

## It's Official: Maricopa County Keeps On Growing



### Final 2005 Census Survey Numbers Released

Maricopa County continues to grow at a rapid pace, gaining more than 600,000 residents over the past five years, according to the final results of the 2005 Census Survey for Maricopa County. The U.S. Census Bureau conducted the Survey in September on behalf of the Maricopa Association of Governments (MAG).

The purpose of the Survey was to capture the region's rapid population growth since the last decennial census was conducted in 2000. The Survey indicated a September 1, 2005 population for Maricopa County of 3,700,516—an increase of 628,367 people, or about 20.5 percent since 2000. The Survey

also determined the population for each city or town within Maricopa County. (For a complete listing of population numbers by jurisdiction, see page 5.) The final numbers were released June 26, 2006.

“This is the first time in history that a Census Survey rather than a full count has been used to determine the mid-decade population of a metropolitan area of this size,” said MAG Chair James Cavanaugh, mayor of Goodyear. “These results will be used to distribute about \$7 billion in state-shared revenues between 2006 and 2011. It was a major undertaking, and the Census Bureau indicated that this effort set a national precedent for coordination between local governments and the Census Bureau.”

Gilbert Town Manager George Pettit, who chaired the MAG Census Survey Oversight Subcommittee, noted that the population total for the region was 192,943 higher than the preliminary count in March. That means an increase in the amount of money cities and towns receive for important public services.

“Because of the Census Survey, millions of additional dollars will be received by this region over the next five-year period to cover essential services such as police and fire protection, libraries, parks, senior centers, schools, road construction, and street maintenance, to improve the daily lives of our citizens,” said Pettit.

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# 3,700,516

Population in Maricopa County September 1, 2005

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Mayor James M. Cavanaugh, Goodyear

## From the Chair

It is with a sense of excitement that I take over the reins as chair of the MAG organization. It is an honor to be associated with mayors and other officials from our broadly-based area who have distinguished themselves not only within their respective communities but also as leaders targeted on achievements that bear regional value.

“It is with a sense of excitement that I take over the reins as chair of the MAG organization.”

Over the next two years, we will continue the emphasis on excellence reflected in the leadership philosophies that precede us. As these upcoming two years pass, we will note that the challenges will change in difficulty and in size, the scope will expand in some areas, contract in others.

But the drive to excel will continue and the need to adapt to new regional priorities will remain a challenge—a dynamic challenge—to all of us.

Regionally, a major focus in the months ahead will be in implementing the Regional Transportation Plan. At the same time, we will also keep our eye on the bigger picture and the significant challenges that Arizona faces in addressing statewide transportation needs.

In August, we will be given the opportunity to forge better and more effective relationships with our fellow Councils of Governments in Arizona, when we meet at the League of Arizona Cities and Towns Annual Conference to discuss potential strategies to meet the transportation needs that exist across Arizona.

Regionalism functions through teamwork. I’m confident that together in MAG we will continue to capitalize on the opportunity afforded us in this era of dramatic growth, and derive quality and value from our cooperative endeavors.

As elected officials at MAG, transportation often receives our greatest attention, but human services and air quality are equally important and every bit as challenging. All of our responsibilities are important, our jobs exciting. I’m proud to be a member of the MAG team.

## REGIONAL council members

- ◆ Mayor James M. Cavanaugh  
Goodyear, Chair
- ◆ Mayor Mary Manross  
Scottsdale, Vice Chair
- ◆ Mayor Joan Shafer  
Surprise, Treasurer
- ◆ Mayor Steve Berman  
Gilbert, At-Large Member
- ◆ Councilmember Peggy Neely  
Phoenix, At-Large Member
- ◆ Mayor Tom Schoaf  
Litchfield Park, At-Large Member
- ◆ Mayor Keno Hawker  
Mesa, Past Chair
- Mayor Douglas Coleman  
Apache Junction
- Mayor Marie Lopez-Rogers  
Avondale
- Mayor Bobby Bryant  
Buckeye
- Mayor Edward C. Morgan  
Carefree
- Vice Mayor Dick Esser  
Cave Creek
- Mayor Boyd Dunn  
Chandler
- Mayor Fred Waterman  
El Mirage
- President Raphael Bear  
Fort McDowell Yavapai Nation
- Mayor Wally Nichols  
Fountain Hills
- Mayor Daniel Birchfield  
Gila Bend
- Governor William Rhodes  
Gila River Indian Community
- Mayor Elaine M. Scruggs  
Glendale
- Mayor Bernadette Jimenez  
Guadalupe
- Supervisor Max Wilson  
Maricopa County
- Mayor Ed Winkler  
Paradise Valley
- Mayor John Keegan  
Peoria
- Mayor Art Sanders  
Queen Creek
- President Joni Ramos  
Salt River Pima-Maricopa Indian Community
- Mayor Hugh Hallman  
Tempe
- Mayor Adolfo Gamez  
Tolleson
- Mayor Ron Badowski  
Wickenburg
- Mayor Bryan Hackbarth  
Youngtown
- Joe Lane and Felipe Zubia  
Arizona Department of Transportation
- F. Rockne Arnett  
CTOC
- ◆ Executive Committee Members

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# MAGAZine

MAGAZine is a quarterly newsletter of the Maricopa Association of Governments. It focuses on the issues and concerns of the cities, towns and tribal communities of Maricopa County. If you know of a friend or colleague who would like to receive MAGAZine, please call the MAG office, (602) 254-6300.

