

Street Count Shows Continued Rise in Homelessness

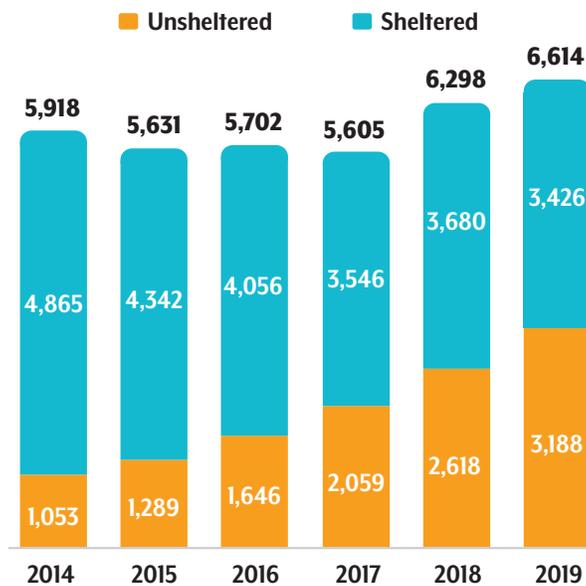
Numbers reveal alarming trend

The number of people experiencing homelessness continues to increase in Maricopa County, with those living in unsheltered situations climbing for the sixth straight year.

Numbers released April 30 from the “point-in-time” count conducted in January show 6,614 people experiencing homelessness within the region, an increase of 316 people over 2018. Nearly 13 percent reported to be experiencing homelessness for the first time, which translates to more than 400 people. The unsheltered count identified 3,188 people living in a place not meant for human habitation, such as on the street, in desert washes, or in vehicles. The unsheltered count increased by 22 percent over 2018.

“We are not surprised, and we are troubled by these numbers,” said Amy Schwabenlender, co-chair of the Maricopa Regional Continuum of Care Board and executive director of the Human Services Campus. “This should be of concern to everyone living in the Valley. The ripple effects of homelessness touch individuals, families, neighborhoods, and communities. These are first and foremost

Total PIT Count, 2014-2019



Growth Rate from 2018-2019

Total PIT Count

5%

Unsheltered PIT Count

22%

The unsheltered count increased at a **higher rate** than the overall PIT count.



human impacts, and at the same time they profoundly weave into societal and economic impacts.”

The Continuum of Care submitted the required point-in-time data to the Department of Housing and Urban Development in late April. The Continuum of Care will release a full analysis of the 2019 count later this year.

Analyzing data is a collaborative effort and is time consuming, said Tempe Police Sgt. Robert Ferraro, also co-chair of the Maricopa Regional Continuum of Care Board.

“We will dive deeper into the findings to better understand root causes of homelessness,” said Sgt. Ferraro. “We want to know what leads to chronic homelessness, what leads to first-time homelessness, and the causes of Veteran and family homelessness,” he said. “The Continuum of Care will look at factors such as eviction rates and affordable

housing, and see what solutions we can recommend.”

For the first time, the 2019 unsheltered count also included a tally of pets. Overall data identified 182 pets on the street, 10 of which were service animals. 

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Message From the Chair



Mayor Gail Barney, Town of Queen Creek

It has been my honor to serve as your chair for the past year. It is gratifying to look back on a year of accomplishments—accomplishments that have occurred despite many changes both in and outside of the MAG organization. In fact, Maricopa County was named the fastest-growing county for the third year in a row. That is one reason the work of MAG is vitally important to the residents of our region.

One successful initiative this year was to intentionally identify and organize MAG's work around five core mission areas. These areas have been at the heart of MAG since its inception, but with many competing priorities, it was important to ensure they remain top of mind: safe and smart travel, the economy and growth, environment and sustainability, improving quality of life and efficient and effective operations. Throughout the next year, these core activities will continue to be drivers for the organization as well as the Regional Council.

