

Honoring People and Projects that Make Your Life Better

MAG Desert Peaks Awards Highlight the Best of Regionalism

Helping the homeless. Supporting families of dementia patients. Bringing Text to 9-1-1 services to the Valley. All of these projects demonstrate the value of regionalism, and they were among a number of projects, organizations and individuals honored during the Maricopa Association of Governments (MAG) 2018 Desert Peaks Awards ceremony in June. Below are the descriptions of the projects, organizations and individuals judged to best represent the highest standards of excellence through the Desert Peaks Awards.

Lifetime Achievement Award

Recipient: Dennis Smith

Dennis Smith began his career at the Maricopa Association of Governments in 1976, when then-Secretary Jack DeBolske hired him as a criminal justice coordinator. Mr. Smith served in a variety of capacities at MAG. He was appointed Executive Director in 2003. Mr. Smith was involved in numerous regional achievements, including the development of the regional emergency 9-1-1 system and pioneering several major transportation efforts, including Proposition 300, which funded the regional freeway system, and Proposition 400, which continues to fund street, transit and freeway projects. Other MAG initiatives spearheaded by Mr. Smith were the formation of the MAG Economic Development Committee, which focuses on making the MAG region and the Sun Corridor more globally competitive; working on greater political alignment for the Intermountain West; and forming a megaregion alliance between Arizona and Mexico, known as Ari-Son.



six key strategies to help the chronically homeless: outreach, collaboration, policy, housing, employment, and basic needs. At the heart of the partnership is a Community Resource Center created to connect a variety of basic services to those who need it the most. For the last two years, the Chronic Homeless Committee has helped conduct the annual Point in Time homeless street count. This count helps to address housing issues, attract new services and providers to the community, and supports the Project Connect resource fair.

Partnering Agencies: Arizona Department of Economic Security, Arizona Department of Housing, City of Apache Junction, Community Action Human Resources Agency, Community Alliance Against Family Abuse, Empowerment Systems, The Genesis Project, Horizon Health & Wellness, La Frontera, Pinal County, ResCare, Southern Arizona Legal Aid, Social Security Administration, United Way of Pinal County

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Public Partnership

Recipient: Apache Junction Chronic Homeless Committee

The Apache Junction Chronic Homeless Committee brings together local and regional public and nonprofit organizations to support programs and services for residents who are homeless or at-risk of homelessness. The committee identified



Representatives for the Apache Junction Chronic Homeless Committee.

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Message From the Chair



Mayor Gail Barney, City of Queen Creek

It is my honor to serve as the new MAG chair. As mayor of a fast-growing town that straddles two counties and that has both rural and urban identities, I understand the diverse challenges that face cities and towns in our region. I have spent my entire life in this part of Arizona. I look forward to leading this important regional organization on issues that matter deeply to me.

The goals for my community of Queen Creek are closely aligned to those of MAG. These include stimulating economic prosperity, improving quality of life, and enhancing safety.

Transportation is at the heart of all of these issues. A reliable transportation system is key to attracting major businesses, creating better commutes between employment and residential centers, and connecting people to goods and services.

Recognizing the importance of transportation, Maricopa County voters approved the half-cent sales tax for transportation more than 30 years ago, and affirmed their support of the measure with the renewal in 2004. A lot has been accomplished with those dollars. From the construction of Loops 101, 202, and 303, to the implementation of new bus networks and the light rail system, to numerous arterial

street improvements, we have seen tremendous progress as a result of the public's support in passing these initiatives. However, more work remains to be done if we are to remain one of the most desirable places to invest in the entire country. Proposition 400 expires in 2025, and we need to set the stage for the next round of transportation investments.

As we embark on the next fiscal year, I look forward to working with each of you, hand in hand, to begin the development of a transportation plan that meets the needs of our entire region. Investment in transportation is not a one-time occurrence. It requires an ongoing, steady commitment to improve and maintain the network better and to keep up with growth.

This is not an easy lift, and we will need to speak with a unified voice throughout this process. What is best for the region transcends into what is best for individual communities. Without this unity, we will never meet the goals outlined in the second paragraph above.

Together, we can work toward creating the most forward-thinking regional transportation system in the nation—to maintain our quality of life and our economic competitiveness.

Let's get started! 



MAGAZine is a quarterly newsletter of the Maricopa Association of Governments (MAG). It focuses on the issues and concerns of the cities, towns and tribal communities of the MAG region. If you know of a friend or colleague who would like to receive MAGAZine, please call the MAG office, (602) 254-6300.