**James M. Cavanaugh**  
Mayor of Goodyear  
Regional Council Chair

**Dennis Smith**  
Executive Director

**Kelly Taft**  
Editor

**Gordon Tyus**  
Graphic Design



## Voices From the Council



*Phoenix is the center hub of activity in the region. To ensure a sustainable quality of life for all in the Valley, we must continue working to make sure our roadways and transportation system keep up with outlying growth areas.*

— Phoenix Councilmember Peggy Neely, who represents Phoenix on the Regional Council, on the need to accommodate continued growth.

*As the mayor of Avondale, I was thrilled when ADOT recently announced that 55th Avenue would be the preferred western alignment for the South Mountain Freeway. Three potential western alignments had been under review for some time before ADOT made a decision in June. Phoenix, Tolleson, and Avondale, together with many other West Valley cities, were hoping that 55th Avenue would be final call. This alignment is the best for the South Mountain Freeway because it is cost effective, it addresses the Valley's traffic issues, it complements regional planning efforts, and minimizes negative impacts on residents, businesses and governments. ADOT did a great job managing a thorough public process; Avondale is looking forward to working with ADOT and MAG on other transportation projects in the future.*

— Avondale Mayor Marie Lopez-Rogers, on the selection of the preferred alignment for the western leg of the Loop 202 South Mountain Freeway.



*I am extremely pleased with the June 29, 2006, decision by the Arizona Department of Transportation selecting the 55th Avenue alignment of the South Mountain Freeway to Interstate 10. Any other decision by ADOT would have had insurmountable negative impacts on our neighbors, both Avondale and Tolleson. The Town Council showed its support of the 55th Avenue alignment with a resolution earlier this year.*

— Buckeye Mayor Bobby Bryant, also commenting on the selection of the preferred alignment for the western leg of the Loop 202 South Mountain Freeway.

*By working together to develop a new water treatment plant that will serve both Chandler and Gilbert, each community will save millions of dollars by not having to duplicate equipment, buildings and staffs. This is another example of the regional cooperation we have continued to pursue to benefit our residents.*

— Chandler Mayor Boyd W. Dunn, on signing a development agreement between Chandler and Gilbert for construction of a joint water treatment plant.



### MAG Moment: Sunset on the Santan Freeway Opening

On June 7, 2006, the Arizona Department of Transportation (ADOT) hosted the *Sunset on the Santan* celebration. The 12-mile freeway segment through Chandler, Gilbert and Mesa is the largest section to open in Valley history, and marks the completion of the freeway in the city of Chandler.

Cutting the ribbon to officially open the freeway to traffic are (from left to right) Governor Janet Napolitano, ADOT Director Victor Mendez, Mesa Mayor Keno Hawker, MAG Executive Director Dennis Smith, House Transportation Chair Andy Biggs, and Highway Hawk, the ADOT mascot.

## Regional Profile:

# Gilbert Mayor a Straight Shooter



Mayor Steve Berman, Gilbert

He's a former state and national high-powered rifle champion who keeps his trigger skills sharp with the help of a shooting range in his home. But Gilbert Mayor Steve Berman may be considered a straight shooter in the figurative sense as well—noting without apology that he's been accused of being the “cheapest mayor in Maricopa County.”

Mayor Berman credits his fiscal conservatism to his experience in the private sector, saying he learned a lot about managing people and budgets during his years as a line manager in the telecommunications industry.

“I worked with companies where I got a call from the president of the company saying, ‘you have to go down and close down four or five of your offices and fire everybody,’” relates Mayor Berman. “And I don't ever want to be in a situation in Gilbert where we have to fire people because we've overextended ourselves. In fact, in my first year as mayor, there was discussion about laying off

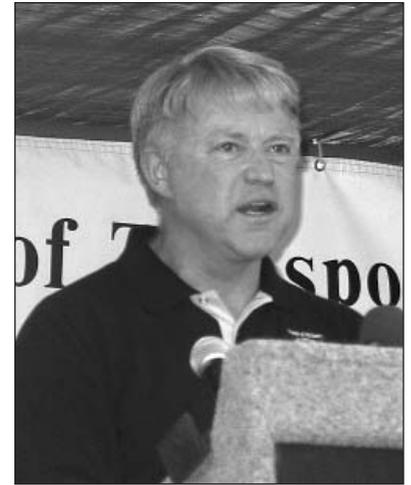
24 people to make the budget balance. I said that wasn't an option and we needed to find another way to make it work, even if it required pay cuts for everybody. We weren't going to fire people who were doing their jobs just because we hadn't managed our finances properly.”

Today Gilbert is on much more stable financial footing, thanks in part to Berman's success in attracting major business interests to the town.

