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For immediate release

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Tangerine Road project partners receive regional partnering award

Pima Association of Governments and the Regional Transportation Authority presented the 2019 Timothy M. Ahrens Partnering Award to the Town of Marana, Town of Oro Valley and Pima County on May 23 during the monthly meetings of the PAG Regional Council and RTA Board.

The award was presented for their partnership on the Tangerine Road corridor project, one of 35 roadway projects in the Regional Transportation Authority plan. Multiple partners were involved in the project including the Tangerine Corridor Constructors team of Borderland Construction Co. Inc. and Granite Construction Inc.; Psomas, Kittelson and Associates, and Kaneen Communications.

The partnering award was established in 2013 to recognize the spirit of collaboration and partnering as exemplified by the late Timothy M. Ahrens. Mr. Ahrens was the RTA manager during development of the \$2.1 billion, 20-year RTA plan. He managed the RTA's 2005 citizens' advisory committee and gave hundreds of presentations during the public outreach phase before the RTA plan was approved by Pima County voters on May 16, 2006.

Success of the project is demonstrated in the following areas: achieving a common goal, embracing regional stakeholders, resolving conflict, improving communication on the project with all audiences, incorporating team-building activities, delivery of a quality product, finding innovative funding solutions, and perpetuating the spirit of cooperation.

The \$50.8 million widening project to four lanes was completed 23 days ahead of schedule and on budget. The project included four signalized intersections, a new multi-use path, 32,000 feet of joint utility trench, 42 cross drainage structures to enable all-weather access, five underground wildlife crossings and significant native plant preservation and landscaping.

Although the county and towns had their own concepts for how the corridor should be developed, in the spirit of cooperation they designated one lead agency and worked together to

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develop a project that would provide the most value to the public. The project application noted that this project has enhanced development opportunities, enabled safe and efficient all-weather access, provided critical wildlife linkages and provided excellent facilities to accommodate bicyclists and pedestrians.

The project also was guided by 10 project objectives. "Each time a success was recognized, our team members further developed a 'project first' mentality that promoted trust among the team, reinforced mutual goals ahead of individual needs and led to efficient resolution of issues," said Tom Houle, project manager for the Town of Marana.

The success of the project led to other area benefits as well.

"Many adjacent land-owning developers were able to coordinate improvements with the design to save cost and accelerate building of new housing and commercial facilities that would not have happened had the project not improved the mobility and desirability of the corridor," Houle said.

Pima Association of Governments is an association of local, state and tribal governments with a mission to build consensus among its members and the public on regional planning for transportation, watershed, air quality and economic vitality. Please visit www.PAGregion.com or www.facebook.com/PAGregion for more information.

The Regional Transportation Authority is a state-established political subdivision within Pima County that collects a half-cent excise tax from the RTA's special taxing district. The tax funds the RTA's 20-year regional transportation plan, which voters in the district approved in May 2006 along with the excise tax. To date, the RTA has invested over \$1 billion in the region to deliver transportation projects and services that improve our region's mobility, safety, economic vitality and quality of life. Please visit www.RTAmobility.com for more information.