Implementing RTA Projects – How it works

**Regional Transportation Authority**
The RTA is a state-created taxing district.

**RTA Plan Development**
A regional transportation plan (RTP) was developed by a citizens committee.

**Regional Endorsement**
The RTP was endorsed by the Pima County Board of Supervisors, the Tucson Mayor and Council, and all elected bodies of the other local and tribal governments in the RTA District.

**May 16, 2006**
20-year regional transportation plan (RTP), or RTA plan, approved by voters that reside in the RTA District.

**FY 2007-2026 RTA Plan Implementation Period**

**Construction Start Periods:**
- FY 2007-11, First Period
- FY 2012-16, Second Period
- FY 2017-21, Third Period
- FY 2022-26, Fourth Period

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**RTA PLAN IMPLEMENTATION AUTHORITY**
The RTA Board has the sole responsibility to approve implementation of all elements of the plan.

**RTA CART COMMITTEE**
The role of the RTA Citizens Accountability for Regional Transportation (CART) Committee, which was established by the RTA Board, is to provide oversight on implementation of the projects identified in the RTA plan and to oversee fiscal management of the plan.

**PROJECT FUNDING**
Projects in the RTA plan are primarily funded through a countywide ½-cent sales tax, which also was approved by the RTA District voters in May 2006.

**PROJECT SCHEDULING**
RTA projects must be incorporated into an approved five-year transportation improvement program (TIP). This five-year schedule and budget is updated annually to reflect priority needs and available funding. The TIP also must identify all federal, state and local funding needed to implement the RTA plan. (The TIP development is a joint Pima Association of Governments/Regional Transportation Authority effort while final approval is the sole responsibility of the PAG Regional Council.)

PAG Regional Council policy reserves the programming of available regional funding in FY 2020-2026 to deliver RTA projects.
ROLE OF LEAD AGENCIES
The RTA can implement projects or it can designate a lead agency to manage the design and construction of a project. When a local jurisdiction receives RTA Board approval to undertake the design and construction of any RTA plan improvement, the RTA and the local jurisdiction sign an intergovernmental agreement. The local jurisdiction, or lead agency, is responsible for all aspects of project implementation including, but not limited to, planning, project management, risk management, public involvement, design, right-of-way acquisition and construction, advertisement, award, execution and administration of the design and construction contract for the project. If the anticipated cost of a project exceeds the funding level identified in the voter-approved RTA plan, lead agencies are required to identify additional funding sources and are responsible for funding any project cost overruns.

RTA ADMINISTRATIVE CODE
RTA Board-approved intergovernmental agreements comply with the RTA Administrative Code, which regulates all procedures for delivery of a project in compliance with the RTA plan. As such, the local jurisdiction, or lead agency, is required to adhere to the RTA Administrative Code.

PROJECTS IDENTIFIED IN THE RTA PLAN
The RTA promised to deliver the projects in the voter-approved plan and significant changes cannot be made to the plan without prior voter approval. The plan has four funding elements: roadway, safety, transit, and environmental and economic vitality. Funding is designated to projects as defined in the RTA ballot. Before voter approval, the RTA plan was vetted through an extensive public involvement process, including review by a diverse, 35-member citizens committee and hundreds of public presentations. The plan was created to address regional mobility, safety, efficiency and travel option needs at that time. Roadway maintenance needs continue to be funded and managed through local jurisdictions.

RTA PERFORMANCE OVERSIGHT
The RTA District is a subdivision of the state of Arizona and, as such, the RTA Board is required to report the progress of the RTA plan implementation to the public as well as to the state Legislature.