New Officers

The Maricopa Association of Governments (MAG) has welcomed in a new slate of officers, following an election at the MAG Annual Meeting in June. The election was followed by a special reception and Passing of the Gavel ceremony that included a look back on a year of accomplishments for the regional planning agency (*see page 6*).



Mesa Mayor Scott Smith was elected to lead the organization as chair for the next year. During his incoming chair address, Mayor Smith noted that MAG has been recognized as a leader among councils of governments across the nation.

“MAG is a leader in this country. Since its inception in 1967, it has also been a trailblazer. It is one of the first regional organizations, and it has served as a standard around the country,” said Mayor Smith, who recounted how he was caught off guard when a mayor from the Midwest started talking about MAG. “I said, ‘You are you talking about the Maricopa Association of Governments, right?’ She said, ‘Yes, everybody knows about MAG. Everybody looks to MAG as an example and as a standard bearer and as a leader in a wide variety of areas.’ And I tell you, the pride that I felt—being fortunate to be part of an organization that not only does good work here, but whose work, whose standards, and whose example is felt throughout this country, was incredible,” he said.



Incoming chair Mayor Scott Smith thanks outgoing chair Mayor Marie Lopez Rogers for her service.



More than 150 people attend the passing of the gavel ceremony.

As chair, Smith will also preside over the MAG Executive Committee. The committee serves as MAG’s finance committee and is responsible for a number of administrative responsibilities, such as amendments to the budget and contract selections.

MAG is a council of governments and metropolitan planning organization that provides a regional forum for discussion, analysis, and resolution of regional issues, including transportation, air quality, and human services. MAG prepares the 20-year Long Range Transportation Plan and five-year Transportation Improvement Program for the region. MAG was founded in 1967.

Officers are elected for one-year terms. Mayor Smith, who succeeds Avondale Mayor Marie Lopez Rogers, said he looks forward to furthering MAG’s recent progress in working with counties throughout Arizona, as well as with international partners in Mexico and Canada.

“It will continue because we have incredible leaders in this region who get it. And I can say that more

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Message From the Chair



Mayor Scott Smith
City of Mesa

It is with a feeling of excitement that I take on the responsibility of serving as MAG chair, and I want to thank my fellow Regional Council members for giving me this opportunity.

Over the past five years, I have seen both challenges and opportunities that I have never seen before in my life. It has been a ride that has been exhilarating—extremely rewarding most times, while extremely frustrating at others—but I can tell you, I have never been bored one minute.

As I step into the role of chair, I don't expect to be bored. I expect to have many exciting things to come forward. Our region's best days are ahead of it. Yes, we have serious challenges. Every place that's going somewhere has challenges. But we also have incredible opportunities. Not every place is fortunate to have incredible opportunities. The question is whether we can rise to the occasion; whether we can look beyond our boundaries; and whether we can look beyond the status quo to create solutions for our challenges. There is no question that we have to think differently now than we have over the past 10, 15, or 20 years.

For example, until recently, we have not had the kind of vision to truly accept the fact that we are growing from a single metropolitan region into a consolidated mega-region. The area from north of Phoenix to the border south of Tucson will continue to grow into what is now commonly known as the Sun Corridor. Our vision of the future and planning now incorporate that reality.

Our long-term goal is simple: We want to build a healthy economy. To build a healthy economy in Arizona, we need to be at the forefront in business development, entrepreneurship, freight opportunities, and forging better trade relations with Mexico and Canada. We also need to continue to invest in infrastructure such as streets, highways, trains, fiber optic, and whatever else it might take to create economic opportunities for our residents.

We will continue to work with our many partners to develop a new Regional Transportation Plan. It is hard to believe that we are already nearing the end of the 20-year funding cycle from Prop. 400. One of the greatest challenges in this next year is to set the stage for how we are going to deal with a new reality. That new reality is that the old means of funding transportation needs simply do not work as they did in the past. Our primary reliance on a gas tax that has not been increased in 20 years will put us further behind in transportation financing as people increasingly drive fewer miles in more efficient cars. We must get creative in developing the next great initiative, whether it is a "Proposition 500" or some other means. How will we meet the demands of commerce, of casual transportation, of work-related transportation? These are very significant, serious questions that we must address. The planning needs to start this year.

I believe MAG has done an incredible job over the past four-and-a-half decades to bring us to where we are. I feel fortunate to have been given a solid foundation of success from which to work, one that was built by those who preceded me. There is a great deal of building already taking place, and I am ready to do whatever I can as chair to help further that progress. 



MAGAZine is a quarterly newsletter of the Maricopa Association of Governments. It focuses on the issues and concerns of the cities, towns and tribal communities of Maricopa County. If you know of a friend or colleague who would like to receive MAGAZine, please call the MAG office, (602) 254-6300.

- Mayor Scott Smith**
City of Mesa, Regional Council Chair
- Dennis Smith**, *Executive Director*
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MAG Regional Council Members

