

Welcome to the Sixth



Maricopa Association of Governments

Desert Peaks Awards Evening

June 23, 2004



Desert Peaks Awards Evening

DINNER AND PROGRAM

Arizona Club

Bank One Center, 201 N. Central Avenue, Suite #3700, Phoenix.

5:30 Reception

Reception and Cash Bar

6:15 Awards Presentations

Welcome

Dennis Smith, *Executive Director*,
Maricopa Association of Governments

Master of Ceremonies

Wendy Feldman-Kerr, *Chair*, MAG Regional Council;
Mayor, Town of Queen Creek

Recognition of Special Guests

Recognition of Sponsors and Judges

Desert Peaks Awards

Presenters

Summit Award

Wendy Feldman-Kerr, *Mayor*, Town of Queen Creek
Phil Gordon, *Mayor*, City of Phoenix
Gary Pierce, *Arizona House of Representatives*

Public Partnership

Mary Manross, *Mayor*, City of Scottsdale

Public-Private Partnership

John Keegan, *Mayor*, City of Peoria

Professional Service

Joan Shafer, *Mayor*, City of Surprise

Regional Partnership

Woody Thomas, *Mayor*, Town of Litchfield Park

Regional Excellence

Keno Hawker, *Mayor*, City of Mesa

Passing of the Gavel

Wendy Feldman-Kerr, *Chair*, MAG Regional Council;
Mayor, Town of Queen Creek
Keno Hawker, *Incoming Chair*, MAG Regional Council;
Mayor, City of Mesa

Judges

The Maricopa Association of Governments wishes to thank the following people for their participation as judges for the Desert Peaks Awards. Their involvement in this process has contributed greatly to the success of the program.

Tom Ambrose

*Senior Vice President Public Affairs
Phoenix Suns*

James Creedon

*Retired Brigadier General
Landry, Creedon & Associates*

Anna Maria Chavez

*Director of Intergovernmental Affairs
Governor's Office*

Sandra Hicks

*Former Executive Director
Challenger Space Center*

Dr. Larry Christiansen

*President
Mesa Community College*

Joel Nilsson

*Editorial Board Member
The Arizona Republic*

Dr. Lattie Coor

*Chairman and CEO
Center for the Future of Arizona*



Summit Award

This year's awards include a special "Summit Award" to honor those involved in the development of a new Regional Transportation Plan, the most significant transportation planning effort the region has undertaken in 40 years.

Recipient

Regional Transportation Plan

In November 2004, Maricopa County voters will determine whether to continue the half-cent sales tax for transportation for another 20 years. This sales tax continuation would be used to help fund a Regional Transportation Plan that provides for the construction of new freeway corridors, widening of existing freeways and highways, improvements to the arterial street system, the addition of regional bus services and other special transportation services, and high capacity transit facilities such as light rail, bus rapid transit and express buses. The Plan was developed by the Transportation Policy Committee, a 22-member committee that included representatives from cities and towns across the region, the business community, the Arizona Department of Transportation, Maricopa County, the freight industry, transit, and the Citizens Transportation Oversight Committee. The Regional Transportation Plan includes \$15.8 billion in projects, taking into account all regional funding sources. About half of the funding, \$9 billion (including \$500 million set aside for interest expense and based on 2002 dollars) would come from the passage of Proposition 400.

Partnering agencies: Maricopa Association of Governments Transportation Policy Committee, Valley business community.



Public Partnership

This award is presented to the group or project that has demonstrated a commitment to regionalism through public sector or public/nonprofit partnership.

Recipient

City of Glendale Chemical Weapon Full-Scale Exercise

In February 2003, the City of Glendale hosted the largest multi-agency/multi-disciplinary emergency preparedness drill in Arizona history. As a leader in emergency preparedness pertaining to Weapons of Mass Destruction, Glendale was selected by the Department of Justice to participate in a comprehensive program that provided training, equipment and exercises to all stakeholder agencies. The exercise involved a scenario in which a chemical nerve agent was released on the campus of a local university. More than 250 participants from dozens of agencies responded to 400 “victims.” The exercise was one of the largest of its kind in Arizona history. *Partnering agencies: Luke Air Force Base and the cities of Avondale, Chandler, Glendale, Goodyear, Peoria, Phoenix.*

