

Even Before COVID, Homeless Numbers Increased Dramatically

For the first time, the number of people on the street surpasses those in shelters

More than 7,000 people experienced homelessness in Maricopa County on the night of January 27, 2020, continuing a troubling upward trend.

The newly released number from the Point in Time annual homeless count marks a substantial increase of 11 percent over last year. Perhaps more troubling is the fact that, for the first time, the number of people on the street (3,767) surpassed the number of people in shelters (3,652). The unsheltered population grew by 18 percent compared to 2019.

“There is a steady increase in homelessness in Maricopa County, and with eviction rates being one of the highest in the nation, as well as shelter beds decreasing, our county is not keeping up with the impending crisis that is homelessness,” said Maricopa Regional Continuum of Care Board co-Chair Tamara Wright.

Her concerns are echoed by her board co-chair, Tempe Police Sgt. Rob Ferraro. He adds that the count took place in January, well before the COVID-19 pandemic cost thousands of jobs.

“We fear that the economic impacts of COVID-19 will create an even greater crisis as people who lost livelihoods struggle to maintain housing,” said Ferraro. “Well before the pandemic, the numbers continued to demonstrate the need for more affordable housing.”

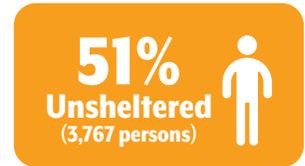
The number of homeless people has risen steadily since 2015, with only one dip in 2017.

7,419

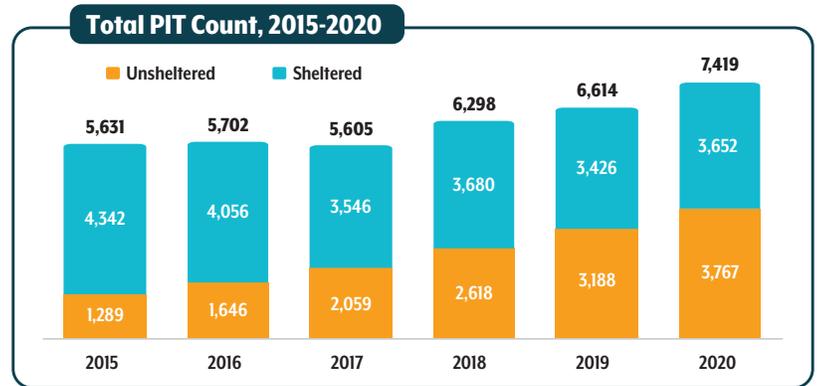
people experiencing homelessness in Maricopa County on the night of January 27, 2020



Includes people who stayed in Emergency Shelter, Transitional Housing, or Safe Haven programs.



Includes people who slept on the streets or another place not meant for human habitation.



“Homelessness is a regional challenge that requires a regional solution,” said MAG Chair Jerry Weiers, mayor of Glendale. “MAG is working with providers and actively fostering collaborations across the county to reduce these numbers. But this is going to take commitment and resources to address the growing trend.”

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Message From the Chair



Mayor Jerry Weiers
City of Glendale

You, the region's residents, are impacted every day by the decisions made within MAG. I am honored to have been selected as the new MAG Chair and promise to lead this organization while we continue to establish the new normal.

We truly understand how critical it is to be prepared for the future. MAG has always embraced future planning and our focus continues to be on five critical areas of planning: Safe and Smart Travel, Protecting the Environment, Growing the Economy, Improving Quality of Life, and Safe and Efficient Operations.

Developing a new Regional Transportation Plan is our next major goal. The current sales tax expires in 2025 and one of my most important tasks in the coming year will be supporting the continued development of a performance-based plan that will guide us, as policy makers, in addressing the region's transportation needs. The name of the plan is "MOMENTUM" and it is up to us to continue moving the region forward when it comes to our transportation investments.

We remain the fastest growing county in the nation and we must continue to expand and improve our transportation system. At the same time, what we build—and what has been built—must be maintained.



We must look at innovation and technology to carve out new and more cost-effective transportation solutions, while also improving the safety of our transportation system. This includes not only our freeways, but also transit, streets, bikeways and pedestrian facilities.

I know this is not an easy task ahead of us. The most recent estimates of our transportation needs are between 60-90 billion dollars. Our projected revenue from current sources is unfortunately far less, which means we have a lot of hard work ahead of us. We will have difficult choices to make and we will rely on public input to help guide us in these decisions.

But that's not all! We have other important responsibilities as well. We must continue to look at ways to protect public health by improving air quality, as well as protect and support our most vulnerable populations who may be facing homelessness, domestic violence and aging.

Together, we have the talent and grit to take on these tough challenges. I consider them opportunities to create a thriving, strong and attractive region while we all adapt to a rapidly changing world.

