



Briefing to Member Agencies from Executive Director, James M. Bourey

Executive Director's Report

The Maricopa Association of Governments continues to focus on the recent increase in federal transportation funding under the Transportation Equity Act for the 21st Century (TEA-21). We must continue to work diligently to ensure that the citizens of the Maricopa Region receive a fair share of this increase, and that highway dollars returned to the state by the federal government are allocated equitably. Under the "fair share" concept, regions would receive one dollar back from the federal government for every dollar collected through state and federal gas taxes. Without regional commitment to these efforts, Maricopa County citizens stand to lose hundreds of millions of dollars over the next five years in possible transportation funding.

Determined to get the most equitable distribution possible, the Maricopa Association of Governments met this month with the Pima Association of Governments and the Arizona Department of Transportation. MAG staff has spent many hours analyzing what percentage of ADOT discretionary funds equates to a fair share, and a report summarizing these findings was presented to the Regional Council during the September 23rd meeting. (See information items summary on p. 4)

Following numerous discussions with ADOT staff over this difficult issue, a number of positive results have been achieved. One agreement includes the implementation of a fundamental change in the process for allocating available state and federal money for transportation, in which ADOT and MAG will work together along with the other regions of the state to develop an appropriate allocation of transportation funding. Another change involves a dual role in which ADOT and MAG will cooperatively plan projects for which available transportation funding will be used. Yet another change involves establishing stakeholder processes in each region to address transportation challenges. ADOT will be a major stakeholder in the regional process.

In other news, MAG is excited to announce publication of its "Phoenix Metropolitan Area Urban Atlas." This document contains a wide range of information used in regional planning and which is beneficial to the general

public. The Urban Atlas highlights the dynamics of the region through colorful area maps. These bright, easily-read maps examine everything from topography and land use to school standardized achievement scores.

A second exciting event is the recent acceleration of the MAG Telecommunications Project. Most of the money for this project has been made available for use immediately. This money will be used to hire a consultant to design the system, to purchase equipment, and to implement a telecommuting program in conjunction with the Regional Public Transportation Authority. One project objective is to establish teleconferencing sites at each member agency, which could dramatically assist our regional business.



Regional Council Meeting Report September 23, 1998

Amendment to Change Study Parameters Continued in Next Meeting

The MAG Regional Council was asked to approve an amendment to the 1999-2003 Transportation Improvement Program (TIP). The amendment would extend the limits of the Design Concept Report on the Superstition Freeway between I-10 and Gilbert Road to Power Road. The Regional Council had previously voted to adopt High Occupancy Vehicle (HOV) lanes on the Superstition Freeway as one of its highest priorities for ADOT discretionary funds, and ADOT is currently in the process of preparing a Design Concept and Environmental Assessment for this project. During a recent public meeting, ADOT received requests that the limits of the study be extended to Power Road and that the assessment include study of an additional Single Occupancy Vehicle (SOV) lane. Chairman Neil Giuliano expressed the desire to have a policy discussion about the addition of SOV lanes at the next Regional Council meeting. The Council approved a motion to delay action until the next meeting.

For more information, contact Terry Johnson, MAG Transportation Planning Manager, 254-6300.

Final Phase Input Opportunity Report Approved

On September 15th, 1998, an open house and public hearing were held by MAG for review and final comment on the Long Range Transportation Plan, Transportation Improvement Program, and Conformity Analysis. This opportunity represented the final phase of input for these documents. MAG staff reported that public comments included expressed needs for extended service in public transit and seamless dial-a-ride service, concerns over the

possible loss of funds from lottery revenues, the importance of welfare to work initiatives, and a variety of other issues. Staff reported that all public comments were taken and responded to in writing. The Council voted to accept the FY 1998 Final Phase Input Public Opportunity Report presented by MAG.

For more information, contact John Farry, Transportation Planning Program Manager, 254-6300.

Interchanges added to the MAG Freeway Program

The Council approved the addition of two interchanges to the MAG Freeway Program. The City of Mesa and the Williams Gateway Airport Authority requested that an interchange be added to the Santan Freeway to service the Williams Gateway Airport at Hawes Road, at an estimated cost of \$7.5 million. The City of Phoenix requested that an interchange be added on the Pima Freeway at 56th Street at a cost of \$3.6 million.

For more information, contact Eric Anderson, MAG Freeway Program Manager, 470-1107.

Other Items

During the September 23rd meeting, the Regional Council also voted to approve the following items: 1) FY 1999-2003 MAG Transportation Improvement Program; 2) MAG Long Range Transportation Plan Summary and 1997 Update With 1998 Addendum; 3) Acceptance of a Clean Cities grant for approximately \$92,000 and an EPA Community Based Environmental Protection/Regional Geographic Initiative Grant for \$50,000; 4) MAG 208 Water Quality Management Plan Amendment for the Villages at Desert Hills Wastewater Treatment Facility; and 5) Conformity Finding for the FY 1999-2003 MAG Transportation Improvement Program and Long Range Transportation Plan Summary and 1997 Update with 1998 Addendum.

