



Executive Director's Report

At the June Regional Council meeting, the Arizona Department of Transportation provided an update on the progress of the Regional Freeway System. It was remarkable to see the progress being made in implementing the projects from Proposition 400 and the work being done to complete the projects begun under Proposition 300. Freeways are the lifeblood of our economy and the support of the entire region in supporting the freeway system has been essential to our success.

The last segment of the Red Mountain Freeway between Power and University Drive in Mesa will be completed in late summer of 2008 (*see information items, below*). This represents the completion of the Regional Freeway System under Proposition 300. This was made possible by the perseverance of the MAG member agencies working in cooperation with ADOT.

As ADOT reported at the Regional Council meeting, we have a great start on the new projects proposed under Proposition 400. Making the Proposition 400 projects a reality will take the same determination that was evident in the first 20-year program in order for us to come together for the greater good of the region.

I am confident that the leadership of our region will rise to the challenge and ensure that the Proposition 400 projects are completed, just as we now see the Proposition 300 projects nearing completion.

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

Regional Council Meeting Report for Wednesday, June 27, 2007

Action Items



Regional Council Elects Officers

Goodyear Mayor James M. Cavanaugh has been elected to serve for a second consecutive year as Chair of the Maricopa Association of Governments (MAG), while Scottsdale Mayor Mary Manross retains her position as Vice Chair. Phoenix City Councilmember Peggy Neely, who has been an At-Large

Member, was newly elected to serve as Treasurer. The vote took place during the MAG Annual Meeting on June 27, 2007.

The officers, along with three At-Large Members, will comprise the MAG Executive Committee. Also elected as the At-Large Members were Mayor Marie Lopez Rogers, Avondale, who is new to the Executive Committee; Mayor Steve Berman, Gilbert; and Mayor Tom Schoaf, Litchfield Park. Mesa Mayor Keno Hawker remains on the Executive Committee as Past Chair.

The MAG Executive Committee serves as the MAG finance committee and makes recommendations on policy issues heard by the Regional Council. It is also responsible for contract selections and other budgetary matters.

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

Material Changes to ADOT Program Approved

The MAG Regional Council has approved a number of program changes sought by the Arizona Department of Transportation (ADOT) for FY 2007 and FY 2008 to incorporate revised cost estimates and project changes. The requested changes include:

- **US 93: Wickenburg Bypass.** Increase the FY 2007 construction budget by \$3.3 million to a total of \$32.3 million. The increase is the result of utility relocations, retaining walls, and flood protection.
- **I-17: SR 101 to Jomax Road.** Increase the FY 2008 construction budget by \$13 million to a total of \$84 million. Of the cost increase, \$2 million is being funded by Maricopa County Flood Control and the City of Phoenix. The cost increase includes an additional southbound lane between Pinnacle Peak and Deer Valley roads to reduce weaving movements; additional drainage work; the cost to increase the pavement thickness to accommodate heavy truck volumes and soil conditions; and revised unit costs.
- **SR 303: Happy Valley Road to I-17.** Increase the FY 2007 design budget by \$5.3 million to include the cost to design the system interchange required to connect Loop 303 to State Route 74.
- **SR 347: County Line to Queen Creek Road Traffic Interchange.** Add a new \$4 million pavement preservation project for FY 2008. Funding for this project will be provided by ADOT's state fund for pavement preservation.

The requested changes add approximately \$26 million in costs, of which \$6 million in additional funding is being added. MAG staff reported that the changes are reasonable and necessary to meet the Regional Transportation

Plan freeway program. The additional costs reduce the cash balances in the ADOT program; however, the balances for FY 2007 and FY 2008 are above the minimum balance guidelines used by ADOT to manage the program. The requested changes can be incorporated into the program without affecting other future projects.

For more information, please contact Eric Anderson, MAG Transportation Director, (602) 254-6300.

