



TPC Chair, Phoenix Councilmember Peggy Bilsten

Freeway Litter Hot Spots Identified

Which Valley freeways attract the most litter?

Governor Janet Napolitano joined the Maricopa Association of Governments (MAG) and the Arizona Department of Transportation (ADOT) in a press conference April 5, 2007, to identify the “Top 10 Litter Hot Spots” in the region and to graphically illustrate some of the litter problems we face along our state and regional freeways. The report is part of the *Don't Trash Arizona* litter prevention campaign reminding motorists to take pride in Arizona.



Scottsdale Mayor Mary Manross

“We are privileged and proud to live in a great state. It’s a beautiful state, but it will be more beautiful,



Governor Napolitano announces the top freeway litter hot spots.

DON'T TRASH ARIZONA!



Maricopa County Supervisor Fulton Brock

and it will be safer, if people don’t throw trash on our freeways, our highways and our roadways,” said Governor Napolitano.

The governor praised MAG for including \$279 million in funding for litter pickup and landscape maintenance in the Regional Transportation Plan, a plan approved by voters in 2004. Governor Napolitano said some of the money has already been used to increase the number of crews working to clean up trash on regional freeways from four crews to 18. But she pointed out that it will take more than funding to solve the problem.

“Government cannot fix this problem by itself,” she told the crowd. “Every Arizonan has a role to play...I’m saying, ‘Don’t Trash Arizona!’ Let’s keep

it a beautiful place for ourselves, for our children, for our children’s children,” she said.

The press conference was held in a large open space adjacent to one of the freeway hot spots, and included row upon row of black trash bags that seemed to stretch as far as the eye could see.

“The 500 bags of trash that you see here represent just one day’s worth of litter pickup in this region along our Valley freeways,” explained Transportation Policy Committee Chair Peggy Bilsten, who was a major advocate for litter control funding in the transportation plan. “In total, there are about 151,000 bags of trash picked up along our freeways each year in Maricopa County alone.”

Continued on page 6

INSIDE
this issue

From the Chair	2	Human Services Summit	8
Voices From the Council	3	Crossing Guard Video	9
Profile: Mayor Marie Lopez Rogers .	4	Building a Quality Arizona	10
Don't Trash Arizona (continued)	6	Commuter Rail Strategic Plan	11
Teen DV Contest Winners	8	Air Quality Efforts	11





Mayor James M. Cavanaugh, Goodyear

Message from the Chair

The South Mountain Freeway is taking its rightful place as a subject of significance in this state. Without question, this freeway plays a crucial role in the transportation system that serves our region. It is time to act prudently and deliberatively in collaboration with government and private interests to counter a legacy of postponements and delays.

The South Mountain Freeway has been approved twice by the voters—in 1985 as part of Proposition 300 and in 2004 as part of Proposition 400. For more than 20 years, since 1985, the Maricopa Association of Governments has been on record as supporting the South Mountain facility. In 1988, the Pecos Road alignment for the east/west portion of the freeway was identified as the preferred alignment in the Design Concept Report published by the Arizona Department of Transportation. Since that time, the MAG Regional Council has continually approved the South Mountain Freeway as part

of the MAG Regional Transportation Plan.

The South Mountain Freeway is projected to carry more than 170,000 vehicles per day and is essential for our regional mobility. MAG estimates that 55 percent of the population growth and 58 percent of employment growth will take place within the southeast and southwest areas of the Valley connected by the South Mountain Freeway corridor. Estimates for 2030 show that travel times will be significantly better with the construction of the South Mountain Freeway, as it would provide flexibility for commuters between the East and West Valleys.

Also, the South Mountain Freeway will serve as an important connection to providing relief for Interstate I-10, whose day-long gridlock severely hampers the movement of some of the nation's heaviest commercial traffic and jeopardizes the quality of life of our own residents. Much of our commercial traffic originating from the West Coast uses the I-10 to bring goods east. The connection of the I-10 Reliever to the South Mountain Freeway will provide the needed capacity to take pressure off I-10.

