

# Joint Planning Advisory Council Examines Opportunities for Megaregion

Elect ed officials and planning experts from throughout the Sun Corridor met in December to continue collaborative planning efforts through the work of the Joint Planning Advisory Council (JPAC), which comprises members from the Central Arizona Governments (CAG), the Maricopa Association of Governments (MAG), the Pima Association of Governments (PAG), and the recently-formed Sun Corridor Metropolitan Planning Organization (SCMPO). More than 100 participants discussed a variety of topics, including improving trade relations with Mexico, the

importance of state land to future growth and development, and how the three most populous counties in Arizona can work together to improve transportation and the economy.

“The JPAC has a shared vision to jointly coordinate planning efforts to enhance the competitiveness of the regions and the state of Arizona,” said MAG Chair Scott Smith, mayor of Mesa. “I believe that one of the great accomplishments in the MAG region—and with its leadership—is a real change in the conversation, not only in the

Valley and in our region, but in the state. There is no question that we must think differently today than we have over the past 10, 15 or 20 years,” said Mayor Smith. “Five years ago, we did not talk about working together to create corridors. We didn’t have the vision that truly accepted the fact that we are growing into one big region. Our long-term goal is simple: we want to build a strong, healthy economy to be globally competitive.”

The event began with the welcome of the newest member of the JPAC,



Mayor Scott Smith  
City of Mesa

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From left to right: Avondale Mayor Marie Lopez Rogers; Chandler Vice Mayor Jack Sellers; Queen Creek Mayor Gail Barney; Mesa Mayor Scott Smith; Apache Junction Vice Mayor Robin Barker; Fountain Hills Mayor Linda Kavanagh; City of Maricopa Mayor Christian Price; Eloy Mayor Joseph Nagy; Sahuarita Mayor Duane Blumberg; Nogales, Sonora Mayor Ramón Guzmán; Litchfield Park Mayor Thomas Schoaf; Youngtown Mayor Michael LeVault; El Mirage Mayor Lana Mook; Buckeye Mayor Jackie Meck; Nogales, Arizona Mayor Arturo Garino; Carefree Councilmember Michael Farrar; and Globe Mayor Terry Wheeler.

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# Message From the Chair



**Mayor Scott Smith**  
City of Mesa

As an elected official—especially one who chairs a regional planning agency that deals with complex federal requirements, projects and funding formulas—it is often easy to get wrapped up in bureaucratic planner-speak. But when it comes down to it, our mission can be stated in very simple terms: We want to make Arizona a better place than we found it for future generations.

As I look back on 2013, it is clear that we have accomplished much to improve our region. We've seen the completion of a dozen miles of new lanes along Loop 303, the release of the Draft Environmental Impact Statement for the South Mountain Freeway, the finalization of a major freight study, the expansion of our planning boundary, continued improvements in air quality, and innovative inroads in making our communities more age-friendly—to highlight just a few. In addition, with the help of our business and educational institution partners, we have expanded the activities of our Economic Development Committee to new and challenging areas never before addressed at MAG.

For example, our endeavors to improve border trade by supporting efforts to make it easier for legal visitors to travel to our entire state, as well as providing funding to a Mexico trade investment office, demonstrate our commitment to improving our economy in exciting ways.

Most of us are familiar with the adage, “from those to whom much is given, much is expected.” Nothing could be more true in our work at MAG. If we stay focused, we will meet these expectations. A policy paper on metropolitan economic strategies by the National Governors Association confirmed that economic activity occurs in a regional context. It found that metropolitan economic strategy cannot succeed without strong state government support, and states will not thrive economically without focusing increasingly on metropolitan strategies. The paper even goes so far as to warn that “policymakers ignore this fact at their peril,” and advises states to approach metropolitan regions as their “most precious and strategic economic strengths.”

As often repeated by the work in our region by the Brookings Institute, actions need to be intentional, catalytic and transformative. I believe we are headed in the right direction through our actions at MAG.

While we represent local governments, we also are stewards of an important segment of the state. The Sun Corridor comprises 81 percent of the state's population and 84 percent of the sales tax collections. Arizona's economy is dependent on its regional economies. Working closely with public, private, and community leadership, we can take advantage of these strengths to greatly enhance our prosperity and quality of life. 



MAGAZine is a quarterly newsletter of the Maricopa Association of Governments (MAG). It focuses on the issues and concerns of the cities, towns and tribal communities of the MAG region. 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*
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Arizona Department of Transportation
-  **F. Rockne Arnett**  
Citizens Transportation Oversight Committee

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*I am a firm believer that when we all work together, anything is possible. The regional effort of support that resulted in Luke being named the home of the F-35 is a shining example. We must maintain that connectivity and level of regional partnership to further stimulate job growth; to find real solutions to our transportation system and to ensure proper water management as the Valley's growth cycle ramps up again.*

—Mayor Sharon Wolcott, Surprise



*We are excited to partner with Arizona State University (ASU) and TechShop on their new combined location in downtown Chandler. TechShop is a leader in the national Maker Movement and a perfect fit for the new programs ASU brings to Chandler. TechShop will also be a regional draw for creative entrepreneurs across the Valley.*

—Mayor Jay Tibshraeny, Chandler



*The Valley of the Sun is once again alive with new home construction. While this is good news and a great sign of an improved economy, we must remain vigilant to act on the lessons we learned during the great recession. Diversification is our best, long-term economic strategy and a critical component of that strategy is a complete and multi-faceted transportation system.*

