

Now You Can Text to 9-1-1 in Maricopa Region



Phoenix Mayor Greg Stanton addresses the media at a press conference on April 2, 2018.

It is a service that is expected to save lives. If you are in imminent danger and unable to talk to a 9-1-1 operator, you now have the ability to send a text instead. The text to 9-1-1 service went live on April 2, 2018, following months of collaboration between numerous public agencies and advocates for the disability community.

“Texting has become a very important means of communication and we are excited to bring this technology to 9-1-1 service following months of united efforts and leadership,” said MAG Chair Jackie Meck, mayor of Buckeye. “This is a crucial alternative to a voice call when someone is in danger and can’t talk out loud.”

Call if you can. Text if you can’t, was the key message rolled out during a press conference as text to 9-1-1 service capability

became available for the first time in the greater Phoenix region. Voice calling is always the best option because texting does not automatically provide dispatchers with your location. It also does not work with group texts, and language translations are not yet available. But texting can save lives for those unable to speak.

“We’re using technology to help individuals with disabilities, who may otherwise have difficulty connecting with first responders in an emergency,” said Phoenix Mayor Greg Stanton. “This capability also can be useful to anyone who can’t speak out loud without putting themselves in danger, such as a homeowner hiding in a closet from a burglar, or a domestic violence victim who doesn’t want an abuser to overhear their 9-1-1 call. Think about an active shooter situation, where people are trying to contact rescuers without giving away their location,” he said.

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Message From the Chair



Mayor Jackie Meck, City of Buckeye

As I prepare to conclude my time as chair in June, I reflect on the past year with pride. I am honored to have worked with my fellow Regional Council members on issues that positively impact our residents. Working together makes us more connected and globally competitive. It has been an incredible year of accomplishments, and I can only touch on a few in this short space.

We saw a legal victory that paved the way for the construction of the South Mountain Freeway. That means the South Mountain Freeway remains on track to open by late 2019, providing a direct link between the East Valley and West Valley. It means delivering on a promise to Maricopa County voters to complete the Loop 101 and Loop 202 system. It means connecting communities and employment centers and positioning our region for growth and opportunity.

Thanks to MAG and our ADOT partners, we saw the implementation of a new system to help prevent wrong-way vehicle crashes. MAG invested \$3.7 million to install a thermal-detection system on a 15-mile stretch of Interstate 17 in Phoenix, with another \$300,000 for software. We hope the system will provide an early warning system when a vehicle enters the highway in the wrong direction. With better information, we also can identify further steps we can take to prevent

drivers from traveling the wrong direction in the first place.

We saw the culmination of a number of economic development initiatives, including a number of vital opportunities to meet with business leaders in Mexico and in Canada.

During Domestic Violence Awareness Month, we highlighted the deadly link between animal abuse and domestic violence. We also saw the largest number of volunteers ever to conduct a homeless street count, and we once again initiated efforts to protect people from dying due to heat-related illnesses.

During this year, we also said goodbye to our executive director, Dennis Smith, who retired in April. I would be remiss if I didn't take a moment to thank him for 41 years of dedicated service to this region. The beauty of the MAG organization, however, is that it is made up of strong leaders, an engaged membership, and talented employees—one of whom, Eric Anderson, becomes our new director. I am confident that Eric will continue Dennis's long legacy of excellence. Just as I am confident that the next chair of MAG will find the same cooperative spirit that made my service as chair a pleasure.

I look forward to continuing to work with you on the many important issues that lie ahead. 



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 Jackie Meck
City of Buckeye, Regional Council Chair

Eric J. Anderson, *Executive Director*

John Bullen, Valerie Day, Audra Koester Thomas, Denise McClafferty, Marcy McMacken, Brande Mead, Anne Scott, Amy St. Peter, Margaret Wong,
Contributors

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

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Twice each year, I meet with a group of local CEOs to discuss the state of the Chandler business community. This spring's discussion keyed on the many company expansions taking place here in Chandler and throughout the Valley. Our regional economy is certainly trending in the right direction!