We continued to deliver projects made possible by Proposition 400, the regional sales tax initiative supporting transportation. We saw progress on State Route 30 and on the South Mountain Freeway. We rolled up our sleeves to rebalance the freeway program and held a successful Sun Corridor Transportation Summit to discuss the need for additional transportation investment. We progressed on transportation studies that ranged from bicycling to commuter rail to freight and finally to transit, better

informing our decisions. We prepared to develop the next Regional Transportation Plan, *Imagine*, by asking for and receiving input from more than 9,000 residents in the metropolitan area. Their feedback will be used to plan and improve our transportation system.

A significant achievement for the air quality program was obtaining 22 years of clean data for carbon monoxide and 14 consecutive three-year periods with no violating monitors for the ozone standard set by EPA in 1997. Results from the past seven years also indicate there have been no violations of the PM-10 standard (dust).

MAG continued to support economic development efforts through its regional analytics division, launching new interactive mapping, analysis, and reporting tools that highlight MAG's regional datasets.

We continued to examine the best ways to address the human needs of the region. From older adults struggling to make ends meet, to issues of domestic violence, to rising homelessness, there is still much work to be done to help those in our own communities.

These are only a few of the successes and challenges we face at MAG. Though my term as chair ends, I will continue to work with my fellow Regional Council members, who are committed to solutions to these challenges. We will continue to learn from one another to shape success. 



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 Gail Barney
City of Queen Creek, Regional Council Chair

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Arizona Department of Transportation



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



It is time for a new statewide transportation plan that will connect our generation to greater opportunity and improved quality of life. When voters passed Prop 400, self-driving cars were a thing of science fiction. Now Maricopa County is the epicenter of the autonomous vehicle revolution. That's one of many factors we have to consider as we think about future of transportation in the nation's fastest-growing county.

—Supervisor Jack Sellers, who represents the State Transportation Board on the MAG Regional Council

While transportation improvements in the West Valley have lagged behind our peer cities to the east and our population continues to grow at an accelerated rate, we've been able to take an intentional look at what we truly need. The development of the SR-303, timed signals on Bell Road across the Valley, and the formation of circulator routes in many of our communities are just a few of the improvements—and we're not finished yet.

—Surprise Mayor Skip Hall



Chandler's affordable housing and high-paying jobs helped our city recently tie for the top spot as #1 Best Place to Become Wealthy. While I love seeing our city at #1, we couldn't do without the region's assets as a whole. Collectively, we boast the best school districts, safe and clean neighborhoods, plentiful amenities and much more. The Phoenix region is truly the best place to live, work, play, visit—and become wealthy."

—Chandler Mayor Kevin Hartke

Improving the connectivity of our community has been a goal of mine for many years, and I am thrilled to introduce Peoria on the Go (POGO) as our latest addition to Peoria's robust transportation network. Our city is fast growing; and with the addition of POGO, our residents will have increased mobility to access even more areas of our community and our region.

—Peoria Mayor Cathy Carlat



Your Vision = Our Future

Thousands Respond to Survey to Plan the Region's Transportation Future

We asked. The region answered. Now, the work begins.

More than 9,100 people who live or work in the Maricopa County region answered the call to complete a 10-minute survey on what they value about our regional transportation system. Their opinions will play a key role in creating the next long-range transportation plan, *Imagine*.

"We asked them about what's important to them," noted MAG Chair Gail Barney, mayor of Queen Creek. "The answers we received will help plan the transportation system that will serve the region for the next 30 years and guide billions of dollars of investments into our infrastructure."

The survey will show what values are most common among Valley residents. MAG will look at how those values can be used in future transportation planning. A primary focus of MAG is to develop the next Regional Transportation Plan, a long-term blueprint of the region's transportation system. The Plan, aptly named *Imagine*, will look at roads, public transit, bikeways and pedestrian improvements.

"This system isn't only for us, it also is for our kids and grandkids, the future generations who will be using this system and calling this place home. It is our responsibility to be forward thinking," said Mayor Barney.

Developing a long-range plan is one thing, but fulfilling it will depend on future transportation funding. Much

of the region's transportation revenue comes through Proposition 400, a half-cent sales tax for transportation that will expire in 2025 if not extended by voters.