—Councilmember Cathy Carlat, Peoria

*With the advent of a new year, perhaps our collective resolution should be to get the HURF funds back where they belong. Potholes and economic development are not compatible!*

—Vice Mayor Robin Barker, Apache Junction



*On December 17, 2013, the first segment of Northern Parkway was opened to traffic as an interim four-lane roadway extending between Sarival Avenue and Dysart Road (see story, page 10). This MAG Regional Transportation Plan project could not have been delivered without the outstanding cooperation of the involved organizations, including Glendale, El Mirage, Peoria, MAG, ADOT, the Federal Highway Administration, and Luke Air Force Base. In addition, Maricopa County and its Flood Control District were important partners in the project and I commend my colleague on the Board of Supervisors, Clint Hickman, for his involvement in the successful completion of the first phase. Congratulations to all involved!*

—Supervisor Steve Chucuri, Maricopa County

*As the region continues to work together to promote the economic vitality of Luke Air Force Base, I am proud to say that the city of Goodyear will help play a key role in that. During its last quarterly meeting in December, I was elected to co-chair the Luke West Valley Council with Luke Air Force Base Brigadier General Michael Rothstein.*

*Luke West Valley is comprised of city leaders throughout the West Valley, officials at Luke Air Force Base and state legislators, just to name a few. But, it was really with the help of community support we were able to help secure the F-35 Lightning II Fighter Jet pilot-training program, which will begin this year. As co-chair of the council, we will move toward helping to secure future successes of the base as we support the men and women who serve our country and live in our communities.*

—Mayor Georgia Lord, City of Goodyear



# Regional Profile: Mayor Mark Mitchell



Mayor Mark Mitchell, City of Tempe

## Tempe Mayor Seeks to Leave Lasting Legacy

Tempe Mayor Mark Mitchell is a third generation Arizonan who learned about public service at the knee of his father, Harry Mitchell, who was mayor of Tempe from 1978 to 1994 and served in the U.S. House of Representatives from 2007 to 2011. Mayor Mitchell's great-grandfather, W.W. Mitchell, moved to Tempe in 1945 and served as an Arizona state legislator in the 1940s.

"I grew up in a family that regards public service as an honorable profession. That was instilled in me as a young child," says Mitchell. "When you give back to the community, you become part of the community, and you get to see the value of working with your neighbors, friends and colleagues. You get a lot of satisfaction out of giving back," he says.

While he may come from a long line of political progenitors, Mayor Mitchell is more focused on the legacy he leaves than the legacy from which he comes. That is what led him to first seek council office in 2000.

"One of the reasons I ran for city council, and especially why I ran for mayor, is that I want my two daughters to experience what I did growing up, only that much better. The thing I enjoy most about being mayor is knowing that the decisions that I make today are going to benefit future generations. And I can honestly say that, because I have benefitted from that, I'm a product of that. The decisions that my father made—and

also those that my fellow councilmembers and I have made—resulted in many improvements to quality of life for our residents and for future generations."

Mayor Mitchell says he is a strong believer in preserving local control, which he says is best accomplished by working together regionally.

"We are often reminded that more than 80 percent of the businesses in our state are in a city or town, and more than 80 percent of all residents that live in the state of Arizona reside in a city or town. That's a big percentage, and I think that when all the mayors and councilmembers in all 91 Arizona cities and towns work together and regionally, that has a lot to do with how we can maintain local control and preserve it."

During his time as mayor, Mitchell has focused on strengthening Tempe's local economy and the economic recovery by working to attract new businesses and retain current business partners. Since his election in May 2012, Tempe has seen \$700 million in economic investment in the city and the addition of more than 5,300 jobs.

"That's just the tip of the iceberg. We're doing some great things. We've strengthened our economic development department and it is going to pay dividends in the long run," says Mitchell. "Having grown up here and seen the change, it's pretty exciting to see where we've been and where we're heading."

Mayor Mitchell notes that those accomplishments have happened in spite of Tempe's challenge of being landlocked.

"There's an old saying that if you don't grow, you die. Well, that doesn't happen in Tempe. What we do is we redevelop."

Mayor Mitchell says many of his best lessons have come from serving as vice president of a small business, an interior design firm, where he learned the importance of listening to customers.

"I think the best advice that was ever given to me was 'you have two ears, two eyes and one mouth. So use



Mayor Mitchell participates in the grand opening and ribbon cutting ceremony for the Marriott Residence Inn in downtown Tempe.

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The young Mark Mitchell congratulates a player while serving as a bat boy for the Seattle Mariners.

## Mayor Mitchell (continued)

what you have most of first, before you use what you have least of.' Listening is an important trait, and you learn every day how to listen to people, what to do and what not to do," he says.

While some may envy his political accomplishments, long-term Arizonans might be more impressed to learn that the young Mark Mitchell once appeared on the nationally-syndicated show *Romper Room* (filmed in Arizona), or that he won a Ladmo Bag during taping of the locally-beloved *Wallace and Ladmo Show*. Even better, that taping took place at Legend City, a bygone amusement park that was an entertainment mecca to Arizona kids in the 1960s and 70s. Mitchell interned for Arizona Senator John McCain, for whom he says he has "tremendous respect." He also served as a bat boy for 12 years for the Seattle Mariners.

"I'm a big sports fan. I'm a huge fan of ASU, so much so that I have friendly wagers with the mayor of Tucson, Mayor Rothschild," he said.

