

The Maricopa Association of Governments Economic Development Committee Charter

Purpose of the Maricopa Association of Governments - Council of Governments

The Maricopa Association of Governments (MAG) is a voluntary organization of local governmental agencies that was formed in 1967 to provide a forum to discuss issues and needs that cross city, town, and county boundaries. The mechanisms used to address these issues include communication, planning, coordination, advocacy and technical assistance. The MAG Articles of Incorporation state that the corporation was formed to provide a forum for discussion and study of regional problems of mutual interest to the governments in the Phoenix metropolitan area; to uncover, clarify, identify and comprehensively plan for the solution of regional problems requiring multicity, town and county cooperation; and to attain the greatest degree of intergovernmental cooperation possible in order to prepare for future growth and development of the Phoenix metropolitan area. Economic development is an important topic to be addressed by MAG members, especially in the areas of communication, planning, coordination, advocacy and technical assistance.

Metropolitan Planning Organization

In 1973, federal transportation law provided for the formation of Metropolitan Planning Organizations (MPO) to conduct regional transportation planning. The Governor then designated MAG in 1973 as the MPO for this region. In the early 1990s, the MPOs were given more responsibility and more funding after the Intermodal Surface Transportation Efficiency Act (ISTEA) was passed. Federal requirements for planning in areas such as transportation, the environment and human services furthered a need for long-range planning and closer coordination of program activities by governments at all levels.

As the MPO, MAG, in cooperation with the state, is responsible for developing transportation plans and programs for urbanized areas of the state. One of the eight Federal Highway Administration planning factors in Fixing America's Surface Transportation Act (FAST Act) is to support the economic vitality of the metropolitan area, particularly by enabling global competitiveness, productivity and efficiency. The federal law also states that an MPO is to develop a metropolitan transportation plan and a transportation improvement program that fosters economic growth and development.

Formation of the Economic Development Committee

During the economic downturn of 2008, sales tax revenues, a major source of funding for the Regional Transportation Plan, declined. In fact, the half-cent sale tax collections were estimated to be 40 percent less than what had originally been projected. As a result, it was necessary for MAG to reduce the Regional Freeway Program by more than \$6.9 billion. The reduction in sales tax funds plus the fact that the region was faced with nearly 64,000 pending and foreclosed homes, coupled with the federal requirement to tie economic development into transportation planning, led MAG to form the Economic Development Committee (EDC) in October 2010.

Economic Development Committee's Mission

The mission of the EDC is to provide a forum for discussion and study of economic development and best practices in the MAG Region. This Committee will strive to attain the greatest degree of intergovernmental cooperation possible in order to prepare for future growth and development of the region. This cooperation will also include issues that impact the Sun Corridor, which includes the region between Phoenix and Tucson, and the State of Arizona. To further this general purpose, the EDC is tasked with developing opportunity-specific and action-oriented initiatives that foster and advance infrastructure, especially transportation infrastructure, which furthers economic development opportunities in the MAG region. Due to the connection of this region's economy with the Sun Corridor, at times it is necessary to consider and discuss issues that affect the Sun Corridor, such as improving the relationships with Mexico and enhancing the flow of commerce into Arizona. The focus of the EDC is on Maricopa and Pinal Counties. At times, the committee may look beyond these two counties if necessary to be successful. The best economic development efforts involve coordination between government agencies and businesses within a region. Governmental agencies may need to look past city, county, and sometimes state geographical boundaries to promote a successful message for the entire region.

Goal of the Economic Development Committee

The fundamental goal of the EDC is to foster enhanced communication, coordination and consistency between transportation plans and economic development strategies among economic development and planning agency leaders. The EDC will build institutional knowledge in the area of economic development so that MAG can fulfill its responsibility on transportation planning, while taking into account economic development. The Committee will work to assemble a wide collection of constituencies to gain a collective sense of the regional economic development environment in an effort to optimize potential opportunities; and provide coordination among the various economic development agencies, including but not limited to, the Arizona Commerce Authority, Greater Phoenix Economic Council, Sun Corridor Inc. and the Arizona Office of Tourism. These organizations are vital to optimizing those opportunities and the success of the region and State.

Activities of the Economic Development Committee

In an increasingly globalized economy, it is vital that Arizona take advantage of economic opportunities around the world. The EDC activities include committee meetings to discuss and study issues that affect regional economic development, such as business and trade relationships; foreign direct investment (FDI) local, regional and international freight and commerce related issues; issues related to innovation; work force development and other areas of interest to members of the EDC. The EDC also collaborates with other agencies, such as the Greater Phoenix Economic Council, on the development of an informational network to further economic development and the study of issues influencing regional economic activity. The EDC will also work to foster the integration of the region's educational assets – including universities, community colleges and graduate schools, such as the Thunderbird School of Global Management – with the business sector in the discussion and study of the region's economic development. The Committee will also focus on the value of best practices in and around the region, as well as obtaining the views and perspectives of the economic development staff at the cities, towns and counties.

Membership of the Economic Development Committee

Membership includes twenty-one (21) MAG member agency elected officials appointed by the MAG Regional Council. The seven largest cities, City of Phoenix, Arizona Department of Transportation, Maricopa and Pinal counties and the Native Nations, will have seats on the EDC and be included as part of the (21) MAG member agencies.

- Central City
- Maricopa County
- One Pinal County Member Agency (Apache Junction, Florence, Maricopa, or Pinal County)
- One Native Nation
- Eight West Valley
- Eight East Valley
- One ADOT transportation leadership position to be selected by the ADOT Director.

Terms of elected officials: In accordance with the MAG Committee Operating Policies and Procedures, the MAG member agency elected official members will have one-year terms with possible reappointment by recommendation of the Executive Committee and approval of the MAG Regional Council. Appointments occur each year in June.

Fifteen (15) business members of the MAG Economic Development Committee representing region-wide business interests.

- *Governor's Office, Transportation Policy*
- *Economist (Vacant)*
- *Transportation Industry Representatives (2)*
- *Education Representatives (4)*
- *WESTMARC*
- *East Valley Partnership*
- *Greater Phoenix Economic Council*
- *Greater Phoenix Leadership*
- *Development Community*
- *Phoenix Chamber of Commerce*
- *Arizona Commerce Authority*

Terms of Business members – The business members will have two-year terms with possible reappointment by recommendation of the Executive Committee and approval of the MAG Regional Council. Appointments occur in June.

Nomination Process & Election of the Chair and Vice Chair – A Chair and Vice Chair shall be elected from the members of the Economic Development Committee at the June meeting of each year. The current Chair works with members to nominate an elected official for the Vice Chair position, and the current Vice Chair is nominated for the position of Chair.

Vacancies – In the event of a vacancy in the Chair position, the Vice Chair will become Chair for the unexpired term of the previous Chair and a Vice Chair will be elected to complete the remainder of the

Vice Chair's term. An individual who succeeds to an unexpired term of six months or less will serve the remainder of the term and is eligible to serve one additional full-year term. An individual who succeeds to an unexpired term of more than six months serves for the remainder of the unexpired term and is not then eligible to serve an additional one full-year term.

Meetings – The EDC meetings are held bi-monthly on the first Tuesday of the month (unless there is a conflict with a holiday or major conference) at 11:30 a.m. at the MAG Office, 302 N. 1st Avenue, Suite 200, Phoenix, Arizona, 85003. A simple majority of member agencies on the EDC, participating in person or by teleconference or videoconference, shall constitute a quorum for the transactions of business. The use of proxies at the Economic Development Committee is not permitted.