"As the fastest-growing county in the country, we face challenges when it comes to moving people now and in the future," said MAG Transportation Policy Committee Chair Jenn Daniels. "We are grateful that so many individuals took time out of their busy schedules to complete the survey and help us better understand their needs. This will help us develop a Plan that is based on the goals and priorities that our most important to our residents."

Although the formal survey opportunity has ended, MAG always welcomes transportation input through its website at www.azmag.gov/comment. 

Regional Profile: Mayor Kate Gallego



Mayor Kate Gallego, City of Phoenix



Gallego on the Go New Phoenix Mayor Sets Robust Agenda

She has a passion for travel, and lists the top two destinations on her bucket list as Bisbee and Italy.

Still, newly elected Phoenix Mayor Kate Gallego anticipates it will be awhile before she can cross either location off her list. As mayor of the 5th largest city in the United States, she is working on a longer list of priorities—beginning with managing growth in a sustainable way.

“How do we make sure we accommodate new residents while improving quality of life and sustainability for those who are already here?” asks Mayor Gallego. “With so much growth in our community, we have to be able to multi-task. We have to be able to secure our water supply while pushing our economy and investing in transportation.”

Before running for Phoenix City Council in 2013, Gallego worked for Salt River Project. With a bachelor’s degree in environmental studies from Harvard and an MBA from the Wharton School, she was able to blend those interests at SRP, where she focused on renewable energy, economic development and strategic planning.

“At the time, I spent a lot of time working with people in cities throughout Maricopa County on economic

development issues,” says Mayor Gallego. “We all had a common feeling that we could do better and push for higher wage jobs—really move the economy. Eventually, I decided to stop complaining and run for office myself.”

Gallego served on the city council from 2013-2018. When former Mayor Greg Stanton announced he would run for the U.S. House of Representatives in the 2018 elections, Gallego decided to run in a special election to succeed him. The most critical factor in her decision?

“The key for me was becoming a mom. I’m a mom of a 2-year-old now. And since my son was born, I’ve been thinking a lot more long term. What can we do for the next generation? How can we plan ahead, and make sure this city is so wonderful he will never want to leave?”

At City Hall, Mayor Gallego is widely known for being deeply interested in both policy and technical issues.

“To me, it’s important that we really have the best technical experts at the table. We want people who understand smart cities, who understand the best science and engineering, and who can help us make responsible decisions.”

Mayor Gallego hopes to see Phoenix become more globally connected with more export-oriented businesses. She also wants to create a knowledge-based economy.

“I think those jobs are the jobs of the future. So many other tasks are likely to be automated. So it’s really partnering with our educational institutions to make sure our residents have the best chance to get to that education.”

Mayor Gallego is listed as the youngest and only female mayor in the 10 largest cities in the U.S. She believes we live in a “unique time where you can go for it” and pursue your dreams.



Mayor Gallego at the groundbreaking for the Health Solutions Innovation Center in northeast Phoenix.

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Kate Gallego is sworn in as Phoenix mayor by Chief Presiding Judge B. Don Taylor III at her inauguration March 21, 2019. She is flanked by her parents and son, Michael.

Mayor Kate Gallego (continued)

“Particularly in Arizona, it seems like people care more about results than what you look like, what your name is, or where you were born,” says Gallego.

She’s also found a connection with other working mothers.

“I’ve talked with a lot of women who are cautious about talking about being moms in the workplace, because they worry that it might hold them back. And the reception I got was really positive. People in Phoenix seemed to like the idea of having a mayor who was a parent and was juggling with the challenges of parenting while governing. So I hope that is something that people in other areas will find as well.”

Her son also may play a small role in Gallego’s decision to put travel plans to both Bisbee and Italy on hold.

“It is partly because the job is so busy, but also my son is just so easily fascinated by things that are here. I offered him after the election, ‘Do you want to go to LEGOLAND?’ And he said, ‘No. Car wash!’”

So for now, the pair are content enjoy their local forays.

“I love taking my son to places like the Phoenix Zoo, and just getting out and watching him learn and grow. I live near South Mountain Park, which I consider one of our greatest gems in the city. And I love to go for a hike and just look out at the city of Phoenix and reflect on how lucky I am to be here.”

iCount 2020: Local Leaders Launch Census Campaign



With billions in state-shared revenues, Congressional representation, and emergency preparedness at stake, local and regional leaders encouraged every resident to participate during an official countdown to Census 2020.

