



# MAG, ADOT Reach Funding Accord

## Plan Paves Way for Freeway Acceleration

After months of negotiations, the Maricopa Association of Governments (MAG) and the Arizona Department of Transportation (ADOT) in December agreed to a funding plan that paves the way for a number of high priority transportation projects. At the top of the list: accelerating completion of the Regional Freeway System by as much as seven years, and constructing improvements on Grand Avenue.

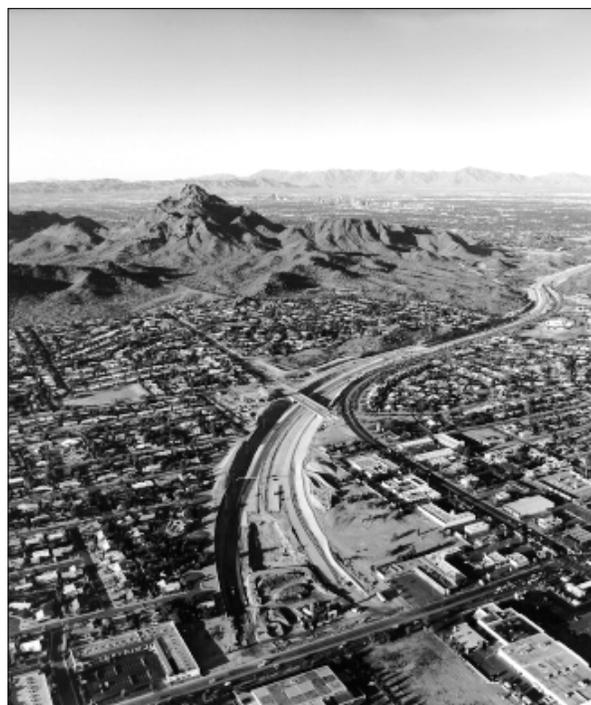
The plan was presented during a joint meeting of the MAG Regional Council and the State Transportation Board. It will provide \$483 million in additional transportation funding for the MAG region through 2004. It also commits MAG and ADOT to a cooperative effort to speed up construction of the Regional Freeway System with completion by 2007. Currently, the entire system is not scheduled for completion until 2014.

Arizona Governor Jane Hull says she is especially pleased with the news that the regional freeway system will be accelerated.

“This agreement will improve the quality of life for all of us,” she says. “I thank all the parties for their willingness to work together. Now we can get to work to see what other action can be taken to cut the time down even more.”

MAG Executive Director James M. Bourey points out the plan does not jeopardize any existing projects throughout the state in ADOT’s current Five Year Program. Along with freeway acceleration and Grand Avenue improvements, the plan will also fund such high-priority projects as the acceleration of HOV lanes on the Superstition and Squaw Peak freeways.

Bourey says the agreement represents a new era in the



relationship between MAG and ADOT. “This represents a major step forward not only because of an increase in funding, but also

Funding continued on page 4

<p><b>INSIDE</b> this issue</p>	<p>From the Chair ..... 2 Citizens’ Transportation Input .. 3 Transportation Projects Map .... 4 Transportation Events ..... 5 Census 2000 Update ..... 5 Distinguished Service Award .. 6</p>	<p>McDowell Mountain Preserve . 5 Valley Vision Progress ..... 8 Regional Council Retreat ..... 8 Clean Air Success ..... 9 Domestic Violence Safety ..... 10 Population Growth ..... 11</p>
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## From the Chair

Coming off of the recent and productive MAG retreat, I would like to take this opportunity to look forward to the organizational challenges that we face in the year ahead.

In Tempe, I like to call our annual goal planning and strategic issue session an ADVANCE, instead of a retreat. On the surface, it appears just a matter of semantics. However, I truly feel that the word "advance" more accurately and strongly sets the tone and mindset for the coming year. MAG is an organization facing many challenges, and what we need to do in 1999, as a region and as an organization, is to advance.



Tempe Mayor  
Neil Giuliano

An important component of this advance will be the early discussion of MAG's major initiatives for the year, in order to provide policy direction. I believe that this will help us to properly refocus the direction and goals of our Regional Council.

We must also revise our committee system. It will be critical to streamline the layers and responsibilities of the committees, and to sunset

any current committees without any specific purpose or function.

Additionally, by creating more open and informal and issue-oriented forums, with fewer "standing committees," we will create a less bureaucratic environment. This change will also provide for more effective use of the time of the elected officials and MAG staff, and will allow appropriate stakeholders to more effectively and efficiently address specific issues.

Further, as was discussed at the retreat, I believe that it is vital to develop a mechanism for more meaningful discussion of the issues BEFORE any Regional Council vote. To facilitate this, the following policies should be initiated: MAG staff will brief Regional Council members by teleconference the day before the Regional Council meeting; Mayors and Managers should explore more effective ways of communicating on MAG issues before the Regional Council meetings; and MAG staff should serve as intergovernmental liaison to the smaller cities regarding Regional Council matters.

I believe that these changes will go a long way toward streamlining our process for addressing issues and setting our priorities.

Finally, as always, I welcome your continued input on MAG's future, and I ask once again for your ongoing and active participation. In order to make meaningful changes and to advance, we must speak with a strong, united voice. To do so, it is imperative that everyone participates and contributes. I look forward to working with all to make the organizational changes necessary to achieve our goals for the region. 

