

# Where Values Connect

FY 2019 Annual Report



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Mayor Gail Barney, Queen Creek, Outgoing Chair

Mayor Mark Mitchell, Tempe, Incoming Chair

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<sup>1</sup>W H E R E <sup>2</sup>V A L U E S

**Where values connect.** The theme that drives this report also is one that drives MAG as an organization. Regionalism brings communities together. Our economies, transportation, environment, and human needs are connected—as are our futures.

This report provides an opportunity for us, as outgoing and incoming chairs, to celebrate a successful year and look ahead to our next important tasks. While we represent diverse communities, at MAG we share a unified purpose. Our goal is to create a region that offers our residents a stable economy, a safe environment, and the opportunity to enjoy an unrivaled lifestyle that blends a lively urban environment with wide-open outdoor spaces.

For the third year in a row, Maricopa County was named the fastest-growing county in the nation. This growth represents incredible opportunities for our region, but also the challenges that come with rapid growth. MAG’s planning work becomes even more essential in this environment.

Many of the efforts undertaken this year lay the foundation for our mission ahead. One successful initiative was to structure MAG’s work around five core mission areas. These areas have been at the heart of MAG since its inception. They include safe and smart travel, the economy and growth, environment and sustainability, improving quality of life, and efficient and

effective operations. In this report, you will see how MAG stays true to its values, with the support and trust of its member agencies.

In the transportation arena, we continued to deliver projects made possible by Proposition 400, while looking at how we continue to invest in transportation when that sales tax expires in 2025. In December, our Joint Planning Advisory Council hosted the Sun Corridor Transportation Summit to discuss aging infrastructure and other funding needs. This event brought together state and local elected officials, regional planning agencies and business leaders to share critical information and ideas.



Sun Corridor Transportation Summit.

As we prepare for the next long-range plan, we also sought to learn the values that unite our community. In March 2019, thousands of people took time out of their busy lives to complete a 10-minute “values mapping” survey that will help us plan future transportation investments.



Visiting delegation from Montréal, Canada.

We continued to work through our Economic Development Committee to generate wealth for our region. We championed efforts to expand exporting. We hosted a number of foreign delegations in our region, further solidifying relationships with our international trading partners.

MAG continued air quality efforts to protect public health and ensure compliance with federal standards. This work directly affects our ability to proceed with transportation projects that propel economic development.

We continued to support the most vulnerable residents of the region with efforts targeted to provide resources to older adults, to those facing domestic violence, and to people experiencing homelessness. With the number of those living in unsheltered situations climbing for the sixth straight year, there is much work to be done to help those in our communities.

We thank you for your interest in sharing our regional success and learning more about where values connect.



# CONNECTING COMMUNITIES

The Maricopa Association of Governments (MAG) is a group of local governments working together on issues that touch the lives of every resident. We are a planning agency that provides regional planning and policy decisions in five core areas, including safe and smart travel, the economy and growth, environment and sustainability, improving quality of life, and efficient and effective operations.

MAG serves a thriving region of more than 4 million people. Our members include 27 cities and towns, three Native nations, Maricopa County, portions of Pinal County, and the Arizona Department of Transportation. Our planning area encompasses more than 10,000 square miles.

Established in 1967, MAG is governed by a Regional Council. The policy-making structure also includes the Executive Committee, Economic Development

Committee, Transportation Policy Committee, and Management Committee, as well as other policy and technical advisory committees. These committees guide planning and applied research to help frame public policy and further our core mission of strengthening the Greater Phoenix region.

The MAG team is made up of ten divisions that manage the programs, committees and projects with one goal: improving the quality of life in the region. Divisions include Administration, Communication, Environmental Programs, Fiscal Services, Human Resources, Human Services, Regional Analytics, Information Technology, Transportation Policy and Planning, and Transportation Technologies and Services.



# MAG Regional Council 2019



**Robin Barker**  
Councilmember, Apache Junction



**Kenneth Weise**  
Mayor of Avondale



**Jackie Meck**  
Mayor of Buckeye



**Les Peterson**  
Mayor of Carefree



**David L. Smith**  
Councilmember, Cave Creek



**Kevin Hartke**  
Mayor of Chandler



**Alexis Hermosillo**  
Mayor of El Mirage



**Tara Walter**  
Mayor of Florence



**President Bernadine Burnett**  
Fort McDowell Yavapai Nation



**Ginny Dickey**  
Mayor of Fountain Hills



**Tommy Sikes**  
Mayor of Gila Bend



**Governor Stephen Roe Lewis**  
Gila River Indian Community



**Jenn Daniels**  
Mayor of Gilbert



**Jerry Weiers**  
Mayor of Glendale



**Georgia Lord**  
Mayor of Goodyear



**Valerie Molina**  
Mayor of Guadalupe



**Thomas Schoaf**  
Mayor of Litchfield Park



**Christian Price**  
Mayor of Maricopa



**Steve Chucchi**  
Supervisor, Maricopa County



**John Giles**  
Mayor of Mesa



**Jerry Bien-Willner**  
Mayor of Paradise Valley



**Cathy Carlat**  
Mayor of Peoria



**Kate Gallego**  
Mayor of Phoenix



**Todd House**  
Supervisor, Pinal County



**Gail Barney**  
Mayor of Queen Creek



**President Martin Harvier**  
Salt River Pima-Maricopa Indian Community



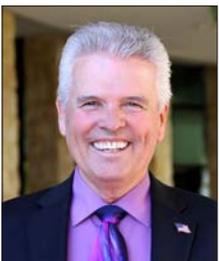
**Sam Elters**  
State Transportation Board



