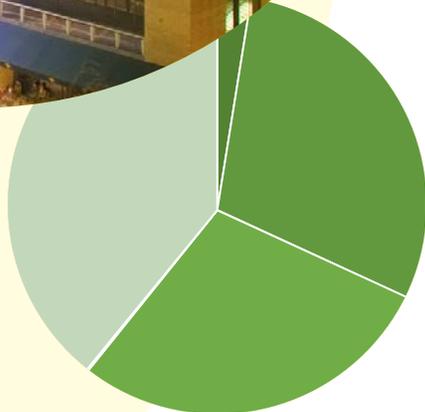


Framing the Future

FY 2018 Annual Report



Our View

As elected officials from opposite ends of the Valley, we find it fitting to have this opportunity to represent the cooperative spirit that is the heart of the Maricopa Association of Governments (MAG).

The theme of this year's report is appropriate. Our planning efforts are "framing the future" as we begin setting the stage for the next round of transportation investments. To ensure progress and improvement of our transportation system, we will need new transportation funding. This likely will take the form of the extension of the half-cent sales tax for transportation. To prepare for this initiative, activities in FY 2019 will include public opinion research, coordination with member agencies, and technical studies.

Mayor Jackie Meck
Buckeye, Outgoing Chair (left)
Mayor Gail Barney
Queen Creek, Incoming Chair (right)

Our policy committees will begin a deep dive in updating the MAG Regional Transportation Plan. We will continue to look at ways to address complex issues such as maintenance, congestion and safety. We will determine how to embrace rapidly changing technology as we move forward into the future.

In FY 2018, we saw how current transportation funding is making a difference. We saw rapid construction on the South Mountain Freeway, on track to open next year. We saw progress on Interstate 11, developed enhanced methods to measure performance, completed the region's first Systems Management and Operations Plan, and finalized the MAG Freight Transportation Plan, along with many other transportation activities.

We continued to find ways to generate wealth and a better quality of life for our citizens through the work of our Economic Development Committee. We broke ground by using our data and transportation tools to create a new way of presenting large-scale economic development projects. MAG led the region's largest delegation to Montreal, Canada, to celebrate Air Canada's first nonstop flight between Phoenix and Montreal. We participated in several binational events in partnership with economic development leaders in Mexico. With support of numerous partners in the Sun Corridor, we championed exporting through the Economic Development for the Global Economy (EDGE) Program.



Elected officials from Arizona meet with Canadian officials in Montreal.

We improved the region in other ways, including bringing “text to 9-1-1” to our region. This technology allows those in imminent danger and unable to talk to a 9-1-1 operator—such as people with disabilities or domestic violence victims hiding from an abuser—the ability to use their phone to text to 9-1-1.

MAG continued its work on air quality issues to protect public health and ensure compliance with federal standards. This compliance directly affects our ability to proceed with transportation projects that spur economic development. We continued to monitor federal air quality issues, coordinating with legal counsel in efforts that resulted in favorable outcomes. Also, MAG completed an update to the Solid Waste Best Practices in the MAG Region, identifying six new best practices.

MAG continued to support the most vulnerable residents in the region with coordinated plans and services. Work in the area of homelessness took a higher profile with increasing numbers of people living on the streets. This will continue to be a focus in FY 2019.

Finally, we continued to receive support from our Administration, Communications, Fiscal Services, and Information Technology divisions. Please see the appropriate sections in this report to learn more about the financial stewardship and community connections taking place. We are proud to be part of the many ways MAG is serving the people of this region.





Satellite view of the MAG region.

Self Portrait

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 regional agency that provides planning and policy decisions in the areas of transportation, air quality, economic development, and programs that meet the human needs of the region.

MAG serves a thriving region of more than 4 million people. Our members include 27 cities and towns, three Native American communities, 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 nine divisions that manage the programs, committees and projects with one goal: improving the quality of life in the region. Divisions include Administration, Communications, Environmental Programs, Fiscal Services, Human Resources, Human Services, Information Services, Information Technology and Transportation.

MAG Regional Council 2018



Robin Barker
Councilmember, Apache Junction



Kenneth Weise
Mayor of Avondale



Jackie Meck
Mayor of Buckeye



Mike Farrar
Councilmember, Carefree



David L. Smith
Councilmember, Cave Creek



Jay Tibshraeny
Mayor of Chandler



Lana Mook
Mayor of El Mirage



Tara Walter
Mayor of Florence



President Bernadine Burnett
Fort McDowell Yavapai Nation



Nick DePorter
Councilmember, 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



Denny Barney
Supervisor, Maricopa County



John Giles
Mayor of Mesa



Michael Collins
Mayor of Paradise Valley



Cathy Carlat
Mayor of Peoria



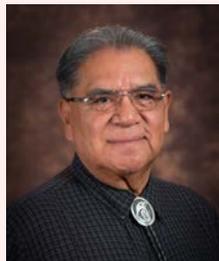
Greg Stanton
Mayor of Phoenix



Todd House
Supervisor, Pinal County



Gail Barney
Mayor of Queen Creek



President Delbert Ray
Salt River Pima-Maricopa Indian Community



Sam Elters
State Transportation Board



Jack Sellers
State Transportation Board



W. J. "Jim" Lane
Mayor of Scottsdale



Sharon Wolcott
Mayor of Surprise



Mark Mitchell
Mayor of Tempe



Anna Tovar
Mayor of Tolleson



Everett Sickles
Mayor of Wickenburg



Michael LeVault
Mayor of Youngtown



Transportation Focus

MAG looks to the future with an innovative transportation system that provides opportunities for greater mobility and economic growth. With more than \$35 billion in transportation investment over the next 20 years, all of the freeways in the region have either been expanded or are scheduled for expansion over the next 10 years. Currently, a new 22-mile freeway is being built, adding to the 467 miles of existing freeway in the region, 26 miles of light rail transit service, 3,800 miles of arterial streets, and 2,039 miles of bike lanes.

