

PIMA ASSOCIATION OF GOVERNMENTS  
**2030 REGIONAL  
 TRANSPORTATION PLAN**



September 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 initial phase of public involvement for this plan, known as the **2030 Regional Transportation Plan (RTP)**, was aimed at identifying the community's core values for a good quality of life. Safety for drivers of vehicles, riders of buses, pedestrians and cyclists was among the top three issues\* identified through this public involvement effort. PAG hosted three forums aimed at improving the region's understanding of transportation safety issues: a Regional Transportation Incident and Emergency Management Forum in April 2003, a Regional Transportation Safety Forum in May 2003, and a Regional Transportation Safety Open House in September 2003.

This Fact Sheet focuses on **Safety in Transportation Planning**

**What information is available from PAG's Regional Transportation Safety Open House?**

**How does safety fit into the region's Long Range Transportation Plan, the 2030 RTP?**

**What key transportation safety issue areas are being examined?**

**WHAT KEY TRANSPORTATION SAFETY ISSUES ARE BEING LOOKED AT?**

On September 25th, PAG hosted a public open house on regional transportation safety to help the general public better understand various aspects of transportation safety and the role safety has in the Tucson region's transportation system and planning process. The open house also provided an opportunity to hear from the public on transportation safety issues important to them.

The PAG Regional Transportation Safety Open House included a variety of information and displays from an array of transportation safety stakeholders. Topics covered included:

- Traffic engineering issues – including roadway and facility design, parameters and limitations, roadway and signal operations.
- Bicycle and pedestrian safety – including safety guides and specific issues such as signalized bicycle/pedestrian crossings.
- Safety conscious planning – requirements to include safety in the planning process.
- Railroad safety issues
- Driver behavior related issues such as driver distraction (e.g. cell phone use, eating, drowsiness, etc.), seat belt and car seat use, speeding, red light running, aggressive driving.
- Driver training and education (including issues surrounding both young and old drivers, and licensing)
- Emergency services and incident management
- Homeland security and transportation safety (evacuation, HAZMAT management, inter-agency communications)
- Drunk driving
- Physics of vehicular crashes (including vehicle design, safety belt and air bag functions)
- Safety education for kids
- Safe Routes to School
- Motor vehicle crash analysis tools and methods.
- Reauthorization of Federal Transportation Legislation and its potential effects on safety.

PAG is developing a new long range transportation plan for eastern Pima County and the Tucson metropolitan area that will identify transportation needs, potential solutions, and funding requirements through the year 2030.

The **2030 RTP** program for public education and outreach includes a series of educational forums and/ or seminars. This is one of a series of informational Fact Sheets related to the 2030 RTP educational events.

\* The top three issues were: Safety; Cross Town Mobility and Traffic Flow; and Transit and Multi-modal choices

## HOW DOES SAFETY FIT INTO THE REGION'S LONG RANGE TRANSPORTATION PLAN, THE 2030 RTP?

As a supplement to the extensive public involvement and technical analysis conducted as part of PAG's 2030 Regional Transportation Plan (RTP), PAG, its member agencies, and a variety of other safety stakeholders in the region have established a Regional Transportation Safety Working Group and are developing recommendations for safety projects, programs, and policies to help guide future transportation investments. These recommendations are being developed using the RTP 2030 horizon in an effort to more thoroughly include safety as part of the region's long range transportation future.

The region is also involved in a National Cooperative Highway Research Program (NCHRP) effort being administered by the University of Arizona. The project, entitled "Incorporating Safety into Long-Range Transportation Planning" aims to develop guidelines for including transportation safety in the planning process. This unique opportunity is helping the Tucson area stay on the cutting edge of transportation safety planning and administration.

## WHAT KEY TRANSPORTATION SAFETY ISSUE AREAS ARE BEING LOOKED AT?

Participants of PAG's Regional Transportation Safety Working Group have identified various safety issues that relate to transportation. To facilitate discussion and identification of potential solutions, issues have been grouped into three separate, but related, topic areas:

### 1) Roadways / Facility Design / Crash Analysis / Data

A greater and more consistent emphasis on safety may be achieved through incorporation of safety factors in land development and site planning as well as facilities design. Coordination and consistency among safety programs developed by different agencies or governments should be pursued and may be enhanced by the development of a regional accident database. Streamlining of the safety project application process is recommended and will be key to ensuring better utilization of funds for safety.

### 2) Pedestrian / Bicycle / Transit / Schools

Safety is an issue at bicycle and pedestrian crossings of all types; access to safe routes to school is of particular importance. Common parameters for similar treatment and development of these routes within different jurisdictions and school districts throughout the region would enhance performance and facilitate safety instruction and education.

### 3) Education / Enforcement / Emergency Services

Safety education, enforcement, and emergency services represent key functions where safety professionals interact with the public. Recommendations related to safety education such as, a well-coordinated multi-agency educational campaign, private sector support for education programs, driver training and education, and training of transportation safety professionals are being developed as key components of the region's transportation safety future. Compliance of transportation laws is key to establishing a safe transportation system. Remedies for trouble areas such as work zones, school zones, traffic intersections (and red light running), and seat-belt use are being explored.

PAG conducted a separate Regional Transportation Incident and Emergency Management Forum to help identify and address incident and emergency service issues, needs, and actions for which a separate Fact Sheet is available.

## NEED TO KNOW MORE?

More information on the PAG Regional Transportation Safety Program is available on the PAG website at: <http://www.pagnet.org/tpd/intermodal/Safety/Security.htm>

National Cooperative Highway Research Program (NCHRP): <http://www4.trb.org/trb/crp.nsf>

ADOT Motor Vehicle Crash Facts are available at: [www.dot.state.az.us/ROADS/crash/index.htm](http://www.dot.state.az.us/ROADS/crash/index.htm)

Governor's Office of Highway Safety (GOHS): <http://www.azgohs.state.az.us/>

For information about SAFETEA, see FHWA's website at: [www.fhwa.dot.gov](http://www.fhwa.dot.gov).

To stay informed or get involved in 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