**Jack Sellers**  
State Transportation Board



**W. J. "Jim" Lane**  
Mayor of Scottsdale



**Skip Hall**  
Mayor of Surprise



**Mark Mitchell**  
Mayor of Tempe



**Anna Tovar**  
Mayor of Tolleson



**Everett Sickles**  
Mayor of Wickenburg



**Michael LeVault**  
Mayor of Youngtown



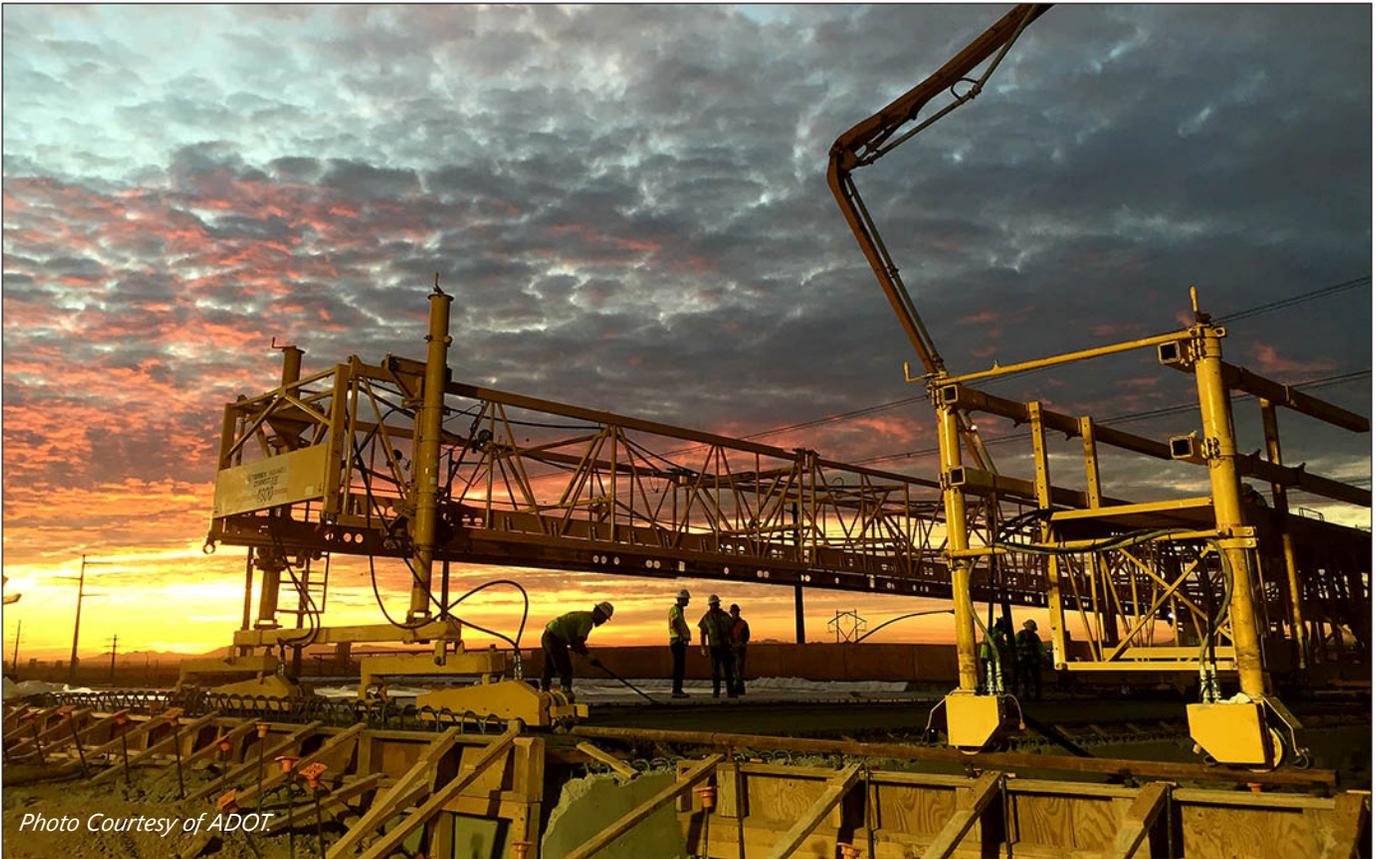


Photo Courtesy of ADOT.

<sup>1</sup> C O N N E C T I N G

Think of the things you value most. Is it family? Work? Possessions? Time? Our transportation system likely plays a role in all: Getting your family safely to where they need to go. Bringing products, employees, and customers to your business. Delivering goods in a timely manner. MAG wants to protect these values now and in the future by developing an innovative transportation plan that provides opportunities for greater mobility and economic growth.

With the half-cent transportation sales tax expiring in 2025, MAG is working hard to

<sup>2</sup> T R A N S P O R T I N G

prepare the next transportation funding strategy that supports our long-range plan. One key event this year was a Sun Corridor Transportation Summit to discuss and identify infrastructure needs and how to fund them. We also sought to understand the needs, priorities and values of the residents who will use—and yes, who need to help fund—our future transportation system.

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<sup>3</sup> V A L U E S

**Your Vision= Our Future**

Finding out what values are most

common among Valley residents is both a strategic and scientific process. Along with in-depth focus groups and other research, MAG developed a survey to gain a better understanding of public attitudes

regarding regional transportation needs and investment priorities. More than 9,200 people who live or work in the region completed the survey. These opinions will play a key role in creating the next long-range transportation plan, aptly named *Imagine*.

**Planes, Trains, & Automobiles...  
and Biking & Walking & Bridges &  
Technology and...**

“Multimodal” is not a word that slips easily into everyday conversation...unless you work at MAG. It refers to the many travel choices in our region, such as driving, walking, bicycling, or taking the bus or train. It also can refer to the types of facilities needed, such as highways, streets, pathways, bridges, bus routes, or rail lines.



In preparing for *Imagine*, MAG has undertaken a number of studies and planning efforts that include high capacity transit, commuter rail, active transportation (bike and pedestrian facilities), streets, and freeway expansion. Additional studies are planned through 2020.

