



Executive Director's Report

At the January meeting, the decision was made to establish a Leadership Participation Subcommittee. This followed a frank discussion in September regarding the appointment of member agency elected officials to leadership positions at MAG. Our elected officials have always found ways to listen to each other to make the best decisions for the region. I am confident that an accommodation on this issue will be achieved by the subcommittee.

An update also was provided on one of the biggest issues facing MAG in the years ahead, the extension of the half-cent sales tax for transportation approved by voters as Proposition 400. The tax brings in \$400 million a year and is the lifeblood of our freeways, transit system and arterial streets across the region. The leadership is committed to putting transportation first as the core business of MAG and the future of the region's economy.

In addition to transportation, MAG also addresses the compelling human needs of the region, foremost among them homelessness. There are many elements of this issue, but the dominant need is for affordable housing. Without meeting that critical housing demand, the problem will increase. As noted by staff, housing officials in Los Angeles mentioned they are in the midst of an extraordinary homelessness crisis, and caution that Phoenix is where Los Angeles was on the issue 20 years ago. MAG and its member agencies are advised to take an active role in addressing homelessness to prevent it from becoming an intractable problem. The Regional Council asked the panel spearheading MAG's homeless efforts to come back before members again, for a briefing on results from MAG's 2018 Point in Time homeless street count.

We hear examples at every Regional Council meeting of the achievements of MAG as a region. These accomplishments demonstrate how well local governments working together can resolve issues for the long-term and the greater good. It is a tribute to the cooperation of local governments, our member agencies, and an outstanding staff.

For more information, please contact Dennis Smith, MAG Executive Director, (602) 254-6300.

Meeting Report for Wednesday, January 31, 2018

Action Items



Update on Legal Claims Related to the Maricopa Region 9-1-1 System and Settlement Costs

The Regional Council took action to resolve the costs for settling legal claims against the Maricopa Region's 9-1-1 emergency service system. The settlement is in response

to a lawsuit filed on February 11, 2016, by the National Association of the Deaf, the Arizona Center for Disability Law, and a number of individual plaintiffs against the State of Arizona, Maricopa County, City of Phoenix, City of Tempe, the Maricopa Association of Governments and the City of Surprise. The lawsuit alleged disability discrimination under Title II of the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) and the Rehabilitation Act for failing to provide Text-To-9-1-1 services to persons who are deaf or hard of hearing. Each defendant denied the claim, and maintained that the TTY (teletypewriter) 9-1-1 emergency services currently provided in Arizona are in compliance with all state and federal legal requirements. In April 2017, the Executive Committee directed MAG's attorneys to seek a settlement. In May 2017, the Regional Council approved \$180,000 for software to implement Text-To-9-1-1 in the MAG region. Installation, implementation and training of Text-To-9-1-1 is in progress with a launch date of April 2, 2018. Mediation between the plaintiffs and the defendants in December 2017 resulted in an agreement that includes stipulations for a marketing campaign, monitoring of the system, and plaintiffs' attorney fees. The recommended amount to settle litigation is \$152,000, to be allocated to affected MAG member agencies, based on population, over the next three fiscal years. Members of the Regional Council approved the settlement and funding will be placed in the FY 2019 MAG Unified Planning Work Program and Annual Budget, which will be considered for approval by the Regional Council in May 2018.

For more information, please contact Nathan Pryor, MAG Government Relations Manager, (602) 254-6300.

Formation of a MAG Regional Council Leadership Participation Subcommittee

The Regional Council approved the formation of a new subcommittee to address the appointment of MAG member agency elected officials to leadership positions at MAG. At the September meeting, a lengthy discussion was held regarding the challenges of finding a way for Pinal County members to be considered for leadership positions while maintaining a geographical balance and fairness among all MAG's member agencies. The item featured dialogue on the history of MAG leadership, regional equity, and the need for unity moving forward to extend Proposition 400 funding to continue to improve the region's transportation infrastructure.

The discussion concluded that more study and discussion was needed. To address this issue, members approved a subcommittee of the Regional Council be formed to discuss the policy for MAG leadership participation. Suggested appointments to the Regional Council Leadership Participation Subcommittee are listed below.

