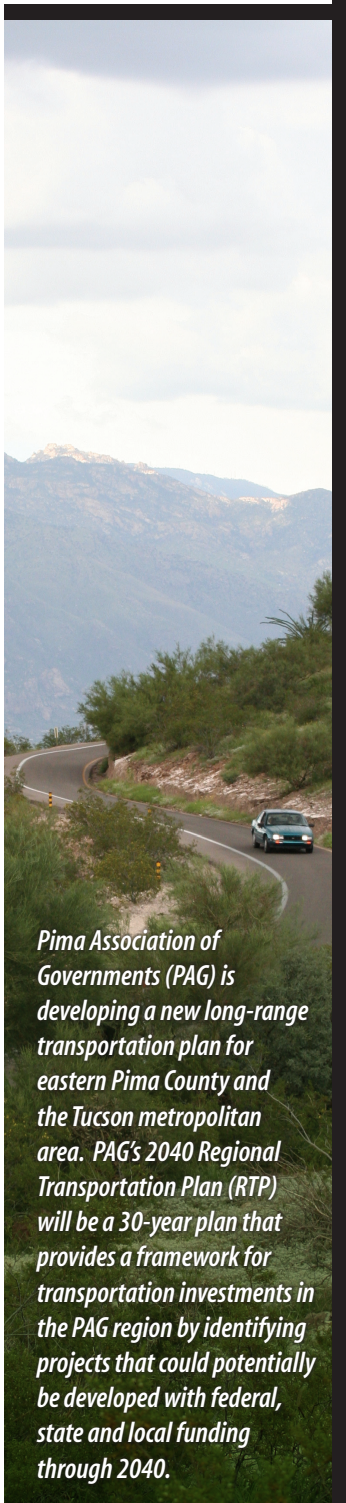


Building a Quality Arizona (bqAZ)



Pima Association of Governments (PAG) is developing a new long-range transportation plan for eastern Pima County and the Tucson metropolitan area. PAG's 2040 Regional Transportation Plan (RTP) will be a 30-year plan that provides a framework for transportation investments in the PAG region by identifying projects that could potentially be developed with federal, state and local funding through 2040.

What is bqAZ?

With projections that the population of Arizona will reach 16 million by 2050, the state has undertaken a long-range planning effort to identify needs, potential funding and how to better integrate transportation with land use, community and economic development planning. Known as "Building a Quality Arizona" (bqAZ), this statewide transportation planning framework also will address how the different regions around the state will be connected and how the state as a whole will be connected to adjoining states and Mexico.