## REGIONAL council members

- ◆ Mayor Neil G. Giuliano  
Tempe, *Chair*
- ◆ Mayor Skip Rimsza  
Phoenix, *Vice-Chair*
- ◆ Mayor John Keegan  
Peoria, *Treasurer*
- Mayor Thomas Morales  
Avondale
- Mayor Dusty Hull  
Buckeye
- Mayor Hugh Stevens  
Carefree
- Mayor Tom Aughterton  
Cave Creek
- ◆ Mayor Jay Tibshraeny  
Chandler
- Mayor Cel Arias  
El Mirage
- Mayor Sharon Morgan  
Fountain Hills
- Mayor Chuck Turner  
Gila Bend
- Governor Mary Thomas  
Gila River Indian Community
- Mayor Cynthia Dunham  
Gilbert
- ◆ Mayor Elaine M. Scruggs  
Glendale
- Mayor William Arnold  
Goodyear
- Mayor Frances Osuna  
Guadalupe
- Mayor Colin Barleycorn  
Litchfield Park
- Supervisor Don Stapley  
Maricopa County
- Mayor Wayne Brown  
Mesa
- Mayor Edward F. Lowry  
Paradise Valley
- Mayor Mark Schnepf  
Queen Creek
- President Ivan Makil  
Salt River Pima-Maricopa  
Indian Community
- Mayor Sam Kathryn Campana  
Scottsdale
- Mayor Joan Shafer  
Surprise
- Mayor Adolfo Gamez  
Tolleson
- Mayor Dallas Gant  
Wickenburg
- Mayor Donald J. Needham  
Youngtown
- F. Rockne Arnett  
Arizona Department of Transportation
- Charles Coughlin  
Citizens Transportation  
Oversight Committee
- ◆ Executive Committee Members

## MAGAZine

MAGAZine is a quarterly newsletter of the Maricopa Association of Governments that addresses the issues and concerns of the cities, towns and tribal communities of Maricopa County. If you know of a friend or colleague who would like to receive MAGAZine, please call the MAG office, 254-6300.

Neil G. Giuliano  
Mayor of Tempe  
*Chairman*

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# What Citizens Say About Transportation

## Congestion, Road Rage Among Top Concerns

Hundreds of Valley citizens had the chance to express their concerns and interests in transportation funding priorities, thanks to a new, more proactive public involvement process undertaken by the Maricopa Association of Governments (MAG).

The new approach included three methods of outreach. In addition to an open house, focus groups were conducted with residents throughout the region to obtain Early Phase Input for development of the Transportation Improvement Program and Long Range Transportation Plan. Transportation stakeholders were also contacted for their input.

“This enhanced process has enabled MAG to receive input on transportation issues from more than 400 Valley citizens,” says John Farry, MAG Transportation Planning Program Manager. “Their input has been extremely valuable in helping us evaluate our funding priorities.”

WestGroup Research, which conducted the focus groups, provided an analysis of its research. It found that citizens characterized the transportation system as fraught with slow-moving traffic, while some called it “outdated” and “clumsy.”

Perhaps most surprising as a top transportation concern was the issue of aggressive driving.

“Road rage was a common theme of discussion, especially in group discussions with residents on the west side of the Valley,” says Farry. “Participants worry that aggressive drivers are taking over the roads.”

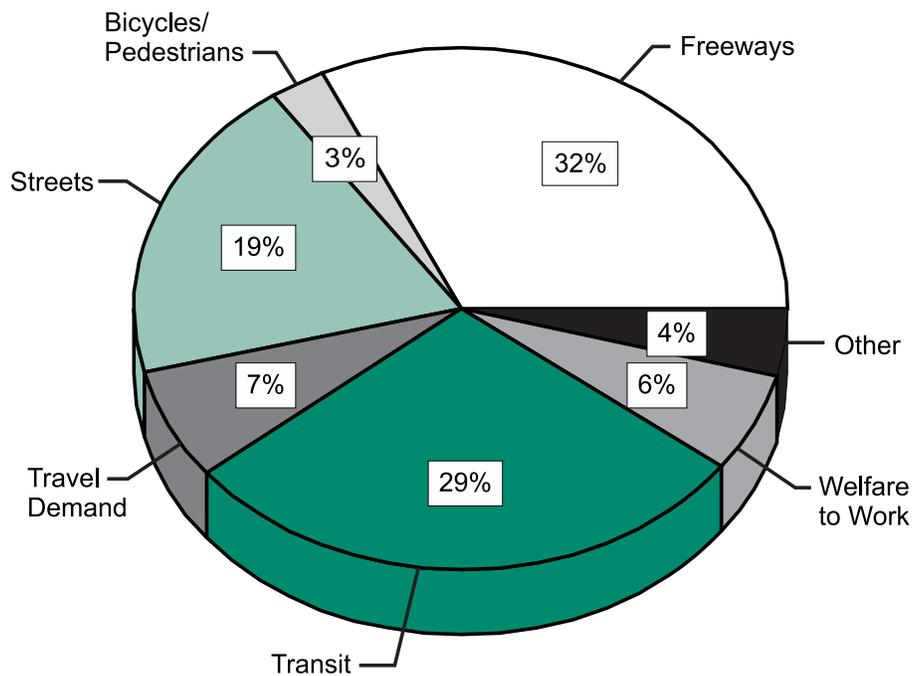
Many citizens expressed a belief that using transit or carpools will only become more popular if those methods are faster than driving their own vehicles to work. Most group members reported driving approximately 25 miles a day. Some however, drive over 75 miles a day, with the majority of trips made by single occupant vehicles. A number of participants reported a desire that changes in mass transit should focus on a rapid rail system.

All of the group members felt that traffic-related problems will be worse in 20 years. They believed improvement needs to come through a combined use of widespread mass transit, better/more freeways, use of telecommuting and better planning.

