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**For immediate release**

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## **PAG Regional Council approves long-range transportation plan**

Projections for the region over the next 30 years shows growth of more than 445,000 residents and 200,000 new jobs.

Transportation improvements to support that growth are anticipated to cost \$32 billion as identified in the [2045 Regional Mobility and Accessibility Plan](#), which was approved today by the Pima Association of Governments Regional Council.

The financial outlook is not sustainable when it comes to transportation revenues. Transportation system investments, however, continue to be undermined by:

Declining transportation revenues paint a bleak picture and that will necessitate dialogue on identifying other transportation funding options.

In the meantime, the region falls even further behind in available funding to meet ongoing transportation system needs. Over the next 30 years, the estimated funding shortfall is nearly \$15 billion. As this funding gap widens, the region's transportation system continues to deteriorate due to lack of maintenance funding and little financial capability to modernize the system.

In the past decade, the Regional Transportation Authority's 20-year plan contributed the lion's share of the \$1.9 billion in funding to support multimodal transportation improvements to the local infrastructure. Projects in the RTA plan are primarily funded by a half-cent excise tax, which also was approved by Pima County voters on May 16, 2006.

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The RTA has delivered 755 projects to date, and the RTA Board is bound by state statute to deliver the remaining plan as presented and approved by voters.

The newly adopted 2045 Regional Mobility and Accessibility Plan identifies the remaining projects in the RTA plan through fiscal year 2026 and anticipates an extension of the RTA plan's accompanying excise tax.

Similarly to the development of the existing RTA plan, a new plan will involve regional discussion and vetting through a public process, plan adoption by RTA member jurisdictions and RTA Board approval prior to a public vote.

"The obvious long-term positive impact of the RTA has spurred business leaders, residents, and elected and appointed public officials to think collaboratively about ways to achieve benefits at a larger than municipal or jurisdictional scale, and focus on more regional coordination," said RTA Board Chair and Marana Mayor Ed Honea.

In other action, the PAG Regional Council approved the FY 2017-2021 Transportation Improvement [Program](#), which also is identified in the 2045 RMAP. The program, which is updated annually, addresses improvements to the regional transportation system including nation, state and local highways, transit, aviation, ride sharing, bikeways and pedestrian facilities. The value of programmed improvements identified within the TIP is approximately \$1.1 billion.

*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, energy, watershed and air quality. Please visit [www.PAGregion.com](http://www.PAGregion.com) or [www.facebook.com/PAGregion](https://www.facebook.com/PAGregion) for more information.*

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