**Commitment to Safety**

Safety is one of the top priorities for residents and for MAG. We conduct a number of regional safety programs and projects to improve road safety in the region. The efforts include identifying safety

improvements, projects to help children get to school safely, and exploration of new technologies to improve pedestrian safety.

**Providing Technology and Tools**

MAG continually works to refine its technical tools. We incorporate emerging technologies so that planning and investment decisions rely on the best possible information. For example, MAG regularly collects transportation data, such as the number of cars, traffic speeds, information on where trips begin and end, and bike and pedestrian data. This information is fed into highly advanced traffic simulation models that help monitor and forecast transportation performance. MAG uses established performance metrics to meet identified goals. All of these tools make for better planning and enhance transparency and accountability when it comes to investment decisions.

**Regional Community Network (RCN)**

MAG supports this high-speed network that links cities through fiber optics. The RCN enables regional sharing of live traffic cameras and provides critical 9-1-1 communication links.



**If You Build It....The Region Will Use It!**

It was a busy year for construction activities, including:

- Began construction of the next segment of Northern Parkway, from Dysart Road to 111th Avenue.
- Continued progress on Loop 202 South Mountain Freeway.
- Began construction on Loop 101, from I-17 to Pima Road, and from Baseline Road to Loop 202.
- Completed construction on the Gilbert Road light rail extension, which opened in May 2019, and the 50th Street light rail station, which opened in April 2019.



<sup>1</sup> V A L U I N G  
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**Air Quality**

Our region's air quality has improved significantly over the past five decades. MAG's air quality efforts focus on three pollutants: carbon monoxide, ozone and particulates (dust). MAG continued to make major progress in these areas.

MAG is dedicated to safeguarding our environment to enhance our quality of life, protect health, and improve the world around us. MAG develops regional plans to meet federal and state requirements for clean air, water quality management, and solid waste management.

*Carbon Monoxide*

A significant achievement was obtaining 22 years of clean data for carbon monoxide, thanks to many local, state, and federal control measures. The region continues to meet the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) carbon monoxide standard as required. In fact, carbon monoxide levels are 68 percent below the federal standard.

*Ozone*

We continued progress in addressing ozone, which can trigger a variety of respiratory health problems. There have been no violations of the one-hour ozone standard since 1996, and no violations of the 1997 eight-hour ozone standard since 2004. In fact, we have seen 14 consecutive three-year periods with no violations of the 1997 standard. In addition, it appears

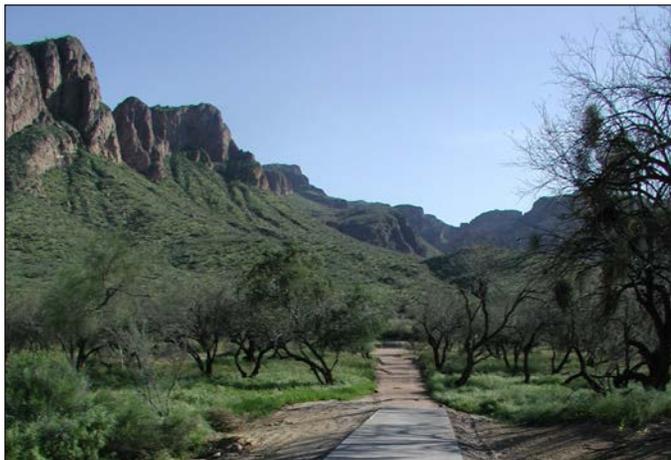
that the 2008 eight-hour ozone standard was met in 2017, based on monitoring data from the 2017 ozone season. For the 2015 ozone standard, EPA classified the Maricopa Nonattainment Area as a Marginal Area, effective August 3, 2018.

#### *Dust*

Results from the past seven years indicate there have been no violations of the national standards for dust, known as PM-10 (particulate matter 10 microns in diameter or less). Aggressive, coordinated activities to prevent exceedances at the monitors and throughout the region continue to ensure that the PM-10 standard is maintained. The region meets the air quality standard for smaller dust particles known as PM-2.5 (particulate matter 2.5 microns in diameter or less).

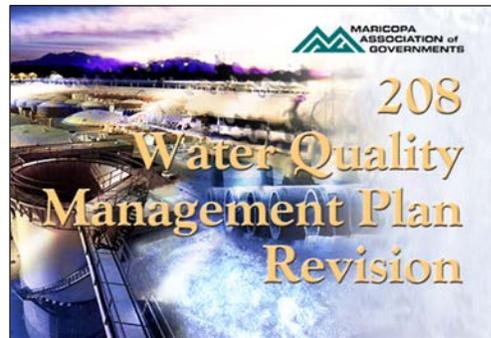
#### **Connecting for a Better Environment**

Our commitment to air quality extends beyond our county's boundaries. We continued to strengthen our partnerships by providing technical assistance to the Sun Corridor Metropolitan Planning Organization (SCMPO). MAG prepared conformity analyses for amendments to the SCMPO FY2016-2025 Transportation Improvement Program and Regional Transportation Plan 2040.