Unfortunately, the schedule for completing the environmental impact statement (EIS) designed to consider alternative alignments for the freeway, originally scheduled to be completed in 2004, continues to slip. In May 2006, the schedule called for the Record of Decision (the final approval action by the Federal

REGIONAL council members

- ◆ Mayor James M. Cavanaugh Goodyear, Chair
- ◆ Mayor Mary Manross Scottsdale, Vice Chair
- ◆ Mayor Joan Shafer Surprise, Treasurer
- ◆ Mayor Steve Berman Gilbert, At-Large Member
- ◆ Councilmember Peggy Neely Phoenix, At-Large Member
- ◆ Mayor Tom Schoaf Litchfield Park, At-Large Member
- ◆ Mayor Ken Hawker Mesa, Past Chair
- ◆ Mayor Douglas Coleman Apache Junction
- ◆ Mayor Marie Lopez Rogers Avondale
- ◆ Mayor Bobby Bryant Buckeye
- ◆ Mayor Edward C. Morgan Carefree
- ◆ Vice Mayor Dick Esser Cave Creek
- ◆ Mayor Boyd Dunn Chandler
- ◆ Mayor Fred Waterman El Mirage
- ◆ President Raphael Bear Fort McDowell Yavapai Nation
- ◆ Mayor Wally Nichols Fountain Hills
- ◆ Mayor Daniel Birchfield Gila Bend
- ◆ Governor William Rhodes Gila River Indian Community
- ◆ Mayor Elaine M. Scruggs Glendale
- ◆ Mayor Bernadette Jimenez Guadalupe
- ◆ Supervisor Don Stapley Maricopa County
- ◆ Mayor Ed Winkler Paradise Valley
- ◆ Mayor Bob Barrett Peoria
- ◆ Mayor Art Sanders Queen Creek
- ◆ President Diane Enos Salt River Pima-Maricopa Indian Community
- ◆ Mayor Hugh Hallman Tempe
- ◆ Mayor Adolfo Gamez Tolleson
- ◆ Mayor Ron Badowski Wickenburg
- ◆ Mayor Michael LeVault Youngtown
- ◆ Joe Lane and Felipe Zubia Arizona Department of Transportation
- ◆ F. Rockne Arnett Citizens Transportation Oversight Committee
- ◆ Executive Committee Members

www.mag.maricopa.gov/members.cms

MAGAZine

MAGAZine is a quarterly newsletter of the Maricopa Association of Governments. It focuses on 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, (602) 254-6300.

James M. Cavanaugh
Mayor of Goodyear
Regional Council Chair

Dennis Smith
Executive Director

Teresa Grantham and Kevin Wallace: Contributors

Kelly Taft: Editor

Gordon Tyus: Graphic Design



Continued on next page

Voices from the Council



The Town of Buckeye appreciates MAG's support on the widening of Interstate 10 and the many hours of work on the Hassayampa Regional Transportation Framework Study.
—Buckeye Mayor Bobby Bryant, commenting on recent decisions by the MAG Regional Council to accelerate widening projects on I-10, as well as on a study being conducted by MAG to analyze the Hassayampa Valley Area to develop a planned roadway network.

Domestic violence is a critical issue which negatively impacts adults and youth in all of our communities. No one and no community is immune. It is important that we, as a region, continue to focus on this issue and provide collaborative resources to combat and create strategies to help people in these horrible situations find strength and safety within themselves, their homes and their communities.

—Scottsdale Mayor Manross, Chair of the MAG Regional Domestic Violence Council



Honor your mother this year by making a commitment to make positive contributions to the health of the women in your life. Avondale celebrates National Women's Health Week May 13 – 19 with many events sponsored by Healthy Avondale 2010, including a Family Fun Walk and breakfast to honor Mom. Visit www.HealthyAvondale.com for more information.

—Avondale Mayor Marie Lopez Rogers

Congratulations are in order to Maricopa County for its decision to consolidate its Justice Court system throughout the Valley. Moving these facilities from leased space into a convenient and central location makes sense for a number of reasons. The city was extremely pleased to be able to transfer land to the county for the development of its newest East Valley location, which was recently dedicated in downtown Chandler. Now, residents in this region have a municipal court and county justice court in one convenient location.

—Chandler Mayor Boyd W. Dunn



By working together to integrate and improve the key transportation components of the county—highways, railways, and airways—the MAG Regional Council is making progress toward our region's brightest future. While there is still much work to be done, it appears we are making progress to address all modes of transportation to improve our residents' quality of life. The MAG Regional Council continues to work with the Legislature and the Governor's office to create and execute viable transportation plans that will benefit the entire region.

—Tempe Mayor Hugh Hallman



Message from the Chair (continued)

Highway Administration for the EIS) to be made in December 2007. We were recently informed that it is now slated to be completed by late 2008 or early 2009. This most recent delay—to a facility that was originally scheduled to be completed in 2004—adds years to the con-

struction schedule of a freeway that is needed now.

We can no longer accept continued postponements of this important segment of our transportation system. It is critical to our local, regional, state and national needs. We must continue

to collaborate with government, businesses, and other entities to explore the possibilities for a quicker resolution to the South Mountain Freeway. Our citizens have demanded that we do so, and they deserve our focused attention on this effort. 