Executive Committee Members

- | | | |
|---|---|---|
|  | Mayor Scott Smith
Mesa, <i>Chair</i> |  |
|  | Mayor Michael LeVault
Youngtown, <i>Vice Chair</i> |  |
|  | Mayor W. J. "Jim" Lane
Scottsdale, <i>Treasurer</i> |  |
|  | Mayor Marie Lopez Rogers
Avondale, <i>Past Chair</i> |  |
|  | Mayor Lana Mook
El Mirage, <i>At-Large Member</i> |  |
|  | Mayor Greg Stanton
Phoenix, <i>At-Large Member</i> |  |
|  | Mayor Gail Barney
Queen Creek, <i>At-Large Member</i> |  |
|  | Vice Mayor Robin Barker
Apache Junction |  |
|  | Mayor Jackie Meck
Buckeye |  |
|  | Mayor David Schwan
Cave Creek |  |
|  | Mayor Vincent Francia
Chandler |  |
|  | Mayor Jay Tibshraeny
Chandler |  |
|  | Mayor Tom Rankin
Florence |  |
|  | Vice President Bernadine Burnette
Fort McDowell Yavapai Nation |  |
|  | Mayor Linda M. Kavanagh
Fountain Hills |  |
|  | Mayor Ron Henry
Gila Bend |  |
|  | Governor Gregory Mendoza
Gila River Indian Community |  |
|  | Mayor John Lewis
Gilbert |  |
|  | Mayor Jerry Weiers
Glendale |  |
|  | Mayor Georgia Lord
Goodyear |  |
|  | Mayor Rebecca Jimenez
Guadalupe |  |
|  | Mayor Thomas Schoaf
Litchfield Park |  |
|  | Mayor Christian Price
Maricopa (City of) |  |
|  | Supervisor Steve Chucri
Maricopa County |  |
|  | Mayor Scott LeMarr
Paradise Valley |  |
|  | Councilmember Cathy Carlat
Peoria |  |
|  | Supervisor Todd House
Pinal County |  |
|  | President Diane Enos
Salt River Pima-Maricopa Indian Community |  |
|  | Mayor Sharon Wolcott
Surprise |  |
|  | Mayor Mark Mitchell
Tempe |  |
|  | Mayor Adolfo Gamez
Tolleson |  |
|  | Mayor John Cook
Wickenburg |  |
|  | Victor Flores & Joseph E. La Rue
Arizona Department of Transportation |  |
|  | F. Rockne Arnett
Citizens Transportation Oversight Committee |  |

Visit www.azmag.gov and click on Regional Council.



I recently delivered my annual “State of the Downtown” remarks here in Chandler. It reminded me of the critical nature of our city centers. I am glad to see so many Arizona communities working hard to ensure the sustainability—and vibrancy—of their downtown cores.

—Mayor Jay Tibshraeny, City of Chandler



El Mirage, the West Valley and the entire state of Arizona are extremely excited and proud that the number of F-35 Lightning II training squadrons coming to Luke Air Force Base will double. Luke Air Force Base will prepare for 144 F-35s to arrive over the next 10 years, up from the 72 that military officials announced last August. The first jets should arrive in spring 2014. The increased squadrons will ensure that Luke continues to be an economic engine for this state, with an impact of nearly \$2 billion annually. Spending on construction alone to prepare for the new mission is expected to be \$263.2 million over the next decade.

—Mayor Lana Mook, City of El Mirage



We as a region, the whole of Pinal/Maricopa County, are destined to grow. As a region we are preparing for that. We have a very fine junior college system. Our technology sector continues to grow, and our medical facilities prepare us well into the future. That is especially important with so many soon-to-retire baby boomers and retired winter visitors.

—Vice Mayor Robin Barker, City of Apache Junction



When partners come together, the entire region benefits. Just look at what is happening in the Northwest Valley. The Loop 303 through Surprise opened in July. MAG has completed a review of local transit options. Cities are looking at ways to revitalize the Grand Avenue Corridor. A public process to improve the congested Bell and Grand interchange is underway. All of these involve partnership, outreach and inclusion, the hallmarks of effective regional cooperation. Thank you to MAG, ADOT and the many other agencies and individuals who are making great things happen!

—Mayor Sharon Wolcott, City of Surprise

Public Comment Received on South Mountain Freeway

After months of public meetings and comment, the window for public comment on the draft environmental impact statement for the proposed South Mountain Freeway ended July 24, 2013. In all, more than 7,000 comments were received through public meetings, online, via telephone hotline or by mail.

During the 90-day comment period on the draft environmental impact statement—twice the length required by federal law—the Arizona Department of Transportation and the Federal Highway Administration conducted a day-long public hearing and a series of community forums to help residents learn about the proposed project and submit formal input and questions.

All comments and questions will be addressed as part of the final environmental impact

statement, which is set for release in 2014. This final document will have a 60-day public review period. A record of decision from the Federal Highway Administration is expected in 2014.

The six-chapter draft environmental impact statement covers potential impacts from building or not building a freeway, coordination with the Gila River Indian Community, purpose and need for a new freeway, alternatives studied, and public outreach efforts since the study was launched in 2001.

The proposed South Mountain Freeway has been a critical part of the Maricopa Association of Governments' Regional Freeway Program since it was first included in funding through Proposition 300 approved by Maricopa County voters in 1985. The freeway was also part of the Regional Transportation Plan funding passed by Maricopa

County voters in 2004 through Proposition 400.

Funding for the South Mountain Freeway is already available in the MAG Regional Transportation Plan; construction of the freeway, if approved, could begin as soon as 2015. The eight-lane freeway would run from I-10 in the West Valley along 59th Avenue, cut across the southwest corner of South Mountain Park, and connect with Pecos Road on the south side of Ahwatukee to connect with I-10 and the Loop 202 Santan Freeway. The 22-mile-long freeway has a \$1.9 billion budget, allocated through voter-approved transportation funds as outlined in the Regional Transportation Plan. 

For more information on the draft environmental impact statement for the South Mountain Freeway, please visit: www.azdot.gov/SouthMountainFreeway.

Regional Profile: Mayor Weiers



Mayor Jerry Weiers
City of Glendale



Life Is an Adventure for Glendale Mayor

He's ridden motorcycles from one end of the country to the other, jumped out of an airplane with the Golden Knights, flown F-16s, and owns his own hangar and airplane in Glendale. He once even stood on the head of George Washington at Mount Rushmore, after managing to arrange a private tour in which he hiked up more than 400 steps at the back of the famous monument.

"There's really not a lot I haven't done," admits Glendale Mayor Jerry Weiers, adding with a laugh, "My bucket list is getting kind of short right now."

Part of it is a love of the mechanical.