Mitchell says he enjoys the relationship Tempe has with ASU, noting that what is good for one is good for the other. It is a parallel that he draws with other regional efforts, such as the relationship among cities.

"What is good for Chandler is good for Tempe; what's good for Tempe is good for Phoenix and vice versa... and Mesa and Scottsdale and Gilbert and all of the other cities. We know how to get things done. We work together and we're passionate about our cities, but we do it in a way that we find common ground and work together. I think working together regionally is a huge gift, because there are amazing things you can accomplish when you work together." 

# Chandler Mayor Named Municipal Leader of the Year

Chandler Mayor Jay Tibshraeny was recently selected by *American City & County* magazine as its Municipal Leader of the Year.

Mayor Tibshraeny was featured in the November edition of *American City & County*, which has been serving as the voice of state and local government since 1909. The magazine serves city, county and state officials who are charged with developing and implementing government policy, programs, and projects.



Mayor Tibshraeny in front of Continuum Science & Technology Park, located in the Price Corridor.

"Mayor Tibshraeny proves that through foresight and endurance, America's local leaders can help overcome their community's problems," stated Bill Wolpin, editor of *American City & County*. "His story is worth sharing in the hopes that others will become inspired."

The recognition cited Mayor Tibshraeny's role in economic development and specifically in creating, protecting and preserving the Price Corridor. The Price Corridor is Chandler's major employment corridor and has been instrumental in attracting high-wage technology jobs to the city.

Price Corridor is home to large corporations such as Intel, Bank of America, PayPal, Microchip Technologies, Orbital Sciences, Rogers Corporation, and Wells Fargo. In the past year alone, General Motors, Infusionsoft, and Nationstar opened in the Price Corridor.

"Chandler is a leader for job creation in the region, and today the Price Corridor is home to an impressive roster of companies," said Mayor Tibshraeny. "This success validates our efforts to protect the area from residential encroachment. I am proud of what we have been able to accomplish in the area as Chandler is now recognized as a premier innovation and technology hub throughout the Southwest."

In addition to his achievements with the Price Corridor, Mayor Tibshraeny was recognized for a wide variety of accomplishments, including implementing the Four Corner Initiative and Adaptive Reuse Program, providing neighborhood outreach, facilitating university partnerships and transparency through technology, and creating jobs and a healthier community. 

## JPAC: Opportunities for Megaregion (continued)



**Mayor Bob Jackson**, City of Casa Grande

Casa Grande Mayor Bob Jackson, who serves as chair of the newly formed Sun Corridor Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO).

“As the newest MPO, we have a lot of building that needs to take place. We have great models in MAG, PAG and CAG, and we look forward to their support and partnership as we develop in the future,” said Mayor Jackson.

Participants heard updates on each region from four mayors, including Mayor Smith and Mayor Jackson, as well as Tucson Mayor Jonathan Rothschild and Florence Mayor Tom Rankin. During his update, Mayor Rothschild said Arizona has moved from the five “Cs” of Cotton, Copper, Cattle, Citrus, and Climate to the five “Ts” of Technology, Trade, Transportation, Teaching and Tourism. He discussed a number of projects related to regional infrastructure and development, and additional efforts related to regional coordination and international trade.



**Mayor Jonathan Rothschild**, City of Tucson

“We’ve seen high levels of participation in our meetings in Tucson, from business and government leaders to a variety of other stakeholders,” said Mayor Rothschild. “Clearly, these topics are important to our community and there seems to be a greater understanding that we live in an increasingly competitive national and global economy... We will continue to plan cooperatively in the region and state, and also will focus on enhancing our relationships with our neighbors in Mexico, in order to address the challenges that lie ahead.”

Florence Mayor Rankin discussed two new corridors within Pinal County—the first would be a north/south corridor that connects US-60 and Apache Junction to State Route (SR) 87 and Interstate 10 (I-10) near Eloy.



**Mayor Tom Rankin**, Town of Florence

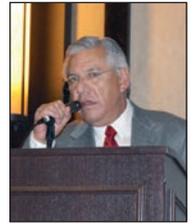
“This facility would enhance mobility to areas of eastern Maricopa County,” said Mayor Rankin. “It would improve safety along I-10 and in the event of crashes, provide an alternative route to maintain connectivity between Tucson and Phoenix. It would also alleviate congestion and provide mobility for the projected population and employment increase in the Sun Corridor.”

The second facility, SR-24, will connect the Loop 202 Santan Freeway in Maricopa County and US-60/SR-79

in Pinal County. “There is a great need for connectivity between Pinal County and areas in the southeast Maricopa County area,” he said.

Nogales, Sonora, Mayor Ramón Guzmán discussed a megaregion initiative he dubbed “Sonari.”

He said he began the initiative to unite efforts in developing regionalism in “harmony with government municipalities, associations, and chambers of commerce from Sonora, Arizona.” He called for inter-municipal commissions to implement projects “to impact areas such as economic development, security infrastructure, transportation, education, tourism and commerce.” Mayor Guzmán called for periodic analytical forums to be held at various locations, and noted that Nogales, Sonora, is organizing a second binational forum to take place in Mexico.



**Mayor Ramón Guzmán**, Nogales, Sonora

The JPAC also heard a report on state lands. Approximately 12.7 percent of land in Arizona is State Trust land, including 1.2 million acres in Pinal County, 861,342 acres in Pima County, and 640,983 acres in Maricopa County.

“Every acre of land has a beneficiary, and in fiscal year 2013, the Arizona State Land Department generated more than \$318.5 million from Trust lands for the beneficiaries,” said State Land Commissioner Vanessa Hickman.

