

MAG Celebrates Golden Anniversary

50th
Anniversary

Decade Five: 2007-2017

April 12, 2017, marked 50 years that the Maricopa Association of Governments (MAG) has been serving the region. This is the last of a five-part series that covers the five decades of MAG and the major milestones that represent how MAG has made a difference to the residents of our region.



As MAG entered its fifth decade, the region was anticipating the continued progress of the new Regional Transportation Plan. The final leg of the Red Mountain Freeway was finished, completing the projects included in Proposition 300. Collection of the half-cent sales tax under Prop 400 had begun, netting \$391 million in 2007.

No one guessed that it would be the last time the region would see such revenue for nearly a decade.

The Great Recession

“We were starting to see signs that the housing industry may have some issues and we were starting to see a decline in our sales tax revenues,” says MAG Transportation Director Eric Anderson. “That was the first time we’d ever had a decline in sales tax revenues in this county, so it came as a shock to everybody.”

In 2009, due to falling revenues, the MAG Regional Council cut \$6.6 billion from the Regional Transportation Plan. Another \$300 million would be cut in 2012. The housing industry continued to falter. By March 2010, the number of pending and foreclosed homes had swelled to more than 63,000.

Phoenix Councilmember Peggy Neely, who chaired MAG from 2009-2010, says the decline of the housing market was a wake-up call.



Construction of Red Mountain Freeway.

“From a regional approach, we needed as elected officials to have a dialogue about what we could do to bring economic development to the community,” recalls Neely.

The need to diversify the economy resulted in the creation of the MAG Economic Development Committee (EDC) in 2010. “(W)e put the committee together and it was given a sunset clause for one year,” says Neely.

The 35-member committee, which included 20 elected officials, a representative from the Arizona Department of Transportation (ADOT), and 15 business representatives, began working on a number of successful

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Message From the Chair



Mayor Jackie Meck, City of Buckeye

Being a native Arizonan, I am very familiar with the feelings about government and regulation. Arizonans love their freedom and independence. We do have to address issues like air quality and implement the regulations needed to reduce pollution. One of these regulatory programs is the Maricopa County Trip Reduction Program, which is mandated by state statute. It is very refreshing to see how MAG, working with County staff, added value to this program and made the data in it a very useful economic development tool.

Maricopa County has done an outstanding job in operating the [trip reduction] program and reducing emissions by nearly 13,000 tons each year.



In the depths of the recession, MAG needed to cut approximately \$6.9 billion from the freeway program. Likewise, Valley Metro cut approximately \$2 billion from the regional transit program. It was clear that MAG needed to take its analytical horsepower to address the economy. That is when MAG teamed up with Maricopa

County to develop one of the most valuable economic development databases in the nation.

The annual Trip Reduction Program survey, conducted by Maricopa County, receives approximately 500,000 responses each year. Its core mission is to find ways to reduce trips of single-occupant vehicles, particularly trips to and from work. Maricopa County has done an outstanding job in operating the program and reducing emissions by nearly 13,000 tons each year.

MAG also has been able to use the extensive information provided by the survey to help member agencies in economic development and business recruiting. The survey data can be analyzed on a broad level to determine where people live, where they work, and their occupations.

We are grateful to Maricopa County for creating a partnership that serves as a model for the rest of the nation. We also appreciate the MAG member agencies who are extensively using the information to grow the economy. 



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.

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



Avondale is proud to have been named a 2017 All-America City for the “Read On Avondale” program’s achievement in the area of grade-level reading. This award recognizes cities that have demonstrated civic engagement that has served to help young children achieve grade-level reading proficiency, thus providing them with a strong foundation for success. Through a collaboration with Valley of the Sun United Way and the Avondale Elementary School District, Avondale has made great strides in school readiness, school attendance, summer learning and literacy. This recognition is a result of the community coming together to rally around our youngest residents, ensuring that they experience success both in school and in life. As mayor, I couldn’t be prouder of our accomplishments and receiving the All-America City designation.

—Avondale Mayor Kenneth Weise

It was good to see MAG communities come together in response to the recent call by Amazon for a second North American headquarters. This will be a massive undertaking requiring a collaborative effort at the state and local level. Citizens of the region have a firm understanding of our position as a technology leader, and honestly, we make a pretty good fit!