Mayor Gail Barney
City of Queen Creek, Regional Council Chair

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Executive Committee Members

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Queen Creek, *Chair*

Mayor Lana Mook

El Mirage, *Vice Chair*

Mayor Mark Mitchell

Tempe, *Treasurer*

Mayor Jerry Weiers

Glendale, *At-Large Member*

Mayor Thelda Williams

Phoenix, *At-Large Member*

Mayor John Giles

Mesa, *At-Large Member*

Mayor Jackie Meck

Buckeye, *Past Chair*



Councilmember Robin Barker

Apache Junction

Mayor Kenneth Weise

Avondale



Councilmember Mike Farrar

Carefree

Councilmember David Smith

Cave Creek



Mayor Jay Tibshraeny

Chandler

Mayor Tara Walter

Florence



President Bernadine Burnette

Fort McDowell Yavapai Nation

Councilmember Nick DePorter

Fountain Hills



Mayor Tommy Lee Sikes

Gila Bend

Governor Stephen Roe Lewis

Gila River Indian Community



Mayor Jenn Daniels

Gilbert

Mayor Georgia Lord

Goodyear



Mayor Valerie Molina

Guadalupe

Mayor Thomas Schoaf

Litchfield Park



Mayor Christian Price

Maricopa (City of)

Supervisor Denny Barney

Maricopa County

Mayor Michael Collins

Paradise Valley

Mayor Cathy Carlat

Peoria



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Pinal County

President Delbert Ray

Salt River Pima-Maricopa

Indian Community

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Mayor Sharon Wolcott

Surprise

Mayor Anna Tovar

Tolleson



Mayor Everett Sickles

Wickenburg

Mayor Michael LeVault

Youngtown

Sam Eiters & Jack Sellers

Arizona Department of Transportation



Visit www.azmag.gov and click on Regional Council.



When I joined the Board of Supervisors in 2013, we spent 50 percent of our budget on public safety. Now it is 54 percent. As demands on our criminal justice system have grown, we've had to be more efficient. That's why we are investing in Smart Justice initiatives and new technology and putting increased focus this year on compliance with the Melendres order.

—Maricopa County Supervisor Denny Barney, referring to a 2007 class action lawsuit against the Maricopa County Sheriff's Office

The arts, education, a good transportation system, solid community design principles, and preserving our beautiful Southwest landscape are all critical components in creating a prosperous, sustainable community. Residents in all cities need to give their input at every level on these issues and more. Stay engaged. Your city needs you!

—Surprise Mayor Sharon Wolcott



The city of Chandler recently partnered with the Chandler International Film Festival on the production of a new cable show called CineTime, as a means of showcasing some of these excellent independent films. More importantly, many of our fellow cities air the show as well, allowing residents throughout Maricopa County to enjoy!

—Chandler Mayor Jay Tibshraeny

As a member of the MAG Regional Council, it has been a privilege to work alongside other regional leaders in support of programs and policies that move our communities forward, such as Text-to-911. This sensible and life-saving technology creates a path for all individuals to get the help they deserve. I look forward to continued collaboration for the benefit of our region.

—Peoria Mayor Cathy Carlat



Save the Date: August 21, 2018



Ari-Son Binational Megaregion Council

The Phoenician Resort

6000 East Camelback Road, Phoenix, Arizona, 85251



Mayor Tara Walter, Town of Florence



Small Town. Big Future.

Youth, Safety, Transportation Are Key Priorities for Florence Mayor

As an assistant principal, educator, truancy officer, religious education instructor, Little League coach, and mother, Tara Walter has long focused on youth. That focus didn't change much when Walter was elected as mayor of the town of Florence in Pinal County.

"We implemented a youth council to engage and interact with the local youth in our community," says Walter. "I really believe our youth are our future. I want them to have every opportunity to be involved in their local governments and understand the process. This way, when it is time for them to take over, they're ready."

The desire to make a positive difference in the lives of others is a passion that fuels her public service, which was jumpstarted by a personal experience.

"It was 2012. Our home was broken into while we were at home. Our oldest son was having a sleepover in the front room. We woke up in the early hours of the morning to an open door and an alarm sounding." Walter called police, but the response took 36-minutes. Walter soon learned that the town had a shortage of police and fire officers assigned to her area.

"Because this event happened, I started going to (Town) Council meetings and communicating concerns," relates Walter. "Through that experience, I realized that I really enjoyed participating in the public process." Through her experiences, she proclaimed her "passion to work hard, in an effort to make a positive difference and impact." She advocates for and enjoys when the public is actively involved.