—Chandler Mayor Jay Tibshraeny

Maricopa County is the fastest-growing county in the nation, adding more than 200 people per day. Our job as leaders is to ensure that we have the infrastructure, the support systems, and the business environment to move us forward, while not overextending our resources in a way that will create problems for future generations.

—Maricopa County Supervisor Denny Barney



Homelessness has become a growing issue and I am proud to see cities come together to share best practices for combating this crisis. Through thoughtful and regional collaboration, we can take action to ensure all of the men, women, and families plagued by this problem have increased access to resources that support their individual needs.

—Peoria Mayor Cathy Carlat

On behalf of the City of Tempe, I want to congratulate Dennis Smith on a stellar career working for our region. His contributions will be long-lasting and I hope he enjoys a well-deserved retirement. We welcome Eric Anderson as the new Executive Director and look forward to working with him on planning for the infrastructure needs of the future through a continuation of Proposition 400. That will only help to drive the economy and create even more opportunity for business and jobs.

—Tempe Mayor Mark Mitchell



The thing that has always pulled us through from problem to solution is teamwork. When we are fractured, we fail. When we work together, great things happen.

—Maricopa Mayor Christian Price

When our youth are disconnected from work and school, it not only affects them, but it affects our communities and economy. In 2012, nearly one in five of our youth were not in school nor working. Together with city and county leaders, educational professionals and the nonprofit community, we rolled up our sleeves to tackle the problem—and we've made a collective impact, reducing our number of 'opportunity youth.' Our network of re-engagement centers in the Phoenix metro is helping youth find pathways to employment or education.

—Phoenix Mayor Greg Stanton





Eric Anderson,
MAG Executive
Director



Eric Anderson Named New MAG Executive Director Transportation Continues as Top Priority

The Maricopa Association of Governments has a new executive director, but he is no stranger to MAG.

In April, the MAG Regional Council named MAG Transportation Director Eric Anderson to the post, ratifying a recommendation by the MAG Executive Committee. Anderson succeeds former Executive Director Dennis Smith, who retired April 6 after 41 years of service to MAG.

Anderson began doing consultant work for MAG in 1983. MAG hired him in 2000 to lead the Transportation Division. As transportation director, he has been responsible for transportation planning for the region. This includes the implementation of the transportation plan approved by voters under Proposition 400, which extended the half-cent sales tax for transportation for 20 years. That funding will expire in 2025.

“Today’s action is indicative of our faith in the culture and values of the MAG organization,” said MAG Chair Jackie Meck, mayor of Buckeye. “Dennis Smith has left a great legacy, and we are confident that Eric will continue MAG’s tradition of excellence moving forward. His knowledge of transportation issues and funding needs is especially beneficial, as transportation infrastructure continues as a top priority for the region.”

Over his career, Anderson’s work has focused on regional and urban growth, economic development, and economic impact analysis. Anderson currently is involved in a number of planning and research efforts related to technology, including autonomous and connected vehicles. He has focused on the urban form and social impacts of new technology and the implications for the regional transportation system.



Anderson says he is honored by the Regional Council’s decision. A top priority will be developing the next round of transportation investments.

“We have a major challenge ahead as we look for transportation funding solutions,” said Anderson. “I have great confidence in the elected leadership of this region to steer our upcoming transportation planning process, and I will rely heavily on the talent at MAG and within our member agencies. I also have great faith in Maricopa County residents. We will be asking them to let us know which investments best serve their needs and that will do the most good for the most number of people.”

Anderson served as Interim CEO for Valley Metro prior to the appointment of Scott Smith in 2016. He is member of the Urban Land Institute Arizona Advisory Board, Lambda Alpha International, and the board of directors of the Arizona Transit Association. Anderson holds an M.S. degree in Economics from Arizona State University. 



Left to Right: New Executive Director Eric Anderson, former Senior Planner Roger Herzog, MAG founder Jack DeBolske, former Scottsdale Mayor Mary Manross and former Executive Director Dennis Smith, at the opening of the Red Mountain Freeway.

