Pima Association of Governments
PAG, a nonprofit 501(c)4, is a council of governments and metropolitan planning organization. PAG is governed by a nine-member Regional Council, representing local, state and tribal governments.

Our Mission
To address regional issues through cooperative efforts and pooled resources, and to provide accurate, relevant data that leads to effective regional planning decisions.

PAG Programs
PAG’s programs focus on cross-jurisdictional planning issues, such as air quality, water quality, transportation and population growth. One of PAG’s responsibilities as the MPO is to coordinate development of a long-range regional transportation plan which secures federal funding. PAG’s activities and services include traffic data collection, mapping, population projections, carpool matching, solar energy and clean fuel education and promotion.

Regional Transportation Authority
PAG also manages the Regional Transportation Authority of Pima County through a memorandum of understanding. The RTA, which was established in 2004, is the fiscal manager of the $2.1 billion, 20-year RTA plan and half-cent, countywide excise tax approved by Pima County voters in May 2006. The RTA Board is governed by a nine-member board, representing local, state and tribal governments.

PAG/RTA Members
Pima County, City of South Tucson, City of Tucson, Town of Marana, Town of Oro Valley, Town of Sahuarita, Pascua Yaqui Tribe, Tohono O’odham Nation, Arizona State Transportation Board – Governor-appointed Pima County representative. The chief elected official or designee of each local government serves on the PAG Regional Council/RTA Board.

The average Arizonan pays $21.12/month in state + federal gas taxes.

The top five states:
- Indiana: $47.47
- Colorado: $45.09
- Nevada: $37.52
- North Carolina: $37.52
- New York: $32.74

Compared to an average monthly phone expense of $105

Arizona ranks 35th
A. Protect and Enhance Transportation and Other Revenues Within the Region

PAG POSITIONS:

A1: Opposes any reduction in VLT revenues

A2: Supports legislation, introduced by others, that may provide for an adjustment in the state gas tax by providing for an automatic annual adjustment that reflects changes in the Consumer Price Index.

A3: Supports legislation that expands federal, state, regional or local revenues available to fund transportation purposes.

A4: Supports reinstating funding for transportation from LTAF or identifying an alternative funding source for public transportation that is dedicated and sustainable.

A5: Supports legislation that would promote and enhance the potential for public-private partnerships in Arizona.

A6: Supports legislation and/or administrative actions that protect and retain state-shared revenues to assure adequate local community services in response to local needs; PAG opposes any reduction in State Shared Income and Sales Tax Revenues for local governments. PAG also supports any continued Air Quality Fund appropriations for regional air quality programs.

A7: Supports the distribution of federal transportation funding in an equitable manner, as demonstrated by the Casa Grande Accords.

B. Protect Governance and Self-Determination

PAG POSITIONS:

B1: Opposes any changes in the composition of the ASTB that further dilutes PAG regional representation or that changes the rotation of the chair that currently provides for a PAG chair every six years.

B2: Opposes legislation that would alter the composition of the Regional Council in a way that would make the council less effective or less able to meet its statutory responsibilities.

B3: Supports protecting and maintaining the integrity of the Regional Transportation Authority enabling legislation.

B4: Opposes legislation that would curtail or restrict jurisdictions’ power of eminent domain, increase the cost of transportation and other public projects, or limit a jurisdiction’s ability to implement those projects.

C. Enhance Transportation Safety and the Environment

PAG POSITIONS:

C1: Supports legislation recognizing buffelgrass infestation as a health and safety concern, not just as a threat to native species.

C2: Supports legislation that promotes the development of rail infrastructure projects designed to improve or increase rail system freight handling capacity, as well as safety and security.

C3: Supports the use of clean alternative-fueled vehicles, and the development of infrastructure to support those vehicles.

D. Foster Economic Development

PAG POSITIONS:

D1: Supports legislation that would prohibit the use of state tax revenue to lure businesses from one Arizona community to another Arizona community.

D2: Supports transportation infrastructure legislation, projects and initiatives that enhance trade and economic development, including those that facilitate international trade between the U.S. and Mexico.

D3: Supports legislation that provides start-up operational funding for the Arizona International Development Authority (AIDA).

D4: Supports legislation that streamlines the visa process for Mexican nationals traveling to Arizona for tourism and business purposes, while maintaining high security.

PURPOSE OF LEGISLATIVE POLICY PRINCIPLES

Pima Association of Governments’ legislative principles help guide PAG staff as they track bills before the Arizona Legislature and respond to proposed legislation in a timely and consistent manner. The principles also provide a framework for proactive jurisdictional support of legislative solutions that may be articulated within the PAG committee structure.

PAG’s complete Legislative Policy Principles, 2015, document is online at PAGregion.com.