Based on the population projections developed by the State Demographer’s Office, Arizona’s population is projected to be 10.2 million by 2040, or an additional 3.8 million people (60 percent growth). In the Sun Corridor, which comprises Maricopa, Pinal, and Pima counties, an analysis of built lands indicates that only 30 percent of the total available land is developable. State Trust land accounts for 58 percent of developable land in the Sun Corridor. State Trust land is expected to play a significant role in the right-of-way of several new transportation corridors, such as the I-11 corridor. 



**Vanessa Hickman**, State Land Department

# MAG Approves Funding for Trade Office in Mexico City



The MAG Regional Council recently approved providing \$25,000 in funding to the city of Phoenix to partner in the establishment of an in-market trade, investment and tourism office in Mexico City.

In February, the city of Phoenix created an Ad Hoc Task Force on Trade, Investment and Tourism with Mexico to identify and recommend specific opportunities. According to the city, numerous recent city- and state-led delegations that have traveled to Mexico City have validated the need for a dedicated in-market presence. The city says it elected to commit to such an endeavor and to do it in a fully inclusive way through partnerships with public and private sector organizations.

Regional Council members supporting the motion said the partnership will help drive investment and tourism opportunities not just to Phoenix, but to the entire state of Arizona.

“Visitors from Mexico are spending more than seven million dollars every day in our state,” said MAG Chair and Mesa Mayor Scott Smith. “It is appropriate for MAG to invest in an office that can further capitalize on and promote our trade relations and enhance the economic outlook on both sides of the border.”

MAG Vice Chair Michael LeVault, mayor of Youngtown, said the move represents a “big boost” to the Arizona economy. “It gives us a physical reality that extends beyond our 400-mile border,” he said. “We hope this move will help us attract a larger share of the growing Mexican middle class and help us take advantage of opportunities to enhance trade.”

Mexico is Arizona’s top trading partner, with more than \$13 billion in two-way merchandise trade in 2012. One of MAG’s newest members, Maricopa Mayor Christian Price, said the motion helps the state compete against other border states, which have outpaced Arizona in building relationships with Mexico and developing regional trade corridors.

“This move today takes us a long way in changing perceptions about our willingness to work with Mexico. States like Texas have their ducks in a row when it comes to capitalizing on trade with Mexico. This gives us a way to do the same,” said Mayor Price.

Some questioned if MAG was moving outside its core mission areas. But supporting mayors noted that economic development should be a critical function of local governments, which make up MAG.

“I am excited that we are sending a strong message about a desired partnership with our neighboring community of Mexico,” said Gilbert Mayor John Lewis. “MAG’s involvement sends a unified message of the importance of Mexico to the greater Phoenix area, and that combined commitment will provide greater results than if done by a single community.”

Mayor LeVault noted that MAG was established to attain the greatest degree of intergovernmental cooperation possible in order to prepare for future growth and development and address issues of mutual concern.

“Two and a half years ago, MAG’s Economic Development Committee chose to start traveling down this road to improve relations with Mexico,” said Mayor LeVault. “This is the next logical step. I’m after the same thing as everyone else at the table—a sound, vibrant economy, so we don’t experience another severe economic downturn like the one we just went through,” he said. 



**Mayor John Lewis,**  
Town of Gilbert



**Mayor Michael LeVault,**  
Town of Youngtown

## MAG Moment



MAG hosts an information booth January 21, 2014, at the Martin Luther King Day festival at Margaret T. Hance Park in Phoenix.

# National Funding Supports Local Age-Friendly Initiatives

Valley communities will be better able to fight social isolation and strengthen the connections that older adults have with people of all ages, thanks to two new grants to support the Greater Phoenix Age-Friendly Network.

The funding is helping three pilot communities (Phoenix, Tempe, and the Northwest Valley) launch new models to help older adults live independently. It will also support a conference in March that will include a competition to identify the most age-friendly communities in the region.

The grants represent investments from national and local foundations. Virginia G. Piper Charitable Trust provided a grant of \$40,000 and technical assistance to support the region's participation in Community AGEnda, a national initiative aimed at helping American communities become more age-friendly. The Pfizer Foundation awarded \$140,000 through Grantmakers in Aging to the region as one of five Community AGEnda grant recipients nationwide.

"Through this project, we are inviting neighbors to help neighbors," said Phoenix Mayor Greg Stanton, a long-time champion of the project. "Each of the three communities working with us will be encouraging people to volunteer and help older adults get to the store, their appointments, and their activities in the neighborhood. We all benefit when people can be involved with their community, at every age."

Grantmakers in Aging is supporting that involvement with a grant and technical assistance.

"We awarded this grant on the basis of the region's performance in the first year and our desire to see such progress continue," said John Feather, CEO of Grantmakers in Aging. "The age-friendly community

competition is an extension of the good work already underway in the region's three pilot communities, and celebrates the additional communities that are becoming better places for people of all ages to live," he said.

Goodyear Councilmember Joanne Osborne, chair of the MAG Human Services Coordinating Committee that oversees the project, believes everyone wins through this project.

"Our youth will benefit from having good mentors, our families will get the support they need, and our older adults will establish the connections that keep them from being isolated."

Carol Kratz, program director at Virginia G. Piper Charitable Trust, said the pilot communities are taking the first bold steps to change the way they approach aging. "We know that there are other communities recognizing the value of all age groups to a community. We are supporting the age-friendly community competition to honor the unsung heroes who are redefining the years past 60," said Kratz.