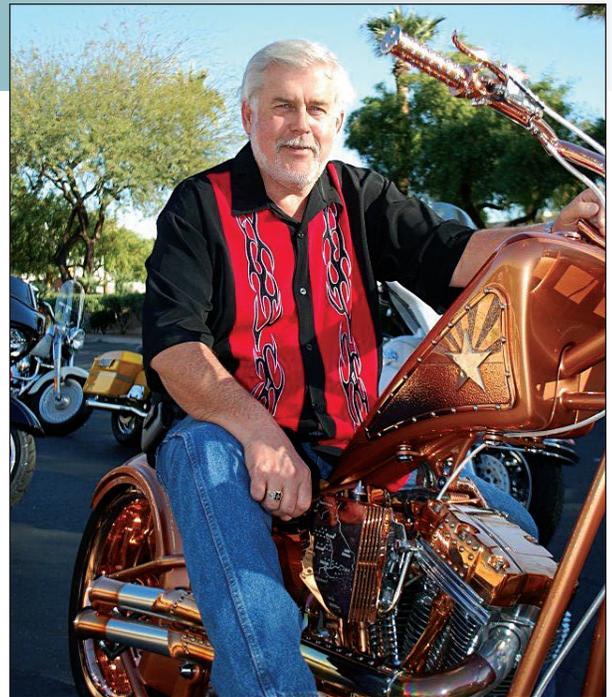
"Most people know I'm a gearhead. If it flies or floats or articulates or hovers, give me five or 10 minutes on it and I'll figure out how to operate it. Motorcycling is a huge part of my life," says Weiers.

Part of it is a love for life.

"I had a bout with cancer 29 years ago, and I made up my mind at that time that if God healed me, I was going to live this life. I wasn't going to worry about dying. I would obviously not be reckless, but I certainly was going to enjoy every minute I could on this earth. And that's what I've tried to do."

Perhaps it's not so surprising, then, that a man with a taste for challenge entered the world of politics, serving four full terms as a state representative at the Arizona State Legislature before being elected last year as mayor of Glendale. Weiers said his initial foray into politics was an outgrowth of his pastimes and his passion.

"Most people aren't aware that I do a tremendous amount of nonprofit charity work, and have for years. I am very, very involved with hunting organizations, Second Amendment rights issues, and land issues," says Weiers, who also grew tired of restrictions he encountered while running a trailer sales and manufacturing business. "Every time I turned around I was being stepped on or mandated to do different things. All it did was stifle business and didn't encourage growth, so I wanted to get involved," he says.



Mayor Weiers sitting on the Copper Chopper, which was the brainchild of the mayor when he was a member of the Arizona Legislature. He had a custom motorcycle builder create a one-of-a-kind motorcycle to commemorate Arizona's Centennial. The motorcycle was then raffled off to help fund statewide centennial celebrations.

Weiers says that the most significant issue facing the region today is transportation, and he believes working with MAG is the best solution for solving transportation needs. For his own city of Glendale, the most significant issue is long-term financial stability. After difficult debate, the city council voted in July to approve a lease agreement with an ownership group that will keep the Phoenix Coyotes hockey team in Arizona for at least the next 15 years—a deal that Weiers opposed.

"If everything goes perfectly, we're okay. If it doesn't, then we have another problem," Weiers said, adding that he is committed to working as hard as he can to make the hockey deal work, as he believes it is now their only option.

A key accomplishment for Weiers during his legislative tenure was the successful lobbying effort to bring the F-35 Lightning II Joint Strike Fighter aircraft to Luke Air Force Base, solidifying a critical economic engine for Glendale.

Mayor Weiers states that what he enjoys most about being mayor is the variety of issues that arise. "It is not just different every day, it is different every hour. There's something extremely different constantly. And I love that. I don't like being bored."

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Mayor Weiers reads to kids during “storytime” at a Glendale library to promote the city’s summer reading program.

Mayor Weiers (continued)

Still, when asked what his fellow Regional Council members might be surprised to learn about him, the high-flying and daredevilish Weiers confesses that... he can sew.

“I can sew very well, because one of the things I did with my airplane is I pulled banners behind it. Letters on the banner frequently would fray very badly, so when I’d come back I’d have to turn around and disassemble the letters and then sew them back up so I could use them for the next flight. So I got very, very good at that.”

Weiers and his wife of 31 years, Sandy, have one daughter and recently became grandparents.

“I have a six-month old grandson who was born about a month-and-a-half too early. He’s put on weight and he’s doing fantastic, and I’m trying to figure out how I can start spoiling him.”

With his most recent election barely behind him, Weiers does not speculate on whether he will continue to seek public office.

“I just know that I am going to spend the next three-and-a-half years and give it everything I’ve got; and see how it goes with the city and if I’ve been able to make a positive influence and a positive difference. That’s all I’ve ever wanted to do: to be able to change people’s lives in a positive way—where I can go home and put my head on a pillow and know that I did something good that day.” 

MAG Celebrates New Officers

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confidently now than I think I could have five years ago when I first took office. I think one of the great accomplishments of MAG and its leadership and the mayors is a real change in the conversation, not only in the Valley and in our region, but in the state,” said Smith.

Mayor Smith noted that while there were some initial concerns about creating an Economic Development Committee at MAG, the EDC has filled a void by bringing governmental leadership, educational leadership, private business, and state, county, and local organizations together to discuss economic strategy.

“There was no (other) place where all of those parties sat at the same table to discuss the future of this region like they did at the EDC. It was the one place where everyone came together at a high level,” he said.

Mayor Smith has served on the MAG Regional Council since 2008 and MAG Executive Committee since 2009. He served as treasurer of the Regional Council from July 2011 to June 2012, when he was elected vice chair. He is a member of the Transportation Policy Committee (TPC) and served as the chair of the TPC from July 2010 to June 2011. Mayor Smith has been a member of the Economic Development Committee since its inception in October 2010.

Other officers that were elected included Youngtown Mayor Michael LeVault, who will serve as vice chair, and Scottsdale Mayor Jim Lane, who was selected as treasurer. Those nominated to serve as at-large members are Phoenix Mayor Greg Stanton, Queen Creek Mayor Gail Barney, and a new member of the Executive Committee, El Mirage Mayor Lana Mook.

“It is an honor to serve on the MAG Executive Committee and I’m very proud to become the first elected official from El Mirage to serve in a leadership capacity at MAG,” said Mayor Mook.

Avondale Mayor Marie Lopez Rogers remains on the Executive Committee as past chair. 



