



## WHAT IS IT?

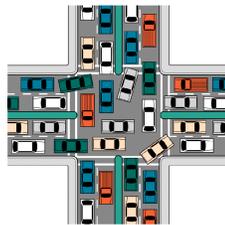
The Regional Off-Street System (ROSS) Plan was initiated by the Maricopa Association of Governments (MAG). ROSS will identify opportunities for off-street, non-motorized travel throughout the Valley. The system of paved pathways and unpaved trails will form part of the overall transportation system for Maricopa County and can be used for daily trips to work, school and leisure activities.



This newsletter is the second in a series of three that will be circulated during the project.

## WHY IS ROSS NECESSARY?

ROSS is necessary to help encourage non-motorized transportation. Replacing private automobile trips with bicycling and walking will contribute to improved air quality and reduced traffic congestion. In addition, there are numerous opportunities throughout the region for bicycling and walking using existing off-street rights-of-way and easements, such as canals, linear parkways, flood control channels and utility line easements. These rights-of-way intersect many arterial streets where popular destinations are typically located.



## WHAT IS THE PROJECT SCHEDULE?

The project is currently underway with a Draft Plan expected at the end of August. The project schedule has been revised to allow adequate identification of potential corridors. The MAG committees overseeing the project meet monthly. Also, a Regional Trails Forum has been formed to allow other organizations and individuals to participate in this project. The Forum typically meets every other

month at MAG. These meetings are all open to the public and you are encouraged to attend. Please contact Dawn M. Coomer, MAG Transportation Planner, (602) 254-6300 for information about meetings.



## PROJECT UPDATE

**Vision Statement - Goals and Objectives.** A vision statement, goals and objectives have been developed and will be available for review on the MAG website at [www.mag.maricopa.gov](http://www.mag.maricopa.gov) (click on "Technical Committees" and go to the Regional Bicycle Task Force). Comments can be forwarded to [ross@rbf.com](mailto:ross@rbf.com) or Dawn M. Coomer, MAG Transportation Planner, at [dcoomer@mag.maricopa.gov](mailto:dcoomer@mag.maricopa.gov).

**Corridor Identification.** A map showing potential corridors is currently being revised. The map identifies different types of corridors which could be used by non-motorized travelers, such as railway rights-of-way, canals, flood control structures, utility corridors, desert washes and other linear rights-of-way. The map will be presented to the MAG committees overseeing the project and at the Regional Trails Forum on June 20.

**Performance Standards and Demonstration Projects.** Three demonstration projects have been selected to suggest ways to address key issues, such as:

- Comfortably crossing busy roadways
- Creating a user-friendly system when right-of-way is limited
- Creating paths and/or trails which complement the primary use of the corridor, such as flood control

For each demonstration project, an analysis of opportunities and constraints will be followed up



with schematic drawings illustrating how to appropriately address issues and work within the constraints. Demonstration projects were chosen to provide a broad range of examples of issues related to the different types of the corridors identified. The three projects are shown below.

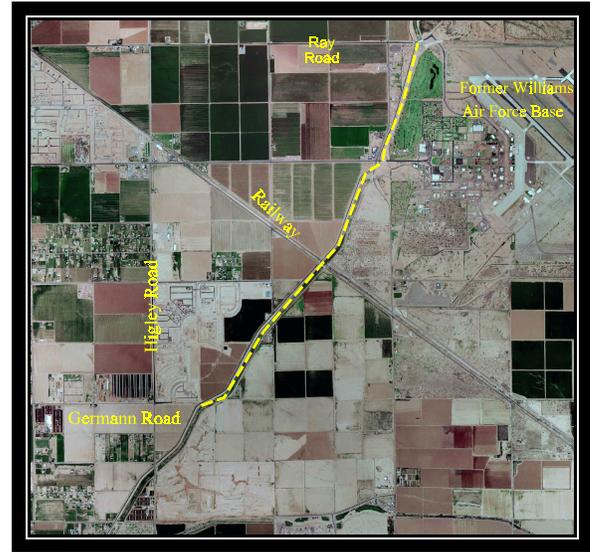
***Abandoned Rail Line -  
Creamery Branch, Tempe***



***Flood Control Structure -  
Dysart Drain, Luke Air Force Base***



***Canal -  
Roosevelt Water Conservation District***



***WHAT'S NEXT?***

The next step is to develop an action plan to achieve the goals and objectives and construct elements of the ROSS. The action plan shall identify who is responsible, what needs to be done and suggest how the task could be accomplished. Potential funding sources will be described. Solutions will be proposed to overcome potential obstacles in developing the system.