Mayor Marie Lopez Rogers, Avondale



Keeping It All On Track Avondale Mayor Marie Lopez Rogers

She's a mayor, a mother, and a NASCAR fan—and not necessarily in that order.

Avondale Mayor Marie Lopez Rogers has been following NASCAR since the 1980s, when it first came to Phoenix International Raceway, the world-class track located in the community she now leads. Mayor Lopez Rogers' love for auto racing may be surpassed only by her love for her six grandchildren, who range in age from three to 14. Ironically, it was her role as a grandmother that led her to seek public office.

“Looking at the future of my children and my grandchildren, I wanted to just make a difference in this world, and I wanted to ensure that other

families have the same opportunities and ability to have a great life,” says Mayor Lopez Rogers.

She says many issues top her list, but chief among them is helping her rapidly-expanding West Valley community grow responsibly.

“It's looking at what kind of growth do we want? Do we want quantity and to just annex everywhere, or do we want quality and looking at specific approaches to how we want to grow?” she questions. “We really need to begin debate for the foundation of the planning strategy, and as we're growing responsibly, we look at what our citizens really need and want. So when we talk about quality growth, we talk about the infrastructure and what that means to our major



Mayor Lopez Rogers and Sgt. Paul Hermann honor a “young detective.”

roads and freeways, along with transit and those kinds of issues. It's also looking at our economic development. Are people able to work here as well as shop here? It's about building for the future, as opposed to building for the here and now,” she says.

Mayor Lopez Rogers says it is important to consider what the community of about 70,000 will look like 50 years from now.

“The one thing that I continue to think about in my life is that I'm not just building buildings, but I'm building a community,” she says. “Since I've grown up here in Avondale, I want to keep the small town atmosphere, even when we get to 150,000 (population). At some point there will be redevelopment, and I hope that, while the redevelopment may bring a new building, the same atmosphere is still here.”

Human services issues are also high on her priority list. Mayor Lopez Rogers chairs the MAG Human Services Coordinating



Mayor Lopez Rogers celebrates the grand opening of the Civic Center Library along with fellow city council members and members of the County Library District. The library is a joint partnership between Avondale and Maricopa County.

Continued on next page

Mayor Marie Lopez Rogers (continued)

Committee, where she works to develop recommendations on the distribution of federal Social Services Block Grant funds.

“Those residents who are in the most need, sometimes there isn’t adequate funding to assist them with their basic needs—housing, shelter, food, clothing. So we have to make sure we develop the best coordinated regional plan possible for assessing what services have the most impact and then distributing that funding where it can do the most good,” she says.

Lopez Rogers is the first Latina mayor in Avondale and grew up in the farm labor camps around the city. She says while it is still somewhat unusual to see Hispanic women in politics, she believes the trend is changing.

“I think the one thing my mother said when I was elected was, what was my husband going to do?” laughs Mayor Lopez Rogers. “So I think there’s still that same mentality to some point. But I think with the younger families, and the younger professionals, and with education being key for us as it’s always been, that has been changing. And I applaud the young women who look to public service,” she says.

Despite her high public office, Mayor Lopez Rogers says many people would be surprised to learn that she still fills many of the traditional roles at home.

“They probably don’t know that I have six grandkids and (that I am) trying to balance all of that: being a mom and a grandma

and a sister and a wife, and having to go home, then watch the grandkids play baseball and take the clothes to the cleaners. All of the things that families do in the evening are also what I do, because I think it is important that we relate to the families that we’re working for.”

The mayor says she will seek reelection in September, which would be her final term due to term limits. When asked about future plans, Mayor Rogers responded, “I love Avondale and I will continue to serve this city, and I have no idea what the



Mayor Lopez Rogers with grandchildren Taylor, Esther and Christian, and husband Eddie.

future holds. I always keep my options open,” she says.

Wherever the future road leads, it’s a fair bet that Mayor Lopez Rogers will continue going full throttle. 

MAG Moment



MAG Regional Council Chair James Cavanaugh of Goodyear (left) teams up with former Glendale Mayor Max Klass to cut MAG’s 40th Anniversary cake at a special event held April 25, 2007. Max Klass was a founding member of the MAG Regional Council and attended the first MAG meeting on April 12, 1967.



Freeway Litter (continued from page 1)

At nearly 11 pounds each, those bags represent a total of about 1.6 million pounds of trash, or about 803 tons. Many of those bags are picked up along the top 10 freeway hot spots. For example, at the worst hot spot, crews picked up about 761 bags of litter per mile over a 10-month period. Approximately 3,805 labor hours were involved, at a cost of about \$66,370. (See the complete listing of the top 10 hot spots on the map below.)