Walter, who had earlier enjoyed making a difference as president of her homeowner's association, ran for Town Council and won. After her first term, she was selected by her peers to serve as vice mayor. At the end of her second term her constituents encouraged her to run for mayor. She was elected in 2016.

She recalled when she first was elected to the town council in 2012, "The newspaper announced it as 'the first Anthem resident elected to Florence Town Council,'" recalls Walter. "The town has always been segmented based geographic locations where people reside. One of my first goals was to unify all of those areas and provide equal services throughout Florence."

Situated directly between Phoenix and Tucson, Florence has a population of just over 26,000, but it continues to grow rapidly.

"What I enjoy most about my job is being able to bring that positive growth into the community while maintaining our 'Number One Safe Town in Arizona' rating," says Walter. "There are a lot of exciting projects in the planning stages for the upcoming year."

Among her highest priorities: improving transportation infrastructure. Walter noted the infrastructure needs are diverse and complex and highlighted that we "need a plan that builds for 2050, not just one that fixes 1950." Walter has been deeply engaged with MAG in the Regional Commuter Rail System Study update.

"We are really looking forward to the outcomes of the study, because that will help guide those informed decisions regarding future regional high capacity transit investments."

She also is a proponent of the proposed North/South freeway, a 36-mile high capacity facility extending off the US-60, passing near downtown Florence and connecting to I-10 near Eloy.

"And that traffic, that flow of transportation, will greatly benefit our citizens, as well as visitors, and people who are traveling."



Mayor Tara Walter and Vice-Mayor Vallarie Woolridge attend the National League of Cities Congressional Conference in Washington, D.C., in March.

Mayor Walter (cont.)

Walter, the mother of three children and the assistant principal of a school with approximately 800 kids, finds herself juggling a lot of priorities. However, she clearly has a passion for all that she does and appears to maintain a good balance.

“I always say if you don’t enjoy what you’re doing, go find something else to do,” says Walter. “To me it means I’m living life to the fullest. When I do have any free time, I like to go out to the woods to go camping and hiking with my husband and children.” Another priority is “balancing out school and sports; we always have fun as a family.”

She finds being a mayor makes for a good role model.

“My 8-year old daughter came with me last night and we were doing a presentation on our permanent base expenditure, so she definitely engages in the public process at a young age. She thinks that it is really cool and she likes to know what is going on. I think at that age it is important to understand the world around you and that when you grow up, you can make a difference.”



Mayor Tara Walter was selected to serve on a panel at the Public Sector Retirement Advisory Committee meeting.

MAG Welcomes New Officers

Regional collaboration and transportation. Those were the themes shared by Queen Creek Mayor Gail Barney as he accepted the role as chair of the Maricopa Association of Governments (MAG).

During his incoming chair’s message June 27, 2018, Mayor Barney discussed a number of priorities for the region, including attracting new employers, increasing tourism and trade, improving air quality and addressing homelessness. But at the top of his list? Maintaining and improving the region’s transportation system.



Mayor Gail Barney,
Town of Queen Creek,
Regional Council Chair

“One of MAG’s most important responsibilities is transportation planning. Transportation affects just about every aspect of our daily lives. It is how we get home, how we get to work, how our children get to school, how we shop and dine, and how we travel. It impacts our economy and our quality of life,” said Mayor Barney. “The importance of our transportation network cannot be overstated.”

The Regional Council elected Mayor Barney as chair during the MAG Annual Meeting on June 27, 2018. Other officers elected include El Mirage Mayor Lana Mook as vice chair and Tempe Mayor Mark Mitchell as treasurer. The three at-large members selected for the MAG Executive Committee are Glendale Mayor Jerry Weiers, Mesa Mayor John Giles, and Phoenix Mayor Thelda Williams. Buckeye Mayor Jackie Meck will serve in the past chair position.

Founded in 1967, MAG is a Council of Governments and Metropolitan Planning Organization. It provides a regional forum for discussion, analysis, and resolution of regional issues. Its primary functions include transportation, air quality, economic development and human services. MAG prepares the 20-year Regional Transportation Plan and five-year Transportation Improvement Program for the region.

Officers are elected for one-year terms. Mayor Barney 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 Barney served as MAG Vice Chair for the past year. He has served on the Executive Committee since 2012, and is a current member of the Economic Development Committee.