Mayor Jackie Meck, Buckeye, Chair
Mayor John Giles, Mesa
Mayor Michael LeVault, Youngtown
Mayor Lana Mook, El Mirage

Mayor Christian Price, City of Maricopa
Mayor Thomas Schoaf, Litchfield Park

For more information, please contact Dennis Smith, MAG Executive Director, (602) 254-6300.

Ozone Boundary Designations

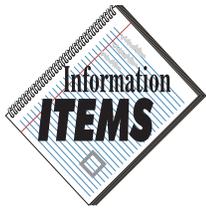
Members of the Regional Council made a recommendation regarding the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) nonattainment area designations for the more stringent 2015 ozone standard. The approved action recommends that the Governor request EPA to delay Arizona's ozone boundary designations for up to one year in accordance with provisions of the Clean Air Act. In December 2017, the EPA sent a letter to the Governor with the agency's preliminary response to the state's recommendations for designated ozone boundaries for the new, stricter 2015 ozone standard. The letter indicates that EPA intends to agree with one of the state's recommendations for this region. That recommendation expands the current nonattainment area boundary to include the Queen Valley monitor in Pinal County, and the Tonto National Monument monitor in Gila County. While overall there has been a downward trend in the ozone concentrations, these two monitors remain slightly over the 0.070 parts per million standard. Based upon the 2017 ozone season, the Queen Valley monitor is at 0.073 and the Tonto monitor is at 0.072 parts per million. Those results are heavily influenced by background ozone due to natural sources which cannot be controlled, such as vegetation and trees, wildfires, severe storms, rural location and higher elevation.

Staff noted that if the boundary is expanded, there will be tighter controls on business and industry in the area and transportation conformity requirements will apply. These requirements could have a negative impact on economic development in Pinal County.

States may submit additional information to EPA by February 28, 2018. EPA intends to finalize the designations by April 30, 2018. The Regional Council's recommendation for the Governor to request the delay will allow the downward trend in ozone concentrations to continue, and allow EPA to consider the most up-to-date, complete, and sufficient monitor data for the ozone boundary designation.

The recommendation comes as Arizona continues to challenge the EPA's controversial new standard as impossible to meet because of naturally occurring high levels of ozone. A federal lawsuit seeking to block implementation is on hold.

For more information, please contact Lindy Bauer, MAG Environmental Director, (602) 254-6300.



Information Items

Update on Proposition 400 Extension Tasks and Discussions

Members of the Regional Council heard an update on some of the issues related to a potential future extension of Proposition 400, the region's transportation sales tax. Staff provided a history of the Transportation Policy Committee (TPC), including its formation, composition, and role in the development of Proposition 400. The TPC was created in 2002 and held its first meeting in September of that year. The TPC was codified in state statute in 2003, and was tasked with developing and recommending approval of the Regional Transportation Plan. The TPC approved the plan in November 2003.

Staff noted that Proposition 400 will expire December 31, 2025. Total collection expected by the end of the 20-year tax is \$9 billion. If the tax were extended in a "Proposition 500" scenario for another 20 years at the same one-half cent level, it would generate an estimated \$13-15 billion. Significant projects will be in need of funding, such as State Route 30, as well as consideration of the reconstruction of Interstate 17, freight mobility, and repair and rehabilitation of arterial streets that carry 60 percent of the region's traffic. Also discussed was the importance of additional transportation funding and potential interim funding increases, such as raising the gas tax, which has remained the same since 1991. Additional policy discussions will need to take place on issues such as transit demand for more frequent service bus routes, light rail expansion, and driverless vehicles.

Staff informed the Regional Council that work in progress includes a Regional Commuter Rail System Study Update, a Regional Transit Framework Study Update, continued analysis of the impact of technology, development of long-term revenue projections, and development of benefit to cost analyses. Also noted was the importance of developing a plan that will resonate with voters, and recognizing that public input in the process is critical to success.

For more information, please contact Eric Anderson, MAG Transportation Director, (602) 254-6300.

Regional Plan to End Homelessness - Community Engagement

MAG staff and the Regional Continuum of Care Board co-chairs returned to the Regional Council to present an update on how homelessness is impacting cities and towns throughout the region. They also addressed best practices being implemented by local governments to address homelessness.

