



Executive Director's Report

The month of June reminded us we have much to celebrate in our region. Following the MAG Annual Meeting, we met to honor regional excellence through the 2008 MAG Desert Peaks Awards program. As always, it was refreshing to see the many outstanding examples of cooperation taking place in our region, all of which are creating a better life for the Valley's 3.9 million residents (*see Information Items, below*).

During the awards program, we recognized the many talented individuals who contribute to this organization, including current Regional Council members as well as a recognition of past MAG officers. These individuals included the leaders who first envisioned a regional freeway system decades ago and helped implement its construction. The timing of this recognition was especially fitting, because on July 15th the region will celebrate a major milestone when we see the completion of the final section of the Red Mountain Freeway. This event will be historic because it also represents the completion of the regional freeway system funded through proposition 300, which was the half-cent sales tax approved by voters in 1985.

It took foresight and courage for these leaders to ask citizens to tax themselves for transportation and complete the 137 mile Loop system. There were many challenges, and it took perseverance, but today we are driving on the dream these leaders had in 1985. In fact, the MAG region is considered a trailblazer among regions nationwide to ask citizens to help fund transportation utilizing a sales tax.

Many other MAG leaders have stepped up in the years following the Prop 300 election, further enhancing the system and keeping it on time and on budget. When the last stripe is laid and the final barricade comes down on the Red Mountain, we can all feel a sense of accomplishment knowing that the vision approved by voters 23 years ago is at last a reality.

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

Regional Council Meeting Report for Wednesday, June 25, 2008.

Action Items

MAG Elects Officers

Scottsdale Mayor Mary Manross was elected as Chair of the MAG Regional Council, MAG's governing body, during the organization's Annual Meeting. She succeeds Goodyear Mayor James Cavanaugh, who has chaired the Regional Council since



2006. Mayor Manross will also preside over the MAG Executive Committee, which serves as MAG's finance committee.

In addition to Mayor Manross's election as Chair, Phoenix Vice Mayor Peggy Neely was elected Vice Chair and Litchfield Park Mayor Thomas Schoaf to serve as Treasurer. Elected as at-large members of the Executive Committee were Avondale Mayor Marie Lopez Rogers, Gilbert Mayor Steve Berman, and Tempe Mayor Hugh Hallman. Goodyear Mayor James Cavanaugh remains on the Executive Committee as Past Chair.

The Regional Council also approved new officers and members of the MAG Transportation Policy Committee (TPC). Gilbert Mayor Steve Berman was elected to serve as TPC Chair, with Avondale Mayor Marie Lopez Rogers selected as Vice Chair. New members include Buckeye Mayor Jackie Meck and Mesa Mayor Scott Smith. The TPC is responsible for making policy recommendations to the Regional Council on transportation issues, including the Regional Transportation Plan and Transportation Improvement Program.

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

FY 2009 Arterial life Cycle Approved

The MAG Regional Council approved the FY 2009 Arterial Life Cycle Program (ALCP), contingent on a new finding of conformity for the amendment to the Regional Transportation Plan 2007 Update and FY 2008-2012 MAG Transportation Improvement Program, which will be finalized in July.

The Regional Transportation Plan identifies 94 arterial street projects to receive funding from the regional sales tax extension and from MAG federal funds. The ALCP provides information for each of the 94 projects spanning a 20-year life cycle. Information in the ALCP includes project location, regional funding, fiscal year of work, type of work, status of project, and the lead agency.

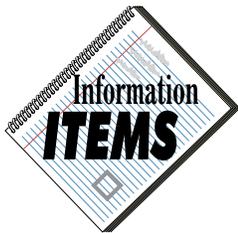
For more information, please contact Eileen Yazzie, Transportation Programming Mgr, at (602) 254-6300.

Federal Fiscal Year Interim Closeout

In May 2008, the Regional Council approved the deferral and deletion of federal funds for 38 projects totaling \$40.05 million. Considering the available amount of federal funds, the federal fiscal year (FFY) 2008 Interim Closeout established the availability of \$14.7 in unobligated MAG federal funds for the current federal fiscal year. Member agencies have submitted requests for \$18.45 million in closeout projects. The Transportation Review Committee recommended funding 18 projects for a total of \$14.7 million, and recommended approval of a rank-ordered contingency list of four projects for the FFY 2008 Interim Closeout. Additional funds may become available due to last-minute project deferrals, in which case remaining projects would be funded in the order of rank. To balance the fiscally constrained

Arterial Life Cycle Program (ALCP), \$21 million in MAG Surface Transportation Program (STP) funds will be carried forward to FFY 2009.

For more information, please contact Eileen Yazzie, Transportation Programming Mgr., at (602) 254-6300.