The Maricopa Association of Governments (MAG) and the City of Phoenix conducted the regional launch event on April 1, 2019—exactly one year in advance of the official Census Day of April 1, 2020. The event included the release of the region’s unifying message to encourage participation among all residents through the simple phrase: iCount 2020.

The census counts everyone living in the U.S. every 10 years. It plays a major role in the quality of life in communities. It determines the number of seats each state gets in Congress. The number of people counted shapes decisions about how public funds are spent for roads, schools, hospitals, and emergency services for communities.

“The financial impact to local governments by an accurate census count is monumental, specifically, the distribution of more than \$675 billion in federal funds annually, and we only get one opportunity to count everyone,” said City of Phoenix Mayor Kate Gallego. “Once residents realize their participation



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Phoenix Mayor Kate Gallego and Queen Creek Mayor and MAG Chair Gail Barney led the census launch event (middle). Also pictured are Phoenix City Councilmember Michael Nowakowski (left), Regional Census Director Cathy Lacy (second from right), and Chandler City Councilmember Mark Stewart (right), along with elementary students from ASU Preparatory Academy (front).

iCount 2020 (continued)

means dollars that are invested into programs and services important to them, we believe they will make the Census a priority,” she said.

In Arizona, about \$20 billion in state shared revenues are divided based on population—equating to nearly \$3,000 per person, per year, to fund critical programs and services.



Mayor Gail Barney, Town of Queen Creek

MAG Chair Gail Barney, mayor of Queen Creek, noted that MAG represents a diverse region of 27 cities and towns, three Native nations, and two counties.

“The bottom line: people equal prosperity,” said Mayor Barney. “And as the fastest-growing county in the nation, it becomes even more important to accurately capture that growth. We must ensure that we receive our true total share of funding.”

Cathy Lacy, director of the U.S. Census Bureau’s Denver Region, told the audience that responding to the 2020 Census will be easier than ever before. “We have three ways you can respond to the 2020 Census—online, by mail or by phone,” said Lacy. She noted that April 1, 2020, is the day every resident of the U.S. will be asked to fill out a census form. Just before that date, most households will get an invitation to respond in the mail.

“Next year, when you respond to the census, be sure to count everyone living in your home on April 1. Everyone counts, including children and newborn babies,” said Lacy.

Lacy also noted that the Census Bureau is now hiring for a variety of jobs. More information at www.2020census.gov/jobs. 

MAG Moment



Innovative technology and safety were highlighted during the annual Intermodal Planning Group meeting in April. The yearly review gives MAG the opportunity to discuss work products and priorities with the Federal Highway Administration.

Responding to the census is easy, important and safe!

Easy

Responding to the 2020 Census will be easier than ever before.

- There will be three ways you can respond—online, by mail or by phone.
- The Census Bureau encourages everyone to respond online, if possible. If you don’t have Internet access, don’t worry—you can respond by mailing back a paper questionnaire, or by calling the toll-free number that will be made available.
- The online instrument and questionnaire assistance will be available in 12 languages other than English, including Spanish. The paper form will be available in English and Spanish, while language guides will be available in 59 languages.

Important

Your response matters. It shapes our future.

- Your response influences decisions about how public funds are spent for roads, schools, fire/emergency services, and healthcare for your community.
- Census results also determine how many seats each state gets in Congress. State and local officials use census counts to redraw boundaries for congressional districts and state legislative districts.

Safe

Your responses are safe and secure.

- Your response to the census is confidential and protected by law. Every Census Bureau employee takes an oath to protect your information for life.
- The Census Bureau will not share your responses with immigration or law enforcement agencies.
- If you respond online, your answers are encrypted to protect your privacy.

You can follow the regional efforts on Facebook.com/iCount2020official, Twitter @iCount2020 and Instagram @iCount2020Official. Use #iCount2020 to learn more about Census 2020. 