Mayor Lana Mook,
City of El Mirage,
Vice Chair



Mayor Mark Mitchell,
City of Tempe,
Treasurer



Mayor Jerry Weiers,
City of Glendale,
At-Large



Mayor John Giles,
City of Mesa,
At-Large



Mayor Thelda Williams,
City of Phoenix,
At-Large



Mayor Jackie Meck,
City of Buckeye,
Past Chair

Desert Peaks Awards (continued)

Public-Private Partnership

Recipient: Dementia Friendly Tempe

The city of Tempe has been working with Banner Alzheimer's Institute to make Tempe the state's first Dementia Friendly City. In Arizona, approximately 120,000 people are living with Alzheimer's disease and the number will double in the next decade. At the 2015 White House Conference on Aging, the city of Tempe was designated as one of the five upcoming "dementia friendly communities" that would help lead the national collaboration.



Mayor Mark Mitchell, City of Tempe

Tempe Mayor Mark Mitchell, whose mother had Alzheimer's disease, embraced the Dementia Friendly Tempe initiative, believing it would have a profound impact on the community. Tempe partnered with Banner Alzheimer's Institute to raise awareness of and foster respect for people with dementia and family caregivers. The partners work to provide services and resources that ensure meaningful access to community and promote quality of life; support and educate people with dementia, their caregivers, and families; and promote meaningful engagement in community life.

Partnering Agencies: Banner Alzheimer's Institute, City of Tempe



Representatives from the Dementia Friendly Tempe partnership.

Professional Service

Recipient: Elizabeth Finn, Presiding Judge, City of Glendale

Judge Elizabeth Finn has been a judge for 38 years and is the most senior judge in Arizona. She is recognized for identifying stakeholders at the state, county and city levels and bringing them



together to work on such issues as domestic violence, driving under the influence (DUI), and mental health. Judge Finn was a founding member and chair of the Supreme Court committee that focused on the impact of domestic violence on the courts. In this capacity, she created a multidisciplinary committee and became the first author of the *Benchmark*, resulting in the mandating of statewide policies for all judges on domestic violence protective orders. This multidisciplinary approach with the



Supreme Court, MAG Regional Domestic Violence Council, the Coalition to End Sexual and Domestic Violence, Arizona Prosecuting Attorneys Advisory Council, and others has resulted in significant changes in domestic violence laws and practices. Under Judge Finn's guidance, in 2006, Glendale became a founding member of the Maricopa County Regional Homeless Court. In 2013, Judge Finn brought together Mercy Maricopa, along with the peer support group called Hope Lives, prosecutors, and public defenders to establish a Glendale Mental Health Court. This court addresses issues faced by mental health defendants such as homelessness, medication supervision and substance abuse.



Regional Partnership Award recipients: Text to 9-1-1 Project.

Regional Partnership

Recipient: Text to 9-1-1 Project

Residents in Maricopa County have a new measure of safety in place with the launch of Text to 9-1-1 in April. 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. Working with the disability community, the Maricopa Association of Governments (MAG) decided to move forward with the Text to 9-1-1 Internet Protocol based program in 2017. Maricopa Region 9-1-1 Administrator Liz Graeber helped spearhead the project, working with agencies to develop policy and training. Public Safety Answering Point (PSAP) managers and communications supervisors

developed training materials, tested the system, created policy, and developed and implemented operational plans. The system went live on April 2, 2018, with the message, *Call if you can. Text if you can't*. Text to 9-1-1 may save lives by connecting emergency responders to people who are deaf, hard of hearing, speech impaired, or those who are in a situation where it may be too dangerous to call 9-1-1. Examples include domestic violence calls, break-ins, or active shooter situations.

Partnering Agencies: Arizona Department of Public Safety, Arizona State University, American Medical Response, City of Apache Junction, City of Avondale, City of Buckeye, City of Chandler, City of Glendale, City of Goodyear, City of Mesa, City of Peoria, City of Phoenix, City of Scottsdale, City of Surprise, City of Tempe, City of Tolleson, Fort McDowell Yavapai Nation, Luke Air Force Base, Maricopa County, Maricopa Region 9-1-1, Salt River Pima-Maricopa Indian Community, Town of Gilbert, Town of Paradise Valley, Town of Wickenburg

Outstanding Economic Development Champion

Recipient: City of Avondale Economic Development Department

The city of Avondale's economic development team has more than 75 years of combined economic and business development experience and it thrives when it works with community partners to strengthen the region. Whether serving as board members, volunteering as committee co-chairs to launch new and innovative events, or persistently working to attract new employers to the area, Avondale is committed to enriching the region and driving economic development. Valuable regional work includes partnerships with WESTMARC, the Greater Phoenix Economic Council, and the Southwest Valley Chamber. In addition, Avondale's team members illustrate leadership with educational opportunities such as the Arizona Association of Economic Development,



Outstanding Economic Development Champion: City of Avondale Economic Development Department.