Text to 9-1-1 *(continued from page 1)*

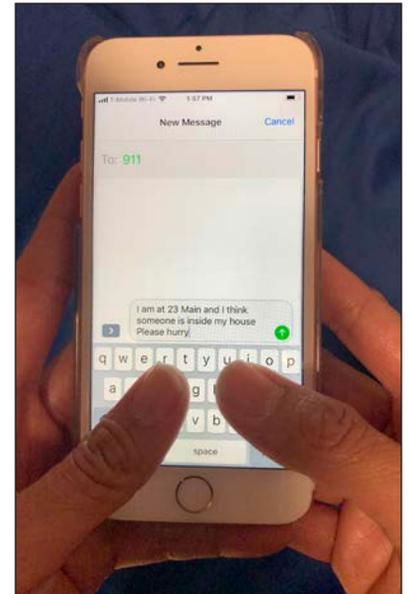
The launch of the service is the result of the collaborative efforts of the Maricopa Association of Governments (MAG), Maricopa Region 9-1-1 and other public agencies working with members of the disability community, the Arizona Center for Disability Law, and the National Association of the Deaf.

“Text to 9-1-1 will allow people with disabilities to independently and effectively communicate with emergency services to get the help they need,” said Asim Dietrich, a staff attorney with the Arizona Center for Disability Law. “This system will also allow people with disabilities to obtain emergency help for other members of their families,” he said.

MAG helped purchase the system necessary to make text to 9-1-1 a reality. The system was installed in December 2017 and public safety call center personnel spent several months being trained. Norbert Enos, a resident of Surprise who is deaf, was among a number of volunteers who helped test the system during a trial period.

“We tested it in Surprise, Sun City and the city of Phoenix as well. I was able to text in the system and get a very quick reply,” Enos said through a sign language interpreter. “Communication was very smooth and everyone involved has done a beautiful job. I am very grateful for that. I do live in the Sun City Grand community, where there are over 50 deaf senior citizens. The entire community is very thrilled to have access to this new 9-1-1 system.”

“Texting to 9-1-1 makes emergency services more accessible to the more than 150,000 Valley residents who are deaf, hard of hearing, deaf-blind, or have speech difficulties,” said Howard A. Rosenblum, CEO of the National Association of the Deaf. “Maricopa County and Phoenix are providing a model for the rest of the state and country in making their 9-1-1 services accessible to all.”



Farewell and Best Wishes to Dennis Smith

Former Executive Director Smith was honored by the Regional Council for his long service, which began in 1976 when he was hired by then-Secretary Jack DeBolske as a criminal justice planner. Smith served in a variety of capacities at MAG, and was appointed executive director in 2003.

During his tenure, Smith pioneered the development of transportation plans that resulted in two successful transportation elections, including Proposition 300 in 1985 and Proposition 400 in 2004, which now raises more than \$400 million a year for transportation improvements. Smith helped transform MAG into one of the most respected metropolitan planning organizations in the country, with

nationally-renowned processes in transportation, air quality, population, employment and data driven economic development initiatives. In 2014, MAG was recognized by Transportation for America as an “Innovative MPO,” serving as a national model for progressive metropolitan planning organizations.

Smith’s long list of accomplishments include, in small part:

- Bringing 9-1-1 service to the Valley in 1985.
- Spearheading discussions that led to the Casa Grande Resolves in 1999 that provided a clear formula for the distribution of state transportation funds.
- Coordinating three special census efforts.

- Creating a human services division at MAG.
- Establishing the MAG Economic Development Committee.
- Overseeing the creation and implementation of air quality plans that brought the region into attainment.
- Promoting initiatives that allowed public entities to participate in the state retirement system.
- Developing the regional freeway system, beginning with the inner loop and continuing through to the current construction of the South Mountain Freeway.

For a copy of the resolution honoring Executive Director Smith, visit the newsroom page of the MAG website at www.azmag.gov.



Dennis Smith receives a resolution of appreciation from the MAG Regional Council on March 28, 2018

Region Sees Dramatic Increase in People Living on the Street

The number of people living on the street has increased dramatically in recent years, and numbers released in April show the trend continuing at an alarming rate.

