

Survey Finds Support for Transportation Investment

MAG explores what matters most to Valley residents

Most Valley residents believe the quality of life in the region is increasing. They highly value the region’s low cost of living and safe neighborhoods. In transportation, they appreciate the freeway system, great connectivity, and the variety of options. Those are just a few findings from MAG research to determine transportation values and priorities in the Maricopa region.

“Understanding public values and the transportation priorities of residents will support and guide our next regional transportation plan,” said MAG Chair Mark Mitchell, mayor of Tempe. “Unlike previous plans, this plan will need to be adaptable in an ever-changing world. There is no person in the world to whom transportation isn’t important, whether it means getting them where they want to go or receiving the goods necessary to survive. It’s critical that we get it right.”

The “values mapping” effort includes input from over 10,000 people in the Maricopa region. It encompassed feedback from stakeholders, focus groups, and online surveys.

Here are just a few key findings from the survey, with key themes in bold text:

- Having a **vision** for transportation in this region is very important. There is strong support for the work our region has been and is doing.
- People in the region like how the transportation system was built. They love their communities and value that transportation investments have



Members of the MAG Transportation Policy Committee participate in a “values mapping” exercise to kick off the effort.



Tempe Mayor Mark Mitchell, *Chair, Regional Council*



Glendale Mayor Jerry Weiers, *Chair, Transportation Policy Committee*

been made to connect them to where they need and want to go, providing **choice, mobility, and connectivity**.

- Constituents support shifting to a long-range program that provides **flexibility** to modify priorities based on changing circumstances and technologies.
- There is tremendous support for **increased funding** for transportation in this region—a distinctly higher amount of support than in other parts of the country.

“This research shows the value of visionary planning. It confirms that residents understand the importance of investing in our freeways and they recognize the need for continued investment in transportation,” said Glendale Mayor Jerry Weiers, chair of the MAG Transportation Policy Committee. “It’s our job to put forth a plan that matches the values of our region and delivers a strategy that best aligns with the needs and desires of the public.” 

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Message From the Chair



Mayor Mark Mitchell, City of Tempe

As we embark on a critical year for transportation planning, it is my honor to serve as the new MAG chair. The top priority for the agency—and for me—will be to begin development of a new long-range Regional Transportation Plan. The name of this plan is *Imagine*, a word that aptly describes how we should think about our transportation future. It evokes the freedom we have to consider all of the possibilities a great transportation system brings.

I imagine a plan that will provide opportunities for greater mobility and economic growth. I imagine a transportation system that easily connects people to where they need to go, whether that be their job, an event, or to see their friends and family.

Over the next year, we will begin to work on the Regional Transportation Plan. We will rely on data received through technical studies as well as analysis of public feedback we received through our values mapping efforts (*see cover story*). The plan will look to provide transportation options and consider issues like safety, emerging technologies, congestion relief, operations and maintenance, and environmental responsibility.

While transportation will be a critical focus in this next year, we also will continue MAG's other important work, such as protecting

our environment through air quality planning and developing strategies that enhance economic competitiveness.

I also believe it is imperative to build upon the work this organization has been doing to address homelessness, domestic violence and connecting older adults to resources, including transportation, health, and community engagement opportunities. As a strong advocate for dementia friendly cities, I encourage MAG to continue its efforts to bring forward information and resources to help our region understand more about Alzheimer's disease and dementia and its effects on families and our communities.

In my role as chair, I will encourage members and staff to come to meetings excited to discuss the actions ahead of us. There is so much good work to be done. I also encourage elected officials to be the trusted voices in our individual communities to communicate the importance of regional transportation investments.

I truly look forward to being chair this year. As MAG members, we speak on behalf of two-thirds of the state of Arizona. When we all come together for a united purpose, we further the prosperity and quality of life for the current and future residents in our region and realize the outcomes that will make an impact. 



MAGAZine

MAGAZine is a quarterly newsletter of the Maricopa Association of Governments (MAG). It focuses on the issues and concerns of the cities, towns 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 Mark Mitchell
City of Tempe, Regional Council Chair

Eric J. Anderson, *Executive Director*

MAG Contributors: Laurie Berg Sapp, John Bullen, Arup Dutta, Libby Hanks, Margaret Herrera, Teri Kennedy, Audra Koester-Thomas, Vladimir Livshits, Susana Martinez, Denise McClafferty, Marcy McMacken, Tim Strow, Scott Wilken