Mayor Scott Smith, Chair



Mayor Michael LeVault, Vice Chair



Mayor Jim Lane, Treasurer



Mayor Greg Stanton, At-large



Mayor Gail Barney, At-large



Mayor Lana Mook, At-large



Mayor Marie Lopez Rogers, Past Chair

MAG Year in Review

In keeping with the Passing of the Gavel celebration, MAG produced a video summarizing the past year of accomplishments for the agency, utilizing members of the MAG Executive Committee. Below are just a few of the highlights touched on in the video, which can be viewed in its entirety on the communications page of the MAG website, www.azmag.gov.

Transportation

In the transportation arena, the Valley continued to see the construction of a number of major projects; among them, the Loop 303 in the West Valley. What has been a two-lane roadway will be expanded into a six-lane freeway, with interchanges at major cross streets. Loop 303 offers a faster and safer way to travel in the West Valley, while boosting the region's economic development plans.

The past year also saw the groundbreaking of two major extensions to the light rail system, including the Northwest Extension on 19th Avenue from Montebello to Dunlap Avenue, and the Central Mesa extension on Main Street from Sycamore to Mesa Drive.

Also in the East Valley, the first segment of State Route 24, the Gateway Freeway, will soon provide connections between the Santan Freeway and the developing area surrounding Phoenix-Mesa Gateway airport.

The region also took a step toward finalizing a critical link in the regional freeway system with the long-



awaited release of the draft environmental impact statement for the South Mountain Freeway. The study found there is a strong need for the freeway, and recommended an alignment that follows Pecos Road and connects to I-10 along 59th Avenue.

Also highlighted were the congressional designation of I-11 as an interstate, a variety of major transportation studies, the Traffic Signal Optimization Program, and the *Don't Trash Arizona* anti-litter program.

Economic Development

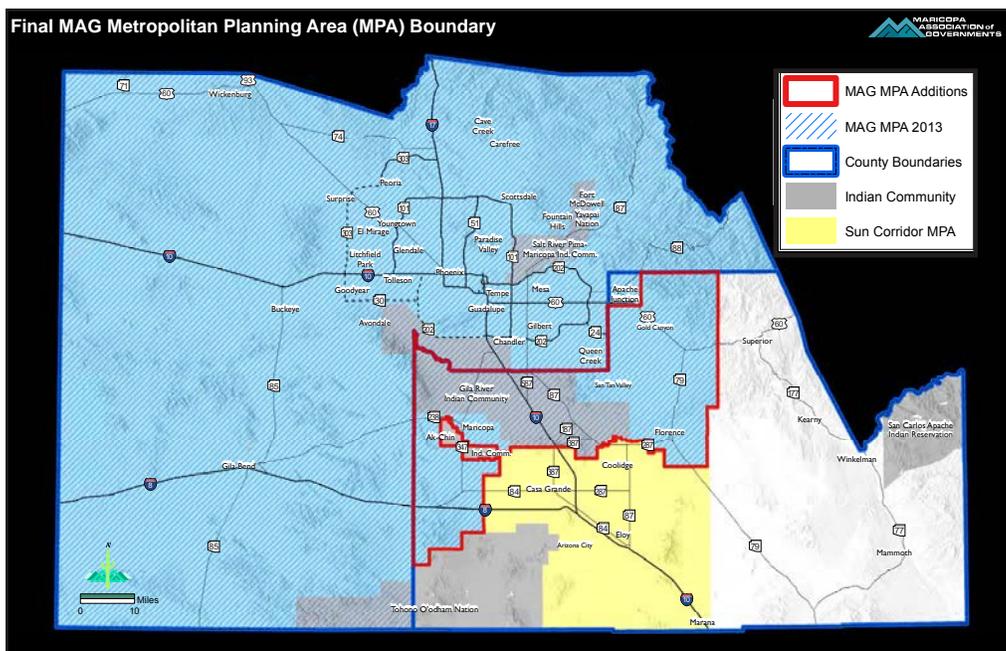
The activities of the MAG Economic Development Committee (EDC) were highlighted. The EDC, which includes 11 business representatives, has focused recent efforts on improving trade relations with Mexico. As Arizona's number one trading partner, Mexico provides billions of dollars into the Arizona economy each year.

MAG hosted several events and in turn was invited to participate in a binational economic forum. Another effort created under the direction of the EDC is a website, GreaterPhoenixRising.com, which provides information about the region's labor market, transportation system, real estate space, and existing business climate.

Planning Boundary

A major development at MAG has been the recently approved expansion of the MAG planning boundary. The need to adjust the metropolitan planning area (MPA) boundary became necessary due to newly urbanized areas which were defined by the most recent census.

The MAG Metropolitan Planning Area boundary now includes portions of Pinal County. The additions are outlined in red.



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MAG Year in Review (continued)

The boundary includes portions of Pinal County and areas that are projected to become urbanized over the next 20 years. In May, the Regional Council amended the MAG By-Laws to provide for existing and future incorporated cities in the new MPA boundary to become members of MAG. The town of Florence, city of Maricopa, and Pinal County have all since joined MAG.

Environment

MAG continued to work on issues related to air quality, especially in the area of PM-10 (dust) pollution. In the past two years, there were 31 days of exceedances at Valley dust monitors caused by dust storms. MAG, the Arizona Department of Environmental Quality, and Maricopa County spent hundreds of staff hours documenting the exceedances.

The region has seen no violations of either the one-hour or the eight-hour carbon monoxide standard in years, and in March, the Regional Council adopted the *MAG 2013 Carbon Monoxide Maintenance Plan*, meaning the region is no longer in danger of violating those standards and will keep meeting the standard until 2025. Finally, the Environmental Protection Agency approved the *MAG 2007 Eight Hour Ozone Plan* that demonstrated the standard has been met.

Also on the environmental front, best practices were identified in the area of solid waste.

Human Services

In human services, MAG has become a national leader in aging efforts, working with a number of nonprofit partners on pilot projects to help people remain in their homes and engaged in their community as they age. The regional “aging in place” network not only is designed to help meet the needs of people over 60, it is also meant to identify ways that we can more effectively integrate the strengths they bring to our community.