Three Years in a Row: Maricopa County Fastest Growing in Nation

For some it's the sunshine. For others, jobs. Whatever the reason, more people moved to Maricopa County last year than any other county in the nation, according to U.S. Census Bureau population estimates released in April. The new numbers mark the third year in a row Maricopa County has been named the fastest-growing county in the nation.

The numbers did not come as a surprise to MAG Chair Gail Barney, mayor of the Town of Queen Creek.

“We have a very attractive region, with a great climate, strong economy, and appealing quality of life. What was more surprising was how much faster we are growing than the next two counties on the list,” he said.

With an increase of 81,244 residents, Maricopa County was 68 percent higher than Clark County, Nevada, with 48,337 new residents, and 135 percent higher than Harris County, Texas, which increased its population by 34,460.

MAG Regional Analytics Director Anubhav Bagley says the growth isn't likely to stop soon, with MAG projections showing 6.4 million people in Maricopa County by 2055, an increase of 2 million over today's population of 4.4 million. Those numbers do not include seasonal population growth.

“The question of significance for MAG is how that growth affects our long-range planning,” stated Bagley. “How do we sustain our infrastructure, our housing, and job opportunities to best accommodate all those people?”



Since 2010, the Phoenix metropolitan area (which in this definition includes all of Maricopa and Pinal counties) grew by 665,000 people, the third highest in the nation.

“One interesting trend we are seeing this year is that metro areas not among the most populous are ranked in the top 10 for population growth,” said Sandra Johnson, a demographer in the Census Bureau's Population Division. “Though no new metro areas moved into the top 10 largest areas, Phoenix, Seattle, Austin, and Orlando all experienced numeric increases in population since 2010, rivaling growth in areas with much larger populations. This trend is consistent with the overall growth we are seeing in the South and the West.”

Out of 3,142 counties, 1,739 (55.3 percent) gained population between 2017 and 2018. Twelve counties (0.4 percent) experienced no change in population during this time, while the remaining 1,391 (44.3 percent) lost population. 🏔️

Top 10 Counties in Numeric Growth: 2017 to 2018						
Rank	State	County	April 1, 2010 (Estimates base)	July 1, 2017	July 1, 2018	Numeric Growth
1	Arizona	Maricopa County	3,817,359	4,329,580	4,410,824	81,244
2	Nevada	Clark County	1,951,271	2,183,310	2,231,647	48,337
3	Texas	Harris County	4,093,188	4,664,159	4,698,619	34,460
4	Texas	Collin County	782,220	971,393	1,005,146	33,753
5	California	Riverside County	2,189,765	2,417,224	2,450,758	33,534
6	Washington	King County	1,931,292	2,204,229	2,233,163	28,934
7	Florida	Orange County	1,145,954	1,352,933	1,380,645	27,712
8	Texas	Tarrant County	1,810,655	2,057,468	2,084,931	27,463
9	Texas	Bexar County	1,714,772	1,958,841	1,986,049	27,208
10	Florida	Hillsborough County	1,229,178	1,410,115	1,436,888	26,773

Heat Kills. Don't Be a Victim.

Heat Relief Network cautions residents

The Arizona heat killed or contributed to the deaths of 181 people in Maricopa County last year. Many were homebound adults. Some were those experiencing homelessness. Others were outdoor workers just doing their jobs. The annual Heat Relief Network, organized by the Maricopa Association of Governments (MAG), launched in May amid warnings that all residents are at risk, no matter their age or circumstance.

“Most of us are aware of the danger to vulnerable populations, such as those experiencing homelessness and older adults. We also need to realize that even those in good physical shape can die in the heat, and to heed heat warnings,” said Queen Creek Mayor Gail Barney, who chairs the MAG Regional Council.



While 73 percent of heat-related deaths last year were among those 50 and over, 27 percent were individuals aged 20-49. Most heat injuries (75 percent) occurred outdoors, with 25 percent indoors.

Twenty-three percent of the deaths happened on days in which an excessive heat warning was issued.