—Chandler Mayor Jay Tibshraeny



Early construction kicked off this summer and continues through the fall for Tempe Streetcar—the Valley’s first streetcar. It is important to continue building for the future, to support growing travel demand and business interest in Tempe and throughout the region. Tempe Streetcar will provide local and regional connections between Tempe’s historic and strong neighborhoods, ASU, downtown Tempe, Town Lake and the emerging Rio Salado corridor, major business and employment centers, as well as regional entertainment and event destinations.

—Tempe Mayor Mark Mitchell

A strong foundation of public safety is essential to a healthy, thriving city. The 100 Club, an organization that supports the men and women who stand behind the badge, recently awarded its most prestigious honors to two Peoria public safety officials. Peoria Police Officer Brandon Sheffert has been named Law Enforcement Officer of the Year and Peoria Fire-Medical Engineer Stephen Gunn has been named Firefighter of the Year. This is the first time in the long history of the 100 Club of Arizona that these honors were given to recipients in the same city. I am thankful for the unwavering commitment of the brave men and women who work daily to protect and elevate our communities.

—Peoria Mayor Cathy Carlat



One of the great things about MAG is that we can all learn from each other. The challenges that face our region don’t stop at any city’s border. That’s why it is so important we work together. We are all partners in MAG, helping each other and celebrating each other’s successes.

—Maricopa Mayor Christian Price

We don’t just build for the sake of building. This board is focused on making targeted investments, within our financial means, that allow for growth and position us to better serve the public 10, 20 years down the line.

—Board of Supervisors Chairman Denny Barney on the long term Capital Improvement Plan highlighted at <https://www.maricopa.gov/4566/Capital-Projects>



Regional Profile: Mayor Tommy Lee Sikes



Mayor Tommy Lee Sikes, Town of Gila Bend



“Rescue” Mindset Drives Gila Bend Mayor

As the operator of a tow truck service center, he’s the one to call when your car breaks down. He’s also the one to dial up when you need help at Town Hall. Gila Bend Mayor Tommy Lee Sikes, a volunteer firefighter for 32 years, has always had a natural desire to help his neighbors and serve his community. Now, he’s working on the front lines to improve his town’s economy.

“I’m really passionate about the community and all of the people who live here. I ran for the office to try to make a difference in the town, which was really struggling to grow,” says Mayor Sikes. “My desire to see Gila Bend stay strong and persevere through Arizona’s tough economic times is what has motivated me to stay in government service.”

Gila Bend, named for a nearly 90-degree bend in the Gila River near the community, has

a population that has hovered around 2,000 for nearly two decades. In hopes of jumpstarting growth, the mayor’s top priority is expanding economic development. Last year, the Town Council unanimously supported the purchase of the 1923 Stout’s Hotel and surrounding properties in order to create a new Town Center.

“Stout’s Hotel is known as the Jewel of the Desert, and has so much potential for tourism in Gila Bend,” says Mayor Sikes. “We are working hard to build up the Town Center around our 9/11 memorial park. We want to remodel the hotel and build a really nice pool for kids to enjoy.”

After serving for six years on the Town Council, Sikes was appointed mayor last November. He notes that the town has hired a new manager, who is “making a huge difference in town.” Sikes

hopes residents will support a \$15 million bond proposal in November to help with the revitalization effort.

Sikes, the service manager of an auto service center, has “been running tow trucks for 33 years.” He enjoys listening to people, but is just beginning to find a comfort level when it comes to public speaking.

“I am pretty shy when it comes to talking to people,” he admits. “I can talk to customers all day at work, but when I have to stand up in front of hundreds of people, it’s harder for me. I have learned a lot and I am trying to be more talkative.”

He’s more comfortable behind the wheel of a Jeep or Razor all-terrain vehicle. He belongs to a sportsman’s club and loves hunting and off-roading, often helping organize weekend camp-outs involving several hundred people. At an early age, he discovered he had a passion for the art of photography. While he ultimately decided not to pursue it as a career, he remains an avid hobbyist, focusing on scenic photography.