A top priority is securing continued transportation funding to ensure the future of the region's transportation system and the growth of the economy. This would likely come through the extension of the half-cent sales tax, which is set to expire in 2025. Technical studies spanning the modes of transportation are underway in preparation for an anticipated "Prop 500" to identify needs to be considered for the next 20-year plan.

MAG also is planning for rapid changes in technology, including autonomous or self-driving vehicles. Our region is at the forefront in embracing this technology. Experts predict that as many as half of all vehicles will be at least partially autonomous by 2030—just 12 years from now. How these vehicles are used could have a major impact on travel choices, ridesharing, land use, safety and more efficient transit. MAG is working to develop a range of scenarios that will continue to evolve as we move into the next edition of the *Regional Transportation Plan*.

Construction of the Loop 303/
Interstate 10 interchange in
Goodyear.

Spotlight on Freeways, Streets, Transit

Construction is on schedule for the state's largest freeway project, the South Mountain Freeway. The freeway will complete Loop 202, providing a direct link between the East Valley and West Valley, and will serve as a much-needed alternative to Interstate 10. Progress also was made on the future Arizona State Route 30, between State Route 85 in Buckeye to Interstate 17 in Phoenix. This corridor, newly named the Tres Rios Freeway, will provide another critical route for freight coming out of California. One major project, the Loop 303/Interstate 10 system interchange, was completed.



South Mountain Freeway construction. Photo courtesy of ADOT.

Three large transit projects were under construction this year—the 50th Street light rail station, the Tempe Streetcar and the light rail extension to Gilbert Road. MAG worked with the City of Mesa and Valley Metro to advance federal revenues to align more closely with work activities, which has resulted in savings of more than \$11 million dollars for this rail extension. Also this year, nine new regionally-funded street projects were opened to traffic, with 40 more projects under development.

Spotlight on Safety

MAG funded a pilot program to detect and alert law enforcement and the public to wrong way drivers. The Arizona Department of Transportation (ADOT) uses cameras and sensors along Interstate 17 in Phoenix to help the Department of Public Safety (DPS) warn drivers and intercept these vehicles. Another pilot project helping to protect the public was jointly funded by ADOT and MAG. The program puts DPS officers at the ADOT Traffic Operations Center. The move helps reduce the length of freeway closures during crashes, and is now permanently funded.



Light rail extension. Photo courtesy of Valley Metro.

On a related front, MAG's Information Technology division continues to provide staff support for the Regional Community Network (RCN). This network links cities through fiber optics that bring live access to traffic cameras. Local transportation departments are using the RCN to support their signal systems to dynamically adjust traffic lights, making commutes easier and faster. The network expanded this year with the addition of Apache Junction and the Phoenix Emergency Operations Center. The RCN also provides critical 9-1-1 communication links and added four public safety answering points to the Maricopa region.





Environmental Landscape

Safeguarding our environment is a MAG priority. MAG develops regional plans to meet federal and state requirements for clean air, water quality management, and solid waste management. These plans are designed to protect our health and that of the world around us.

The Air Quality Picture

MAG's dynamic, effective regional air quality program is shaped around three major pollutants: carbon monoxide, ozone and particulates (dust).

Carbon Monoxide

The good news story: carbon monoxide levels continued to decline due to the wide variety of local, state, and federal control measures that have been implemented over several years. The region continues to meet the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) carbon monoxide standard as required. Even better news: data show carbon monoxide levels are 68 percent below the federal standard.

Ozone

Breathing ozone can trigger a variety of respiratory health problems, and this pollutant also can damage vegetation and ecosystems. Over time, significant progress has been made to reduce ozone in the region. 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 addition, it appears that the 2008 eight-hour ozone standard was met in 2017, based on preliminary ozone monitoring data from the 2017 ozone season.

Dust

Results from the past six years (2012-2017) indicate there have been no violations of the national standards for dust, known as PM-10 (particulate matter 10 microns in diameter or less). The aggressive activities to prevent PM-10 exceedances at the monitors and throughout the region will be continued 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).