The Maricopa region has seen an alarming increase in heat-related deaths over the past five years, with 61 confirmed deaths in 2014; 84 in 2015; 154 in 2016; 179 in 2017; and 181 in 2018. Most of the deaths in 2018 occurred in July and August, but the heat can kill even in earlier months. The Valley already has seen one death in April 2019, when an infant died after being left in a hot car.

The Heat Relief Network provides relief for those suffering in the heat, and offers places people can go to donate water. Hydration and refuge locations, as well as donation locations, are available online at www.azmag.gov/heatrelief.

Buckeye Councilmember Michelle Hess, who chairs the MAG Human Services and Community Initiatives Committee, says more than 55 organizations provided water and cooling stations at 163 locations last year, with an additional 90 collection site locations.

“This is a true community effort that brings together cities and towns, nonprofit agencies, faith-based



Volunteers hand out water bottles in downtown Phoenix.

organizations, businesses, and individuals who mobilize to provide resources to those who are vulnerable,” she said. “We are hoping that many more step forward this year to help us in these efforts, so that we can see a drop in the number of deaths.”

Below are tips that everyone can take to avoid heat-related illness. 🏞️

Heat Relief Tips

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

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.



Bridge Gets New Name Drivers See Improved Commute at Bell/Grand

Drivers who pass through one of the busiest intersections in the Valley now have two reasons to celebrate. First—two years of a smoother commute after a bridge project eliminated delays caused by freight trains. And now, the renaming of that same bridge to honor military veterans.

Two years after its construction, the new Veterans Bridge was dedicated at a ceremony in April hosted by the city of Surprise and attended by Governor Doug Ducey, Congresswoman Debbie Lesko, and Arizona Senate Majority Leader Rick Gray.

“This is such a fitting name for this bridge,” said Surprise Mayor Skip Hall. “We have a high population of Veteran residents in our city, and I hope this serves as a reminder that they are honored and supported in Surprise.” Surprise has an adult population of approximately 14 percent veterans.

The bridge has dramatically improved the flow of traffic by replacing the old intersection that was at ground level. Before the \$41.9 million project, commuters were plagued by long lines and delays, especially when Bell Road drivers needed to cross both Grand Avenue and the parallel BNSF Railway tracks. Veterans Bridge travels over Grand Avenue and the railroad tracks, and traffic on Grand Avenue no longer has to stop at Bell Road. Instead, the two roadways are connected by on- and off-ramps built within the Grand Avenue median.

The Grand Avenue and Bell Road interchange project was part of the Maricopa Association of Governments’ (MAG) Regional Transportation Plan approved by county voters in 2004. Funding for the interchange project came from a half-cent sales tax for transportation projects and from MAG federal highway funds. The project has been a welcome change to those who frequently travel the route.



The Prop 400 project has meant a smoother commute at the Bell/Grand intersection.

“Oh my, what a difference,” said Surprise resident Karen Short. “When we grew up, we had no air conditioning in our car, so it was always, ‘oh no!’ when we didn’t make the light and had to sit through three lights,” she said. “There is always going to be a lot of traffic on Bell, it’s a major artery, but the flow is so much better.”

Sun City West resident Paul Chase has lived in the Valley 78 years.

“Oh, big difference,” he said. “Trains used to stop everything. And now you can go right on over.”

While Surprise operates the intersection, Grand Avenue also is designated as U.S. 60 and is part of the state highway system. 



Arizona Governor Doug Ducey, U.S. Congresswoman Debbie Lesko, Arizona Senate Majority Leader Rick Gray, and Surprise Mayor Skip Hall recognize Air Force Veteran Dan Reilly at the renaming ceremony. It was Reilly’s request to rename the bridge Veterans Way, because “everybody uses it so lots of people can see it and honor veterans.”

Good Neighbor Policy: MAG Fosters Cross Border Relationships

Trade is critical to Arizona's prosperity. It propels economic growth, supports good jobs, raises the quality of life, and helps Arizonans provide for their families with affordable goods and services. That is why MAG continues to build relationships with its top two trading partners.



With cross-border neighbors Mexico and Canada making up 45.4 percent of Arizona's total trade, or imports and exports of goods, the Maricopa Association of Governments is committed to increasing dialogue and strengthening strategic cross-border economic relations.