“When I was elected mayor, we had no hospitals in Gilbert, we had no regional malls, we had two car dealers and one power center,” recalls Berman. “Now, five years later, we have three hospitals in Gilbert, we have two regional malls, we have five power centers and 17 car dealers ... In fact, we're going to have the largest auto mall in the state of Arizona and the fifth largest in the country.”

One way the mayor courted major businesses was by working with zoning attorneys, developers and architects to find ways to streamline Gilbert's permitting and application process.

“My thought was, if I could make it easier to do business in Gilbert than in other places, they'd come here. Because, as trite as it sounds, in the development business, time really is money, and if we cut two or three months off some of these projects between the time they start and the time they're out of



Mayor Berman provides comments about improved mobility during the recent *Sunset on the Santan* freeway opening celebration.

the ground, that's real dollars to them,” Berman explains.

Many of the town's challenges are the result of a continued population boom.

“When I was elected mayor of Gilbert in 1989, we had 16,000 people. When I was elected mayor again in 2001, we had 107,000 people. We now have 180,000 people. So with this explosive growth, it's difficult to keep up, especially transportation-wise,” notes Berman, who says he finds it somewhat amusing when people credit him for the town's population growth.

“Frankly, when people praise me, I kind of feel like the proud father of a set of quintuplets. You get all the high fives for a job well done, while the poor wife, who's experienced the miracle of natural childbirth five times in the last hour-and-a-half, doesn't look nearly as happy about what's going on. Our population growth just comes, that's how it works.”



Mayor Berman receives a “Chair's Choice Award” from Mayor Keno Hawker as part of a gag during the Desert Peaks Awards.

Continued on next page

## Mayor Berman (continued)

Despite a wry sense of humor, Mayor Berman takes his commitments seriously, as demonstrated by the fact that he has missed only one MAG Regional Council meeting in more than five years and spends virtually all of his “free” time attending town functions.



When asked about his most important accomplishment to date, Berman relates the story of a single mother of three children who had fallen behind in her homeowners association dues after she was diagnosed with terminal breast cancer. She contacted the mayor’s office in despair as the association prepared to foreclose on her home.

“Apparently the board thought this poor lady should die in the street with her children. And she called me asking for help. And so I was able to rally the town together... We were able to raise all the money to pay off all the dues, pay her dues in advance, we were able to pay all the costs to refinance her home. Unfortunately, she still died, she died on my birthday, but she died as a homeowner, not a vagrant in the street.”

While some believed that Berman didn’t have the authority to take on the HOA, he says it was a situation he just couldn’t ignore.

“My mom’s family is Irish, and there’s a story about an Irishman who walks up to a big street brawl and says, ‘Is this a private affair, or can anybody join in?’ That’s kind of me, sometimes,” says Berman.

Berman says he’ll remain in office for “as long as people want me,” and then jokes, “We don’t have term limits in Gilbert, so they’re going to have to pry my decaying body out of the chair someday.” But he’s serious when he says he loves his job.

“It’s without a doubt the most fun job in the world,” stresses Berman. “People say it’s a thankless job but it’s anything but thankless—I get thanked all the time. The great thing about it is that you get a chance to do things to help people that you really couldn’t do if you were anyplace else.”

## 2005 Census Results (continued from page 1)

### Census Count by Jurisdiction

	Total Resident Population
Avondale	69,356
Buckeye	25,406
Carefree	3,684
Cave Creek	4,766
Chandler	230,845
El Mirage	32,061
Fountain Hills	24,492
Gila Bend	1,808
Gilbert	173,072
Glendale	242,369
Goodyear	46,213
Guadalupe	5,555
Litchfield Park	4,528
<b>Mesa Total</b>	<b>448,096</b>
Sub-area A	235,552
Sub-area B	212,544
Paradise Valley	13,863
<b>Peoria Total</b>	<b>138,143</b>
Maricopa County Part	138,109
Yavapai County Part	34
<b>Phoenix Total</b>	<b>1,475,834</b>
Sub-area A	151,942
Sub-area B	231,747
Sub-area C	418,944
Sub-area D	225,916
Sub-area E	447,285
<b>Queen Creek Total</b>	<b>16,414</b>
Maricopa County Part	15,916
Pinal County Part	498
Scottsdale	234,752
Surprise	88,265
Tempe	165,796
Tolleson	6,498
Wickenburg	6,077
Youngtown	6,163
Balance of Maricopa County	236,992
	<b>Total Resident Population</b>

**Maricopa County Total: 3,700,516**

*Maricopa County total excludes Pinal County and Yavapai County.*

Many of the fastest-growing cities in Maricopa County showed percentage increases in the triple digits, with the city of El Mirage showing the highest percentage increase of 321 percent, followed by the town of Queen Creek (280%), town of Buckeye (199%), city of Surprise (186%), city of Goodyear (144%), and the town of Youngtown (105%). The city of Phoenix had the largest net increase in population, with the addition of 154,789 residents.