Mayor Sikes has three grown sons, all of whom live in the Valley. He has been an active member of the Elks Lodge for 35 years, helping raise money for hospitals, veterans, and drug awareness programs. He served as a former “Exalted Ruler” as well as a trustee and financial leader for the Lodge. But he recently

Mayor Sikes at a tire show next to a “monster” off-road vehicle.



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Sikes (continued)

stepped down due to the demands of his elected office.

“I didn’t realize how much time being mayor would take. I work 75 hours a week at the business so I had to resign from the Elks as chair of board of trustees in March. I just had too much on my plate,” he says. Still, he hopes to continue serving his community for as long as he can.

“I’m going to stay as long as I can get elected and do my best for the community. That’s my goal, because it is all about serving my community.”



Mayor Sikes at the Elks National Convention in New Orleans.

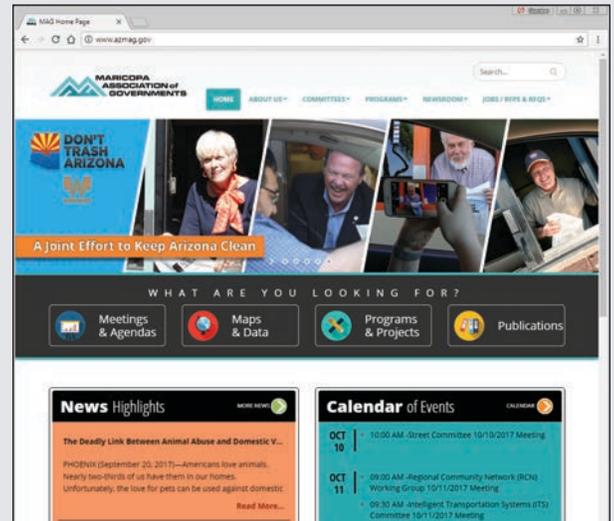
MAG Launches New Website

Whether you are looking for your next meeting agenda, need employment data, or want to see the agency’s most recent video, your online MAG experience just got easier. After a year of development, MAG has launched a new, redesigned website with more visuals, more interactive content, and intuitive navigation. The website, www.azmag.gov, serves as the public face of MAG and provides critical information regarding MAG activities, programs, and studies.

Perhaps the biggest change users will find is that the new navigation structure targets key program areas.

“The home page offers immediate access to a maps and data center, the calendar at a glance, and meeting agendas, so users will find it much easier to get to the pages they use most often,” said MAG Chair Jackie Meck, mayor of Buckeye. “MAG continues to focus on providing online customer service and keeping pace with new technology.”

Another new feature is a newsroom section for use by the public and the media, as well as an updated “Jobs”



page where prospective employees can now apply online. The site provides easy access to social media platforms and is compatible with mobile devices.

While MAG communications staff created the new look, MAG Information Technology staff had to create numerous custom modules to handle the tens of thousands of files housed on the site. The new site is hosted on the DotNet-Nuke (DNN) CMS platform.

Since a soft launch of the site in August, web traffic has climbed significantly. There were 63,063 page views in August, with 44,978 unique views. This is compared to an average number of monthly page views of 33,621 and unique views of 25,071 in previous months.

MAG Moment



The MAG Regional Council pauses for a photo after passing a resolution recognizing October as Domestic Violence Awareness Month. The members wore purple in support of efforts to end domestic violence.



The Deadly Link Between Animal Abuse and Domestic Violence

Americans love animals. Nearly two-thirds of us have them in our homes. Unfortunately, the love for pets can be used against domestic violence victims when abusers see it as a means of power and control. In fact, 71 percent of domestic violence victims report that their abuser targeted their pet. An estimated 1 million animals are abused or killed each year in connection with domestic violence.

Now, the deadly link between animal abuse and domestic violence is catching the attention of local law enforcement, prosecutors, and domestic violence experts. The link was the focus of a press conference by the Maricopa Association of Governments and the City of Phoenix as the region prepared for October's Domestic Violence Awareness Month.



Mayor Jackie Meck, chair of MAG, shares information on a deadly link.