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

MAG Regional Council Members

Executive Committee Members



Mayor Mark Mitchell
Tempe, *Chair*

Mayor Jerry Weiers
Glendale, *Vice Chair*



Mayor John Giles
Mesa, *Treasurer*



Mayor Kate Gallego
Phoenix, *At-Large Member*

Mayor Kenneth Weise
Avondale, *At-Large Member*

Mayor Anna Tovar
Tolleson, *At-Large Member*

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Litchfield Park



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Supervisor Steve Chucri
Maricopa County

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Paradise Valley

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Peoria

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Salt River Pima-Maricopa

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Surprise



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Wickenburg

Mayor Michael LeVault
Youngtown



Sam Eiters & Jack Sellers
Arizona Department of Transportation

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



Arizona is poised to attract so many quality employers with our business-friendly environment. In Surprise, we are following the AIMS Strategy (Advanced Manufacturing, Innovation, Medical Travel and Signature Retail) in our recruitment efforts and we are seeing success. The skilled workforce is here with a desire to work close to home; and residents are hungry for new retail options across the Valley.

—Surprise Mayor Skip Hall

The city of Peoria has enacted a Texting While Driving ordinance to begin the all-important process of educating the public on the facts and consequences of this deadly distraction. By the time this ordinance translates to the law of the land, Peoria residents will be fully aware of the dangers directly attributed to the single activity of taking your eyes off the road to send or read a text. Throughout our nation, too many lives are senselessly lost from distracted driving, and we're ready to raise the bar on safe driving.

—Peoria Mayor Cathy Carlat



Great transportation corridors are the key to great economic development, and in turn these fabulous roadways make our quality of life better.

—Maricopa Mayor Christian Price, in celebratory remarks at the SR-347 overpass grand opening ceremony.

Ari-Son Draws Leaders from Arizona, Mexico

Leaders from Arizona and Mexico will come together at the annual Ari-Son affiliate group meeting of the League of Arizona Cities and Towns in August to discuss issues of mutual interest.



**MEGAREGION
ARI-SON**
Connecting Regionally.
Growing Globally.

“With a new political administration in Mexico now in place, we want to make sure we properly work together and continue our efforts as we celebrate our fifth year as an affiliate group of the League of Arizona Cities and Towns,” said Mesa Councilmember David Luna, who serves on the MAG Economic Development Committee. Councilmember Luna says the event will include workshops on tourism, education and urban planning.

“We will see significant growth in both Arizona and Sonora over the next few years,” says Luna.

“Joint planning will assist both states in taking advantage of the economic development opportunities brought about by that growth.”



Mesa Councilmember David Luna

Getting Kids to School Safely



Crossing Guards Receive Training

To make sure thousands of students get to school safely, hundreds of crossing guards took part in regional training workshops. They learned essential crossing guard procedures, traffic laws regarding crosswalks, proper equipment, and how to ensure their own health and safety while keeping others safe. The Regional School Crossing Guard Training workshops are sponsored by the Maricopa Association of Governments (MAG) and its member agencies.

The 2019 workshops mark the 13th year MAG has provided the regional training.

Regional Profile: Mayor Kevin Hartke



Mayor Kevin Hartke, City of Chandler



Chandler - Arizona

Chandler Mayor a “People Person”

He’s a pastor, a politician, and a people person. Chandler Mayor Kevin Hartke has been serving the city of Chandler almost since the day he arrived in the Valley 30 years ago. He says he immediately recognized Chandler as the “city where I am supposed to invest my life.”

“To me, that meant, ‘how can I best serve the people where I am?’ Being mayor is a great opportunity to provide jobs, to hear people who are feeling disenfranchised, to make sure that the hopeless have a voice,” says Mayor Hartke.

Incredibly, the road that brought him to the top job in a dry desert city went through a few snowbanks.

“With our climate here, my fellow Regional Council members would probably be surprised to know that I used to love living where it was 60 below, where plastic bags shattered in the wind because of the cold. I used to mush dogs and fix snowmobiles and it was just a totally different lifestyle and a totally different climate,” says Hartke. “I honestly loved it as much as I love this one.”

Hartke grew up in St. Louis and received his bachelor’s degree in biochemistry from the University of Missouri. He planned to become a doctor. But after applying to a few medical schools, he had a window

of free time and ended up serving with an organization that worked with indigenous peoples in northern Minnesota and across northern Canada. He ended up staying there for five years.

“At the heart I’m a people person. I love working with people and helping solve their problems. The same skills that I would have applied as a doctor, I decided to use to solve people’s social issues rather than medical issues,” says Mayor Hartke.

The experience led him to seek a master’s degree in Theology from Fuller Theological Seminary. After receiving a job offer from a church in Chandler, Hartke moved to the Valley. He immediately became active with numerous humanitarian and civic groups, and became director of the nonprofit, “For Our City Chandler.” He served as lead pastor at Trinity Christian Fellowship in Chandler from 1985-2018, and still works for the church part time.