About one in every 13 households in Maricopa County received the 2005 Census Survey. The MAG Regional Council voted in December 2003 to conduct a statistical survey rather than a full count due to cost. The final cost of conducting the 2005 Census Survey is estimated at \$8.1 million, compared to the estimated cost of a full count of more than \$31 million. A survey takes a representative sample of all of the housing units in an area, and from that sample uses statistical methods to estimate the population. In addition to the survey of households, a combined full count of populations in group quarters and outdoor locations (homeless) was conducted.

# Seven the Magic Number

Seven projects and individuals representing partnerships across the Valley were honored at the Seventh Desert Peaks Awards program on June 28th. The prestigious awards are presented to organizations and individuals who have demonstrated a commitment to promoting, recognizing, and attaining the ideals of regionalism.

More than 220 people were on hand to honor the recipients during a reception and awards program held at the Arizona Club in Phoenix. Awards were distributed in five categories: Public Partnership (two recipients tied for this honor), Public-Private Partnership, Professional Service, Regional Partnership and Regional Excellence (two recipients also tied for this honor).

Two Valley mayors were selected to receive the awards program's highest honor for Regional Excellence: former Queen Creek Mayor Wendy Feldman-Kerr and Peoria Mayor John Keegan. Judges praised Mayor Feldman-

Kerr for her leadership as MAG chair, including participation in the governance process that led to the inclusive structure of the Transportation Policy Committee, and her dedicated support of Proposition 400. Mayor Keegan was commended for promoting and protecting one of Maricopa County's most important resources—Luke Air Force Base.

Below is a list of the recipients and a description of the people and projects honored with the 2006 Desert Peaks Awards.

## Public Partnership

### 56th Fighter Wing Community Initiatives Team

With increasing pressure from urban development threatening Luke Air Force Base's mission of training fighter pilots, the 56th Fighter Wing Commander established the Community Initiatives Team. The multi-disciplinary team includes personnel with expertise in public relations, law, community planning and flight operations. The Team works closely with the Luke West Valley Council, which was formed to provide direct communication channels to local elected officials. The council includes 12 West Valley mayors and representatives from Sun City, Sun City West, the Maricopa County Board of Supervisors, and base officials. The partnership of these two organizations has improved the process of communication with local communities regarding land

use compatible with Luke operations. Their efforts have prevented further encroachment on Luke, allowing the base to continue to train 90 percent of the U.S. Air Force's F-16 pilots, and 50 percent of its fighter force.

## Rio Salado Habitat Restoration Project

The Rio Salado Habitat Restoration Project has been almost 40 years in the making. The original concept started in a university classroom and over time became a community-inspired plan to restore part of the once-flowing Salt River from a blighted corridor into an environmental

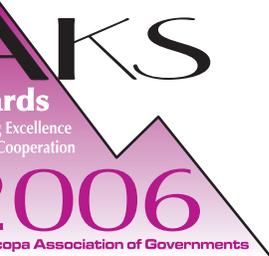


Members of the 56th Fighter Wing Community Initiatives Team

**Rio Salado Restoration**

**Public Partnership**

# of Desert Peaks Awards

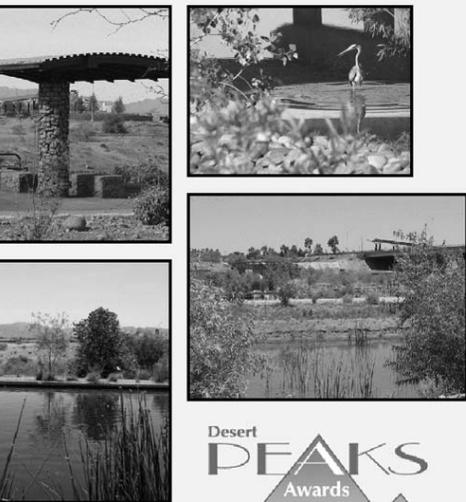


and recreational amenity for the community.

Phoenix Rio Salado is a 595-acre site located between downtown Phoenix and the South Mountain

Park/Preserve. Thousands of residents and many government agencies were involved in shaping and funding this urban wildlife and habitat resource, which spans five miles in length from 19th Avenue to 24th Street. For more than a decade, the Rio Salado public partnership has been working with the Army Corps of Engineers to restore native plants and wetlands. The first stretch of the Rio Salado in Phoenix was opened to the public in November 2005.

## Habitat Project



## Public-Private Partnership

### TGen/IGC Headquarters

The Translational Genomics Research Institute (TGen) and the International Genomics Consortium (IGC) Headquarters is the result of historic collaboration between the public, educational, nonprofit and business sectors to further the goal of greater regional economic development and diversification. In 2002, the city of Phoenix and its partners formalized proposals inviting TGen and IGC to locate their headquarters in downtown Phoenix. In 2003, construction began on the \$46 million, 175,000 gross-square-foot bioscience research facility. The project highlights the city's commitment to creating a bioscience and biotechnology industry for the city, region, and state.



