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For immediate release
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Town of Sahuarita receives inaugural Timothy M. Ahrens Partnering Award

Pima Association of Governments and the Regional Transportation Authority presented the first Timothy M. Ahrens Partnering Award to the Town of Sahuarita for the Sahuarita Road project at the May 22 meeting of the PAG Regional Council.

The award was established to recognize the spirit of collaboration and partnering as exemplified by the late Timothy M. Ahrens, who died on Oct. 23 after a brief illness. Mr. Ahrens was the RTA manager during development of the $2.1 billion, 20-year RTA plan. He managed the RTA’s 35-member citizens advisory committee and gave hundreds of presentations during the public outreach phase before the RTA plan was approved by Pima County voters on May 16, 2006.

The Town of Sahuarita demonstrated success in achieving a common goal, resolving conflict, improving communication on the project, delivery of a quality project and perpetuating the spirit of cooperation.

Partners who received recognition for making substantial contributions to planning, design and construction of the Sahuarita Road project include:

- Sahuarita Unified School District
- Rancho Sahuarita
- Farmers Investment Co.

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• Union Pacific Railroad
• RS Engineering Inc.
• Southern Arizona Paving & Construction Co.
• Engineering and Environmental Consultants Inc.
• Borderland Construction Co. Inc.

Sahuarita Road, from Interstate 19 to Country Club Road, is a major corridor project of the 20-year RTA plan. The widening project includes new sidewalks, bike lanes, a pedestrian underpass, landscaping and new signalized traffic intersections.

In submitting the application, the Town stated that the project “has proven to be more than a road widening project. It has been a journey of transforming a fast-growing community. Partnerships have been a key to the success of this vision coming to life. … It is this willingness and dedication of many to achieve an overall common goal that has perpetuated a spirit of cooperation in the community.”

In addition, the Town stated that many of the successful coordination efforts, meetings and processes established during the initial stages of the project remain in place, continuing to serve as the model for future Town projects.

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, watershed and air 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

The Regional Transportation Authority is the fiscal manager of the $2.1 billion regional transportation plan approved by Pima County voters on May 16, 2006. The RTA Board is comprised of elected representatives from the cities of Tucson and South Tucson, Pima County, the towns of Marana, Oro Valley and Sahuarita, the Pascua Yaqui Tribe and the Tohono O’odham Nation. The Pima County representative of the Arizona State Transportation Board also serves on the board. The RTA is managed through Pima Association of Governments, the region’s metropolitan planning organization. For more information about the RTA plan, visit www.RTAmobility.com, see RTA Pima County on Facebook, or call (520) 792-1093.

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