“Pets give us unconditional love, and losing them can be devastating,” said Buckeye Mayor Jackie Meck, chair of MAG, after relating his own family’s recent loss of a beloved pet. “Eighty percent of homes where abused or neglected pets were found also had previous investigations by child welfare agencies of physical abuse and neglect. Animals and children are easy targets since they cannot pick up a phone and dial 9-1-1. This link is very real.”

Phoenix Councilmember Daniel Valenzuela reported that every year in Arizona, more than 100 people lose their lives due to a

partner or family violence. “It is a price paid too often, by too many victims. And many of those victims remain in danger, often fearful of leaving their pets behind,” he said.

Many animal abuse cases are investigated by the Maricopa County Sheriff’s Office (MCSO) and placed in the MCSO Animal Safe Haven (MASH unit), where they are cared for and often serve as evidence.

“Whether it is domestic violence or crimes against animals, the perpetrators are nothing more or less than bullies,” said Sheriff Paul Penzone. “They take advantage of this unconditional love with abuse and violence. And that is something that can never be tolerated, in any circumstance or civilized society.”

Some laws are changing as a result of the link. Orders of protection grant domestic violence victims custody of their animals and include an order for the abuser to stay away from the animals. When offering a plea bargain, prosecutors often request that animal abuse defendants undergo domestic violence counseling. Prosecutors say animal cruelty cases may be “precursor crimes” and must be taken seriously.

“Animal abuse should be seen as a red flag for family violence, including domestic violence, elder abuse and child abuse,” says Mesa Assistant City Prosecutor Alison Ferrante. “It is one reason that the FBI now mandates that animal cruelty be reported as a separate violent offense. Animal cruelty is a



violent act that can lead to greater violence.”

One in four women and one in seven men will be the victim of domestic violence in their lifetime. “Many will see pets targeted as a means of isolating and controlling those victims,” said Ferrante, who shared heartbreaking, real life stories of animals killed by abusers. She called on law enforcement, prosecutors and judges to implement standard operating procedures in dealing with animal abuse.

“This is an issue that we don’t take lightly in Arizona. If victims understand this is a means of control that is understood by law enforcement, by all of us as a community, and the justice system, they may be more willing to come forward for help.”

If you or a loved one are experiencing domestic violence, please call **9-1-1 or 1-800-799-SAFE (7233)**.

To report animal cruelty, contact the Sheriff’s Office at (602) 876-TIPS (8477). For emergency animal rescue assistance, please contact the Arizona Humane Society at (602) 997-7585 Ext. 2073.

Lighting the Valley Purple

As part of Domestic Violence Awareness month, state and local governments have been lighting their buildings purple.



Arizona State Capitol Dome



Avondale Police Station



Carefree Sundial



Chandler City Hall



El Mirage City Hall



Glendale City Hall



Goodyear City Hall



MAG Building



Maricopa City Hall



Maricopa County Administration Building



Mesa City Hall



Paradise Valley Municipal Complex



Phoenix City Hall



Peoria City Hall



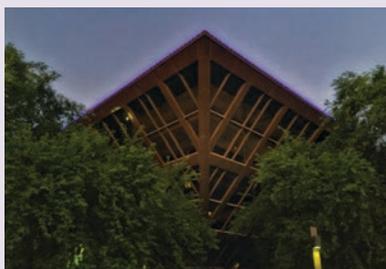
Queen Creek Town Hall



Scottsdale Horse Sculpture



Surprise City Hall



Tempe City Hall



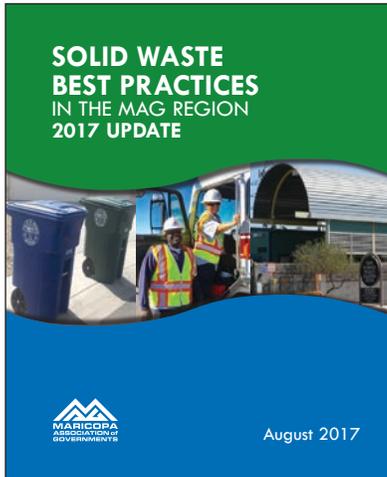
Tolleson City Hall



Wickenburg Town Hall

Dealing With Your Trash: Communities Develop, Share Best Practices

We use it, toss it, and haul it to the curb. And unless it smells or we forget to put it out in time, most of us don't give our garbage much thought. However, the cities, towns and counties in which we live spend a lot of time thinking about "solid waste" and the most efficient ways of handling it.



