



## Executive Director's Report

A motorcycle safety awareness presentation during our October meeting reminded me once again of our broad scope at MAG. This scope includes our role not only as a metropolitan planning organization, but also as a council of governments. Transportation safety certainly falls within our planning responsibilities, and this presentation was scheduled at the request of Glendale Mayor Jerry Weiers, who recognized that other MAG member agencies could benefit from learning about the programs offered by the Arizona Motorcycle Safety and Awareness Foundation.

The MAG Regional Council provides an excellent forum to communicate vital information to all MAG member agencies. The safety presentation focused on efforts to reduce motorcycle fatalities in the region, and was a good example of a successful program that could be implemented throughout the Valley. In a similar vein, several MAG staff members and I recently were invited by Mayor Jenn Daniels to attend a Gilbert council meeting in which the Town provided MAG a proclamation supporting Domestic Violence Awareness Month. Before the formal council meeting, it was impressive to see how Gilbert recognized good citizenship among elementary and high school students. We saw numerous young people getting recognition for their civic efforts. This is an example of how our future leadership is embodied in our youth, and representative of the types of best practices that can be shared among our membership.

Our October meeting also served to demonstrate how MAG members work together to benefit the residents of our region. After months of work by staff and MAG technical and policy committees, the Regional Council approved the projects to be considered for an available \$787 million in funding for the MAG Regional Freeway and Highway Program (*see summary below*). The funding is available as part of a rebalancing effort based on improved sales tax collections and revised cost opinions for existing projects.

Prioritizing funding among a host of worthy projects is never an easy task. We experienced true regional cooperation in arriving at a list that will best serve our transportation system and the people who use it.

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

## Meeting Report for Wednesday, October 26, 2016

### Action Items



#### Proposed Changes to the MAG By-Laws

The Regional Council heard an update on needed amendments to the MAG By-Laws. Staff reported that in May, a Final Rule was posted in the Federal Register outlining the provisions for transit representation on the Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO) board, which at MAG is the Regional Council. The Final Rule is consistent with MAG's submitted comments from 2014 that one representative be allowed to serve in two roles: as the transit representative and as a representative of a member agency. In order to comply with the Final Rule, the MAG By-Laws needed to be amended.

Staff also proposed a technical amendment to the By-Laws. With the passage of Proposition 400, the range of issue areas for the Citizens Transportation Oversight Committee (CTOC) has broadened beyond the freeway system to the larger Regional Transportation Plan. A technical amendment to the MAG By-Laws was requested for consideration to more accurately reflect the role of CTOC. Staff reported that there was a 15-day public review period. The Regional Council approved the amendments to the By-Laws.

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

#### Regional Freeway and Highway Program - 2016 Rebalancing

MAG staff provided an update on projects to be considered in the rebalancing of the Regional Freeway and Highway Program. The rebalancing includes about \$787 million in available funding now, based on improved sales tax collections and new cost opinions for existing projects. Staff provided an update on recommended projects based on previous discussions by the MAG policy committees. The projects were reviewed based on their readiness, as well as whether they were originally approved by voters under the Proposition 400 half-cent sales tax extension.

Projects that are currently funded in the program that might be moved up for earlier construction are:

- Adding lanes to Loop 101/Price Freeway from I-17 to Shea Boulevard.
- I-10/I-17 "Spine" Corridor improvements, such as reconstruction and adding lanes.
- Adding lanes on I-10 from Loop 202 to Riggs Road.
- New freeway construction of Loop 303 from I-10 to MC-85/SR-30.

- Addition of one lane in each direction on Loop 101 from US-60 to Loop 202.
- Reconstruction of two traffic interchanges, including a traffic interchange/safety project at I-17 and Happy Valley Road, and one at I-17 and Pinnacle Peak Road.
- Build a traffic interchange at I-10 and Fairway Drive in Avondale.

Other recommended projects that could be brought into the program include:

- Adding one lane in each direction on Loop 303 from US-60/Grand Avenue to Lake Pleasant Parkway.
- First-phase construction (interim) of SR-30 (I-10 Reliever) from Avondale Boulevard to Loop 202/South Mountain Freeway.
- Adding lanes and reconstructing traffic interchanges on I-10/Papago Freeway from SR-85 to Verrado Way.
- Constructing new Lindsay Road traffic interchange on Loop 202/Santan Freeway.
- Adding lanes and improving interchanges on Loop 101 from I-10 to I-17.
- Construct Olive Avenue interchange at Loop 303 freeway.
- Reconstruct inbound frontage road along US-60/Grand Avenue in El Mirage.

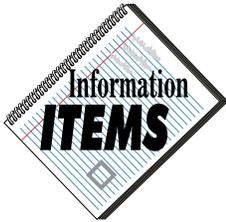
Next steps will be determining the order in which projects will be built and funded.

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

### **Ozone Boundary Designations**

On August 31, 2016, the MAG Regional Council took action to recommend that the Governor request that the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) delay the ozone boundary designation for up to one year in accordance with the Clean Air Act, since the Queen Valley and Tonto National Monument monitors are at 0.071 parts per million, just slightly over the 0.070 parts per million standard. A one-year delay would allow the overall 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 Governor transmitted a letter to EPA in September recommending that, based upon 2013-2015 data, the current boundary be expanded to include the Queen Valley monitor in Pinal County and the Tonto monitor in Gila County, along with three other suggested data-contingent alternatives. These alternatives would not expand the boundary if the Queen Valley and/or the Tonto monitors meet the standard based upon more recent data. By October 1, 2017, EPA is scheduled to finalize the designations.

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



## Information Items

### Report on the Arizona Motorcycle Safety and Awareness Foundation

The Arizona Motorcycle Safety and Awareness Foundation (AMSAF) was formed in 2011. Its goal is to help reduce motorcycle crashes and fatalities in Arizona by promoting safety and awareness. AMSAF works closely with the Governor's Office of Highway Safety, the Arizona Department of Transportation, healthcare and insurance industries, local businesses, and communities.

Representatives from the foundation stated that motorcycle fatalities are on the increase in Arizona. AMSAF works with the local police and the Department of Public Safety to award scholarships each month to get individuals in Arizona into motorcycle training classes. One of AMSAF's goals is to get the word out on safety training programs. In 2015 there were 134 motorcycle fatalities, and the number of motorcycle license registrations has increased to nearly 200,000. The organization promotes weekly safety tips through the media. Those interested in learning more about the AMSAF can visit the website at [www.amsaf.org](http://www.amsaf.org), or call 1-888-951-3732.

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

## Next Meeting

Please note that the next meeting of the MAG Regional Council will be in December due to the Thanksgiving holiday. It will be held on Wednesday, December 7, 2016, at 11:30 a.m. at the MAG offices, 302 N. 1st Avenue, Phoenix, second floor, Saguaro Room. Agenda items are pending.

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