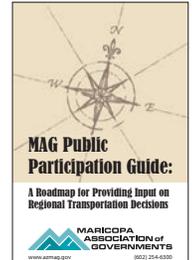
Working with law enforcement, MAG helped develop the first set of guidelines for how best to arrest and prosecute domestic violence offenders. These best-practice protocols have been implemented by 95 percent of law enforcement agencies in the region.

MAG also continued to seek ways to address homelessness through its Continuum of Care Regional Committee on Homelessness. Nonprofit agencies and homeless service providers serve as an integral part of the committee, which consistently ranks in the top 10 percent of such committees in the nation. The MAG

continuum is ranked as a priority by the federal government. In fact, the MAG partnership has helped secure more than \$20 million each year, supporting more than 60 programs that help bring homeless people from the streets to self-sufficiency.

Communications, Information Services, and Information Technology

MAG worked to improve communications, completing a user-friendly public participation guide and implementing new interactive online maps that include the region’s landmarks, bikeways, and domestic violence resources. MAG helped save cities money and increase 9-1-1 connectivity through the implementation of a fiber network that provides a vital data and information connection known as the Regional Community Network. The network allows communities to share cameras that enable jurisdictions to see traffic coming their way.



To be more responsive to its stakeholders and the community, MAG also conducted a comprehensive survey to look at MAG’s role and effectiveness in the region.

Fiscal Services

The MAG fiscal services division continues to be recognized for excellence in accounting practices, winning the Government Finance Officers Association Distinguished Budget Presentation Award for the 14th year in a row. The division develops an annual work program and budget that totals approximately \$30 million. 

MAG Moment



Former MAG Chair Marie Lopez Rogers welcomes Florence Mayor Tom Rankin and Maricopa Mayor Christian Price as new members of MAG. The town of Florence, city of Maricopa, and Pinal County all became members following the expansion of the MAG Planning Boundary. Also shown is Youngtown Mayor Michael LeVault (seated).



Study Reveals Key Justifications for I-11 Corridor

There are numerous reasons an Interstate 11 freeway corridor makes sense—including new opportunities for travel, trade, and economic development—according to a new report released by the Arizona and Nevada departments of transportation.

The release of the *Draft Corridor Justification Report* marks the first milestone in the I-11 and Intermountain West Corridor Study, which is being conducted by the two states in cooperation with a number of other partners, including MAG. The study is a two-year, multiphase, high-level study that not only is examining the feasibility of a new interstate highway corridor that would connect Phoenix and Las Vegas, but also is looking at a broader corridor extending north to Canada and south to Mexico.

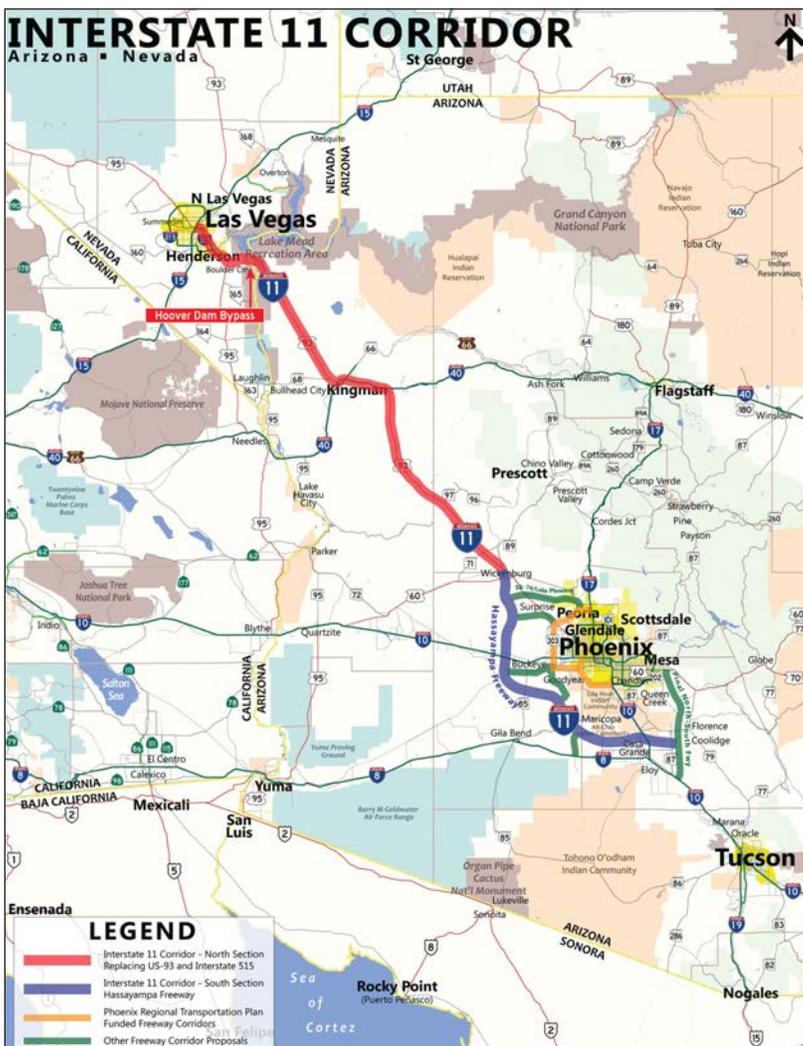
In June 2012, Congress formally designated the corridor linking Phoenix and Las Vegas as the I-11 corridor. Las Vegas and Phoenix are the largest adjacent metropolitan areas in the United States not directly connected by an interstate highway. Some believe that fact alone is enough to justify the construction of a major freeway between the population centers and their more than 6 million residents. The *Draft Corridor Justification Report* concludes that further study of the I-11 and the Intermountain West Corridor is justified and necessary to enhance transportation infrastructure, economic development and global trade opportunities. The corridor is being planned as a multimodal corridor.

“The need for an I-11 corridor is clear,” said MAG Chair Scott Smith, mayor of Mesa. “The population of the western United States is rapidly growing, international trade is expanding, and transportation infrastructure is reaching capacity and not expected to sustain future growth. We need to continue to study the feasibility, benefits, opportunities and constraints of I-11,” he said.