According to numbers gathered by volunteers during a single night in January, the number of people experiencing homelessness who were not in shelter was 2,618. This is a 27 percent increase from the 2017 number of 2,059, and a whopping 149 percent increase in the number recorded in 2014. The number does not include approximately 3,500 people who were living in emergency shelters or transitional housing on the night of the count. The final tally will be completed in May.

The unsheltered data come from a Point in Time homeless street count that occurred on January 23, when hundreds of volunteers fanned out across the Valley to ask individuals where they had slept the previous night.

There are many complex reasons for homelessness, but one reason for the increase may be a lack of affordable housing.

“For the first time, we asked the



A woman experiencing homelessness is counted on January 23, 2018.

question, what single thing would be most helpful to you right now, and the overwhelming response from the people we interviewed—nearly half—said it would be housing,” said MAG Chair Jackie Meck, mayor of Buckeye.

Another potential reason for the dramatic change is a difference in methodology this year, with more than 700 volunteers participating for the first time. In addition, surveyors in Phoenix, Mesa, Gilbert and Chandler used a mobile app to conduct the count, which increased efficiency and may have allowed them to interview more people.

“Even with these differences, we do believe that the number of people experiencing homeless continues to rise at an alarming pace,” said Chandler Councilmember Kevin Hartke, co-chair of the Maricopa Regional Continuum of Care at MAG. “State, county, local governments, non-profits, service providers and faith based leaders need to redouble their efforts to find ways to increase affordable housing options and jobs and help people get back on their feet.”

MAG Moment



In early March, MAG hosted an Intermountain West meeting to bring together agency peers from Utah, Nevada, Washington, and Colorado to coordinate activities and leverage lessons learned from each other. Discussions included the impact of autonomous vehicles on transportation planning and innovative new partnerships to further this work. The group also examined the link between transportation and economic development, and how to collectively further the priorities of the Intermountain West's fast-growing communities. 

Deadly Heat

Heat Relief Network Aims to Save Lives

Last year, the searing summer heat killed 155 people in Maricopa County. To put this number in perspective, there were 155 people on board the plane that landed in the Hudson River in 2009 in a craft piloted by Captain Sully Sullenberger. Their lives were saved, but in Maricopa County last year, heat related illness killed the same number of people.

Some were homeless. Some were hikers or joggers. Some were home-bound adults. Some were visitors who underestimated the Arizona heat. That's why the Maricopa Association of Governments (MAG) is asking for your help.

MAG has partnered with municipalities, nonprofit organizations, and the faith-based community to coordinate the Heat Relief Network, which helps provide resources to those in need.



The Maricopa region has seen an alarming increase in heat-related deaths, with 155 confirmed deaths in 2017 and more than 20 cases still under investigation. In 2016, there were 150 confirmed heat-related deaths, with four under investigation.

The Phoenix region averages 110 days of temperatures of about 100 degrees per year, underscoring the importance of keeping yourself, your family members, and your pets cool, well-hydrated, and safe in the heat.

“As the region has more days of extreme heat, it is important for the community to collaborate to provide water and heat refuge for those who need it,” says Buckeye City Councilmember Michelle Hess, who chairs the MAG Human Services and Community Initiatives Committee. “We continue to seek donations of water bottles and new locations where shade or cooling is available.”

MAG held a Heat Relief Network kickoff meeting in late March to welcome new and returning partners. The Network is a regional partnership made up of municipalities, nonprofit agencies, faith-based organizations, businesses, and individuals who mobilize to provide resources to vulnerable populations, such as people experiencing homelessness. MAG coordinates with partners to map resources for the Heat Relief effort, including public transportation routes to locations where water and shade are available. The free interactive map is provided in English and Spanish on the MAG website at www.azmag.gov/heatrelief.