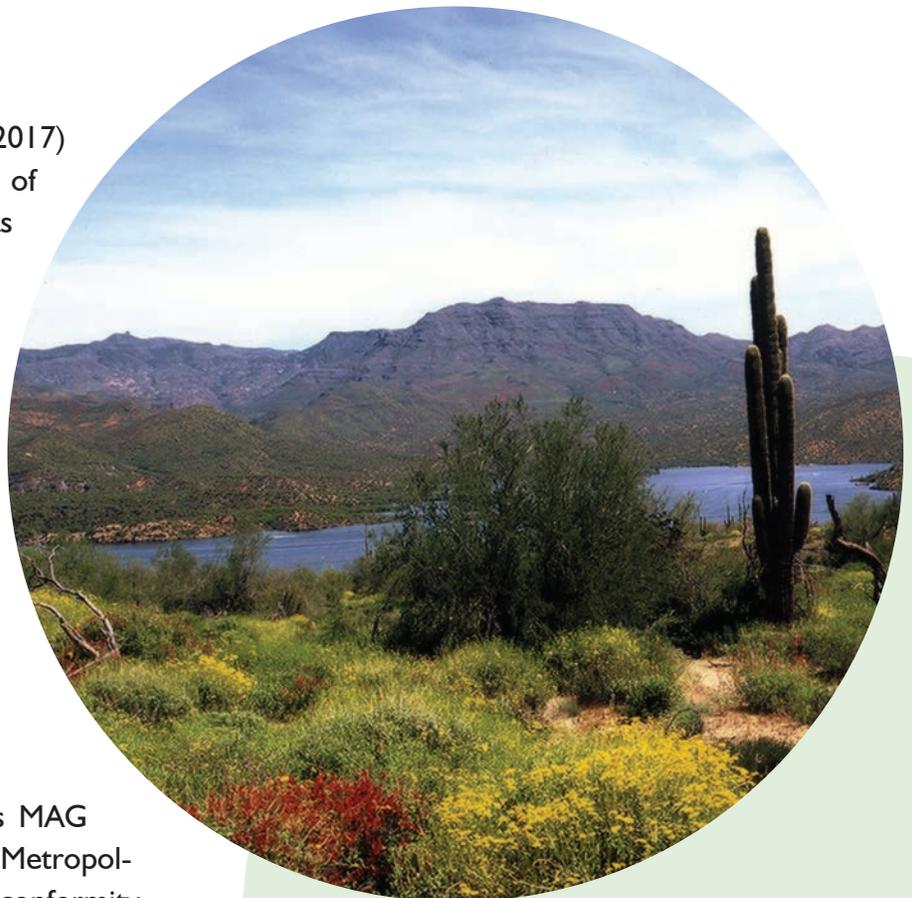
Working Together for a Better Environment

Partnerships continued to strengthen as MAG provided assistance to the Sun Corridor Metropolitan Planning Organization by preparing conformity analyses for amendments to their *FY 2016-2025 Transportation Improvement Program* and *Regional Transportation Plan 2040*.

Solid Waste

Working with its member agencies, MAG prepared the *Solid Waste Best Practices in the MAG Region 2017 Update*. The report highlights the effective and efficient programs being implemented by MAG member agencies to address solid waste and promote recycling.

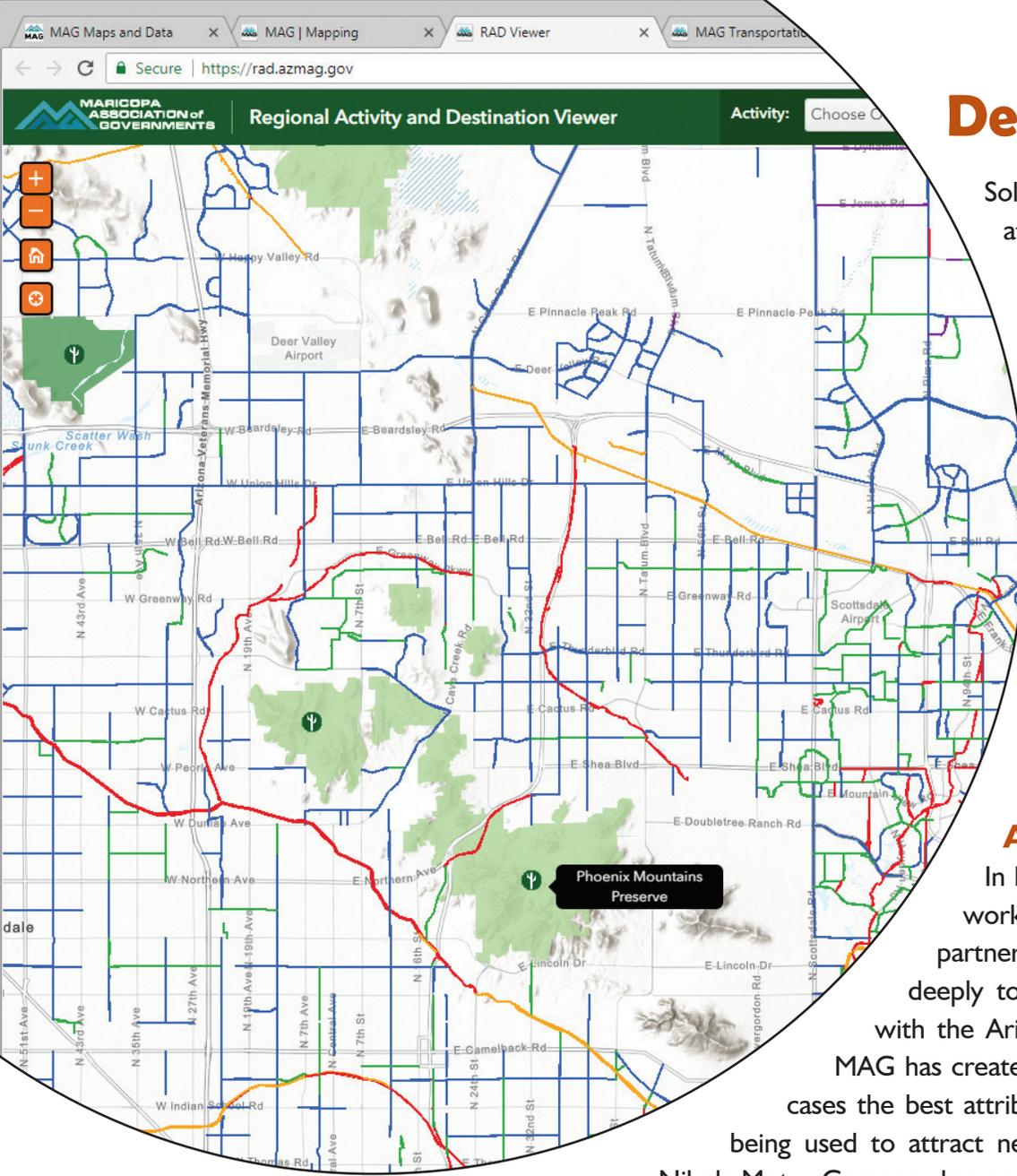
The report found that MAG member agencies are continuing to implement the solid waste best practices first outlined in 2012. According to the update, 18 MAG member agencies have implemented at least one of the best practices since 2012. Six new best practices also were identified.