Hartke served on the Chandler City Council from 2008 through 2019, when he was elected mayor. He has served on the MAG Continuum of Care Regional Committee to End Homelessness, as well as on the MAG Economic Development Committee.

“Jobs bring a whole lot of solutions to everything else. If you can get people working, it takes care of a lot of the other issues. Being able to be in a job-centric city like Chandler has been key in helping me reach those goals,” he said.

While jobs can help lift people out of homelessness, Mayor Hartke says there is one social challenge brought about by greater prosperity. As the cost of living rises, it can become harder for those who are barely scraping by to find affordable housing.

“It doesn’t always take a whole lot for someone who doesn’t have a safety net of people or a financial safety net to bounce them out. One bad health story or losing a car might result in a whole cascade of losing a job, losing a home,” he says.

Along with his passion for social issues and economic development, Mayor Hartke cares deeply about

No sled dogs here. This cold-climate photo of Mayor Hartke was taken near Weavers Needle in the Superstition Mountains.



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Mayor Hartke commends Chandler volunteers during a recognition breakfast.

Mayor Kevin Hartke (continued)

transportation issues. He calls the extension of Prop 400 one of his top priorities. He believes the next transportation plan will need to have a lot of built-in flexibility.

“To be the best planners we can be, we are going to have to live with a little bit more uncertainty, because we’re not fully sure of what the transportation needs are going to be,” says Hartke. “What is the future of our roads in 10 years, and what will we need to change with emerging technologies, whether it is autonomous vehicles or other things? We know things are going to change, so we can’t just sock everything away so firmly that we don’t have the flexibility to make those adjustments.”

Mayor Hartke says he is a collaborative leader who spends less time worrying about who gets credit “as opposed to let’s get some things done together.”

In fact, Mayor Hartke discovered another practical leadership skill in the cold north, while training sled dogs.

“When you’re starting off on a project, there’s a lead dog, but not all dogs want to follow it. I have waded into the middle of dogfights and broken them up. But I’ve also noticed that once you turn around and the dogs sense that they are going home, they pull together a whole lot better, and they work as a team better. It’s important to keep vision and the sight of where you’re going in front of everybody. Then it’s a lot easier to get them to pull together with all they’ve got.”

MAG Elects New Officers Will Lead Organization During Major Transportation Planning Effort

Developing a transportation plan that will serve the Maricopa region for the next 20 years is a primary goal of the new chair of the Maricopa Association of Governments (MAG).



 Mayor Mark Mitchell, City of Tempe, Regional Council Chair

At its Annual Meeting, the MAG Regional Council elected Tempe Mayor **Mark Mitchell** to lead the organization as Chair over the coming year. Other officers selected include Glendale Mayor **Jerry Weiers** as Vice Chair and Mesa Mayor **John Giles** as Treasurer. At Large Members include Phoenix Mayor **Kate Gallego**, Tolleson Mayor **Anna Tovar**, and Avondale Mayor **Kenneth Weise**. Queen Creek Mayor **Gail Barney** will serve on the Executive Committee as Past Chair.

As he accepted the gavel, Mayor Mitchell said a major focus will be on development of the next long-range transportation plan.

“I believe we have a great opportunity, as we move toward a new Regional Transportation Plan, to plan for the extension of Prop 400. The economic benefits of these transportation investments are critical to the future of our region,” said Mayor Mitchell.

Other priorities for the year ahead will be to build upon the work of MAG on issues of homelessness, domestic violence and aging.

Also during the Annual Meeting, Glendale Mayor, Jerry Weiers was elected to serve as chair of the MAG Transportation Policy Committee, and Phoenix Mayor Kate Gallego was elected vice chair.

Officers are elected for one-year terms. Mayor Mitchell 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, City of Glendale, Vice Chair



Mayor John Giles, City of Mesa, Treasurer



Mayor Kate Gallego, City of Phoenix, At-Large



Mayor Anna Tovar, City of Tolleson, At-Large



Mayor Kenneth Weise, City of Avondale, At-Large



Mayor Gail Barney, Town of Queen Creek, Past Chair



The Company We Keep

Where growth is happening in Maricopa, Pinal counties

Valley residents can expect lots of new neighbors in the years ahead. What will growth be like where you live?

New population and employment projections show that growth will continue to play a major role in our region, but there are changes to where and when that growth will occur.