Nominees

Avondale Civic Center/Avondale Boulevard Projects

The City of Avondale and its partners worked on two significant projects to serve business, employment and commercial interests in the Southwest Valley. After an update to the city’s General Plan that identified Avondale Boulevard (formerly 115th Avenue) as a major employment corridor, the city invested \$20 million to construct roadway improvements along the Boulevard. In addition, Avondale partnered with Maricopa County to colocate facilities. The new Civic Center campus includes a 300-person council chamber, outdoor amphitheater, city courts building and new police headquarters, as well as future County regional facilities, such as a regional library to serve the entire Southwest Valley.

Partnering agencies: Arizona Department of Transportation, City of Avondale, Maricopa County Board of Supervisors, Maricopa County Library District, Salt River Project.

CPR in the Schools Pilot Program

The City of Peoria Fire Department developed a pilot program to teach cardiopulmonary resuscitation (CPR) to elementary students at Peoria Elementary School. The lifesaving technique is taught as part of the children’s health curriculum.

Partnering agencies: City of Peoria Fire Department and Community Services Division; Peoria Unified School District; Phoenix Firefighters’ Association Local 493.

East Valley Needs Assessment Partnership

East Valley municipalities and nonprofit organizations formed a collaboration to assess human services needs in the East Valley. The result was a cost-effective method of assessing service gaps as well as resources to address needs. By working cooperatively, the agencies were able to identify innovative solutions that capitalize on available talents and resources within each community or agency, while minimizing demands and challenges to strained support systems.

Partnering agencies: The cities and towns of Chandler, Gilbert, Mesa, Scottsdale, and Tempe; Gilbert Leadership Centre; Maricopa Association of Governments; Mesa United Way; Valley of the Sun United Way.

Public Partnership

Nominees Continued

Homeless Street Count Work Group

In February, municipalities from across Maricopa County participated in a coordinated effort to conduct a visual street count of all homeless individuals and families in the region. Local police departments, city officials, homeless service providers and homeless volunteers assisted in the count, which has been the most comprehensive regional effort to date to quantify the number of street homeless. There are at least 1,778 individuals living on the streets of Maricopa County (not counting homeless persons residing in shelters, overflow facilities, or transitional housing). The Maricopa Association of Governments organized the count to take place across the region during a 24-hour period.

Partnering agencies: The cities and towns of Avondale, Buckeye, Carefree, Cave Creek, Chandler, El Mirage, Fountain Hills, Gila Bend, Gilbert, Glendale, Goodyear, Guadalupe, Litchfield Park, Mesa, Paradise Valley, Peoria, Phoenix, Queen Creek, Scottsdale, Surprise, Tempe, Tolleson, Wickenburg and Youngtown; Buckeye Food Bank; Healthcare for the Homeless; HomeBase Youth Services; Maricopa Association of Governments; Maricopa County; Salvation Army; Southwest Behavioral Health; Terros Behavioral Health Services; Tumbleweed Center for Youth Development; Veterans Administration; U.S. Veterans Initiative.

Laveen Area Conveyance Channel (LACC)

Four public agencies joined forces to provide the region relief from more than 1,400 acres of potential flood hazard. The LACC is a unique regional multi-use flood control facility designed to safely collect and drain storm waters. The LACC will feature nearly six miles of conveyance channel, a 17-acre detention basin, and meandering water features, trails and parks, offering recreational facilities while at the same time protecting area residents from storm waters from 100-year floods and other storms.

Partnering agencies: Flood Control District of Maricopa County, Maricopa County Department of Transportation, City of Phoenix, Salt River Project.

Luke Auxiliary Field One General Plan Amendment

The City of Surprise, Arizona State Land Department, and Luke Air Force Base worked to create an atmosphere of support and cooperation to facilitate the preservation of Luke Air Force Base. Luke Auxiliary Field One is important to the continued mission of the base as the largest F-16 training facility in the world. The three agencies worked to provide compatible land uses around the facility through the Major General Plan Amendment process. The amendment provided compatible land uses around the facility previously unprotected by state laws.

Partnering agencies: Arizona State Land Department, Luke Air Force Base, City of Surprise.