A panel of national experts will review the nominations and the winning community will be recognized at the conference in March 2014. The winner will receive additional promotion and technical assistance to advance their age-friendly work.

Support for the age-friendly effort was also received from the Arizona Community Foundation, Arizona Grantmakers Forum, Benevilla Central Village, City of Tempe, and Duet.

"This vital work simply wouldn't be possible without the partnership of the foundations, faith-based organizations, and nonprofit agencies," said Chair Osborne. "Their outpouring of support will position this work to have a direct impact on people's lives." 



**Mayor Greg Stanton, City of Phoenix**

## Buckeye Celebrates Becoming Arizona's Newest City

More than 200 people helped Buckeye celebrate its transition from a town to a city January 13, 2014, as city officials unveiled the "CITY" portion of the new city hall sign in downtown Buckeye.

Buckeye Mayor Jackie Meck, a Buckeye native who grew up in the shadows of city hall, thanked the generations of families who established the foundation of the community, as well as previous city officials whose work would be continued by future Buckeye leaders.

"Our community may be in the shadows of the White Tank Mountains, but the city of Buckeye is no longer in the shadows," Meck said. "In fact, we are working hard to create shadows of our own."

"The city of Buckeye's heritage has been forged. We now look to its future."



The word "TOWN" is pulled down to reveal the new city hall sign.

# MAG Five Percent Plan for PM-10 Approved

The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) in January proposed to approve the air quality plan that has resulted in Maricopa County achieving compliance with the health based standards for dust, or PM-10.

This plan, also known as the MAG Five Percent Plan for PM-10 because of its reliance upon dust emissions reductions of at least five percent each year between 2007 and 2013, was prepared through a collaborative effort by the Maricopa Association of Governments (MAG), Arizona Department of Environmental Quality (ADEQ), Maricopa County Air Quality Department (MCAQD) and numerous stakeholders. The plan was submitted May 25, 2012, and includes many of the most stringent dust control measures in the country.

“We are very pleased that the Environmental Protection Agency is proposing to approve our Five Percent Plan, and that it agreed that Maricopa County achieved the health-based standard for dust” said MAG Chair Mayor Scott Smith, mayor of Mesa. “It is the culmination of years of hard work and collaboration by many stakeholders. The collective efforts have resulted in dramatic improvements in the concentration of dust in the Valley, improving the quality of life for all of the county’s residents.”

Critical to the approval of the Five Percent Plan was EPA’s concurrence with 17 technical demonstrations that additional dust controls in Maricopa County would not prevent regional dust storms that frequently occur during the monsoon season and are caused by natural sources. These Exceptional Event demonstrations were the first in the nation to be approved under EPA’s recently revised policy. Based on these concurrences, EPA has excluded dust storms from consideration under the Clean Air Act and has proposed a finding that Maricopa County has attained the federal standard by the required deadline of December 31, 2012.

“Exceptional Event demonstrations are about ensuring that areas like Maricopa County are not held hostage by requirements of the Clean Air Act for air pollution that is natural or is beyond any reasonable control,” ADEQ Director Henry Darwin said. “Maricopa County has many of the strongest dust controls in the nation, and further regulation within the County will not prevent dust from high winds.”

Maricopa County had failed to meet the federal standards for dust since the Clean Air Act was amended in 1970.

The first Five Percent Plan for PM-10 was submitted to EPA as required on December 31, 2007. On September 9, 2010, EPA published a notice of proposed partial approval and disapproval of the plan in the Federal Register.

On January 25, 2011, ADEQ voluntarily withdrew the first Five Percent Plan for PM-10 to address the approvability issues and include updated information. Although the plan was withdrawn from EPA review, the measures continued to be implemented to reduce PM-10.

Along with the measures in the plan, ADEQ, MCAQD and MAG have taken additional actions to reduce concentrations of dust and the threat that dust has to public health by:

- Implementing a dust risk forecast that reduces or eliminates emissions of dust before and during high wind or stagnation events.
- Improving the inventory of dust emissions to more accurately describe the current economy.
- Improving partnerships with industries subject to dust control requirements and providing technical assistance and training manuals to promote compliance with dust control laws.
- Increasing outreach and education efforts with government partners on their role to prevent dust problems.
- Implementing an award-winning “Rapid Response” program to provide early notification about poor air quality conditions and asking dust generators to further reduce emissions.
- Improving public access to forecasts and the ability to file complaints through the *CleanAirMakeMore.com* smart phone application and website.

Collectively, the MAG Five Percent Plan for PM-10 now includes more than 53 control measures from the state, Maricopa County, and local governments.

“It’s been exceptionally difficult, but through our partnerships, the dedication to compliance and increased awareness, we have successfully reduced our dust problem and improved our air quality,” said Maricopa County Air Quality Department Director Bill Wiley.

ADEQ Air Quality Director Eric Massey noted that the journey is not over. “In truth, it continues,” said Massey. “Upon final approval, we will need to submit plans demonstrating that maintaining these efforts will keep us in compliance for the next 20 years.”

The proposal will be sent to the Federal Register for publication as a proposed rule, providing EPA’s analysis of the plan and announcing a 30-day public comment period. EPA will make its final decision on the plan after reviewing public comments. 



18 exceptional event packages covering 27 days in 2011-2012, totalling 1,774 pages.