Comprehensive Statewide Planning Framework

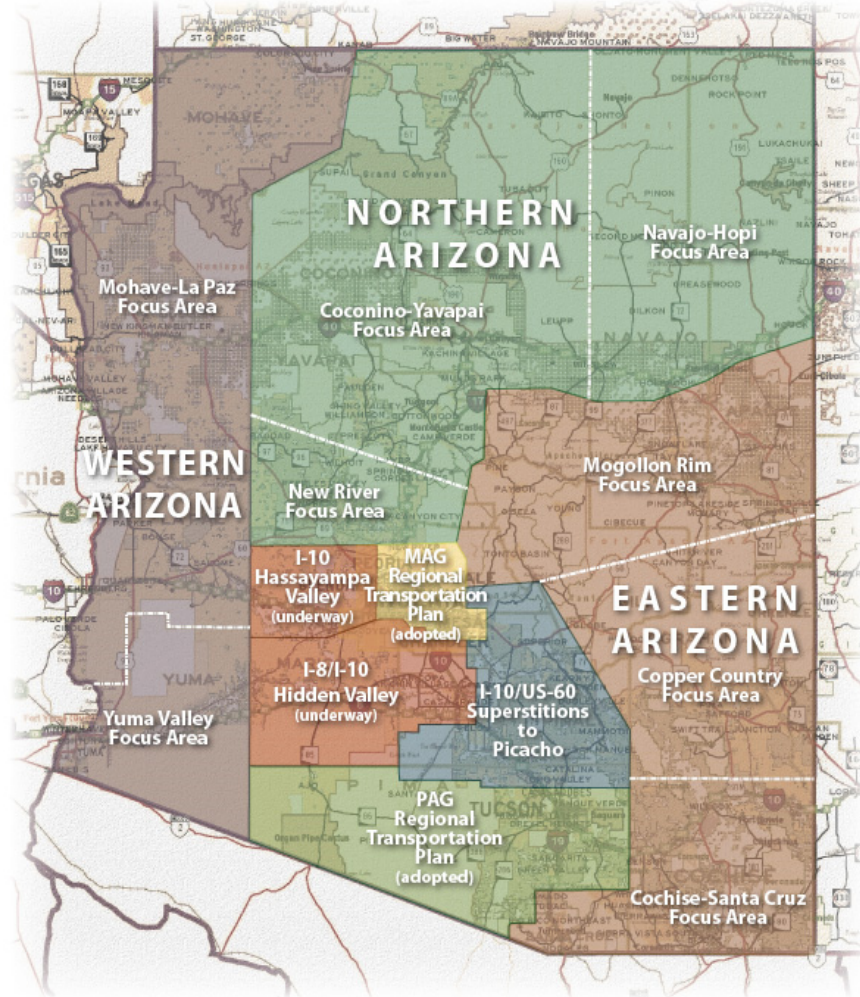
The bqAZ Transportation Planning Framework is being developed with input from regional transportation planning entities, transit organizations, tribal governments, land management agencies, conservation groups, business and community leaders, and the Governor's Growth Cabinet. This coordinated effort will evaluate and prioritize "multimodal" (rail, roads and more) transportation improvements.

The guiding principles of the framework planning effort, as directed by the Governor, are as follows:

- Achieving Multi-modal Balance (e.g. an appropriate balance among modes of transportation)
- Supporting Smart Growth and Sustainable Land Use
- Tribal Community Involvement
- Supporting Economic Development and Business Community Involvement
- Statewide Collaboration with Councils of Governments (COGs), Metropolitan Planning Organizations (MPOs) and Tribal Governments

To accomplish this task, the state has been divided into sub-study areas. The two major metropolitan areas of Tucson and Phoenix contribute to bqAZ through the development of their regional transportation plans. The remainder of the state was divided into four framework study areas:

- Northern Arizona
- Central Arizona (Pinal County and portions of Gila County)
- Western Arizona
- Eastern Arizona



For more information on the bqAZ planning effort visit the bqAZ Web site at <http://www.bqaz.org>

Or contact:

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How can you stay informed or get involved?

To stay informed and get involved in PAG's 2040 RTP and/or other PAG planning activities:

- Visit the PAG Web site at www.pagnet.org
- Add your name to PAG's 2040 RTP mailing list by calling PAG at (520) 792-1093
- Schedule a speaker for your next meeting

BqAZ and the 2040 RTP

PAG's 2040 RTP will seek public input on state facility improvements needed to meet state and regional needs.

Public input related to state facilities gathered during the RTP process will be summarized and forwarded to the Arizona Department of Transportation (ADOT) for inclusion in its bqAZ effort.

What input is needed for bqAZ?

Anything that has to do with how you travel on the state system is appropriate input for the bqAZ effort. Projects that have been suggested in previous planning efforts include:

- Widen existing interstate within Tucson metro area
- Widen existing interstate outside of Tucson to Phoenix, Nogales and/or New Mexico
- Develop new freeway-type route through Tucson metro area
- Develop new freeway-type route around the west side of Tucson
- Widen other existing state roadways like Oracle Road (SR 77) and Ajo Way (SR 86)
- Make interstates or other routes that can't be widened dual level instead of building brand new roads
- Develop intercity passenger rail lines between major population centers