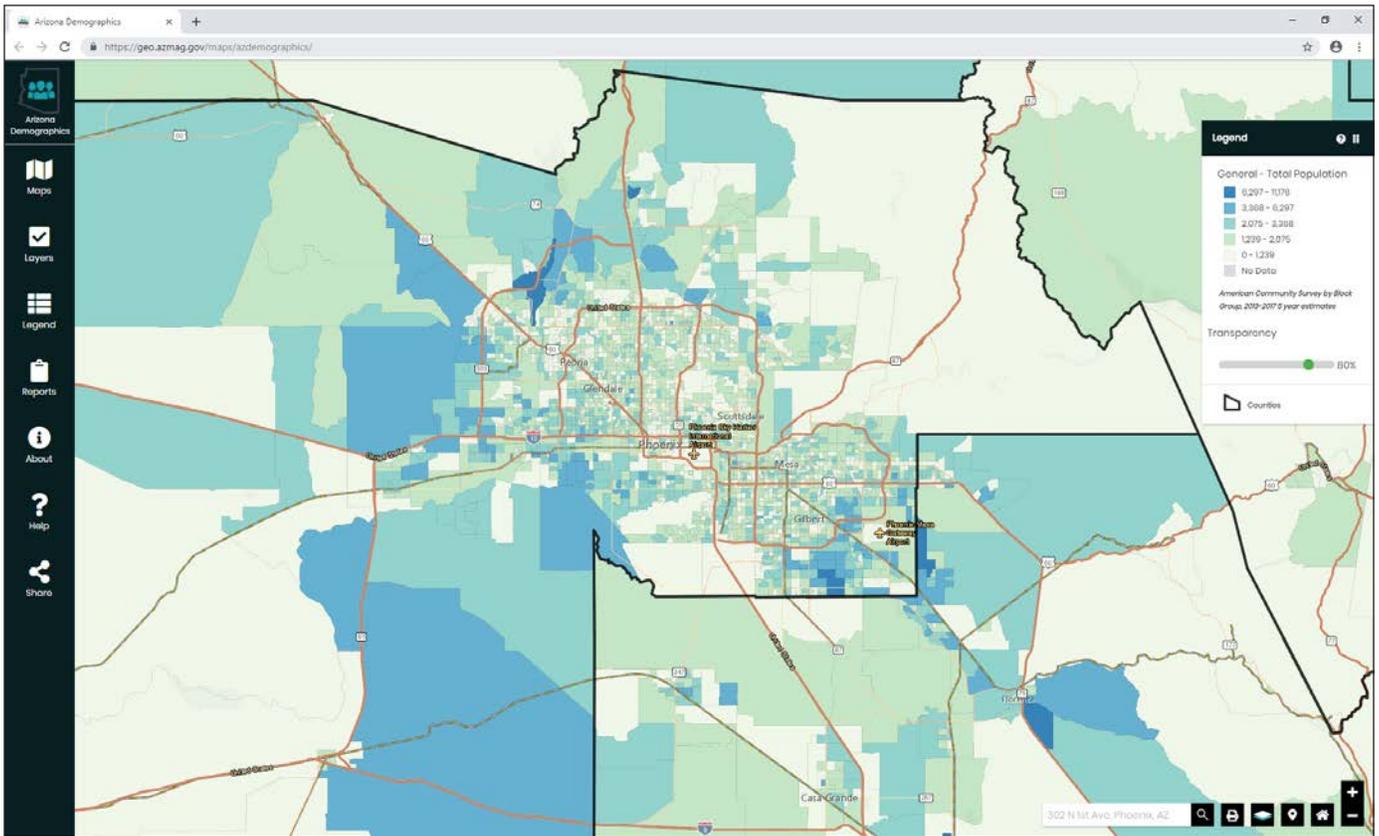
#### **Solid Waste**

Great strides have been made by the MAG member agencies to reduce the amount of material being sent to the landfills by encouraging participation in solid waste and recycling programs. MAG continued to collect information on the implementation of new solid waste and recycling projects and programs based upon the Solid Waste Best Practices in the MAG Region 2017 Update. Working with its member agencies, MAG also compiled regional solid waste and recycling information to gain a regional perspective of the current solid waste management conditions in the region.



#### **Water Quality**

MAG continued to implement the Streamlined MAG 208 Water Quality Management Plan Process. As part of that effort, the service area expansion for the Landings Project became effective January 3, 2019. The city of Buckeye sent a letter to MAG in full support of the Landings, located in the Buckeye Municipal Planning Area, receiving sewer service from the Liberty Utilities Palm Valley Water Reclamation Facility located in the Goodyear Municipal Planning Area.



# 1 C O N N E C T I N G

The Regional Analytics Division collects data and uses analytics to drive the vital work at MAG, including transportation planning, economic development, and other diverse purposes, such as improving literacy and ending homelessness.

The division also is responsible for developing the region's official socioeconomic projections. These projections help MAG analyze socioeconomic trends as well as plan for future transportation infrastructure, environmental programs, and human services activities.

## **iCount2020: MAG Supports Census Efforts**

Census 2020 is the nationwide opportunity for an accurate count of the population that

# 2 H 3 R E S E A R C H O U G H

results in millions of dollars in federal funding to local communities. MAG continued to coordinate the region's efforts through workshops, special training sessions, and technical assistance to update local addresses to ensure everyone is counted. MAG also launched a communication campaign, *iCount2020* to increase awareness of the census and to provide information on how to participate in the first online census in U.S. history.



## When Data and Business Intersect

Companies looking to expand or locate their business in Arizona are able to utilize MAG's interactive maps and analytics to find out detailed information about our region. A new activity this year to support economic development activities involved a collaborative effort among MAG and all other councils of governments and metropolitan planning organizations (COGs/MPOs) in the state of Arizona. Working together with these partners, MAG created an Employer Database of all businesses

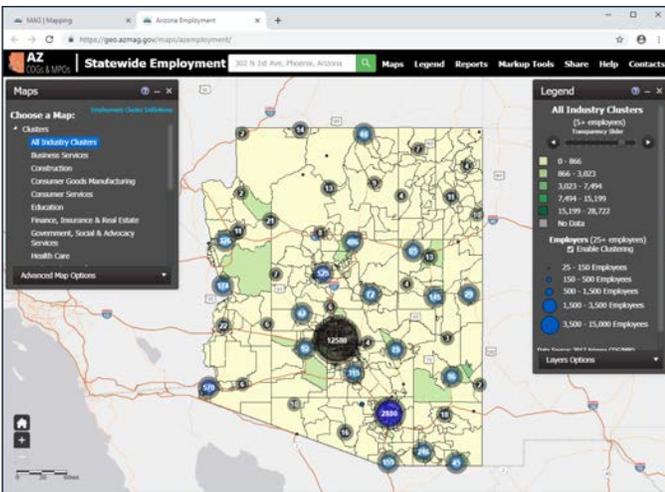
can look up information on local schools or recreational opportunities.