Interested in donating water or other contributions? Heat Relief efforts run from May 1 until the end of September. Please refer to the interactive map for locations accepting donations, or contact Maria Piña at (602) 254-6300. 🏞️

Staying Safe

Tips for staying safe in the heat:

- Drink at least 2 liters of water per day.
- Wear lightweight, light-colored clothing.
- Apply sunscreen to exposed skin.
- Eat small meals, and eat more often.
- Avoid strenuous activity or working in the heat.
- Stay indoors when possible.
- Take regular breaks when engaged in physical activity on warm days.
- Never leave infants, children or pets inside a parked vehicle.
- Take advantage of free air-conditioning by visiting locations like shopping malls, the library or other heat refuge locations provided on the map at: www.azmag.gov/heatrelief



How You Can Help

- Donate snacks, hats, sunscreen, sunglasses, lightweight clothing, and bottled water.
- Educate yourself, friends and neighbors about the dangers of extreme heat. Visit: www.azmag.gov/heatrelief
- Have water bottles available in your car for emergencies.
- Respectfully check on elderly neighbors to make sure their air conditioning is working and in use.
- Sign up to receive excessive heat warnings from the National Weather Service at: <https://www.wrh.noaa.gov/wrh/heatrisk/?wfo=psr>



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Getting an EDGE on Arizona's Economy

How Exporting Is Changing the Lives of Arizonans Like You

Are you running a small business and don't think exporting is viable for your company? You might want to hear from a few Arizona companies who found out otherwise.

For one Arizona business, exporting means pecans. For another, it means exporting technology that helps people with disabilities use their eyes as a computer mouse. For another, it means shipping paint for model railroads and military armor to countries outside North America.



Harvest at the Green Valley Pecan Company—the EDGE 2018 Awards Top Scoring Exporter.

"We have a big processing plant here in Sahuarita where we process pecans 50 weeks a year," says CEO Bruce Caris of the Green Valley Pecan Company. "Then we sell them around the world. Half of our business is export."

Simon Prosser is business development director of EyeTech Digital Systems, which manufactures a system that allows you to use your eyes in place of a computer "mouse."

"With eye tracking, what we use is a number of fixations on the eye—corneal reflections—to determine

precisely where that person is looking," says Prosser. "You can basically use your eyes as a mouse on the computer to control whatever button or icon on the screen." EyeTech sends this technology to automotive, aerospace, disability and medical diagnostics companies around the world.

These diverse stories are just a few examples of how small and mid-sized companies are achieving success by exporting. They are among 20 companies in greater Phoenix and Tucson to be recognized as part of a special EDGE program, which stands for Economic Development in the Global Economy. The program recognition occurred during a meeting of the Joint Planning Advisory Council (JPAC) in April.

The Green Valley Pecan Company was the top scoring company for the EDGE recognition event. But all of the recognized companies are winners when it comes to exporting success.

"Exporting drives our economy. Businesses that export tend to pay higher wages and are better able to withstand changes in the market due to seasonal activities and economic fluctuations," said MAG Chair Jackie Meck, mayor of Buckeye. "Exporting in the Sun Corridor is very diverse and includes sectors such as agriculture,



Buckeye Mayor Jackie Meck

solar, skin care, and high tech innovations," he said.

"I see exporting as one of the greatest strategic efforts we can undertake to build a stronger, local economy, and that's why we do it," adds Phoenix Mayor Greg Stanton, who chairs the MAG Economic Development Committee.

"We all have a role to play in supporting Arizona businesses that export," noted Tucson Mayor Jonathan Rothschild. "For example, local governments can partner with EXIM, the Export-Import Bank of the United States, to make funding more available. Residents can buy from local companies. Businesses can access training and information through groups like the Arizona Commerce Authority and the Global Chamber."

Sometimes, small solutions can make a big difference. Just knowing what the regulations are for shipping to other countries can seem insurmountable to some small companies. And indeed, using the wrong packaging can result in higher shipping costs, longer delays at customs, and a higher percentage of product being damaged.

As part of the EDGE effort, MAG is partnering with U.S. Commercial Services and Arizona Commerce Authority to offer two ExporTech training classes to connect businesses with the resources they need. The work is supported with a grant from the Federal Highway Administration through the Arizona Department of Transportation. 



Your Prop 400 Tax Dollars at Work

Under Proposition 400, in 2004, Maricopa County voters approved an extension of the half-cent sales tax for transportation. This marks the first in a series of project stories we will provide in the MAGAZine to let you know where your money is going, and how it is improving your transportation experience.