I look forward to working with you on these goals. 

MAG Regional Council Members

Executive Committee Members

- | | | |
|---|--|---|
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Mesa, Vice Chair |  |
|  | Mayor Kenneth Weise
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Visit www.azmag.gov and click on Regional Council.

MAGAZine

MAGAZine is a quarterly newsletter of the Maricopa Association of Governments (MAG). It focuses on the issues and concerns of the cities, towns, counties, and Native nations 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 Jerry Weiers, City of Glendale, Regional Council Chair

Eric J. Anderson, Executive Director

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Kelly Taft, Writer/Editor; **Gordon Tyus**, Graphics

Voices From the Council



While COVID-19 continues to affect our cities, I want to thank all of the leaders in the MAG region who have shared ideas, plans, concerns and solutions over the past few months. Sharing among each other and learning from each other makes us all stronger. I feel proud to be part of such an incredible group of leaders who are working tirelessly to keep their communities safe and healthy, and I am grateful for the comradery everyone has shown during this difficult time.

—Surprise Mayor Skip Hall

COVID-19 has caused me to think about and consider policy issues that I could never have imagined a year ago. As elected officials, we cannot shy away from the impact COVID-19 has had throughout each of our communities and beyond. Instead we must make decisions having the information available to us to protect the health and well-being of this region's citizens and visitors. With this weighing heavily on my mind, I would like to thank our communities for your unwavering commitment to slowing the spread of this virus and for your patience during these challenging times. I would also like to thank all the business sectors, both public and private, who have stepped up to provide the much-needed services and relief to our citizens. I'm confident that our independent and concerted efforts will reduce the impact of this pandemic within our region.

—Glendale Mayor Jerry Weiers



*While much has changed in the past several months, **MAG's 2020 Annual Report** demonstrates great progress on MAG's regional planning mission. In this challenging time, collaboration is more important than ever, and Peoria is proud to work alongside regional leaders in support of programs and policies that move our communities forward.*

—Peoria Mayor Cathy Carlat

Cities and towns in our region and Maricopa County have stepped up to ensure that our area is "covered" by mask mandates. This is a vitally important action that I believe will save lives. Recently I have had my own personal experience with COVID-19 and, while my case was thankfully very mild and I was not hospitalized, it provided me with an even deeper appreciation for our first responders, healthcare professionals and public health experts.

—Tempe Mayor Corey Woods



Homeless Numbers (continued)

MAG coordinates the annual count of people experiencing homelessness every January. Volunteers fan out across the region, searching streets, alleys, parks, riverbeds, and doorways. In most cases, they can conduct surveys to get more detailed information about each individual. If the person chooses not to answer any questions, the individual is still counted. In 2020, the count was conducted entirely digitally through a cell phone app.

After the count, the data are cross-checked for duplicates, updated, and combined with the number of people in shelters. The numbers are then submitted to the Department of Housing and Urban Development for its nationwide Annual Homeless Report. 🏠



J.J. Santos interviews Jesus Gonzales during the 2020 Point in Time Count.

Regional Profile: Mayor Les Peterson



Mayor
Les Peterson
Town of Carefree



Problem Solving Is Passion for Carefree Mayor

His interest in public service began while working on behalf of his homeowner's association to decommission a failing wastewater treatment plant in his community of Carefree.

The plant was deteriorating, but getting it removed from the town where it was situated for 45 years was no easy task.

"A whole community had grown up around it. The closest house was 85 feet away. And it took 12 years to accomplish. All the way to the Arizona Supreme Court and back again," says Carefree Mayor Les Peterson.

The experience made him realize the importance of creating community connections that go beyond town hall, to ensure that long-term projects can be completed outside of any elected official's individual term.

"For major projects, unless you have someone as dedicated as the person who started the project, it isn't going to get completed," says Peterson. "Many projects are just too big and too involved to get completed within a single term or two terms. You need to select someone in the community who is capable and knowledgeable to get involved, so when the person who initiated the project terms out or goes onto another position, there is an experienced and dedicated person ready to pick it up and move it forward to completion."

His work on the wastewater plant made him well known in the community, as well as among top leaders in Carefree. He served on the planning and zoning commission, as council member and as vice mayor before becoming mayor in 2015. He is running unopposed for an additional two-year term.

While the town's current attention is focused on the COVID pandemic and is an issue that Peterson prioritizes as one of critical importance, he also views it as a shorter-term problem that will eventually be resolved, leaving us to return to addressing and resolving the longer term problems. His long-term priorities are education, child protective services, transportation, and water. He also has been developing a new economic and financial strategy for the town, which began as nearly a 100 percent residential community.