MAG 9-1-1 Plan Update Approved

The MAG Regional Council voted to approve the MAG 9-1-1 Five Year Plan 2007 Update, which provides guidance for the MAG 9-1-1 system for the next five years. During the past year, a working group comprising Public Safety Answering Point (PSAP) managers and the Maricopa Region 9-1-1 Office staff, have worked on an update to the Plan. The action plan identifies challenges faced by PSAPs across the region, including employee retention, costly equipment replacements, space needs and call volume increases, and lays out a five-year strategy for addressing those issues.

For more information, please contact Valerie Day, MAG Executive Assistant, (602) 254-6300.

Approval of Federal Fiscal Year Closeout

The Regional Council approved the Federal Fiscal Year 2007 MAG Federal Funds Interim Closeout. In April 2007, the Regional Council approved the deferral of 28 projects totaling \$39.9 million. Since then, one project has been identified that will not be deferred, and four projects have been requested to be deferred. The interim closeout included an available \$13.79 million in uncommitted MAG federal funds. Member agencies submitted requests for closeout funds totaling \$9.34 million. The Regional Council approved the list of projects recommended by the Transportation Review Committee and the MAG Management Committee.

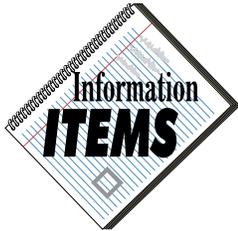
For more information, please contact Eileen Yazzie, MAG Transportation Program Manager, (602) 254-6300.

Proposed Cuts Lead to Revised Recommendations for Social Services Funding

Due to proposed reductions in federal funding, the Arizona Department of Economic Security notified MAG that the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services is requiring revised allocation recommendations for the Social Services Block Grant funding. The revised recommendations are designed to reflect a 19.7 percent budget cut proposed at the federal level.

While it is hoped that the proposed budget cuts will not be approved, the Regional Council approved a revised plan reflecting the reductions.

For more information, please contact Amy St. Peter, MAG Human Services Manager, (602) 254-6300.



Information Items

Regional Freeway Program Update

A representative from the Arizona Department of Transportation provided an update on the status of Regional Freeway Program studies and construction activity. Most of the studies that are underway involve final design concepts and environmental impact statements. Studies include projects along the I-17; I-10; US 60; State Route (SR) 51; SR 85; Loop 101; Loop 303; Loop 202; and SR 801 (I-10 Reliever). Construction activities that are underway now or will be shortly include the widening of SR 51 from Shea Boulevard to the Loop 101, I-17 from Loop 101 to Carefree Highway, and HOV lanes on the Pima Freeway from Loop 202 to Princess Drive. New freeway construction is underway on the Red Mountain (Loop 202) from Power Road to University. A three-mile section of the Red Mountain Freeway from US 60 to University Drive opened last week. A quiet pavement project has been completed on I-10 from Van Buren Street to Baseline Road.

Construction of new or improved traffic interchanges include projects on US 60 at Higley Road; US 60 (Grand Avenue) at 59th Avenue and Glendale; I-10 at 43rd Avenue and 51st Avenue; I-10 at Ray Road; Agua Fria Freeway (Loop 101) at Bethany Home Road; I-17 at Jomax Road and Dixileta Drive; and I-17 at Carefree Highway.

For more information, contact Eric Anderson, MAG Transportation Director, (602) 254-6300.

Next Regional Council Meeting

The next meeting of the MAG Regional Council is scheduled for Wednesday, July 25, 2007, at the MAG Offices, 302 N. 1st Avenue, Suite 200, Phoenix. Agenda items are expected to include, among others, a report on the 2007 Final Phase input opportunity; recommended approvals of the Regional Transportation Plan 2007 Update and Draft FY 2008-2012 Transportation Improvement Plan, contingent upon a finding of conformity at the meeting; a proposed major amendment to delete SR 153 from the MAG Regional Transportation Plan; Federal Fiscal Year 2007 final year closeout; Enhancement Funds Working Group Round XV recommendations; prioritized list of PM-10 paving projects for FY 2007 CMAQ funding; and an update on heat relief planning efforts.

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