The report outlines several key justifications for the I-11 and Intermountain West Corridor:

- Enables economic development.
- Adds needed north-south capacity.
- Integrates the economies of the Southwest Triangle Megaregion (Southern California, the Sun Corridor of Arizona, and the Greater Mohave Region centered around Las Vegas) and improves connections to other regions.
- Capitalizes on Mexico’s growing role in North American manufacturing and trade.
- Supports economic development initiatives in Arizona and Nevada.
- Prevents congestion from crippling economic competitiveness.
- Complies with enabling federal legislation and the congressional designation.

The complete *Draft Corridor Justification Report* can be found at i11study.com. Those interested in providing comment for the study can visit the “Get involved” page to provide input. The initial study is expected to be completed next year. 



Interstate 11 Corridor designation shown in red.

Projections Show Growth Patterns Changing

New population, housing, and employment projections show that growth will continue to play a major role in our regional development, but changes are in store in terms of where and when that growth will occur.

The socioeconomic projections were developed for the years 2020, 2030, and 2040 by the Maricopa Association of Governments (MAG), in conjunction with cities, towns, tribal governments, and Maricopa County. The projections show that Maricopa County's population as a whole will increase from 3.8 million in 2010 to 6.1 million in 2040. Total employment will increase from 1.7 million jobs in 2010 to just over 3 million jobs in 2040.

“One dramatic example of the region's continued growth may be found in the number of municipal planning areas, or MPAs, with populations greater than 250,000,” said Avondale City Manager Charlie McClendon, who chairs the MAG Population Technical Advisory Committee. “In 2000, only Phoenix and Mesa's MPAs exceeded a quarter million, and by 2010 only Glendale had joined that club. But by 2040, nine Valley cities will be on the quarter-million-or-more list: Phoenix, Mesa, Glendale, Peoria, Surprise, Gilbert, Chandler, Buckeye, and Scottsdale,” he said, noting that Goodyear will be knocking on the door as well, with a projected population of 241,000. The numbers also indicate that regional growth will shift in the future.

WEST VALLEY

The West Valley realizes the biggest percentage gains in both population and employment. In 2010, the West Valley had about 24 percent of the region's population, but that number jumps to 32 percent by 2040. The percentage changes for employment are just as dramatic: In 2010 the West Valley's share of total regional employment was only 14 percent, but increases to 22 percent by 2040.

CENTRAL VALLEY

In terms of raw numbers, Phoenix continues to grow, never losing its top ranking for either population or employment

growth, but does see some of its percentage of the county's population and employment shaved off in the next 30 years. In 2010, the Central Valley (made up almost entirely of Phoenix) consisted of 39 percent of the county's population. That number is reduced to 36 percent in 2040, as the three regions of the county come closer to population equilibrium. On the employment side, the Central Valley held 44 percent of the Valley's employment, but has only 39 percent by 2040, equal to the East Valley.

EAST VALLEY

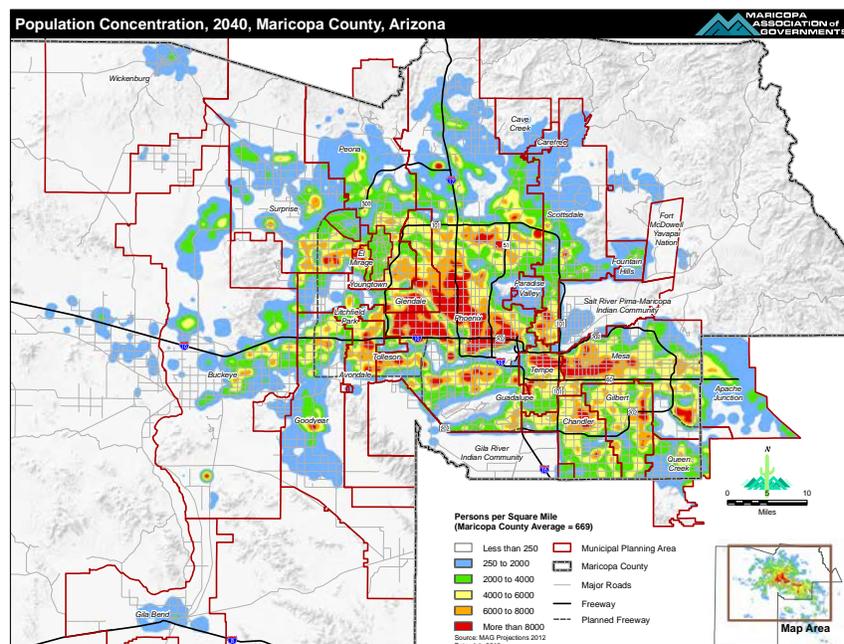
In 2010, Mesa, Tempe, Scottsdale, and Chandler had the highest employment after Phoenix. By 2040, those were still the top five for employment, with Gilbert becoming the only other East Valley city with more than 100,000 employees.

Even though it is outside Maricopa County, continued growth is expected across the border in northern and western Pinal County, which will have an influence on southeastern Maricopa County communities, with a growing population commuting for work across the county line on a daily basis.

CHANGES SINCE LAST PROJECTIONS

The previous set of projections was completed in 2007, just prior to the recent economic recession, which had a pronounced effect on development in the Valley. The most visible effect of the recession and development slow down is a so-called “lost decade” for Maricopa County. In the previous set of projections, the 2030 population was projected to reach 6.1 million. In the 2013 projections, that population is not projected to be reached until 2040. Employment projections lag even more. The previous set of projections indicated 3.4 million jobs by 2030; the current set of projections shows employment figures of only 3.1 million a decade later in 2040.

On June 19, 2013, the MAG Regional Council adopted the projections. The projections, along with socioeconomic profiles for each city, town, tribal community, and Maricopa County, are available on the projects page of the MAG website at: www.azmag.gov.



Incubator Tour Showcases Regional Innovation

In the most recent partnering effort between MAG elected officials and economic development leaders from Mexico, MAG welcomed a delegation from Nogales, Sonora, Mexico, to participate in a tour of incubator facilities within the MAG region. Participants included eight government and business representatives from Mexico and three Phoenix-area consulate representatives, all of whom were eager to learn about Valley incubators for potential duplication in Mexico.