"We had virtually no commercial development, and people would pride themselves on not allowing commercial here," says Peterson.

He explains that strategy worked when homes were being built, as construction sales taxes paid for city services. Now that the town is nearing buildout, that revenue source is dwindling, and a new strategy is needed.

"It is understanding the dynamic that happened, and now starting to put in place economic development of retail establishments that sell products that are desired by our residents and visitors and are taxable, to carry part of the financial burden of the town's services. So it is really changing the business strategy."

Mayor Peterson has a long history with the Valley, earning bachelor's and master's degrees from Arizona State University. His early career was in promotion and marketing with Procter and Gamble and Pillsbury, followed by more than 30 years in management consulting. While working, he also spent 14 years serving as an outside judge on a three-judge panel for the MBA entrepreneurial studies program at Cornell University. During that time, more than 7,000 business student proposals were judged by the panel and graded based on the validity of each proposal.

That marketing, economic development, and business background serves him in his role as mayor.

"It's the same set of disciplines and approaches. You work with people, you identify problems, develop solutions in concert with all those who are involved, and implement them," he says.



Clockwise, from top left: With Johnny Basha at the grand opening ceremony of a remodeled Bashas' store in Carefree. Reading to second graders for "Read Across America" on Dr. Seuss's birthday. With carolers in "Christmas in Carefree" celebration. At a spring training baseball game with Chandler Mayor Kevin Hartke, Scottsdale Mayor Jim Lane, Mesa Mayor John Giles, (Mayor Peterson) and Tolleson Mayor Anna Tovar.

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Mayor Les Peterson (continued)

In his free time, Mayor Peterson enjoys spending time with his wife, two children, and two grandchildren. He also continues serving as a director emeritus for the nonprofit at which he was a director for 15 years, New Pathways for Youth (formerly Youth at Risk), which serves underprivileged children.

“These are children from truly broken homes. The parent may be incarcerated, the parents may be drug addicts, the parents may be dead. These kids are just adrift,” says Peterson. “New Pathways for Youth has an extensive mentoring program. They work with the kids and develop a relationship with them that lasts into their adulthood. That has been very, very effective. I’m pleased to have been a part of that over the years.”

When asked if he could wave a magic wand and give one gift to the Valley, his answer was surprising.

“A gift doesn’t always have to be something new and dramatically different,” says Peterson, who has lived in multiple locations across the country. “Here in the Valley we have a whole cadre of knowledgeable, dedicated, driven people, and the gift that



I would request is to maintain that kind of people involved in our government. They’re involved in what’s happening within the community—unlike some of the other places I’ve lived, where you had a small group of people who were the government leaders and a large group of others who were uninvolved. We have a larger group of involved people here, and I think that’s a gift to the region and to the state.”

In fact, Peterson says he has been amazed by what he’s found in government.

“An observation I would have after spending 35 years in private industry and the last 8 to 10 years in government, is that I’ve been very impressed with the quality of the people in government and their dedication. That was something I hadn’t realized before I got into it. But seeing situations, and seeing how the people participate and freely contribute their knowledge and experience, I’ve been impressed.” 

MAG Elects New Officers Will Lead Effort to Extend Funding for Transportation

As MAG embarks on a critical year for transportation planning, a new slate of officers took the helm in July.

At its Annual Meeting in June, the MAG Regional Council elected Glendale Mayor Jerry Weiers to lead the organization as chair over the coming year. Other officers selected include Mesa Mayor John Giles as Vice Chair and Avondale Mayor Kenneth Weise as Treasurer. At-Large Members for the MAG Executive Committee include Phoenix Mayor Kate Gallego, Tolleson Mayor Anna Tovar, Carefree Mayor Les Peterson, and Chandler Mayor Kevin Hartke.

One major task ahead is the continued development of a performance-based, long-range plan that addresses the region’s transportation needs. Current sales tax funding for transportation expires in 2025, and the plan will serve as the basis for voters considering its renewal. Other priorities for the year ahead will be to advance the work of MAG on issues of protecting the environment, stimulating the economy, and coordinating regional responses to homelessness, domestic violence and aging.

“I look forward to the opportunity to lead MAG at such a critical time in our history,” said MAG Chair Jerry Weiers, mayor of Glendale. “It will take the collaborative efforts of the entire Regional Council to address the many needs of our region in these areas.”

During the Annual Meeting, Phoenix Mayor Kate Gallego was elected to serve as Chair of the MAG Transportation Policy Committee, and Chandler Mayor Kevin Hartke was elected Vice Chair.

Officers serve one-year terms. Mayor Weiers will lead the organization for the next year and will preside over the MAG Executive Committee. The Executive Committee serves as MAG’s finance committee and holds many administrative responsibilities, such as amendments to the budget and contract selections. 