Bartlett Lake in Maricopa County.

SOLID WASTE BEST PRACTICES IN THE MAG REGION 2017 UPDATE





MAG's online Regional Activity and Destination Viewer.

Depth of Field

Solid analytics drive the work at MAG, with research that assists with transportation planning and improving our economy. Visualization tools such as an on-line data center and interactive maps—known as viewers—make the data accessible to a broader population and can be applied to such diverse areas as economic development, literacy and homelessness.

Customized Business Attraction

In FY 2018, MAG continued to work with member agencies and partners on initiatives that matter deeply to the region. In partnership with the Arizona Commerce Authority, MAG has created a new viewer that showcases the best attributes of the region and it is being used to attract new businesses. Already, the Nikola Motor Company has announced the opening of new headquarters in Buckeye, Arizona, bringing 2,000 jobs with average salaries of \$60,000 a year. MAG anticipates that this is the first of many such announcements resulting from this innovative partnership.

These types of customized datasets to aid business attraction also were used to create infographics showcasing the MAG region's international business footprint, economy and demographics. The informative and eye-catching collateral received outstanding reviews as the region's largest delegation traveled to Montreal, Canada to meet with Canadian officials and businesses.



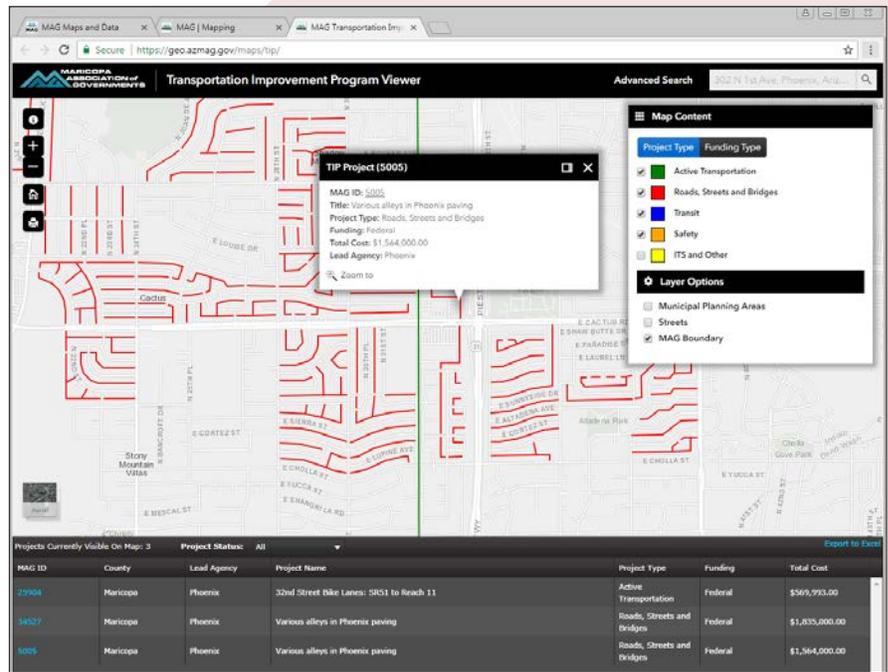
MAG elected officials meet with the vice mayor of Montreal.

Count Down to Census 2020

Census 2020 is the region's opportunity to obtain an accurate count of all populations that results in millions of dollars in federal funding to local communities. MAG staff hosted workshops and special training sessions on the use of census data and the MAG interactive mapping and reporting tools. The trainings were widely attended by MAG member agencies and also included expert speakers from the U.S. Census Bureau. MAG's Information Services team assisted 22 agencies in updating local addresses to ensure everyone is counted.

Data on Demand

MAG continued to expand the interactive mapping, analysis and reporting tools that highlight MAG's regional datasets to improve outcomes. These include a statewide employer database developed in collaboration with the Arizona Councils of Governments and Metropolitan Planning Organization Directors Association, the launch of a regional activity and destination viewer, and tools supporting transportation and air quality models. MAG continued to partner with Read On Arizona to make additional enhancements in MapLIT, a database that impacts early literacy. These customizable online applications for MAG member agencies and the public generate more than 3,500 web hits per month.



MAG's online Transportation Improvement Program Viewer.

Performance Perspective

The Transportation Improvement Program viewer for transportation projects in the region is now available in a new online tool. The tool includes a description of the project, lead agency, cost, type, and status. The region's first Systems Management and Operations Plan was completed, providing a framework of strategic investments needed to expand the transportation technology that allows for safe and efficient travel. Also completed was MAG's Freight Transportation Plan, which identifies a freight network for the region and approves 60 lane miles of critical urban freight corridors.





Global View

In the past several years, MAG has seen this region evolve and take its place in the international economic development arena.

We provide a world-class freeway system—in the fastest growing county in the nation—to make our region globally competitive.

Through the Economic Development Committee (EDC), MAG fosters collaborative partnerships with government agencies, economic development leaders, and the greater business community to focus on infrastructure development and international trade. The EDC also recognizes best practices and highlights successes in the public and private sectors that help our region attract innovative companies in the U.S. and abroad.