The full report can be found on the MAG website at www.azmag.gov under Environmental Programs.

A report outlining solid waste best practices in the MAG region highlights the solid waste projects and programs submitted by MAG member agencies. These innovative projects and programs cover several aspects of the solid waste industry, including household hazardous waste, recycling, green waste, and education and outreach.

The MAG member agencies are continuing to implement the solid waste best practices, which were first outlined in 2012. According to an update of the report completed in 2017, 18 MAG member agencies have implemented at least one of the best practices since 2012. In addition, six new best practices were identified.

Examples of best practices include same day trash and recycling, Christmas tree drop off programs, permanent drop off electronic waste recycling programs, recycling services for businesses and multi-family properties, and curbside recycling, to name just a few. 



Six new best practices were added as part of the 2017 update to the report:

- **Buckeye Municipal Trash and Recycling Collection Agreement**—The City of Buckeye has an agreement with its contracted provider for curbside collection to collect municipal trash and recycling from all municipal buildings at no additional cost.
- **El Mirage Bulk Trash Collection Program**—In cooperation with its residential trash and recycling provider, the City of El Mirage has implemented a curbside bulk trash collection for residents twice per year.
- **Fountain Hills Mail-In Electronics Recycling Program**—Fountain Hills is working to implement a mail-in electronics recycling program with its contracted provider, where residents would ship the electronics directly to a recycling center.
- **Phoenix Mattress Diversion Program**—Phoenix has established a partnership with Goodwill of Central Arizona to divert mattresses from the landfill. The mattresses are deconstructed into the base components and sold to recyclers to remanufacture into new products.
- **Phoenix Solid Waste Administrative Internship Program**—The City of Phoenix has a solid waste administrative internship program to attract graduate students interested in solid waste, sustainability, and environmentally focused careers within the public sector.
- **Phoenix Barrel Delivery Process**—The new automated process has optimized routes, which has resulted in fewer miles driven and residents receiving their trash or recycle barrel in 3 business days on average, versus 7.

MAG Hosts Panels on Border Issues, Workforce at Annual League Event

In ongoing efforts to improve the economies of Arizona and Sonora, MAG hosted a series of successful events at the League of Arizona Cities and Towns Annual Conference in August. Events ranged from promoting binational trade to discussing workforce readiness.

MAG hosted the Ari-Son Megaregion Council to discuss the future of trade between Arizona and Sonora. Discussions included the North American Free Trade Agreement (NAFTA), tourism efforts, and promoting binational partnerships.

“When the economy of one state or region improves, so does the economy of the other,” said MAG Chair Jackie Meck, mayor of Buckeye. “It is vital for local governments on both sides of the border to engage in dialogue that furthers our understanding of where opportunities exist and how we can help each other succeed.”

MAG worked jointly with the Pima Association of Governments (PAG), Pima County, City of Tucson, State of Sonora, and the League to bring the group together.

“The 2014 partnering charter identifies broad areas where local elected officials can work together to enhance prosperity in both Sonora and Arizona,” stated Tucson Mayor Jonathan Rothschild. “Since then, the Megaregion Council has continued to convene annually to share information and discuss ways for our states to collaborate.”

More than 20 elected officials and several consulate representatives attended. Among those serving as speakers and partners in coordinating the event were Mesa Vice Mayor David Luma; Avondale Councilmember Lorenzo Sierra; and Carefree Councilmember Michael Farrar, who led the NAFTA panel. Other



The Ari-Son Megaregion Council includes elected officials from Arizona and Sonora, Mexico.

speakers included Juan Ciscomani, Senior Advisor to Governor Ducey for Regional and International Affairs; Sandra Watson, President and CEO of the Arizona Commerce Authority; Garrick Taylor of the Arizona Chamber of Commerce and Industry, Ryan Fernandez of BRH2 Plastics, and Richard Rubin, CEO of Javid, LLC, and an Index Board Member. Last year, the Ari-Son Megaregion Council became the first binational group recognized by the League as an official affiliate group.