Mayor Jerry Weiers, Chair
City of Glendale



Mayor John Giles, Vice Chair
City of Mesa



Mayor Kenneth Weise, Treasurer
City of Avondale



Mayor Kate Gallego, At-Large
City of Phoenix



Mayor Anna Tovar, At-Large
City of Tolleson



Mayor Les Peterson, At-Large
Town of Carefree



Mayor Kevin Hartke, At-Large
City of Chandler

Creating MOMENTUM

New Regional Transportation Plan now under development



If you drive on it or ride on it, it's a pretty sure bet that MAG planned it and determined how to fund it.

Now it's time to make the decisions that will impact your transportation choices for decades to come.

One of the Regional Council's responsibilities is approving and amending the Regional Transportation Plan. The plan is updated every two to four years and guides transportation planning for the

next 20 years and beyond. The dedicated sales tax that has been in place for 35 years will expire in 2025. In preparation for voters to consider its renewal, MAG is developing the new Regional Transportation Plan, called "MOMENTUM."

"The transportation system plays a critical role in our economy and ensures a high quality of life for all residents of the MAG region," said MAG Regional Council Chair Jerry Weiers, Mayor of Glendale.

"The plan we develop will need support from the region's residents, who will decide at the ballot box whether to fund the plan. We are rolling up our sleeves to create a transportation investment program that is sustainable, offers options, and connects people with opportunities to prosper and thrive," he said.

Weiers said the goal is to deliver a



Mayor
Jerry Weiers
City of Glendale

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How You Can Help Create MOMENTUM

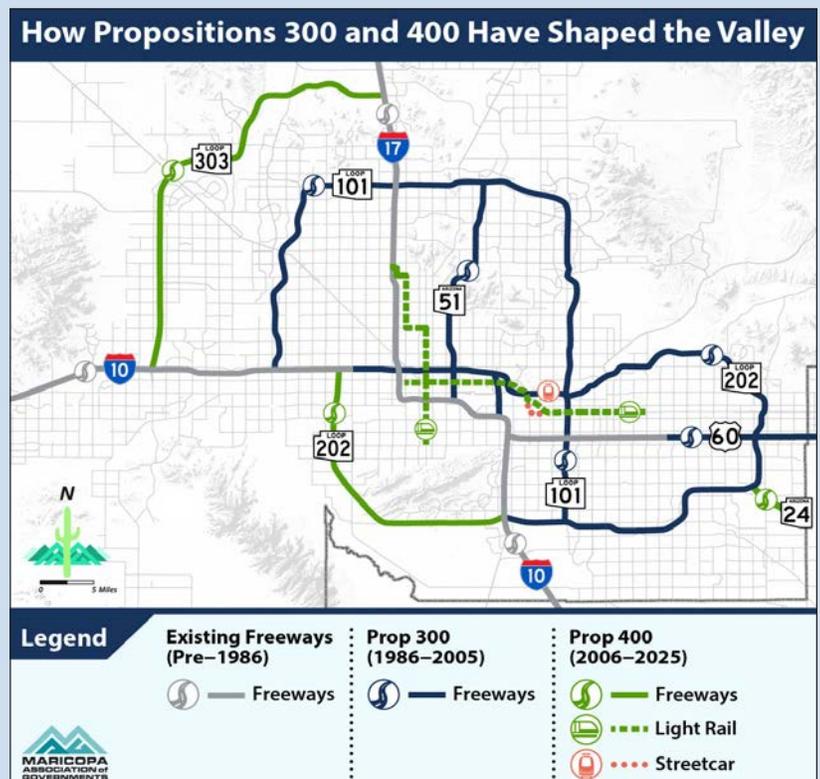
Development of the region's new Regional Transportation Plan will rely heavily on the needs and priorities of the traveling public. One way to ensure you can get to the places you need to go in the years ahead is to make your voice heard. The best way to do that is by visiting the plan website at OurMomentumPlan.com.

"Our region is growing. Fast," points out the website under the heading, **Why it matters**. "Growth means more strain on our transportation system, slowing down our commutes and our everyday lives. Intentional and thoughtful transportation planning means we can spend our time on the things that matter."

The site, which will go live in August, asks users to join the conversation by sharing their experiences, ideas, and priorities. Users can provide input on any transportation topic, including access to our transportation system, bicycle and pedestrian infrastructure, bus service, freeway and roadway improvements, high capacity transit (light rail, commuter rail, streetcar, bus rapid transit), new transportation technologies and innovations, and safety.

More than 10,000 Valley residents provided early input into the planning process by participating in a "values survey" in which they were asked what was most important about this community and moving around the region. Those responses were used to lay the framework for the planning process.

