

Report highlights

Maricopa Association of Governments Regional Transportation Plan

Performance Audit

The Maricopa Association of Governments (MAG) selected projects to be funded by Propositions 400 and 479 in alignment with system-wide goals and has opportunities to better demonstrate whether the regional transportation system and individual projects achieved their intended outcomes, and Valley Metro can improve the consistency of its reported performance data.

Audit purpose

To determine whether MAG established goals and performance standards for projects funded by Propositions 400 and 479 and used the established goals and performance standards to assess the performance of the regional transportation system and projects; and to assess the extent to which Valley Metro (the Regional Public Transportation Authority, and a MAG implementation partner) published consistent operational data for public consumption.¹

Key findings

- MAG is responsible for developing the region's transportation plan and Regional Strategic Transportation Infrastructure Investment Plan (RSTIIP). We found that MAG generally selected projects for inclusion in these plans based on system-wide goals.
- MAG has opportunities to better demonstrate whether the regional transportation system and individual projects funded by the half-cent sales tax have achieved their intended outcomes. Specifically, although MAG developed anticipated outcomes for 8 of the 13 metrics in its 2025 RSTIIP, it did not provide documentation that indicated how it might use this information to report on performance over time. In addition, MAG has not required its implementing partners or member agencies to develop project-specific objectives, targets, performance metrics, or performance measures tied to MAG's system-wide goals.
- Valley Metro reported inconsistent light rail and streetcar boarding data which may impact its ability to make informed decisions regarding service level and future budgets, and result in a lack of public transparency regarding its performance.

Key recommendations to MAG

- Develop and implement a process for establishing and monitoring system-wide objectives and targets for the goals, performance measures and targets identified in the RSTIIP.
- Develop and implement a process for implementing partners and member agencies which requires project documentation to explicitly identify performance management information.

Key recommendations to Valley Metro

- Develop and implement procedures to ensure the consistency of reported performance data.

¹ Sikich conducted this performance audit of the MAG Regional Transportation Plan/ Regional Strategic Transportation Infrastructure Investment Plan pursuant to an October 7, 2025, resolution of the Joint Legislative Audit Committee and Arizona Revised Statutes § 28-6313.