MAG also implemented a new mobile application to assist in the annual Point in Time street count of individuals experiencing homelessness. This application helped to create a more complete picture of where homelessness is occurring and what unique problems are occurring in the lives of individuals that may be contributing to their homeless situation.

## Information Technology

MAG Information Technology staff supports agency data collection efforts, such as the Trip Reduction Program Survey application that collects important information about commute patterns. MAG worked with Maricopa County to enhance the backend application and wrote software so that the data can better be analyzed.

Another cooperative effort was working with other local governments to support recruitment of IT staff. MAG created the [www.ValleyGovTechRecruiter.com](https://www.ValleyGovTechRecruiter.com) site to serve as a one-stop shop for local government tech jobs.



with five or more employees in Arizona. This database is now available on the MAG website at <https://maps.azmag.gov/>. Users can filter the data by various geographies to show employers by size and by industries.

## Data on Demand

Members of the public can easily access MAG's online data center and interactive maps, known as viewers. In fact, MAG staff provided training to 200 people this year to help them better use this important resource. For example, small business owners can learn more about the demographics of their neighborhoods for targeted marketing purposes, and residents





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The Maricopa region is truly part of the global economy. In 2018, Arizona had \$22 billion in exports, keeping it among the top 25 states for total export value. The region is home to 1,200 international companies from 53 countries, employing more than 88,000 residents.

Companies say they come here because of the region’s quality workforce, pro-business environment, and world-class free-way system that makes the region globally competitive. Through the Economic Development Committee (EDC), MAG fosters partnerships with government

agencies, economic development leaders, and the greater business community to focus on infrastructure development and international trade. The EDC highlights best practices that help our region attract innovative companies in the U.S. and abroad.

**Building Connections Across Borders**

Mexico and Canada are Arizona’s largest trading partners, with a combined total of \$10 billion in exports for 2018. Strengthening those connections in fiscal year 2019 were economic missions to Mexico and Canada, analyses of international trade and foreign direct investments, and special projects that reinforced the vital connection between economic development and transportation. MAG hosted learning and exchange sessions for visitors from China, Israel, Vietnam and the Mandela Washington Fellowship for Young African Leaders.



### **Mexico Missions**

Arizona elected officials and business leaders conducted an economic mission to Mexico City, one of the largest cities in the world. The trip was an opportunity to stimulate economic development, connect with key leaders, and support commerce corridors that connect Arizona and Mexico. Also this fiscal year, a delegation of business leaders from Chihuahua came to the Valley to learn about aerospace, manufacturing, biotechnology, agriculture and tourism.



### **Canadian Connection**

MAG continued to build its relationship with its other top trading partner, Canada. In February 2018, a delegation of local elected leaders traveled to Montreal to help build relationships with the local government and industry sectors such as aerospace, tourism, foreign direct investment and trade. In April 2019, a delegation from Montreal repaid the visit, coming to the MAG region to focus on smart mobility. Discussions included autonomous vehicles, regulations, user experience and “last mile” connections to transit. A third visit, this time from Arizona to Calgary, focused on increasing foreign direct investment by Canadian companies in Arizona.

### **Expanding Exports**

In efforts to increase exporting in the Sun Corridor region, MAG collaborated with the Greater Phoenix Economic Council and the Metropolitan Phoenix Export Alliance to increase awareness of businesses that support exporting through the Export Explorer Program. The program helps

companies explore how to find new export opportunities and tap into resources to reach global markets faster. Our continuing partnership with the Arizona Commerce Authority on the regional ExporTech program helps companies start and expand exporting.



### **Community Collaboration**

A \$1 million federal grant will help get you where you’re going more efficiently and safely in the future. The Arizona Department of Transportation (ADOT), MAG, and partnering agencies are creating a data portal named “Sun Cloud” to share transportation information. The data will inform transportation investments and improve mobility and safety in the Sun Corridor, which extends from Phoenix to the Mexico border.

Another grant also is shaping community connections. The U.S. Department of Defense Office of Economic Adjustment awarded MAG \$486,000 to conduct a Targeted Growth Management Plan for Luke Air Force Base. The study is a collaborative effort among MAG, Luke Air Force Base, surrounding jurisdictions, and stakeholders. It will identify issues and opportunities relating to transportation, economic development, workforce development, education, and housing.





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MAG is committed to the residents we serve, and to improving the quality of life for all. Through shared efforts with many partners across the region, we plan strategies for issues facing older adults, survivors of domestic violence, and individuals and families experiencing homelessness.

**From Street to Home**

Grant funding received from the Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) helps provide critically needed support to local programs serving individuals and families experiencing homelessness. The Maricopa Region Continuum of Care award from HUD last year of \$28 million provides funding for 35 local programs that provide housing and services to end homelessness. MAG’s coordination of an annual street count of

people experiencing homelessness is critical to securing that federal funding.

Numbers gathered by volunteers during a single night in January 2019 show 6,614 people experiencing homelessness within the region, an increase of 316 people over 2018. Nearly 13 percent reported experiencing homelessness for the first time, which translates to more than 400 people. The unsheltered count portion identified 3,188 people living in a place not meant for human habitation, such as on the street, in desert washes, or in vehicles. The unsheltered count increased by 22 percent over 2018.

Other initiatives included a system-wide analysis to determine the housing intervention needs for the region, and

a report documenting the practices of local governments responding to homelessness in their communities.

### **Connecting Aging, Health and Transportation Solutions**

Every day, older adults in our communities face the impact of losing access to transportation and that important connection to what they want in life. MAG coordinates transportation options for older adults and persons with disabilities throughout the region. MAG's Transportation Ambassador Program is a vital conduit that connects people with resources, provides support to qualified individuals that need assistance, and incorporates feedback from the public into the planning process.