For more examples of how the residents of the region have shaped the regional transportation system, you can jump back to 1985, when voters passed Proposition 300. That investment continued through Proposition 400 in 2004. Combined, the Propositions delivered Loops 101, 202, and 303; light rail; arterial street investments; and contributions to a growing multimodal network—a total investment of over \$12 billion. (See map below.)



Creating **MOMENTUM** (continued)

world-class transportation system that reflects six mission-critical goals. These goals cover safety, prosperity, responsiveness, livability, preservation (maintaining the system we already have), and mobility.

Local governments have submitted thousands of projects for early consideration. Every project will undergo extensive screening and performance evaluation before making it into the final plan. It is a long and complex process, and public input will be welcome during the plan development.



**Mayor
Kate Gallego**
City of Phoenix

“Together we’ve built a great transportation system, but to keep the Valley moving forward, we have more work to do.

That’s why we’ve named this new

plan **MOMENTUM**,” said Phoenix Mayor Kate Gallego, who chairs the Transportation Policy Committee. “We will spend the next year listening, analyzing, and deciding. We will continue to generate momentum until the final plan is complete,” she said.

With a population expected to exceed 6.2 million by 2050, Gallego said continued investment in well-planned multimodal transportation is critical.

The screening and evaluation process is expected to continue through the end of the year. Scenarios will then be developed using different policy, funding, and what-if scenarios. A draft plan is expected to be completed by next summer. 🏞️

Pandemic Highlights Importance of Accurate Census Count

Testing for COVID-19. Emergency response. Hospital care. These services have become critical during our new pandemic reality. There is a simple way you can help make sure those services receive the federal funding they deserve. How? Complete the 2020 Census.

Data from the 2010 Census was used when billions of federal dollars to address the COVID-19 pandemic was distributed to local governments through the Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security (CARES) Act. Local governments are putting that funding to work in many ways across the Maricopa region, helping people get access to critical healthcare and much-needed economic relief.

Beginning in August, U.S. Census Bureau workers will knock on doors to follow up with households that have yet to respond. All census takers are trained on social distancing protocols and will follow local guidelines for the use of personal protective equipment.

“One of the most important civic duties that we can accomplish from the safety of our own homes is filling out the household census form,” said Glendale Mayor Jerry Weiers, chair of the Maricopa Association of Governments (MAG) Regional Council. “Completing the census is critical as the next 10 years of funding and congressional representation are on the line. Its completion helps our communities rebuild following the pandemic and prepare for the next decade.”

The public outreach campaign launched by the Maricopa Association of Governments (MAG) 18 months ago is still in full effect. MAG’s iCount2020 effort takes a multi-media, bilingual approach to demonstrate how a complete and accurate count is critical to receiving our fair share of federal money for dozens of programs and services in the Maricopa region. Every person counted in the census means almost \$3,000 dollars

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Census
2020

and more than \$20 billion every year to Arizona in funding for local programs in housing, education, transportation, healthcare, public safety and more.

The first-ever online census form, new to the 2020 Census, could not have come at a better time, as the pandemic resulted in more people staying home and going online. MAG continues messaging for a safe and secure online response. This includes digital platforms; on radio in English and Spanish; and on television, with a local ad that features a diverse group of people living in our region.

Despite the disruption of daily life, MAG members quickly began to innovate ways to keep the 2020 Census top of mind in their communities. Safe census outreaches such as door-hangers, digital contests, yard signs, food bank flyers, and much more took the place of in-person events and gatherings. The core components of the campaign, including the bilingual iCount2020 website, text and email messaging, social media, and digital video became even more important as ways to continue ‘contactless’ outreach and education.

There is still time to make a difference. Because of the pandemic, the deadline to respond to the census has been extended to October 31. Help your community. Go online now to iCount2020.info or call 1-844-330-2020 to fill out your census form. 🏞️

Learn more at iCount2020.info or connect with us: Facebook.com/iCount2020official, [@iCount2020](https://Twitter) and [@iCount2020official](https://Instagram).



Summer Heat Is Deadly; More Water Donations Needed

COVID-19 puts strain on providing heat relief resources

More people die from heat-related illnesses than from tornadoes, floods, hurricanes and lightning combined. But what can you do about it?

The Maricopa Association of Governments (MAG) has the answer: Follow the guidelines for staying safe from the heat, use the network of water and shade



stations offered throughout the Valley, or help others by donating water through the region's Heat Relief Network.

The Heat Relief Network is coordinated by MAG and involves dozens of partnering agencies, including cities and towns, businesses, and nonprofit organizations throughout Maricopa County. From May to September, partnering agencies donate space, time and cases of bottled water to help keep residents safe from Arizona's brutal heat.

But in 2020, the network is facing challenges due to COVID-19.

