



2009 RTP Open House Comments

Total Number of Comment Sheets Received: 29

1. What do you think of the 2040 RTP vision statement?

Positive Comments:

I believe it shows that a lot of work went into this - it is a very good plan. Thanks!
Good. (4 comments)
Great.
I agree, particularly that is multi-model and environmentally responsible.
The statement is good if we stay with the idea of energy-efficient environmentally responsible land use!
Good if we stay with environmentally responsible land use.
This is the way to go!
Great ideal!
Seems practical & necessary for Tucson.
I like it & if it would actually happen it would be great.
Long overdue, good for the environment, creates jobs, modernizes this city.
It links improvements to all types of transportation and environmental land use.
I agree and would like Tucson/Eastern PC to live by it. (No Phoenix!)
Very appropriate.
Adequate for now.

Vision Recommendations and Other Comments:

The statement needs to include recognition of environmental sites that are of historical & land sensitive.
As usual, the devil (or God) is in the details. If environmental responsibility takes into account the latest science, zero or negative carbon need to be part of that definition.
Wordy, but encompasses all subject matter of transportation.
Sounds promising & what's my fair share?

3. Do you have any comments regarding the 2040 Draft Goals?

Positive Comments:

Makes sense.
No – they are comprehensive.
I believe this is long overdue and will promote the community in many ways.
I hope they come to pass.

Goal Recommendations:

I'm not sure they should be goals. They are projections using current data on population & community growth patterns – that provide options as to future types of services for our communities.
Keep in mind the limitation of growth because of realization of limited water.
Looks like way more goals than are practical to implement in the time period particularly with historical funding considerations. It does provide comprehensive plan, but concern is only a fraction will ever get done.
Zero or negative carbon goals must be a starting point if we truly are seeking long term stability.

Will the plans be adequate with the projected growth?

Other Comments:

More bike lanes are needed.

No I-10 bypass that takes any land away from Ironwood Nat. Forest Park, Saguaro Nat. Monument West or Desert Museum.

Once the desert is destroyed by the Saguaro West Park, it won't be back. Truckers will not come down Sandario - the union has already determined this. If Sandario is widened that would be acceptable not a bypass.

Maintain mileage reimbursement for NCA program through RTA & PCOA.

Need public transportation & park&ride lots in Picture Rocks (unincorporated area - 10,000 residents - no current public transportation & shopping, etc. is all over the hill!)

2. Draft 2040 Goals - Please rate the importance of the draft 2040 goals on a scale of 1 to 5, where 1 means not at all important and 5 means very important to you.

Goal	Average	** Std. Dev.
Expand Multi-Modal Choices: Develop a balance of rail, highway, mass transit, roadway, bicycle, and pedestrian mobility that creates a mix of travel choices and encourages alternatives to driving alone.	4.48	0.98
Integrate Transportation Choices: Optimize the mobility of people and goods by creating a user-friendly transportation network that links modes with the region and connects to facilities outside the region.	4.19	1.08
Promote Sustainable Land Use: Fully link land use, and transportation planning and transportation funding planning to create vibrant, sustainable communities.	4.26	1.13
Foster a Vibrant Economy: Ensure the transportation network promotes a healthy growing economy.	3.96	0.85
Enhance Safety: Maximize safety and security for all transportation users across the region.	4.37	0.74
Foster Environmental Stewardship: Advance environmental stewardship, natural resource protection, and energy efficiency throughout the planning, design, construction and management of transportation infrastructure and services.	4.26	1.02
Increase Accessibility: Expand transportation options and access for all users including youth, elderly, low-income, and individuals with disabilities.	4.48	0.94
Optimize Transportation System Performance: Manage the transportation system to reduce traveler delay, ease congestion and improve mobility.	4.15	0.92
Engage the Public: Provide early and ongoing opportunities for meaningful public participation for all users.	3.86	1.18
Employ Advanced Technologies: Use new and upgraded technologies to deliver services, preserve and improve facilities, increase reliability, and reduce capital costs.	4.00	1.00
Ensure Funding and Timely Project Delivery: Maintain existing and pursue new revenue sources and strategies to ensure ample transportation funding and timely project development.	3.89	1.05
Deliver Accountability: Improve transparency, responsiveness, and coordination in developing and implementing the regional transportation system.	4.11	1.01

**Standard Deviation is a measure of the dispersion from the average. A low standard deviation indicates that the data points tend to be very close to the average, while high standard deviation indicates that the data are “spread out” over a large range of values.

4. What transportation projects and programs should the 2040 Regional Transportation Plan include?

Roadway Comments:
<p><i>Pave Wilmot - Sahuarita Rd parts.</i></p> <p><i>NO I-10 bypass through Picture Rocks-Saguaro National Monument-Sandario Road.</i></p> <p><i>Because of the potential permanent damage to Saguaro West, Kit Peak, Ironwood Desert Museum & Tucson Park the Avra Valley I-10 Bypass is a terrible idea.</i></p> <p><i>No I-10 bypass. No I-10 bypass study either, use the \$1M for today's road repairs.</i></p> <p><i>I think you should get involved with seeing that the I-10 Sandario bypass doesn't happen. It will destroy our vegetation & wild life.</i></p> <p><i>Take River Road and turn it into a freeway. Hook it up to Houghton and turn Houghton into a freeway as well. Hook both roads and connect them into I-10.</i></p> <p><i>No I-10 bypass - it is a waste of time & money - especially because of environmental impact!</i></p> <p><i>Electric car parking & charging & central account for each one.</i></p>

