PAG presents Annual Swanson Leadership Award

A longtime leader in transportation and community roles, Katie Dusenberry, received the annual Thomas L. Swanson Regional Leadership Award today from the Pima Association of Governments’ Regional Council.

PAG Regional Council Chair and Town of Marana Mayor Ed Honea recognized Dusenberry for her many years of outstanding community leadership in areas such as her role as 2005 co-chair of the Regional Transportation Authority’s Citizens Advisory Committee, her numerous local and state-appointed and elected positions, and her involvement on strategic projects ranging from zoning to the environment.

Dusenberry served nine years on the Tucson Unified School District Board, eight years on the Pima County Board of Supervisors and six years as the Governor-appointed Pima County representative on the Arizona State Transportation Board at the same time as she served on the PAG Regional Council.

“In all these efforts, she has shown a constant focus on always doing what’s best for the community,” said Rick Myers, who nominated Dusenberry for the award. Myers served as co-chair with Dusenberry on the RTA Citizens Advisory Committee, and currently serves on the Arizona Board of Regents.

“We appreciate Katie and Rick’s efforts as co-chairs of the RTA CAC and their role in educating

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the public on the RTA plan and half-cent sales tax needed to fund the $2.1 billion, 20-year multi-modal plan,” said RTA Board Chair and Pima County Supervisor Ramón Valadez.

Pima County voters overwhelmingly approved both the plan and sales-tax initiatives in May 2006. More than 560 projects have been completed to date, including roadway widening improvements, transit service expansions, new crosswalks and bus pullouts, new sidewalks and bikeways, and the recently launched Sun Link streetcar service. PAG manages the Regional Transportation Authority.

“Katie’s leadership style embraces and respects others and she has demonstrated the very best of our community in reaching out to others to get their opinions and their buy-in to enhance her work and gain the support needed to be successful,” Myers said.

Dusenberry, a native Arizonan, said she was always interested in transportation because, for many years, she and her husband Bruce owned Horizon Moving Systems which, of course, had “many vehicles” on the road. “Through all my experience, I learned that funding was a big problem,” she said. “In fact, transportation needs continue to be greater than available funding both now and in the foreseeable future for improving our infrastructure. I encourage ongoing public and private discussion on identifying new funding sources to help us establish a transportation environment that makes us more economically and globally competitive statewide.”

The Swanson award is given in honor of one of PAG’s former executive directors, the late Thomas L. Swanson, who retired in 2002 after serving nearly 25 years at PAG, to acknowledge an individual or organization that has affected positive change in the region.

To view past award recipients, please visit www.PAGregion.com.

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