



Executive Director's Report

Among the major topics on the agenda for our May meeting was the 2018 MAG Unified Planning Work Program and Annual Budget, which was passed unanimously by the Regional Council. This budget represents the priorities and projects for the year, which are determined by working closely with MAG member agencies. We work to make the process transparent, with detailed updates that begin each January to give the Regional Council time to consider the many elements of the work program.

Along with the budget, MAG also is responsible for oversight of \$5.1 billion in the Transportation Improvement Program. When you add in the recently approved rebalancing effort, the figure rises to more than \$7 billion in funding for the region's transportation program. These complex projects, which must also meet federal and regulatory guidelines, require a highly professional staff to make sure we meet our responsibilities to the public. As an organization, we never take for granted the support of MAG member agencies in giving us the ability to recruit, hire and maintain high quality staff.

One example of the complexity of issues facing MAG was the discussion by the Regional Council of the legislation needed as a result of the denial by the Ninth Circuit Court for early implementation of air quality contingency measures. We have been working on legislative solutions to address this issue. Upholding of the ruling could have very negative consequences for economic development and possibly result in the loss of federal funding. Implementing these contingency air quality measures early has been a long-standing Environmental Protection Agency policy for over 20 years. The Regional Council recognized the importance of this issue and unanimously supported addressing this at the Congressional level.

Another significant action by the Regional Council involved the approval of funding for the text-to-9-1-1 option in the Maricopa Region. Since 1985, MAG, along with the City of Phoenix as administrator, has coordinated 9-1-1 service to the region. Now there is the technical support to provide this service to those who cannot safely call 9-1-1 due to the nature of their emergency, or because they have a speech disability, are hard of hearing, or are deaf. The Regional Council took the action for the safety of our residents.

The actions above demonstrate our member agencies' support of MAG's

commitment to excellence. MAG’s ability to be nimble and address issues in an expeditious manner benefits the residents of the region, creating a safer, healthier and happier community for all. We are honored to have the trust and support of the entire body of those who make up MAG—our member agencies.

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



Meeting Report for Wednesday, May 24, 2017

Action Items

Text-to-9-1-1 Approved in Maricopa Region

The Regional Council unanimously approved the expansion of Maricopa County’s 9-1-1 system, funding a new option that allows cell phone users to send emergency texts to 9-1-1. As noted above, text-to-9-1-1 would be a new service for those who cannot safely call 9-1-1 due to the nature of their emergency, or because they have speech or hearing issues. The approval means new software will be installed at 9-1-1 centers throughout the region within the next year.

Staff noted the text-to-9-1-1 software option has an initial cost of \$150,000 and \$44,000 per year in subsequent years. The first-year cost will be funded by MAG reserves, and ongoing costs for the software would be paid by the cities and towns that belong to MAG as part of their annual assessments.

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

Vitalyst Health Foundation’s Year of Healthy Communities

Regional Council members voted to approve support of the Vitalyst Foundation’s 2017 Year of Healthy Communities. The initiative is dedicated to an expanded understanding of the factors that contribute to improving health everywhere we live, work, learn and play.

Suzanne Pfister, President and CEO of Vitalyst Health Foundation, stated that research shows the health of the community where you live is one of the most significant factors in your overall health, well-being and longevity. Ms. Pfister noted there is a 14-year gap in life expectancy between people who live in north Scottsdale and people who live in south Phoenix, meaning a person’s zip code may be far more important than a person’s genetic code.

Buckeye Councilmember Michelle Hess, Chair of the MAG Human Services Initiatives Committee, added that the Vitalyst Health Foundation can provide technical assistance to cities and towns who support the Year of Healthy

Communities, and local policies also can be implemented to enhance the well-being and health of those communities. More than 60 partners have joined together to focus on integrating the viewpoints, talents and work of diverse sectors in creating healthy, thriving spaces and places. More information is available at www.livewell.org.

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

City of Avondale Request for a Second Deferral for the Construction Phase of the Agua Fria Multi-Use Path Project

The Regional Council agreed to grant the City of Avondale's request for a second deferral of the construction phase I portion of its bicycle and pedestrian shared path, deferring the project from FY 2017 to FY 2019.