View of North America from space.
Photo courtesy of NASA.

New International Angles

Mexico and Canada are Arizona's largest trading partners, and MAG partnerships promoted greater connectivity between the nations. A delegation of elected officials participated in a regional outreach trip to Montreal, Canada, to strengthen and expand economic and tourism ties with the Montreal metropolitan area. MAG also partnered with the Mexicali Economic Development Corporation and ProMexico to host a Binational Business Seminar that highlighted the importance of cross-border collaboration and economic growth in both Sonora, Mexico, and Arizona.



Export View

With more than 95 percent of the world's population and 80 percent of the world's purchasing power outside the United States, future economic growth and jobs increasingly depend on expanding trade and investment opportunities in the global marketplace.

In an effort to increase exporting in the Sun Corridor region, MAG offered a second year of the Sun Corridor Export Recognition Program. The program was held as part of the Joint Planning Advisory Council's Sun Corridor EDGE (Economic Development for the Global Economy) event. Twenty businesses from Maricopa, Pinal and Pima counties were recognized for their exporting progress and success. The EDGE event also featured speakers renowned for their expertise in international trade. Fifteen agencies partnered with MAG on the program.

MAG also worked with the Arizona Commerce Authority's Rev AZ Manufacturing Extension Partnership program on a regional ExporTech boot camp. Companies were exposed to Arizona export experts from diverse sectors, participated in practical training on key export topics, and received individualized export coaching. The end result for each company was a customized plan designed to move beyond planning and into pursuing concrete initiatives to boost their sales revenues via exports.

Ari-Son Megaregion

The EDC continues to work with Mexico to advance bilateral relationships and foster economic development initiatives. MAG partnered with several organizations, including the League of Arizona Cities and Towns, Arizona Sister Cities, Arizona Mexico Commission, and Sonoran Arizona Commission to hold the Ari-Son Megaregion Council meetings at the League's annual conference. Topics of discussion were the North American Free Trade Agreement (NAFTA), the Shopping and Tourism Initiative, and promoting binational partnerships.



*Photo courtesy of ITS,
an exporter located in Chandler.*



SUN CORRIDOR
edge 2018





Community Portfolio

MAG collaborates with many partners statewide to improve the quality of life for people and communities in the region. Issues facing older adults, survivors of domestic violence, and individuals and families experiencing homelessness are key MAG priorities for helping our most vulnerable populations.

Homeless Funding

Efforts to strengthen permanent housing and services to reduce homelessness resulted in a \$25 million award to the Maricopa region by the Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD). The Maricopa Regional Continuum of Care funding is for 37 local programs that provide housing and services to end homelessness.

Available resources are targeted to those most in need, such as those experiencing chronic homelessness. MAG's coordination of an annual street count and survey of people experiencing homelessness is critical to securing federal funding. Since 1999, the region has been awarded more than \$400 million to provide permanent housing and services for people experiencing homelessness. According to numbers gathered by volunteers during a single night in January 2018, the number of people experiencing homelessness who were not in shelter in Maricopa County was 2,618. This is a 27 percent increase from this year's number of 2,059, which is a whopping 149 percent increase in the number recorded in 2014.

Available resources are targeted to those most in need, such as those experiencing chronic homelessness. MAG's coordination of an annual street count and survey of people experiencing homelessness is critical to securing federal funding. Since 1999, the region has been awarded more than \$400 million to provide permanent housing and services for people experiencing homelessness. According to numbers gathered by volunteers during a single night in January 2018, the number of people experiencing homelessness who were not in shelter in Maricopa County was 2,618. This is a 27 percent increase from this year's number of 2,059, which is a whopping 149 percent increase in the number recorded in 2014.



MAG Human Services Planner **Anne Scott** (right) surveys a man experiencing homelessness during the January count.

Domestic Violence

One in every four women and one in every seven men will experience domestic violence in their lifetime. Domestic violence calls are some of the most dangerous and expensive calls that police receive. The impact of domestic violence can be felt in every community. MAG works alongside service providers, law enforcement, municipal partners, and nonprofit organizations to develop best practices for law enforcement when arresting and prosecuting domestic violence abusers.

MAG assists survivors of domestic violence in strengthening the coordinated regional response by working with member agencies and community partners. The MAG Regional Domestic Violence Council also continued public outreach efforts, engaging more local governments in awareness activities than ever before during October's Domestic Violence Awareness Month. This year's theme focused on the deadly link between animal abuse and domestic violence. The MAG Regional Council approved a resolution expressing support for ending domestic violence.



Mesa Assistant City Prosecutor **Alison Ferrante** at the 2017 Domestic Violence Awareness Month News Conference.

Transportation Connections

MAG maintains a listing of agencies that offer human services transportation resources throughout the MAG region. This list is available to everyone on the MAG website at azmag.gov. MAG coordinates transportation options for older adults and persons with disabilities throughout the region. Targeted funding aims to improve mobility for older adults and individuals with disabilities by removing barriers to transportation service and expanding transportation mobility options.

The MAG Transportation Ambassador Program (TAP) is a vital conduit that connects people with resources and incorporates feedback from the public into the planning process. The program supports more than 520 people from nonprofit agencies, for-profit businesses, faith-based organizations, and private citizens.



Close-Up View

Age Friendly Arizona continues to support communities in connecting with older adults in meaningful ways. The network works with more than a dozen communities statewide and a wide range of partners. Together, we connect older adults with vital solutions in transportation, health, volunteering, and more. The monthly *Feed Your Mind* webinar series features some of the best ideas from Arizona and abroad.