The Maricopa Association of Governments (MAG) is responsible for preparing population estimates and other socioeconomic projections for the region. New projections were developed for the years 2020, 2030, 2040, 2050, and 2055. MAG worked with its member agencies—cities, towns, Native nations, Maricopa County, and Pinal County—to ensure accuracy. The projections for member agencies within Pinal County were developed in conjunction with Central Arizona Governments.

The projections show that Maricopa County’s population as a whole will increase from just over 4.4 million in 2020 to more than 6.4 million in 2055. Total employment will increase from about 2.2 million jobs in 2020 to nearly 3.5 million jobs in 2055.

In Pinal County, the projections show population more than doubling, going from 466,000 in 2020 to almost 1.2 million by 2055. Employment in Pinal County is projected to more than quadruple, increasing from 73,000 in 2020 to more than 307,000 in 2055.

One dramatic example of the region’s continued growth may be found in the number of municipal planning areas (MPAs) with populations greater than 250,000. In 2000, only Phoenix and Mesa’s MPAs exceeded a quarter million, and by 2010, only Glendale had joined that club. But by 2055, ten

MAG member agencies will be on the quarter-million-or-more list: Phoenix, Mesa, Buckeye, Surprise, Glendale, Peoria, Chandler, Scottsdale, Gilbert, and Tempe, with Goodyear just under that mark at almost 224,000.

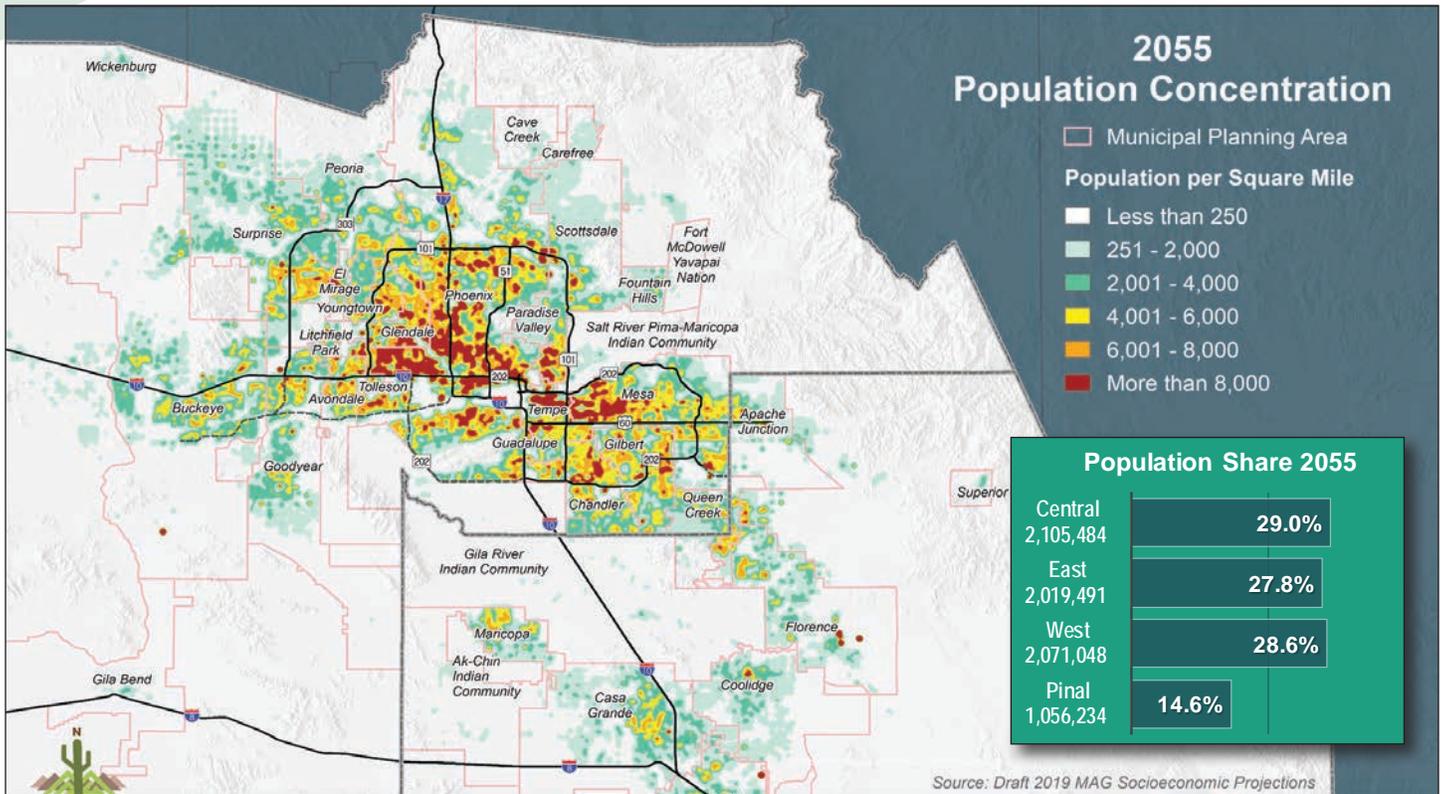
The numbers also indicate that regional growth will shift in the future.