Avondale Engineering Project Manager Chris Hamilton told Council members the request is due to delays necessary to address extended timelines for the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers 408 permit process, and coordination with the Maricopa County Flood Control District to ensure the proposed project is compliant with all guidelines. Mr. Hamilton said the city is committed to the project, has the funding in place, and is confident it will stay on the new schedule.

The City of Avondale's first deferral of this project was approved by the Regional Council in August of 2015, and MAG guidelines on federally funded projects require the agency to show that the need for a second deferral was beyond their control.

For more information, please contact Teri Kennedy, MAG Transportation Improvement Program Manager, at (602) 254-6300.

Acceptance of Final Recommendations for Interstate 10/Interstate 17 Corridor Master Plan

The I-10/I-17 corridor is known as the 'Spine,' as it serves as the backbone of the region's transportation system with more than 40 percent of all freeway traffic using a portion of it every day. The Regional Council unanimously approved the final recommendations for the I-10/I-17 corridor master plan, which will improve travel flows by minimizing impact to adjacent properties and businesses and by establishing the shortest construction schedules possible.

The main recommendations of the corridor master plan include improving safety by modernizing design; adding a minimum of one lane in each direction; expanding the managed capacity along I-10, from I-17 to US-60 and on I-17, from the I-10 split to Loop 101; improving or reconstructing 24 of the 31 traffic

interchanges; adding five direct High Occupancy Vehicle ramps and new interchanges, and enhancing bicycle/pedestrian connections at 20 locations, including nine new structures.

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

Approval of the Draft FY 2018 MAG Unified Planning Work Program and Annual Budget and Member Dues and Assessments

The MAG Regional Council approved the FY 2018 MAG Unified Planning Work Program and Annual Budget. The FY 2018 budget, including funding that is carried forward from the prior fiscal year, totals \$32.7 million, for a budget of \$26.7 million, with about \$15.8 million in operating expenses. Staff noted that a capital expenditure of approximately \$500,000 was added to the annual budget for modifications to the 7th floor of the MAG building to accommodate a staff move from the current space on the first floor.

Staff reported that since the May 15, 2017, MAG Executive Committee meeting, a project that was approved by the MAG Regional Council at the April 26, 2017, meeting was inadvertently not included in the draft work program and budget. This project, Bicycle and Pedestrian Master Plans and First Time Updates, in the amount of \$600,000, will be incorporated into the final FY 2018 MAG Unified Planning Work Program and Annual Budget. This project will be listed as an on-call project. Funding for this project is coming from Transportation Alternatives funds previously approved by the MAG Regional Council.

Staff noted that due to the complexity of the budget, the draft Work Program is presented incrementally to MAG policy committees from January through April. In January, MAG provided the draft Dues and Assessments. In February, MAG presented draft projects. In March, the first draft of the work program, which was about 60 percent complete, was presented. A line item budget was presented in April.

For more information, please contact Rebecca Kimbrough, MAG Fiscal Services Manager, at (602) 254-6300.

Information Items



MAG at 50

MAG celebrated its 50th anniversary on April 12, 2017. The agency was formed on April 12, 1967, by concurrent resolutions from its member agencies. MAG is documenting its 50-year history through a series of videos, with each video focusing on one of the five decades. The fourth decade focused on the election for new funding for the region's new transportation plan, Proposition 400. Learning

from past election mistakes, MAG formed the Transportation Policy Committee, which included business representatives, and placed a greater focus on public participation. For the first time the new plan allocated a third of half-cent sales tax revenues to public transportation. Proposition 400 passed by a solid margin in November of 2014. Other milestones covered were the formation of the MAG Regional Domestic Violence Council, meeting new air quality standards, and the beginning of the ‘Don’t Trash Arizona’ campaign. The videos are available for viewing at www.YouTube.com/magcommunications.

For more information, please contact Kelly Taft, MAG Communications Manager, (602) 254-6300.

Happy City

The MAG Bicycle and Pedestrian Committee is developing the MAG Active Transportation Plan that will serve not only as a comprehensive update of current MAG regional bicycle and pedestrian plans, but also will include the important transit connections vital to a robust active transportation network. The plan will provide a vision and have policy implications that will formulate how MAG will plan the active transportation network in the future. Mr. Charles Montgomery, author of the book, ‘Happy City,’ provided an overview of the relationship between urban design and well-being. He explored how these principles can be incorporated into regional mobility planning, as well as deliver economic and public health benefits.

