



Regional Transportation Authority

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RTA marks year of new road construction projects

Eight major roadway projects broke ground in past year

As the Regional Transportation Authority plan approaches the end of its 4th fiscal year, the RTA celebrates a year of road building including construction on projects such as the Twin Peaks Interchange in Marana, the new frontage road along Interstate 19 in Green Valley and the Houghton and Old Vail roads intersection as part of the Houghton Road widening project on Tucson's east side.

Below is a list of all the road projects under construction. These eight projects are among the 11 projects promised to be under construction in the first five years of the RTA plan.

- Twin Peaks, Silverbell to I-10
- I-19 Frontage Road
- La Cholla, Ruthrauff to River
- Sahuarita Road, I-19 to La Villita
- La Canada, Calle Concordia to Ina
- Camino de Manana
- Tanque Verde, Catalina Highway to Houghton
- Houghton Road, I-10 to Tanque Verde (Houghton and Old Vail intersection)

"The road construction projects touch all points of our region and we know that these projects provided some support in a tough economy by providing jobs," said RTA Chair and Sahuarita Mayor Lynne Skelton. "Since the RTA began implementing projects in 2006 and through last October, RTA projects have generated 720 new jobs."

The \$2.1 billion RTA plan, which voters approved on May 16, 2006, included 35 road projects, as well as transit, safety, and environmental and economic vitality projects to be implemented through fiscal year 2026 to improve the region's mobility and safety.

Other major milestones in the past year included:

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○The opening of Sun Tran's new bus storage and maintenance facility last fall at 3920 N. Sun Tran Blvd. The building is LEED (Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design) Silver registered, meeting the U.S. Green Building Council specifications for green building.

○The Feb. 18 announcement of the City of Tucson's \$63 million Transportation Investment Generating Economic Recover (TIGER) Discretionary Grant from the U.S. Department of Transportation for the modern streetcar project.

The RTA plan includes \$87.7 million in RTA funds to support the \$162.7 million streetcar project. Work is expected to commence in late 2010/early 2011. Transit improvements in the RTA plan total \$533 million.

○The RTA launched neighborhood Sun Shuttle circulator service in May 2009 in Marana, Oro Valley, Catalina, Green Valley and Sahuarita. In the past year, Sun Shuttles service incorporated other existing services and now serves San Xavier District, Tucson Estates and Ajo.

Through the end of April, the RTA Board had approved 394 projects since plan implementation. To-date, 154 projects have been completed, including 64 intersection improvements, such as the recently completed Grant and Craycroft intersection. Other completed projects include 66 miles of bike lanes, 32 bus pullouts, 34 miles of sidewalks and 28 pedestrian signals. Transit enhancements include additional weekday, evening and weekend service, new express services and specialized needs transit services.

To mitigate the economic hardship faced by businesses impacted by the RTA projects, the RTA MainStreet program has provided professional services to assist businesses in prospering during RTA road construction projects and well into the future.

The coming year will bring even more construction, with the following roadway projects expected to break ground:

- Magee, Shannon to La Canada
- Magee/Cortaro Road, Thornydale to Shannon
- Speedway, Camino Seco to Houghton
- Kolb, Connection to Sabino Canyon Road
- La Canada, River to Ina

Intersections, which will go to construction in the next year, include:

- Golf Links/Wilmot
- Ft. Lowell/Campbell
- Starr Pass/Mission
- Golf Links/Kolb

The Regional Transportation Authority is the fiscal manager of the \$2.1 billion plan approved by Pima County voters on May 16, 2006. The RTA Board is comprised of representatives from the local jurisdictions in Pima County, including the cities of Tucson and South Tucson, Pima County, the towns of Marana, Oro Valley and Sahuarita, the Pascua Yaqui Tribe and the Tohono O'odham Nation. A representative of the Arizona State Transportation Board also serves on the board. For more information about the RTA plan, visit www.RTAmobility.com or call (520) 770-9410.