"Water donations are significantly down this year, and we don't have as many partners participating in the network as previous years," said MAG Human Services Director Brande Mead. "We believe this is due to the pandemic. Some facility buildings have been closed and are not able to participate in the Heat Relief Network at this time."

In 2020, there are 64 heat relief stations across the region offering water and refuge, compared to 163 locations last year. There are 42 collection locations across the region accepting donations of water and other resources, compared to 90 sites last year. Maps of the locations can be found at azmag.gov/Programs/Homelessness/Heat-Relief-Regional-Network.

Follow these tips to avoid deadly heat:

- Increase fluid intake regardless of activity level. Staying hydrated is extremely important.
- Limit exercise or outdoor activity between the hours of 11 a.m and 3 p.m.
- Never leave adults, children or pets inside a parked vehicle.
- When outdoors, wear a sunscreen with a minimum SPF 15 and reapply often. Wear a hat, lightweight clothing and sunglasses.
- Rest frequently in shady or cool areas to give the body's temperature a chance to recover and cool down.
- Respectfully check on elderly neighbors to make sure their air conditioning is working and in use.
- Take advantage of free air-conditioning by visiting locations like shopping malls, the library or other heat refuge locations provided on the map.

The heat relief sites will remain open until September 2020.

Yet another challenge is ensuring the locations follow guidelines for operating safely during the pandemic.

"The CDC has issued guidance for cooling centers and COVID-19. We have shared that guidance with our partners and encouraged them to follow the guidance at all sites and stations throughout the summer," said Mead.

Nearly 2,000 people visit Arizona's emergency rooms every year due to heat-related illnesses. In 2019, there were 196 heat-related deaths in the state, the highest number in years and the continuation of an alarming trend in the region. 

Your Tax Dollars Working for You

Under Proposition 400 in 2004, Maricopa County voters approved an extension of the half-cent sales tax for transportation. This series highlights projects built under Prop 400—to let you know where your money is going and how it is improving your transportation experience.



Southeast Valley Travel to Get Easier Interim Gateway Freeway brings economic opportunities

Getting to Phoenix-Mesa Gateway Airport and other Southeast Valley communities will soon get easier, as work gets underway on the Gateway Freeway, an interim freeway section of State Route 24 (SR 24).

Construction will begin this fall on approximately five miles of new roadway extending from Ellsworth Road to Ironwood Drive. The corridor will improve transportation options among Apache Junction, Gilbert, Mesa, and Queen Creek, which are located in Maricopa and Pinal counties in the Southeast Valley.

The new interim facility will help serve the transportation needs of the region.



**Councilmember
David Luna**
City of Mesa

“This new freeway section will promote economic development by linking key economic activity centers sooner rather than later, supporting our community and employment growth,” said Mesa Councilmember David Luna, chair of the MAG Economic Development Committee. “It will help connect significant commercial and residential development planned

in southeastern Maricopa County and northern Pinal County.”

The new section of SR 24 will begin at the existing Ellsworth Road intersection and will have two lanes in each direction separated by a median. The project includes:

- Grade separated traffic interchanges at Ellsworth Road and Mountain Road.
- At grade intersections at Williams Field, Signal Butte, Meridian and Ironwood roads.
- Drainage channel on the north side of the alignment.
- Freeway Management System elements that use



SR 24 and Loop 202 Traffic Interchange. (Photo courtesy of ADOT)

technology to improve traffic flow. These include electrical conduit, fiber optic cable, pull boxes, closed circuit cameras and poles, and control cabinets.

The segment follows the completion of Phase I in 2014, which opened the segment of freeway between Loop 202 (Santan Freeway) and Ellsworth Road. 🏔️

For a visual representation of the project, visit the [ADOT website](#).



SR 24 Project Phasing Map. (Courtesy of ADOT)

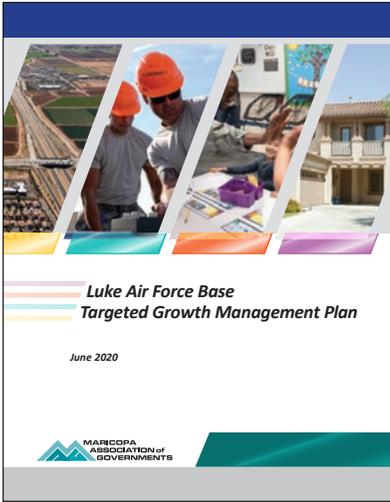


Mission Possible: As Luke AFB Grows, So Do Opportunities for the Region

Thousands of service members and their families will be arriving at Luke Air Force Base (Luke AFB) over the next six years, the result of a mission expansion involving 144 new fighter jets. By 2026, the population of the base is expected to swell to nearly 24,000—the size of a small city. It is important to plan now to accommodate and capitalize on that growth.