In all, litter pickup costs the region about \$3 million a year. But local elected officials say a greater cost comes in the impact to our economy, when tourists and prospective businesses choose not to come back to our state due to a poor impression.

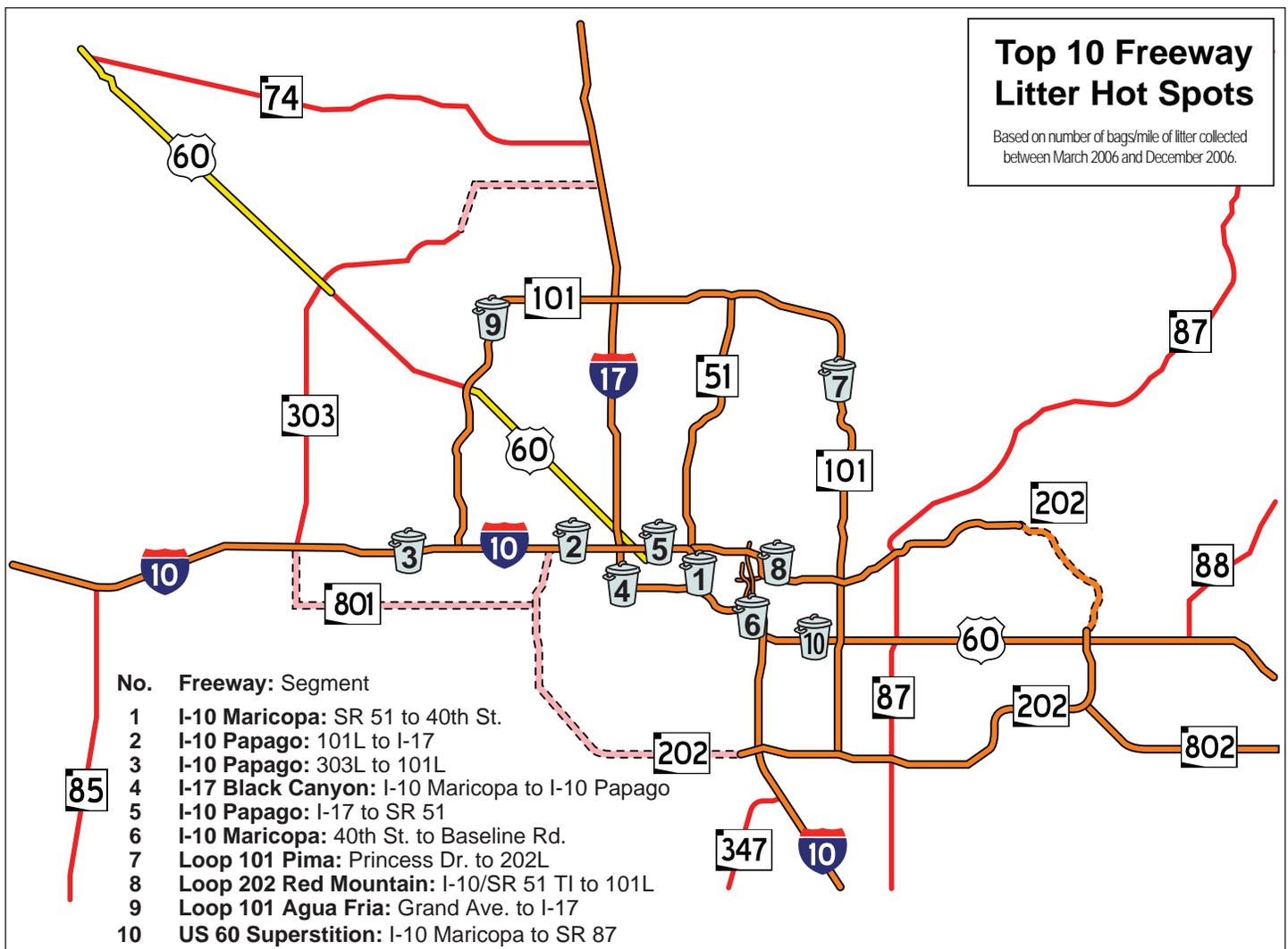
“Really it’s about pride—how do we feel about our community?” Bilsten told reporters. “What do

you want people to see when they’re coming into Arizona for the first time?”

MAG Vice Chair Mary Manross, has also been outspoken on the issue of litter prevention, echoed those thoughts.