For more information, contact Terry Johnson, Transportation Planning Manager, 254-6300.



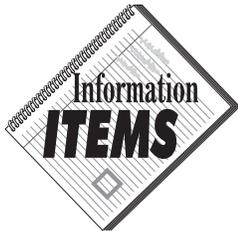
Upcoming Issues

Valley Vision 2025 Subcommittees, Collaborative Groups Meet

The Valley Vision 2025 process is really rolling — now, the real work begins. On September 2nd, the Vision Committee broke out into nine thematic subcommittees, marking the beginning of one of the most important phases of this effort to date. The subcommittees met to determine a range of topical questions and issues they would like to see addressed by each of the 30

collaborative groups in their individual communities. These “collaboratives” will host meetings in October and November in which they will identify their stakeholders, develop communication strategies, and collect input from their communities. Based on information provided in these meetings, each collaborative will then prepare a report that will be used to further direct the efforts in drafting a final vision plan.

For more information, contact Leslie Dornfeld, MAG Regional Planning Manager, 254-6300.



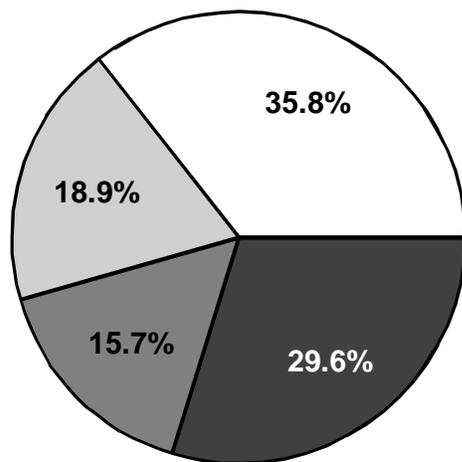
Information Items

Fair Share Analysis Presented to Council

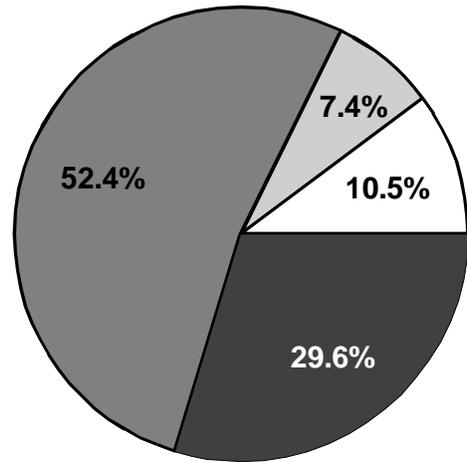
During the September 23rd meeting, MAG Freeway Program Manager Eric Anderson presented a Fair Share Analysis for Highway Funding to the Regional Council. Eric reported that the population of Maricopa County is greater than 20 states, that it would be the 28th largest state economy, and that \$7 out of \$10 originates in Maricopa County. After a thorough analysis of state and federal funds, Eric concluded that allocation of ADOT discretionary funds based on Fair Share would equal about a 35.8% allocation of ADOT discretionary funds. Under the current plan, however, MAG is only programmed to receive about 10.5%.

For more information, contact Eric Anderson, MAG Freeway Program Manager, 470-1107.

Allocation of ADOT Discretionary Funds Based on Fair Share



Average Annual Allocation in ADOT 1999-03 Program



- Maricopa County
- Balance of State
- ▒ Pima County
- Statewide Retention

Status Report on West Side Restriping Efforts

The MAG Draft 1999-2003 Transportation Improvement Program includes projects to resurface I-10 between 7th Avenue and 83rd Avenue, and to add auxiliary lanes and to restripe I-10 to ten lanes between 7th Avenue and 59th Avenue. The Regional Council was informed during its September 23rd meeting that discussions have been held on whether a Major Investment Study was needed to conduct the restriping project. A Major Investment Study Stakeholders meeting was held on July 28, 1998, in which the consensus was that an MIS was not needed, as restriping is not a major investment. The MAG Transportation Review Board concurred. The subject was presented as an information item only.

For more information, contact John Farry, Transportation Planning Program Manager, 254-6300.



Upcoming Events

Next Regional Council Meeting

The next Regional Council meeting will be held on Wednesday, November 4th, 1998. This will be a study session. Agenda items are expected to include a policy discussion about SOV lanes on the Superstition Freeway.

For more information, contact James M. Bourey, Executive Director, 254-6300.

MAG Distributes Domestic Violence Safety Plan

With the approach of October as the nation's designated "Domestic Violence Month," MAG's Domestic Violence subcommittee wanted to do more than simply mark the occasion — it wanted to find a way to help victims of abuse. So with the help of numerous partners, MAG has put together a "Domestic Violence Safety Plan." A target goal of 100,000 copies of the single-page brochure will be distributed through hospitals, food boxes, DES offices, five human services centers, 18 senior centers, and 13 community action programs in Maricopa County. Anyone interested in learning more about this effort or in obtaining copies of this plan are asked to contact Carol Kratz, Human Services Director.

For more information, contact Carol Kratz, Human Services Director, or Kelly Taft, Public Communications Program Manager, at 254-6300.