



COMMITTEE LEGISLATIVE AGENDA 2009-2010

The public policy goal of the East Valley Partnership is to help create the infrastructure that will enable Arizona to develop a diversified and thriving 21st century economy. In our view that infrastructure includes transportation, utilities, financial capital, education at all levels, and a governmental environment that includes an adequate and equitable tax base and government that is not unduly limited by past and future ballot initiatives.

Although the current economic recession is global in nature, Arizona has created many of its own problems by an over reliance on population growth and housing construction, a tax structure that leads to wild swings in state revenue from year to year, and a runaway ballot initiative system that has limited the ability of our elected leaders to effectively govern. We are concerned that the drastic cuts we are witnessing in both the public and private sectors will set the state back years, perhaps decades, both economically and in quality of life. Nowhere have we seen a serious discussion of a recovery plan or any talk of how to ensure the long-term future of the state. We are willing to step into that void and to partner with other economic development associations, as well as private sector and public entities to both address our most immediate needs and to begin planning for the future.

Legislative items for EVP committees & co-chairs for the 2009-2010 terms are as follows:

Economic Development Committee

The Economic Development Committee areas of focus include education, healthcare, workforce development and capital financing development.

Co-Chair: Lois Yates – Falcon Field Area Alliance, 602/889-2333 or lcy@falconfieldarea.org

Co-Chair: Todd Werner - Banner Desert Medical Center, 480/512-3203 or Todd.Werner@bannerhealth.com

EVP Staff: Jennifer Whalley

Meeting Dates for 2009: January, February, March, April, May, September, October, November, December (actual date of the month to be set by committee)

EFFORTS:

- Serve as a facilitator for economic development, education, healthcare, workforce development, and capital financing development issues.
- During the past few legislative sessions, EVP has supported the Research & Development Income Tax Credits, Renewable Energy Tax Credit, the Commercial Enhancement Zones Incentives and other initiatives that assist the Economic Development of the East Valley. EVP will continue to pursue similar legislative initiatives and work with elected leaders to explore and develop aggressive funding mechanisms that promote such measures as Tax Incremental Financing, Community Facilities Districts and preserve and broaden GPLET's that move forward the East Valley. Further, we will collaborate with East Valley Communities and the Arizona State Land Department and encourage appropriate regional partnerships, land use-planning, development of the Gateway Airport, and other regional assets for the common good of the region.
- Support education continuum funding, needed funding reform and building education as an economic driver for early childhood development, K-12, higher education and beyond; education as a major economic driver in our economy.

- Promote all the East Valley airports located in the region.
- Collaborate efforts to secure greater financing, private equity and capital for the benefit of small and medium businesses by bringing local bankers and other capital funds together and improve the investment climate.

Finance & Administration Committee

Co-Chair: Mark Dreher – Wallace, Plese + Dreher LLP, 480/345-0500 or markd@wpd-cpa.com

Co-Chair: Jim Winterton – Johnson Bank, 602/977-9909 or jwint.erton@johnsonbank.com

EVP Staff: Roc Arnett and Jennifer Whalley

Meeting Dates for 2009: Approximately May 15 and December 1 (TBD)

EFFORTS:

- Develop a plan for continuity in the role of the Treasurer, despite transitions at term completion, to ensure transfer of institutional memory and continued effectiveness.
- Continue oversight to ensure financial strength of the organization.
- Recruit additional Finance & Administration Committee members.
- Support the implementation of a plan for overall broad-based board leadership development.
- Give oversight to staff expansion as necessary.
- Develop President/CEO succession plan.

Government Affairs Committee

Co-Chair: Michael Stull – Cox Communications, 623/328-3280 or michael.stull@cox.com

Co-Chair: Jeanne Forbis – Intel Corporation, 480/554-2075 or jeanne.a.forbis@intel.com

EVP Staff: Roc Arnett

Meeting Dates for 2009: 4th Thursday of months of January, February, March, April, May, September, October, November, December

EFFORTS:

- Aggressively monitor and/or engage in legislative activities related to East Valley; particularly focusing on the overarching need for long-term infrastructure.
- During the past few legislative sessions, EVP has supported the Research & Development Income Tax Credits, Renewable Energy Tax Credit, the Commercial Enhancement Zones Incentives and other initiatives that assist the Economic Development of the East Valley. EVP will continue to pursue similar legislative initiatives and work with elected leaders to explore and develop aggressive funding mechanisms that promote such measures as Tax Incremental Financing, Community Facilities Districts and preserve and broaden GPLET's that move forward the East Valley. Further, we will collaborate with East Valley Communities and the Arizona State Land Department and encourage appropriate regional partnerships, land use-planning, development of the Gateway Airport, and other regional assets for the common good of the region.
- Support foundational improvements of economic development in the East Valley (such as transportation, education and taxation policies).
- Support water resource management.
- Facilitate greater number of East Valley appointments to government boards and commissions to ensure strong East Valley representation.
- Support the League of Arizona Cities and Towns in their efforts to ensure all cities collaborate in their efforts to receive adequate municipal services.
- Support permanently eliminating the state equalization rate, which was temporarily suspended for tax years 2006-2008; and support rate reductions for business property, corporate income insurance premium, and personal income taxes in a way that promotes economic growth, capital formation and investment in Arizona.

