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For immediate release
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PAG, UA seek public input on draft UA Area Bicycle and Pedestrian Study

Pima Association of Governments and the University of Arizona Parking and Transportation Services are in the final stages of the UA Area Bicycle and Pedestrian Study and are seeking public comment on the draft plan.

The draft plan was developed by Alta Planning and Design, a Portland, Ore.-based firm that specializes in bicycle and pedestrian planning, and the Tucson office of Kimley-Horn and Associates Inc. The plan is currently available on the PAG website at www.PAGregion.com for review.

A public open house is set for 6 to 7:30 p.m. on Thursday, June 14, at the UA Swede Johnson Alumni Building, 1111 N. Cherry Ave. (northwest corner of Speedway and Cherry). Community members will have an opportunity to review a draft of the study, look at maps with the proposed changes and offer input on the recommendations included in the plan. Parking is free in the lot adjacent to the building.

The plan was initiated by UA Parking and Transportation Services in order to look at ways to reduce bicycle and pedestrian conflicts on campus. Another important goal is to increase the number of people walking or biking to campus. Currently, 40 percent of commuters that drive to UA live within five miles of the campus. “Every time someone chooses to ride a bicycle or walk to campus instead of driving, this results in benefits to the region such as less traffic congestion and better air quality,” said PAG Senior Transportation Planner Ann Chanecka. “We anticipate the recommendations in the plan will make the campus area safer and more comfortable for walkers and bicyclists, and more people will opt to use these modes.”

The draft plan includes several recommendations for new bicycle and

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pedestrian facilities along with intersection improvements to make it easier to access campus. “It’s important to get as much input as possible from the UA community and surrounding neighborhoods to find out which ideas the community wants to see implemented,” said Tom Amparano, Transportation Manager for Parking & Transportation Services.

For example, one recommendation is to install a bicycle/pedestrian signal at Fifth Street and Euclid Avenue to position Fifth Street as a gateway to the University. The new gateway would provide bicycles an alternative to riding alongside the streetcar tracks on University Boulevard.

Those who are unable to attend the public open house on Thursday can still submit comments on the draft plan through PAG’s website until June 28.

For more information on the UA Area Bicycle and Pedestrian Study and the open house, you may contact Ann Chanecka at 792-1093 (achanecka@pagnet.org) or Tom Amparano at 626-2458 (tamparan@email.arizona.edu)

*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, energy, 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.PAGregion.com for more information or www.facebook.com/PAGregion*