



Sept. 27, 2007

For immediate release
Contact: Sheila Storm, (520) 792-1093

Hayes named Leader of the Year in public policy for transportation work

Gary G. Hayes, executive director of Pima Association of Governments and the Regional Transportation Authority, received the Arizona Capitol Times Leader of the Year in public policy award for his efforts in transportation, particularly helping to establish the Regional Transportation Authority.

Pima County voters approved the \$2.1 billion, 20-year plan on May 16, 2006. It was the first time in 20 years that such a transportation initiative had succeeded at the polls in Pima County.

The first-time award was presented Sept. 26 at the Phoenix Convention Center to 14 individuals and organizations around the state for advancing public policy to positively impact the state and the lives of Arizonans.

Hayes was among the local leaders who helped win state legislative approval for establishment of the RTA. He continued to work with the local elected officials who serve on Pima Association of Government's Regional Council/RTA Board to establish a diverse, 35-member Citizens Advisory Committee and a 22-member private-public sector Technical/Management Committee to develop the plan.

Hayes said one of the key components in the success of the RTA plan was developing a plan with a regional focus that addressed cross-town mobility. In order to reach regional cooperation, he said, it also was critical that each of the RTA Board members had one

--MORE--

Pima Association of Governments

177 N. Church Avenue, Suite 405
Tucson AZ 85701

(520) 792-1093 [tel]
(520) 620-6981 [fax]
www.PAGnet.org [web]

vote per jurisdiction.

Hayes, who joined PAG in January 2004, also is engaged in policy dialogue across the state on the subjects of transportation and funding sources with other regional planning organizations.

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, air quality and water quality. PAG's staff gather and analyze data, provide accurate information, and coordinate an open and cooperative planning process to promote good decision-making for the region. Please visit www.pagnet.org for more information.