Mayor Ken Hawker presents Anna Chavez of the Governor's Office an award for the state's participation on the TGen project.

had long-term regional benefits, including major wash protection ordinances, trails plans, scenic corridor preservation plans and streetscape concepts. Hadder has served on the MAG Planners Stakeholders Group for the past seven years. He has also served on the Valley Forward Trails Committee, on several Growing Smarter oversight committees, and as city coordinator for joint planning efforts involving Tempe, Carefree, and the Salt River Pima-Maricopa Indian Community.

## Professional Service

### Don Hadder, Sr., Principal Planner, City of Scottsdale

Long-time Scottsdale employee Don Hadder has served as a mentor and role model for the planning profession for almost 30 years. His work as principal planner has resulted in landmark policy and regulatory documents such as the Sensitive Lands Ordinance, Native Plant Ordinance and Sign Ordinance—all of which have provided a standard for desert protection and preservation that is emulated by other cities regionally and nationwide. Hadder has crafted a number of documents that have

Continued on page 8



Professional Service recipient Don Hadder

**SPONSORS**  
Costs of the event were offset through sponsorships. Gold Sponsors included the Arizona Lottery, Goodmans Interior Structures, Kimley-Horn and Associates, Inc., Pinnacle West Capital Corporation, and Wells Fargo Bank, N.A. Silver sponsors included the Arizona Chapter of Associated General Contractors; Carter & Burgess, Inc.; Cox Communications; Mariscal, Weeks, McIntyre and Friedlander, P.A.; and SRP. Other sponsors included Triadvocates, LLC and Arizona Highways Magazine.

# 2006 Desert Peaks Awards (continued from page 7)

## Regional Partnership

### Chandler/Tempe Borderless WiFi Network

The city of Chandler and the city of Tempe worked cooperatively on the adoption and construction of a Wireless Fidelity (WiFi) network to provide for wireless broadband and telephony services to their communities. On one level, the network provides seamless connectivity to the Internet for Chandler and Tempe residents, businesses, students and members of the academic community. On another level, a private municipal wireless network is provided to benefit city operations in a way that minimizes the use of public funds and improves its capabilities for wireless business services, such as real-time inspections and the use of WiFi technology to maintain surveillance of high profile events for the public's safety. The network was made possible because Tempe allowed Chandler to model an agreement that would mirror its own, saving valuable time and money. The agreement creates a 110-square mile contiguous network, the largest such network in the country.



Chandler Mayor Boyd Dunn (left) and Tempe Mayor Hugh Hallman (right) accept the award for the Borderless WiFi Network.

## Regional Excellence

### The Honorable Wendy Feldman-Kerr

Former Queen Creek Mayor Wendy Feldman-Kerr has displayed exemplary leadership not only at the local level, but at the regional level as well. As chair of the MAG Regional Council from 2002 to 2004, Mayor Feldman-Kerr led the organization through a period of great transition. She was a member of the MAG Governance Task Force, where she championed business participation in the transportation planning process that led to the inclusive structure of the Transportation Policy Committee. Mayor Feldman-Kerr staunchly supported Proposition 400, which laid the foundation for transportation improvements in the MAG region for the next 20 years. She promoted greater citizen involvement through the implementation of the first Regional Town Hall, and focused on increasing communication among member agencies. Mayor Feldman-Kerr began her service in Queen Creek after being appointed to the Town Council in 1994, and served three terms as

Mayor. In addition, Mayor Feldman-Kerr has served on the Regional Arts Task Force, and served as chair of the Williams Gateway Airport Authority.



Regional Excellence Award recipient Peoria Mayor John Keegan



Regional Excellence Award recipient Wendy Feldman-Kerr

### The Honorable John Keegan

Peoria Mayor John Keegan has been a leader in promoting and protecting one of Maricopa County's most important resources—Luke Air Force Base. He has worked

diligently at the federal, state and local levels to spare Luke from the base closure list. He worked with Arizona's congressional delegation to secure \$20 million in federal funding for land acquisition to buffer Luke and its flight corridors from encroachment. Mayor Keegan was elected Mayor of Peoria in 1997 and reelected in 1999 and 2003. Mayor Keegan recently retired with the rank of Commander after 27 years of service in both the U.S. Army and the

Naval Reserve. He served two terms in the Arizona House of Representatives. Mayor Keegan serves as vice president of operations for the Boy Scouts of America Grand Canyon Council and has served on a number of boards and commissions, including the Governor's Juvenile Justice Advisory Commission, the Morrison Institute, and the Greater Phoenix Economic Council. He has been recognized with the Champion of Decency Award from the American Families for Decency, and in 2000, he was awarded the Arizona Planning Association's Distinguished Leadership Award. In 2001, he received the Maricopa Association of Governments' Distinguished Service Award. 