WEST VALLEY

The West Valley realizes the biggest percentage gains in both population and employment.

In 2018, the West Valley had about 21 percent of the region’s population, but that number jumps to 28.6 percent by 2055. The percentage changes for employment are just as dramatic. In 2018, the West Valley’s share of total regional employment was only 15.6 percent, but increases to 20.6 percent by 2055.

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Projected Growth (continued)

CENTRAL VALLEY

In terms of raw numbers, Phoenix continues to grow, never losing its top ranking for either population or employment growth, but it does see some of its percentage of the County's population and employment shaved off in the next 35 years. In 2018, the Central Valley (almost entirely made up of Phoenix) represented more than 35 percent of Maricopa County's population. That number falls to 29 percent in 2055. On the employment side, the Central Valley has held 41 percent of the Valley's employment, but by 2055, that percentage drops to 36 percent, slightly more than the East Valley.

EAST VALLEY

Similar to Phoenix, the East Valley has seen a slowing of population growth. In 2018, the East Valley had 34 percent of the region's population. By 2058, that percentage falls to under 28 percent. The East Valley maintains its large employer base, however. In 2018, the East Valley had 40 percent of employment in the region, and by 2055 is projected to have 35.9 percent, slightly less than Phoenix.

PINAL COUNTY

Pinal County as a whole saw dramatic gains in both population and employment. In 2018, the county had only 9.5 percent of the region's population, but by 2055, it is projected to have 14.6 percent. Pinal County had 3.2 percent of the region's jobs in 2018, and by 2055 is projected to have more than a 7 percent share.

CHANGES SINCE LAST PROJECTIONS

The previous set of projections was completed in 2016. The current projections show a slightly lower expected birth rate overall, thus reducing the projected population by about 9 percent as compared to the 2016 projections. The projected growth patterns are largely the same as they were in 2016, with growth to occur more in the central core than in the suburbs.

On June 26, 2019, the MAG Regional Council adopted the final set of 2019 MAG Socioeconomic Projections of Population and Employment. They are available to the public on the MAG website at <https://www.azmag.gov/Programs/Maps-and-Data/Population-Housing/Population-Projections> 🏔️



We know automated vehicles are coming. But understanding exactly how and when they will become part of our daily transportation experience still involves some educated guessing. That's why a group of modeling experts from around the country came together at MAG. They wanted to share the best ways to take what we know—and what we don't know—about automated vehicles into consideration when planning our transportation future.

Sponsored by the Federal Highway Administration (FHWA), MAG hosted the Automated Vehicle Modeling Peer Exchange in June. Participants included representatives at the local, state and federal levels from Arizona, California, Kansas, and Missouri. Topics focused on how planning agencies are setting up their computer models to predict how future traffic will behave when AV becomes more common.

“Think about it like a pie you want to bake. You think you know all of the ingredients you must use, but you don't yet know the quantities or how the ingredients might interact with one another,” explains MAG Executive Director Eric Anderson.

Anderson says now imagine if you could use your computer to test different combinations of ingredients and see how each affects the taste and look of the pie.

“What assumptions do you make? What changes make a big difference? How close can you get to predicting how the pie will turn out? That's what modelers must do to plan for the future, using known traffic behavior and testing the impact of different future technologies.”

Representatives from peer metropolitan planning organizations updated the group on their agency's application of models in the current long-range transportation planning process. The agencies conducted group discussions on managing risk and uncertainty in planning. They also shared how their agencies communicate modeling results. Other discussions focused on knowledge and information gaps currently encountered in automated vehicle and connected vehicle modeling.

The key discussions, conclusions and ideas were documented and will be disseminated by FHWA to other planning agencies around the nation. 🏔️

iCount 2020

New Census Outreach Website

A website aimed at a complete and accurate count of all residents living in the Maricopa region is the latest tool in an outreach campaign by the Maricopa Association of Governments. The website, <https://icount2020.info>, seeks to engage, educate and encourage participation in the 2020 Census.