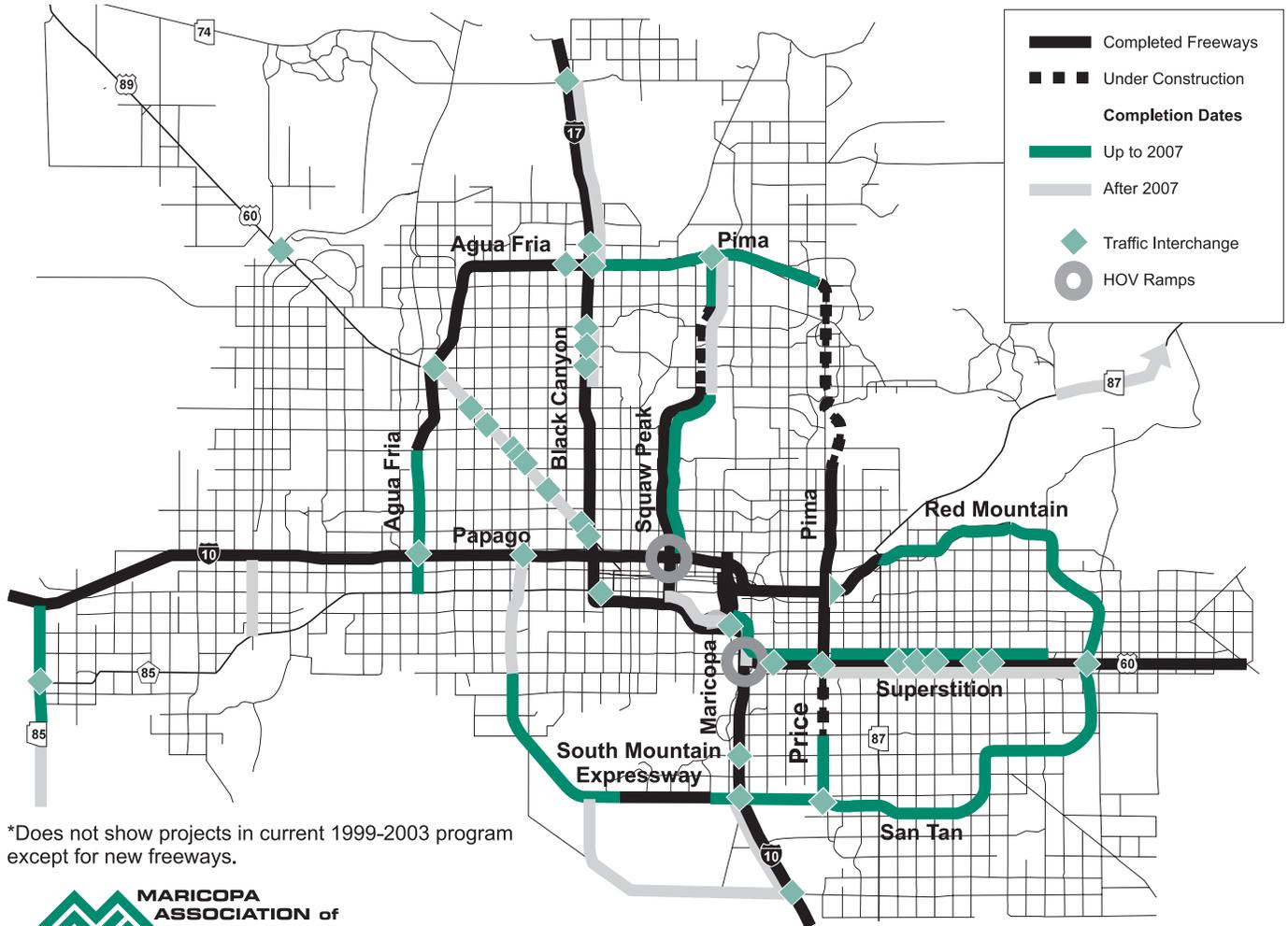
The groups reported that the process helped them define the transportation problem. Among the conclusions of the groups were that the public at large needs to be made aware of the magnitude of the transportation problem; that different districts have different needs; and that a “one-size-fits-all” plan will not be well received at the local levels. 

Contact John Farry, 254-6300, for more information.

Participants were each given a dollar and asked how they would spend it on transportation. This is how they identified their spending priorities:



Map presented to the MAG Regional Council showing a preliminary plan for additional projects and freeway acceleration\*



\*Does not show projects in current 1999-2003 program except for new freeways.



## Transportation Funding Accord

Continued from page 1

because of the marked increase in communication and cooperation between the region and the state," he says.

ADOT Director Mary Peters seconds those remarks, calling the agreement an historic step for MAG and the State. "It addresses not only the immediate funding issues, but is responsive to the region's No. 1 transportation need — early completion of the freeway system."

The funding accord came after months of negotiations between MAG and ADOT over the distribution of additional funds Arizona will receive under the new federal highway bill passed by Congress earlier this year. The additional \$483 million will bring MAG's share of the current Five Year Program to \$710.6 million, or about 22.5 percent. In the years ahead, MAG hopes to increase its share of the total to 35.4 percent, the amount needed to equate to a "fair share" figure in which the region would receive a dollar back for every dollar collected in state and federal gas taxes. 

## Projects Map

A plan that accelerates construction of the regional freeway system, adds High Occupancy Vehicle (HOV) lanes to existing freeways, and makes improvements to Grand Avenue is currently in the works — thanks to additional federal funding.

## Transportation Public Events

Citizens will have the opportunity to learn more about the region's transportation needs and plans, as well as the chance to provide their own input and ideas, at three special events scheduled for February 18<sup>th</sup> and 23<sup>rd</sup>. The events are sponsored by MAG, the Arizona Department of Transportation, and the Regional Public Transportation Authority.

