



Executive Director's Report

At our Annual Meeting in June, the Regional Council approved the Transportation Improvement Program, representing an investment of more than \$5 billion. The 726 projects in the TIP keep the economic engine going in this region. The Regional Council is the thread of continuity that has made this region great. Since 1985, working with the Arizona Department of Transportation (ADOT) and the Federal Highway Administration, we have completed 181 miles of freeway, with more miles on the immediate horizon. Leading MAG is a tremendous responsibility, and during the election of officers, Phoenix Mayor Greg Stanton was elected as the Chair of MAG for the coming year. During a Passing of the Gavel ceremony following the Annual Meeting, Mayor Stanton noted that the economy will be a key focus during his chairmanship (*see Passing of the Gavel summary item, below*).

Just as the baton is passed each year to new officers, so has the baton been handed from one generation of leadership to the next at MAG for nearly 50 years. In fact, MAG will celebrate its Golden Anniversary on April 12, 2017. The leaders elected this month follow in the steps of many before who have accomplished much for this region. In addition to Mayor Stanton, also elected were Buckeye Mayor Jackie Meck as our new Vice Chair, and Queen Creek Mayor Gail Barney as our new Treasurer. At-Large members include El Mirage Mayor Lana Mook, Glendale Mayor Jerry Weiers, and Tempe Mayor Mark Mitchell. Scottsdale Mayor W.J. "Jim" Lane will serve as Past Chair. The Regional Council also approved Mesa Mayor John Giles as the Chair of the Transportation Policy Committee (TPC) and Avondale Mayor Kenneth Weise as TPC Vice Chair.

We continue to evolve and innovate as an organization. But many aspects of our stewardship remain true to the MAG By-Laws first adopted in 1967: that the underlying concept of the Maricopa Association of Governments is that cities, towns, counties and Indian communities, which are closest to the people, should exercise the basic initiative and leadership and that they should have the primary responsibility for addressing local problems and needs that require action on a regional basis. The Articles of Incorporation outline that a key purpose of MAG is to ensure, "through cooperation and the pooling of common resources, maximum efficiency and economy in governmental operations, which will provide every citizen with the utmost value for every tax dollar."

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This 50-year history is a great platform from which we can build to take MAG to even greater heights. We look forward to a year of vigorous leadership from our new chair and our Regional Council.

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

Meeting Report for Wednesday, June 22, 2016

Action Items



Approval of MAG Transportation Improvement Program

As noted above, the MAG Regional Council approved the FY 2017-2021 Transportation Improvement Program (TIP). The TIP has been under development since August 2015. All federally funded projects and regionally significant transportation projects are required to be included in the TIP, regardless of funding source. The TIP includes the Arterial Life Cycle Program, Transit Life Cycle Program, and Regional Transportation Plan/Freeway Program, as well as many local projects. The TIP includes more than 700 projects, including 148 bus transit projects, six rail transit projects, and 27 transit maintenance projects. It also includes 61 freeway/interchange projects, 28 safety projects, 27 air quality projects and 44 bicycle-pedestrian projects, to name just a few. The TIP represents more than \$5 billion in transportation investment over the next five years.

In other actions, the Regional Council also approved the FY 2016 Final Phase Input Opportunity Report, FY 2016 TIP Transit Listings and FY 2016 Program of Projects, MAG Title VI and Environmental Justice Program, and the FY 2017 Arterial Life Cycle Program.

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

Election of Officers for Regional Council and TPC

The MAG Annual Meeting in June included the election of officers. The Nominating Committee recommended a slate of seven candidates for the 2016-2017 Executive Committee. All were approved by the Regional Council. They include:

Chair: Mayor Greg Stanton, City of Phoenix

Vice Chair: Mayor Jackie Meck, City of Buckeye

Treasurer: Mayor Gail Barney, Town of Queen Creek

At-Large: Mayor Mark Mitchell, City of Tempe; Mayor Lana Mook, City of El Mirage; and Mayor Jerry Weiers, City of Glendale

Past Chair: Mayor W. J. "Jim" Lane, City of Scottsdale

Officers are elected for one-year terms. Mayor Stanton will lead the organization for the next year and will preside over the MAG Executive Committee. The Executive Committee serves as MAG's finance committee and holds many administrative responsibilities, such as amendments to the budget and contract selections.

In addition, the Regional Council selected Mesa Mayor John Giles as the new Chair of the Transportation Policy Committee and Avondale Mayor Kenneth Weise as the TPC Vice Chair.