For more information about the Desert Peaks Awards, please visit: <http://www.mag.maricopa.gov/project.cms?item=385>

# New Campaign Targets Freeway Litter

## “Don’t Trash Arizona!”

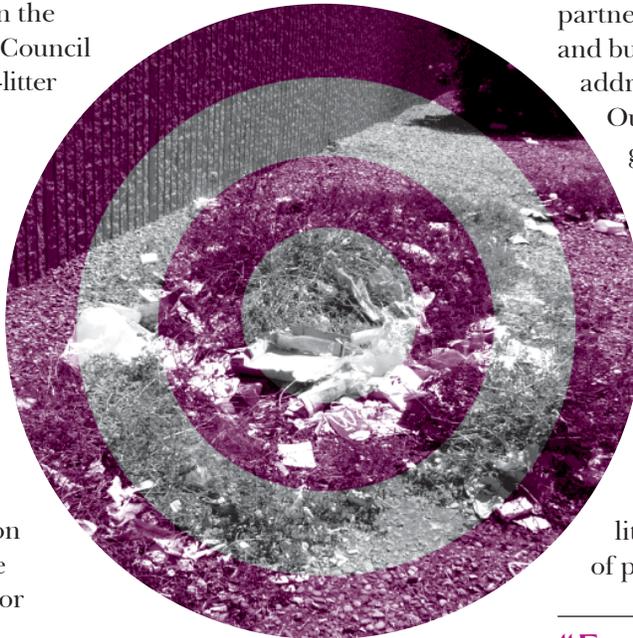
That will be the rallying cry for a new litter prevention and education campaign designed to reduce litter along freeway and highway corridors in the MAG region.

With litter complaints on the rise, the MAG Regional Council specifically included anti-litter funding in the Regional Transportation Plan, with \$279 million set aside for noise mitigation and landscape maintenance—which includes litter control. Approximately \$600,000 has been included in the MAG Work Program and Annual Budget for public education and prevention efforts, with the ultimate goal of changing behavior among litter offenders.

“Freeway litter has become a terrible stain on our landscape throughout the Valley and state,” said MAG Transportation Policy Committee (TPC) Chair Peggy Bilsten, who also chairs a TPC subcommittee looking at resolving litter issues. “Not only is it an eyesore, but the broken bottles, tires, mattresses, boxes, furniture, clothing and other debris left along our roadways cost large amounts of tax dollars to remove, and they pose a serious danger to motorists,” she said.

Bilsten noted that each year the Arizona Department of Transportation (ADOT) spends

about \$2.3 million and 65,000 to 70,000 hours clearing the state’s 6,152 miles of freeways and highways of trash. Debris on the state’s roadways has caused numerous traffic accidents, including five fatalities in recent years.



MAG and ADOT will work cooperatively on the outreach program, with the regional campaign complementing state litter control efforts. The *Don’t Trash Arizona* slogan was recommended by the TPC for its universally concise message.

“While our freeways appear to suffer the most from litter and deserve a great deal of special attention, the *Don’t Trash Arizona* campaign is aimed at controlling litter everywhere throughout our beautiful state,” said Bilsten, who also serves on the Phoenix City Council. “I support that effort because I believe strongly that

clean streets, parks and other public places offer a much better environment for all of us, especially our children.”

Along with media advertising and public relations strategies, the public outreach effort will emphasize the development of partnerships with the education and business community to help address the litter problem.

Outreach will also be targeted to minority communities.

Research in other states has found that single men aged 18-24 are the primary offenders when it comes to littering. Research also indicates that a significant amount of freeway litter comes from the beds of pickups or unsecured loads.

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**“Freeway litter has become a terrible strain on our landscape throughout the Valley and state.”**

**-Phoenix Councilmember Peggy Bilsten**

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“The campaign is designed to get drivers and others to properly dispose of trash instead of tossing it out along the roadways,” said Bilsten. “You can help by keeping a trash bag in your car and properly disposing of your trash wherever you are,” she said. ♪

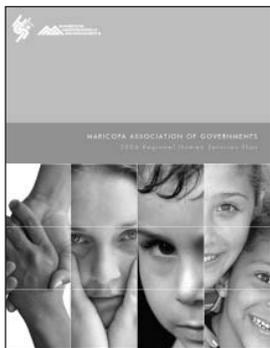
**To report littering, please call the state’s litter hotline at (602) 712-4683.**



MAG Transportation Policy Committee Chair, Phoenix Councilmember Peggy Bilsten

# Human Services Plan Identifies Needs, Resources

After months of input from more than 500 people, the Maricopa Association of Governments (MAG) has finalized its 2006 Regional Human Services Plan. The plan offers a detailed analysis of the current human services landscape, including information on best practices and recommendations for addressing emerging needs.



Development of the Plan involved an extensive public input process, including focus groups, community hearings, surveys and committee meetings. Participants offered feedback on the region's strengths, needs and opportunities for collaboration.

“We were able to talk to individuals who both receive and provide human services in the Valley, and to use their input to better identify what is working well and what needs improvement,” said MAG Human Services Coordinating Committee (HSCC) Chair Mary Rose Wilcox, who also serves on the Maricopa County Board of Supervisors. “Across the board, people consistently expressed a strong desire to support themselves, to have a positive place within the community and to be able to give back to others. They want self-sufficiency and not to be dependent on the government, their children or other family members.”

The Regional Human Services Plan provides information on how Arizona compares in funding levels for social services. Other issues explored are aging, youth, homelessness, domestic violence, and challenges for people with disabilities.