Source: U.S. Air Force photo by Senior Airman Leala Marquez



In 2012, the Department of Defense designated Luke AFB as the training home of the new F-35A Lightning II fighter jets. Expanding the Luke training mission is expected to grow base personnel by an additional 2,234 service members. Many of those service members will bring families. In fact, they are expected to be joined by an additional 4,717 household members, growing the base-related population to a total of 23,704 by 2026.

To help plan for this growth, a soon to be released “Targeted Growth Management Plan” looks at existing conditions and future needs on and near the base. The Plan examines a 20-minute commute shed from the base, referred to as the Study Area. Broader implications in the surrounding communities are examined as well.

The Plan looks at four key areas: education, workforce and economic development, housing, and transportation. The Plan draws on recent data from

the base and surrounding region, sophisticated modeling techniques, an outreach survey of local residents and current base personnel, and input from advisory group and focus group members.

“The defense industry contributes immensely to our economy,” said MAG Regional Council Chair Jerry Weiers, mayor of Glendale. “The mission expansion ensures Luke continues to be an important regional player, especially in the West Valley. The goals of the Luke Targeted Growth Management Plan are to support the base and leverage the opportunities presented by the growth in population on the base.”

The Plan includes the development of action steps local communities can take to manage future growth and demands for services. A small sample of findings by sector are included below.

Education

The report finds schools in the Study Area are well-positioned to absorb the anticipated growth in the student population, whether related or unrelated to mission expansion. While there are off-base early learning opportunities, the on-base childcare center is at capacity.

Recommendations include increasing the number and accessibility of childcare providers that can accommodate the needs of military families with young children. There is also an opportunity to share information about the high-quality education options available in the West Valley with families moving to, or considering a move to, Luke AFB.

Child Development Center at Luke Air Force Base.



Source: U.S. Air Force photo by Staff Sgt. Franklin R. Ramos

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Luke AFB Growth (continued)

Workforce and Economic Development

Ninety percent of job impacts from the base are expected to occur in the communities of Glendale, Surprise, Goodyear, and Avondale. Jobs and training opportunities for military families are abundant in some sectors, not in others. Recommendations include providing personnel who are separating from the service, military spouses, and community members the opportunity to obtain desired skills and quality employment.



Source: U.S. Air Force photo by Senior Airman Monet Villacorte

Housing

The Study Area is projected to have an ample housing inventory at price points that should be attainable to incoming military personnel of all ranks. Measures are needed to ensure Luke AFB personnel and their dependents are aware of and are able to capitalize on the variety of housing options that are available, affordable and that meet their needs, whether on- or off-base.

Transportation

The West Valley will experience significant population growth over the next several years, causing the roadways to experience additional congestion. The emphasis of the plan is to ensure growth does not negatively impact the base and its mission. The additional personnel are not expected to cause regional roadways to deteriorate to unacceptable levels of service, except at one intersection adjacent to the base. The plan outlines several transportation strategies to mitigate the impacts of this congestion.

In addition to the Plan, an interactive map will provide information on commute times, available housing, and educational resources. A formal launch of the tool is under development. Details will be announced this fall. 🏞️

How to Be Heard at MAG During COVID-19

Sitting in the office with the sound of keyboards clicking, phones ringing and co-workers chatting is something most of us aren't experiencing these days. Instead, we've adapted to a new work environment at home. We've set up offices in our kitchens, dining rooms, bedrooms, or even patios—anywhere that helps us to get our work done.

The Maricopa Association of Governments (MAG) also has had to adapt in many ways, including how the agency conducts its public meetings and public outreach efforts.

In March, MAG stopped holding in-person public meetings due to COVID-19 and moved them to a live virtual platform. Members of the public can now view these meetings live on one of the newly created MAG YouTube channels. The YouTube channel link for each public meeting is published in the meeting's agenda, which can be accessed through the home page calendar on azmag.gov. Or, you can simply find the committee page of interest and click "watch online."

Since the public does not have the ability to provide comment during these live virtual public meetings, you can submit questions or comments in advance. Here's how:

- Access the online comment form at azmag.gov/comments.
- Select the meeting for which your comment is intended.
- Type in your comment.
- Submit the comment any time up to one hour prior to any public meeting. Comments will be forwarded to the committee chair.
- You also can email questions or comments to: MAGComments@azmag.gov, again up to one hour prior to a specified public meeting.
- Comments provided after the meeting will be routed to appropriate MAG staff for review.