Former Congressman Jim Kolbe, now a consultant with Capitol Strategies, led a discussion on extending the Border Crossing Card zone to the entire state

of Arizona. Border Crossing Card holders are low-risk travelers who have been pre-screened for frequent travel in the U.S. Currently the card limits them to 75-miles of travel. Kolbe says allowing them to travel to places like the Grand Canyon would add \$181 million to the state economy the first year.



“It is also actually big savings for Customs and Border Patrol, because they (wouldn’t) have to process each of these people as they come through the border,” he told reporters. 



The panel, “Preparing the Workforce for the Future: Are We Ready?” noted that there are good jobs at all levels of education. Recognizing what companies need and supplying that talent can be a little trickier. The group discussed the importance of staying on top of trends in order to stay “nimble” and responsive to businesses looking to expand or relocate. Panelists included (left to right) Christine Mackay, Economic Development Director, City of Phoenix; Dr. Ian Roark, Vice President of Workforce Development, Pima Community College; Trevor Stokes, Workforce Program Manager, Arizona Office of Economic Opportunity; Joel Todd, Superintendent, Cochise Technology District; and Moderator Dennis Hoffman, Professor, Arizona State University.



Decade Five: 2007-2017 (cont. from page 1)

initiatives. The efforts were supported by data provided through MAG's Information Services division.

The committee soon proved itself, and the sunset never came. "I think the Economic Development Committee has been extremely important, not only in building relationships within our own context of the state, but nationally and internationally," says former Avondale Mayor Marie Lopez Rogers, who chaired MAG from 2012-2013.



Former Avondale Mayor Marie Lopez Rogers, MAG Chair, 2012-2013.

Building Bridges With Mexico

Believing that building relationships with Mexico was a key to economic recovery, MAG began partnerships with the Arizona Mexico Commission, the Arizona Commerce Authority, the Greater Phoenix Economic Council, chambers of commerce, and other economic development leaders to improve the dialogue with Mexico. Mayor Rogers also became a champion of MAG efforts to extend the travel zone for low-risk Mexican travelers with Border Crossing Cards, from the current limit of 75 miles to the entire state of Arizona.

Another champion of improving trade relations is Phoenix Mayor Greg Stanton. Since taking office, Mayor Stanton has led 18 trade missions to Mexico.

Mayor Stanton cutting the ribbon at the new trade office in Mexico City.



"We have great products and services to offer the world, and the vast majority of the marketplace is outside of our borders," says Stanton. "So we have to think and act in a more concerted way toward exporting."

In 2014, MAG signed a partnering charter to create the Ari-Son Megaregion to promote dialogue and collaboration between Arizona and Sonora.

Transportation Funding: From Rocky to Reborn

Although MAG leaders had made the difficult decision to cut nearly \$7 billion from the Regional Transportation Program, by no means did transportation progress stop. Major milestones included the Loop 303 connection to I-17 in 2011, the opening of the first section of State Route 24 in 2014, and the start of construction of the South Mountain Freeway in 2016.

In 2012, after a concerted push by Arizona and Nevada, Congress officially designated the I-11 corridor. In 2014, MAG funded a three-year pilot program to place Department of Public Safety troopers at the ADOT Traffic Operations Center, reducing the time taken to clear freeway crashes by nearly an hour. In 2017, MAG completed the I-10/I-17 Corridor Master Plan and the Freight Transportation Plan. Major amendments in 2013 and 2015 paved the way for new light rail corridors in Mesa and south central Phoenix. Between 2001 and 2017, MAG invested \$150 million in bike paths.

But the best news came in April 2017, when the Regional Council moved to add \$1.25 billion back into the regional transportation program. This additional revenue

was due to a combination of improved revenues and cost efficiencies. These efficiencies were identified by MAG staff working with ADOT and the Federal Highway Administration to provide more reliable cost estimates and schedules. When added to the existing program, the investment totaled more than \$5 billion.