MAG supports the regional Heat Relief Network through the development of interactive maps showing locations where water, refuge, and donation sites are available during the hot summer months. MAG coordinates with the network partners—which include service providers, faith-based groups, municipalities, businesses, and caring citizens.



Communications: Providing the Platform

Have you ever wondered how you can get more involved in issues important to you—such as reducing your commute time, helping your aging parents, or keeping the air clean? The Communications Division at MAG works to create awareness of MAG’s roles and responsibilities in the region, and recognizes that the public is a vital partner in the regional policymaking process.

All Voices

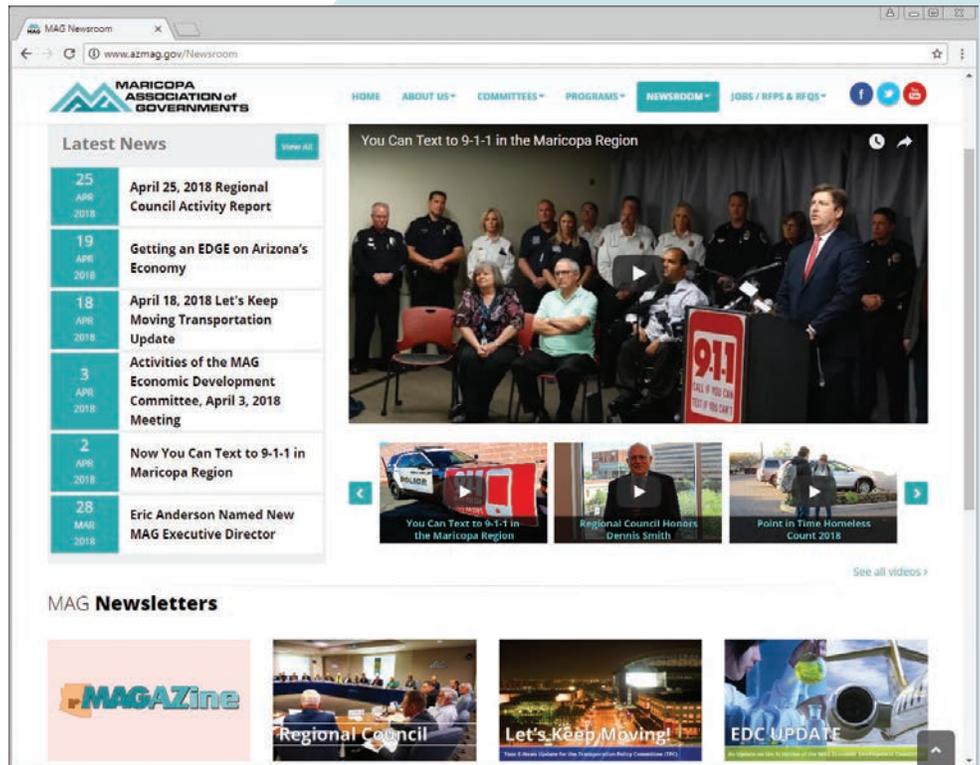
A thorough understanding of the needs and priorities of Valley residents is critical in providing exceptional services to the residents of the Maricopa region. MAG uses a variety of methods, including public events, small and large group presentations, websites, social media, and videos to provide information and encourage feedback. MAG works to ensure that the input includes participation by all residents of our region, including people who are protected under Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964 and later laws, such as the Americans With Disabilities Act and age-discrimination protections.

MAG reached out to members of the public at the 2018 Maricopa Senior Info/Expo.

User-Friendly Website

Whether you are looking for your next meeting agenda, need employment data, or want to see the agency’s most recent video, your online MAG experience got easier this year. After a year of development, MAG launched a new, redesigned website with more visuals, more interactive content, and intuitive navigation. The website, www.azmag.gov, serves as the public face of MAG and provides critical information regarding MAG activities, programs, and studies.

The new navigation offers immediate access to a maps and data center, the calendar at a glance, and meeting agendas, meaning users can quickly get to the pages they use most often. Another new feature is a newsroom section for use by the public and the media, as well as an updated “Jobs” page where prospective employees can now apply online. The site provides easy access to social media platforms and is mobile friendly.



Press Conferences

MAG continues to work with members of the media to provide timely information about key regional issues. In October, as part of Domestic Violence Awareness month, MAG hosted a press conference highlighting the link between animal abuse and family violence.

In November, MAG worked with the Town of Guadalupe to celebrate a new 16-passenger van for seniors. The van means improved access to medical care, shopping, and vital social connections.

In April, MAG members announced the launch of new text to 9-1-1 service in the region. If you are in imminent danger and unable to talk to a 9-1-1 operator, you now have the ability to text to 9-1-1. MAG also worked with the media on efforts regarding the economy, heat relief, homelessness, transportation, and air quality.



