



## Executive Director's Report

Upon hearing the update of the freeway system at the February meeting, it was evident that we are following in the footsteps of those before us. The regional freeway system took many years to develop, and the positive report from staff on the progress being made continues that success. The freeway system is the backbone of our economy, and the decisions made in the past required our elected officials to think regionally. It is important to remember the improvements made in one jurisdiction benefit all communities. That spirit of cooperation needs to be continued as we approach Proposition 500, the extension of the half cent sales tax, which is the future of the region's transportation system and the economy.

Excellent progress is being made on the state's largest construction project, the Loop 202/South Mountain Freeway. The City of Phoenix is planning a high-tech corridor along the north/south segment complete with modern business parks for advanced manufacturing, business services, and emerging industries. More job gains in the West Valley will hopefully begin to address the area's mobility issues, in which nearly half of the workforce commutes to other parts of the Valley each day.

We also heard a report from the Maricopa County Attorney on expanding the community based prosecution approach, which provides for closer partnerships among prosecutors, law enforcement, business and neighborhood leaders. This increased focus allows for earlier identification of individuals or unique local circumstances impacting public safety, which in turn helps strengthen and protect our community. Crime in the region is decreasing and that is an important economic development message for us to deliver.

Finally, staff showed an example of how the big data collected here at MAG is available for member agencies to boost economic growth in their communities. This new data tool can be repurposed and customized to business-specific development. Member agencies looking to attract large development projects can call on MAG for assistance. It is another demonstration of how working collaboratively makes this a vibrant, dynamic and attractive region.

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



## Meeting Report for Wednesday, February 28, 2018

### Action Items

#### Update on Regional Freeway and Highway Program and Material Change Request

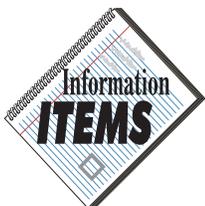
MAG staff provided an update on the implementation of the Regional Freeway and Highway Program. The Arizona Department of Transportation (ADOT), with MAG assistance, continues work on 19 of the 37 projects in the rebalanced program approved by the Regional Council last June. Several projects were highlighted, including adding lanes on Interstate 10 (I-10) from State Route 85 (SR-85) to Verrado Way, reconstruction of the Central Avenue overcrossing on Interstate 17 (I-17), and adding lanes on Loop 101/Pima Freeway from I-17 to Pima Road. In 2018 and 2019, ADOT expects to assign approximately \$732 million in construction projects. When combined with the Loop 202/South Mountain Freeway project, more than \$1.6 billion in infrastructure construction is either underway or will be underway in the MAG region.

Staff also noted the continued high level of coordination with ADOT and the Federal Highway Administration to execute these projects. ADOT continues to meet internal targets for contract execution and project delivery, and MAG is working with ADOT to develop monitoring systems that would continually track progress, budget and risks.

The Regional Council approved material cost changes to the I-10/Papago new traffic interchange at Fairway Drive in the amount of \$6 million. The ADOT request is for additional right-of-way needs and unforeseen structural walls to avoid recent development constructed along Fairway Drive next to I-10. The approval includes amendments to the FY 2018-2022 MAG Transportation Improvement Program and 2040 Regional Transportation Plan.

The next update of the program to the Regional Council will be in April 2018.

**For more information, please contact Bob Hazlett, Senior Engineering Project Manager, (602) 254-6300.**



### Information Items

#### Community Based Prosecution Model

Members of the Regional Council heard an overview of the criminal justice system from the Maricopa County Attorney's Office (MCAO), and specifically on the newly expanded community based prosecution approach. Maricopa County Attorney Bill Montgomery discussed how crime can vary greatly from one neighborhood or area to another within the county's vast 9,200 square mile jurisdiction. In October 2017, the community based prosecution division expanded from four geographically organized bureaus to eight to address these regional differences. Within each bureau, prosecutors

work in partnership with local law enforcement agencies and community members to share data, identify crime trends and prosecute offenses. By creating more bureaus covering a smaller area, MCAO can more effectively engage the community's needs and have a positive impact on public safety.

Information also was presented about drug trafficking, opioid use, sentencing offenders and the prison population. Overall crime, including murder and property crime, are at their lowest rates in 50 years.

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

### **Arizona Commerce Authority and MAG Collaborate on Data Tool**

MAG staff updated the Regional Council on a new data tool that showcases the region and the state for economic development. Working with the Arizona Commerce Authority, MAG provided technical assistance to develop a unique online interactive mapping tool for customized business attraction. The tool can highlight a wide variety of information and amenities in any specific community, area or region, ranging from higher education and daycare options to commute times and hiking trails.

Staff noted the tool was used successfully to help draw Nikola Motor Company, maker of zero-emissions commercial trucks, to Buckeye. The company will establish its manufacturing operations and relocate its headquarters there, bringing 2,000 jobs and a \$1 billion capital investment.

**For more information, please contact Anubhav Bagley, MAG Information Services Manager, (602) 254-6300.**

### **FY 2019 MAG Unified Planning Work Program and Annual Budget**

Each year, staff develops the MAG Unified Planning Work Program and Annual Budget. The Work Program is reviewed annually by federal agencies and approved by the Regional Council in May. Staff presented an overview of the proposed new projects and associated estimated costs for FY 2019. A review of the detailed draft Work Program and Budget is scheduled for early spring.

**For more information, please contact Veronica Martinez, MAG Fiscal Services Manager, (602) 254-6300.**

### **Next Meeting**

The next meeting of the MAG Regional Council will be held on Wednesday, March 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 update on construction for the Loop 202/South Mountain Freeway and planning for autonomous vehicles. Additional agenda items are pending.

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