



Executive Director's Report

During our April Regional Council meeting, we heard a report on the recent binational economic forum in Mexico. At the forum, elected officials from Sonora and Arizona signed a partnering agreement to create a binational megaregion. The purpose of the agreement is to increase trade for both countries. This is a long-term idea with many potential benefits. To make a partnership like this work will require building a culture of trust. Our meeting in Mexico was a great first step.

At the forum, more than 200 officials were in attendance. The League of Arizona Cities and Towns was represented by Ken Strobeck, the Executive Director of the League. The representatives from Sonora were invited to attend the upcoming League Annual Conference in Phoenix in August. Just before the forum started, that morning, the mayors from Sonora formed their equivalent of the municipal league that Arizona has enjoyed since 1937. Increasing communications and building trust with local governments can be a major tipping point with Sonora.

The next steps in building the binational megaregion are now being discussed. One idea will be to develop a combined asset map for Arizona and Sonora. For instance, together we can plan for how the port at Guaymas can assist both parties. Also, Arizona's assets such as the Union Pacific and Burlington Northern Santa Fe railroads and Sky Harbor International Airport are great assets for both regions.

Today we are enjoying a freeway system that began in 1985 – 29 years ago. Although the sales tax was passed, it took many years before any major freeway segments were constructed. MAG remained committed to building the system, even through recessions and cutbacks. This same type of resolve will be needed to work with Mexico and become globally competitive.

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

Meeting Report for Wednesday, April 23, 2014

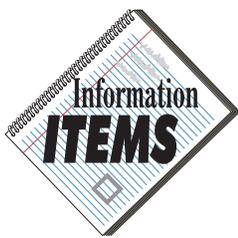
Action Items

USDOT TIGER Grant Round 6 - FY 2014

The MAG Regional Council approved a recommendation to support the South Phoenix Transit Corridor capital project on Central Avenue between Jefferson Street



and Baseline Road, as well as a planning project in the same area, for Transportation Investment Generating Economic Recovery (TIGER) discretionary grant funding. In March, the federal government issued a notice of funding availability for the sixth round of TIGER grant funding, MAG member agencies were requested to submit nontransit and planning projects for consideration. Nationwide, a total of \$600 million is available through a multimodal, merit-based, competitive grant program. There is set aside of \$120 million for rural areas and \$35 million for planning grants, which leaves \$445 million dedicated for projects in urban areas, such as the MAG region.



Information Items

MAG Human Services Provider Inventory Update

MAG staff provided an update on the Human Services Transportation Provider Inventory, which is available on the main MAG website and the newly launched Connect60Plus.com website. MAG is tasked with inventorying agencies that provide human services transportation resources to the community. The provider inventory is a document included in the MAG Human Services Coordination Transportation Plan, which is required to receive Federal Transportation Administration funding for the Section 5310 Enhanced Mobility of Seniors and Individuals with Disabilities program. Through input from community stakeholders, MAG staff has developed a web page to offer easier access by the public to transportation resources.

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

Update on the MAG 2012 Five Percent Plan for PM-10 and Exceptional Events

The Regional Council was provided an update on the MAG 2012 Five Percent Plan for PM-10 and Exceptional Events. On February 6, 2014, the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) published a notice proposing to approve the MAG 2012 Five Percent Plan for PM-10. The plan includes a wide variety of existing control measures and projects that have been implemented to reduce PM-10 and a new measure designed to reduce PM-10 during high risk conditions, including high winds. The plan demonstrated that the measures will reduce emissions by five percent per year and demonstrated attainment of the standard by December 31, 2012. The EPA is also proposing to make a determination that the region has met the standard based upon three years of clean data for 2010-2012, as measured by the air quality monitors. Comments were due by March 10, 2014.

Staff reported that the Arizona Center for Law in the Public Interest submitted comments urging the EPA to reconsider its proposal to approve the plan as submitted, and submitted an independent analysis of the July 18, 2011, exceptional events submission. Several letters in support of the EPA proposed approval of

the MAG 2012 Five Percent Plan were also submitted. In 2013, there were six exceptional event days due to regional dust storms, thunderstorms and high winds. Documentation for the exceptional event days has been prepared and submitted to the EPA for concurrence.

For more information, please contact Lindy Bauer, MAG Environmental Director, (602) 254-6300.

Update on Second Binational Economic Forum

MAG staff provided an update on the Second Binational Economic Forum held in Nogales, Sonora, from April 10-11, 2014. The forum attracted 230 participants, including 30 mayors from Sonora and 32 elected officials from Arizona. MAG helped organize the trip for elected officials and business leaders from Arizona, in cooperation with statewide planning organizations.