More than 200 people attended a conference that featured solutions that connect aging, health and transportation through innovative programs. The Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) will share the recommendations and material at the conference for a curriculum for training transportation professionals nationwide. AARP AZ, Age Friendly Arizona, FHWA, and the Vitalyst Health Foundation partnered on the event.



Age Friendly Arizona is coordinated by MAG to support communities throughout the state in meaningfully engaging older adults. One milestone this year was the launch of a new Rural Transportation Incubator to address the lack of access to transportation services by older adults.

Also this year, MAG unveiled an updated website with significant enhancements and a new logo at [www.agefriendlyaz.org](http://www.agefriendlyaz.org). It provides resources to support the independence and community growth of older adults.

### **Valuing Safety**

Every minute, nearly 20 people are physically abused by an intimate partner in the United States. That's more than 10 million women and men every year. In Arizona, one or more children witness domestic violence every 44 minutes. Keeping families safe is what drives MAG to help survivors by coordinating the regional response. We also work to increase efficiencies in arresting and prosecuting domestic violence abusers. This year, a survey with members of the Regional Domestic Violence Council and community stakeholders is helping to determine the best practices to prevent these crimes and hold abusers accountable.



The sizzling Arizona heat contributed to at least 181 deaths in Maricopa County last year. Protecting at-risk people from the intense summer heat is the goal of the regional Heat Relief Network coordinated by MAG. The network consists of service providers, faith-based groups, municipalities, businesses, and caring citizens mobilizing to provide water, refuge and resource collection locations throughout the Valley. More than 55 organizations provided water and cooling stations at 163 locations last year, with an additional 90 collection site locations.





<sup>1</sup> VALUING COMMUNICATION

We couldn't do it without you! MAG understands that public participation is key to the planning process. We need the community's help to plan projects that provide benefits

to the region and meet the

wide-ranging needs of residents. We undertook some major activities this year to enhance your engagement experience.

**A New Public Participation Plan**

This year, the Communication and Transportation divisions worked together on a major update to the *MAG Public Participation Plan*.

This document provides information about how you can provide your comments and engage with MAG. The Plan is based on five guiding principles:

- Include a diverse blend of voices.
- Engage people early and often.
- Be clear and transparent.
- Listen and act.
- Report back.



Using these principles, we hope to get to know you and understand your values and priorities. This helps us make better decisions for our region's future. We are grateful when people take their valuable time to connect with us, and we are committed to reporting back to you about how your comments helped shape our final plans.

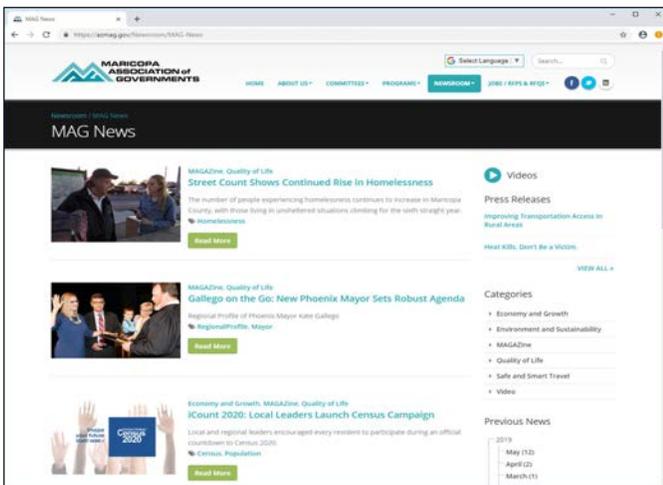
### Ensuring Diverse Voices

MAG ensures inclusion of minority populations and low income populations in the planning process. This process meets requirements set forth in Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964 and environmental justice legislation. Each year, MAG updates the document that outlines its process. Along with updates to demographic and population data, MAG's *FY 2020 Title VI and Environmental Program* includes the new *Public Participation Plan*.



### Join Us at Our Table!

The next time you attend a cultural, community or family festival, or go to check out a book at your local library, you might come across a MAG community outreach table. Each month, the MAG public involvement team chooses a location in the region to host a table where we provide information about MAG and invite you to tell us about your priorities for the region. We may ask you to take a five-minute transportation survey on a phone or tablet. Your answers help us track what projects and priorities are most important to Valley residents.



### Social Media

Stay in touch with MAG by following us at [Twitter.com/MAG region](https://twitter.com/MAG_region), by watching MAG videos at [www.youtube.com/MAGcommunications](https://www.youtube.com/MAGcommunications), searching for the Maricopa Association of Governments on Facebook, or visiting our website at [www.azmag.gov](http://www.azmag.gov).

### New News Blog

MAG handles complex issues and information is often technical. To make this information easier to understand, the communication team launched a news blog that helped transition several publications from meeting summary formats to easy-to-read, content rich stories that are a simple click away. Check it out at [www.azmag.gov/newsroom](http://www.azmag.gov/newsroom).



