

PIMA ASSOCIATION OF GOVERNMENTS

# 2030 REGIONAL TRANSPORTATION PLAN



July 2003

In late 2002, the **Pima Association of Governments (PAG)** initiated an extensive 3-year planning effort to develop a new long range transportation plan for eastern Pima County and the Tucson metropolitan area. The plan will identify transportation needs, potential solutions, and funding requirements through the year 2030. The current plan addresses needs through 2025.

This major project—known as the **2030 Regional Transportation Plan (RTP)** involves continuous public education and outreach as well as development of several transportation alternatives and detailed technical analysis of the impact of those alternatives. This is one of a series of informational Fact Sheets for the 2030 RTP.

**This Fact Sheet is organized to address the following questions:**

- **What is PAG?**
- **What does PAG do?**
- **What is PAG's role as a "Metropolitan Planning Organization" (MPO)?**
- **How is PAG structured?**

## WHAT DOES PAG DO?

- PAG develops regional plans in cooperation with member jurisdictions and other stakeholder groups to address **issues and concerns that cross jurisdictional boundaries**.
- PAG performs **technical analysis** and collects or develops **data** in areas such as:
  - Water Quality Analysis
  - Air Quality Modeling
  - Populations Estimates
  - Regional Data Center
  - Annual Regional Traffic Count Program
  - Traffic Volumes
  - Level of Service/Most Congested Intersections
  - Travel Characteristics - Trip Distribution & Modal Split
  - Air Quality & Congestion Impacts for Proposed Transportation Solutions
  - Transportation Revenues & Projections
- PAG's **planning products and programs** include:
  - RideShare
  - Travel Reduction Program (TRP)
  - Social Services Planning
  - Transportation Improvement Program (TIP)
  - Regional Transportation Plan (RTP)
  - Congestion Management Plan
  - Regional Bicycle & Pedestrian plans
  - Regional Aviation System Plan
  - Intermodal System Plan
  - Intelligent Transportation Systems Plan
  - Transit Plans
  - Various Corridor or Sub-regional Area Studies
- PAG develops programs required for the distribution of State and Federal funds to local jurisdictions for planning, design and/or construction of transportation projects.

## What is PAG?

Pima Association of Governments (PAG) is a non-profit association whose mission is to build consensus with its members and the public on regional planning issues such as transportation, air quality and water quality. PAG is also the federally recognized Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO) for Pima County.

PAG is governed by a Regional Council comprised of elected officials from each member entity:

- **City of South Tucson**
- **City of Tucson**
- **Pascua Yaqui Tribe**
- **Pima County**
- **Tohono O'odham Nation**
- **Town of Marana**
- **Town of Oro Valley**
- **Town of Sahuarita**
- **Arizona State Transportation Board**

PAG's staff gathers and analyzes data, provides information, and coordinates an open and cooperative planning process.

An open committee process is at the heart of PAG's mission to promote regional cooperation and informed decision making.

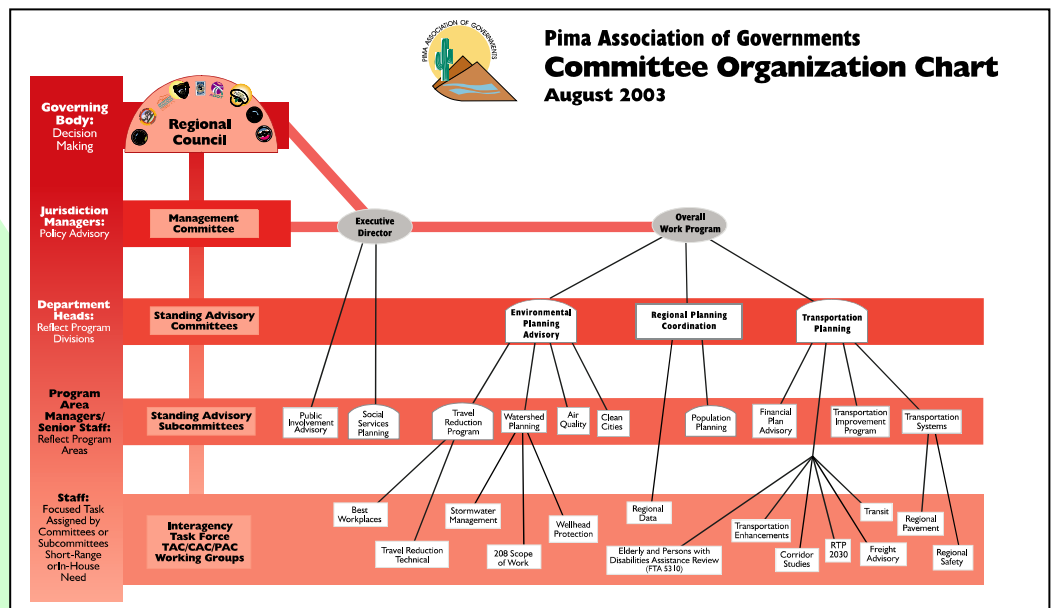
PAG is not a government agency and the responsibility for implementation of plans and program remains with local, state and tribal governments.

## WHAT IS PAG'S ROLE AS A "METROPOLITAN PLANNING ORGANIZATION" (MPO)?

- Current Federal law requires establishment of an MPO in **urban areas with over 50,000 in population** in order for the region to receive federal funding.
- The **Federal-Aid Highway Act of 1962** called for a continuing, cooperative and comprehensive approach to transportation planning and was the first federal legislation that mandated urban transportation planning as a condition for receiving federal funds.
- The **Intermodal Surface Transportation Efficiency Act of 1991 (ISTEA)** strengthened planning requirements and the role of the MPO in project selection and decision making.
- The MPO must produce a **Transportation Improvement Program (TIP)** that lists regional projects for which funding is available to be built in the short term and a **fiscally constrained** long-range plan, known as the **Regional Transportation Plan (RTP)**, that plans for a minimum 20 year period. Areas over 200,000 in population were also designated as **Transportation Management Areas (TMA)** with additional requirements related to congestion management.
- The **Transportation Equity Act for the 21<sup>st</sup> Century (TEA 21) of 1998** maintained ISTEA's principles for strong regional planning and fiscal constraint.

## HOW IS PAG STRUCTURED?

- PAG's **Regional Council** of elected officials adopts policy for PAG as an agency, but not for the region as a whole unless separately endorsed by its individual jurisdictions.
- A **Management Committee** comprised of town/city/county managers or administrators from each PAG member entity acts in an advisory committee through the PAG Executive Director to the PAG Regional Council.



- PAG's **Transportation Planning Committee (TPC), Environmental Planning Advisory Committee (EPAC), and Regional Planning Coordination Committee** are comprised of technical experts from local jurisdictions and other interested agencies and stakeholders. These are standing committees that review and make recommendations to the Executive Director on issues of regional significance.
- Other subcommittees, working groups or task forces are formed as needed to review and develop recommendations for specific projects or programs. The PAG **Executive Director** manages PAG's work activities which are divided into three major planning areas: **Environmental Planning, Transportation Planning, and Regional Planning**.

## HOW CAN YOU STAY INFORMED OR GET INVOLVED?

To stay informed and get involved in PAG's 2030 RTP and/or other PAG planning activities –

- Visit the PAG website at [www.pagnet.org](http://www.pagnet.org)
- Add your name to PAG's 2030 RTP mailing list by calling PAG at 792-1093, Extension 502
- Schedule a speaker for your next meeting