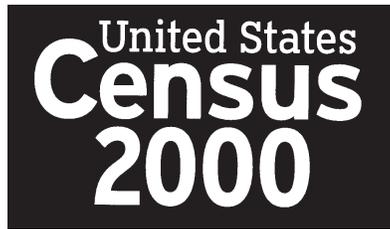
The first event is a Transportation Fair that will be held at Central Station, northeast corner of 1<sup>st</sup> Avenue and Van Buren from 3:30-5:30 p.m. Thursday, February 18<sup>th</sup>. The fair will have informative displays and staff members will be available to answer questions and receive feedback. The fair will focus on transit issues and plans.

On Tuesday, February 23<sup>rd</sup>, MAG will host an Open House at 4:00 p.m., followed by a Public Hearing at 5:30 p.m. Information will focus on the update of the Long Range Transportation Plan and Transportation Improvement Program. However, all areas of transportation will be addressed.

John Farry, MAG Transportation Planning Program Manager, says the events represent MAG's ongoing outreach efforts to involve the public in the planning process. "At the Open House, citizens can interact with staff members and transportation experts to directly discuss transportation issues important to them," he says. "The public hearing will allow participants to enter their comments into the public record and provide input directly to decision makers."

## Countdown to Census 2000

As the clock ticks toward the millennium, one group isn't focusing on where to spend New Year's Eve, or even on whether the Y2K bug will bite. Instead, the U.S. Census Bureau is trying to figure out how it will most accurately count those of us who are hanging around to enjoy the next century.



And there's a lot to do before the calendar turns over those triple-zeros. The Census Advisory Committee is currently finalizing recommendations it will present to Department of Commerce Secretary William M. Daley in February.

MAG Executive Director James M. Bourey, who serves on the national Census Advisory Committee, says there are several key issues facing the Bureau. Of primary concern — the year-and-a-half-long gap between the time the Local Update of Census Addresses (LUCA) process is complete, and the time the Census is actually undertaken in April of 2000.

"Our concern is how to account for the thousands of new housing units which will be built between the time the cities provide their local updates to the Bureau, which is happening this year, and the time the actual count takes place next year," says Bourey. "Among our top recommendations to the Secretary will be a method to continue to update

the Census Address list after the LUCA process is complete."

Bourey says another key recommendation will focus on establishing a procedure whereby local governments can review housing counts after they are made. Such a process would enable local leaders to have input on inaccuracies in the count.

"The idea is to rectify possible undercounts immediately, before they are locked in," says Bourey. MAG estimates that every housing unit counted in Census 2000 will equate to about \$10,000 in federal and state funds to local jurisdictions here in Arizona in the decade following the census.

In January, the Supreme Court ruled that statistical sampling — a methodology similar to polling — could not be used for reapportionment of Congressional Districts. This issue has been a bone of contention between Republicans and Democrats, who had hoped to use statistical sampling to make up for the expected undercount of minorities. 

## Legislative Luncheon

The Maricopa Association of Governments hosted an informal luncheon with state lawmakers February 1<sup>st</sup>.

Participating were members of the Legislative Leadership, as well as Chairs and Vice Chairs of committees which deal with issues impacting MAG members. The session focused on mutual concerns for the 1999 session.

# Glendale Mayor Elaine Scruggs Honored for Distinguished Service

Glendale Mayor Elaine Scruggs is certainly no stranger to the tenets of regionalism. As Chair of the MAG Regional Council for two years, Mayor Scruggs devoted countless hours and effort to significant regional issues.



Glendale Mayor Elaine M. Scruggs

faster completion of more and better landscaped freeway miles.

She also demonstrated her commitment to the region's youth by acting as the first chair of the Youth Policy Advisory Committee, which has developed consistent model ordinances related to curfews and graffiti. And she helped rally West Valley cities in a successful effort to save Luke Air Force Base while acting as chair of the Regional Aviation System Plan Policy Committee.

Mayor Scruggs still believes there's nothing cities can't do if they work together.

"I believe that winning does not mean making someone else lose," she says. "The future success of MAG depends on all member agencies believing that they are valued within the organization, regardless of their size or location in the region." 

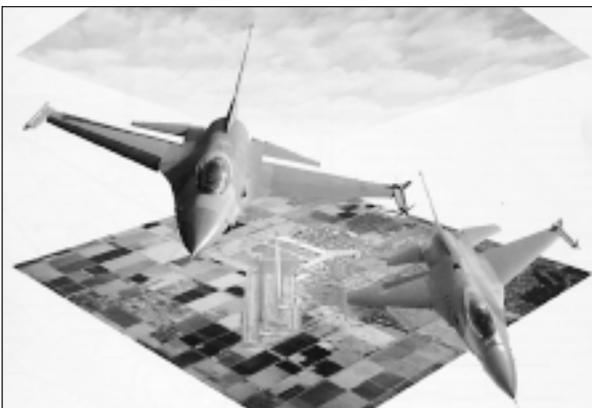
## The third (and final) in a series of articles spotlighting and honoring the winners of the 1998 MAG Desert Peaks Awards

That dedication was recognized in June, when Mayor Scruggs was named a recipient of MAG's Distinguished Service Award during the association's first Desert Peaks Awards ceremony.

has benefited from her efforts to restructure the organization to better meet the needs of our local governments today."

It's a philosophy Mayor Scruggs followed well before her election as chair of the Regional Council.

The first sentence of the nomination form recommending her for the Distinguished Service Award summed up the mayor's devotion to regionalism this way: "Passionate dedication, a hands-on approach, and endless hours of consensus building on difficult regional issues have characterized the public service career of Glendale Mayor Elaine M. Scruggs for the past six years," it stated. Many Council members credit Mayor Scruggs' regional consensus building for the development of a plan that provided for the



Mayor Scruggs helped save Luke AFB from closing.

