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For immediate release
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PAG announces Swanson regional leadership award

Pima Association of Governments announces that the 2012 Honorary Thomas L. Swanson Regional Leadership Award recipient is Timothy “Tim” M. Ahrens, project manager at HDR Engineering. The award was announced today during the PAG Regional Council meeting.

Ahrens previously served as the Regional Transportation Authority Manager during the plan implementation process and election in May 2006. Prior to that, he was PAG’s Transportation Finance Manager and also worked in Finance Planning at the Arizona Department of Transportation. While at ADOT, he helped establish Arizona’s State Infrastructure Bank, otherwise referred to as the HELP loan program.

Over the years, Ahrens has provided an immense amount of leadership and guidance in the field of transportation. He understands the dynamics of working with people to reach a common goal, he has financial acumen that has served the region well, he is able to successfully navigate the political scene, and he serves as a mentor. He exemplifies how to work with others in the spirit of cooperation.

Most recently, Ahrens has been with HDR where he serves as the Arizona transportation marketing manager. He regularly serves in a financial strategist consultant role on HDR projects that include:

- RTA Project - Tucson Modern Streetcar
- RTA Project - Downtown Links project
- Oro Valley Project - Naranja Town Site
- ADOT Project – San Xavier Pedestrian Access and Safety Study

Here’s what one of his colleagues had to say about Ahrens:

“Tim is a humble, unassuming leader with an incredible ability to collaborate and develop consensus with parties that have competing interests in order to enhance and move forward

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community issues in a positive manner … he is truly unmatched in leading the way for “win-win” solutions.”

Ahrens was instrumental in the passage of the RTA plan, including his commitment to give several hundred civic, business and neighborhood presentations during the educational outreach effort leading up to the RTA election. Currently, Ahrens serves as a volunteer on the RTA Technical Management Committee. In addition, he previously represented the PAG region as a volunteer on the state’s Transportation Enhancement Review Committee.

The Swanson award is given in honor of PAG’s former executive director, the late Thomas L. Swanson, who retired in 2002 after serving nearly 25 years at PAG, to acknowledge an individual or organization affecting positive change in the Tucson metropolitan region.

Criteria for the Swanson award include:

- Enhancing the regional community despite often restrictive jurisdictional boundaries.
- Promoting cooperation among citizens and local elected officials.
- Providing leadership for regional growth via strong local government representation.

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

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