- Support growth of Arizona's knowledge-based economy and a technology-friendly business climate that promotes innovation.
- Promote a "Choose to Compete" attitude that places a priority on funding statewide economic development initiatives.
- Continue to monitor emerging 2009-2010 issues in the legislature.

Superstition Vistas Committee

Co-Chair: Chuck Backus – ASU Research Park, 480/988-1201 or cbackus@asu.edu

Co-Chair: Councilmember Scott Somers – City of Mesa, 480/644-4003 or ssomers@cox.net

EVP Staff: Mike Hutchinson

Meeting Dates for 2009: TBD

EFFORTS:

- In February, the Superstition Vistas Steering Committee sponsored and EVP facilitated a Sustainability Workshop in conjunction with the on going Comprehensive Visioning Process for the Superstitions Vistas Project. Brought together were more than fifty local stakeholders and an international group of sustainability experts from many disciplines. The group divided into teams representing the individual areas of ecological resources, water, energy, urban heat island, transportation and urban form, and socio-cultural and economy sustainable issues. After group break-out sessions, conclusions and next steps were developed for each theme. In the next 60 days the Sustainability Workshop Report will be available for our entire membership and will be available on our website. It is our intent to identify those themes and ideas that we can move forward and ask for concurrence from the EVP Board and membership. We will be in a position to not only implement these ideas and findings into the Superstition Vistas long-range visioning, but use the findings to move forward the concepts for the greater good in the East Valley and the state.
- Continue to support measures that would reform the Arizona State Land Department motivated by our continuing efforts with the Superstition Vistas project. The management and disposition process, as well as the need for modernization of the department and selling and leasing of State Trust Land, must be balanced with the mission of the department and the need to maximize the return to the beneficiaries. EVP supports reform that will further the responsible development and disposition of Arizona State Land Department which is crucial to the orderly development of the vast Superstition Vistas area east of Mesa and south of Apache Junction and other valuable areas.
- Plan for the continuation of next steps of scenarios and Superstition Vistas project.
- Begin dialog for a formal governance infrastructure and plan of implementation.

Transportation Committee

The Transportation Committee will focus on and consider all forms of transportation, air travel and airports, and transit and infrastructure needed for a sustainable East Valley multi-modal transportation system.

Chair: Mayor Boyd Dunn – City of Chandler, 480/782-2200 or boyd.dunn@chandleraz.gov

Vice Chair: Councilmember Dina Higgins - City of Mesa, 480/577-1575 or dzhigg@cox.net

EVP Staff: Roc Arnett assisted by Patrice Kraus, City of Chandler

EFFORTS:

- Support and develop appropriate funding mechanisms for transportation and required infrastructure to build mobility including roads and highways, mass transit, railways and aviation.
- EVP agrees there is an urgent need to reduce congestion and improve the East Valley and Arizona's statewide multi-modal transportation system. EVP will aggressively work with and support the efforts of ADOT, MAG, Valley Metro, McDOT, CAAG and local East Valley municipalities to implement, foster and take advantage of appropriate East Valley transportation enhancements and technologies.
- Promote all the East Valley airports located in the region.

- Support, promote and participate in appropriate coalitions developing infrastructure funding mechanism initiatives for necessary development of the East Valley.

Gateway Area & Airports Committee

The Gateway Area and Airports Committee will focus on the development surrounding the Gateway Airport Area and all airports located in the East Valley region.

Co-Chair: Brian Campbell - Campbell & Mahoney, 602/254-5557 or bcampbell@campellmahoney.com

Co-Chair: John Bradley – DMB Inc., 480/367-7000 or jbradley@dmbinc.com

EVP Staff: Roc Arnett assisted by Scott Rigby, City of Mesa.

Meeting Dates and Times TBD

EFFORTS

- Facilitate the creation of a shared vision for the development of the Gateway area. Through the cooperative effort of all concerned, embrace, celebrate, and champion several different development projects, including (but not limited to) the creation of destination urban centers -- complete with high-end hotels, up-scale dining, multi-level corporate-office centers, and integrated residential communities; a higher education/learning complex -- emphasizing the leading edge “P-20” knowledge continuum; popular and profitable passenger, cargo, and logistic airport terminals; an Aerospace Consortium; appropriately incorporated retail and industrial areas; broad based medical and healthcare facilities along with the allied support services; and sensible regional plans for financing necessary infrastructure improvements, including transportation, transit, utilities, and government services.
- Facilitate support of the Aerospace Institute Consortium.
- Promote valley enterprises to support the Gateway Airport becoming a comprehensive international cargo/logistics center and passenger service airport.
- Promote all the East Valley airports located in the region.

Please contact Jennifer Whalley (480/834-8335 or jwhalley@evp-az.org) to let us know which committee(s) you would like to lend your expertise.