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



Information Items

Passing of the Gavel

Following the Annual Meeting, MAG held the biennial Desert Peaks Awards (*see below*), including a Passing of the Gavel ceremony. Outgoing Chair W.J. "Jim" Lane, Mayor of Scottsdale, discussed the past year at MAG. He noted a number of accomplishments, including:

- South Mountain Freeway. While it is the largest highway project in state history, the project is under budget by more than \$100 million dollars and will be completed three years ahead of schedule.
- The successful implementation of a program to place DPS troopers in the ADOT traffic operations center. After just one year, the average time taken to clear crash sites has been cut nearly an hour.
- Efforts to use technology and innovation to stretch taxpayer dollars. For example, MAG and ADOT have worked to examine the highway program to identify true project costs and find ways to be more efficient. This has resulted in savings topping 600-million dollars.
- MAG's recent partnership with "Read On Arizona" and Virginia G. Piper Charitable Trust to produce an online tool called "Map-LIT." This tool maps literacy results at elementary schools to identify where literacy gaps exist.
- Protecting the environment. This year, the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) approved MAG's carbon monoxide plan, which shows we will maintain the standard through 2025. In fact, the region is 72-percent below the national carbon monoxide standard. The EPA also approved MAG's plan for reducing dust pollution. MAG also is working to meet the new tougher ozone standard recently implemented by the EPA.
- Human services efforts. This year, the MAG Regional Domestic Violence Council worked with law enforcement to improve arrest procedures and make them more consistent. Fifty-five homeless programs received \$27 million through funding secured by the MAG Continuum of Care. MAG's efforts to address aging issues also were highlighted.

The incoming Chair's message by Phoenix Mayor Greg Stanton focused on ways MAG can help improve the economy, with making businesses export-ready a key goal. Mayor Stanton noted that no other organization is better suited than MAG to make a regional impact on exports. Specific proposals outlined by the mayor include:

- Expanding Phoenix's successful ExporTech program by hosting a regional "exporting boot camp." ExporTech is administered by the Arizona Commerce Authority (ACA) to help "export-curious" businesses become "export-ready."
- Hosting a regional export and trade summit. MAG would partner with Metro Phoenix Export Alliance, the Global Chamber of Commerce, ACA, consulate offices, and stakeholders. The summit would help keep the region on track with regional goals to double global exports by 2025.
- Teaming with the Pima Association of Governments to recognize "innovative and inspiring" export success stories through a new "Sun Corridor Global Excellence Award."
- Working to be more strategic in attracting foreign capital to our region. This includes defining the target industries the region most wants to attract.

Mayor Stanton added that he also will continue to pursue MAG's signature efforts to improve air quality and make the region more climate resilient, to create the most forward-thinking regional transportation system in the nation, and to help support cutting-edge efforts to fight domestic violence in our communities.

Desert Peaks Awards Honor Projects, Individuals

They are the projects, people and partnerships that make our region a great place to live. At a ceremony following the Annual Meeting, MAG honored those who have contributed to regional excellence. The Desert Peaks awards only occur biennially. They are presented to those agencies and individuals who have demonstrated a commitment to promoting, recognizing, and attaining the ideals of regionalism.

Apache Junction Vice Mayor Robin Barker was selected to receive the region's highest honor for Regional Excellence. She was recognized for her unwavering advocacy for abuse victims as chair of the MAG Regional Domestic Violence Council. Individual awards also were presented to three Outstanding Economic Development Champions, including Phoenix Mayor Greg Stanton, Cónsul General of Mexico in Phoenix Roberto Rodriguez Hernández, and Fedelta Partners Managing Member Carol Colombo. Retired Maricopa County Manager Tom Manos received the Desert Peaks award for Professional Service.

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A number of partnerships also were recognized. The award for Public Partnership went to the Smart Justice program administered by Maricopa County. Two awards were given for the Public-Private Partnership category, including the Buckeye Community Paramedicine Pilot Program and Scottsdale Fire Department Mobile Integrated Health Care Program. The Regional Partnership award was presented for the Valley Metro Regional Paratransit Plan Update.

Costs for the event were offset through sponsorships. The Gold Sponsor was Arizona State University (ASU). Silver Sponsors included MJ Insurance, Inc., and Parsons. Bronze Sponsors included Alliance Bank of Arizona; Burgess & Niple, Inc.; Dickinson-Wright PLLC; HDR Engineering, Inc.; Kimley-Horn and Associates, Inc.; Salt River Project (SRP); TerraSystems Southwest, Inc.; Triadvocates LLC; Wells Fargo Bank, N. A., and Wilson & Company, Inc.

Recipients were selected by a distinguished panel of judges who represent diverse interests from throughout the Valley. The judging panel for the 2016 Desert Peaks Awards included Kent Cooper, former manager of the Town of Gilbert; Congressman Ed Pastor, former U.S. Representative; Kristi Sandvik, Ed.D, superintendent of the Buckeye Elementary School District; and Shannon Scutari, president of Scutari & Co., LLC.

Videos and photos from the awards ceremony can be found at:
<http://www.azmag.gov/Projects/Project.asp?CMSID=1083>.

Next Meeting

Please note that the Regional Council will not meet in July. The next meeting of the MAG Regional Council will be held on Wednesday, August 31, 2016, at 11:30 a.m. at the MAG offices, 302 N. 1st Avenue, Phoenix, second floor, Saguaro Room. Agenda items are pending.