Business Development Guild, and Leadership West. Avondale's innovative team breaks the mold by pioneering new solutions through collaborative approaches with the Southwest Valley Small Business Summit, including developing a regional Healthcare Summit and locating new amenities that benefit the region as a whole.

Regional Excellence

Recipient: Greg Stanton, Former Phoenix Mayor

While it often takes years to realize the impact one individual has had on transit, Mayor Stanton's leadership has provided positive influence and direction in further developing a healthy regional transportation system with growth potential for decades to come. Mayor Stanton's vision led to the success of the Phoenix Transportation 2050 plan and his leadership also has garnered other contributions that will not only benefit the region, but the entire state. In the past year, Phoenix Sky Harbor International Airport announced expansion efforts and new flights that aim to promote the state nationally and internationally. Through Mayor Stanton's leadership, Phoenix is a more livable city and the region more mobile, focusing on economic drivers poised to highlight regional prosperity and growth.



Former Phoenix Mayor Greg Stanton receives his award from Mesa Mayor John Giles.

School is Back in Session and Crossing Guards are Working to Keep Children Safe

As thousands of children end their summer breaks and return to their classrooms, those who work as crossing guards want to make sure these children get to school safely and they want motorists to know what the rules are on both sides of the hand-held stop signs.



In August, hundreds of school crossing guards attended Maricopa Association of Government's (MAG) 2018 Regional School Crossing Guard Training Workshops at various locations throughout the Valley. The trainings are hosted by MAG and the cities of Mesa, Peoria, and Phoenix, with additional support from Glendale, Gilbert, Scottsdale, Surprise, and Tempe.

"In keeping with its key goal of improving transportation safety throughout the region, MAG is dedicated to ensuring the region's children and motorists are safe," said MAG Chair Gail Barney, mayor of Queen

Creek. "The School Crossing Guard Training Workshops sponsored by MAG reflect this priority."

The trainings focused on essential crossing guard procedures, information on the health and welfare of guards, and resources available from police and fire departments to help the guards ensure the children's, as well as that of their own, safety. Special sessions included a review of traffic laws regarding crosswalks, procedures that must be followed in the crosswalks, and proper equipment that guards rely on to perform their duties safely and effectively.

An energetic team of transportation staff from MAG and eight local agency partners meet on a regular basis to plan and coordinate the workshops each year. Their goal is to provide an updated and fresh focus for the workshops and new ways to engage the attendees.

Just as it is important for the crossing guards to know the rules, drivers are reminded to follow them. Adhere to the 15 mph speed limit, stop for crossing guards and wait until they have cleared the roadway before proceeding through a crosswalk, and always exercise caution when driving in school zones. 

MAG Moment



In July, MAG hosted the Mandela Washington Fellowship for Young African Leaders. Twenty-five students from 17 African countries attended a half-day training to learn more about MAG activities, including regional transportation, human services, information services, communication and information technology. The group is part of the 2018 Public Management Cohort being hosted by the College of Public Service and Community Solutions at Arizona State University. 

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.



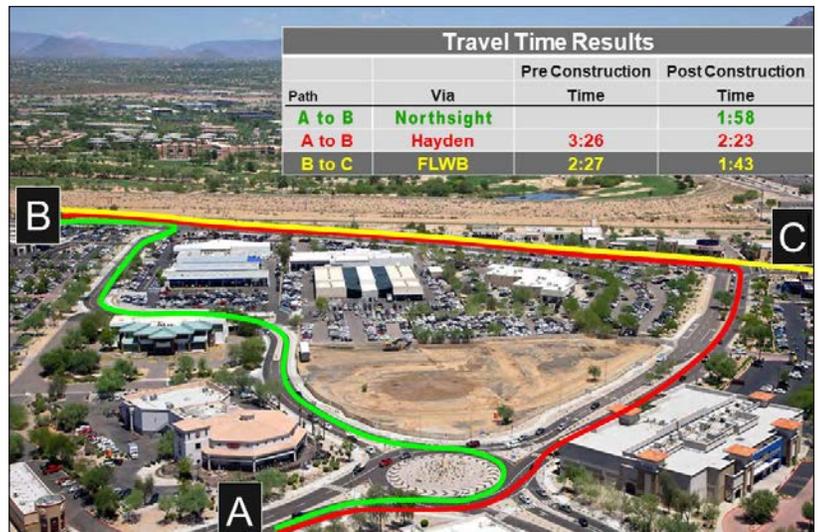
Project: Northsight Roundabout

Improving travel time, safety, and public opinion. The Scottsdale Northsight Boulevard Extension Project succeeded in all three goals. The project, completed in 2014, included constructing a bypass around a heavy commercial area by extending Northsight Boulevard from Hayden Road to Frank Lloyd Wright Boulevard and adding a roundabout to improve traffic flow.