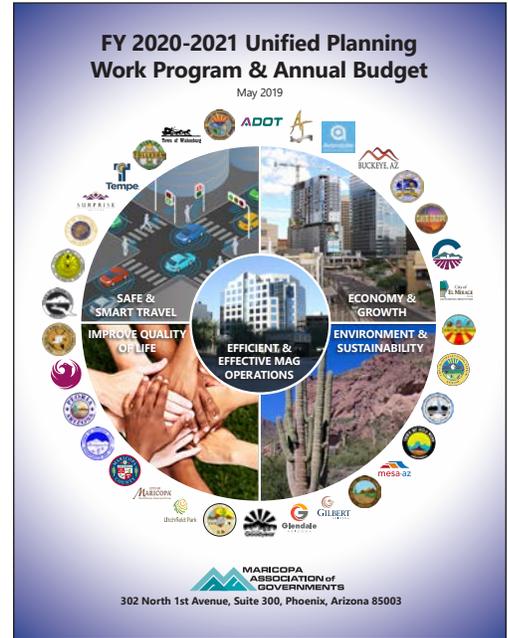
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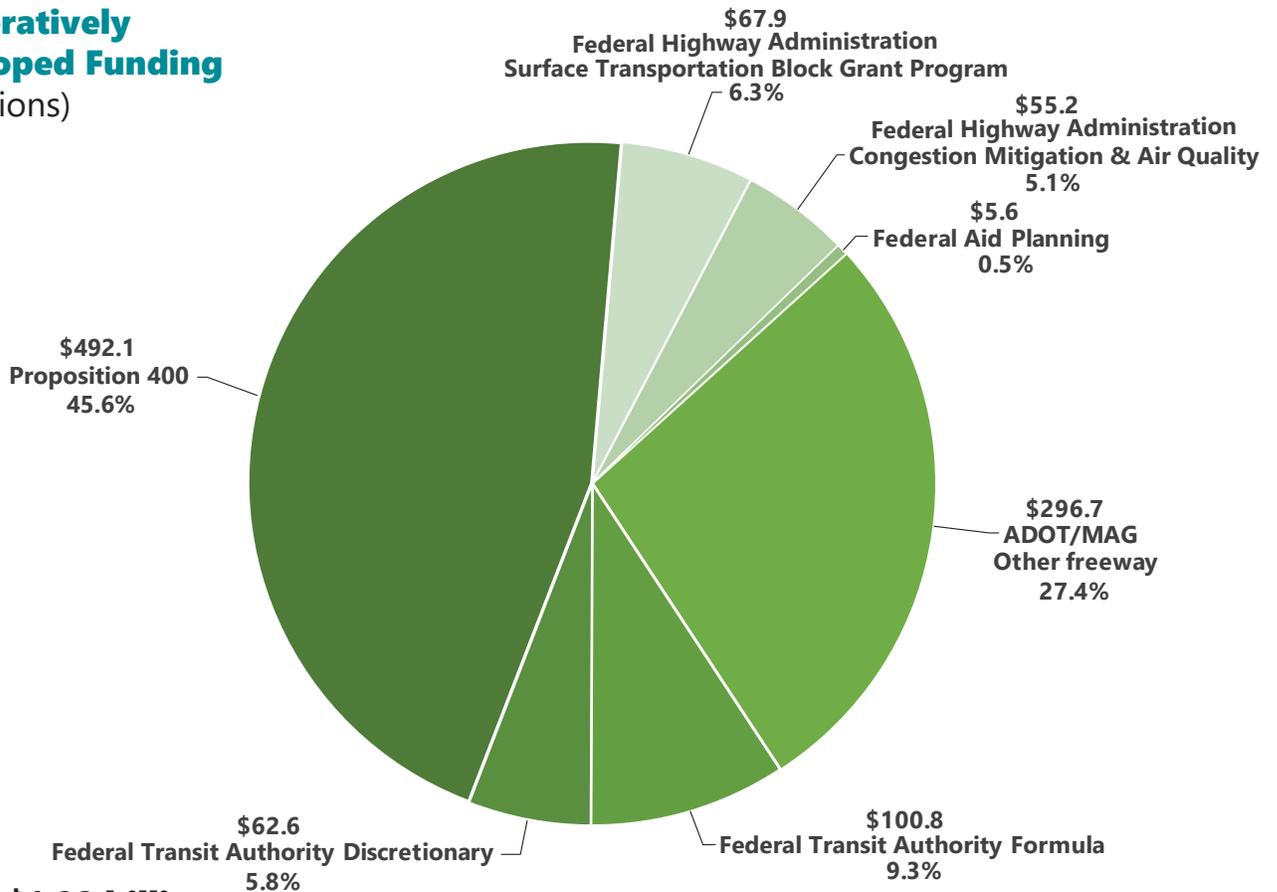
Funding for MAG’s programs and activities comes from a variety of sources, with federal and state funding making up the main revenue source. Membership dues and special assessments are received from each member agency based on population, and provide another source of revenue to support MAG’s regional activities.

MAG plans for more than \$1.08 billion in total regional funding, including funding for the freeway program.

MAG’s FY 2020 Unified Planning Work Program and Annual Budget is \$39 million, which includes an operating budget of about \$31.2 million. The difference is due to “carry forward” consulting contracts and pass-through agreements with other agencies.

