May 14, 2015

For immediate release
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RTA entering 10th year of project implementation
More than 650 transportation improvements completed across the region
Over the last 15 years, $1.9 billion has flowed into our regional transportation system to make our infrastructure safe, reliable and accessible for all roadway users.

The Regional Transportation Authority’s half-cent excise tax has contributed $740 million toward hundreds of those regional improvements since 2006.

Managed by Pima Association of Governments, the RTA incorporated safety, multimodal, and environmental and economic vitality improvements into its 20-year, voter-approved plan. To date, the RTA has delivered 654 projects, including:

- 226 lane miles of bike lanes
- 109 miles of sidewalks
- 48 pedestrian safety crossings
- Sun Link Streetcar
- 108 bus pullouts
- 20 roadway corridor improvement projects
- 149 intersection safety improvements

While the RTA approaches the halfway point of implementation, many more roadway and multimodal projects will be completed through 2026 to further address existing and future needs. In fact, the region continues to grow. The state is projected to grow 81 percent by 2050 to 11.4 million people, according to the Arizona Department of Administration. Regionally, the average growth rate between 2013 and 2030 is expected to be 1.3 percent, resulting in approximately 245,000 additional people.

Planning transportation infrastructure to meet changing demographics and their needs is a role that Pima Association of Governments has performed for more than 40 years. In fact, PAG, along with its

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member jurisdictions, considers many factors, such as population growth, land use, employment growth and trends in aging when developing plans to ensure multimodal needs are met.

In addition to developing a long-range transportation plan, PAG also prepares bicycle and pedestrian plans. In 2009, PAG completed an update to its bicycle plan and in December 2014 completed the Regional Pedestrian Plan. In the next week or two, PAG plans to launch a Pedestrian Safety Campaign to build pedestrian safety awareness given the region’s average annual fatality rate of more than 20 pedestrian fatalities per year.

As part of the 2045 RTP, PAG will consider new bike and pedestrian safety facilities. For more than 30 years, PAG has been at the forefront of bicycle planning. Bikeways in the region have increased by 30 percent, from 817 miles in 2009 to more than 1,050 miles today, projects which primarily have been funded through RTA and regional dollars.

RTA dollars also have leveraged other funding over the years, including $63 million in federal grant funding for the streetcar project. Sun Link is averaging more than 4,000 passengers per day as it approaches its 1 millionth rider.

“Although the Regional Transportation Authority plan is set to expire in 2026, it is not too soon to start thinking about what components are needed for a second plan and identify what it will take to gain voter approval,” said RTA Chair and Tucson Mayor Jonathan Rothschild. “We anticipate this will be a continued funding source for our region for many more years to come, along with other new and innovative funding ideas.”

The Regional Transportation Authority is the fiscal manager of the $2.1 billion regional transportation plan approved by Pima County voters on May 16, 2006. The RTA Board is comprised of elected representatives from 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. The Pima County representative of the Arizona State Transportation Board also serves on the board. The RTA is managed through Pima Association of Governments, the region’s metropolitan planning organization. For more information about the RTA plan, visit www.RTAmobility.com, see RTA Pima County on Facebook, or call (520) 792-1093.