"Mayor Scruggs believes firmly that cities working together can create positive change," stated Mesa Mayor Wayne Brown in presenting the award. "MAG, as a vehicle to bring cities together,

Desert  
PEAKS

Awards

Recognizing

Regional  
Cooperation

Maricopa

# Efforts to Save McDowell Mountains Earn Regional Partnership Award

When encroaching subdivisions threatened to erode one of the East Valley's most definitive landmarks — the McDowell Mountains — three groups joined forces to save them: the City of Scottsdale, Maricopa County and the Town of Fountain Hills.

“Rich in desert vegetation and wildlife, the McDowells are a physical embodiment of the heart and soul of the Valley,” said Goodyear Mayor William Arnold in awarding the MAG Regional Partnership Award to the three groups during the Desert Peaks Awards last June. “As subdivisions stretched out over the northeast Valley, citizens recognized the importance of preserving this important part of the metropolitan landscape.”

The McDowell Sonoran Preserve Commission was appointed by the Scottsdale City Council in 1994. The commission identified



Entrance to the McDowell Mountain Park

16,460 acres in Scottsdale and Fountain Hills that were in danger of development. The acreage was adjacent to the McDowell Mountain Regional Park, owned by Maricopa County. This initial partnership was further strengthened with the formation of the McDowell Mountain Preservation Commission, appointed by the Town of Fountain Hills in 1996.

Since the inception of the commission, the three jurisdictions have worked together to ensure the preservation of the McDowells.

Efforts have included working under the Arizona Preserve Initiative to conserve State Trust Land; filing a Memorandum of Understanding that provides a basis for cooperation between Scottsdale and the county that addresses management of the preserve and park; and increasing community awareness about the preservation effort. 

## Nominations Sought for 1999 MAG Desert Peaks Awards

The Maricopa Association of Governments is currently seeking nominations for its 1999 Desert Peaks Awards. The Awards were established in 1998 to recognize excellence in regional cooperation, and already have made their mark as one of the most prestigious regional honors bestowed in the state. “These awards are intended to recognize individuals and local governments that have demonstrated a commitment to regionalism through partnerships or individual efforts,” says James M. Bourey, MAG Executive Director.

*Awards are distributed in the following five categories:* **Regional Excellence**, awarded to the individual who has demonstrated commitment to regionalism through promoting and facilitating cooperative regional efforts; **Regional Partnership**, awarded to two or more local governments that together have demonstrated a commitment to regionalism through cooperative efforts; **Public-Private Partnership**, awarded to a group or project that has demonstrated a commitment to regionalism through a public-private partnership; **Public Partnership**, awarded to the group or project that has demonstrated a commitment to regionalism through public sector and/or public non-profit partnership; and **Distinguished Service**, awarded to those individuals who have contributed time and effort to regionalism through program or committee involvement.

*Nomination forms are available through the Maricopa Association of Governments, 254-6300.*





## Regional Council Sets Goals for 1999

“The Regional Council Retreat provides us with an excellent opportunity to look at where we’ve been and where we want to go,” says MAG Chairman Neil Giuliano.

Implementing a public communication plan, streamlining the number of standing committees, creating issue-oriented forums and seeking ways of diversifying the agency’s funding base — those are just some of the goals for 1999 outlined by the Maricopa Association of Governments Regional Council during a retreat January 8<sup>th</sup>.

“The Regional Council Retreat provides us with an excellent opportunity to look at where we’ve been and where we want to go,” says MAG Chairman Neil Giuliano. “It’s a relaxed forum in which Council members can devote an entire day to considering our regional focus and how we can work better in the year to come.”

Agenda items included the presentation of a draft Strategic Communication Plan, a review of 1998 organization activities, a look at proposed committee structure revisions, discussion of general Regional Council focus and direction, and discussion of Work Program priorities for 1999-2000. A presentation was also made which examined how other Councils of Government across the nation are working to diversify their revenue base. 

# Community Outreach Marks Vision Progress

From roundtable discussions on water challenges in the next century, to the distribution of surveys at local festivals and events — communities around the Valley spent the months of December and January seeking input from citizens about their vision for the year 2025.

Thirty-one “collaborative” groups were each assigned the task of determining how best to reach out into their communities for input on Valley Vision 2025, a public/private partnership initiated by the Maricopa Association of Governments. Valley Vision 2025 is a regional effort to determine what the Valley should be like in the year 2025, if communities are successful in achieving desired goals in areas such as transportation, education, public safety, human services and the environment, to name just a few.

“Many of the communities are distributing an 18-question survey designed to gather input on specific issue areas,” says Margot Cordova, MAG Valley Vision Program Manager. “One community, Tolleson, has even adapted these questions for further input from the city’s youth.”

Cordova says efforts among cities vary. “Some communities have really taken the ball and run with it, others are still attempting to gather momentum,” she says. “But

overall, we’re pleased with what is really a massive effort.”

Each of the 31-collaborative groups will take the input received in their individual communities, compile it into a report form, and submit copies to nine “thematic” subcommittees organized by issue areas. The subcommittees will then use the

information to write an initial draft “vision” for their issue area. Those nine reports will be further compiled into a singular “Draft Vision,” which will be made available to the public in order to engender additional response and input.

“We hope that the first draft will spark even more thought and debate among members of the public,” says Vernon Swaback, an architect and consultant for the Valley Vision 2025 project. “Any additional input will then be used to compose a “Final Vision” for the region. Our goal is to make sure that every citizen in the region has the opportunity to participate in this process.”