Information Items

I-8 and I-10 Hidden Valley Transportation Framework Study

Since August 2007, MAG and its funding partners, the Arizona Department of Transportation, Maricopa County Department of Transportation, Pinal County Public Works, the town of Buckeye, and the cities of Goodyear and Maricopa, have been developing the Hidden Valley Framework Study. The study area of the project is bounded by the Gila River on the north, SR 87 and Overfield Road on the east, the Tohono O'odham Indian Community and Barry Goldwater Range on the south, and 459th Avenue in Maricopa County on the west. The project is in the alternatives development and evaluation stage and is scheduled for completion later this year. Four scenarios have been developed, including a balanced capacity scenario, maximum mobility scenario, minimum impact scenario, and base transit scenario.

The purpose of the study is to define high capacity corridors, establish a future principal arterial network, recommend access management strategies for high capacity corridors, identify the future role of high-capacity transit, and develop alternative funding and implementation strategies.

Goals of the study include maximizing safety and mobility, providing sufficient access to land uses, ensuring a high degree of planning consistency, minimizing negative environmental impacts as well as construction and maintenance costs, and maximizing opportunities for project implementation.

For more information, please contact Bob Hazlett, MAG Senior Engineer, (602) 254-6300.

Heat Relief Planning Efforts

With the Valley heat especially dangerous to vulnerable populations such as homeless people or older adults, the Maricopa Association of Governments has developed two maps of resources to help make water and shade available to vulnerable populations during the hot summer months.

The first map shows where water hydration stations and refuge locations are located throughout the county, where people in need can go for water and shade. The second map shows water collection and donation sites in the county, and is useful to people wanting to donate items like water, sun block, lightweight clothing, hats, or other items that provide relief. The maps can be located through the home page of the MAG Web site, www.mag.maricopa.gov.

The update was provided to alert member agencies to resources available throughout the summer months and to solicit assistance in making these resources available.

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

Desert Peaks Awards Honor Regionalism

During a special ceremony following the Annual Meeting, MAG honored seven partnerships and individuals selected to receive the 2008 Desert Peaks Awards. The awards are presented to those agencies and individuals who have demonstrated a commitment to promoting, recognizing, and attaining the ideals of regionalism.

Awards were distributed in five categories: Public Partnership, Public-Private Partnership, Professional Service, Regional Partnership (two recipients tied for this honor), and Regional Excellence (awarded to co-nominees).

Valley Metro Board Co-Chairs Peggy Bilsten and Les Presmyk were selected to receive the program's highest honor for Regional Excellence. Bilsten, a former Councilwoman for the City of Phoenix, and Les Presmyk, a Gilbert Councilman, served as co-chairs for Valley Metro. Other award recipients include:

Public Partnership:

Glendale Regional Public Safety Training Facility

Public-Private Partnership:

Lower Hassayampa Sub-Basin Hydrological Study and Computer Model

Professional Service:

Bill Hayden, Arizona Department of Transportation

Regional Partnership: (Two recipients were selected in this category):

East Valley Gang & Criminal Information Fusion Center
Loop 202 Santan Freeway Improvements

Recipients were selected by a distinguished panel of judges who represent diverse interests from throughout the Valley. The judging panel for the 2008 Desert Peaks Awards included Gary Birnbaum, Managing Director, Mariscal, Weeks, McIntyre & Friedlander, PA; Jessica Block, Senior Research Analyst, Decision Theater, Arizona State University; John Driggs, former mayor, City of Phoenix; Dr. Maria Hesse, President & CEO, Chandler Gilbert Community College; Joy Mee, President, Joy A. Mee Planning Strategies, Inc.; and Candace Wiest, President & CEO, West Valley National Bank.

Nearly 300 people attended the awards ceremony.

For more information, please contact Kelly Taft, MAG Communications Manager, (602) 254-6300.



Next Regional Council Meeting

The next meeting of the MAG Regional Council is scheduled for Wednesday, July 23, 2008, at 5:00 p.m. in the Saguaro Room, 302 N. 1st Avenue, Phoenix. Agenda items are expected to include, among others: a new Finding of Conformity for the FY 2008-2012 MAG Transportation Improvement Program and Regional Transportation Plan 2007 Update; Round 16 recommendations from the Enhancement Peer Review Group; Federal Fiscal Year 2008 MAG Final Closeout and an amendment/modification to the FY 2008-2012 MAG Transportation Improvement Program; Proposition 400 noise mitigation funding; the recommended locally preferred alternative for I-10 high capacity transit improvements; and a draft MAG 208 Water Quality Management Plan amendment for the Town of Cave Creek Water Reclamation Facility.

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