Maricopa County Multi-Jurisdictional All-Hazard Mitigation Plan

Twenty-seven jurisdictions from across the region worked cooperatively with Maricopa County to develop a mitigation plan for the region as required by the Disaster Mitigation Act of 2000. The joint approach will help the region meet a November deadline and ensure that no jurisdiction will be denied federal recovery and infrastructure funds in the event of an emergency.

Partnering agencies: The cities and towns of Avondale, Buckeye, Carefree, Cave Creek, Chandler, El Mirage, Fountain Hills, Gila Bend, Gilbert, Glendale, Goodyear, Guadalupe, Litchfield Park, Mesa, Paradise Valley, Peoria, Phoenix, Queen Creek, Scottsdale, Surprise, Tempe, Tolleson, Wickenburg, and Youngtown; Fort McDowell Yavapai Nation; Maricopa County; Salt River Pima-Maricopa Indian Community.

Public Partnership

Nominees Continued

City of Mesa and Mesa Unified School District

The City of Mesa and Mesa Public Schools have long partnered and shared resources for the benefit of the organizations and the community. Several programs and projects bind the partnership, including Intergovernmental Agreements between the two organizations, bimonthly management staff meetings to explore various issues of mutual interest, annual policy making meetings and joint purchases. The partnership helps provide a common voice in speaking to local, regional and statewide issues, especially those that impact legislative agendas.

Partnering agencies: City of Mesa, Mesa Public Schools.

City of Scottsdale's Trails Master Plan

The City of Scottsdale is situated adjacent to several other municipalities with extensive trail systems and large open spaces. In order to provide more regional connectivity among trails in the area, a Trails Master Plan was needed to provide for a connected trail network. Preparation of the Plan involved a detailed review of trail corridors and the identification of 451 miles of unpaved multi-use trails.

Partnering agencies: Bureau of Reclamation; the cities and towns of Carefree, Cave Creek, Fountain Hills, Glendale, Mesa, Peoria, Phoenix and Scottsdale; Maricopa County; Maricopa County Department of Transportation; Salt River Pima-Maricopa Indian Community; Salt River Project; Tonto National Forest.

City of Surprise Alternative Response Program

The Alternative Response Program consists of 65 professionally trained volunteers providing on-scene crisis intervention to residents of Surprise and the Northwest Valley. Volunteers partner with fire departments and police agencies, accompanying units to traumatic events. Team members offer reassurance and resources to those left suffering in the wake of accidents, deaths and violent crimes. The program enables emergency responders to return to service more quickly, knowing they don't have to leave a family alone in a traumatic situation. Although a program of the City of Surprise, Alternative Response units respond to incidents in eleven surrounding communities.

Partnering agencies: The communities of Avondale, Buckeye, El Mirage, Glendale, Goodyear, New River, Peoria, Phoenix, Sun City, Sun City West, Surprise, Youngtown.

Professional Service

The Professional Service Award is presented to the individual who has significantly contributed to regionalism through sustained or outstanding professional efforts.

Recipient

Jeff Martin, Assistant Development Services Manager, City of Mesa

Jeff Martin has been a driving force in the planning and financing of regional transportation. Mr. Martin was hired by the City of Mesa in 1990 as Assistant to the City Manager for intergovernmental relations. One of his responsibilities was to work with the Maricopa Association of Governments (MAG) and other cities on regional transportation issues. Mr. Martin has served on MAG's Transportation Review Committee since its inception. He played a pivotal role in moving the legislature toward adopting a series of laws to accelerate highway construction, working cooperatively with lawmakers and the governor's office, business community and Arizona Department of Transportation on innovative financing efforts that will help complete the freeway program earlier than planned. Mr. Martin has been a strong proponent of a number of regional transportation studies, such as the Bottleneck Study and High Capacity Transit Study. Mr. Martin has been a dedicated advocate for a regional approach to transit funding, including bus and dial-a-ride services.