“It tells people what we think of ourselves,” said Manross, who is the mayor of Scottsdale. “When people enter our state limits, when they come into our cities and towns, they’re going to get a message, they’re going to understand who we are. Do we respect our communities? Do we care about where we live? Do we care about the quality of our environment? And they’ll be able to tell that by whether or not we have littered and trashed our cities. That’s why I’m happy to support this effort,” she said.

Continued on next page



Take pride: how you can help

Don't Trash Arizona!

The most important thing you can do is to take pride in our state. Refrain from littering and prevent friends and family from littering. Here are some simple steps you can take to prevent freeway litter:

Use Litterbags

Three in five residents statewide say they keep a litterbag in their vehicle. If you do not have a litterbag in your vehicle, please add one. We'll even get you started. Visit *DontTrashAZ.com* for a free litterbag.

Secure Your Loads

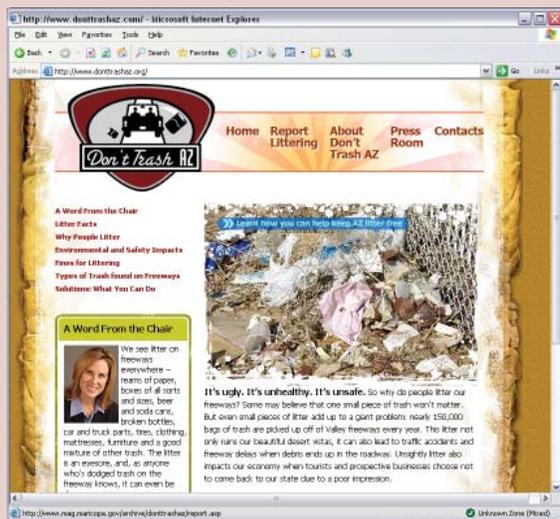
Litter should not be put in the beds of pickup trucks, to prevent unintentional littering. More serious problems arise when "accidental" litter—such as ladders, mattresses, furniture, landscaping and construction debris—falls off trailers or other vehicles. But failing to secure loads is no accident. It is the driver's responsibility to make sure that loads are properly secured with tarps and tie-downs.

Keep Your Butts in the Car

Cigarette butts are one of the most common litter items that are deliberately tossed from vehicles. It can take many years for cigarette butts to decompose, and when it rains, the toxic chemicals in cigarettes make their way into our water supply. Throwing cigarette butts out of car windows also increases the risk of costly wildfires.

Volunteer

ADOT has 2,200 Adopt-a-Highway volunteers and more than 100 companies sponsoring litter cleanup efforts statewide.



Please visit www.DontTrashArizona.com



The 500 trash bags displayed at the news conference were picked up along Valley freeways in just one day.

Freeway Litter (continued)

The hot spots report was developed to bring attention to the *Don't Trash Arizona* litter prevention campaign and to remind motorists to take pride in our state. Many of the hot spots can be found where major freeways intersect, where traffic congestion is often heaviest. Many of the hot spots are also found along gateway routes into the region.

"They're all circulated throughout this Valley," said Governor Napolitano. "Let's clean these up, let's keep them clean, and let's get after the other ones. Let's get after the next 10, and the 10 after that, and the 10 after that. And then, as Arizonans, let's all stand back and say, 'this is our state, we all have a role to play here and it's a pretty simple role: Don't Trash Arizona.'"

Along with the "hot spots" report, ADOT also identified the most common—and often dangerous—items of debris that are found in the roadway after falling from vehicles with unsecured loads. Items such as mattresses, ladders, furniture, landscaping and construction debris are among the most common types

of items removed by emergency road crews. While roadside litter is ugly, roadway debris poses a far more serious danger to motorists. It also contributes to the congestion "time tax," the time we spend waiting in traffic, which costs our state millions of dollars in lost worker productivity.

This type of "unintentional" litter is just as serious as deliberate littering, said Maricopa County Supervisor Fulton Brock. All that residents need to do, he says, is to tie down loads properly and to stop being careless about covering unsecured loads. Brock says other easy solutions to eliminating litter include keeping litterbags in your vehicle and to stop throwing litter and cigarette butts out the window.

"We're saying here today, just don't do it. Stop trashing Arizona. The challenge that we issue is that everyone has a part to play. It doesn't matter if you're Republican or Democrat, old or young, rich or poor. This is our community," said Brock.

For more information on the *Don't Trash Arizona* campaign, please visit the Web site at www.DontTrashArizona.com



Teens Speak Out Against Domestic Violence Through Ad Contest

Empowering teens to help each other escape from dating violence was the goal of a recent public service announcement competition coordinated by the Maricopa Association of Governments (MAG).