The rebalancing marked a well-deserved fork in what had been a rocky economic road.

Partnerships

Partnerships marked MAG's fifth decade. The joint planning efforts among Maricopa, Pinal and Pima counties led to the creation of the Joint Planning Advisory Council in 2009. The EDC expanded its table to include educational institutions, and in 2013, MAG signed a Memorandum of Understanding with the state's universities to support research, innovation and entrepreneurial grant proposals to help the region be more competitive.

MAG grew in other ways. In 2013, the MAG Planning Area Boundary was extended due to the 2010 Census, which updated urbanized areas. The MAG Regional Council amended the By-Laws to recognize the new boundary and welcomed new members from the Town of Florence, City of Maricopa, and Pinal County. The expanded region represents 64 percent of the state's population and 72 percent of the state's tax revenues.

In 2010, MAG worked with ADOT to complete the first fiber connections for the Regional Community Network. The fiber optic network lets safety personnel see video of traffic coming from one city into

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another and provides critical access for public safety agencies. The extra bandwidth also serves to back up the region's 9-1-1 system.

Human Services

Partnerships also were the byword in Human Services planning. Since 1999, the region has been awarded \$374 million to provide permanent housing and services for people who are homeless as part of its "continuum of care" coordinated application process. A number of heat-related deaths in 2005 resulted in the Heat Relief Network, providing places for residents to donate water and for those affected by the heat to seek refuge. Mayor Stanton, who chaired MAG's Continuum of Care Committee from 2005 to 2009, credits MAG's efforts "to change the mindset of this region that we're not going to just **manage** homelessness, but we are going to **end** chronic homelessness in this region."

In efforts to end domestic violence, MAG developed best practices for the region in arresting and prosecuting offenders. In 2017, MAG updated its Regional Plan to End Domestic Violence with 15 strategies and a five-year scope.

In 2013, MAG launched its Age-Friendly Network to connect adults aged 60 and over with meaningful efforts to engage in their communities. The network has since expanded statewide to include nine programs that provide customized services to help older adults stay connected.

In 2015, the programming responsibilities moved to MAG to administer grant funds related to the Federal Transit Administration's Elderly and Persons with Disabilities Transportation Program.

Air Quality

In 2008, the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) established another more stringent ozone standard. In the meantime, the EPA was in the process of reviewing the MAG 2007 Eight-Hour Ozone Plan, which addressed the 1997 standard. The EPA approved that plan and a "redesignation to attainment" request in 2014.

Another major development had to do with dust pollution. After the region challenged an EPA decision in 2010 partially disapproving MAG's dust plan, MAG withdrew the plan. In July 2011, major dust storms rocked the Valley, making the word "haboob" a household name. In 2012, MAG resubmitted its dust plan and provided reams of documentation regarding air quality exceedances caused by the haboobs. In 2014, the EPA approved the 2012 plan, a move celebrated by elected officials. At a press conference, they highlighted the continued air quality improvement in Arizona accomplished through the efforts of MAG, the Arizona Department of Environmental Quality, the Maricopa County Air Quality Department, and industry, business and agricultural stakeholders.

As far as the region's other major pollutant? The region is not only in attainment for carbon monoxide, it is 73 percent below the federal carbon monoxide standard.

"It has taken leadership from all levels of government," says MAG Environmental Director Lindy Bauer. "The cities, the towns, the county, the Arizona Legislature, the governors, state agencies, and the private sector."

Now to the Next 50

What does MAG's history tell us about the future?

"Observing milestones like the 50th anniversary of MAG is a very important and appropriate thing to do," says former Glendale Mayor George Renner. "The foundations that were built 30, 40, 50 years ago are what serve us and support the ongoing efforts today."

MAG Transportation Director Eric Anderson believes change will happen more quickly than ever.

"I think we're going to see, even over the next five or 10 years, more change in transportation than we've seen over the last 50 years," he predicts.

The late Jack DeBolske, who founded MAG, credited elected leaders willing to take risks.

"They were willing to take advice and counsel and then make decisions," said DeBolske. "They weren't afraid to make decisions and take chances...Staff can do a lot, but they can't provide leadership—that just has to come from the elected officials."