The bypass resulted in a commute that shaved more than a minute off the time it took for a car to get from Hayden Road to Frank Lloyd Wright Boulevard using the Northsight extension. Having traffic diverted into two routes, combined with the more efficient bypass, also meant faster travel for those using the original routes as well. These quicker travel times came in spite of the fact that traffic volumes increased as a result of the improvements. Consider:

- Before construction, traffic volumes at the intersection of Northsight and Hayden were at 27,000 vehicles per day. After construction, 35,000 vehicles per day were moving more efficiently through the area using the roundabout.
- Despite handling almost three million additional vehicles a year, only one additional accident was recorded in 2014.
- Most notably, the number of injuries that resulted from crashes declined by 79 percent, while the injury rate decreased by 84 percent.

The Transportation Research Board finds that public attitudes toward roundabouts changes significantly before and after construction. Those with a “very negative” opinion move from 23 percent to 0 percent, and those with a “very positive” opinion move from 0 percent to 32 percent. A Scottsdale newspaper poll of 200 motorists found 67 percent of respondents liked driving on roundabouts. 🏔️



Love It, Don't Trash It! New Campaign Raises Litter Prevention Awareness

Picture this: A twenty-something male shuffles into the kitchen to make breakfast. After dumping out sour milk on the floor, tossing egg shells over his shoulder and dropping a coffeepot on the ground so hard it shatters, you're cringing at the way this guy treats his home. Why would he do that?

That's the exact question a new campaign for *Don't Trash Arizona* wants you to ask. You would never trash your home like that, so why would you trash the highways in the beautiful state we call home?

The program began in 2006 but is being updated with a new look and feel.

"This campaign tells the story that our state is a place to take pride in and keep clean," said MAG Chair Gail Barney, mayor of Queen Creek. "Our goal is to provide information that will help change attitudes, awareness and behavior when it comes to roadway littering."

The messages target not only general littering behavior but also cigarette butt litter and dangerous debris from unsecured loads. Using yellow road stripes over black pavement, the graphic visuals emphasize:

- Arizona is not your ashtray.
- Arizona is not your trashcan.
- Arizona is not your junkyard.

The *Don't Trash Arizona* campaign is aimed at young males (aged 19-24), found to be the worst litter offenders. The strategy is to engage this target audience in the places and on the platforms where they spend most of their time with attention-grabbing content.

Litter not only costs us money to clean up, but it is unhealthy for us and the environment and causes serious accidents on our roads. Keeping our roadways beautiful is important to the quality of life in the region and the image projected to visitors and prospective businesses.

For more, visit www.DontTrashArizona.com



"Arizona is our home. Love it. Don't trash it!" is the catchphrase you'll hear on the radio, view online, see playing at the gas pump, or even watch pass by on a light rail train. The messy scene described above is part of a new public

service announcement with the same theme. The spot ends with the ultimate goal of the campaign: A contrasting scene of Arizona beauty.

Don't Trash Arizona is a litter prevention campaign implemented by the Maricopa Association of Governments (MAG) in cooperation with the Arizona Department of Transportation (ADOT). The goal is to address the economic, safety and health impacts of freeway litter along regional and state highways.



The "Arizona Is Our Home" theme was used on this ad wrap of a Valley Metro light rail train.

Pilot Safety Program Produces Dramatic Results

Saves lives, time, money

The time it takes to clear freeway crashes has been reduced by more than an hour—saving lives, time, and money. The positive news follows an analysis of a three-year pilot program funded by the Maricopa Association of Governments (MAG) and the Arizona Department of Transportation (ADOT). The program places Arizona Department of Public Safety (AZDPS) troopers inside the ADOT Traffic Operations Center.

The move to co-locate troopers at the Traffic Operations Center allows AZDPS to monitor traffic incidents through nearly 300 ADOT cameras. When a crash occurs, the highly trained troopers can immediately begin incident management procedures to include directing units in the field to the scene quickly, determining what types of medical and rescue response are needed, and what class of tow truck or other resources are required to clear the scene quickly. The faster responders can clear the initial crash, the lower the risk of secondary crashes.