Social Media

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

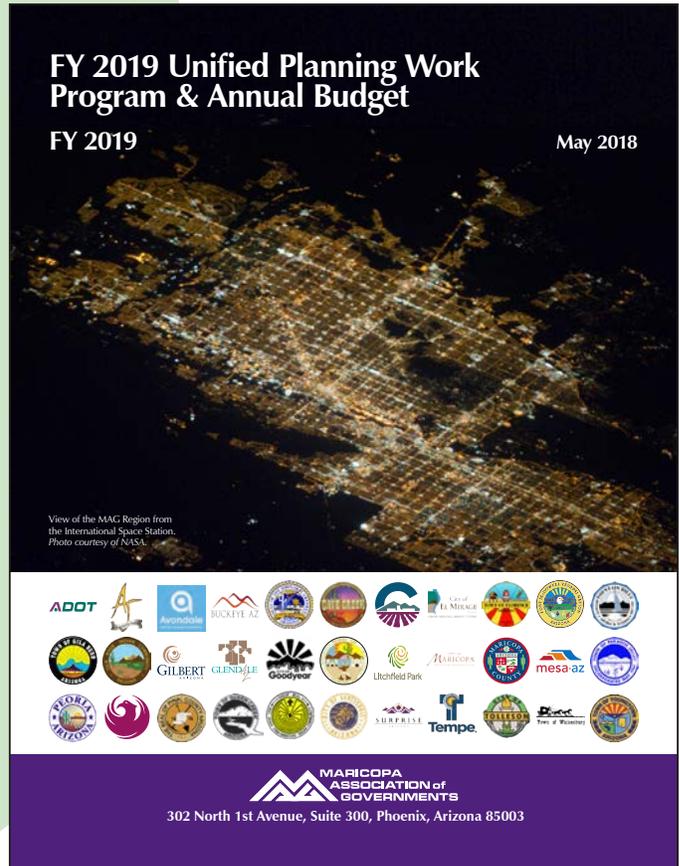
Mayor Valerie Molina of Guadalupe cuts the ribbon to celebrate the town’s new senior transit van.

Capturing the Numbers

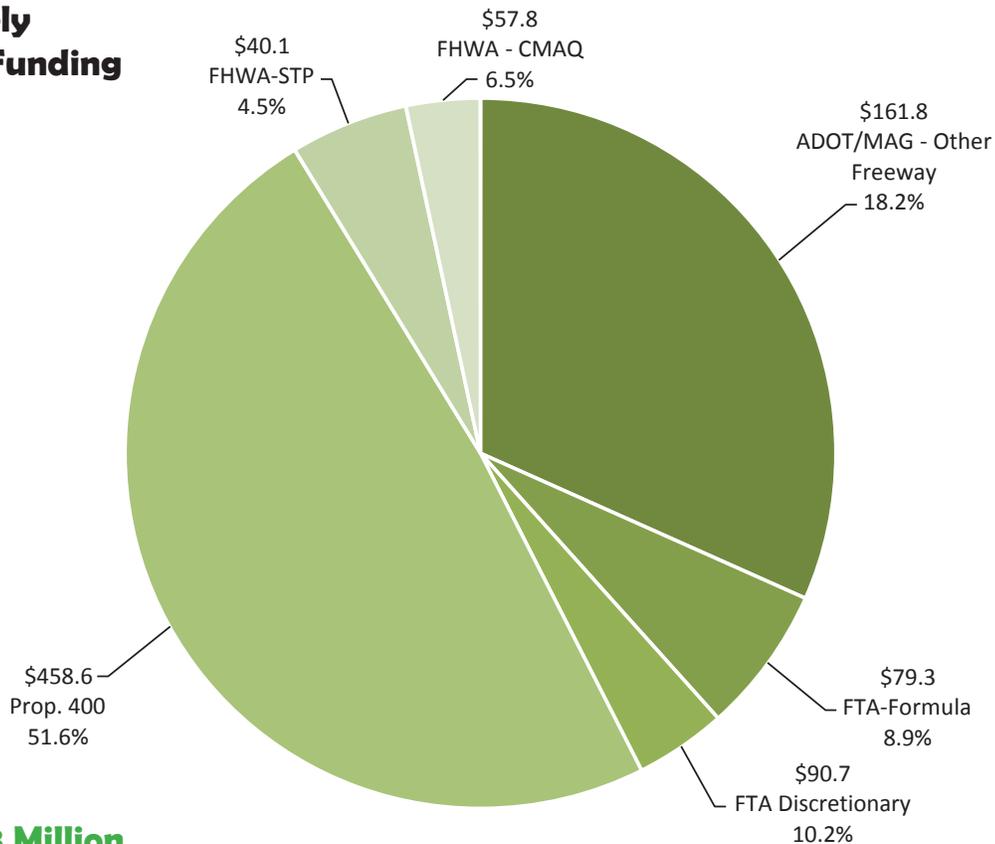
Funding for MAG's programs and activities comes from a variety of sources, with federal and state funding making up the main revenue source. Membership dues and special assessments are received from each member agency based on population, and provide another source of revenue to support MAG's regional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

MAG plans for more than \$888.3 million in total regional funding, including funding for the freeway program.

MAG's FY 2019 Unified Planning Work Program and Annual Budget is \$35.9 million, which includes an operating budget of about \$29.8 million. The difference is due to "carry forward" consulting contracts and pass-through agreements with other agencies.