For more information about the Valley Vision 2025 project, or to receive a copy of the survey, visit the Valley Vision Web site at [www.mag.maricopa.gov/vv2025](http://www.mag.maricopa.gov/vv2025), or call the Valley Vision Hotline at 452-5080. 



# Clean-Air Success: Valley Records Two Years of Good Readings for Carbon Monoxide

Maricopa County has reached a milestone on the road to cleaner air: chalking up two straight years of acceptable readings for carbon monoxide pollution.

Although carbon monoxide levels rose significantly on several days in December, Valley leaders say the event deserves its due recognition. The two-year attainment of clean air standards means the region can now apply for clean-air status from the federal Environmental Protection Agency. The Valley is currently rated as a "serious" area for the invisible pollutant.

The Maricopa Association of Governments — which has spent years pushing for air quality reforms in the region — hails the record event as a hard-won victory that wouldn't have been possible without the combined efforts of state and local officials.

"While we certainly can't become complacent in our ongoing fight for cleaner air, this is a tremendous achievement," says Neil Giuliano, mayor of Tempe and chair of the MAG Regional Council. "It is rewarding to know that regional cooperation has made a difference in cleaning up our environment and protecting public health."

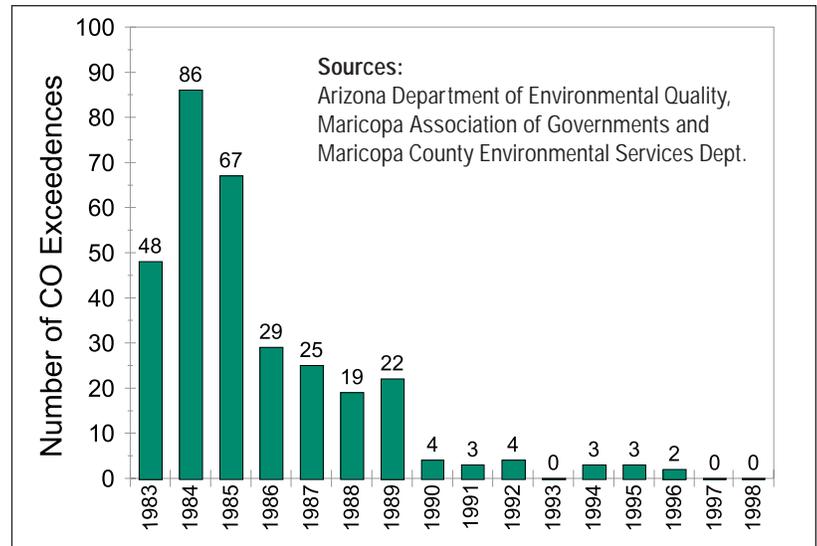
Senate Majority Leader Marc Spitzer, who sponsored a bill with several measures aimed at reducing air pollution last year, also credits combined efforts with reducing air pollution. "This is an example of government that works, and groups in both the public and

private sector collaborated to clean our air," says the senator. "We used many innovative techniques that utilized technology to clean the air, minimize the burden on citizens, and achieve dramatic results."

Among the measures adopted in the last legislative session were improvements to the state's vehicle emissions program, clean-burning fireplace requirements and adoption for the year 2000 of a clean winter fuel reformulation. MAG efforts included identifying potential measures for adoption, air quality modeling, cost-effectiveness analysis, and preparation of the 1998 Serious Area Carbon Monoxide Plan.

State Representative Carolyn Allen, who chairs the House Environment Committee, says more lawmakers are recognizing the need for stringent air quality measures. "I'm proud of what we achieved during last year's session," says Allen. "But we need to continue to work with the Maricopa region to ensure that our air quality improves even as we continue to grow."

Carbon monoxide is produced



The chart above shows the significant progress the region has made in improving air quality.

primarily through vehicle exhaust, and can reduce the blood's ability to carry oxygen. Among the legislature's tasks in the upcoming session will be to iron out differences in the state's vehicle emissions programs. That program has been a key weapon in the fight against air pollution in MAG Air Quality plans.

"We are pleased that the legislature has stepped up to address our most critical air quality needs," says James Bourey, MAG executive director. "The partnership the region has with the state legislature has been vital for our success in cleaning the air."

MAG also hopes it will be able to share good news this summer for a second major Valley air threat — ozone. If the region can make it through July without any violations for that pollutant, it will mark three years of acceptable levels, allowing air officials to similarly apply to the EPA for attainment in that category. 

# Domestic Violence Safety Plan in High Demand



It's being found everywhere from food boxes to church halls to gambling casinos. More than 133,000 copies of a Domestic Violence Safety Plan have been distributed through the Maricopa Association of Governments.

The brochure, which is available in both English and Spanish, contains safety tips on what to do when living with or leaving an abuser. It also provides emergency phone numbers and other information designed to help women or other victims find help.

Since MAG began distributing the plan in November, more than 100 agencies have stepped forward to request copies. Some are distributing it to their customers or clients. Others, like Gila River Casinos Enterprise, are making the plan available to their workforce.

"Without a doubt, this is a significant employee issue," says Dave Johnson, Gila River Employee Assistance Manager. "I would guess that one-third of our time in this office is spent dealing with difficulties related to domestic situations."

Johnson says that domestic violence results in lost productivity and higher medical costs for employers. He says oftentimes both spouses work at the casinos, resulting in tense workplace situations.

"We need to let our employees know they have choices," says Johnson, who also plans to make the safety plan available at two



Jeanne Roberts of the Mountain View Lutheran Church

upcoming health fairs in March. "Providing these brochures lets people know that they're not alone. It lets them know we take their well-being very seriously. No one deserves to be in an abusive situation."

