

RESOLUTION NO. 2015-6

Pima Association of Governments resolution supporting efforts by the Arizona Governor and Legislature to enhance transportation revenues for infrastructure projects of statewide economic importance such as projects that enhance global trade with Mexico and Canada.

Recitals

Whereas:

- A. Pima Association of Governments (PAG) serves as the federally designated Metropolitan Planning Organization for Pima County. Requirements for metropolitan planning include considering projects and strategies that enhance the integration and connectivity of the transportation system, across and between modes, for people and freight. Consideration must also be given to projects and strategies that support the economic vitality of the metropolitan area, especially by enabling global competitiveness, productivity, and efficiency.
- B. The PAG Regional Council supports efforts that maintain or expand state revenues available to fund transportation projects. This includes maintaining the integrity of the Highway User Revenue Fund by opposing the transfer of HURF funds for non-transportation purposes and maintaining or enhancing Vehicle License Tax revenues.
- C. The two interstate highways that pass through Pima County – Interstate 19 (I-19) and Interstate 10 (I-10) – convey the vast majority of freight that travels into, out of, and through, the region. Both of these facilities include segments of the CANAMEX Corridor, which is a federally designated high priority corridor of the National Highway System, serving as a vital international trade corridor connecting Mexico, the United States, and Canada. Enhancing trade and supply chain opportunities with manufacturers in Sonora, Mexico is projected to increase travel demand on our region's interstate highway network for the bi-national movement of raw materials, components, and finished goods.
- D. The PAG Regional Council has adopted resolutions in support of projects that could increase interstate connectivity and commerce. This includes resolutions in support of 1) the I-11 and Intermountain West Corridor, 2) State Route 189 long-term improvements near the U.S. – Mexico border, and 3) the proposed Sonoran Corridor that may ultimately connect I-19 and I-10 south of Tucson International Airport.
- E. There is a significant and growing gap between available revenues for transportation and identified needs. In the PAG region, the latest approved long-range transportation plan – the 2040 RTP – identified \$18.4 billion of projected revenues and over \$32.2 billion of needs, a

nearly \$14 billion shortfall. Additionally, the ADOT Key Commerce Corridors report identifies \$20 billion of additional revenues needed over 20 years to ensure high quality connectivity between large consumption markets in California and Texas and the state's largest international trading partner, Mexico.

- F. Several factors are contributing to the continuing decline of transportation revenue across the state of Arizona. This includes per gallon fuel taxes that have not changed at the federal or state levels in over 20 years, increased vehicle fleet fuel efficiency leading to decreasing gasoline consumption and corresponding revenue, and shifting of revenues from transportation purposes to other uses.

Resolution

Therefore, be it resolved that:

1. The PAG Regional Council supports reasonable and appropriate efforts by the Arizona Governor and Legislature to identify innovative revenue enhancements and adjustments that help deliver projects of regional, statewide, and national importance to enhance mobility, trade, economic development, and economic expansion.