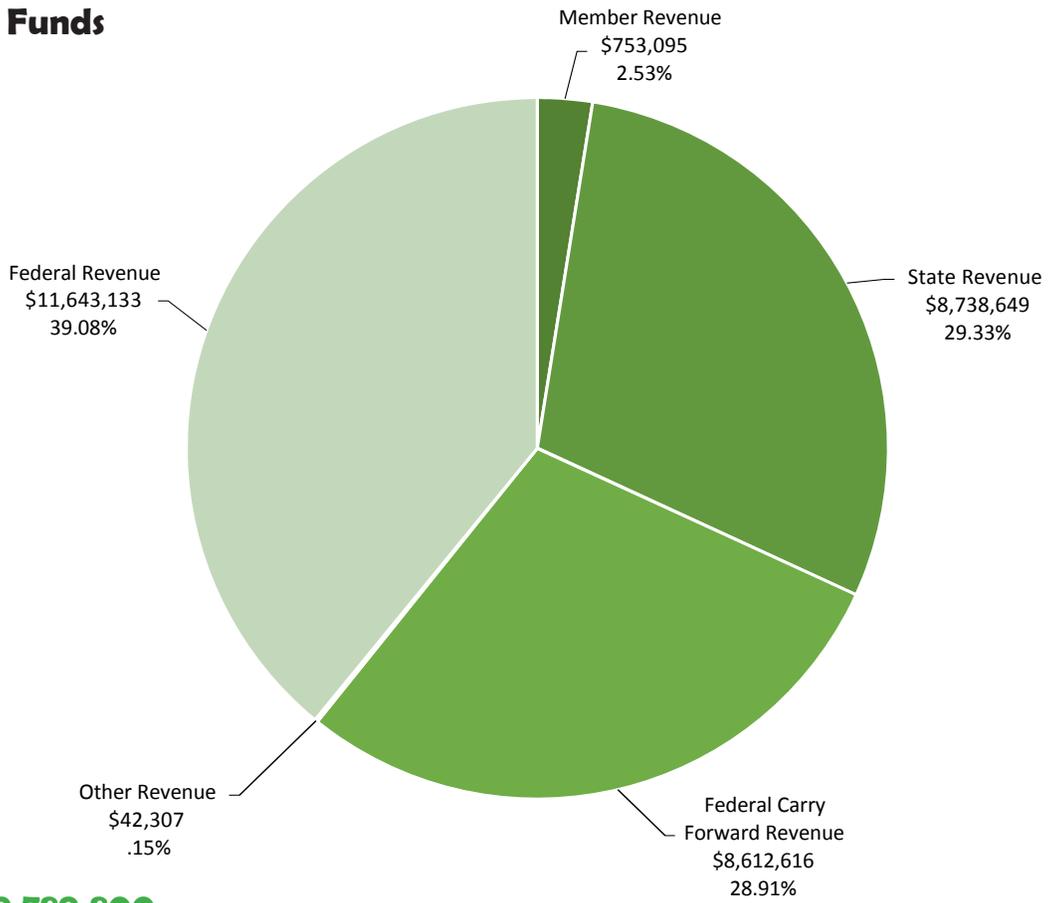


Cooperatively Developed Funding (in Millions)



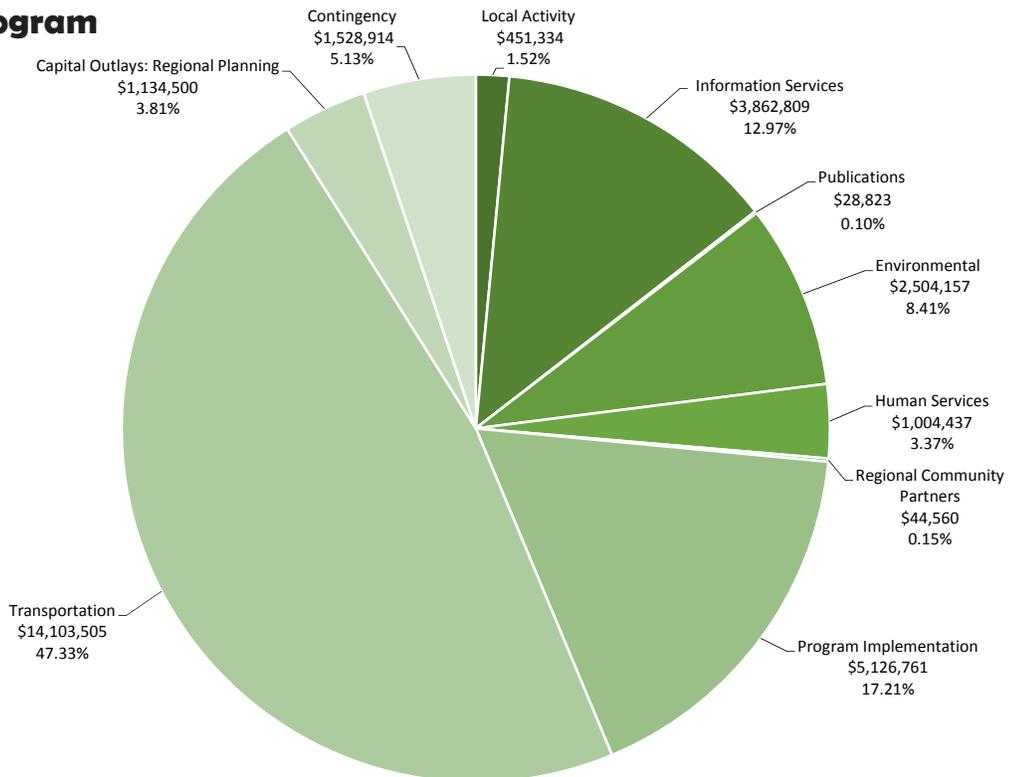
Total: \$888.3 Million

Source of Funds



Total: \$29,789,800

How MAG Uses the Funds by Program



Total: \$29,789,800

**MARICOPA
ASSOCIATION of
GOVERNMENTS**

302 N. 1st Avenue, Suite 300, Phoenix, AZ 85003
Telephone (602) 254-6300, Fax (602) 254-6490



Visit our website:
www.azmag.gov



Follow us on Twitter at:
<http://twitter.com/MAGregion>



Watch MAG videos on YouTube:
youtube.com/magcommunications



Search for the Maricopa Association
of Governments on **Facebook**.

PRST STD
U.S. POSTAGE
PAID
PHOENIX AZ
PERMIT NO. 2691



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 or call (602) 254-6300.