Other public outreach efforts have gone virtual as well. In August, MAG is launching a Virtual Public Open House for the Laveen South Mountain Transportation Study. At this Open House, online visitors can enter a virtual meeting room where they sign in at a virtual desk, walk around the room and view different maps and information boards. They also can watch presentations and provide feedback through an online comment system linked to the maps and exhibits. Unlike a traditional public meeting that typically lasts a single evening, the Laveen Open House will begin on Aug. 13 and continue until Aug. 27. To learn more about the Laveen South Mountain Transportation Study or see the results of the meeting, please visit the project website at: <https://tinyurl.com/LaveenVirtualOpenHouse2>.

While the MAG staff isn't physically in the downtown Phoenix office, the agency is working and fully accessible during COVID-19. If you know the name of the staff member you wish to reach, you can call 602-254-6300 and use the automated directory to leave a message. During business hours, you can call 602-828-2494 to reach the receptionist. 🏞️



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A Quarterly Newsletter Focusing on Regional Excellence

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Fall 2020 Calendar

August

- 4th 11:30 a.m. Economic Development Committee
- 5th 10:00 a.m. Intelligent Transportation Systems Committee
- 5th 1:30 p.m. Standard Specifications and Details Committee
- 6th 2:00 p.m. Regional Domestic Violence Council
- 11th 1:00 p.m. Street Committee
- 12th 10:00 a.m. Elderly and Persons with Disabilities Transportation Committee
- 12th 12:00 p.m. Management Committee
- 13th 1:30 p.m. Human Services Technical Committee
- 17th 12:00 p.m. Regional Council Executive Committee
- 18th 1:00 p.m. Active Transportation Committee
- 19th 9:30 a.m. Maricopa Regional Continuum of Care Committee
- 19th 11:30 a.m. Transportation Policy Committee
- 19th 2:00 p.m. Building Codes Committee (Ironwood)
- 24th 1:30 p.m. Maricopa Regional Continuum of Care Board
- 25th 10:00 a.m. Population Technical Advisory Committee
- 25th 10:00 a.m. Transportation Safety Committee
- 26th 11:30 a.m. Regional Council
- 27th 10:00 a.m. Transportation Review Committee
- 27th 1:30 p.m. Air Quality Technical Advisory Committee

All meetings, unless indicated otherwise, will be held online. The dates, times and locations of all meetings may change.

September

- 2nd 10:00 a.m. Intelligent Transportation Systems Committee
- 2nd 1:30 p.m. Standard Specifications and Details Committee
- 8th 1:00 p.m. Street Committee
- 14th 1:00 p.m. Transit Committee
- 15th 10:00 a.m. Solid Waste Advisory Committee
- 15th 1:00 p.m. Transportation Ambassador Program
- 16th 9:30 a.m. Maricopa Regional Continuum of Care Committee
- 16th 12:00 p.m. Management Committee
- 16th 2:00 p.m. Building Codes Committee
- 21st 12:00 p.m. Regional Council Executive Committee
- 22nd 10:00 a.m. Transportation Safety Committee
- 22nd 10:00 a.m. Population Technical Advisory Committee
- 22nd 1:00 p.m. Active Transportation Committee
- 23rd 11:30 a.m. Transportation Policy Committee
- 24th 10:00 a.m. Human Services and Community Initiatives Committee
- 24th 1:30 p.m. Air Quality Technical Advisory Committee
- 28th 1:30 p.m. Maricopa Regional Continuum of Care Board
- 30th 11:30 a.m. Regional Council

Other committees not listed may meet during these months. For confirmation, call (602) 254-6300.

October

- 1st 10:00 a.m. Transportation Review Committee
- 1st 2:00 p.m. Regional Domestic Violence Council
- 5th 1:00 p.m. Transit Committee
- 6th 11:30 a.m. Economic Development Committee
- 7th 10:00 a.m. Intelligent Transportation Systems Committee
- 7th 12:00 p.m. Management Committee
- 7th 1:30 p.m. Standard Specifications and Details Committee (If necessary)
- 8th 1:30 p.m. Human Services Technical Committee
- 13th 1:00 p.m. Street Committee
- 19th 12:00 p.m. Regional Council Executive Committee
- 20th 1:00 p.m. Active Transportation Committee
- 21st 9:30 a.m. Maricopa Regional Continuum of Care Committee
- 21st 11:30 a.m. Transportation Policy Committee
- 21st 2:00 p.m. Building Codes Committee
- 22nd 1:30 p.m. Air Quality Technical Advisory Committee
- 26th 1:30 p.m. Maricopa Regional Continuum of Care Board
- 27th 10:00 a.m. Population Technical Advisory Committee
- 28th 11:30 a.m. Regional Council
- 29th 10:00 a.m. Transportation Review Committee

The newsletter is available at www.azmag.gov. Click on the MAGAZine Newsletter link under the NEWSROOM menu.