Nominee

Diana Kiminski, Senior Planner, City of Tempe

Ms. Kiminski has been an employee of the City of Tempe for nine years, including six years working on the Rio Salado Project, and most recently on the new General Plan 2030. While working on the Rio Salado Project, she worked with adjacent cities to increase coordination and communication on projects. Ms. Kiminski has been an advocate for habitat restoration connecting to Scottsdale's Indian Bend Wash. She worked with Sky Harbor airport to address regional aviation issues, land use planning and wildlife management. She has helped the city develop its General Plan 2030, including a chronological overview of regional development and the integration of adjacent land uses into Tempe's land use planning. She has been active in the Valley Forward Association and in the MAG Land Use Planners Stakeholders Group. She volunteers on numerous committees promoting regional cooperation.

Regional Partnership

This award honors local governments that have demonstrated a commitment to regionalism through cooperative efforts.

Recipient

San Tan Mountains Regional Park Master Plan

Requests from citizens in the Southeast Valley for a useable regional park and natural preserve prompted this cooperative venture. Queen Creek sought cooperation from Chandler, Gilbert, Maricopa County, and Mesa to move forward with planning and development of this 11,000 acre master-planned regional park. The plan seeks to provide recreational and educational opportunities appropriate for a Sonoran Desert mountain park setting while rehabilitating, protecting and responding to the unique natural and cultural resources of the park. The project's success is credited to a diverse group of governments and citizens dedicated to furthering and preserving the quality of the region. *Participating agencies: City of Chandler, Town of Gilbert, Maricopa County, City of Mesa, Pinal County, Town of Queen Creek.*

Nominees

Bethany Home Outfall Channel

Protection from flooding for thousands of homes and businesses in the West Valley is the goal of a regional partnership between the Flood Control District of Maricopa County and the cities of Glendale and Phoenix. The District identified areas of significant flooding in downtown Glendale and north of the Grand Canal from Indian School to Bethany Home roads. During major storms, floodwaters backed up against the canal, frequently overtopping it and causing additional flooding. The Bethany Home Outfall Channel is a five-mile long channel that will contain floodwaters from 100-year and lesser storms. The channel, which crosses multiple jurisdictions, will accommodate flood control as well as neighborhood and community needs, including recreational uses.

Partnering agencies: City of Glendale, City of Phoenix, Maricopa County.

Country Club Way and US 60 Bicycle/Pedestrian Bridge

Tempe and the Arizona Department of Transportation collaborated to design and construct the Country Club Way and US 60 Bicycle/Pedestrian Bridge. The bridge connects an elementary school, park and neighborhoods on the south side of US 60 with similar facilities on the north side of the freeway. The bridge allows bicyclists, pedestrians and other nonmotorized vehicle users to travel throughout the region by providing a seamless alternative transportation network.

Partnering agencies: Arizona Department of Transportation, City of Tempe.

Regional Partnership

Nominees Continued

East Valley Regional Martin Luther King, Jr. Unity Walk

Seven East Valley towns and cities pooled their resources and participated in a CommUNITY walk to honor Martin Luther King, Jr. and cultural diversity. Each city assembled walkers at designated locations who simultaneously marched toward Tempe Beach Park for a unified celebration. Organizers used the walk as a means of reaching out to enhance the quality of life for their communities while increasing citizen participation in government through cultural diversity.

Partnering agencies: The cities and towns of Chandler, Gilbert, Guadalupe, Mesa, Queen Creek, Scottsdale, Tempe.

Family Self-Sufficiency East Valley Alliance

Housing authorities in four East Valley cities work together to maximize resources by developing positive relationships with community social service agencies, educators, businesses, churches and health providers. The goal of the Alliance is to develop family self-sufficiency programs that help low-income families become financially self-sufficient. The programs seek to move families off public assistance and into the workforce, with an ultimate goal of home ownership.

Partnering agencies: Cities of Chandler, Mesa, Scottsdale, Tempe.

Neighborhood Day at the State Legislature

An annual event held at the State Capitol early in the legislative session, Neighborhood Day at the State Legislature provides an opportunity for citizens to meet their legislators over lunch, learn about the legislative process, and make their voices heard on issues they care about. The day was created to present the interests of communities and help citizens become more familiar with the legislative process.

Partnering agencies: The cities and towns of Avondale, Chandler, Gilbert, Glendale, Goodyear, Mesa, Scottsdale, Tempe.