The purpose of the event was to provide an opportunity to exchange ideas, discuss international trade and regional economic strategy. Staff noted that during the event, a partnering agreement was signed by the Association of Mayors of Sonora and local elected officials from Arizona to establish an Arizona-Sonora Binational Megaregion. It is envisioned that the binational megaregion will provide a framework to address important policy matters and position Arizona-Sonora as a megaregion destination for global competition. The partnering agreement is expected to enable the development of local relationships to advance projects of local and regional significance on both sides of the border in areas such as transportation and infrastructure, education, economic development border security and public safety, trade area promotion, commerce and tourism.

In another historic event at the forum, municipalities in Sonora formed a governance organization similar to the League of Arizona Cities and Towns, the first of its kind for the Mexican state. La Asociación de Alcades de Sonora (Association of Mayors of Sonora) will establish municipal priorities for cities and towns in the state of Sonora.

For more information, contact Alana Chavez-Langdon, MAG International Economic Development Analyst, (602) 254-6300.

Nominating Committee

Annually, the Chair of the Regional Council appoints a five-member Nominating Committee from the Regional Council. In accordance with the approved nominating process, the Nominating Committee develops a slate of seven candidates. These candidates include a Chair, Vice Chair, Treasurer, the Past Chair, and three members at-large. If the Past Chair is not a current member of the Council, the Nominating Committee nominates an additional at-large member. The past Chair of the Regional Council, if still a current member, serves as Chair of the Nominating Committee.

The appointed Nominating Committee includes Avondale Mayor Marie Lopez Rogers, chair; Carefree Councilmember Mike Farrar; Gilbert Mayor John Lewis; Goodyear Mayor Georgia Lord; and Litchfield Park Mayor Tom Schoaf. The Nominating Committee is required to provide a balanced slate of officers. The slate of nominations is forwarded to all of the Regional Council members at least two weeks prior to the annual meeting in June.

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

Development of the FY 2015 MAG Unified Planning Work Program and Annual Budget

Each year, the MAG Unified Planning Work Program and Annual Budget is developed incrementally in conjunction with member agency and public input. The Work Program is reviewed each year by the federal agencies and approved by the Regional Council in May. Staff presented and reviewed the draft FY 2015 MAG Unified Planning Work Program and Annual Budget development to date.

Staff reported that there was a request for a new staff position for FY 2015 for a GIS Analyst I in the Information Services Division. This position is needed to assist in developing and maintaining regional datasets, such as the employer database and job center online data viewer that have greatly improved the ability of staff to maintain information that can support member agencies. In addition, a Bicycle and Pedestrian Associate position was added to proposed projects. This associate is targeted to complete work in calendar year 2014. Another added new project was funding for the 2015 Grand Avenue Transit Users Feasibility Study. This is a joint project with the Regional Public Transportation Authority.

Staff also reported on the organization's proposed salary increase. Due to the downturn in the economy, MAG did not propose salary increases in FY 2010 and again in FY 2012. In 2011, MAG proposed a salary increase based on the results of an independent compensation study. There were proposed increases for FY 2013 and FY 2014. MAG is recommending that a proposed salary increase of up to 4.64 percent be included for FY 2015, and that any increases to individual MAG salaries be performance based. Staff noted that retaining key staff is essential to continuing quality work. MAG staff receive an annual performance evaluation every June and, based on their performance for the year, may receive a salary increase if one is included in the budget.

Finally, it was noted that the Intermodal Planning Group meeting was held on March 28, 2014. This meeting included a review and comments on the draft FY 2015 MAG budget by the Federal Highway Administration, the Federal Transit Administration, the Arizona Department of Transportation, city of Phoenix and

other interested parties. Presentations were made by MAG, City of Phoenix, and Valley Metro. Discussions among the group on the elements of the Work Program were very positive with no recommendations for any changes. In closing, the comments were that the MAG work program is a valuable guide and that MAG's project work is "best in class." The Regional Council will vote on final approval of the budget in May.

For more information, please contact Rebecca Kimbrough, MAG Fiscal Services Manager, (602) 254-6300.

Next Meeting

The next meeting of the MAG Regional Council will be Wednesday, May 28, 2014, at 11:30 a.m. at the MAG offices, 302 N. 1st Avenue, Phoenix, second floor, Saguaro Room. Agenda items expected for recommended approval include the MAG FY 2015 Unified Planning Work Program and Annual Budget, updated Public Participation Plan and Title VI Environmental Justice Plan, revisions to the Arterial Life Cycle Program Policies and Procedures, draft Regional Transit Oriented Development (TOD) Strategy, proposed budget and schedule for the expansion of the Freeway Management System and related life-cycle study, and recommended acceptance of \$350,000 of Strategic Highway Research Program Implementation Assistance Program. Additional agenda items are pending.

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