



## Executive Director's Report

The Maricopa Association of Governments has been working for the past several years with a variety of agencies to improve the region's response to domestic violence. At our February meeting, we heard from County Attorney Bill Montgomery and Arizona Criminal Justice Commission (ACJC) Executive Director J.R. Blackburn. They discussed the need to reduce a high number of missing dispositions and fingerprint records in cases involving domestic violence.

These missing dispositions can happen for a variety of reasons: charges get changed or dropped or the case isn't properly entered into the system database (*see meeting summary below*). But the consequences can be serious. For example, the law requires that on the third offense, abusers with prior misdemeanor offenses be charged with a felony. If one of those misdemeanor offenses is missed, the charge remains a misdemeanor when it should be a felony. It also means police may not know they are dealing with a person with prior offenses when responding to domestic violence calls. Missing fingerprints can mean criminals are let go with no record of their incarceration.

We learned that even in this age of smart technology, many of our systems are falling behind when it comes to efficiently forwarding criminal information to the County Attorney's office to ensure cases are properly documented and that they can easily be shared between law enforcement, prosecutors, and the courts. MAG is exploring potential ways it can assist in these efforts.

We know that domestic violence not only results in a high cost related to human suffering, it also presents one of the most dangerous and costliest calls for local law enforcement. We applaud County Attorney Montgomery and ACJC Executive Director Blackburn for working with chiefs of police throughout the region to address this important issue. We applaud justice workers like Glendale City Court Presiding Judge Elizabeth Finn for appropriating a fingerprint machine to have in her courtroom to ensure fingerprint records are captured. And we applaud the 30 MAG partners—including 19 member agencies—who are working with us in this arena. We hope to continue to make progress as we work to make victims safer and abusers accountable.

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

## Meeting Report for Wednesday, February 25, 2015

### Action Items



#### Regional Council Approves Plan Amendments

The Regional Council approved a number of amendments and administrative modifications to the fiscal year (FY) 2014-2018 MAG Transportation Improvement Program, FY 2015 Arterial Life Cycle Program, and as appropriate, to the 2035 Regional Transportation Plan and FY 2015 MAG Unified Planning Work Program.

Among the proposed changes are ADOT general project changes, material cost changes, and general member agency project change requests. Staff noted that a material cost change is an increase in the cost of a freeway project that is more than five percent of the adopted project budget, but not less than \$500,000 or any increases greater than \$2.5 million.

General project change requests include a request from ADOT that MAG lead several safety planning studies, including the Avondale Strategic Transportation Safety Plan to be managed under the MAG Work Program. Other requested changes related to status information on the development of federally funded projects submitted by MAG member agencies for highway projects, and changes to the FY 2015 Arterial Life Cycle Program.

A complete list of tables outlining the project requests is available on the MAG website at [http://www.azmag.gov/Documents/TPC\\_2015-02-18\\_AGD.pdf](http://www.azmag.gov/Documents/TPC_2015-02-18_AGD.pdf) beginning on page 44 of the .pdf document.

For more information, please contact Teri Kennedy, MAG Transportation Improvement Program Manager, (602) 254-6300.

### Information Items



#### Reducing Violence Through Data and Collaborations

An update was provided regarding improving the region's response to domestic violence. Staff expressed appreciation to the Regional Council for efforts to increase collaboration in this area and to Vice Mayor Robin Barker for serving as the vice chair of the MAG Regional Domestic Violence Council. Many member agencies are active in the Domestic Violence Protocol Evaluation Project and MAG is grateful to receive funding for the project from the Governor's Office.

Staff introduced Maricopa County Attorney Bill Montgomery and Arizona Criminal Justice Commission (ACJC) Executive Director J. R. Blackburn, Jr., who provided an update regarding the high number of missing dispositions and fingerprint records

in cases involving domestic violence. County Attorney Montgomery said he hoped his report would underscore the importance of timely, accurate, and complete data, particularly in holding domestic violence abusers accountable. Montgomery stated that almost 25 percent of domestic violence arrest cases in Maricopa County and 29 percent in Arizona in 2013 did not have a disposition of what happened with the case. He explained that case disposition is very important because Arizona needs to report certain information to the National Instant Criminal Background Check System. Accurate records allow those with a right to purchase a firearm to do so and those with a criminal background to be excluded. He stressed the importance of previous arrest information to patrol officers, particularly when they are arriving at a domestic violence call. He stated that this type of information also helps law enforcement and prosecutors to decide how best to address an offender, what charges to file, and the punishment to seek.

County Attorney Montgomery noted that state law requires agencies to provide fingerprints and arrest information for all felony arrests, and misdemeanor arrests for driving under the influence, domestic violence, and sex offenses, to the Arizona Computerized Criminal History Record System, which is fed into the National Instant Criminal Background Check System. Montgomery stated that law enforcement and courts could be dealing with repeat offenders and not realize it if dispositions are missing.