Transit Comments:
<p><i>A well-designed alternative mode transportation system that can transport from anywhere in the metro area to anywhere in the metro area in a matter of minutes, not hours like most of the current system. Mass transit that does not impede the personal transportation system.</i></p> <p><i>A rail system, either lite-rail, rail or rapid transit that would operate between Nogales & Phoenix. Parallel to Union Pacific RR lines</i></p> <p><i>Transit and pedestrian scale communities; power mobility options with renewable resources likely solar here in southern AZ.</i></p> <p><i>Building tram or train on existing rail lines would be very feasible. Just by modernizing & updating between communities with reliable transportation 33 yrs ago San Diego had the best bus system I have ever seen. 7 days a week 24 hrs a day for just 25 cents I could go wherever I wanted in San Diego County including right down to TJ.</i></p> <p><i>Van/Bus service in Picture Rocks. Handivan service in Picture Rocks. Park&Ride lots in Picture Rocks. NO I-10 bypass in the Avra Valley!!</i></p> <p><i>Student discounts for riding the bus.</i></p> <p><i>Light rail in & around city, high speed rail from TIA to Sky Harbor/Phoenix area. Improved ped, bicycle, roadways.</i></p> <p><i>Short term more bus routes in outlying communities to in town business areas like shopping, hospitals and community activities.</i></p>

Bike/Ped and Other Comments:
<p><i>1st really be multi-modal & connected with cities in AZ.</i></p> <p><i>Upgrading access for bicycles, pedestrians and people with disabilities is most important to me.</i></p> <p><i>Pedestrians greenways and walkways within and interconnecting neighborhoods.</i></p> <p><i>Safe routes to school maintenance.</i></p>

5. Please list the top three funding strategies that you think are most important for this region to consider from the list below and explain why these are the three most important.

Strategy (in order of most votes received)	Frequency
Increase Impact Fees (Impact fees are a one-time contribution on new residential and commercial development.)	10
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Best of choices remaining!</i> • <i>Developers need to pay for the long term costs they incur to cities and counties.</i> • <i>Developers need to pay for the full complement of services their developments require.</i> • <i>Developers should pay for the natural vegetation that they destroy (SAVE OUT DESERT).</i> • <i>New or major improved R/C develop't has a cost to all.</i> • <i>The new activities should install the new facilities.</i> • <i>Let these who are the 'growth' pay for it.</i> • <i>New residential & commercial requires more road & transportation needs.</i> • <i>A one time fee up front lessens ongoing burden on tax payers.</i> • <i>User/payer.</i> 	
Extend the Regional Sales Tax (Extend the existing regional sales tax beyond 2026, to allow for more RTA projects.)	8
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Tax is already in place and successful.</i> • <i>Everyone uses the transportation system, everyone pays.</i> • <i>Would not add more expenses to citizens than currently paying.</i> • <i>Current RTA approval underfunded already.</i> • <i>Continued funding is necessary.</i> • <i>Continued funding necessary.</i> • <i>Important to prioritize public transportation.</i> 	
Index the Gas Tax (Support the gas tax rising with inflation – not an immediate increase but instead an increase over time to maintain buying power.)	7
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Tax has not kept up with increase price of gas.</i> • <i>Would be gradual as needed & those who use more, pay more.</i> • <i>Vehicle users should pay more than transit/bus riders.</i> • <i>Better "user" "tax" decrease/increase to rate of inflation.</i> • <i>Adj to meet the costs.</i> • <i>Need to get funds somewhere!</i> 	
Raise the Gas Tax (Support an increase in the state gas tax.)	6
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Few cents would not be big effect.</i> • <i>A more realistic cost of private cars.</i> • <i>Vehicles should pay for themselves & use.</i> • <i>Let oil fund the system.</i> • <i>Only if linked to specific improvements for those being taxed.</i> • <i>People need gas to drive; increase gas tax.</i> 	

Strategy (in order of most votes received)	Frequency
---	------------------

Charge for Miles Traveled (Consider a system that partially bases transportation fees (insurance rates, new mileage fees) on vehicle miles traveled – the more miles, the higher the rate.)	4
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Only after a very careful study of how to make it work fairly.</i> • <i>& toll roads.</i> • <i>Let people pay for what they use.</i> • <i>People using new roads & transportation would pay more.</i> 	

Public-Private Partnerships (A private company purchases or builds a highway or bridge and recovers costs through a toll.)	4
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>This option has worked in many states, needs to be tried here.</i> • <i>Users would have a choice whether to use the facility and pay the toll - users pay the cost.</i> • <i>Business that draws traffic should help pay for road improvements & development.</i> 	

Increase Regional Sales Tax (Increase the existing sales tax rate as occurred with the RTA to allow more projects and expand alternative mode choices in the region.)	4
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Everyone uses the transportation system everyone pays.</i> • <i>Need to allow more projects and expand choices.</i> 	

Make Do (Regardless of the needs, government should make the most of the existing resources and not seek additional funds for transportation)	2
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>WE ARE ALREADY TAXED TO DEATH.</i> • <i>Sales & gas taxes are regressive & 'blame the victim'.</i> 	

Increase State Sales Tax (Support an increase in the state sales tax.)	1
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>People that are buying things contribute to the transportation plan.</i> 	

Increase Property Tax (Link a transportation fee to the property tax in the region.)	0
---	----------

Congestion Pricing (Tax vehicles that drive during peak times and/or through congested areas)	0
--	----------

Other Comments Received:
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Establish carbon quotas and a trading market.</i> • <i>Build a system where people do not need cars. Pay for usage of the system.</i> • <i>Start making snow birds pay property tax. They live here up to 6 months and don't help our infrastructure. Push harder border reforms. Illegals are sending too much money to Mexico draining our resources, taking jobs, and not paying taxes.</i> • <i>It is my belief that cities & counties tax people far more than necessary with little or no relief for senior citizens or those on fixed income. We need more free svc for them.</i>