Mr. Montgomery told the Regional Council the top four components for urban health and happiness are social connections, freedom to move, belonging to a neighborhood, and inclusion of systems and spaces for everyone. He stated that what matters to people in regard to transportation is that it is fast, frequent and reliable. These concepts will be integral in the development of regional planning efforts moving forward, including MAG’s Active Transportation Plan, and will help create a more vibrant, attractive and economically competitive region.

For more information, please contact Jason Stephens, MAG Transportation Planner, at (602) 254-6300.

Proposed Slate of MAG Officers

The MAG Annual Meeting in June will include the election of officers. The Nominating Committee recommended a slate of seven candidates for the 2017-2018 Executive Committee. They include:

- Chair:** Mayor Jackie Meck, City of Buckeye
- Vice Chair:** Mayor Gail Barney, Town of Queen Creek
- Treasurer:** Mayor Lana Mook, City of El Mirage
- At-Large:** Mayor Mark Mitchell, City of Tempe; Mayor Jerry Weiers, City of Glendale; and Mayor John Giles, City of Mesa
- Past Chair:** Mayor Greg Stanton, City of Phoenix

Nominating Committee Chair W.J. “Jim” Lane, Mayor of Scottsdale, stated that the MAG Regional Council would be electing the Executive Committee members at the June 28, 2017, MAG Regional Council meeting. The meeting is scheduled at 4:00 p.m. at the Hyatt Regency hotel in downtown Phoenix.

For more information, please contact Dennis Smith, MAG Executive Director, (602) 264-6300.

Legislative Update

Staff reported on legislative items of interest. Late last year, the Ninth Circuit Court ruled that contingency measures for air quality cannot be implemented early. If this ruling stands, it could result in potential disapproval of the contingency measures in MAG air quality plans. Disapproval of the contingency measures would trigger federal sanctions and create significant negative impacts to economic development. If not fixed within 18 months, there could be tighter controls on business and industry; if not fixed with 24 months, it could mean the withholding of federal highway funds.

Other circuit courts, such as the Fifth, have approved early implementation of contingency measures. Of note, the region served by the Ninth Circuit Court is the only region in the country which is not allowed to implement air quality contingency measures early. The State of Arizona has filed a petition of certiorari with the U.S. Supreme Court to address this issue.

On May 15, 2017, the MAG Executive Committee took action to amend the existing contract with Capitol Strategies to work on a legislative fix to this air quality issue. Currently, legislative language is being developed. A bill sponsor is being identified, as well as a bill vehicle.

Staff noted that MAG also is looking for potential allies in this legislative effort as this ruling impacts all states in the Ninth Circuit that do early implementation of contingency measures. This includes air quality districts in California and other states. The Regional Council passed a unanimous motion in support of this strategy.

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

Next Meeting

Please note that the next meeting of the MAG Regional Council will be held at a different time and location. It will be the Annual Meeting on Wednesday, June 28, 2017, at 4:00 p.m. at the Hyatt Regency Phoenix, 122 North 2nd Street, Phoenix, AZ 85004. Free parking is available ONLY at the Regency Parking Garage located at the corner of 2nd Street and Adams. Vouchers will be provided for purchased transit

tickets. The annual meeting will be followed by MAG's 50th Golden Anniversary celebration and the Passing of the Gavel Ceremony at 5:00 p.m.. Those planning to attend the ceremony are asked to RSVP through the e-mailed Eventbrite invitation by June 16, 2017. Please contact MAG if you did not receive an invitation.

Agenda items are expected to include recommended approval of the Draft Next Generation 9-1-1 Plan, recommended acceptance of the MAG 2017 Final Phase Input Opportunity Report, and recommended approvals of the Draft FY 2018 Arterial Life Cycle Program, Draft FY 2018-2022 MAG Transportation Improvement Program, and Draft 2040 MAG Regional Transportation Plan. Additional items include modifications to the 2017 tentative scenario for the Regional Freeway and Highway Program, a recommendation to remove five Arterial Life Cycle Program intersection improvement projects and reallocate funding to the Gilbert Road light rail extension project, and election of officers.

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