



Executive Director's Report

Carl Jung, a famous Swiss psychiatrist, is quoted as saying, "You meet your destiny on the road you take to avoid it." While I have tried to avoid retirement, life has a way of meeting you head on, and I need to be with my "other" family now. I want to thank the Regional Council and staff for the tremendous tribute I received at our March meeting. It meant a great deal to me. Forty-one years of service is hard to summarize. One constant has been the efforts of our elected officials to lead our organization and to take risks to make MAG a great regional planning agency.

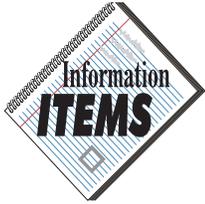
The evidence of our collective success is all around us. We have a world-class freeway system born out of two successful transportation elections, including Proposition 300 in 1985 and Proposition 400 in 2004. We have spearheaded nationally-renowned processes in transportation, air quality, population, employment and data-driven economic development initiatives. Just this week we saw the implementation of Text to 9-1-1 in the region as a result of MAG's efforts, which also brought the first 9-1-1 service to the region 35 years ago. We have seen significant progress in meeting the human needs of the region, developing best practices in ending homelessness and domestic violence. In 2014, MAG was recognized by Transportation for America as an "Innovative MPO," serving as a national model for progressive metropolitan planning organizations.

Over 41 years, I have been honored to have worked with 25 of 26 Regional Council chairs and I have been blessed to have formed many rewarding relationships with elected officials, city managers, business leaders, city staff, and MAG staff. I will always treasure the time shared, lessons learned, and friendships formed during my tenure.

I want to thank the Regional Council—both current and past councils—for all of the commitment and energy you have put into the MAG planning effort. The one unending lesson learned at MAG is that we can succeed only if we work together. There are many challenges ahead, especially as we prepare the next 20-year transportation plan. By coming to the MAG table and discussing both our differences and our shared goals, we can arrive at a plan that will be successful for this region. The MAG member agencies own MAG. I am confident that local government officials will continue to lead this region into the future.

Thank you.

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

**Meeting Report for Wednesday, March 28, 2018****Information Items****Resolution of Support for the Rio Salado Project**

The Regional Council passed a resolution of support for the Rio Salado Project, a multigenerational plan to transform 45 miles of the Salt River bottom from Buckeye to the East Valley. The Rio Salado plan will revitalize the river corridor, and enhance the area's quality of life, economic development, environmental impact, and historical importance. MAG member agencies that adjoin the river are working with Arizona State University and other groups to develop the corridor, along with key support from Senator John McCain and former Representative Ed Pastor.

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

Glendale Puerto Peñasco (Rocky Point) Mexico Initiative

Glendale Mayor Jerry Weiers presented details on a goodwill gesture across the Mexico border initiated by city leaders and carried out by the Glendale business community. What started as an invitation to a baseball game resulted in a unique relationship between the cities of Glendale and Puerto Peñasco (Rocky Point), Mexico, a popular tourist destination for Arizonans. The City of Glendale auctioned off two of their retired police vehicles to the Glendale Chamber of Commerce, who then organized a group of Glendale businesses to refurbish the vehicles for delivery to Rocky Point. The "Friends Helping Friends" initiative provided assistance to a community in need without using taxpayer dollars, and helped further partnerships with Mexico.

For more information, please contact Susana Martinez, MAG Regional Economic Development Specialist, (602) 254-6300.

Development of the 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 outlined the budget document, which contains an overview, program narratives and associated estimated costs for FY 2019. The budget document is about 60 percent complete, with a \$31.7 million operating budget for MAG.

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

Legislative Update

MAG staff provided updates on several state and federal legislative issues of interest. Senate Bill (SB) 1147 would allow the state's rural counties to ask their voters to consider up to a one-cent sales tax for road construction and repair. The bill also would allow for a vote in Pima and Maricopa Counties to extend the counties' transportation sales taxes before they expire. The Senate bill has amendments attached regarding

conformity that could be problematic. House Bill (HB) 2162 is a “cleaner” version of the bill and has MAG support.

MAG is also closely tracking HB 2514, which shifts monies from the Highway User Revenue Fund (HURF) from urban to rural areas. The bill could have a \$5.5 million negative impact on the MAG region.

On the federal level, a setback was experienced for two MAG supported bills on extending the border crossing zone to the entire state, and early implementation of contingency measures to address air quality issues. It was hoped the Tourism and Shopping Initiative, with a \$181 million annual positive economic impact to the state, could be attached to the FY 2018 Omnibus Appropriations Bill that was passed in March by Congress. The legislation did not make it into the bill, nor did HR 4730, the Clean Air Contingency Measures Act of 2018. MAG’s federal legislative consultants, Capitol Strategies, is determining what happened and how best to focus future efforts.

The 2020 Census is another issue of concern. MAG has coordinated the region’s census efforts for years, but there is now discussion of adding a question to the form on U.S. citizenship, which has not been asked since 1950. Adding this question could have a significant impact on Arizona on federal funding for population growth and congressional representation.

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, April 25, 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 the 2018 Point in Time Homeless Count, Material Cost Change Requests for Regional Highway and Freeway projects, and a status report on 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.