“An accurate census count is critical to the region for a variety of reasons,” says Goodyear City Manager Julie Arendall, co-chair of the MAG Regional Census Communication Group. “Information from the Census helps fund 55 federal and state programs, with \$675 billion in federal funding at stake. In Arizona, about \$20 billion in state shared revenues are divided up based on population—that equates to almost \$3,000 per person,” she adds.

MAG member agencies have hired the public relations firm RIESTER to handle the regional campaign, which seeks to demonstrate how every woman, child and man has an impact on the future of the Maricopa region by participating in the 2020 Census. The theme: *iCount2020*. The “i” serves two functions: highlighting the importance of every individual being counted, and the lowercase usage bringing home the message that this is the first Internet census in history. The images used for the campaign launch are meant to cover a broad spectrum of the population. The messaging focuses on what’s important to each individual who benefits from an accurate census count, such as, “iCount for education, iCount for healthcare, iCount for reliable transportation, iCount for safe neighborhoods.”

The biggest part of the regional campaign’s \$2 million budget is the media buy. The *iCount2020* outreach campaign will cover a wide range of media platforms including television and radio, digital video such as Hulu and YouTube, mobile and desktop displays, bus wraps and billboards, print, and search investments.

The *iCount2020* campaign is already live on three social media platforms: Facebook, Twitter and Instagram. Member agencies are encouraged to share what’s going on in their communities, tag *iCount2020* pages, like posts and retweet. All paid, earned and social media coverage in English and Spanish will drive traffic to the website.

The website launch features information about the Census, such as why it is important that everyone participate. It builds trust in privacy and security, and includes frequently asked questions (FAQs).

“These messages will continue to develop as we get closer to census day to commitment and participation, and finally to outcomes and performance,” says Chandler City Manager Marsha Reed, who also co-chairs the MAG Regional Census Communication Group. “People can also opt in to receive text or email messages.”

The website also provides an *iCount2020* online campaign toolkit accessible only to MAG member agencies. The toolkit offers approved logos (in English and Spanish), photography, social media assets, tools such as letterhead and email signatures, and campaign talking points and messaging. This is a living landing page where MAG will add new items that each member agency can customize to reflect their respective communities. 🏔️

MAG Moment



MAG Transportation Review Committee Reaches Major Milestone

What do you remember about 1994? That *Forrest Gump* was a top movie? That the first Sony PlayStation was released, selling 1 million units in 24 hours? Or perhaps the slow-speed O.J. Simpson chase?

But 1994 also was the year that the MAG Management Committee decided to form a technical committee made up of high-level transportation managers who could provide input on transportation issues. July marked 25 years since the MAG Transportation Review Committee (TRC) held its first meeting.

“When I look back over the last 25 years at what has been accomplished in the Phoenix metropolitan area in expanded transportation services, it is quite an incredible feat,” recalls former Glendale City Manager Tim Ernster, first TRC chair. “Political leadership, as well as the hard work of many public servants, made it possible and I am fortunate that I was able to play a small part in the process,” he said. 🏔️

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.



Moving People and the Economy Light rail extends to Gilbert Road in Mesa

As 1,000 people cheered in welcome, the first train rolled into the new Gilbert Road/Main Street light rail station in Mesa on May 18, 2019. The 1.9-mile light rail extension to Gilbert Road connects residents to jobs, schools and entertainment. It expands light rail service in the Valley to 28 miles. It also brings new economic development opportunities.

“This is going to change Mesa forever, for generations to come,” said Mesa Mayor John Giles at the opening celebration. “It’s going to attract investment. It’s going to attract education. It’s going to attract jobs,” he said.

Tracy Allen, who is the founding principal of EAGLE College Prep in Mesa, is excited about the new extension.

“Having the opportunity to use the light rail to go downtown, to go to the Idea Museum, to take our kids on field trips—even just for transportation to get to and from school every day—is going to be so huge for our families,” she said.

The project broke ground in October 2016, employing 2,000 workers during its construction. U.S. Representative Greg Stanton, former Phoenix mayor, said light rail has been a great investment not only for the cities it serves, but also for the entire region.

“We have seen \$11 billion in great investment along this light rail line, and it is important to tell the people of this community what a success it has been,” said Congressman Stanton.



U.S. Representative Greg Stanton



Passengers board the light rail at the new Gilbert Road/Main Street station in Mesa.

Valley Metro Rail Board Chair Kate Gallego also commended the project. She called it a great economic engine that helps people get to work, medical appointments, and educational opportunities.

“Whether it be students going to school or older adults aging in place, this is going to be a great win for this community and our entire region, as light rail already has been,” Mayor Gallego said.