ACJC Executive Director Blackburn added that under the law, the third domestic violence offense is automatically supposed to be filed as a felony, but if the prior misdemeanor arrests are missing or inaccurate, then some offenders may not be charged appropriately. He added that some missing dispositions are the result of pending cases or changes to the charges, but many others can be avoided. The commission is working with the Arizona Association of Chiefs of Police to find solutions to the issues.

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

### **Regional Community Network Update**

The Regional Community Network (RCN) is a private fiber network connecting MAG member agencies that helps cities and towns with operations ranging from traffic control to police and fire calls. MAG staff provided an update on the status of the network, opportunities for expansion, and no-cost service additions approved through the committee process to maximize the use of this infrastructure and improve government operations through the efficient use of resources.

The RCN was established to bridge gaps in fiber infrastructure between agencies and create a dependable network. Participants in the network represent almost 79

percent of the region's population and 11 of the 16 traffic management centers. While traffic camera sharing is the primary goal of the network, MAG is supporting a pilot project using new camera-sharing software that makes it easier to share other cameras as well. Staff noted that the second biggest use is support for 9-1-1 communications. The RCN provides a diverse additional fiber path that is critical in an emergency. This path is available to the 9-1-1 system at no additional cost.

The most recent addition to the system was utilizing the RCN to support the multi-agency coordination center of the Super Bowl, Pro Bowl and Waste Management Open. The center was able to view cameras from across the Valley using the RCN. Staff noted that MAG is always looking for opportunities to add additional agencies to the network, and added that the RCN is a great example of how a system that was built utilizing federal transportation dollars has leveraged additional value from the extra bandwidth to the benefit of taxpayers.

**For more information, contact Ryan Gish, Regional Community Network Program Manager, (602) 254-6300.**

### **Development of the FY 2016 MAG Unified Planning Work Program and Annual Budget**

Each year, the MAG Unified Planning Work Program and Annual Budget is developed in conjunction with member agency and public input. The Work Program is reviewed each year by the federal agencies in the spring and approved by the Regional Council in May. MAG presents the budget incrementally beginning in January. At the February meeting, staff presented an overview of MAG's draft proposed new projects for the FY 2016 Work Program. The proposed cost for the draft FY 2016 new projects was lower than last year's work program, due to several large ongoing projects being carried over through the next fiscal year. An updated draft budget timeline and updated estimation of dues and assessments was also provided. Staff noted that the federal agency review of the Work Program is scheduled at MAG on March 17, 2015.

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

### **Legislative Update**

Staff provided a legislative update. Of primary note was Senate Bill 1274, an Arizona Department of Transportation (ADOT) omnibus bill sponsored by Senator Bob Worsley. The bill contains a number of clean-up type provisions for ADOT, but also includes a provision that would transfer staffing of the Citizens Transportation Oversight Committee (CTOC) to MAG. Staff noted that CTOC was created through legislation to provide citizen input/oversight on the MAG Regional Transportation Plan (RTP). To date, ADOT has been responsible for staffing CTOC.

In 2011, a performance audit on the RTP recommended that MAG provide staff support for CTOC.

On December 13, 2011, MAG responded in agreement to this audit recommendation if appropriate. On June 25, 2012, however, CTOC responded that they were not in favor of the audit recommendation and staffing of CTOC has remained at ADOT. As a result of CTOC's opposition and additional concerns that MAG would be conducting a function that basically requires it to oversee itself, MAG communicated to Senator Worsley that there were concerns regarding moving staff support to MAG. MAG discussed with ADOT staff CTOC's opposition to staffing being performed by MAG and suggested it not be included in the bill. Senator Worsley stated that he would propose an amendment to remove the provision.

Staff reported that when the bill was heard, CTOC's opposition to the provision was not brought up during the floor discussion, but MAG's original performance audit response was noted. The amendment was defeated and the provision for MAG to staff CTOC remains. The bill passed a Third Read in the Senate and is now headed to the House of Representatives. MAG staff reported that it remains in conversation with ADOT to address this matter and will continue to address this issue as the bill moves in the House.

**For more information, please contact Nathan Pryor, MAG Government Relations Manager, at (602) 254-6300.**

## **Next Meeting**

The next meeting of the MAG Regional Council will be Wednesday, March 25, 2015, at 11:30 a.m. at the MAG offices, 302 N. 1st Avenue, Phoenix, second floor, Saguaro Room. Agenda items are expected to include revised alignment changes to the Tempe Streetcar Project and the Phoenix-Northwest Phase II Light Rail Extension; amendment to the Draft MAG 208 Water Quality Management Plan; Regional Freeway and Highway Program update, an update on the FY 2016 MAG Unified Planning Work Program and Annual Budget, and legislative update.

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