That sentiment is echoed by Social Worker Jeanne Roberts of the Mountain View Lutheran Church. She requested copies of the plan for distribution in the church's restrooms.

"A lot of victims may feel uncomfortable picking up one of these brochures in the company of others, especially if the abuser is with her," she explains. "We wanted to make the plans available in a place where people could access them in privacy. This gives us the opportunity to offer educational material to those who need it, and let them know we support them," she says.

The City of Phoenix is also placing copies of the plan in all

of its 900 public restroom facilities, and has purchased plastic brochure holders to accommodate the demand.

Still, Sharlene Jarosek, MAG Office Services Specialist, says the most disturbing requests for the plan come from callers wanting a single copy.

"They ask what kind of envelope it will be in," says Jarosek. "You can hear the fear in their voice, and it's terrifying." Jarosek says many men have also called, saying they want a copy of the plan for a sister or other friend or relative. "We hope this document helps them get the help they need," she says.

The Domestic Violence Safety Plan is the first step in an overall region-wide Domestic Violence Plan being drafted by MAG's Domestic Violence Subcommittee. Copies of the safety brochure are available by calling MAG at 254-6300. 

# Surprise Tops in Population Growth

It may come as no surprise to residents in the City of Surprise that their community sits solidly on the top of the list of the region's fastest-growing cities. According to population figures compiled by the Maricopa Association of Governments (MAG), Surprise saw a 23.3 percent increase in population in the past year.

Socioeconomic Program Manager. "Now they're completing nearly 700 units a quarter. That's pretty remarkable."

Surprise Mayor Joan Shafer says growth is an issue her city faces every single day. She admits it puts a strain on city resources to supply the necessary services to the rapidly-expanding population. "I

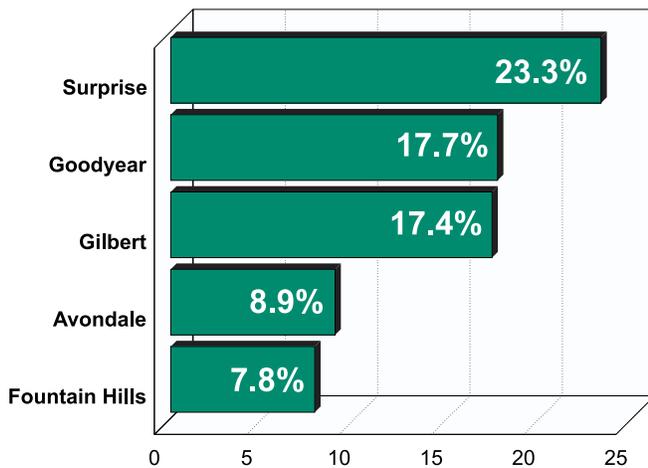
compare it to a child learning to walk—you're going to fall down. You just have to pick yourself up and keep on going." Even though Shafer calls growth a "four-Tylenol headache," she says it must also be accepted as a way of life.

"What really bothers me is people saying 'I moved in yesterday, but I don't want anyone else to move in tomorrow,'" she states.



Surprise Mayor Joan Shafer

The following five cities saw the greatest **percentage** increase in population in the last three years.



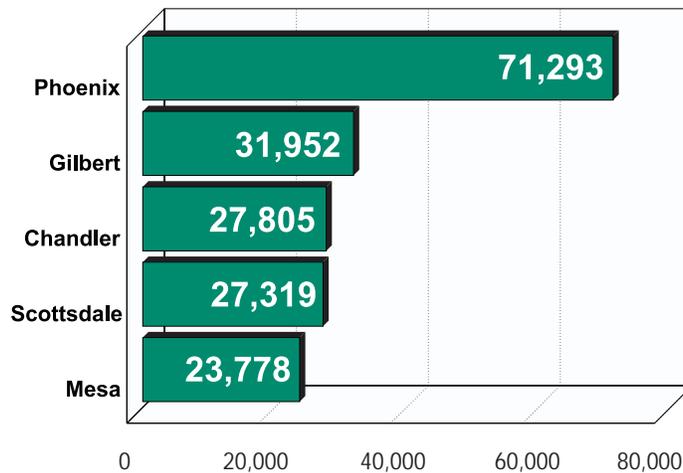
MAG Executive Director James M. Bourey says growth is one reason regional planning efforts are so important. "These figures prove that growth absolutely continues in this region, despite some predictions it will taper off," he says. "It's an issue this community is facing and will continue to face for some time."

Bourey points to the agency's initiation of the Valley Vision 2025 project as one way of examining both the challenges and opportunities of growth to help guide the future planning process. 

The increase distinguishes Surprise as not only the fastest-growing city in the region, but in the entire state. Three of the top four cities on the list are in the West Valley. Goodyear came in second, with a 17.7 percent increase, while the City of Gilbert came in a close third with an increase of 17.4 percent. The City of Avondale was the fourth fastest-growing city in the region, at 8.9 percent.

"I can remember in the mid-90's when Surprise was completing 50-60 housing units each quarter," says Harry P. Wolfe, MAG

The following five cities saw the greatest **absolute** increase in population over the last three years.