The group from Nogales drove about three hours and more than 180 miles to Phoenix and spent 10 hours on a 106-degree June day touring the incubators. The purpose of the trip was to learn more about economic development prospects related to incubators and to further the city of Nogales, Sonora's goal of developing industrial-focused ventures on its side of the border.

The incubator tour began at *ASU SkySong* in Scottsdale, moving to *Innovations Science & Technology Incubator* in Chandler, the *Center for Entrepreneurial Innovation* in Phoenix, *AZ TechCelerator* in Surprise, and ending at *BioInspire* in Peoria. (For more on each incubator, see sidebar on page 11.) Although each individual incubator was developed from a different vision, the facilities share the goal of creating entrepreneurial opportunities for emerging businesses and the surrounding community. By providing entrepreneurs with everything they need to succeed, the cities are able to nurture businesses that can remain within their city, contribute to the tax base, and most importantly, through successful growth, provide employment opportunities to local residents.

The group visited Scottsdale's *ASU SkySong* (*ASU/Scottsdale Technology and Innovation Center*), which serves to provide incubating type services for emerging technology enterprises and is a portal for international technology companies in the Scottsdale and Arizona markets.

"In less than 10 years, *SkySong* has achieved notable recognition, as the incubator was recently ranked 10th in the U.S. and 18th in the world," said Scottsdale Mayor Jim Lane. "The technology companies at *SkySong* thrive in an environment where they can live, work, and play."

In Chandler, the *Innovations Science & Technology Incubator's* key partners include the University of Arizona and the Arizona Small Business Development Center. Building on infrastructure established by the



Chandler Vice Mayor Jack Sellers discusses the *Innovations Science & Technology Incubator*.

previous facility tenant, Intel, the incubator provides entrepreneurs turnkey access to wet and dry labs with a focus on biotechnology, bioinformatics, medical devices, nanotechnology, sustainable technology, software design and other clean technology.



Scottsdale Mayor Jim Lane introduces *ASU SkySong*.

"The *Innovations Science & Technology Incubator* couples facility resources with accessibility to industry partners, cost-savings programs, academic institutions, workforce, and investment funds," stated Chandler Vice Mayor Jack Sellers. "It is a one-stop-shop that provides entrepreneurs with opportunities to showcase their business at an international level."

In Phoenix, the group was treated to a warm welcome and lunch at the *Center for Entrepreneurial Innovation (CEI)*. *CEI* is housed on the grounds of GateWay Community College, uniquely placing tenants with immediate access to faculty and students that can provide expertise and assistance in research and development. During a luncheon address, Phoenix Councilman Daniel Valenzuela voiced his willingness to work more collaboratively with businesses in Mexico.



Phoenix Councilmember Daniel Valenzuela welcomes the group to *CEI*.

"Building on the need for production resources in the region and Nogales' ability to fill such a gap, it is evident that mutual opportunities for growth exist, and this is one of the primary missions of the city's Mexico Trade Task Force, on which I am humbled to serve," said Councilman Valenzuela. "One of my top priorities this year is to establish a Regional Innovation Initiative to encourage entrepreneurial activities, and widening the scope to include our friends in Mexico makes good economic sense that will help grow businesses and strengthen communities on both sides of the border."

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Surprise Mayor Sharon Wolcott

At *AZ TechCelerator* in Surprise, the city’s innovative use of unused space has created opportunities for both entrepreneurs and the city. “Through the repurposing of the former city hall building, the city of Surprise created growth opportunities for emerging entrepreneurs,” said Surprise Mayor Sharon

Wolcott. “Local ideas are now expanding into the international community.” She noted that Eduardo Tinoco, the co-founder of the largest tenant at *AZ TechCelerator*; Athena Wireless Communications, is himself a Mexican national, and the business has grown through the opportunities and guidance provided through the incubator. Today, Athena’s high-capacity wireless connectivity system is in test sites throughout several European communities.

The last stop featured the youngest incubator in the MAG region, *BioInspire*, created by parent company *BioAccel*, the city of Peoria, and the Plaza Companies. “Arizona has one of the fastest growing bioscience communities in the U.S., with a robust medical device sector,” said Peoria Mayor Bob Barrett. “*BioInspire* supports the emerging world of biomedical devices and more importantly, bridges the gap between discovery and commercialization.” Last year, *BioAccel* was presented with the State Science and Technology Institute’s Technology-Based Economic Development Award.

Manuel Hopkins, Economic Development Director with the city of Nogales, Sonora, Mexico, believes the tour furthers the partnership between his city and the incubators in the MAG region.

“We want to explore developing a center of excellence to educate the Mexican people in advanced technologies,” said Hopkins. “We have learned about the valuable resources in the region, which will help us attract more interest in Nogales as we will be able to link incubators to manufacturing plants, or maquiladoras. More importantly, we are thrilled at the offer of guidance and mentoring from the MAG region incubators as we embark on the goal of establishing an industrial-focused incubator in Nogales, Sonora.”



Regional Incubators

ASU SkySong (ASU/Scottsdale Technology and Innovation Center): A public/private partnership among Arizona State University (ASU), the city of Scottsdale, Plaza Companies, USAA and the ASU Foundation. The innovation center is home to a global business community that links technology, entrepreneurship, innovation and education to position ASU and Greater Phoenix as global leaders of the knowledge economy. *SkySong* is designed to help companies grow by providing business services and programs offered or facilitated by Arizona State University. These services include access to new technologies, capital networks, business education and a skilled workforce.



Innovations Science & Technology Incubator: The incubator’s key partners include the University of Arizona and the Arizona Small Business Development Center. The incubator provides entrepreneurs turnkey access to wet and dry labs with a focus on biotechnology, bioinformatics, medical devices, nanotechnology, sustainable technology, software design and other clean technology.



Center for Entrepreneurial Innovations (CEI): *CEI* is a community-based facility located on the campus of GateWay Community College. With funding from the U.S. Economic Development Agency, city of Phoenix and the Maricopa Community College District, *CEI* provides targeted business services and proactive business support to create a systematic link among technology development, markets, talent development, early-stage capital sourcing, and training.