In 2018, Arizona's total trade with Mexico was valued at \$16.7 billion and with Canada at \$3.7 billion.



Mayor Jackie Meck, City of Buckeye

To further those ties, MAG sent an Arizona delegation of leaders to Mexico City in February to participate in an economic mission. MAG also hosted a delegation of leaders from Montréal, Canada, who came to Phoenix for three days in late April. Both delegation visits allowed leaders from Arizona, Mexico and Canada to engage in networking and discussions that support and promote the economic activities between the state and two countries.

The regional economic mission to Mexico City took place from February 20-22, 2019. A delegation of elected officials from Arizona met with Mexico leaders and continued to explore opportunities that will help stimulate economic development between Arizona and Mexico, and build a stronger relationship with Mexico City.



Elected officials traveled to Mexico City in February.

Obtaining support for important commerce corridors that connect Arizona and Mexico was one of the roundtable discussions among the delegates. Together, leaders explored opportunities to enhance western economic connections through roadways in Mexico and Arizona.

"These conversations with our cross-border counterparts are important to the economy of all three countries," said Buckeye Mayor Jackie Meck, chair of MAG's Economic Development Committee. "Not only does this dialogue help us 'do business,' it establishes key relationships to help us partner on

issues beyond trade."

In late April, MAG welcomed a delegation from Montréal, Canada, for a three-day visit. They learned about Arizona's economic role in the smart mobility industry and how Montréal and Arizona can both benefit economically. The delegates were given an overview of the relationship between Valley Metro and the driverless vehicle company Waymo. They also heard from representatives from Nuro, a self-driving delivery vehicle company, and toured Local Motors Chandler microfactory, where the Olli self-driving electric shuttle is built. 



A delegation from Montréal visits the MAG building in April.



At the Intersection of Aging and Transportation

Connecting aging, health, and transportation solutions



Most of us don't think twice about being able to go where we want, when we want, or connecting to the people and places that matter most. Imagine losing that freedom. The distance to medical care, friends and family seems longer than ever before. Your health suffers. Without regular interaction, people fade away.

Every day, older adults in our communities face the impacts of losing access to transportation, losing access to what they want in life.

"This is a personal crisis for the adults who lose their independence, and for adult children who cannot meet the needs of their aging parents. It is a community crisis when we lose the time and talents of older adult employees and volunteers. It is a national crisis, bound by our common search for solutions," says MAG Chair Gail Barney, mayor of Queen Creek.

In March, MAG hosted *At the Intersection of Aging and Transportation*, a conference that featured solutions that connect aging, health, and transportation through innovative programs. More than 200 people attended.

Aging issues are more relevant than ever before as an age wave of baby boomers swell the older adult population. This massive population shift is often referred to as the "silver tsunami."

"A tsunami we're facing sitting in silos," explained keynote speaker Greg Rodriguez, an attorney at Best Best and Krieger who specializes in technology and transportation. "However, with the merging of innovation and technology, we have a real opportunity to address the transportation crisis facing older adults. We can do this by enhancing mobility and overcoming silos through cross-sector collaboration. This will ensure that the



More than 200 people attended the conference on March 27, 2019.

critical transportation connections to and for our aging populations are solidified and prioritized."

Rodriguez discussed the critical role of transportation in creating healthy and connected communities, how technology offers opportunities to improve access to transportation, and the important connections between healthcare and aging in place.

The Federal Highway Administration will share the recommendations and material developed at the conference into a curriculum for training transportation professionals nationwide. Topics in general sessions and breakout workshops included:

- The role of transportation in keeping older adults and communities healthy.
- Options for meeting the transportation needs of older adults.
- Strategies for improving access to transportation in underserved communities.
- What can be done at a local, state and national scale to better meet the transportation needs of older adults now and in the future.

This event was made possible through the partnership of AARP AZ, Age Friendly Arizona, and the Vitalyst Health Foundation, with support from the Federal Highway Administration. 