Through the Youth Empowerment Project, junior high and high school students were invited to create messages about teen dating violence. More than 50

youth submitted entries in the video and storyboard categories. Contest submissions were judged by a panel of teen peers, as well as by public relations professionals.



A couple is the center of attention with everyone enjoying their company.

A frame from the storyboard submitted by first place winner Rebecca Frost is shown above.

The announcements will be used to help advertise a new Web site that features information about dating violence and provides a list of local resources where teens can go for help in dealing with abuse issues. The Web site—*WebOfFriends.org*—was made possible through a grant from the Governor's Office for Children, Youth and Families. The winning entries may be viewed on the site.

The winners were announced March 26th at a public recognition event at the Harkins Theater at Arizona Mills Mall. Support for the event was provided by ValueOptions of Arizona, Harkins Theaters and the Phoenix Suns. Additional support for the competition came from Chandler High School, Free Arts of Arizona and Florence Crittenton.

Winners in the video category are:

- **1st Place**—Ian Carlson, Bianca Hansrote, and Corey Kinsinger
- **2nd Place**—Brandon Paredes, Trevor Harvey, and Diego Dimas
- **3rd Place**—Joe Garcia, Vincent Palladino, and Elizabeth Lawless

Winners in the storyboard category were:

- **1st Place**—Rebecca Frost
- **2nd Place**—Lynsy Smith
- **3rd Place**—Sarah Johnson

The first place video entry will be professionally produced by MAG and will be marketed to mainstream media outlets beginning in June 2007.

For more information about the Youth Empowerment Project, please visit www.WebOfFriends.org.



Keynote speaker Rick Lowe will offer insights on community planning.

“Innovations in Planning” Focus of Human Services Summit

Identifying the best ways to address issues ranging from aging to homelessness is the objective behind the MAG Regional Human Services Summit scheduled for June 7, 2007.

“Regional human services planning changes as needs emerge and resources are developed,” said Avondale Mayor Marie Lopez Rogers, who chairs the MAG Human Services Coordinating Committee. “The Innovations in Planning summit is being held to engage key stakeholders in a dialogue that will examine potential partnerships to create

meaningful change in the community. We recognize that the most important resources we have are the people who embrace human services issues and who work to make life even better, day after day,” she said.

Ideas from the summit will be included in a report that will provide strategies for addressing key human services issues. Breakout sessions include topics covering crime, domestic violence, aging, housing, disabilities, mental illness, youth, and transportation, along with other issues.



The keynote speaker for the event is Rick Lowe, who is the founder of Project Row Houses, an agency established to bring together arts, cultural education and social service programs.

MAG Video Helps Train Crossing Guards

Imagine how dangerous it would be for children going to school without the help of the school crossing guard. That is why the MAG Transportation Safety Committee, in support of the national “Safe Routes to School” program, is funding a training video to provide crossing guards with the tools they need for keeping children safe.



“We’ve all heard tragic stories about children who have been injured in collisions,” states the training video. “That is why the Maricopa Association of Governments wanted to produce this video, because we understand and support the vital role that each of you plays in getting our children to and from school safely.”

The video outlines the importance of various safety equipment, such as the crucial bright reflective vest and stop paddle that are commonly associated with crossing guards. But crossing guards also rely on other “equipment,” such as two-way radios and the



“Stop for Children in Crosswalk” and “No Passing/15 mph/School in Session” warning signs. Few may realize it, but there are specific rules governing how, when, and in what order the signs must be placed and removed before and after school. Another “tool” that may be taken for granted is the crosswalk itself, which must be kept in good condition by local authorities.

The training video will be copied onto DVD and distributed to hundreds of crossing guards at two training workshops to be held in August, just before the school year begins.

“Yours is one of the most important jobs anyone will ever have,” the video reminds trainees. “Teaching kids how to cross streets safely is a lesson they will use all of their lives. If you are polite to pedestrians and drivers, they will get into the habit of watching out for you and respecting your actions. The children will understand that you are protecting their safety and will honor and respect your directions.”

Along with keeping children safe, the video is also designed to protect the safety of the crossing guards themselves, many of whom are new to the position. 

Building a Quality Arizona



The numbers tell us that a projected 16 million people will live in Arizona by the year 2050. It doesn't take much analysis to figure out that adding 10 million people to the state's current population will mean our state roadways are going to get a lot busier, or to conclude that Arizona's current transportation

infrastructure is inadequate to handle the additional traffic that will occur when those residents try to get to where they work, live and play.