Project: City of El Mirage Roadway Improvements

On February 24, 2018, the City of El Mirage celebrated the completion of improvements to El Mirage and Thunderbird roads. Improvements were made on El Mirage Road from Cactus Road to the Grand Avenue frontage road, and on Thunderbird Road from Grand Avenue to 127th Avenue. The project included:

- Construction of raised medians.
- Installation of bike lanes.
- Installation of curb and gutter.
- Improved lighting.
- Access management improvements.
- Pedestrian improvements.
- Intersection improvements.
- Utility relocations.
- Safety improvements.

The opening of these roadways represents nearly 20 years of efforts that were jump-started by Prop 400. The regional half-cent sales tax will pay for 70 percent of the project costs. The funding to reimburse the city has come through the Arterial Life Cycle Program (ALCP), which is the financial management tool for the street part of Prop 400. The final cost for the El Mirage roadway improvements is expected to be more than \$29 million.

These projects were constructed at the same time Maricopa County led an effort to widen El Mirage Road from Northern Parkway to Cactus Road as part of another ALCP project. Collectively, these projects represent a significant improvement to mobility and safety—not just in the city of El Mirage, but also to the greater Northwest Valley. Both of these facilities provide important regional connections to US-60/Grand Avenue, Loop 303, and the new Northern Parkway facility. 🏞️

Thunderbird Road: 127th Avenue to El Frio Street (Entrance)



Thunderbird Road: 127th Avenue to El Frio Street (Continued)



El Mirage Road: Cactus Road to Grand Avenue



MAG Hosts Trip to Montreal as New Air Service Launched

Making important business connections to Canada. That was the goal of a February trade mission in which 40 Arizona representatives, including mayors, tribal leaders and other city officials, traveled to the Canadian city of Montreal, Quebec. The trip coincided with the launch of new nonstop air service to the city on February 22.

Canada is a major Arizona trading partner, with exports to Canada valued at more than \$2.2 billion per year. Last year, Arizona registered a \$755 million trade surplus with Canada.

“Many Canadians seek out the hospitality and warmth of Phoenix or travel for business reasons,” said Air Canada Senior Vice President

Tolleson Mayor Anna Tovar said, “Tolleson is focused on elevating the region’s global profile to attract the utmost e-commerce operations. Its proximity to seven major transportation thoroughfares is enticing and provides connectivity to all prospective clients in every major market across the Southwestern United States.”

The newest connection to Montreal also provides additional access to Air Canada’s global network.

“The city of Surprise economic development strategy is laser-focused on the Canadian market in recognition of both the vast Arizona-Canada economic relationship and the incredible—and virtually untapped—growth potential,” said Surprise Mayor Sharon Wolcott. “Surprise has much to offer Canadian companies and investors seeking a Southwest U.S. market for their North American expansion plans. Our Global Concierge program provides them a no-rent secure office space option for up to one year to help them get familiar with the area before securing a permanent location. We are also actively proposing to pilot a cross-border Canadian health-care facility in Surprise that would offer medical services, covered by Canadian insurance, to the million Canadian visitors that travel to Arizona every year.”

The new service to Montreal brings to 10 the total number of cities served by nonstop flights from Phoenix to Canada. Maricopa Mayor Christian Price said he was honored to be part of a historic moment.

“Improving travel and trade between Arizona and Canada can

Continued on page 11



Arizona elected officials meet with the Vice Mayor of Montreal.

Air Canada Rouge began operating the new route three times per week between Phoenix Sky Harbor International Airport and Montreal-Pierre Elliott Trudeau International Airport. During a February press conference, the airline announced it would operate the flight three times per week through the end of May. Service may be restarted or extended based on the popularity of the flight.

Kevin Howlett. “This service also provides residents of Phoenix and surrounding communities convenient one-stop connections via our Montreal hub to destinations throughout Canada, Europe and elsewhere in Air Canada’s global network,” he said.

There are more than 460 Canadian-owned companies in Arizona. Many Canadian companies say they like sites in Arizona because of the proximity to West Coast markets and major Mexican markets. The economic importance of the new route was echoed by leaders from around Arizona who gathered for the inaugural flight.