# First Phase of Northern Parkway Completed

The Maricopa Association of Governments (MAG) joined the Maricopa County Department of Transportation and the communities of El Mirage, Glendale, and Peoria in a December dedication celebration marking the end of Phase I of the Northern Parkway Program—which completed a new interim four-lane roadway from Sarival Avenue to Dysart Road.

The first segment of the Northern Parkway Program broke ground in March 2012 and includes the construction of the eastbound auxiliary lane, westbound auxiliary lane, and two outside travel lanes in each direction. A center concrete barrier and an additional inside lane in each direction will be added in the future to complete the ultimate six-lane Northern Parkway.

“The Parkway will serve as an important roadway for all West Valley residents. Motorists throughout the entire region will see improved travel times, enhanced system reliability, and reductions in crash

rates,” said MAG Vice Chair Michael LeVault, mayor of Youngtown. “The Parkway will provide quick access to the commercial and employment centers along Loop 303, and also provide a much-needed alternative to Grand Avenue and Bell Road.”

During the dedication ceremony, Glendale Mayor Jerry Weiers called it a “great day for the West Valley,” noting that the Northern Parkway was an idea developed through Glendale’s citizen participation process more than a decade ago.

“In 2001, a 61-member citizens advisory committee envisioned the need for a regional east-west route to improve connectivity,” said Mayor Weiers. “The project was then supported by Glendale voters and eventually by Maricopa County voters through the passage of transportation-related propositions,” he said. “With the Parkway’s close proximity to rail lines and major freeways—combined with the fact that water and sewer pro-



**Mayor Michael LeVault, Town of Youngtown**



**Mayor Jerry Weiers, City of Glendale**



**Mayor Lana Mook, City of El Mirage**

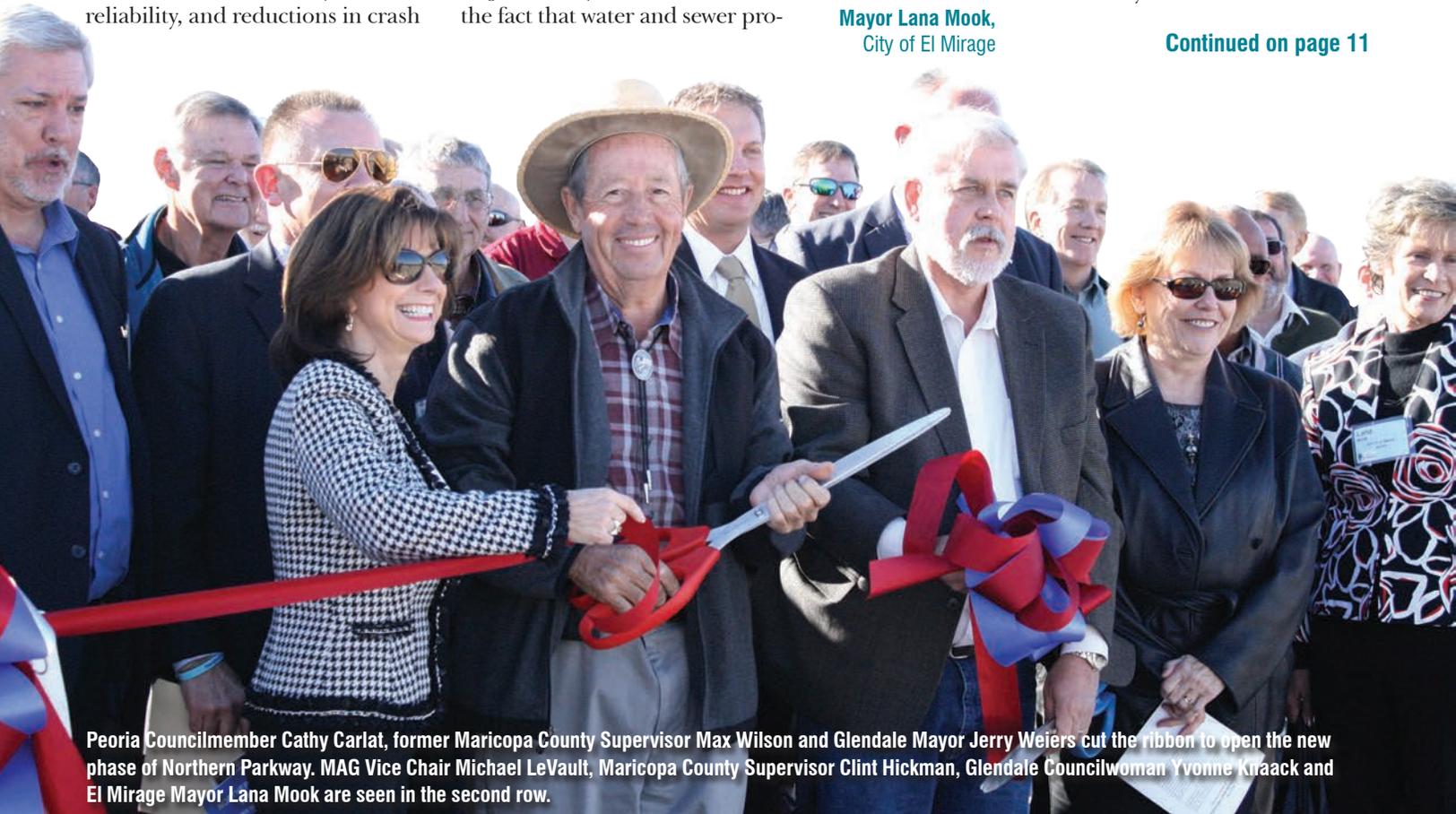
vider agreements for this area are now in place—Northern Parkway is well-positioned to attract quality development in the coming years.”