In a process known as Building a Quality Arizona, the Maricopa Association of Governments has joined other Councils of Governments (COGs) and Metropolitan Planning Organizations (MPOs) from around the state to work

with the Arizona Department of Transportation, the State Legislature, the Governor's Office, and the business community to talk about state infrastructure needs.

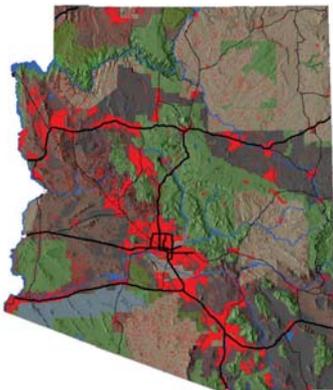
MAG Regional Council Chair James M. Cavanaugh, who also chairs the Arizona COG/MPO Association, says the approach is being modeled after the successful process that MAG followed in developing the Regional Transportation Plan passed by voters three years ago.

"In that process, we brought all major stakeholders to the table to make sure that we considered all possible alternatives and solutions," said Mayor Cavanaugh. "We recognized that only by working together could we address our growth needs, and that same principle holds true today as we examine how we provide more transportation infrastructure throughout the state," he said.

Mayor Cavanaugh says another lesson learned during the development of the Regional Transportation Plan was the importance of sound technical data to identify transportation priorities. The Arizona COG/MPO Association recently agreed to conduct a statewide "reconnaissance study" to determine the state's short-term transportation needs and to establish an action plan for moving forward. Additional framework studies may be needed to produce specific recommendations for Arizona's transportation infrastructure.

"One task of the study process will be to use a standardized computer program or 'modeling tool' to analyze high growth areas," said Mayor Cavanaugh. "This modeling tool will help us project travel demand across the state, so that we can determine where we need to add infrastructure and what it will cost to build that infrastructure," he said.

While urgent needs exist, Cavanaugh said a thorough process is important to ensure that the solutions provided are the right ones. The reconnaissance study is expected to be completed in December 2007. In the meantime, the COG/MPO Association will meet in August at the League of Arizona Cities and Towns Annual Conference. The meeting is expected to identify a list of statewide bottlenecks, provide recommendations for the modeling tool described above, and develop the first round of potential alternatives. 



The map above depicts in red where the population growth will likely occur by 2050.

Quality Arizona, the Maricopa Association of Governments (COGs) and Metropolitan Planning Organizations (MPOs) from around the state to work



Representatives from Arizona Councils of Governments, Metropolitan Planning Organizations, the Governor's Office, and the business community attended a planning session designed to help build a quality Arizona.

Work Begins on Commuter Rail Plan



The study will look at the feasibility of commuter rail in the region.

With the cost of gasoline at \$3.00 a gallon and traffic congestion escalating across the region, interest in commuter rail continues to grow. To look at potential commuter rail options in the region, MAG launched a commuter rail planning process in February 2007. Once completed, the Commuter Rail Strategic Plan will identify priorities and develop an implementation strategy for commuter rail service in Maricopa County and northern Pinal County.

Community and business leaders will lead the discussions through their participation on a Commuter Rail Stakeholders Group, which will meet periodically throughout the course of the 12-month project.

“A key task for the stakeholders will be to conduct an analysis of strengths, weaknesses, opportunities, and threats related to implementing commuter rail service,” said Transportation Policy Committee member Cliff Elkins, councilmember from Surprise. “Through this process, we will gain a better understanding of the viability of commuter rail in the region and how it will work in concert with our transportation system,” he said. 

For more information on the Commuter Rail Strategic Plan, contact Kevin Wallace, MAG Transit Program Manager, at kwallace@mag.maricopa.gov or by telephone at (602) 254-6300.

Air Quality Efforts Continue

The MAG Regional Council has approved a recommended list of measures for reducing particulate emissions in the Valley. The move comes in the wake of a finding by the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) that the region failed to meet a 2006 deadline for attaining the federal standard for emissions of particulate matter ten microns in diameter or less (PM-10).

MAG has until December 2007 to submit a plan to the EPA that will lay out a regional strategy for reducing PM-10 levels by five percent each year until the standard is met.

The list approved by the Regional Council includes such measures as requiring dust managers at construction sites of 50 acres and greater, increasing fines for open burning, banning ATV use on high pollution days, and banning leaf blowers from blowing debris into streets.

The measures have been forwarded to the appropriate jurisdictional agencies, who will be requested to make legally binding commitments to implement the measures they deem appropriate. Local government commitments will be needed by June 15, 2007. Once those commitments are received, MAG will use computer models to determine whether the implemented measures are enough to reduce emissions by five percent. In the meantime, additional discussions are taking place to determine if more measures are necessary. 