“Montreal is an economic hub for aerospace and I welcome the opportunity to engage in dialogue with our Canadian counterparts,” said Mesa Vice Mayor David Luna.

“This newest route offers nonstop service to a major international hub and Phoenix’s second largest trading partner,” said Phoenix Mayor Greg Stanton, chair of MAG’s Economic Development Committee. “We continue to push Phoenix to be more globally connected, and this direct line to Montreal is good for export-focused businesses and tourists alike.”



Phoenix Mayor Greg Stanton at the Air Canada Phoenix to Montreal launch ceremony.



only bring benefits to both of us, economically and culturally,” said Mayor Price. “We look forward to this new partnership.”

“The Salt River Pima-Maricopa Indian Community is proud to share its history and heritage of hospitality with visitors, both near and far,” said Tribal President Delbert Ray, Sr. “The Community is home to two tribes, and their story is woven into every inch of the Talking Stick Entertainment District, one of the Phoenix metropolitan area’s hottest destinations. We look forward to sharing our story and vision of growth with our neighbors from Canada.”

“I am thrilled to join my colleagues from across Arizona as we embark on this maiden voyage of Air Canada’s nonstop flight between Phoenix and Montreal,” added Wickenburg Mayor Everett Sickles during the launch ceremony. “Wickenburg’s unique western heritage, highlighted by our award-winning museums, dude ranches, and golf, is a tourist draw for people not only in Canada, but across the world.”

Once in Canada, the delegation met with numerous elected officials and business representatives. Dialogue included topics such as tourism, foreign direct investment, and improving trade opportunities. 

Mexicali isn’t just a border-crossing town that tourists pass through while driving to the sandy beaches of Baja California anymore. The city has quickly grown to be one of the largest Mexican border crossing cities. Mexicali is an attractive destination place for tourists and businesses alike. Consider that Mexicali has:

- A population of more than 1 million residents.
- A workforce of more than 600,000 employees.
- More than 170 industrial companies.
- Improved freeway system, airport and railroad system.
- Five universities.
- Cultural amenities that include historical museums, shops and restaurants.

Mexicali is a thriving region, and Arnulfo Martinez, the executive director of the Mexicali Economic Development Corporation, believes that Phoenix and Mexicali can make great partners in creating successful business opportunities.

“Mexicali is the third largest city in Mexico and is the 13th largest metro area,” Martinez recently told the MAG Economic Development Committee. “It has a solid infrastructure, with access to its own geothermal energy source, an abundant water supply from the Colorado River and its own natural gas source.” Martinez also said that the city is known for its pro-business community and its hardworking labor force.

The city of Mexicali has taken notice of what Phoenix and Montreal accomplished with the creation of Air Canada’s direct flight between the two cities. This new flight serves



Industry workers in Mexicali, Mexico

as a vital link for the international business community and visitors.

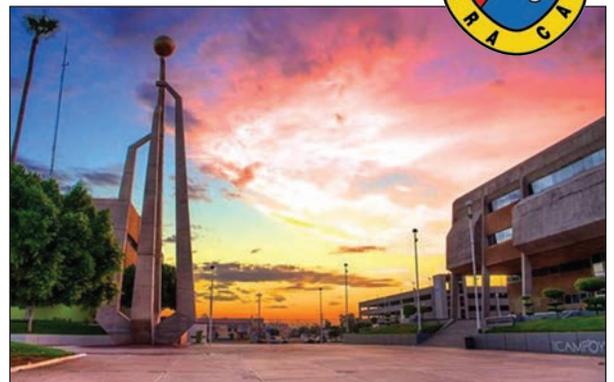
“The city and private businesses in Mexicali are trying to catch up to what the city of Phoenix is doing and we like to follow in the footsteps of Phoenix,” said Martinez.

There are about 90 U.S. companies that already have operations in Mexicali, including Honeywell, Kenworth, Bosch, Frito-Lay and Kellogg’s. With a short three-and-a-half hour drive between Phoenix and Mexicali, Martinez believes that transportation of commercial cargo can be carried out easily and with minimal costs.