The three-year pilot project to improve road safety and reduce traffic congestion was launched in October 2014, the result of a collaborative effort among ADOT, AZDPS, MAG, and the Federal Highway Administration.

“Despite the number of crashes on Valley freeways going up, the time to clear crashes was reduced every year,” said MAG Chair Jackie Meck, mayor of Buckeye. “In the first year of the program, the average number of minutes to clear a crash went down by nearly an hour. Three years later, the time taken to clear all lanes at crash sites has been

reduced by one hour and 12 minutes, drastically reducing the potential for secondary crashes and long freeway closures. That quicker response reduces the time motorists are stuck in traffic and makes freeway driving safer for all of us.”



Mayor Jackie Meck, City of Buckeye

AZDPS Director Frank Milstead says preventing secondary crashes is especially important, because those secondary collisions are often more serious than the initial incident.

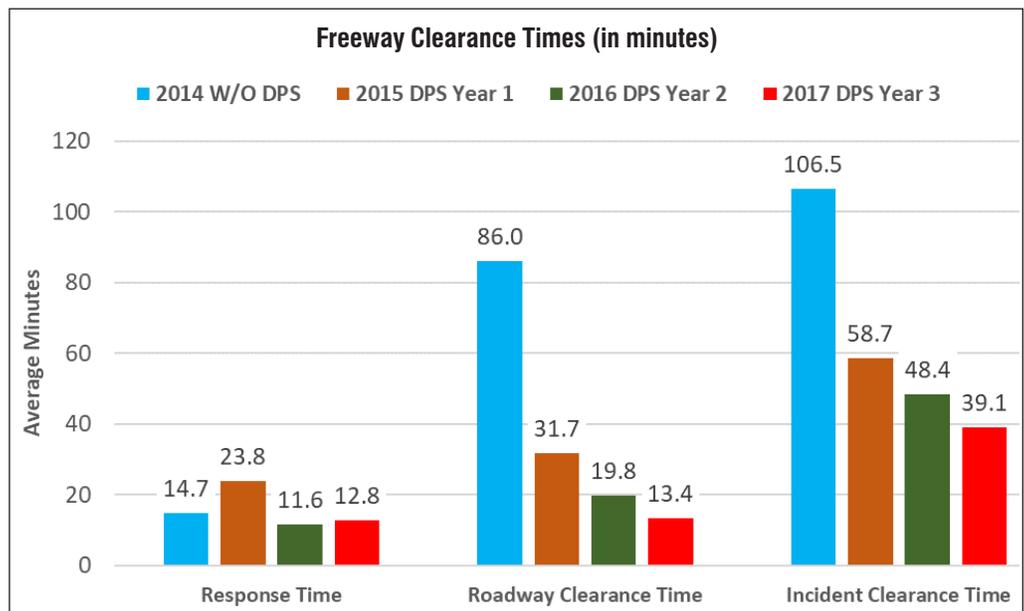
“We believe this program, along with other efforts by our Highway Patrol Division, has resulted in safer highways for the traveling public, and for the troopers and first responders who arrive on the scene. Not only have roadway clearance times improved, but the

incident clearance times—when troopers have completed their investigation and left the scene—have also improved by more than an hour. That means our troopers are back on their way more quickly and ready to respond to the next incident,” noted Milstead.

MAG estimates that the region has saved \$336 million in potential lost productivity over the three years of the pilot project.

“The results show this has been one of the best proven investments by MAG and ADOT for improving public safety and freeway traffic operations,” said ADOT Director John Halikowski. “With the benefits of this pilot project so abundantly clear, ADOT is funding a 24/7 DPS presence at the Traffic Operations Center with a statewide focus.”

For more information on the results of the three-year pilot program, see graph below.



Despite more crashes, the time to clear the roadway has improved by more than an hour.