Along with business expansion, light rail also has triggered residential development, with 25,000 new units along the entire system. Mayor Giles noted that in the 30 years prior to light rail in the city, Mesa did not issue a single residential building permit in the downtown area.

“Since the arrival of light rail in downtown Mesa, we now have over 1,200 housing units that are in



Phoenix Mayor Kate Gallego

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Part of the project's public artwork.

Gilbert Road Light Rail Extension Opening (continued)



Mesa Mayor
John Giles



different phases of either actual construction or planning along the light rail corridor. The amount of investment in downtown Mesa along the light rail corridor in that amount of time is \$500 million," he said.

The project cost \$184 million, including design, construction, and purchase of three light rail vehicles, using a mix of federal and local funds. But the cost could have been higher without an innovative funding approach—one that has been praised by the Transportation Research Board for its originality.

While the extension was not part of the original Regional Transportation Plan funded through Proposition 400, Mesa came to the Maricopa Association of Governments (MAG) with a unique request. The city asked to repurpose federal transportation dollars budgeted for other Mesa road projects under Prop 400. An analysis by Mesa found that these were lower priority street projects not needed during the Prop 400 funding horizon.

The MAG process helped in another way. Because the timing for the street project funding did not originally line up with the timing needed for the light rail construction, Mesa had planned to issue bonds to finance the extension. But through the MAG closeout—a budgeting process that takes unused funding from projects that have been delayed and makes it available for other uses—MAG was able to advance \$90 million to Mesa. This meant the city did not have to use debt to finance the project and overall project costs were reduced.

The project includes a station at Stapley Drive, a transit center that supports bus service, and a 445-space park-and-ride at Gilbert Road. It also includes the light rail system's first roundabout at Horne and Main Street, designed to let traffic in the area flow more safely and smoothly.

In addition to the capital investment, light rail brings with it new infrastructure such as freshly paved streets, new sidewalks and landscaping. The project also brings public art. Artwork is reviewed by a local committee to ensure that it preserves the culture of the surrounding neighborhoods. 

A video of the celebration created by Valley Metro is available here: <https://youtu.be/la0ZJcoyQ7A>



Right and Rong, characters promoting the "Respect the Ride" campaign, celebrate the opening.

Arizona Delegation Seeks to Improve Trade With Canada

More than 20 members of an Arizona delegation traveled to Canada for a three-day trade mission to strengthen and expand Arizona's economic and tourism ties with Calgary.

Calgary is located in the province of Alberta. The group was welcomed during the May visit by Tanya Fir, Alberta Minister of Economic Development, Trade and Tourism, who made a special trip from Edmonton to meet the delegation. Fir is a strong advocate for Alberta and its industry.



Buckeye Mayor Jackie Meck and Tanya Fir, Alberta Minister of Economic Development

The Arizona group also attended a reception at the residence of Lucia Piazza, U.S. Consul General to Alberta, Saskatchewan and the Northwest Territories.

MAG organized the trip to connect the Arizona team with Calgary companies interested in expanding operations in Arizona. The delegation wanted to better understand what key factors Canadian companies are seeking in our communities.

“Our goal was to establish bilateral connections with Calgary elected officials and the business community to promote trade, foreign



The group attends a reception at the residence of U.S. Consul General Lucia Piazza (third from left).

direct investment and economic development opportunities,” said MAG Economic Development Committee Chair Jackie Meck, mayor of Buckeye.

Trade between Arizona and Canada is valued at \$3.6 billion, with Arizona exporting \$2.1 billion. Arizona has 280 Canadian-owned businesses, creating nearly 26,500 jobs, meaning Canadian-owned businesses employ more people in Arizona than those of any other foreign country.

Honorary Consulate of Canada and CEO of the Canada Arizona Business Council Glenn Williamson was part of the delegation. He said those numbers only begin to tap into the potential for future opportunities. He noted that many who come to visit, fall in love with Arizona and end up buying homes.

“Tourism equals houses, which equals trade, which equals foreign direct investment,” said Williamson. “If tourism can be increased into the Valley and Arizona, there is a significant chance of increasing all the others.”

The group also heard more about Canada's perspective on the

current United States-Mexico-Canada Agreement negotiations. The dialogue was expected to help lay the groundwork for a future signing ceremony of the Arizona Uniform-Country Money Judgments Recognition Act.

The delegation delivered a letter from Arizona Attorney General Mark Brnovich, who stated that it has been a “long journey from idea to execution” of the Act, but added “the hard work and persistence of all those involved” is finally paying off. “Providing a mechanism to have foreign, civil money judgments recognized in Arizona and Alberta will benefit residents of both jurisdictions, and will ensure valid and just enforcement of those judgments.”