# Calendar

# MEETING Times

# Feb., Mar., Apr.

February	March	April
1 <sup>st</sup> 12:00 PM, Regional Council Executive Legislative Luncheon	1 <sup>st</sup> 8:30 AM, Elderly and Persons with Disabilities Transportation Ad Hoc Committee	1 <sup>st</sup> 9:00 AM, Human Services Technical Committee
3 <sup>rd</sup> 1:30 PM, Standard Specifications and Details Committee	1 <sup>st</sup> 12:00 PM, Regional Council Executive Committee	7 <sup>th</sup> 11:00 AM, Valley Vision 2025 Committee
4 <sup>th</sup> 9:00 AM, Human Services Technical Committee	3 <sup>rd</sup> 11:00 AM, Valley Vision 2025 Committee	7 <sup>th</sup> 1:30 PM, Standard Specifications and Details Committee
9 <sup>th</sup> 10:00 AM, Grand Avenue Steering Committee	3 <sup>rd</sup> 1:30 PM, Standard Specifications and Details Committee	8 <sup>th</sup> 2:30 PM, Air Quality Technical Advisory Committee
9 <sup>th</sup> 1:30 PM, Street Committee	4 <sup>th</sup> 9:00 AM, Human Services Technical Committee	13 <sup>th</sup> 10:00 AM, Grand Avenue Steering Committee
9 <sup>th</sup> 2:00 PM, Desert Spaces Implementation Task Force: Design Guidelines	4 <sup>th</sup> 1:30 PM, Air Quality Technical Advisory Committee	13 <sup>th</sup> 1:30 PM, Street Committee
10 <sup>th</sup> 12:00 AM, Management Committee	9 <sup>th</sup> 10:00 AM, Grand Avenue Steering Committee	14 <sup>th</sup> 10:00 AM, Intelligent Transportation Systems Committee
11 <sup>th</sup> 10:00 AM, Solid Waste Advisory Committee	9 <sup>th</sup> 1:30 PM, Street Committee	14 <sup>th</sup> 12:00 PM, Management Committee
11 <sup>th</sup> 2:30 PM, Air Quality Technical Advisory Committee	9 <sup>th</sup> 1:30 PM, Street Committee	15 <sup>th</sup> 8:30 AM, Population Technical Advisory Ad Hoc Subcommittee
16 <sup>th</sup> 12:00 PM, Regional Council Executive Committee	10 <sup>th</sup> 12:00 PM, Management Committee	15 <sup>th</sup> 10:00 AM, Population Technical Advisory Committee
16 <sup>th</sup> 1:00 PM, Regional Bicycle Task Force	10 <sup>th</sup> 2:00 PM, Regional Council Transportation Subcommittee	15 <sup>th</sup> 12:00 PM, Air Quality Policy Committee
17 <sup>th</sup> 8:30 AM, Population Technical Advisory Ad Hoc Subcommittee	11 <sup>th</sup> 1:30 PM, Air Quality Technical Advisory Committee	15 <sup>th</sup> 12:00 PM, Human Services Coordinating Committee
17 <sup>th</sup> 10:00 AM, Intelligent Transportation Systems Committee	16 <sup>th</sup> 1:00 PM, Regional Bicycle Task Force	16 <sup>th</sup> 2:00 PM, Grand Avenue Steering Committee
17 <sup>th</sup> 12:30 PM, Elderly and Persons with Disabilities Transportation Ad Hoc Committee	17 <sup>th</sup> 10:00 AM, Intelligent Transportation Systems Committee	20 <sup>th</sup> 12:00 PM Regional Council Executive Committee
17 <sup>th</sup> 2:00 PM, Building Codes Committee	17 <sup>th</sup> 2:00 PM, Building Codes Committee	20 <sup>th</sup> 1:00 PM, Regional Bicycle Task Force
18 <sup>th</sup> 10:00 AM, Population Technical Advisory Committee	18 <sup>th</sup> 8:30 AM, Population Technical Advisory Ad Hoc Subcommittee	21 <sup>st</sup> 2:00 PM, Building Codes Committee
18 <sup>th</sup> 12:00 PM, Air Quality Policy Committee	18 <sup>th</sup> 10:00 AM, Population Technical Advisory Committee	22 <sup>nd</sup> 10:00 AM, Telecommunications Advisory Group
18 <sup>th</sup> 2:00 PM, Human Services Coordinating Committee	18 <sup>th</sup> 12:00 PM, Human Services Coordinating Committee	27 <sup>th</sup> 10:00 AM, Transportation Review Committee
18 <sup>th</sup> 2:30 PM, Desert Spaces Implementation Task Force	18 <sup>th</sup> 12:00 PM, Air Quality Policy Committee	28 <sup>th</sup> 5:00 PM, Regional Council
18 <sup>th</sup> 3:30 PM, Transportation Fair at Central Station	19 <sup>th</sup> 2:00 PM, Grand Avenue Steering Committee	
19 <sup>th</sup> 2:00 PM, Grand Avenue Steering Committee	23 <sup>rd</sup> 10:00 AM, Transportation Review Committee	
22 <sup>nd</sup> 1:00 PM, Transportation Stakeholders	24 <sup>th</sup> 5:00 PM, Regional Council	
23 <sup>rd</sup> 10:00 AM, Transportation Review Committee	25 <sup>th</sup> 10:00 AM, Telecommunications Advisory Group	
23 <sup>rd</sup> 4:00 PM, Transportation Open House		
23 <sup>rd</sup> 5:30 PM, Transportation Public Hearing		
24 <sup>th</sup> 5:00 PM, Regional Council		
25 <sup>th</sup> 10:00 AM, Telecommunications Advisory Group		
25 <sup>th</sup> 12:00 PM, Youth Policy Advisory Committee		

*The dates, times and locations of all meetings may change. Other committees not listed here may meet during these months. Please call 254-6300 for confirmation.*

All meetings, unless indicated otherwise will be held in the conference rooms located in the MAG offices on the second floor of the Norwest Bank Building, 302 N. 1st Avenue. Parking is available under the building. Please ask for parking validation.



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