Staff reported that MAG's 2017 annual homeless count shows that while the total number of homeless overall is staying flat, around 6,000, the number of people on the street is rising every year. The housing gap is growing larger, and the unsheltered

population is increasing in nearly every community in the region. There is a critical need for rental assistance to provide permanent housing, more affordable housing, and more landlords who will work with housing vouchers. Newly awarded federal funding will provide \$25.89 million dollars to the region for housing and services, but that money is not enough to meet the needs of the community.

A survey was sent in November to cities and towns requesting best practices in addressing the homeless issue. Eighteen communities responded and 10 of those communities are funding homeless services. In addition, 15 communities train law enforcement officers in best practices for engaging with people experiencing homelessness, 10 ensure outreach services are connected to housing, nine partner with schools, and eight align workforce and homeless programs.

In February, a six-month systemwide analysis will begin to assess homeless resources and track progress in gaining housing and employment. Staff noted that the need for a coordinated, collaborative approach by all partners is greater than ever. The Regional Council asked the panel to return with results of the 2018 homeless count held in January.

For more information, please contact Brande Mead, MAG Human Services Manager, (602) 254-6300.

Tiny Homes Program for Homeless Veterans

Elizabeth Singleton, president of Build Us H.O.P.E., gave an overview of her tiny homes program to increase options in affordable housing. Build Us H.O.P.E. is a nonprofit organization that offers housing programs primarily targeted to veterans, persons with serious mental illness, persons with a disability, or the chronically homeless. Three building projects are located in downtown Phoenix, with plans to eventually provide 1,200 sustainable tiny homes in small plots of land across the Valley. Regional Council member Michael Farrar from Carefree is a volunteer for the program, which also aims to provide services and create supportive communities.

For more information, please contact Valerie Day, MAG Executive Assistant/Policy Agenda Coordinator, (602) 254-6300.

Legislative Update

Staff reported that Policy AZ has been hired to represent MAG on state legislative issues. John MacDonald of Policy AZ gave a brief overview of current legislation, including two transportation bills that could potentially give MAG the opportunity to add an extension to Proposition 400 funding.

MAG staff provided a brief update on three federal legislative issues of interest. Details are emerging on the President's infrastructure proposal. About \$200 billion dollars in potential transportation funding could come from the plan.

House Bill 4730, the Clean Air Contingency Measures Act of 2018, would allow early implementation of contingency measures to address air quality issues by amending the Clean Air Act. The bill allows the region to continue implementing backup measures before a violation of standards occurs, which in turn protects the health of residents. However, the MAG region is under the jurisdiction of the Ninth Circuit Court of Appeals, which disallows early implementation. That could mean potential disapproval of the contingency measures in MAG air quality plans and could trigger federal sanctions and a negative impact on economic development.

The initial approach was to keep this legislative effort focused in Arizona. The bill's sponsor, Representative Martha McSally, sees an opportunity for support by other affected Ninth Circuit Court states and regions. The measure is co-sponsored by Representative David Schweikert, Representative Andy Biggs, Representative Paul Gosar and Representative Darrell Issa from California. MAG staff encouraged elected officials to voice their support of this amendment to Arizona's congressional delegation.

Efforts continue to extend the border crossing card zone to the entire state. Currently, the card allows screened Mexican visitors to travel 75 miles into Arizona, but extending the zone would have a \$181 million annual positive economic impact to the state. The Tourism and Shopping Initiative is being drafted as a three or five-year pilot project. Legislation has yet to be introduced, but Representative McSally is the lead supporter and member agencies are asked to thank her for her assistance.

For more information, please contact Nathan Pryor, MAG Government Relations Manager, (602) 254-6300.

Next Meeting

The next meeting of the MAG Regional Council will be held on Wednesday, February 28, 2018, at 11:30 a.m. at the MAG offices, 302 N. 1st Avenue, Phoenix, second floor, Saguaro Room. Agenda items will include an amendment to the FY 2018-2022 MAG Transportation Improvement Program for Early Right of Way Acquisition in the SR-30/Tres Rios Freeway Corridor, and discussion of the FY 2019 MAG Unified Planning Work Program and Annual Budget. Additional agenda items are pending.

For more information, please contact Dennis Smith, MAG Executive Director, (602) 254-6300.