AZ TechCelerator: The *AZ TechCelerator* is a business incubator located on a four-building campus totaling nearly 60,000 square feet. The incubator focuses on new innovation, technology and entrepreneurship. In addition to the facility services, the incubator provides access to community mentors to help emerging businesses in such areas as finance, sales, strategy and legal guidance.



BioInspire: A unique, fully independent, nonprofit organization operated by *BioAccel* to provide funding and business expertise to develop early stage life science technologies that drive local economic development efforts. By filling the early funding and expertise gaps, *BioInspire* accelerates the development of new companies, drives economic development, and creates new biomedical products, which over time will become available to the general public.



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Fall 2013 Calendar

August 2013

- 1st 10:00 a.m. Transportation Review Committee (Saguaro)
- 1st 2:00 p.m. Regional Domestic Violence Council (Saguaro)
- 6th 11:30 a.m. Economic Development Committee (Saguaro)
- 7th 10:00 a.m. Intelligent Transportation Systems Committee (Ironwood)
- 7th 8:45 a.m. Regional Community Network Working Group (Ironwood)
- 7th 12:00 p.m. Management Committee (Saguaro)
- 7th 1:30 p.m. Standard Specifications and Details Committee (Ironwood)
- 8th 10:00 a.m. Transit Committee (Ironwood)
- 8th 1:30 p.m. Human Services Technical Committee (Chaparral)
- 12th 12:00 p.m. Regional Council Executive Committee (Ironwood)
- 13th 10:00 a.m. Transportation Safety Committee Special Meeting (Ironwood)
- 14th 12:00 p.m. Transportation Policy Committee (Saguaro)
- 15th 10:00 a.m. Technology Advisory Group (Chaparral)
- 19th 2:00 p.m. Continuum of Care Regional Committee on Homelessness (Saguaro)
- 20th 12:30 p.m. Bicycle & Pedestrian Committee (Ironwood)
- 21st 11:30 a.m. Regional Council (Saguaro)
- 21st 2:00 p.m. Building Codes Committee (Ironwood)
- 22nd 10:00 a.m. Transportation Review Committee (Saguaro)
- 22nd 1:30 p.m. Air Quality Technical Advisory Committee (Saguaro)
- 27th 10:00 a.m. Population Technical Advisory Committee (Chaparral)

The dates, times and locations of all meetings may change. Other committees not listed here may meet during these months. For confirmation, call (602) 254-6300, or visit the website: www.azmag.gov/Events/

September 2013

- 2nd Labor Day Holiday (Office Closed)
- 4th 8:45 a.m. Regional Community Network Working Group (Ironwood)
- 4th 10:00 a.m. Intelligent Transportation Systems Committee (Ironwood)
- 4th 1:30 p.m. Standard Specifications and Details Committee (Ironwood)
- 10th 11:30 a.m. Economic Development Committee (Saguaro)
- 11th 12:00 p.m. Management Committee (Saguaro)
- 12th 10:00 a.m. Transit Committee (Ironwood)
- 12th 1:30 p.m. Human Services Technical Committee (Chaparral)
- 12th 5:00 p.m. Transportation Public Hearing (Saguaro)
- 16th 12:00 p.m. Regional Council Executive Committee (Ironwood)
- 16th 2:00 p.m. Continuum of Care Regional Committee on Homelessness (Saguaro)
- 17th 1:30 p.m. Bicycle & Pedestrian Committee (Ironwood)
- 18th 12:00 p.m. Transportation Policy Committee (Saguaro)
- 18th 2:00 p.m. Building Codes Committee (Ironwood)
- 19th 10:00 a.m. Technology Advisory Group (Chaparral)
- 19th 10:00 a.m. Solid Waste Advisory Committee (Ironwood)
- 24th 10:00 a.m. Transportation Safety Committee (Ironwood)
- 24th 10:00 a.m. Population Technical Advisory Committee (Chaparral)
- 24th 1:30 p.m. Air Quality Technical Advisory Committee (Saguaro)
- 25th 11:30 a.m. Regional Council (Saguaro)
- 26th 10:00 a.m. Transportation Review Committee (Saguaro)

Parking is available under the building. Please ask for parking validation at the meeting. Transit tickets will be provided for those using transit to attend meetings. Bike racks are available at the entrance to the parking garage.

October 2013

- 2nd 10:00 a.m. Intelligent Transportation Systems Committee (Ironwood)
- 2nd 1:30 p.m. Standard Specifications and Details Committee (Ironwood)
- 2nd 1:30 p.m. Standard Specifications and Details Committee (Ironwood)
- 3rd 2:00 p.m. Regional Domestic Violence Council (Saguaro)
- 8th 11:30 a.m. Economic Development Committee (Saguaro)
- 8th 12:00 p.m. Street Committee (Chaparral)
- 9th 12:00 p.m. Management Committee (Saguaro)
- 10th 9:00 a.m. Public Safety Answering Point (PSAP) Managers Group (Saguaro)
- 10th 10:00 a.m. Transit Committee (Ironwood)
- 10th 1:30 p.m. Human Services Technical Committee (Chaparral)
- 14th 2:00 p.m. Continuum of Care Planning Subcommittee (Chaparral)
- 15th 12:00 p.m. Regional Council Executive Committee (Ironwood)
- 15th 1:30 p.m. Bicycle & Pedestrian Committee (Ironwood)
- 16th 12:00 p.m. Transportation Policy Committee (Saguaro)
- 16th 2:00 p.m. Building Codes Committee (Ironwood)
- 17th 10:00 a.m. Technology Advisory Group (Chaparral)
- 23rd 11:30 a.m. Regional Council (Saguaro)
- 23rd 1:30 p.m. Human Services Coordinating Committee (Chaparral)
- 24th 10:00 a.m. Transportation Review Committee (Saguaro)
- 24th 1:30 p.m. Air Quality Technical Advisory Committee (Saguaro)
- 29th 10:00 a.m. Population Technical Advisory Committee (Chaparral)

All meetings, unless indicated otherwise, will be held in the conference rooms located in the MAG office on the 2nd floor of the building, 302 N. 1st Ave., Phoenix.