Stormwater Outreach for Regional Municipalities (STORM)

Living in the desert southwest, many Valley residents don't understand the need for stormwater management. The traditional approach to public stormwater education was for individual organizations to work independently. STORM creates and implements a regional network to provide stormwater education. STORM brings together the experience and resources of 15 local jurisdictions to promote public outreach and education on the importance of stormwater pollution prevention.

Partnering agencies: Maricopa County, Salt River Pima-Maricopa Indian Community, and the cities and towns of Chandler, Gilbert, Glendale, Guadalupe, Litchfield Park, Mesa, Paradise Valley, Peoria, Phoenix, Scottsdale, Surprise, Tempe, Tolleson.

Public-Private Partnership

This award is presented to the group or project that has demonstrated a commitment to regionalism through a public-private partnership.

Recipients (Two recipients were selected in this category)

Employers Against Domestic Violence (EADV)

EADV was established in October 2000 as a way to collaborate with other employers/businesses to address the growing problem of domestic violence and its detrimental impact on the workplace and communities. Its 100+ members include municipalities, businesses, insurance companies, health care providers, nonprofit organizations, shelters, financial institutions, and advocacy groups. Domestic violence costs American businesses up to \$5 billion each year in absenteeism, lower productivity, higher turnover, and health care and safety costs. EADV's mission is to create more productive workplaces that are intolerant of violence; to develop policies and practices that are safe and supportive of victims and families; and to engender safer, more responsive communities.

Partnering agencies: Employers Against Domestic Violence has more than 100 member agencies. Members include Maricopa County and the cities of Glendale, Goodyear, Mesa, Phoenix. EADV is a subcommittee of the Maricopa Association of Governments Regional Domestic Violence Council.

City of Glendale/Phoenix Coyotes/The Ellman Companies Development Project

This partnership paves the way for a 223-acre development, dubbed the *Westgate City Center*, that will feature up to six million square feet of development. The mixed-use project will include a 17,799 seat arena, 1.6 million square feet of retail, two million square feet of class-A office space, 600,000 square feet of entertainment and dining, major resort hotels and a unique mix of residential options. The public-private partnership will provide a sports and entertainment destination option for the entire region, and serve as a job-creating economic engine for western Maricopa County.

Partnering agencies: The Ellman Companies, City of Glendale, Phoenix Coyotes.

Public-Private Partnership

Nominees Continued

Nominees

APS Public-Private Partnerships

The Arizona Public Service Company (APS) has established three highly successful public-private partnerships to build a sense of regionalism for its customers. APS has established partnerships with three Valley cities to provide more efficient operations and savings for government partners and increased service to residents. Partnerships include one-stop customer service locations in city buildings that allow customers to pay both their city and APS utility bills at transaction terminals in joint offices.

Partnering agencies: Arizona Public Service Company, City of Chandler, City of Goodyear, City of Phoenix.

Avondale Veteran's Memorial

In July 2003, the Avondale City Council approved the addition of a Veteran's Memorial to the new Civic Center Project to serve as a regional point of pride. The city worked with several partners to design, construct and fund the Veteran's Memorial at the Avondale Civic Center. The design consists of flags of each of the branches of the armed services and a plaque recognizing each along the walkway leading to the amphitheater. The dedication ceremony included representatives from all branches of the armed services and numerous other groups.

Partnering agencies: American Legion Post 61, City of Avondale, Sundt Construction, Inc.

Earned Income Tax Credit Campaign Work Group

Numerous community representatives in the public and private sector joined forces to promote public awareness and utilization of the Earned Income Tax Credit (EITC) program by low and moderate income families and individuals. The campaign sought to increase the number of families and individuals who file for EITC tax credits, increase the amount of EITC refunds for those filers, and provide financial information and services to those seeking the tax credit. The program included 1,000 volunteer hours to assist qualified individuals, who received average refunds of \$2,600.