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A Quarterly Newsletter Focusing on Regional Excellence

May—July 2019  Vol. 24: No. 2

Summer 2019 Calendar

May

- 1st 10:00 a.m. Intelligent Transportation Systems Committee (Ironwood)
- 1st 1:30 p.m. Standard Specifications and Details Committee (Ironwood)
- 7th 11:30 a.m. Economic Development Committee (Saguaro)
- 8th 12:00 p.m. Management Committee (Saguaro)
- 13th 12:00 p.m. Regional Council Executive Committee (Ironwood)
- 14th 1:00 p.m. Street Committee (Ironwood)
- 15th 9:30 a.m. Maricopa Regional Continuum of Care 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 (Ironwood)
- 20th 1:30 p.m. Maricopa Regional Continuum of Care Board (Ironwood)
- 21st 1:00 p.m. Active Transportation Committee (Ironwood)
- 22nd 11:30 a.m. Regional Council (Saguaro)
- 23rd 10:00 a.m. Transportation Review Committee (Saguaro)
- 23rd 1:30 p.m. Air Quality Technical Advisory Committee (Saguaro)
- 27th Memorial Day Holiday (office closed)
- 28th 10:00 a.m. Population Technical Advisory Committee (Chaparral)
- 28th 10:00 a.m. Transportation Safety Committee (Ironwood)
- 30th 1:30 p.m. Human Services and Community Initiatives Committee (Chaparral)

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

June

- 4th 11:30 a.m. Economic Development Committee (Saguaro)
- 5th 10:00 a.m. Intelligent Transportation Systems Committee (Ironwood)
- 5th 1:30 p.m. Standard Specifications and Details Committee (Ironwood)
- 11th 1:00 p.m. Street Committee (Ironwood)
- 12th 12:00 p.m. Management Committee (Saguaro)
- 13th 1:30 p.m. Human Services Technical Committee (Chaparral)
- 17th 12:00 p.m. Regional Council Executive Committee (Ironwood)
- 18th 10:00 a.m. Solid Waste Advisory Committee (Saguaro)
- 18th 1:00 p.m. Active Transportation Committee (Ironwood)
- 19th 9:30 a.m. Maricopa Regional Continuum of Care Committee (Ironwood)
- 19th 12:00 p.m. Transportation Policy Committee (Saguaro)
- 19th 2:00 p.m. Building Codes Committee (Ironwood)
- 20th 9:30 a.m. Transit Committee (Ironwood)
- 24th 1:30 p.m. Maricopa Regional Continuum of Care Board (Ironwood)
- 25th 10:00 a.m. Transportation Safety Committee (Ironwood)
- 25th 12:00 p.m. Population Technical Advisory Committee (Chaparral)
- 26th 11:30 a.m. Regional Council Annual Meeting and Passing of the Gavel (Saguaro)
- 27th 10:00 a.m. Transportation Review Committee (Saguaro)
- 27th 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 Avenue, Phoenix.

July

- 3rd 1:30 p.m. Standard Specifications and Details Committee (Ironwood)
- 4th Independence Day Holiday (office closed)
- 9th 1:00 p.m. Street Committee (Ironwood)
- 10th 9:00 a.m. Intelligent Transportation Systems Committee (Ironwood)
- 10th 12:00 p.m. Management Committee (Saguaro) – *if needed*
- 15th 12:00 p.m. Regional Council Executive Committee (Ironwood)
- 16th 1:00 p.m. Active Transportation Committee (Ironwood)
- 17th 9:30 a.m. Maricopa Regional Continuum of Care Committee (Ironwood)
- 17th 12:00 p.m. Transportation Policy Committee (Saguaro) – *if needed*
- 18th 9:30 a.m. Transit Committee (Ironwood)
- 23rd 10:00 a.m. Transportation Safety Committee (Ironwood)
- 25th 10:00 a.m. Transportation Review Committee (Saguaro)
- 25th 1:30 p.m. Human Services and Community Initiatives Committee (Chaparral)
- 25th 1:30 p.m. Air Quality Technical Advisory Committee (Saguaro)
- 29th 1:30 p.m. Maricopa Regional Continuum of Care Board (Ironwood)
- 31st 11:30 a.m. Regional Council (Saguaro) – *if needed*

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.

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.