“With three border crossing stations in Mexicali, transporting commercial cargo across the border is seamless and efficient,” said Martinez. 



Arnulfo Martinez, Executive Director, Mexicali Economic Development Corporation



“The City that Captures the Sun” monument (left) at the Mexicali Civic Center at sunset.



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A Quarterly Newsletter Focusing on Regional Excellence

May—July 2018  Vol. 23: No. 2

Summer 2018 Calendar

May

- 1st 11:30 a.m. Economic Development Committee (Saguaro)
- 2nd 1:30 p.m. Standard Specifications and Details Committee (Ironwood)
- 8th 1:00 p.m. Street Committee (Ironwood)
- 9th 9:30 a.m. Intelligent Transportation Systems Committee (Ironwood)
- 9th 12:00 p.m. Management Committee (Saguaro)
- 10th 10:00 a.m. Public Safety Answering Point Managers Group (Saguaro)
- 14th 12:00 p.m. Regional Council Executive Committee (Ironwood)
- 15th 1:00 p.m. Active Transportation 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 (Saguaro)
- 22nd 10:00 a.m. Transportation Safety Committee (Ironwood)
- 22nd 10:00 a.m. Population Technical Advisory Committee (Chaparral)
- 22nd 2:30 p.m. Water Quality Advisory Committee (Saguaro)
- 23rd 11:30 a.m. Regional Council (Saguaro)
- 24th 10:00 a.m. Transportation Review Committee (Saguaro)
- 24th 1:30 p.m. Air Quality Technical Advisory Committee (Saguaro)
- 31st 10:00 a.m. Human Services and Community Initiatives Committee (Chaparral)

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.

June

- 5th 10:00 a.m. Solid Waste Advisory Committee (Ironwood)
- 5th 11:30 a.m. Economic Development Committee (Saguaro)
- 6th 1:30 p.m. Standard Specifications and Details Committee (Ironwood)
- 7th 2:00 p.m. Regional Domestic Violence Council (Ironwood)
- 12th 1:00 p.m. Street Committee (Ironwood)
- 13th 9:30 a.m. Intelligent Transportation Systems Committee (Ironwood)
- 13th 12:00 p.m. Management Committee (Saguaro)
- 14th 1:30 p.m. Human Services Technical Committee (Chaparral)
- 18th 12:00 p.m. Regional Council Executive Committee (Ironwood)
- 19th 1:00 p.m. Active Transportation Committee (Ironwood)
- 20th 12:00 p.m. Transportation Policy Committee (Saguaro)
- 20th 2:00 p.m. Building Codes Committee (Ironwood)
- 21st 9:30 a.m. Transit Committee (Saguaro)
- 21st 1:30 p.m. Air Quality Technical Advisory Committee (Saguaro)
- 26th 10:00 a.m. Population Technical Advisory Committee (Chaparral)
- 27th 4:00 p.m. Regional Council
5:00 p.m. Desert Peaks Awards (Sheraton Crescent Hotel, 2620 West Dunlap Ave. Phoenix)
- 28th 10:00 a.m. Transportation Review Committee (Saguaro)

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

July

- 4th Independence Day Holiday (Office Closed)
- 10th 11:30 a.m. Economic Development Committee (Saguaro)
- 11th 10:00 a.m. Intelligent Transportation Systems Committee (Ironwood)
- 11th 12:00 p.m. Management Committee (Saguaro)
- 11th 1:30 p.m. Standard Specifications and Details Committee (Ironwood)
- 16th 12:00 p.m. Regional Council Executive Committee (Ironwood)
- 17th 1:00 p.m. Active Transportation Committee (Ironwood)
- 18th 12:00 p.m. Transportation Policy Committee (Saguaro)
- 19th 9:30 a.m. Transit Committee (Saguaro)
- 24th 10:00 a.m. Transportation Safety Committee (Ironwood)
- 25th 11:30 a.m. Regional Council (Saguaro)
- 26th 10:00 a.m. Human Services and Community Initiatives Committee (Chaparral)
- 26th 10:00 a.m. Transportation Review Committee (Saguaro)
- 26th 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.