“The responsibility for putting this plan into action is broadly shared,” said HSCC Vice Chair Marie Lopez-Rogers, mayor of Avondale. “Municipalities, private businesses, nonprofit agencies, faith-based organizations, and most importantly, community members themselves, all have important contributions to make,” she said. 

For more information about the Human Services Plan, please visit: <http://www.mag.maricopa.gov/project.cms?item=424>

# Street Projects Get Prop 400 Funding

A multimillion-dollar check to the city of Peoria will take its place in history as the first reimbursement to be received for a street project funded under Proposition 400, which extended the half-cent sales tax for transportation.

When voters approved the \$16 billion Regional Transportation Plan through the passage of Proposition 400 in 2004, they chose to support a multimodal plan that included funding not only for freeways, but for transit and street projects as well.



Peoria Mayor  
John Keegan

“We just deposited a check for \$7,027,000, which is a reimbursement for the widening of Lake Pleasant Parkway in Peoria and which was paid back through Proposition 400 funding,” said Peoria Mayor John Keegan. “Another check for \$7.3 million will be coming at the end of the year. Being able to utilize Proposition 400 funds for arterial street projects is a vital development for the regional transportation system, because the arterial system carries about half of the total vehicle miles traveled in the region,” he said.

MAG has signed six project agreements to date, including the Peoria project and five intersection improvement projects with the city of Chandler. More project agreements and reimbursements are expected to follow soon, with \$56 million slated to be reimbursed in fiscal year 2007 to seven separate jurisdictions.

The Regional Transportation Plan identifies a total of 94 arterial street projects, which are categorized into five-year phases within the plan and are distributed across 14 jurisdictions. The total regional reimbursement for arterial street projects is more than \$1.6 billion, which is a combination of half-cent sales tax, MAG Surface Transportation Program funds, and Congestion Mitigation Air Quality funds.

Continued on page 11

# MAG Receives Transportation Planning Excellence Award

The Maricopa Association of Governments received a national Transportation Planning Excellence Award in the category of Planning Leadership for its development of the Regional Transportation Plan.

The 2006 Transportation Planning Excellence Awards were presented by the Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) and Federal Transit Administration (FTA), and were co-sponsored by the American Planning Association. The national awards program was created to recognize outstanding initiatives across the country that have excelled in developing, planning, and implementing innovative transportation planning practices.

Glendale Mayor Elaine Scruggs, who chaired the Transportation Policy Committee (TPC) that helped develop the Regional Transportation Plan, said she was gratified to learn of the award.

“The TPC symbolizes stewardship for our region and all who

serve on this committee are to be commended for their contribution to this region,” said Mayor Scruggs. “We have the unique opportunity to work in collaboration and cooperation to determine and implement transportation investments for our region for the next 20 years. These investments will be a legacy for our children, grandchildren, and all who live and work in Maricopa County.”

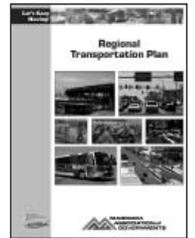
According to the winning nomination, planning and leadership were crucial elements needed in getting public support for the \$16 billion Regional Transportation Plan—including legislative endorsement and voter approval of a half-cent sales tax to help fund it.

“The MAG regional plan was the result of the unique partnership of local and state officials, the business community and the public,” said FHWA Division Administrator Bob Hollis. “More than 100 nominations were received for this year’s awards program, so this is truly a remarkable achievement.”



MAG Executive Director Dennis Smith (holding plaque) accepts the award from (left to right) Charles R. Goodman of the Federal Transit Administration, Cynthia J. Burbank of the Federal Highway Administration, and Jeffrey Lambert of the American Planning Association.

The award was presented July 9, 2006, in a ceremony at the Transportation Research Board’s joint summer meeting of the Planning, Economics, Environment, Finance, Freight, and Management Committees in La Jolla, California. MAG Executive Director Dennis Smith attended the awards program. 



## Street Projects (continued)

In addition to the regional and federal funding, jurisdictions will provide local matching funds of at least 30 percent, committing an estimated \$1.2 billion in local funds for street projects. For example, Peoria and Mesa have recently had local elections to provide these funds. The types of projects vary, with examples including roadway widenings, intersection improvements, construction of a regional parkway, and Intelligent Transportation System projects such as synchronized traffic signals and emergency signal operations. 

## Input Sought for Hassayampa Valley Study

MAG is seeking public input and comment regarding future roadways and other transportation facilities in the Hassayampa Valley area. The *Interstate 10—Hassayampa Valley Roadway Framework Study* is being conducted by MAG to develop a planned roadway network, including regional connections, and to define and prioritize operational and safety improvements to I-10.

The study area covers a large portion of western Maricopa County, most of which is currently undeveloped desert. The project limits are generally State Route 74 on the north, the Gila River on the south, Loop 303 (Estrella Freeway alignment) on the east, and the 459th Avenue section line on the west. Most of this area lies within the municipal planning areas of Buckeye and Surprise as well as unincorporated Maricopa County.

For more information or to provide input, please contact Bob Hazlett at (602) 254-6300, or via e-mail at [hassayampa@mag.maricopa.gov](mailto:hassayampa@mag.maricopa.gov).