Partnering agencies: The cities of Mesa, Phoenix, Scottsdale and Tempe; Arizona Community Action Association; Arizona Community Foundation; Arizona Communities Organization for Reform Now (ACORN)/Phoenix; Arizona Department of Economic Security; Arizona Department of Revenue; Arizona Public Service Company; Arizona Saves; Bank of America; Children's Action Alliance; Collaborative for a New Century; Community Information and Referral; Community Outreach and Education (CORE); FIBCO Family Services, Inc.; Fresh Start Women's Foundation; Governor's Office of Children, Youth and Families; Internal Revenue Service; Maricopa Association of Governments; Maricopa County; Mesa Community Action Network; MJS Designs; Morris Institute for Justice; Neighborhood Economic Development Corporation; Southwest Gas Corporation; Tempe Community Council; Valley of the Sun United Way; Volunteer Center of Maricopa County; Wells Fargo.

Gilbert Youth Soccer Complex – Hetchler Park

After the Gilbert Youth Soccer Association lost its home of nearly 20 years, the Town of Gilbert and the City of Mesa formed a partnership with the Association to establish a permanent facility for the area's recreational soccer needs. The partnership resulted in the development of 42 acres surrounding the South Wastewater Treatment Plant near Hetchler Park. The 17-field soccer complex includes a concession stand, restrooms, a paved parking lot of 500 spaces, and landscaping to serve the area's soccer and physical fitness activities.

Partnering agencies: Town of Gilbert, Gilbert Youth Soccer Association, City of Mesa.

Public-Private Partnership

Nominees Continued

Greater Phoenix Regional Atlas

The Greater Phoenix Regional Atlas, published by the Greater Phoenix 2100 Project at Arizona State University, is a compilation of information designed to establish the extent of the region's potential urban growth over the next 50 years and define a regional context for urban and rural issues related to the area's growth, function and quality of life. The atlas seeks to initiate dialogue to address the institutional and community information needs resulting from a new regional geography, predicting that the region of the next 50 years will be geographically and politically different than that of the past 50 years and will require the cooperative efforts of multiple regional and local organizations.

Partnering agencies: Arizona departments of Environmental Quality, Health Services, and Water Resources; The Arizona Republic; Arizona Science Center; Arizona Office of the Attorney General; Arizona State University; Central Arizona Project; Chalk Design; Greater Phoenix Economic Council; Johnson and Zaddack; Lincoln Institute of Land Policy; Nathan & Associates; Maricopa Association of Governments; Maricopa County; The Honorable Ed Pastor, Fourth Congressional District; City of Phoenix; Phoenix Zoo; Rodel Foundation; Salt River Project; University of Arizona; Valley Forward Association.

Homeless Management Information System (HMIS) Project

Nonprofit agencies, municipalities and public agencies from across the region developed the HMIS project as a means of tracking services provided to homeless clients, preventing duplicative efforts and ensuring client needs are being met. The system helps track the number of Valley homeless and identify best practices and needed improvements among homeless service providers. Policies were developed to protect confidentiality and the client's right to privacy while implementing time-saving, cost-effective technology.

Partnering agencies: Arizona Coalition Against Domestic Violence; Arizona Coalition to End Homelessness; Arizona Community Foundation; Arizona departments of Economic Security, Health Services, and Housing; Business Development for Nonprofits; Catholic Social Services; Central Arizona Shelter Services; Chicanos Por La Causa, Inc.; Chrysalis Shelter; Community Information and Referral; Florence Crittenton Services; Governor's Office Division for Women; HomeBase Youth Services; Homeward Bound; Labor's Community Service Agency; House of Refuge; Linda Cannon & Associates, Inc.; Mesa Community Action Network; Native American Connections, Inc.; NOVA; City of Phoenix; Phoenix Shanti Group; Phoenix Rescue Mission; PREHAB of Arizona; Save the Family; Sojourner Center; Southwest Behavioral Health; Symmetric Solutions; Techselect Consulting; Tumbleweed Center for Youth Development; United Methodist Outreach Ministries; Valley of the Sun United Way; Volunteer Center of Maricopa County; YWCA of Maricopa County.

Joint-Use Aquatic Facility

In 2003, Goodyear had only one aquatic facility, which was too small to meet the growing demand for aquatic programming and recreation. Both the Southwest Valley YMCA and Agua Fria Union High School District were planning to build their own aquatic facilities. Through a partnership among the three agencies, original plans were altered to meet the needs of each group and the growing community. The partnership resulted in a new plan to design, construct, operate and maintain a joint-use aquatic facility to benefit the entire community. The partnership enables the community to offer year-round aquatic programming that addresses all three agencies' recreation needs.

