



## Executive Director's Report

At the January meeting, MAG announced an upcoming February event that is part of our Municipal Aging Services Project. The event, *Planning for the Next 100 Years*, already has registered nearly 250 participants, an indication that this is a topic of significant interest to our communities. In fact, with more than 630,000 adults aged 60 or over already living in the Valley, our region is at a crossroads in determining the most appropriate role of cities and towns in creating vibrant communities for people of all ages. The recession and changing demographics of older adults make this a complex but important task.

The event follows a year-long effort in which 19 focus groups involving more than 200 people were held throughout the region to determine how the needs of older adults have changed in the past 10 years. The research found that the two biggest changes cited by respondents are a preference for aging in place (the desire to continue to live in the same home or community) and the impact of the recession. Many older adults no longer can provide for all of their needs; at the same time, municipal resources are being strained by the down economy. A recent MAG study found senior services and centers were among the services to receive the most funding reductions. Doing more with less will be the challenge of local governments moving forward.

As a baby boomer myself, I recall that throughout my life agencies have been forced to accommodate the surging baby boomer population; in school, for example, districts found class sizes were suddenly bigger and they had to scramble to accommodate more students. Today, we have the foresight and ability to plan for this impending change. We know that older adults are getting healthier and living longer, which will also impact how we plan for infrastructure and services.

The focus groups also found that baby boomers feel a strong need for social participation—and for many, municipal senior centers are the primary method of socialization. Yet many seniors reported that the prevalent one-size-fits-all approach to such centers often doesn't work, considering the wide spectrum of ability among older adults. This means that traditional services no longer may be adequate to serve their needs.

During the February event, we will hear success stories and best practices from our region as well as nationwide. We believe the event will provide important information and position us for the next steps in the planning process. As one focus group participant commented, "You can't give me more time, but you can help improve the quality of time I still have."

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

## Regional Council Meeting Report for Wednesday, January 25, 2012



### Action Items

#### Appointment of the Vice Chair of the Transportation Policy Committee

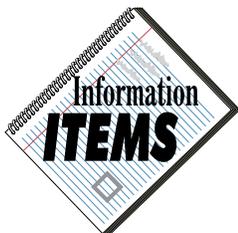
On June 29, 2011, the Chair and Vice Chair of the Transportation Policy Committee (TPC ) were appointed by the MAG Regional Council. Due to recent municipal elections, the position of Chair of the TPC became vacant on January 1, 2012. In accordance with the MAG Committee Operating Policies and Procedures, the Vice Chair, Scottsdale Mayor W. J. "Jim" Lane, ascended to the position of Chair to serve for the remainder of the term (June 2012), leaving the Vice Chair position open. The Regional Council appointed Buckeye Mayor Jackie Meck as the new TPC Vice Chair. For more information, please contact Dennis Smith, MAG Executive Director, (602) 254-6300.

#### Proposed Change of Time for Regional Council Meetings

Historically, Regional Council meetings have been set for 5:00 p.m. On January 17, 2012, the MAG Regional Council Executive Committee considered whether a change in meeting time would be warranted to more readily accommodate members' schedules. The Executive Committee recommended moving the Regional Council meeting start time from 5:00 p.m. to 11:30 a.m. The Regional Council approved the change beginning with the February 2012 meeting. The dates of the 2012 Regional Council calendar will remain the same.

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

### Information Items



#### Results of the Proposition 400 Performance Audit

Enabling legislation for Proposition 400 required a performance audit of the program to be conducted every five years, beginning in 2010, by the Auditor General of Arizona. The Performance Audit of the Maricopa County Regional Transportation Plan was released on December 21, 2011. The audit produced 25 recommendations to improve the oversight and management of the program. The Regional Council received an update on the audit findings as well as staff recommendations regarding implementation.

One important finding of the audit was that the program should continue to be implemented. A series of recommendations dealt with improving the documentation and rationale for program changes and to produce project report cards that would provide the description and status of each project.

For each finding, MAG is provided the opportunity to respond as to whether it will implement the proposed recommendation, implement the recommendation

with modifications, or whether it will not implement the recommendations. MAG recommended agreement with 13 of the 23 recommendations pertaining to MAG, agreed to nine with recommended modifications as to how the recommendation would be implemented, and disagreed with one recommendation. That recommendation was to adjust the Transportation Policy Committee membership requirements to include Valley Metro and METRO transit representatives. MAG staff reported that transit representation already exists on the committee. By statute, one member of the business community must represent regional transit interests; in addition, many of the elected officials who serve on MAG also serve on the boards of either the Regional Public Transportation Authority or METRO, and several serve on both.

**For more information, contact Monique de los Rios Urban, MAG Performance Program Manager, (602) 254-6300.**

### **Next Regional Council Meeting**

The next meeting of the MAG Regional Council is scheduled for Wednesday, February 22, 2012, at the new start time of 11:30 a.m. at the MAG offices, 302 N. 1st Avenue, Phoenix, second floor, Saguario Room. Agenda items are expected to include closeout priorities for federal fiscal year 2012; recommendations of federal fund projects to be deferred, deleted, advanced, and changed; and an update on the development of the Fiscal Year 2013 MAG Unified Planning Work Program and Annual Budget. Additional agenda items are pending.