The Arizona delegation during a tour of a Viking Air manufacturing facility. The aerospace company is headquartered in Canada and supports 1,200 aircraft in 120 countries.



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A Quarterly Newsletter Focusing on Regional Excellence

August—October 2019  Vol. 24: No. 3

Fall 2019 Calendar

August

- 7th 10:00 a.m. Intelligent Transportation Systems Committee (Ironwood)
- 7th 12:00 p.m. Management Committee (Saguaro)
- 7th 1:30 p.m. Standard Specifications and Details Committee (Ironwood)
- 8th 10:00 a.m. Elderly and Persons with Disabilities Transportation Committee (Cholla)
- 8th 1:30 p.m. Human Services Technical Committee (Chaparral)
- 13th 1:00 p.m. Street Committee (Ironwood)
- 14th 12:00 p.m. Transportation Policy Committee (Saguaro)
- 15th 9:30 a.m. Transit Committee (Ironwood)
- 19th 12:00 p.m. Regional Council Executive Committee (Ironwood)
- 20th 1:00 p.m. Active Transportation Committee (Ironwood)
- 21st 9:30 a.m. Maricopa Regional Continuum of Care Committee (Ironwood)
- 21st 2:00 p.m. Building Codes Committee (Ironwood)
- 22nd 1:30 p.m. Air Quality Technical Advisory Committee (Saguaro)
- 26th 1:30 p.m. Maricopa Regional Continuum of Care Board (Ironwood)
- 27th 10:00 a.m. Transportation Safety Committee (Ironwood)
- 27th 10:00 a.m. Population Technical Advisory Committee (Chaparral)
- 28th 11:30 a.m. Regional Council (Saguaro)
- 29th 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

- 2nd Labor Day (Office Closed)
- 3rd 11:30 a.m. Economic Development Committee (Saguaro)
- 4th 10:00 a.m. Intelligent Transportation Systems Committee (Ironwood)
- 4th 1:30 p.m. Standard Specifications and Details Committee (Ironwood)
- 10th 1:00 p.m. Street Committee (Ironwood)
- 11th 12:00 p.m. Management Committee (Saguaro)
- 16th 12:00 p.m. Regional Council Executive Committee (Ironwood)
- 17th 10:00 a.m. Solid Waste Advisory Committee (Saguaro)
- 17th 1:00 p.m. Active Transportation Committee (Ironwood)
- 18th 9:30 a.m. Maricopa Regional Continuum of Care Committee (Ironwood)
- 18th 12:00 p.m. Transportation Policy Committee (Saguaro)
- 18th 2:00 p.m. Building Codes Committee (Ironwood)
- 19th 9:30 a.m. Transit Committee (Ironwood)
- 24th 10:00 a.m. Transportation Safety Committee (Ironwood)
- 24th 12:00 p.m. Population Technical Advisory Committee (Chaparral)
- 25th 11:30 a.m. Regional Council (Saguaro)
- 26th 10:00 a.m. Transportation Review Committee (Saguaro)
- 26th 1:30 p.m. Human Services and Community Initiatives Committee (Chaparral)
- 26th 1:30 p.m. Air Quality Technical Advisory Committee (Saguaro)
- 30th 1:30 p.m. Maricopa Regional Continuum of Care Board (Ironwood)

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 Avenue, Phoenix.

October

- 1st 11:30 a.m. Economic Development Committee (Saguaro)
- 2nd 9:00 a.m. Intelligent Transportation Systems Committee (Ironwood)
- 2nd 1:30 p.m. Standard Specifications and Details Committee (Ironwood)— *if needed*
- 8th 1:00 p.m. Street Committee (Ironwood)
- 9th 12:00 p.m. Management Committee (Saguaro)
- 10th 1:30 p.m. Human Services Technical Committee (Chaparral)
- 15th 12:00 p.m. Regional Council Executive Committee (Ironwood)
- 15th 1:00 p.m. Active Transportation Committee (Ironwood)
- 16th 9:30 a.m. Maricopa Regional Continuum of Care Committee (Ironwood)
- 16th 12:00 p.m. Transportation Policy Committee (Saguaro)
- 16th 2:00 p.m. Building Codes Committee (Ironwood)
- 17th 9:30 a.m. Transit Committee (Ironwood)
- 22nd 12:00 p.m. Population Technical Advisory Committee (Chaparral)
- 23rd 11:30 a.m. Regional Council (Saguaro)
- 28th 1:30 p.m. Maricopa Regional Continuum of Care Board (Ironwood)
- 31st 1:30 p.m. Air Quality Technical Advisory Committee (Saguaro)

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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.