A vehicle outfitted with sophisticated monitoring equipment was recently used to collect PM-10 data near violating monitors. The data was used to identify pollution sources.



The large stack of reports shown above is a *single* PM-10 Plan previously created by MAG.

May

- 2nd** 10:00 a.m. Intelligent Transportation Systems Committee
- 2nd** 1:30 p.m. Standard Specifications and Details Committee
- 3rd** 1:00 p.m. Domestic Violence Council
- 8th** 1:00 p.m. Street Committee
- 9th** 12:00 p.m. Management Committee
- 10th** 1:00 p.m. Human Services Technical Committee
- 14th** 12:00 p.m. Regional Council Executive Committee
- 15th** 10:00 a.m. Transportation Safety Committee
- 15th** 1:00 p.m. Regional Bicycle Task Force/ Pedestrian Working Group Joint Meeting
- 15th** 2:30 p.m. Planners Stakeholders Group
- 16th** 2:00 p.m. Building Codes Committee
- 16th** 4:00 p.m. Transportation Policy Committee
- 22nd** 10:00 a.m. Population Technical Advisory Committee
- 22nd** 1:30 p.m. Air Quality Technical Advisory Committee
- 23rd** 5:00 p.m. Regional Council
- 24th** 10:00 a.m. Transportation Review Committee

The dates, times and locations of all meetings may change. Other committees not listed here may meet during these months.

For confirmation call (602) 254-6300, or visit the Web site: www.mag.maricopa.gov/meetings.cms

June

- 6th** 10:00 a.m. Intelligent Transportation Systems Committee
- 6th** 1:30 p.m. Standard Specifications and Details Committee
- 7th** 1:00 p.m. 2007 MAG Regional Human Services Summit: Innovations in Planning
- 11th** 12:00 p.m. Regional Council Executive Committee
- 13th** 12:00 p.m. Management Committee
- 14th** 1:00 p.m. Human Services Technical Committee
- 14th** 1:00 p.m. Enhancement Funds Working Group
- 19th** 1:00 p.m. Regional Bicycle Task Force/ Pedestrian Working Group Joint Meeting
- 20th** 2:00 p.m. Building Codes Committee
- 20th** 4:00 p.m. Transportation Policy Committee
- 22nd** 1:00 p.m. Enhancement Funds Working Group
- 26th** 10:00 a.m. Population Technical Advisory Committee
- 27th** 5:00 p.m. Regional Council
- 28th** 10:00 a.m. Transportation Review Committee
- 28th** 1:30 p.m. Air Quality Technical Advisory Committee

Parking is available under the building. Please ask for parking validation at the meeting. Transit tickets will be provided for those using transit. Bike racks are available at the entrance to the parking garage.

The MAGAZine newsletter is available in electronic format and in Spanish on the MAG Web site: www.mag.maricopa.gov/project.cms?item=433

July

- 9th** 12:00 p.m. Regional Council Executive Committee
- 10th** 1:00 p.m. Street Committee
- 11th** 10:00 a.m. Intelligent Transportation Systems Committee
- 11th** 12:00 p.m. Management Committee
- 11th** 1:30 p.m. Standard Specifications and Details Committee
- 12th** 1:00 p.m. Domestic Violence Council
- 17th** 10:00 a.m. Transportation Safety Committee
- 17th** 1:00 p.m. Regional Bicycle Task Force/ Pedestrian Working Group Joint Meeting
- 17th** 1:00 p.m. Regional Bicycle Task Force/ Pedestrian Working Group Joint Meeting
- 17th** 2:30 p.m. Planners Stakeholders Group
- 18th** 2:00 p.m. Building Codes Committee
- 18th** 4:00 p.m. Transportation Policy Committee
- 19th** 10:00 a.m. Telecommunications Advisory Group
- 24th** 10:00 a.m. Population Technical Advisory Committee
- 25th** 5:00 p.m. Regional Council
- 26th** 10:00 a.m. Transportation Review Committee
- 26th** 1:30 p.m. Air Quality Technical Advisory Committee

All meetings, unless indicated otherwise, will be held in the conference rooms located in the MAG offices on the second floor of the building, 302 N. 1st Avenue, Phoenix.



302 N. 1st Avenue, Suite 300, Phoenix, AZ 85003
Telephone (602) 254-6300, Fax (602) 254-6490
Visit our Web site at: www.mag.maricopa.gov

PRST STD
U.S. POSTAGE
PAID
PHOENIX AZ
PERMIT NO. 2659