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A Quarterly Newsletter Focusing on Regional Excellence

August—October 2018  Vol. 23: No. 3

Fall 2018 Calendar

August

- 1st 1:30 p.m. Standard Specifications and Details Committee (Ironwood)
- 2nd 2:00 p.m. Regional Domestic Violence Council (Ironwood)
- 7th 11:30 a.m. Economic Development Committee (Saguaro)
- 8th 10:00 a.m. Intelligent Transportation Systems Committee (Ironwood)
- 8th 12:00 p.m. Management Committee (Saguaro)
- 9th 10:00 a.m. Public Safety Answering Point Managers Group (Saguaro)
- 9th 10:00 a.m. Elderly and Persons with Disabilities Transportation Committee (Cholla)
- 9th 1:30 p.m. Human Services Technical Committee (Chaparral)
- 14th 1:00 p.m. Street Committee (Ironwood)
- 15th 12:00 p.m. Transportation Policy Committee (Saguaro)
- 15th 2:00 p.m. Building Codes Committee (Ironwood)
- 16th 9:30 a.m. Transit Committee (Saguaro)
- 20th 12:00 p.m. Regional Council Executive Committee (Ironwood)
- 21st 1:00 p.m. Active Transportation Committee (Ironwood)
- 23rd 1:30 p.m. Air Quality Technical Advisory Committee (Saguaro)
- 27th 1:30 p.m. Maricopa Regional Continuum of Care Board (Ironwood)
- 28th 10:00 a.m. Population Technical Advisory Committee (Chaparral)
- 29th 11:30 a.m. Regional Council (Saguaro)
- 30th 10:00 a.m. Transportation Review Committee (Saguaro)

Parking is available under the building. Please ask for parking validation at the meeting. A transit ticket will be provided for anyone who purchased a transit ticket to attend a meeting. Bike racks are available at the entrance to the parking garage.

September

- 3th Labor Day Holiday (Office Closed)
- 4th 11:30 a.m. Economic Development Committee (Saguaro)
- 5th 12:00 p.m. Management Committee (Saguaro)
- 5th 1:30 p.m. Standard Specifications and Details Committee (Ironwood)
- 11th 1:00 p.m. Street Committee (Ironwood)
- 12th 10:00 a.m. Intelligent Transportation Systems Committee (Ironwood)
- 12th 12:00 p.m. Transportation Policy Committee (Saguaro)
- 17th 12:00 p.m. Regional Council Executive Committee (Ironwood)
- 18th 10:00 a.m. Solid Waste Advisory Committee (Ironwood)
- 18th 1:00 p.m. Active Transportation Committee (Ironwood)
- 19th 2:00 p.m. Building Codes Committee (Ironwood)
- 20th 9:30 a.m. Transit Committee (Saguaro)
- 20th 10:00 a.m. Human Services and Community Initiatives Committee (Chaparral)
- 24th 1:30 p.m. Maricopa Regional Continuum of Care Board (Ironwood)
- 25th 10:00 a.m. Transportation Safety Committee (Ironwood)
- 25th 10:00 a.m. Population Technical Advisory Committee (Chaparral)
- 26th 11:30 a.m. Regional Council (Saguaro)
- 27th 10:00 a.m. Transportation Review Committee (Saguaro)
- 27th 1:30 p.m. Air Quality Technical Advisory Committee (Saguaro)

The newsletter is available at www.azmag.gov. Click on the MAG Publications link and then MAGAZine Newsletter link.

October

- 2nd 11:30 a.m. Economic Development Committee (Saguaro)
- 3rd 1:30 p.m. Standard Specifications and Details Committee (*if necessary*) (Ironwood)
- 4th 2:00 p.m. Regional Domestic Violence Council (Ironwood)
- 9th 1:00 p.m. Street Committee (Ironwood)
- 10th 10:00 a.m. Intelligent Transportation Systems Committee (Ironwood)
- 10th 12:00 p.m. Management Committee (Saguaro)
- 11th 1:30 p.m. Human Services Technical Committee (Chaparral)
- 15th 12:00 p.m. Regional Council Executive Committee (Ironwood)
- 16th 1:00 p.m. Active Transportation Committee (Ironwood)
- 17th 12:00 p.m. Transportation Policy Committee (Saguaro)
- 17th 2:00 p.m. Building Codes Committee (Ironwood)
- 18th 9:30 a.m. Transit Committee (Saguaro)
- 22nd 1:30 p.m. Maricopa Regional Continuum of Care Board (Ironwood)
- 23rd 10:00 a.m. Population Technical Advisory Committee (Chaparral)
- 24th 11:30 a.m. Regional Council (Saguaro)
- 25th 10:00 a.m. Transportation Review Committee (Saguaro)
- 25th 1:30 p.m. Air Quality Technical Advisory Committee (Saguaro)

All meetings, unless indicated otherwise, will be held in the conference rooms located in the MAG office on the 2nd floor of the building, 302 N. 1st Ave., Phoenix.

The dates, times and locations of all meetings may change. Other committees not listed may meet during these months. For confirmation, call (602) 254-6300.