MAG Executive Director Dennis Smith, who has been with MAG for 40 of its 50 years, puts it into final perspective.

"The cornerstone for MAG was laid in April 1967. It is remarkable to consider the amount of change our region has experienced in 50 years. The leadership of the elected officials at MAG has consistently risen to the challenge. With the quality of the MAG organization, this region will continue to be a beacon for quality of life and opportunity."

More information and videos celebrating MAG's five decades can be found on our website at:
<http://www.azmag.gov/About-Us/MAGs-50th-Anniversary>



MAG Founder Jack DeBolske



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A Quarterly Newsletter Focusing on Regional Excellence

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Winter 2017-2018 Calendar

November

- 7th 11:30 a.m. Economic Development Committee (Saguaro)
- 8th 9:30 a.m. Intelligent Transportation Systems Committee (Chaparral)
- 8th 10:30 a.m. Systems Management and Operations Study Group (Ironwood)
- 8th 12:00 p.m. Management Committee (Saguaro)
- 9th 10:00 a.m. Public Safety Answering Point Managers Group (Saguaro)
- 9th 1:30 p.m. Human Services Technical Committee (Chaparral)
- 13th 12:00 p.m. Regional Council Executive Committee (Ironwood)
- 14th 10:00 a.m. Transportation Safety 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 10:00 a.m. Human Services and Community Initiatives Committee (Chaparral)
- 16th 1:30 p.m. Technology Advisory Group (Ironwood)
- 21st 1:00 p.m. Active Transportation Committee (Ironwood)
- 21st 2:00 p.m. Transit Committee (Saguaro)
- 23-24 Office Closed - Thanksgiving Holiday
- 27th 1:30 p.m. Maricopa Regional Continuum of Care Board (Ironwood)
- 28th 10:00 a.m. Population Technical Advisory Committee (Chaparral)
- 30th 1:30 p.m. Air Quality Technical Advisory Committee (Saguaro)

December

- 5th 10:00 a.m. Solid Waste Advisory Committee (Ironwood)
- 5th 11:30 a.m. Economic Development Committee (Saguaro)
- 6th 11:30 a.m. Regional Council (Saguaro)
- 7th 10:00 a.m. Transportation Review Committee (Saguaro)
- 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 (Chaparral)
- 13th 10:30 a.m. Systems Management and Operations Study Group (Ironwood)
- 14th 1:30 p.m. Human Services Technical Committee (Chaparral)
- 18th 1:30 p.m. Maricopa Regional Continuum of Care Board (Ironwood)
- 19th 1:00 p.m. Active Transportation Committee (Ironwood)
- 19th 2:00 p.m. Transit Committee (Saguaro)
- 20th 9:30 a.m. Maricopa Regional Continuum of Care Committee (Ironwood)
- 25th Office Closed - Christmas Holiday

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.

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

January

- 1st Office Closed - New Year's Holiday
- 3rd 1:30 p.m. Standard Specifications and Details Committee (Ironwood)
- 9th 11:30 a.m. Economic Development Committee (Saguaro)
- 9th 1:00 p.m. Street Committee (Ironwood)
- 10th 10:00 a.m. Intelligent Transportation Systems Committee (Chaparral)
- 10th 12:00 p.m. Management Committee (Saguaro)
- 15th Office Closed - Martin Luther King Jr. Holiday
- 17th 12:00 p.m. Transportation Policy Committee (Saguaro)
- 18th 9:30 a.m. Transit Committee (Saguaro)
- 18th 1:30 p.m. Technology Advisory Group (Ironwood)
- 22nd 12:00 p.m. Regional Council Executive Committee (Ironwood)
- 22nd 1:30 p.m. Maricopa Regional Continuum of Care Board (Ironwood)
- 23rd 10:00 a.m. Transportation Safety Committee (Ironwood)
- 25th 1:30 p.m. Air Quality Technical Advisory Committee (Saguaro)
- 31st 11:30 a.m. Regional Council (Saguaro)

Bike racks are available at the entrance to the parking garage. Newsletter is available at www.azmag.gov.

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.