



A Vision for the Pima Association of Governments Regional Concept for Transportation Operations

The Pima Association of Governments and its member agencies are developing a plan for coordinated transportation operations –that is, mapping out specific strategies of how transportation agencies, public safety, emergency

Partner agencies include:

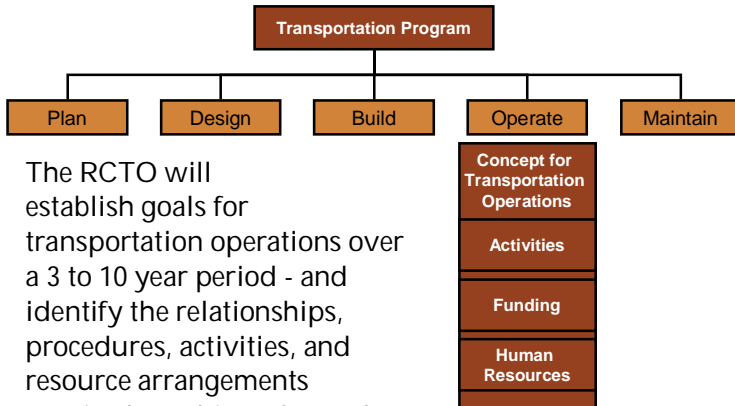
- City of South Tucson
- City of Tucson
- Pascua Yaqui Tribe
- Pima County
- Tohono O’Odam Nation
- Town of Marana
- Town of Oro Valley
- Town of Sahuarita
- Arizona Department of Transportation
- Arizona Department of Public Safety

services, transit and others can work better together, to get the most benefit out of the region’s existing systems and transportation resources.

What do we mean by a Regional

Concept for Transportation Operations?

A typical road, freeway, or transit program passes through five stages: planning, design, construction, operations, and maintenance. A RCTO focuses on the fourth stage –operations.



The RCTO will establish goals for transportation operations over a 3 to 10 year period - and identify the relationships, procedures, activities, and resource arrangements required to achieve the goals.

A RCTO serves three important purposes

- § Presents a vision for future transportation systems management based on a holistic view of the region;
- § Garners commitment from agencies and jurisdictions for a common regional approach to

transportation management and operations;

§ Strengthens the linkage between regional planners and traffic operations managers by providing a coherent strategy for consideration in the planning process.

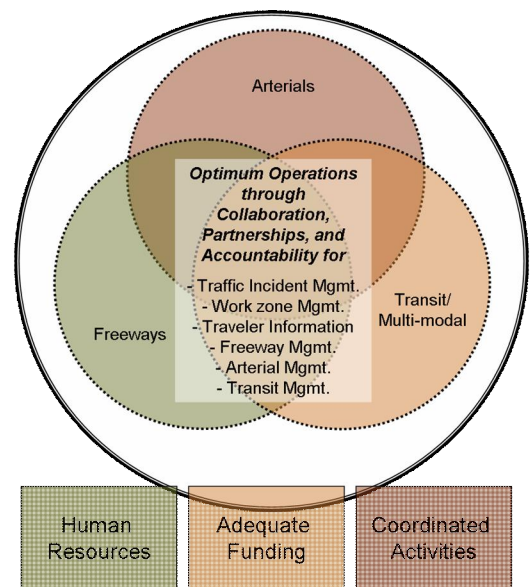
How will the RCTO affect the way my agency is operating?

§ With an RCTO, agencies still control their own activities and actions, but when appropriate do so ‘with the region in mind.’

§ An RCTO will help you understand your agency’s roles and responsibilities in regional transportation operations.

§ An RCTO will provide you improved resources and expertise through partnerships with other agencies for such things as traffic signal timing and maintenance, construction and work zone strategies, and travel information compilation and delivery.

§ An RCTO will provide improved procurement opportunities for all agencies in the region. An RCTO agreement can allow agencies to establish multi-agency contracts or purchase from another agency’s contract, resulting in cheaper



Foundation for a safe, reliable, and efficient surface transportation system in the Tucson metropolitan region



PAG REGIONAL CONCEPT FOR TRANSPORTATION OPERATIONS

costs for equipment and services.

§ An RCTO will prevent your agency from recreating the wheel by keeping you in touch with what other agencies have done and are doing in transportation operations. Perhaps there has already been research done on detection and communications equipment, or software, or sign maintenance, or incident clearance techniques that your agency is considering.

§ An RCTO will enable agencies to pool their resources to get better overall products for their own agency as well as the region as a whole.

The RCTO will work to expand collaborative operational activities that are best addressed from a regional perspective. As an example, jurisdictions may more frequently and consistently communicate signal timing information and changes to one another, inform travelers with timely and accurate work zone information, and during longer-duration incidents traffic management personnel may be dispatched to the scene to implement appropriate traffic control and management measures. Each of these objectives

can be realized through a collaboratively developed and widely implemented Regional Concept for Transportation Operations.

Aren't agencies already working together?

Yes! - Tucson has a history of collaborative activities including recent activities such as:

§ The City of Tucson monitors and controls 474 traffic signals on behalf of multiple agencies from the City of Tucson Transportation Control Center (TTCC).

§ MetroNetworks, under a private /public partnership agreement, provides personnel to staff and disseminate travel information to the region.

§ The PAG 2003 Regional Incident and Emergency Management Forum provided the opportunity for issue discussion with over 40 emergency response personnel and transportation operators

While the region works well together, we can continue to improve as we formalize collaboration and

partnerships to better management activities such as traffic signal timing, work zone management, freeway management, and traffic incident management

A Vision for the Pima Association of Governments Regional Concept for Transportation Operations...

is to establish the foundation for a safe, reliable, and efficient surface transportation system in the Tucson metropolitan region. This vision will be achieved when:

§ *Adequate human resources are dedicated and trained,*

§ *Appropriate funding levels are identified and secured through innovative partnerships and sharing of resources, and the*

§ *Activities of the multiple jurisdictions and agencies within the region are coordinated with respect to surface transportation operations.*

Optimum operations of freeways, arterials, and transit systems will be achieved when agencies collaborate, partner, share resources, and are accountable for their activities and capital resources with respect to traffic incident management, work zone management, traveler information, freeway management, arterial management, and transit management.

Sources and Additional Information

1. Transportation System Management and Operations Action Kit, Institute of Transportation Engineers, Federal Highway Administration, and the National Transportation Operations Coalition, <http://www.ite.org>.
2. Regional Concept for Transportation Operations, A Tool for Strengthening and Guiding Transportation Operations Collaboration and Coordination, http://ops.fhwa.dot.gov/publications/rcto_white_paper/rcto.doc.

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