El Mirage Mayor Lana Mook noted that the project represents one of the largest collaborations of governmental agencies in the state.

“This parkway will give residents of our communities easy access to the Loop 303, Loop 101, and US 60/Grand Avenue, thus reducing travel time and congestion,” said Mayor Mook. “I am thrilled that El Mirage is a partner in this exciting project and look forward to the completion of the next segment.”

Peoria Councilmember Cathy Carlat, who serves on the MAG Regional Council, added, “The Northern Parkway will be a wonderful addition to the West Valley. Being able to connect to the Loop 303 through the cities of El Mirage, Glendale and Peoria will not only be a benefit for

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Peoria Councilmember Cathy Carlat, former Maricopa County Supervisor Max Wilson and Glendale Mayor Jerry Weiers cut the ribbon to open the new phase of Northern Parkway. MAG Vice Chair Michael LeVault, Maricopa County Supervisor Clint Hickman, Glendale Councilwoman Yvonne Knaack and El Mirage Mayor Lana Mook are seen in the second row.

## Northern Parkway (continued)



**Councilmember  
Cathy Carlat,  
City of Peoria**

commuters, but it will open up economic opportunities as well.”

In addition to the lane construction, Phase I included connecting ramps for future overpasses; new curbs, gutters and street lighting at on/off ramps and intersecting cross streets; and the installation of new traffic signals at Sarival Avenue, Reems Road and Litchfield Road.

Construction included a bridge over the BNSF Railroad at 143rd Avenue, as well as a free-flowing bridge connection over Sarival Avenue to the Loop 303 project currently under construction by the Arizona Department of Transportation. Segments of the White Tanks Area Drainage Master Plan were constructed as part of the project, and sufficient public right-of-way for the ultimate six-lane configuration was acquired.

Northern Parkway represents one of the largest arterial road projects ever constructed in the Valley. The project is programmed to receive more than \$236 million in regional funds through 2025 and is the largest project in the MAG Arterial Life Cycle Program. Maricopa County and the cities of El Mirage, Glendale and Peoria will contribute an additional \$101 million of local funds.

“Today represents the culmination of several years of planning and design and is truly a celebration of a remarkable regional partnership forged through the efforts of four neighboring jurisdictions,” said Maricopa County Supervisor Clint Hickman at the dedication ceremony. “(The project) underscores our commitment to improving our shared roadway network. We are all stakeholders with something very positive to gain. Relieving congestion along our busy east/west corridors and providing increased travel capacity is vital to the economic development of the region. This project...will spur our local economy and help to ensure that our businesses have the infrastructure they need to compete, to expand, and to thrive.”

By 2025, the Parkway is expected to carry more than 76,000 cars a day. 🏞️



The audience listens to remarks from MAG Vice Chair LeVault.

## Pedestrian Underpass Opens in Litchfield Park



Participants celebrate after Litchfield Park Mayor Thomas Schoaf cuts the ribbon.

The city of Litchfield Park hosted a ribbon cutting and grand opening ceremony for its new pedestrian underpass in November, paving the way for residents to pass safely under rather than across busy Litchfield Road near Wigwam Boulevard.

With MAG providing more than 90 percent of the total funding for the project, Litchfield Park partnered with the Arizona Department of Transportation to construct the \$3 million pedestrian underpass, which is located approximately 2.5 miles north of Interstate 10.

The underpass is 12 feet wide and 9½ feet in height. It offers a safe east/west alternative for pedestrians from nearby neighborhoods and schools in both Litchfield Park and Goodyear to cross Litchfield Road. The underpass accommodates pedestrians, bicyclists and golf carts. An additional benefit is the connectivity of the vacant commercial properties on the east and west sides of Litchfield Road.

“We began this project in 2000 through funding from MAG,” said Litchfield Park Mayor Tom Schoaf. “While it took us a little longer than anticipated to complete the project, we are confident that it will be a positive factor in the successful development of our City Center in the near future.”

The underpass project provides a new storm water collection system, landscape improvements, raised medians, sidewalk and ramp improvements, and curb, gutter and asphalt improvements. A skylight in the median of Litchfield Road provides natural lighting to the underpass in addition to the artificial lighting that is present. Public artwork is included in the design, including tile mosaics, stamped concrete, decorative masonry pilasters, and an artistically sandblasted historical motif on the retaining walls.

“We have had an especially enthusiastic response to the artwork in the underpass,” said Mayor Schoaf. “Public artist Laurie Lundquist incorporated elements into the design that celebrate the community of Litchfield Park, honoring both our heritage and our future.” 🏞️