Partnering agencies: Agua Fria Union High School District, City of Goodyear, YMCA.

Public-Private Partnership

Nominees Continued

Luke Air Force Base Land Exchange

To protect Luke Air Force Base from encroachment, the City of Phoenix negotiated a land exchange with Westcor Development for 926 acres of land off the Air Force runway, worth approximately \$10 million. The cooperative effort benefits cities in the region that rely on Luke for economic activity and employment. The City of Phoenix traded 640 acres of land it owned in the City of Surprise to help buffer the base. The land will continue to be used for agriculture and will not be developed.

Partnering agencies: City of Phoenix, City of Surprise; Westcor Partners.

Roof Rat Control - Regional Public Outreach

An unexpected infestation of rodents known as “roof rats” led to a collaborative partnership designed to maximize resources and provide information to residents on how to eradicate the unwelcome pests. The cooperative efforts have led to the purchase of supplies for bait stations, volunteer efforts to glean fruit from neighborhood trees that in turn was donated to charities, and the creation of informative materials such as fliers, door hangers and Web sites.

Participating agencies: City of Scottsdale, Maricopa County Vector Control, NEIGHBORtoNEIGHBOR.

Scottsdale Family Advocacy Center

A proposed family advocacy center will give citizens of Scottsdale a place where families in crisis will be provided assistance with problems such as domestic violence, sexual assault, and child or elder abuse. The site will house multidisciplinary organizations providing victim support services for the Northeast Valley. The center will decrease victim trauma and intimidation by providing a victim-friendly environment.

Partnering agencies: Arizona Child Protective Services; Maricopa County Attorney’s Office; Maricopa County Adult Probation Services; St. Joseph’s Hospital; City of Scottsdale, including the Police Department and City Prosecutor’s Office; Scottsdale Health Care; Scottsdale Victim Services.

City of Tempe General Plan 2030

Although not yet ratified by Tempe voters, the City of Tempe General Plan 2030 has led to public partnerships already affecting the community. General Plan 2030 was developed through the cooperation of and regional involvement with adjacent cities, Arizona State University, private utilities, businesses and nonprofit organizations. The plan promotes regional planning in housing provision, environmental conservation, land use, and transportation – including connectivity of travel paths to and between communities.

Partnering agencies: The cities of Phoenix, Scottsdale and Tempe; America West Airlines; Arizona State University; Centers for Habilitation; Maricopa Association of Governments; Maricopa County; Motorola; Salt River Project; Tempe Community Council; Tempe Chamber of Commerce; Tempe Elementary School District; Tempe Union High School District.

Regional Excellence

The Regional Excellence award is presented to the single individual who has demonstrated exemplary commitment to the spirit of regionalism.

Recipient

The Honorable Gary Pierce (R-Mesa)

Representative Gary Pierce was instrumental in guiding the \$15.8 billion Regional Transportation Plan through the legislative process. He sponsored House Bill 2292, which laid the framework for the planning process and formalized the Transportation Policy Committee in state law. To help legislators keep abreast of developments, Representative Pierce created the Joint Ad Hoc Committee on the Maricopa County Regional Transportation Plan, a bicameral, bipartisan committee made up of lawmakers interested in transportation issues. His leadership helped advance House Bill 2456, calling for a continuation of the half-cent sales tax for transportation, after it stalled in a Senate subcommittee. His efforts are credited with the ultimate approval by the legislature of the election that will allow voters to decide their transportation future.

Nominee

The Honorable Boyd W. Dunn

Chandler Mayor Boyd Dunn was a driving force behind efforts to obtain rubberized asphalt for Valley freeways. Mayor Dunn began his mission after noticing the noise reduction benefits rubberized asphalt had on the Superstition Freeway. What began as a quest for to have the surfacing placed on the new Santan Freeway in Chandler, soon evolved into a regional effort to provide rubberized asphalt on all Valley freeways. Mayor Dunn worked with the Maricopa Association of Governments and the Arizona Department of Transportation to secure funding for the noise-reducing pavement, without placing additional financial burdens on taxpayers or the state budget.

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The Maricopa Association of Governments wishes to thank the following sponsors for their support of the Desert Peaks Awards.



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