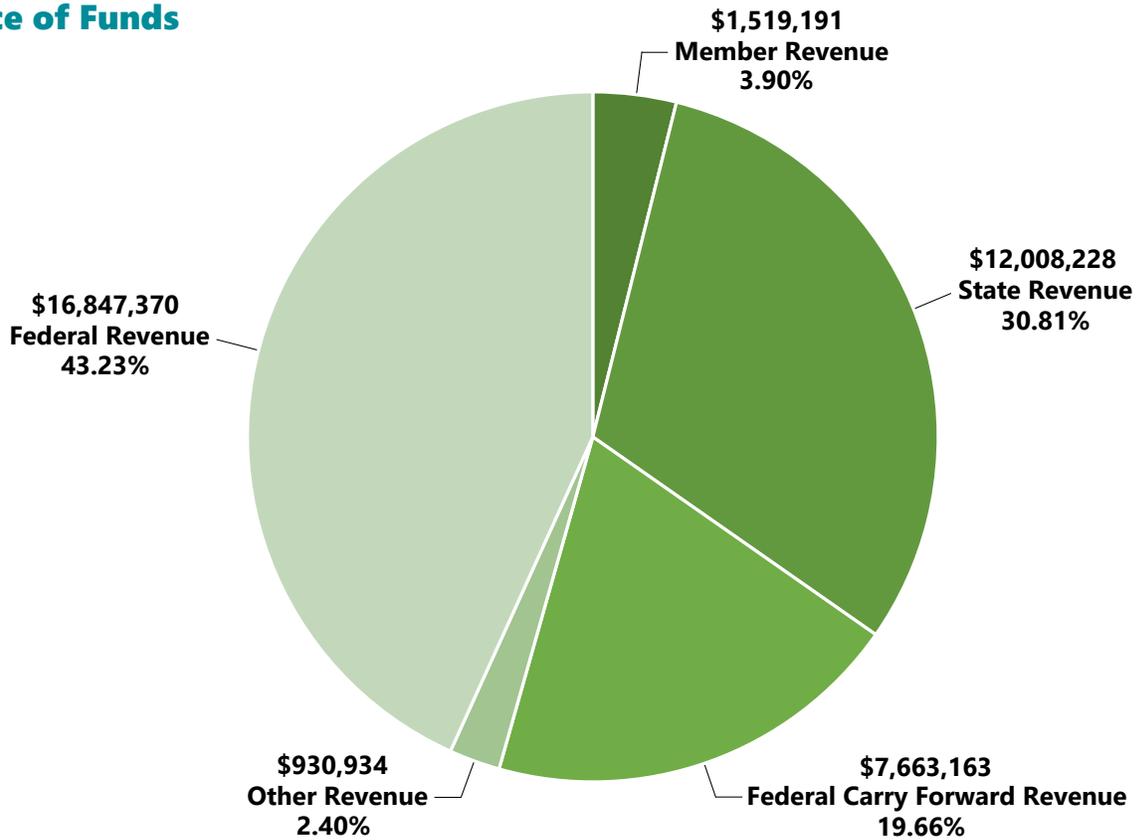


**Cooperatively Developed Funding**  
(in Millions)



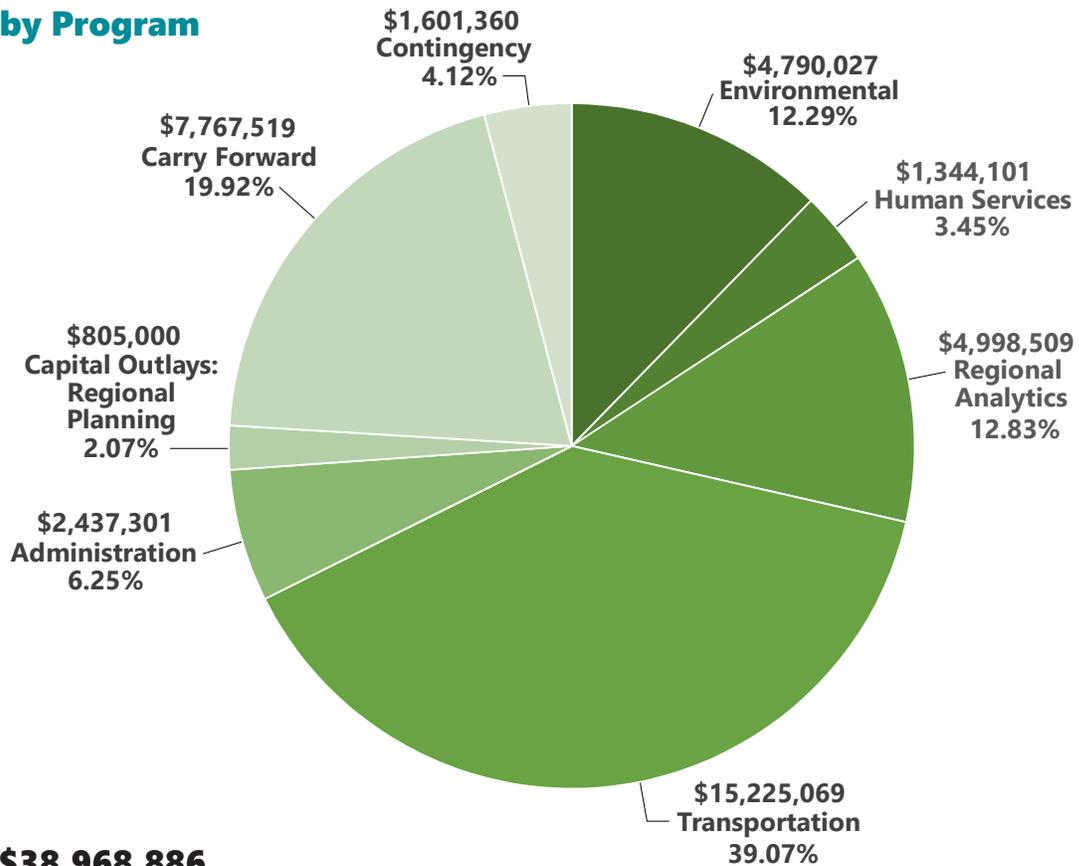
**Total: \$1.08 billion**

## Source of Funds

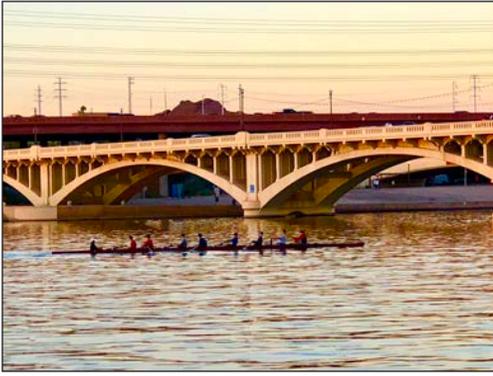


**Total: \$38,968,886**

## How MAG Uses the Funds by Program



**Total: \$38,968,886**



MAG fully complies with Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964 and related statutes and regulations in all programs and activities. For more information on rights afforded under Title VI, relevant activities at MAG, or if you feel these rights have been violated, please visit the agency website at [www.azmag.gov](http://www.azmag.gov) or call (602) 254-6300.