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# MAGAZine

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## Spring 2014 Calendar

### February 2014

- 4<sup>th</sup> 11:30 a.m. Economic Development Committee (Saguaro)
- 5<sup>th</sup> 8:45 a.m. Regional Community Network Working Group (Ironwood)
- 5<sup>th</sup> 10:00 a.m. Intelligent Transportation Systems Committee (Ironwood)
- 5<sup>th</sup> 1:30 p.m. Standard Specifications and Details Committee (Ironwood)
- 6<sup>th</sup> 2:00 p.m. Regional Domestic Violence Council (Saguaro)
- 11<sup>th</sup> 1:00 p.m. Street Committee (Chaparral)
- 11<sup>th</sup> 1:30 p.m. Bicycle & Pedestrian Committee (Ironwood)
- 12<sup>th</sup> 12:00 p.m. Management Committee (Saguaro)
- 13<sup>th</sup> 10:00 a.m. Transit Committee (Ironwood)
- 13<sup>th</sup> 1:30 p.m. Human Services Technical Committee (Chaparral)
- 17<sup>th</sup> Presidents' Day—Office Closed
- 18<sup>th</sup> 12:00 p.m. Regional Council Executive Committee (Ironwood)
- 19<sup>th</sup> 12:00 p.m. Transportation Policy Committee (Saguaro)
- 19<sup>th</sup> 2:00 p.m. Building Codes Committee (Ironwood)
- 20<sup>th</sup> 10:00 a.m. Technology Advisory Group (Chaparral)
- 25<sup>th</sup> 10:00 a.m. Population Technical Advisory Committee (Chaparral)
- 26<sup>th</sup> 11:30 a.m. Regional Council (Saguaro)
- 27<sup>th</sup> 10:00 a.m. Transportation Review Committee (Saguaro)
- 27<sup>th</sup> 1:30 p.m. Air Quality Technical Advisory Committee (Saguaro)

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. 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/](http://www.azmag.gov/Events/)

### March 2014

- 4<sup>th</sup> 11:30 a.m. Economic Development Committee (Saguaro)
- 5<sup>th</sup> 8:45 a.m. Regional Community Network Working Group (Ironwood)
- 5<sup>th</sup> 10:00 a.m. Intelligent Transportation Systems Committee (Ironwood)
- 5<sup>th</sup> 1:30 p.m. Standard Specifications and Details Committee (Ironwood)
- 11<sup>th</sup> 10:00 a.m. Elderly & Persons with Disabilities Transportation Committee (Chaparral)
- 11<sup>th</sup> 1:00 p.m. Street Committee (Chaparral)
- 12<sup>th</sup> 12:00 p.m. Management Committee (Saguaro)
- 13<sup>th</sup> 10:00 a.m. Transit Committee (Ironwood)
- 13<sup>th</sup> 1:30 p.m. Human Services Technical Committee (Chaparral)
- 17<sup>th</sup> 12:00 p.m. Regional Council Executive Committee (Ironwood)
- 17<sup>th</sup> 2:00 p.m. Continuum of Care Regional Committee on Homelessness (Saguaro)
- 18<sup>th</sup> 1:30 p.m. Bicycle & Pedestrian Committee (Ironwood)
- 19<sup>th</sup> 12:00 p.m. Transportation Policy Committee (Saguaro)
- 19<sup>th</sup> 2:00 p.m. Building Codes Committee (Ironwood)
- 20<sup>th</sup> 10:00 a.m. Technology Advisory Group (Chaparral)
- 25<sup>th</sup> 9:30 p.m. Transportation Safety Committee (Ironwood)
- 25<sup>th</sup> 10:00 a.m. Population Technical Advisory Committee (Chaparral)
- 26<sup>th</sup> 11:30 a.m. Regional Council (Saguaro)
- 27<sup>th</sup> 10:00 a.m. Transportation Review Committee (Saguaro)
- 27<sup>th</sup> 1:30 p.m. Air Quality Technical Advisory Committee (Saguaro)

A transit ticket will be provided for anyone who purchased a transit ticket to attend a meeting. Bike racks are available at the entrance to the parking garage.

### April 2014

- 1<sup>st</sup> 11:30 a.m. Economic Development Committee (Saguaro)
- 2<sup>nd</sup> 8:45 a.m. Regional Community Network Working Group (Ironwood)
- 2<sup>nd</sup> 10:00 a.m. Intelligent Transportation Systems Committee (Ironwood)
- 2<sup>nd</sup> 1:30 p.m. Standard Specifications and Details Committee (Ironwood)
- 3<sup>rd</sup> 2:00 p.m. Regional Domestic Violence Council (Saguaro)
- 8<sup>th</sup> 1:00 p.m. Street Committee (Chaparral)
- 9<sup>th</sup> 12:00 p.m. Management Committee (Saguaro)
- 10<sup>th</sup> 9:00 a.m. Public Safety Answering Point Managers (Saguaro)
- 10<sup>th</sup> 10:00 a.m. Transit Committee (Ironwood)
- 10<sup>th</sup> 1:30 p.m. Human Services Technical Committee (Chaparral)
- 14<sup>th</sup> 12:00 p.m. Regional Council Executive Committee (Ironwood)
- 15<sup>th</sup> 1:30 p.m. Bicycle & Pedestrian Committee (Ironwood)
- 16<sup>th</sup> 12:00 p.m. Transportation Policy Committee (Saguaro)
- 16<sup>th</sup> 2:00 p.m. Building Codes Committee (Ironwood)
- 17<sup>th</sup> 10:00 a.m. Tech. Advisory Group (Chaparral)
- 22<sup>nd</sup> 9:00 a.m. Elderly & Persons with Disabilities Transportation Committee (Chaparral)
- 22<sup>nd</sup> 10:00 a.m. Population Technical Advisory Committee (Chaparral)
- 23<sup>rd</sup> 11:30 a.m. Regional Council (Saguaro)
- 23<sup>rd</sup> 1:30 p.m. Human Services Coordinating Committee (Cottonwood)
- 24<sup>th</sup> 10:00 a.m. Transportation Review Committee (Saguaro)
- 24<sup>th</sup> 1:30 p.m. Air Quality Technical Advisory Committee (Saguaro)

Parking is available under the building. Please ask for parking validation at the meeting.