# EVENT Calendar

# MEETING Times

# FALL 2006

## August

- 2<sup>nd</sup> 10:00 a.m. Intelligent Transportation Systems Committee
- 2<sup>nd</sup> 1:30 p.m. Specifications and Details Committee
- 3<sup>rd</sup> 1:00 p.m. Domestic Violence Council
- 10<sup>th</sup> 1:00 p.m. Human Services Technical Committee
- 15<sup>th</sup> 1:30 p.m. Regional Bicycle Task Force/  
Pedestrian Working Group Joint Meeting
- 16<sup>th</sup> 2:00 p.m. Building Codes Committee
- 24<sup>th</sup> 1:30 p.m. Air Quality Technical Advisory  
Committee (Tentative)
- 29<sup>th</sup> 10:00 a.m. Population Technical Advisory  
Committee
- 29<sup>th</sup> 1:30 p.m. Planners Stakeholders Group

The dates, times and locations of all meetings may change. Other committees not listed here may meet during these months.

For confirmation call (602) 254-6300, or visit the Web site: [www.mag.maricopa.gov/meetings.cms](http://www.mag.maricopa.gov/meetings.cms)

All meetings, unless indicated otherwise, will be held in the conference rooms located in the MAG offices on the second floor of the Compass Bank Building, 302 N. 1st Avenue, Phoenix.

Parking is available under the building. Please ask for parking validation at the meeting. Transit tickets will be provided for those using transit. Bike racks are available at the entrance to the parking garage.

## September

- 4<sup>th</sup> Labor Day: Office Closed
- 6<sup>th</sup> 10:00 a.m. Intelligent Transportation Systems Committee
- 6<sup>th</sup> 12:00 p.m. Management Committee
- 6<sup>th</sup> 1:30 p.m. Specifications and Details Committee
- 12<sup>th</sup> 1:00 p.m. Street Committee
- 14<sup>th</sup> 1:00 p.m. Human Services Technical Committee
- 18<sup>th</sup> 12:00 p.m. Regional Council Executive Committee
- 19<sup>th</sup> 10:00 a.m. Transportation Safety Committee
- 19<sup>th</sup> 1:30 p.m. Regional Bicycle Task Force/  
Pedestrian Working Group Joint Meeting
- 20<sup>th</sup> 2:00 p.m. Building Codes Committee
- 20<sup>th</sup> 4:00 p.m. Transportation Policy Committee
- 21<sup>st</sup> 10:00 a.m. Telecommunications Advisory Group
- 25<sup>th</sup> 2:00 p.m. Continuum of Care Regional  
Committee on Homelessness
- 26<sup>th</sup> 9:00 a.m. Regional Bicycle Task Force/  
Pedestrian Working Group Joint Meeting (Tentative)
- 26<sup>th</sup> 10:00 a.m. Population Technical Advisory Committee
- 26<sup>th</sup> 11:00 a.m. Census Survey Oversight  
Subcommittee (Tentative)
- 27<sup>th</sup> 5:00 p.m. Regional Council
- 28<sup>th</sup> 10:00 a.m. Transportation Review Committee
- 28<sup>th</sup> 1:30 p.m. Air Quality Technical Advisory Committee

## October

- 3<sup>rd</sup> 1:30 p.m. Air Quality Technical Advisory Committee  
(Tentative)
- 4<sup>th</sup> 10:00 a.m. Intelligent Transportation Systems  
Committee
- 4<sup>th</sup> 12:00 p.m. Management Committee
- 4<sup>th</sup> 1:30 p.m. Specifications and Details Committee
- 5<sup>th</sup> 1:00 p.m. Domestic Violence Council
- 11<sup>th</sup> 4:00 p.m. Transportation Policy Committee
- 12<sup>th</sup> 1:00 p.m. Human Services Technical Committee
- 16<sup>th</sup> 12:00 p.m. Regional Council Executive Committee
- 17<sup>th</sup> 11:00 a.m. Census Survey Oversight  
Subcommittee (Tentative)
- 17<sup>th</sup> 1:30 p.m. Regional Bicycle Task Force/  
Pedestrian Working Group Joint Meeting
- 18<sup>th</sup> 2:00 p.m. Building Codes Committee
- 19<sup>th</sup> 1:00 p.m. Human Services Coordinating  
Committee
- 24<sup>th</sup> 10:00 a.m. Population Technical Advisory  
Committee
- 24<sup>th</sup> 1:30 p.m. Regional Bicycle Task Force/  
Pedestrian Working Group Joint Meeting
- 24<sup>th</sup> 1:30 p.m. Planners Stakeholders Group
- 25<sup>th</sup> 5:00 p.m. Regional Council
- 26<sup>th</sup> 10:00 a.m. Transportation Review Committee
- 26<sup>th</sup> 1:30 p.m. Air Quality Technical Advisory Committee



The MAGAZine newsletter is available in electronic format and in Spanish on the MAG Web site: [www.mag.maricopa.gov/project.cms?item=433](http://www.mag.maricopa.gov/project.cms?item=433)



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